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## “Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together”... So Very Obvious!

by Robert Ardis

One of the very obvious New Truths given to the Church of God's Faithful is the easily proven fact that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are two very different events. However, preconceived ideas can confuse the mind of even a sincere Christian as they have this plain truth presented to them. It is not what they had been previously taught, thus it is hard to grasp—yet it is New Truth right out of the Bible. Jesus Christ certainly knew that confusion and deception would happen during these days in which we live; therefore He has given a unique explanation of these two events by using a common expression of His day as recorded in Matthew and Luke. Once this important New Truth is understood, then many other vital scriptures—prophecies for these Bible times in which we live—come to life and are also made so very obvious to us. And Christ's explanation reveals what must be done next according to God's Word.

On his final journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, our Lord and his disciples made a stop in one of the villages along the way where He was confronted by the competitive and contentious Pharisees. We can read this in Luke 17:20- 37:

*And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*

*And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part*

*under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.*

*But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.*

*And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife.*

*Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.*

Notice, first He told the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was not for their observance for the Kingdom of God was represented right there before them in His presence as the King of the Kingdom—not within their wicked hearts—but within their presence or among them.

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## Greetings brethren!

Beginning this issue, *The Philadelphia Witness* will be published on a bi-weekly basis. Also in this issue, Pastor General Robert Ardis has written the lead article, a most welcome addition to this publication.

The other article in this number is Part 2 of Local Elder Frank Borg's series on the vital and most important subject of *Marriage - a Physical Union and a Divine Institution*.

Preparations are now also well under way to produce the first issue of *The Midnight Cry... a magazine of Urgent Understanding*. This publication will be sent to the lost sheep who are presently scattered in the more than 300 churches that comprise *the synagogue of Satan*, as well to our beloved brethren in the Laodicean Church of God (PCG) and to former PCG members. Please send in any address you may have – home or e-mail – of any of those individuals who God has called through the years when His 20<sup>th</sup> century apostle Herbert W. Armstrong was proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations.

At this time, I would also like to encourage you to seriously prepare for Passover, which this year we will commemorate the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> April; and as you do this, some of you may also wish to write an article for the upcoming issues of this publication – *the voice of the Church of Jesus Christ* – that will be relevant to this most important and solemn time of the year.

With much love, in Christ's service



Daniel Frendo

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Next Jesus addressed His disciples telling them he would be taken away by His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. He explained that there would come many false prophets and false christ in their day teaching a false gospel about a false Christ. He then projects them over 2000 years into the future to the time of the Day of the Lord and His visible return for His Church after the Great Tribulation, after the Heavenly Signs, at the time

of the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet during the Day of the Lord's Wrath. All the world shall see Him in the clouds! Jesus described this momentous event as a lightening bolt flashing from one end of heaven to the other that every eye shall behold (Rev.1:7). There would be nothing secret about His visible return for His Bride.

Christ then brings them back to their present time and His imminent suffering, death, and rejection by that wicked generation. Next He takes them again into the future to the time of the Day of the Lord! This time He presents the Day of the Lord—not the Day of His Wrath—coming secretly as a *thief in the night!* It would be a time that would occur completely unexpected as a “thief” as it was on the Feast of Trumpets on October 1, 1997 when this great secret would be revealed. At that time the 6000 years allotted to man to go his own rebellious way came to an end—and the Lord's Day, God's eternal time would begin once again! It was then that Christ returned *secretly* and *suddenly* to His Temple (Mal. 3:1-2).

The Temple had been completed by an end-time Zerubbabel, Herbert W. Armstrong (Zech. 4:9)! All of the building blocks of the magnificent Worldwide Church of God (WCG), the one True Church, had been called and chosen through Christ guiding the long ministry of Mr. Armstrong. However, when he died in 1986, the WCG was viciously attacked by Satan the devil. That evil demon knowing his time was short, replaced the precious restored Truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God with the corrupted teachings of his “present evil world” and the false “gospel” of modern “churchianity”. Many begotten brethren succumbing to Satan's wiles have fallen away from the truth and are being replaced by God with those of the *streets and lanes of the city* and the *highways and hedges outside the city* (see Luke 14: 16-24).

