

5 February
2017

LAP BULLETIN

Church of Christ 20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839 Tel 6286 5605
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Worship Schedule

SUNDAY

9.30 am
Worship
(English)

11.15am
Bible Class
(English)

3.45pm
Bible Class
(Mandarin)

5.00pm
Worship
(Mandarin)

7.00pm
Worship
(English)

THURSDAY

7.45pm
Bible Class
(English/Mandarin)

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Elders

Bro Jimmy Lau
Bro Lee Tian Seng

Deacons

Bro Henry Leow
Bro Jerry Cheong

Preachers

Bro Alvin Lin
Bro Ernest Lau

Administrator

Sis Goh Ser Ern

ELDER'S EXHORTATION

BY BRO JIMMY LAU

*Proverbs 31:10 **Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.***

Who can find a virtuous woman? Well, the man who diligently seeks for her. The man who seeks for external beauty may not find her. The man who seeks for educational qualification will miss her too. We see that happening in the world, especially in Hollywood. They are famous and beautiful, but not virtuous, no, not by any standard and so, their marriages seldom last.

The virtuous woman is judged primarily by her character. The virtuous woman in this proverb is a loving wife and mother. King Lemuel's mother said: "**Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all**" (Pro 31:29). There have been many good and virtuous women, but the woman who is the perfect wife and mother exceeded them all. This is the kind of woman that earns the praise of God and men.

King Lemuel's mother, being a concerned mother, warned his son about women and wine (Pro 31:1-5). She introduced him about the virtuous woman. She asked him not to waste his time and energy on the women of this world (Pro 31:3). She said they have destroyed many kings. King Solomon was one of them who were destroyed by women. She said "**favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain**" (Pro 31:30). She knew that men naturally will be attracted to beautiful women and so told her son about the virtuous woman. In fact, she drew him the portrait of a virtuous woman.

The virtuous woman is the helpmeet of her husband. She is his perfect wife and mother to his children. Her first aim will be to "**do him good**" (Pro 31:12). The Hebrew heroines were "mothers in Israel," not nuns. Maternity completes a woman.

"The perfect woman, nobly planned," is one who can think, love, and act with the large heart of a mother...There is nowhere in all creation such an image of utterly unselfish, of completely self-sacrificing love as that of a woman for her child. She almost gives her life for his infant existence. All through his helpless years she watches over him with untiring care. When he goes forth into the world, she follows him with never-flagging interest. He may forget her; she will never forget him." (Homiletics, Pulpit Comm).

The virtuous woman: Her character:

1. **Trustworthiness** - The virtuous wife is her husband's confidant (Pro 31:11).
2. **Honourable** - She glorifies her husband (Pro 31:12).
3. **Hardworking** - She works diligently with her hands (Pro 31:13-14).
4. **Loving Mother** - She takes care of her domestic duties (Pro 31:15).
5. **Business Savvy** - The wife of the Proverbs is quite a business woman (Pro 31:16-19), selling the superfluous work of her hands to merchants, and buying land with the proceeds and still, fulfils her role as a mother and wife. *NOTE: It is not wrong for a wife to work but her primary role is still in the home. She cannot discharge her responsibilities as a mother to her maid.*
6. **Benevolent** - The virtuous woman "**stretcheth out her hand to the poor**" (Pro 31:20).
7. **Security** - She ensures her family are kept warm in winter (Pro 31:21-22).
8. **Perfect Helpmeet** - *"He is respected not only on account of the neatness and cleanliness of his person and dress, but because he is the husband of a woman who is justly held in universal esteem. And her complete management of household affairs gives him full leisure to devote himself to the civil interests of the community."* (Adam Clarke Comm). (Pro 31:23).
9. **Virtue** - *"Strength and honour are her clothing"* (Pro 31:25).
10. **Wisdom** - *"She openeth her mouth with wisdom"* (Pro 31:26).
11. **Diligent Homemaker** - *"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness"* (Pro 31:27).

12. **Happiness** – “Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her” (Pro 31:28).

13. **Piety** - The virtuous woman “feareth the Lord” (Pro 31: 30).

