

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“Her children rise up and
 bless her; her husband
 also, and he praises her,
 saying: ‘Many daughters
 have done nobly, but you
 excel them all,’”

—Proverbs 31:29

**Servants during June:**

Songleader: Stanley (2), Larry (9),
 Dwight (16), Stanley (23), Larry (30)

Reading: Larry; Stanley

Announcements: Larry

Table: Marty, Stanley, Larry

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (5) Kris
 (12), Larry (19), Stanley (26)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Larry
 (2), Kris (9), Marty (16), Stanley (23),
 Larry (30)

Area Meetings: Pepper Road,
 6/1-6, Donnie Rader; Eastside,
 6/9-14, David Banning;

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Number 1

The Woman Whose Price Is Far Above Rubies

by Bill Hall

“Who can find a virtuous woman?
 for her price is far above rubies,”
 Prov 31:10. These words serve to
 introduce the Bible picture of an ideal
 woman. This is God’s “ideal.” This is
 beauty as God sees beauty. This is God’s
 formula for happiness and contentment.
 We would emphasize that this is the ideal.
 This is the standard for which godly
 women strive. No one woman has
 reached it to perfection. Many women,
 however, focusing on the qualities that
 characterize the woman of Proverbs 31,
 recognizing her beauty, and realizing that
 she is a picture of what God wants them
 to be, have taken on her character to a
 remarkable extent. We hope that we can
 encourage others to do so. God’s picture
 of the ideal woman provides a refreshing
 alternative to the world’s standard. The
 world would picture her as a career
 oriented, independent, aggressive, self-
 assertive, refusing to allow anyone or
 anything to get in the way of her personal

ambitions and goals, looking out for self,
 unrelenting in her pursuit of “success.”
 Some would even go so far as to picture
 her as being able to out-cuss, out-drink,
 and out-maneuver any man if
 competition demands it. We are
 confident that our readers’ faith in God
 and His wisdom will enable them to
 overcome the pressures of this modern
 and sinful world in order to appreciate
 the beauty and grace of the woman
 pictured in this passage.

She Is Trustworthy. Whether her
 husband leaves the home for an hour, a
 day, or many days, he knows that he can
 trust her to be faithful to the vows she
 made when they married and to carry on
 the affairs of the home in the most
 efficient manner possible. “The heart of
 her husband doth safely trust in her, so
 that he shall have no need to spoil,” v11.

He is able to trust her in regards to
 the family’s financial affairs. She is a good

manager. He faces no temptation to plunder or steal because she has overspent. He has no lack of gain. She is capable of living within the family income and is conscious of getting good value in her purchases: "She seeketh wool, and flax... She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar," v13,14. "She perceiveth that her merchandise is good," v18. She stretches the dollar to provide the very best for her family. Through her careful management the family enjoys what other families of greater income seem to be unable to afford.

She Is Unselfish. She places the interests of her husband and children ahead of her own. "She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life," v12. She loves her husband, rejoices in his successes, helps to build his self-image, and is always supportive in everything that is good. She is unselfish with her husband's time: "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land" v23. This verse suggests that her husband is respected, that he joins with other "elders" of the city in settling disputes among the people. She encourages him in this even though no doubt such duties require time away from home.

She is a disciplinarian. She watches after her children and provides for their needs. "She looketh well to the ways of her household," v27. She makes it her business to know where her children are and what they are doing.

She Is Hardworking. She "worketh willingly with her hands," v13. She is not the family breadwinner, but she finds ways to supplement the family income by buying a field and then "with the fruit of her hands (out of her earnings NIV) she planteth a vineyard," v16. "She maketh

fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant," v24. She is skillful in her work: "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff," v19.

She is hardworking, but is not in competition with her husband. He does not feel threatened by her, for she seeks his good. She is hardworking, but not in such a way as to neglect her children, for she looks well to their ways. She can be found when a bloodied knee needs attention or hurt feelings need comfort and sympathy. She is hardworking, even though all indications are that the family is prosperous with plenty of household servants. She does not use her affluence as an excuse for idleness, for she "eateth not the bread of idleness," v27.

She Is Well Organized. Plans are made before the day ever begins. "She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens (servant girls NIV)," v15. It is likely that the "portion" mentioned in this verse refers to "tasks" that the servant girls are to carry out. No time is wasted. She knows what tasks are to be performed during the day, and she is ready to assign them just as soon as the servants are available.

She also is aware of winter's approach and sees to it that proper clothing is available for the family. "She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet," v21. Nothing "slips up" on her. She thinks ahead. She is organized. There is little last minute scurrying around in this household.

The future holds no fear for her. "She can laugh at the days to come," NIV, v5. She is well prepared for the future. She has her trust in God. She has nothing to fear. She can live her life in peace and serenity.

She Is Benevolent. She is a woman of compassion, of sympathy, of concern for the needy. A child that is hungry and poorly clothed, a family that has fallen on misfortune, or an outstretched hand from an impoverished fellow being, stirs her spirit. "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy," v20. Her children grow up, learning by example the importance of caring for the fatherless and widows.

She Commands the Respect of Others. When she speaks, "she openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness," v26. No malicious gossip comes from the lips of this woman, no harsh and unkind criticism, no shallow babble. Her mind is fertile, and her speech manifests the depth of her thoughts. She is kind, and her lips speak forth words of kindness.


She dresses becomingly. "Her clothing is silk and purple," v21. She cares about her appearance. Her clothing reflects her character and self-respect. She knows what is appropriate for various occasions and dresses accordingly.

She is a woman of strength. All who know her admire her fortitude. "She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms," v17. People respect her for her quiet, but strong, confident demeanor. "Strength and

honour are her clothing," v25.

She Is Valuable. She is not just valuable, she is invaluable. Her worth cannot be stated in monetary terms. "Her price is far above rubies," v10. She is not for hire. Her labor is a labor of love. What she does and what she is cannot be bought for any price. She can only be repaid with love, appreciation, and praise. Her "job benefits" are a good self-image, fulfillment, the joy of a well-run household, the respect of her children, the praise of her husband, the admiration of all who know her, and, above all, the approval of God, who calls her a "virtuous woman." Her benefits cannot be stated in monetary terms, for they too are invaluable.

Her life is not an easy one. It calls forth all the energy, determination, and strength she can muster. But her joy is complete. "Her children arise up, and call her blessed," v28; and her husband, in love and appreciation, praises her, saying, "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all," v29. She may or may not have physical charm or beauty, but she is beautiful with a beauty that lasts and is enhanced with age. The man who finds such a virtuous woman may not be rich in this world's goods, but he is rich indeed. A virtuous woman God's wonderful gift to man!

—via Searching the Scriptures, July 1992 

Remember in Prayer

Hazel is doing better, and has been moved to Encompass Rehab Hospital, Huntsville, Room 122! Pray for our community, state, and national **leaders**, as well as those in other nations, 1 Tim 2:1-4. Pray for **one another's** health, both

physical and spiritual, Jas 5:16. Don't forget to pray for **neighbors and kin** that have never known, or have turned away from Christ. Please continue to pray for **Mike B; Carolyn; Betty; Kathy Mitchell; and the Pollard Family.** 