The condition of the Temple in 1997 at Christ's return, secretly, as a *thief*, was that of chaos and confusion although He had raised up the Laodicean Work to warn the WCG membership of the apostasy that was occurring. Very few heeded the warning Work of Laodicea that was headed by Gerald Flurry—but some did—and the Seventh Candlestick/Church began in December of 1989. The leading ministers of the WCG instead of coming to Mr. Flurry's aid, sat in contempt of him as they stayed in the corrupted WCG receiving

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their pay until they could draw a following after them (see Acts 20:28-31). Today, 23 years after Mr. Armstrong's death the former WCG is split and splintered into over 300 groups and churches and Christ is very concerned for those begotten children, called and chosen of God, who are asleep and snared in those churches, or sitting out there all alone.

There are also today the spiritually blind Laodiceans trapped in the PCG who have been warned by our incessant "knocking on their door" for 11 years, but continue to blindly follow Gerald Flurry although he has careened off-track—claiming to be *That Prophet*. Taking that exalted title belonging only to Jesus Christ (see Acts 3:20-24), has made Gerald Flurry a "false prophet" and a "false christ". A proper title that he has now acquired is the "abomination standing in the Holy Place" (See our booklet; *Whosoever Reads...Let Him Understand!*).

This is the point to which Christ brings the disciples in Luke 17:25-36. He tells them there will be a time of normal activities just like in the days of Noah before the great flood. He reminds them of Lot's life in the wicked environs of Sodom and Gomorrah. Even in that wicked society life went on as usual, marrying, giving in marriage, eating, drinking, etc—just like today. Normal activities!

Christ is in no way describing the time after the Great Tribulation and the *Day of His Wrath* when the earth will be at the point of utter destruction—when every eye shall see Him return. No! This is portraying a time of comparative peace when His secret coming as a "thief in the night" occurred, after 6000 years, when things were going along "as usual"!

It is during this time of usual activities that Christ is choosing the Pillar members of His spiritual Temple in readiness to bring in the other "lively stones" to build and complete the Temple—the collective Spiritual Temple—the Bride of Jesus Christ (See Eph. 2:20-22 and I Pet.2:5).

In verse 34-37 of Luke 17, Christ describes a selection taking place. Two men are in one bed, one is taken, one is left. Two women are grinding together, one is taken, one is left. Two men are laboring in the field; one is taken, one is left.

The disciples' natural question was "**where will they be taken**"? And Christ answers; "**Wheresoever the body is,** (Strong's 4983; from 4982 meaning body [a strong whole]) **thither will the eagles be gathered**". That expression was a common adage of that day meaning "Isn't it so very obvious?" Consider; if anyone observed vultures circling overhead it should be obvious that there was a body lying there attracting these carnivorous scavengers. The word for body here is that of a *whole live body*, see #4983. He is saying the selected group, those chosen, would be taken to where the BODY is—the BODY of Christ—the true Church of Jesus Christ (see Eph. 1:20-23). There are many other scriptures discussing the Body of Christ using #4983! So, is the answer he gave so very obvious to us today?

A short while later in the ministry of Jesus Christ as He and the disciples were discussing the deep issues of the Olivet prophecy, Christ brought the subject up again with an important difference.

In verse 25 of Matthew 24 He reminds the disciples that he has taught this to them before; "*Behold I have told you before*". Thus he repeats the adage with an important variation for a very special reason. Let's read verses 21-28 in Matthew 24 to see that another important meaning is being addressed.