"The greatest gift of God is a pious, amiable spouse, who fears God, loves his house, and with whom one can live in perfect confidence."
(Luther)

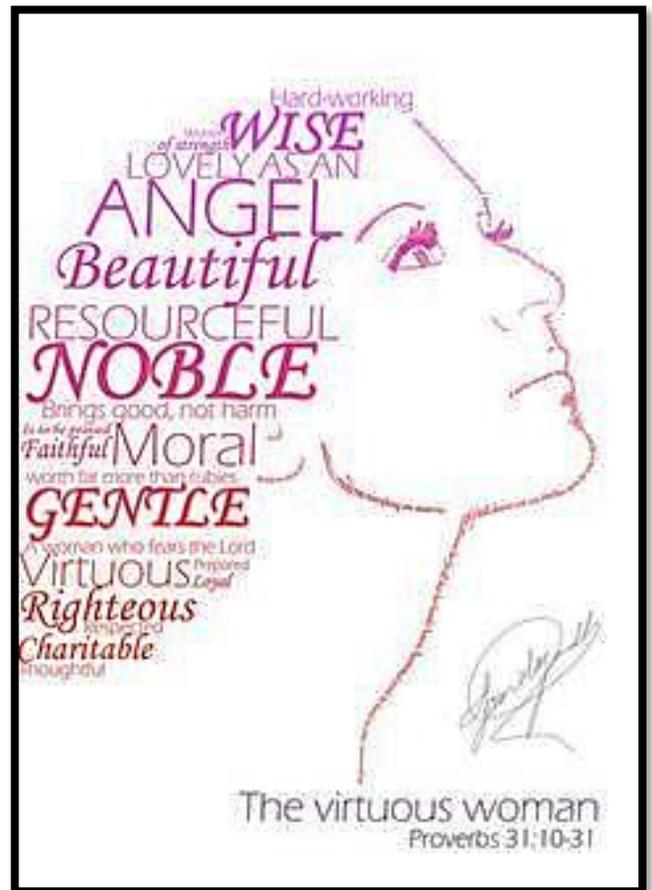
Who can find a virtuous woman? Not many! They are even rarer today, thanks to the curse of the modern woman. Odious women are everywhere, especially in Hollywood where one woman divorces her husband and another man quickly takes over, and she is married for a few years, and she divorces again and repeats the process.

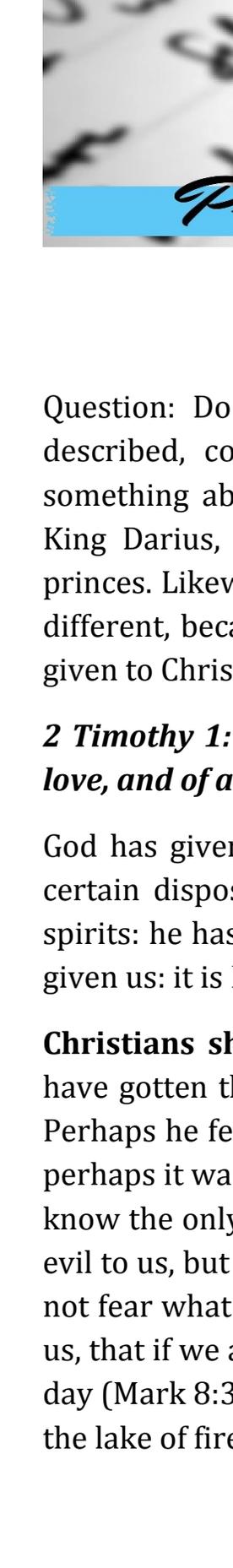
A virtuous woman in this Proverbs is the exceptional woman. There are few on earth, and they are precious. Wise men will search for such a woman. Wise women will adjust their lives to match this great woman’s description.

Virtuous women are extremely rare. But look hard and you will find her. That is, if you diligently search for one described in this proverb. God and Lemuel teamed up to save you from 50 years of trouble. The criteria are simple: She must fear the LORD (Pro 31:30); She must be gracious (Pro 11:16; 30:21-23); She must be very hardworking (Pro 14:1; 31:13-29).

Who can find a virtuous woman? The man who trusts in God and is looking for one of like mind!

Christian ladies, you can choose to be the best among the best: “**Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all**” (Pro 31:29). Your husband and children are watching; the world is watching; and God is watching. Be the virtuous woman you were created to be.





