

The Old Paths

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“A Virtuous Lady”

Jarrod Jacobs

The book of Proverbs 31 speaks of a virtuous woman whose price is “*far above rubies*.” When I read of this Biblical description of a godly woman, one lady who fits this description in my mind is our dear sister, Wreatha Proffitt. Sister Wreatha passed from this world on January 18, having lived 91 years and 8 months on this earth. She was a dear friend and sweet lady.

I wish I would have known sister Wreatha longer, but in the time I knew her, she impressed me with her faith and her interest in God’s word. She was a supporter of gospel preaching. Wreatha was one of the people instrumental in getting this church at Caneyville started years ago. It is not an exaggeration to say that without the prayers, and effort of sister Wreatha, her husband Witt, as well as several others, we would not be here today! This kind of sacrifice, faith, and love is not seen very often, is it? Not long ago, Wreatha spoke to me about the church at Caneyville and its beginnings. Then, she remarked on how pleased she was to see the growth we have after all these years. Truly, the credit, honor, and glory belongs to God because His word does not return to Him void (Isa. 55:10-11). At the same time, when we give honor to whom honor is due, we recognize the sacrifices that were made so that

a group of God’s people are able to meet and work and worship together in Caneyville.

Sister Wreatha lived Hebrews 10:25. It was impressive and encouraging to see that this lady was present every time the doors were open! If there was any way to get there, she was coming to worship the God of Heaven (Jn. 4:24). She was coming to give honor and glory to God, and to stir her brethren up to “*love and good works*.” Even in her last weeks, when she was not able to get out of the nursing home, she knew what day it was, and spoke to folks of her desire to attend and be with the saints for Wednesday night Bible study and Sunday worship. In contrast with folks who ask, “Do I have to go?” and the like, this lady was asking when the next time she was able to assemble with the saints. Wreatha had the attitude of David (Ps. 122:1).

Sister Wreatha showed a faithful example to others when it came to her married life (Matt. 19:4-6). She was married to her husband “Witt” for 49 years. Her faithfulness as a wife and their unity (Gen. 2:24) was seen by those who knew them. In the time I knew her, it didn’t escape my notice that even though Witt has been gone for nearly 25 years, Wreatha still spoke fondly of her husband, and would tell me often, “You would have loved Witt.” She knew I would have loved him because she loved him to her dying day. As was

said in the first part of this article, Proverbs 31:11 applies to her. Proverbs 31:23 applies as well, for her presence and actions were a benefit to Witt. Her actions brought honor to him as her husband.

I learned much from this dear lady. She was one of the “mothers” in “Zion” who cared for others, and showed her care and concern in many ways. It was a true blessing to have known sister Wreatha even in the short time that I did.

“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceitful, and beauty I vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates” (Prov. 31:29-31).

“Not to know is ignorance, but to refuse to learn is pride.” -- L.E. Sloan

Editor’s Note: Below is the very first article written by our brother Aric Russell. I thought he did a fine job in his writing, and hope you will think so as well. We look forward to seeing more of him and his family in 2014. Please read these words carefully. - JJ

The Power of Words

Aric Russell, Mooresville, IN

Words are powerful tools. The words we choose to use are things we should think very much upon.

Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers”* (Eph. 4:29). The words we choose to speak can be very encouraging and lift someone up. At the same time the words we choose to use can be very hurtful or can really tear someone down. In the Gospel account of Matthew, Jesus says; *“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned”* (Matt. 12:36-37). Jesus warns us to use our words carefully. Too many times we do not pay attention to how we use our tongues and sometimes it can get us into a world of hurt. Let us take just a few seconds to think about the power of our words.

When we first think about our words I feel it is important for us to remember that God used His words to create this universe. If we recall, back in the Old Testament, God spoke this world into existence. If we go back and read the first chapter of the Bible (Gen. 1), we will see the words, *“God said”* no less than ten times in that text. As we read Genesis the first chapter, we find that as God said it, it happened. God is the all-powerful God. So, as God finished, He said, *“it is good.”*

We also know by reading the scriptures that Jesus used the power of His words for the good of others. If we recall, all through the Gospels, Jesus healed people by the power of His words. In Matthew the eighth chapter, for instance, we read where Jesus healed a leper by simply saying, *“I am willing; be cleansed”* (Matt. 8:3). We can continue to read in the

same chapter where Jesus cast out demons with just a word, and healed all who were sick. (Matt. 8:16). We could keep going with those Jesus healed but I think we understand how powerful the words of Christ are. Jesus, however, did not just heal those who were sick by His words. Jesus had the ability to raise the dead, as well. We read in John’s account about a man named Lazarus. Now, Lazarus had been dead four days before Jesus arrived in the city, but we read in John the eleventh chapter where Jesus is standing in front of the tomb where Lazarus laid. In John 11:43, Jesus cried out, *“Lazarus, come forth!”* Jesus indeed has the power to do all that He pleases, but it is important to remember that all Jesus said was for the benefit of others. Jesus was not out to hurt anyone with His words. He simply wanted to edify the saints and bring glory to His Father in Heaven.

Now, I understand that we as humans do not have the same powers as God or Jesus. We are not going to be able to heal the physical body by our words. However, I do believe we can heal or destroy the spiritual body by our words. The way we talk to people can be the very best thing to bring one to Christ, or it can be the very thing that takes one away from

Christ. Remember where we read earlier in Matthew 12? Well, let us read more of that chapter. Jesus says, *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of Vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned”* (Matt. 12:33-37). Jesus tells us that people will know us by our words. People will know if we mean good, if we are trying to be an encouragement, if we are trying to help further the gospel of Christ. At the same time people will know if we are out to do evil. They will know if we are trying to drag them down, if we are trying to stand in the way of the Truth. It is time we all started thinking seriously about our words. I saw a post the other day that describes this situation well, and I feel it very fitting here. It took the letters of the word “think” and made some good points. It said, *“Before you speak... THINK... is it TTrue? Is it HHelpful? Is it IInspiring? Is it NNecessary? Is it KKind?”* Let us all THINK before we speak.

One way we spread the gospel.
www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!
 Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.
 Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY

Meeting Times:

- Sunday Bible Study - - - - - 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study - - - - - 7:00 p.m.

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