

## THE WOMAN OF PROVERBS 31

John Edwards

Have you read about the woman of Proverbs 31? She is an outstanding woman!

**A VIRTUOUS WOMAN.** In verse 10 this question is asked: *“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.”* A virtuous woman possesses moral excellence, goodness; female chastity. Boaz said concerning Ruth, *“for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman”* (Ruth 3:11). If you had been Ruth, would you have had this virtuous reputation? The Bible says, *“A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband...”* (Prov. 12:4).

**A RARE, VALUABLE WOMAN.** The statement, *“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies”*, indicates a woman of great worth. Women of this caliber are hard to come by! Some women may be more of a liability than an asset to their husbands, but a woman like the Proverbs 31 woman greatly contributes to the well-being of her husband. If you are interested in stepping foot on a higher plane, I would suggest that you follow the example of the woman of Proverbs 31.

### A TRUSTWORTHY

**WOMAN.** If you were to make a list of trustworthy people, how many would you be able to come up with? The woman of Proverbs 31 is trustworthy for the Bible says, *“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil”* (v. 11). Can your husband safely trust in you? Trust is earned by always being completely honest, telling the truth and not giving grounds for suspicion of dishonesty. Just one lie can wreck your trustworthiness!

**AN INDUSTRIOUS WOMAN.** You can't read Proverbs 31 and not be impressed with the industry of this woman. She is not idle or lazy! For example, *“She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands”* (v. 13). The diligence of this woman is seen in the many references to her *“hands”* (vv. 13, 16, 19, 20, 31). Ephesians 4:28 teaches, *“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth”* (Eph. 4:28).

**A BENEVOLENT WOMAN.** The benevolence of this woman is observed in verse 20: *“She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.”* There will always be those in need as the Lord said, *“For ye have the poor always with you”* (Mt. 26:11). The Galatians were

instructed, *“Only they would that we should remember the poor”* (Gal. 2:10). Do your hands reach the needy?

**A RESPECTED WOMAN.** Such a woman has the respect and admiration of her family. *“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her”* (v. 28). Have you won this kind of respect from your family?

*“Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised”* (vv. 29-30).

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## ADDING YEARS TO YOUR LIFE

John Edwards

The average American life span is 78.79 years. According to the National Institute on Aging, *“Currently no treatments, drugs, or pills are known to slow aging or extend life in humans.”* The Bible, however, discusses some things that can add years to your life.

**RESPECT FOR GOD.** The wise man said, *“The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened”* (Prov. 10:27). Ever wonder why some live longer

than others? It may be some have more respect for God than others.

### **KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD.**

Bible poetry literature says, "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee" (Prov. 3:1-2). Have you been keeping the commandments?

### **HONORING ONE'S**

**PARENTS.** Paul penned, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3). No telling how many young people have been sent to an early grave because they failed to show proper respect and obedience to their parents!

It's not how long, but how well one lives that counts!

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### **MY REDEEMER**

*John Edwards*

A shocking train accident caused the untimely death of Philip P. Bliss when he was only thirty-eight years of age. He had visited his old childhood home in Rome, Pennsylvania, at Christmas time in 1876, and was returning to Chicago in company with his wife when a railroad bridge near Ashtabula, Ohio collapsed. The train plunged into a ravine, sixty feet below, where it caught fire, and one hundred passengers perished miserably. Bliss survived the fall and escaped through a window. However, he returned to the wreckage in an attempt to rescue his wife and in so doing perished with her in the fire. This hymn text by P.P. Bliss was found in his trunk, which had escaped damage in the accident:

Verse One: "I will sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love to me; On the cruel cross He suffered, From the curse to set me free."

Verse Two: "Sing, O sing of my Redeemer, With His blood He purchased me; On the cross He sealed my pardon, Paid the debt and made me free."

(from 101 Hymn Stories by

Kenneth W. Osbeck)

Now would be a good time to consider some things the Bible says about my redeemer:

*"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25).*

*"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer" (Ps. 19:14).*

*"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:7).*

*"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15).*

*"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things...But with the precious blood of Christ..." (1 Pet. 1:18-19).*

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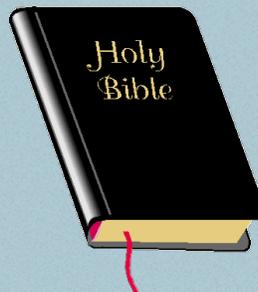
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