Preacher's exhortation

The Spirit of Power

by bro Ernest Lau

Question: Do Christians look different from other people? In Daniel 6:3, it was described, concerning Daniel, that “an excellent spirit was in him.” There was something about Daniel’s disposition that made him outstanding, even impressing King Darius, and resulting in Daniel’s exaltation above the other presidents and princes. Likewise, Christians should appear different from those in the world. We are different, because of the spirit that God has given to us. What kind of spirit has God given to Christians?

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

God has given us a spirit. This passage is not referring to the Holy Spirit, but to a certain disposition. E.g. we may describe someone who is happy as being in good spirits: he has a cheerful disposition. First thing to note about the spirit that God has given us: it is NOT a spirit of fear.

Christians should not be characterized by a spirit of fear. Timothy seemed to have gotten the spirit of fear, and has withdrawn himself from the work as a result. Perhaps he feared because of the persecutions from without (cf. 2 Timothy 3:11-12); perhaps it was because of false teachers from within (cf. 1 Timothy 4:1). However, we know the only one who is worthy of fear: God (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Man can do much evil to us, but it is God only who is capable of casting our souls into Hell; therefore, do not fear what men can do to us, but fear God (Matthew 10:28). Jesus has warning for us, that if we are too fearful to do His work, He will also be ashamed on us on that last day (Mark 8:38). The fearful are among those who will ultimately have their destiny in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

Instead of a spirit of fear, **Christians should be characterized by a spirit of power.** During the 1st century, the Christians had access to miraculous powers, and could perform signs and wonders to validate their message (cf. Mark 16:20). Today, we do not possess miraculous power anymore (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10). However, Christians have access to the power to overcome all obstacles and to face all dangers. As Paul stated, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). Christians are characterized by a confidence in life that allows us to do wonderful things for God. We can have such confidence and power because our God is powerful, and is able to give strength to those who are weak and weary:

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Christians are able to access God’s power through the gospel, which is “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). When we are obedient to the gospel call, God’s word is able to work effectively in us (1 Thessalonians 2:13). We can also access God’s power through prayer, which “has great power as it is working” (James 5:16 ESV). As we continually devote ourselves to the study and application of God’s word, and to prayer, we can obtain the spirit of power.

Since Christians are characterized by a spirit of power, we are not those who go about our day with an attitude of pessimism or a defeatist attitude. Rather, we are those who are able to have confidence and optimism in life, because we are empowered with the knowledge that God is working on our side. We are not those who give up because there are too many lost souls to reach out to, neither are we pessimistic about the church’s evangelism plans; rather, we embrace the church’s evangelism programs, and take on the challenge to reach out to all the lost souls.

Let us not have the spirit of fear that hinders us from using our talents for God’s glory. This spirit is not from God. Rather, let us have the spirit of power that will propel us to greater service for God. May our days be filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the Lord.

Weekly News

Bereavement

Our deepest condolences to **bro Jose Cardoza and his family** over the passing of his father on 30 Jan. Please keep bro Jose and his family in your prayers as they mourn over the loss of their loved one.

Transfer of Membership

Sis Pearl Jean has transferred her membership to Lavender church of Christ. We wish her well in her spiritual growth and that she continues to use her talents for the Lord's service with Lavender church of Christ.

Away

1. **Bro Kenneth Liong** is in the United States for work till 11 Feb.
2. **Bro Kenneth Liong & sis Iris** will be in Korea from 11 – 19 Feb.

Health

Bro Joel Lee had a fall in camp and has undergone a surgery to reconstruct his anterior cruciate ligament. Please pray for his speedy recovery.

Guests Last Week

1. Bro Ng Hee Liang & family
(Section 17 COC, Malaysia)
2. Bro Alex Hung & sis Rui Shan
(Columbia Heights COC, San Francisco)
3. Paul & Ivy *(sis Baby's family members)*
4. Bai Guang Rong *(sis Yan Ling's husband)*
5. Jason Lam *(sis Sarah's friend)*
6. Jack Chan *(sis Eunice's friend)*
7. Ivan Kwek *(sis Joann's friend)*
8. Capi *(bro Benedict's friend)*
9. Rukmini *(sis Kim Choo's helper)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

12 February 2017, Sunday

Singing Fellowship

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Venue: Church Building

Come join us as we spend an afternoon praising God in song!