*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **For wheresoever the carcass is,** (Strong's #4430; meaning; From the alternate of G4098; a ruin, that is, (specifically) lifeless body (corpse, carriage): - dead body, carcase, corpse) **there will the eagles be gathered together.***

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Notice carefully that He is referring to the time of Great Tribulation. Verses 4-20 are pre-tribulation scriptures, but verse 21 states plainly, ***then shall be great tribulation...!*** Of course, during the Great Tribulation the faithful who have been chosen and accounted worthy to escape are in the Place of Safety and will not be subject to the deception of the Beast, the “great” false prophet, or the false christs and false prophets of the Laodicean PCG and the hireling ministers of the “churches of god” as motivated by Satan (see Matt. 7:21-23).

Let’s mention also the “unwise virgins” (see Matt. 25) not accounted worthy to escape. They will hear and in some cases follow the false ministers as they “seek oil for their lamps”. They will follow the false ministers in their attempt to flee to the place they have been taught would be the *secret chamber*, their place of safety, the rose red city of Petra, located in the *dessert* of the nation of Jordan. And Christ is declaring they will not find Him there—He will be with the True Church in the Place of Safety. Petra will be totally destroyed (see Jer. 49:17-18 and Isa. 34:5-6)! Read our booklets; *The Midnight Cry!* and *Petra...Place of safety or Place of Slaughter?*

Also notice there is no selection mentioned in these verses or a time of relative peace as Luke’s account portrays, but refers to the time when the entire world beholds Christ’s lightning like Return for His Bride at the end of the Great Tribulation and the Day of His Wrath. His visible coming will be so very obvious to everyone left alive.

At the beginning of the Tribulation, when the false christs and prophets are striving to deceive the people, Christ declares; “**wheresoever the dead body** (or carcass, Strong’s # 4430) **is**, (meaning the ‘dead churches’), **there will the eagles be gathered together**”. It will be so very obvious—and devastating—to them to finally realize they are associated with a dead church or churches and in the wrong place—but it’s too late (Matt. 25:8-13)! Then they must contend with the Beast and the false prophet. Some will make it—many will not!

Isn’t it so very obvious that if you understand this message you should flee to God’s one true Church today—now—while the selection—the gathering

of God’s elect—is taking place. Whosoever has ears to hear—let him hear—understand—and act!

***Please send your Article contributions via e-mail as a Word doc. attachment to:***

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## **Marriage - a Physical Union and a Divine Institution - Part 2 *The Role of the Wife***

*by Frank Borg*

The physical family is fashioned after the God family; it is a God-plane relationship. Marriage is a physical union but a divine institution ordained of God. God established and ordained the physical family unit to be the Kingdom of God in *embryo*, so our families are to symbolize this future Kingdom!

Because of the human potential and what the physical family represents, Satan primarily targets the marital institution. He does all he can to *destroy* family because *God is Family* and Satan has no part in it! This infuriates Satan because he is filled with vanity and lust (Is. 14:13-14)!

Through His inspired Word, God has given us the instruction necessary to have strong, united and loving families. The better we apply His instruction, the more joy will be evidenced in our homes, the better example we set of the God-family and the better equipped our families will be to withstand the wiles of Satan the devil. We must do our outmost to ensure that we do what it takes to effectively apply our roles within marriage and family. As soon as cracks begin to appear in our marriages, Satan will quickly claw into those cracks as he subtly and slowly begins to rip our families apart: “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about,

seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). We must guard against letting down!

In the first part of this series, we took a look at the role of the husband and father within the family. We were reminded that as the head of the family (Eph. 5:25), the husband must set the pace by *leading* – he must guide, protect, provide, correct, love and be a living example to his wife and children. A husband must allow Christ to ‘come in the flesh’ through him (1 John 4)! When husbands do not fulfill their god-given role within marriage, the marital relationship begins to fall apart. Husbands must lead their homes the same way Christ leads His Church. If the husband (and father) applies his god-given role within the family, the right environment would be fostered to promote growth and development in his wife and children. The husband *leads* the success or failure of the family, but wives also play a major part in this. The extent to which the wife submits and fulfils her role within the family helps her husband to better lead and fulfill his role. It is very clear that both the husband and wife have important roles to fulfill within a marriage, and the better they fulfill these roles the better team they forge for the benefit of their relationship and their family.

