

A Tribute to Mothers

5/8/11

Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but

a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

³¹ Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Ladies, we praise you for

...going through the valley of the shadow of death for us

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.

...living in the valley of the shadow of death for extended times for us

Luke 2:34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

...your noble character and beauty

Proverbs 31:10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

¹¹ Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

¹² She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

1 Peter 3:3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.

⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.

...your unconditional love

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails.

...your words of wisdom and correction

Proverbs 31:26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

⁹ They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

...believing in us, encouraging us and always being there for us

Philippians 2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,

² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

...your industriousness and sacrifice

Proverbs 31:16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷ She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

Mark 10:43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

...your joy and vitality

Nehemiah 8:10 ...the joy of the LORD is your strength."

...your devotion to Jesus and praying for us

Luke 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

...pointing us to God

2 Timothy 1:5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

¹³ while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.