

HONORING OUR MOTHERS

2 Timothy 1:5-6, Proverbs 31:30-31

INTRODUCTION: It is good that we have a day to honor our mothers. While the Bible has little to say about Eunice, what is written reveals that the mother of Timothy was a godly mother. Eunice is a great example of a good and godly mother. She gave Timothy the wisdom through the Scripture to know the way of salvation in Christ by faith. The mother in Proverbs 31 is a great example of what a mother should be in God's eyes.

I. SPIRITUAL FAITH OF A GODLY MOTHER (31:30)

A. SHE TRUSTED IN GOD.

Eunice was a saved mother, for the Bible spoke of the "unfeigned" faith that Timothy had received from her and his grandmother, Lois. The word "unfeigned" has the idea of genuineness or sincerity. It embodies the idea of being free from hypocrisy or pretense. While Paul would have been involved in training Timothy, it was his godly mother and grandmother who laid the spiritual foundation in his life.

B. SHE TREASURED HER FAMILY. (31:27)

The mother of Proverbs makes it clear that she loved her husband and children. The mother in Proverbs 31 showed her love for her family through what she taught them and what she made for them. The greatest thing we see about her was in her devotion to her God.

The Bible says her children loved her and would "arise up, and call her blessed." Children are a treasure to their mother. A godly mother protects them more than a man would protect his gold. She provides for them before she would provide for herself.

The same is true of a husband. (Proverbs 31:28) The Bible says that, "her husband also, and he praiseth her." Children need to know that their mothers have Christ in their lives and Jesus as their Lord and Savior. It is a blessing to have a mother in whose life you can see God's love demonstrated. If your mother is an unsaved or an ungodly mother, pray for your mother and seek to bring her to Christ.

The difference between a good mother and a godly mother's love for her child is spiritual. While a godly mother cares for her child's physical needs, she is also concerned about her child's soul.

II. SPIRITUAL FRUIT OF A GODLY MOTHER

A. PRAISE RECEIVED BY THE WOMAN. "she shall be praised"

The mother of Proverbs 31 received praise from her husband and her children. Her love for her family is shown in Scripture by her care and compassion. In Proverbs 31, it is easy to understand why she was loved and praised by her family.

We learn of her service to them in her deeds and her willingness to sacrifice to support them. She managed her home with godly love. Her wisdom impacted her husband and children. The Bible says in Proverbs 31:25, "Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come."

B. PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THE WOMAN. "praise her in the gate"

A godly mother is not influenced by the fashions or fads of the world. Her dress will promote godliness and not lust. She is not caught up in desiring worldly riches, for she knows she has an eternal inheritance reserved in heaven. Her pursuits are not after the things of this world. She is not as interested in her child being successful in the world as she is in her child knowing and loving the Lord.

The world takes note of a godly woman. She stands out from worldly women. She cares not how many trophies and praises she receives from the world. When her life is over, and she stands before the Lord, the godly woman desires to hear from the Lord these words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things. Enter thou into the joy of the Lord."

President Theodore Roosevelt said, "When all is said, it is the mother, and the mother only, who is a better citizen than the soldier who fights for his country. The successful mother, the mother who does her part in rearing and training aright the boys and girls who are to be the men and women of the next generation, is of greater use to the community."

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. A mother should make it her life's goal to give her children a biblical foundation for life.
2. A godly mother is a powerful legacy for a mother to leave with her children.
3. The desire of every godly mother is for her children to be in heaven