For the purpose of this article, we will delve into the role of the wife and mother within the family. We will see how important the wife’s role is, and how the degree to which she effectively fulfills her role contributes to the overall functioning, effectiveness and unity of the family.

As brought out in the first part of this series, God uses *government* to conduct His purpose and carry out His plan through ‘family’. Government must be implemented in our families: “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God” (1 Cor. 11:3). The keys to God’s government are love and outgoing concern in *leadership* and *submission*! Scripture clearly shows that for the government of God to work within the family, the *head of household must lead his wife and children in love* while the *other family members must be in voluntary submission*: children must submit to their father and mother, the wife must submit to her husband, the husband must submit to Christ. Even Christ submits to God the Father! God’s government is characterized by *leadership from the top down* and *submission from the bottom up*. This is the structure of God’s theocratic government which must be implemented in our families if we are to obey God and

get it right! If there is dysfunctional government administered in our families there is resultant disorder and division.

Just as the husband (and father) has an important role to play within marriage, the wife’s role within the family is also extremely important and vital – the ineffective implementation of one role hinders the effectiveness of the other. A woman’s relationship with God must *always* come first and foremost; after her relationship with God comes her responsibility in marriage which is to submit to, and support, her husband (1 Cor. 11:7-9; Eph 5:22). A wife is always beneath her husband in level of authority.

In this regard, the bible also gives instruction to wife’s who are married to unconverted mates. A converted wife is commanded to be in subjection to her unconverted husband so long as her husband does not cause her to disobey God or violate His law. A wife’s responsibility is to God first and then to her husband: “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, *they also may without the word be won by the conversation (Strong’s 391:’ conduct’)* of the wives” (1 Peter 3:1). God places so much importance on the conduct of the converted mate! Women must be in subjection to their husbands even if their mate is unconverted. The principle is that wives should submit to their husbands as they submit to God (Col 3:18). There are eight scriptures in the New Testament that instruct women to voluntarily *submit* to the authority of the husband: 1 Cor. 14:34; Titus 2:4; Eph 5:22; Eph 5:24; Col 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1; 1 Tim 2:9; 1 Cor. 11:3. If a wife resists or rejects submitting to her husband, she disobeys the authority of her husband and disobeys God. o\

The word “submit” in the abovementioned scriptures is translated from the Greek word ‘hupotasso’(Strong’s 5293) and means: ‘to subordinate’, ‘to be put under obedience’, ‘to subdue unto’, ‘to be subject to’, ‘to be put into subjection’, and, ‘to submit the self unto’. The word ‘submit’ refers to someone who is lower in rank but not in value. Submission is an act that demonstrates the basic responsibility of a wife, and clearly indicates that it should be done voluntarily. When a wife submits to her husband it demonstrates faith in, and obedience to, God and His government. Submission demonstrates humility and obedience to God.

As we have already alluded to, a wife (and mother) has a big part in building the marriage and family (Prov. 14:1); her role is important and crucial for the

cultivation of an environment needed for stability within the family. As we shall see, this is the central theme of a wife's role within the marriage and family.

Scripture clearly demonstrates that a wife (and mother) must keep busy in the home with the affairs of her family. This requires a lot of time and hard work on her part. Many wives in today's society are increasingly shrugging-off their household responsibilities which, in some cases, results in them having idle time or presents a situation whereby the wife is enticed into the workforce even if the family doesn't need the extra income - more on this later. 'Idle time' typically results in various forms of modern day "entertainment" becoming attractive and taking over valuable time which should be used constructively. This should not become habit. If, for example, women give in to the temptation of idly watching too much television or spending too much time out of the home, the family will suffer because that sort of lifestyle is not conducive to 'building the family'! On this note, wives must be careful not to give in to the temptation of gossiping with neighbors or others. The bible clearly warns against this, also admonishing wives to be careful to conduct themselves in a way which will not fuel gossip in others (1 Tim. 5:13-14).

