

## REJOICING IN TIME

A message from the preacher's wife on the timeless issue of a godly woman's life and character. We'll begin with the text verse and hold it in our minds throughout the study:

**Prov 31:10,25** Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.  
**25** Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

As virtuous women .... we should remember that there was a time in our lives --- time past --- that we had no strength.

That is, we could not help ourselves in our lost, sinful condition:

**Rom 5:6** For when we were yet without strength, **in due time** Christ died for the ungodly.

In time past, we were ungodly sinners .... maybe even religious ones. We had one main problem --- and it was us! We were powerless to stop sin from controlling our lives. Maybe we were able by self-effort and reputation ... to clean up the outside, but we knew in our private minds .... that inside, we had wrong thoughts. So even if our outer appearance 'looked like' a 'good Christian' --- we knew in our hearts .... that we were not 100% perfect 100% of the time. Truth be told .... we weren't 100% perfect any of the time. God's holy law judged us guilty:

**James 2:10** For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

**Rom 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

The penalty of which .... was death .... and hell:

**Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Death is not ceasing to exist .... it is a separation.

Physical death .... is separation from this present life with our loved ones.

Spiritual death .... is separation from the life of God ---

by being punished for sin .... in eternal fire:

**2 Thess 1:7-9** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Yet, God had compassion for our helpless estate.

How could we know God cares and loves us?

When we look for the demonstration of God's love --- it isn't in our bank account ....

nor in our physical health .... nor in our single/or/marital relationships --- but the cross:

**Rom 5:8-11** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but we also **joy** in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have **now** received the atonement.

God not only has a 'wonderful plan' for our present-life ....

He also has a 'wonderful plan' for our after-life ---

which will cause us to rejoice in time to come. Here it is again:

**Eph 2:4-7** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in

Christ Jesus:

7 That in **the ages to come** (that's the 'TIME' to come) he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

THAT is certainly cause for 'rejoicing in time'.

When we understand that we have no strength on our own .... we learn to rely on His:

**2 Cor 12:9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Christ's strength --- becomes our strength .... then we can rejoice - in the 'here and now' - even in the midst of physical, mental, or emotional hardships.

We realize that God does not manipulate the circumstances of our life ....

not one way --- nor the other .... neither to pleasure us --- nor to punish us:

**Phil 4:11** Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

**We are strong 'in Him':**

**Eph 6:10** Finally, my brethren, be **strong in the Lord**, and in the power of his might.

Going back to our original thought:

**25** Strength and honour are her clothing; and **she shall rejoice in time to come**.

We looked at the issue of strength .... now let's consider the honour:

Another 'wise saying' in the Proverbs

and one that I have personally committed to both memory and practice .... is this:

**Prov 11:16** A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.

**Ladies .... it is always RIGHT to be gracious.**

Being KIND and POLITE is never WRONG.

Graciousness is a character quality we can and should exercise.

Before we look at the subject of honour .... in our instructions under grace ....

I'd like to ask if any of you saw and remember a movie ....

about a man who was a distance speed-runner,

who based his sacrifice to the Lord on a passage of:

**1 Sam 2:30** Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; **for them that honour me I will honour**, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

The thrust of the movie was that the man refused to compete in the specific race he was sure to win .... because the event was held on Sunday.

He religiously declined to run his event on Sunday, in his effort to honour what he called 'the Lord's Day', which he thought to be the Sabbath day (already he's wrong!).

He was trying to live under Israel's LAW program (and that not very well), instead of acknowledging the dispensation of grace, which God gave to the Gentiles.

**Exo 20:8** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

He had a faulty understanding .... due not only to --- not rightly dividing .... but also by changing the 7th day of the week to be the 1st day of the week.

As the film portrayed, according to his 'pattern verse' (1 Sam 2:30) .... due to his 'honoring God' .... God, in turn, honored him ---

by letting (or causing) him to WIN another, more strenuous event race the following day.

I think he and his sister went on to be so-called missionaries. It made for good drama .... but VERY bad doctrine!

However circumstances turn out, people generally say God did it .

If things work out they way they want them to .... they say God blessed them.

If things don't work out to their favor.... then God is trying to teach them some lesson.

In fact, they are functioning under Israel's blessing / cursing law program,  
like Duet 28 describes .... except the Word of God says

IF they obey all His commandments, then He will bless them ---

but IF they don't obey all His commandments,

then He will CURSE them (not simply try to tell them something).

So now, let's consider the issue of honor for us today:

**2 Tim 2:19** Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver,  
but also of wood and of earth;  
and some to honour,  
and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be

- a vessel unto honour,
- sanctified,
- and meet (**that is, fit**) for the master's use,
- and prepared unto every good work.

In order for us to be women of honor .... we must be actively doing the right job.

**1 Cor 3:9-15** For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me (**Paul**),  
as a wise masterbuilder (**that means we should work according to his instructions**),  
I (**Paul**) have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.

But let every man take heed (**be careful**) how he buildeth thereupon.

Since we're working for GOD --- we absolutely should follow the design HE gave.

It would be huge waste of our effort .... time .... materials .... and money

to frame up the walls of a building in the wrong place .... or to install plumbing pipes, sinks, and comodes in the living room ---- not following the blueprint:

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Hold your place here --- while we look at 2 other references.

How did Paul preach Christ?

1) **Rom 16:25,26** Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

2) **2 Cor 5:16** Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

Go back now to

**1 Cor 3:12** Now if any man build upon this foundation (the one PAUL laid) gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (we read about those in 2 Tim 2:20)

(If we build on the 1st set --- following what God gave Paul --- we'll be rewarded. If we don't labor under the instructions God gave Paul --- we'll be embarrassed on Judgment Day.)

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Ladies, let's be women of strength and honor for the Lord,  
that we may rejoice both now and in time to come:

**Phile 1:4-6** I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

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