Open to all members, young and old.

25 February 2017, Saturday

Ladies Fellowship

Time: 2:30 – 4.30pm

Venue: Church Building

Highlight: Games & sharing sessions by sis Peck Lian, sis Daryl & sis Cynthia Lee

Join us to learn and share some insights and advices about bringing up kids in the way of the Lord. Please sign up on the Events noticeboard by 19 Feb if you are interested.

25 February 2017, Saturday

Men's Fellowship

Time: 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Venue: Church Building

Highlight: Army chit-chat + fruits/snacks + movie time!

Come join the MEN to discuss about our army experiences and the challenges that Christians face while serving in the NS. A good learning experience for both the experienced and the uninitiated!

COMBINED JUNE CAMP 2017

Date: 11-14 June 2017

Venue: Lotus Desaru Beach Resort

Theme: ONE BIG FAMILY

Cost: \$230/adult, \$90/child

Book your leave now!



NEWS



Thursday Bible Class

The Power of Prayer

By bro Ong Jun Wei

Birthday of the week

6 Feb (Mon) – Eileen

7 Feb (Tue) - Jane

9 Feb (Thu) – Patricia,
Naomi & Rachel Ting

10 Feb (Fri) – Rachel Poo &
Axel



Please send any news &
prayer requests to

Bro Alvin Lin

linminhan@hotmail.com

or

Bro Ernest Lau

ernestz15@hotmail.com

or

Sis Ser Ern

gserern@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Overseas:

- **Sis Joann** in Perth, Australia for studies
- **Sis Rachel Ting** in UK for studies
- **Bro Jong Wah & sis Nancy** in Perth, Australia
- **Our supported missionaries:**
Bro Kwan, bro Bob & bro George (*China*), bro Glen (*Australia*),
bro John Yo (*Taiwan*), bro Hai (*Vietnam*)

Health

- **Sis Baby's & Auntie Yeoh's** health
- **Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's & Kwan Mama's** health
- **Sis Susan Goh's mother's & sis Doreen's mother** health
- **Sis Kim Tian's** recovery from her skin problem
- **Sis Jasmine Lim's** recovery from her eye problem
- **Sis Sharon (Jurong COC)'s** recovery from her surgery
- **Sis Susan Goh's** recovery from her fractured ribcage

Expectant Mothers

- Cynthia Lee (Mar'17), Daryl Cheong (May'17)

NSF

- Bro Gideon, bro Joel Lee, bro Kevin

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		5 Feb 2017	12 Feb 2017	19 Feb 2017
Song Leader		Jeremy Kwan	Alvin Lin	Kevin Lee
Opening Prayer Leader		Charlie Teo	Benjamin Tan	Low Chong Ping
Psalms Text		Psa 19:1-14	Psa 20:1-9	Psa 21:1-13
Preacher		Kwan Tai Choom	Danny Poo	Alvin Lin
Lord's Supper Text		Mark 15:24-37	Mark 14:22-25	Isa 53:4-9
Lord's Supper Servers	Scripture Reader	Soo Kok Leong	David Chua	John Goh
	Prayer: Bread	Victor Lee	Benjamin Kwan	Justin Kwan
	Prayer: Fruit of Vine	Henry Chee	Kenneth Quek	Benjamin Tan
	Prayer: Offering	Ong Jun Wei	Andy Lin	Isaac Chua
	Assistant	Titus Goh	Gideon Quek	Axel Chee
Foundation Class		Justin Kwan	Ernest Lau	Ng Chee Beng
Announcer		Paul Lim	Jimmy Lau	Amos Yang
Greeters		Ludina Carrido Susan Cheong	Wang Teng Pei Eunice Chua	Jeshua Lin Nicodemus Oey
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Reuben Lim	Ernest Lau	Alvin Lin
Speaker		Benjamin Kwan	Alvin Lin	Ernest Lau
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Ong Jun Wei	Lee Tian Seng	Henry Leow
Thursday Midweek Service		9 Feb 2017	16 Feb 2017	23 Feb 2017
Song Leader		Ernest Lau	Timothy Ng	Benjamin Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader		Jimmy Lau	Jeshua Lin	Kenneth Quek
Closing Prayer Leader		Henry Leow	John Goh	Andy Lin