

Rubies

What is a ruby? It is a very hard mineral used for grinding and polishing. This precious stone is durable yet beautiful to the eye. In the Bible, a ruby is a gem of red color, in the high priest's breastplate. It is seen in many pieces of jewelry today. And, what woman does not love them? Yet, as precious as they may seem, God says there is something worth far more than this jewel. Wisdom.

Proverbs chapter 31 and verse 10 is an introduction to the rest of the chapter. It states, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." It is what God expects from every male Christian. The rest of the chapter emphasizes different qualities of an excellent wife.

This passage tells us that a virtuous woman is a rare, trustworthy, constant in love, industrious, thrifty, a self starter, enterprising, willing to do hard work, willing to work long hours, willing to do monotonous work, compassionate, prepared for the future, a good seamstress, married to a leader, an entrepreneur, not swayed by circumstance, wise and kind, duty conscious, blessed by her family, not satisfied with the mediocre, a woman of God, and praiseworthy.

Now, that's a lot of qualities for any new woman. Take a good look at this passage. Most of us women fail in many of these areas. But, if God took the time to have someone write these things for us, we must want every woman to strive for these virtues.

So, how do we obtain these great skills and abilities? You guessed it, from the wisdom that only God can give. This comes through prayer and studying God's word.

There have been many great women pass through the churches of this Ohio Baptist Association. Some have come closer to these standards of womanhood than others. It just seems fitting that we should mention one particular lady that has the name of this precious jewel that we have been talking about.

Ruby Webb, whom most of us knew through various fellowships with churches in this Association, was as close to the description of a virtuous woman as you can get. Although, some knew her better than others, there doesn't seem to be a negative word against her. She was a very good example for us to follow. There are many other women who have passed and some that we still fellowship with today that would also come close to this description in God's word.

Women are very important to the work of the church. If you look around your congregation you will see many women who pray, teach, sing, cook, witness, visit the sick, clean, play piano, write, prepare the bulletin or whatever other services are needed at your church. God truly blesses those women who use the talents he gave to them to further this work here on earth.

Our doing must consistently reflect and rise from a "being" that is well pleasing to our heavenly Father. There is much work to be done--but it can all amount to "wood, hay, and stubble" if our hearts are not right with God. We pray that they are.

Verse 30 of this same passage tells us that the most important thing for a woman to do is to fear (or respect) the Lord. When this happens, we give him first place in all aspects of life.

There are some women who don't seem to think they have anything to offer God. Wrong! God has a work for all to do. So, let's be good little "rubies" and get busy. God Bless!

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