

“Admonish the Young Women”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Titus 2:1-5

1. Some believe that Paul's words are chauvinist and outdated, hindering women from reaching their full potential
2. Time, historical patterns, and daily experience has shown it to be both sound doctrine and eternal wisdom, spiritually healthy and wholesome for young women and most effective in developing stable happy families
3. “That the word of God may not be blasphemed” makes the influence of the Gospel, in part, dependent on how well young women comport themselves. And we chauvinistically thought that the Gospel work was in the hands of men only.
4. “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” (Eleanor Roosevelt)
5. “If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman. Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country.” (Margaret Thatcher)

The Hand That Rocks The Cradle Is The Hand That Rules The World
By William Ross Wallace (1819-1881)

BLESSINGS on the hand of women!
Angels guard its strength and grace.
In the palace, cottage, hovel,
Oh, no matter where the place;
Would that never storms assailed it,
Rainbows ever gently curled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Infancy's the tender fountain,
Power may with beauty flow,
Mothers first to guide the streamlets,
From them souls unresting grow—
Grow on for the good or evil,
Sunshine streamed or evil hurled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Woman, how divine your mission,
Here upon our natal sod;
Keep—oh, keep the young heart open
Always to the breath of God!

All true trophies of the ages
Are from mother-love impearled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Blessings on the hand of women!
Fathers, sons, and daughters cry,
And the sacred song is mingled
With the worship in the sky—
Mingles where no tempest darkens,
Rainbows evermore are hurled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

B. What do the scriptures actually teach?

1. Examples of godly, praiseworthy women
2. Biblical descriptions of godly, praiseworthy women
3. Understanding what Paul wrote in the context of the rest of scripture
 - a. Men and women alike: wake up to the difference between what the word of God says about young women and their role in this world versus the Victorianism, stay at home, bow respectfully and walk three steps behind the man teaching that was added to the scriptures by insecure, and misguided men

I. YOUNG WOMEN AS INSPIRATIONAL EXAMPLES

- A. Hannah whose name means “gracious, merciful; he who gives” (Hitchcock)
 1. Her grace and patience in bearing with burdens and her fervent prayers were answered when God gave her a child, Samuel - 1Sam. 1:1-20
 2. Her willingness to give her son to the Lord, similar to Abraham offering Isaac - 1Sam. 1:21-28, 2:18-19
 3. Her prayer of thanksgiving, similar to the song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55), and equal to any Psalm written by David or Solomon - 1Sam. 2:1-10
 4. She was later blessed with three more sons and two daughters as a reward for her patient burden bearing, similar to Job - 1Sam. 2:20-21
- B. Esther an orphan girl raised by her uncle Mordecai - Esther 2:7
 1. She became wife of Ahasuerus, king of Persia, a rise to glory and power no less than that of the shepherd David - Esther 2:8-17
 2. She reluctantly risked her life to save the Jews from extinction; she faced a crisis of courage like the greatest of prophets, Elijah, and defied royal protocol like Jonathan did with king Saul - Esther 4:13-16
- C. Mary, a young virgin, pregnant and about to give birth to the Lord; there is NO parallel among men - Luke 1:26-38; Mt 1:18-25
 1. She accepted by faith her Son’s true origin and heritage, faith equal to that of any man in Hebrews 11 - Luke 2:48-51; Matt. 12:46-50

2. She followed her son to His crucifixion and never left His side, even in death; that is something the apostles were afraid to do
 - a. John 19:25; Matt. 26:56
 3. After Jesus ascension, Mary continued to work and worship with His apostles - Acts 1:13-14
- D. Priscilla, wife of Aquila - Acts 18:1-3
1. She was involved in teaching Apollos, a gifted preacher - Acts 18:26
 2. She was a co-worker with the apostle Paul, and risked her life to help him - Rom. 16:3-4
 3. She opened her home to host a local church, risking the loss of her house - Rom. 16:5; 1Cor. 16:19
- E. Women worked as hard as the men alongside of Jesus and Paul
1. Luke 8:3; Rom. 16:1-2; Phil. 4:2-3

II. "ADMONISH THE YOUNG WOMEN"

- A. "To love their husbands and children"
1. "To love their husbands" (philandros - fond of man, affectionate as a wife - Strongs);
 2. "To love their children" (philoteknos - fond of children, maternal; love their own children - Strongs)
 3. This should come naturally, but habitual sin can lead one to become unloving - Rom. 1:31 - "Without natural affection"
 4. This is what older women teach them to do; the fact that it is a learned behavior makes loving husbands and children a conscious choice - Titus 2:4
- B. "Discrete and chaste"
1. Discreet (sophron - with a safe, sound mind, self-controlled, moderate in opinion and passion, sober, temperate - Strongs)
 - a. It is the same thing required of older men, translated as "temperate" - Titus 2:2
 2. Chaste (hagnos - clean, innocent, modest, chaste, pure - Strongs)
 - a. "Reserving their love for their own husbands and children, keeping herself and her home undefiled" (Gill)
 - b. This is the same conduct required of single women - 1Cor. 7:34
- C. "Homemakers" (oikouros - [from ouros - a guard] a guardian or keeper of the home; attentive to domestic concerns - Barnes)
2. A virtuous woman is diligent to attend the needs of the family, but is not restricted to the house. She is capable of seeing to her role with her family and in conducting business outside of the house - Prov. 31:10-31
 3. Likewise, husbands can attend to their duty as providers and fulfill their God commanded roles as guide and spiritual instructor in the home
- D. "Good" (agathos - "In respect to interaction with or influence on others: useful, beneficial, profitable - TCWD)
- E. "In subjection to their own husbands" (ASV)
1. Subjection (hupotasso - to be subordinate, subject to - Strongs)
 2. It is Christian behavior - Eph. 5:21; 1Peter 5:5

Conclusion:

- A. "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle Is the Hand That Rules the World" praises motherhood as an eminent force for change in the world. The scriptures make clear the power of womanhood on shaping great events in this world
 - 1. Athaliah raised Ahaziah to be an evil idolater - 2Chron. 22:2-4
 - a. She raised him to become a contributor to the fall of Israel
 - 2. Lois and Eunice raised Timothy to be a preacher - 2Tim. 1:5, 3:14-15
 - a. They raised him to be a builder of the kingdom of God
- B. Young women, you hold a great deal of power. What will you do with it?