Titus 2:4 states that wives should "be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed". As already mentioned, one of the wife's primary responsibilities within the family is to be a 'keeper at home' - the family depends on this and so does society at large! We must always keep in mind that family is the foundation of society, and our families are no exception. A great responsibility is placed on a husband and wife to fulfill their roles within the family unit so that the best possible example is set for the family and for the community!

Proverbs 31 is a chapter devoted to the responsibilities of the wife and homemaker. This chapter talks about a mother teaching and demonstrating to her son - King Lemuel - on how a mother is to build, teach, keep and guide her family. This is a very important chapter which must be studied in great detail if we are to understand the role of a wife and mother. Proverbs 31:10 states this about a good wife: "Who can find a virtuous woman? For *her price is far above rubies*"! A Proverbs 31 wife is a unique treasure indicating that the real value of a virtuous wife should never be underestimated! Because of the inadequate training that parents give their children these days, a Proverbs

31 wife is becoming increasingly rare. Let us take a look at the qualities of a Proverbs 31 wife:

A Proverbs 31 wife is trustworthy and *confident in her role* (Strong's no. 982, vs. 11). Evidently, the parents of the 'virtuous wife' trained her as a child in the art of housekeeping. This outlines the responsibility that a mother has to diligently teach and train her daughter in every aspect of housekeeping so that she will be well prepared for her future role as a wife. Mothers must teach daughters how to keep a house, cook, sew and more, so that she can be confident when she fulfills her future role in marriage. Because of her proper upbringing, a husband can safely trust his wife to properly take care of his household. The onus is on the parents to teach their children and prepare them for adulthood!

A virtuous wife will do everything in her power to please her husband (vs. 12); she will serve him, keep the home in order, cook healthy food etc., and will do what she can to ensure her husband's happiness. It is in her nature to do good! She is resourceful and creative in the family sphere (vs. 13), shops around to find the best deals to ensure that the family dollar stretches as far as possible (vs. 14). A Proverbs 31 wife wakes up early enough to ensure that her husband and children are fed and have all they need to get their day under way in the best possible way (vs. 15): "She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, *and a portion to her maidens*". The phrase 'and a portion to her maidens' indicates that there is a lot that is involved with the running of a home and family which means that a wife needs help to get all the chores done. Often, daughters will help their mothers, and in so doing will obtain the necessary training for her future role as wife and mother.

Proverbs 31:16 tells us that a husband should delegate decision-making power to his wife. A virtuous wife is hard working; she also makes good decisions, looks for bargains, in the interest of her family (vs. 16). A virtuous wife does what she can to keep herself healthy which indicates that she will do the same for all members of her family (vs. 17). "She girds her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms" (vs. 17) indicating that she also involves herself in healthy exercise.

Scripture indicates that the work of a wife and mother continues late into the night (verse 18). It is in her nature to work to serve her family and others (vs. 19-20). A virtuous wife also plans ahead for herself and her family which means she is a good organizer in the

home (vs. 21). As a good planner, the virtuous wife will use well the weekly preparation day (Friday). She will ensure that everything needed for the Sabbath day is prepared in advance (Luke 23:54) including, for example, food preparation, setting out family clothes which will be used, and other things the wife knows the family will need on the Sabbath day. A woman is detail oriented, and this strength helps her with planning and preparation.

Proverbs 31:22 indicates that a virtuous wife dresses appropriately and modestly. Her clothing should represent the best quality clothing the family can afford: “her clothing is *silk and purple*” (vs. 22). Importantly, the right balance needs to be struck as God does not want us to place undue emphasis on the self because that focus will naturally and easily lead to vanity (Prov. 31:30). It is important for a wife to display balance in the type of clothing and jewelry that she wears (1 Tim. 2:9), ensuring that her appearance is always neat and becoming of a begotten member of the God family. More than outward appearance, it is the *conversion* of a wife that should be most important to a husband and this *real beauty* comes from within.

