

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

October 15, 2006

Finding a Wife

Bobby Graham

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD” (Prov 18:22). It is the wish of many young men to find a wife. Among Christians also this desire expresses itself, for they are God’s creatures, constituted with the same basic characteristics and desires of others. The finding of a wife is not merely the acting out of some biological urge that inexplicably became a part of the human race at some indeterminable time in the distant past, nor is it the most recent phase of social adaptation in the evolutionary development of the species.

The Need for a Wife Finding a wife has ever been the need of men from the time of divine creation; it became the impetus for the creation of woman, a helper suitable for man (**Gen. 2:18**). The Bible assures us that man and woman were made for each other, not for another of the same sex. From the time of Adam and Eve God has willed the marriage of man and woman in a lifelong relationship called marriage. To this end God decreed that the young man should leave parents, cleave to his wife, and become one with her (**Gen. 2:24**). From that time to this, men have found wives, though some have not succeeded in their search.

Need the Right Kind Just as the Bible shows in the first book of Genesis, it is the right kind of wife that parents desire for their sons and that sons need. It is no coincident nor accident that men like Abraham and Isaac arranged for their sons to marry wives whom they judged to be best for them (**Gen. 24:1ff; 28:1ff**). Though young men do not always understand such a need as they later will, they need to have good wives, wives who will benefit them in all good ways.

“A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones” (Prov 12:4). Wives can be the virtuous kind, who contribute good to their husbands as did the wife in **Proverbs 31**, or they can be the kind that later makes him ashamed, as did the untrustworthy wife in **Proverbs 7**. They do not upon marriage suddenly acquire the character, disposition, or potential that destines them to such an end; but they manifest such tendencies even in their single years. It is foolish for young men to think that they can magically and quickly transform a character that has been molded for years. They must understand that they need the right kind of wife and look for her, not for the wrong kind.

Where to Find One Where would you think you could find a wife? Would you look for her at the dance, the night club, or the swimming pool? If so, you probably would get one who would later share herself and display herself in the wrong way. Would you seek her in the work place? If so, you might get one who places her career ahead of husband, home, and family (I am not discounting the need for unmarried women to work). Why not ask counsel from the Lord about this important quest? What does He say about the matter?

“House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD” (Prov 19:14). Young men, you can acquire material things from those who have them and can bequeath them to you upon their death. You can also get a wife from a number of sources, if you are not really concerned about the

spiritual verities that relate to your life, your wife, your relationship with each other, and the family that you will rear. On the other hand, if you desire a prudent wife, one who wisely trusts the Lord and in whom you can safely trust, then you need to seek her from the Lord. In His providence He will provide her for you.

How to Find Her If we can say something definite about the way to find such a wife, then perhaps we will have helped many young men. Here again, the Lord supplies the answer to our question. It is evident that He knows more about this matter than we do. After all, has He not been dealing with such matters much longer than any of us has even lived in this world? Did He not institute the marital relationship and wisely seek to govern it with His will?

In **Genesis 24** the Lord has provided a manual on how to find the right kind of wife.

1. **Wisely:** When Abraham sent his oldest servant on the trip to find Isaac a wife, he was enlisting wisdom for the search (**24:1**). This was a mission that he did not leave to the younger ones, for their judgment perhaps was yet immature and their ideals still unfixed. Young men, talk to someone older, wiser, and more knowledgeable concerning the kind of wife you need. Best of all, ask the Lord and let Him speak to you through His Word. He knows!

2. **Seriously:** The search for the right kind of wife is the second most serious undertaking of your life, coming after the decision to serve God as a disciple of Jesus Christ. It was so important to Abraham that he had his servant swear by the Lord that he would not find Isaac's wife among the Canaanite women (**24:3**). This father knew that the right kind of wife for one who would serve Jehovah would not likely come from among the wicked pagans of the surrounding country. You need to be serious about seeking your wife. It is more important than trading cars, getting an education, planning a career, or even planning your funeral. In fact, it is more important that all of these tasks combined.

3. **With God in first place:** The Lord knew that with a woman of Canaan having a significant place in Isaac's life, He would likely be out of the picture (**24:3, 8**). They were known for their licentious rituals and their lewd ways, often performed in homage to their pagan gods. He also made it clear that even the woman found in Mesopotamia, Abraham's homeland, must be willing to come with the servant back to live in the land with Isaac. Such willingness would indicate her amenability to Jehovah rather than the gods of her own land, even as Ruth would later acknowledge her faith in Jehovah rather than the gods of Moab. You will never go anywhere you need to go, young men, unless you put God in the place that He deserves in your life. A marriage formed around your own selfish whims and based upon your own human ideals will not be the kind of marriage that pleases and honors God. It probably will not even last.

4. **With proper focus:** The focus of the servant as he approached the moment of decision was on the right thing. He arranged it with the Lord in prayer for Him to make it known which one should be Isaac's wife (**24:13-14**). She would be a willing, submissive, generous, considerate and helpful woman, as demonstrated by her offer to give the servant water and then to draw more for his camels. The servant was not looking for the village beauty, the town whiz kid, or the community rich girl, but for one with solid character. He considered this matter to be so important that he prayed to God for His help in finding her.

This is the divine guide in how to find a wife. You can never do any better than the Lord did in this instance, nor will you ever improve on any of His ways. You can learn much from a study of His Word about such matters, even more than this short article points out.

(Preacher's Point – These same principles apply for you too, women, in finding a husband. Keep God first in all things, and He will guide you to the right man. – TN)

Family News

Mary Burnett was in the hospital this past week (from Sun night until Wed). She had fluid around her heart and is still weak, but is now back home.

Some non-local Christians (the **Capeharts**) were in a very serious car accident Friday afternoon. Two children remain in Vanderbilt.

Sharon Copeland, Virginia's granddaughter and Cindi's niece, was severely injured in a motorcycle accident yesterday. She is at a hospital in Beaumont TX in very serious condition. She is married with three children.

Jessie Camille Edwards is doing some better.

Metty Fain is in Room B2, 215 Highland Circle Dr, Portland TN 37148.

Elmo Ferrell has been doing some better.

Barry Fultz is scheduled to go to the Mayo Clinic on November 6th.

Estelle Hayes had a bad day on Friday, but is doing better.

Sandra Hunt had a bad week last week (especially the beginning). The shots she had started are on hold for now. She is waiting for results from some blood work. She has a doctor's appointment Tuesday.

Sara Hurt, who used to be a member here, is now home after receiving rehabilitation. Her return home was delayed because of heart problems. Corrected address: 5989 Alf's Way Cookeville TN 38506

Larry Miller, Candy Jenkins' father, remains in Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, IN. Tomorrow he will have been in the hospital for a month. He has had several problems (including fluid on his lungs and pneumonia). He is much, much better and he hopefully will really go home this week.

Devon Neighbors had an ear infection, but is now improving.

Remember **Laura Reed**. She remains about the same.

Ame White continues a long series of doctor visits/check ups/tests.

Robert Wray returned to the eye doctor this past week. His eyes are better, but they found something new on some tests.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Allen Malone** (preaching in a meeting near Memphis); **Troy Nicholson** (preaching in a meeting in FL).

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).