Proverbs 31 has more to say about the virtuous wife; she is a woman who feels that her husband is respected in the community (vs. 23). This helps the wife feel secure. She strives to maintain a positive mental outlook (vs. 25), is wise, intelligent and has good sense because she cultivates her mind; she is kind, loving and merciful (vs. 26). As head of the family, the husband has the responsibility to ensure the stability and security within the marriage, and he does this by loving, encouraging and praising his wife. This type of leadership cultivates the right environment for the security and wellbeing of all members of his family. However, for these positive fruits to be borne, God must always be kept *in the center* of the marital relationship!

A wife and mother will sometimes work outside the home (Prov. 31:24). However, in taking employment, she should respond to her husband’s true desires, helping to serve her family’s true needs. Situations where the wife works to supplement the family income should be distinctly fewer for mothers with young children. Caring for the husband and children should be a wife’s desire and priority. Parents need to be mindful of the possible negative repercussions on their young children and society at large, when the mother leaves the house to join the workforce. If mothers need to work they are encouraged to configure their work hours around their children’s schedule so that they are

not be left to their own devices! Wives will ensure that children keep the right company and do not adopt bad habits and wrong influences. Mothers are to ensure that children do not idle away their time, but are given projects and tasks that will train them, and keep their minds and bodies active and alert (vs. 27). A good mother understands that children who are trained in the proper way will not disappoint her or the family: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). This fruit gives testimony to the excellence of the wife (Prov. 31:29).

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her” (Prov. 31:28). Proverbs 31 outlines the standard that God sets for wives. God honors the attitude of a wife that strives to build her home and family according to His Word; the husband and family will also respond positively to a Proverbs 31 wife. The fruit of her labor of love will reflect in the support, happiness and prosperity (Strong’s 833) of her family. A Proverbs 31 wife doesn’t demand respect from her husband and children - she earns it! In fact, a virtuous wife is a ‘crown to her husband’ (Prov. 12:4) and will be honored for her part in fearing God and building the family. She is a delight to God, to her husband and family and will be rewarded for her hard work (Prov. 31:28, 31)!

So far in this series, we have briefly covered the roles of the husband and wife in marriage. We have seen how every wife has a unique opportunity to be married to Jesus Christ in the flesh, if he lives by the spirit of God. A wife must submit to Christ in the flesh in her husband – her level of submission to Him is evident in the way she submits to her husband. Similarly, every husband has a unique opportunity to be married to Jesus Christ in the flesh because Christ also comes in the flesh through the wife (1 John 4:2)! Both the husband and wife should be producing abundant spiritual fruit in their life and marriage, and this is done effectively when the roles within marriage are meticulously applied and God is kept in the center of the relationship. Husbands and wives must strive to produce positive fruit in their lives, so that both can feed off each other’s fruit! This is what marriage is all about!

It takes lots of hard work, study and prayer for a Proverbs 31 wife to fulfill her role. However, while Proverbs 31 gives detailed instruction on the responsibilities of a wife, it should also serve to engrave in every members mind that our Christian calling entails very hard work! Whether male or

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female members in the Church we are the bride of Christ and each of us must submit to Him! It takes lots of hard work, study and prayer for each of us to build the character God the Father wants to see in His Son's bride! Christ wants to see that we are individually and collectively working hard *now* to prepare ourselves spiritually for our forthcoming marriage. He wants to see that we are *resisting* Satan, *overcoming* and *applying His Word* in detail. Each of us must make a conscientious effort to come out of our comfort zones and seize the little time left before the return of Christ to ensure a place in His Family.

We are now more than eleven years into the Day of the Lord! How has this fact positively affected our marriages and families? Do we display a sense of urgency in the way we implement our roles within the family? Let us *make ourselves ready* because Christ will not marry a 'laid-back' wife (Matt. 24:46; Luke 12:43)! Christ wants a Proverbs 31 wife having the characteristics outlined in the Word of God! Christ clearly desires a capable, motivated, industrious, wife that revolves around Him! How are we faring?

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready" (Rev 19:7).

(To be continued)