

QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. Describe a time when you did what you considered to be an excellent job at something. How did it make you feel after you were done?

2. What is the difference between condemnation and conviction? Support your answer with Scripture.

3. Read the following verses and note what the Bible says about our service to the Lord:
 - a) Deuteronomy 13:4
 - b) Joshua 22:5
 - c) I Samuel 12:24
 - d) I Corinthians 10:31
 - e) I Corinthians 15:58
 - f) Colossians 3:23-24
 - g) I Peter 4:10

4. How does the Scripture compare beauty with virtue?

5. What one practical application are you going to make from this week's message? (*Share your choice with someone.*)
 - I am going to read the story of Gideon (Judges 6:11-8:32) and list the qualities that made him a man of valor.
 - I am going to read the story of Ruth (Ruth 1-4) and list the qualities that made her a woman of excellence.
 - I am going to memorize I Corinthians 10:31

Proverbs 31:10-31

(Page 476 in the New Testament Pew Bible)

A Woman of Excellence

I. Introduction

A. A Different Perspective

B. A Modern Translation

II. A Woman of Excellence

A. A Song, Not a Checklist

(See Proverbs 31:10-31; I King 4:29-31; Proverbs 31:26; Proverbs 1:20; Proverbs 8:1; Proverbs 9:1)

The ACTS acrostic for prayer:

A – Adoration

C – Confession

T – Thanksgiving

S – Supplication

Acrostics in the Bible:

Psalms 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119 and 145.

Proverb 31:10-31.

Lamentations 1-2 and 4.

B. A Celebration, not a Condemnation

(See I Corinthians 12:1-31; Colossians 3:17;

I Corinthians 10:31)

C. An Excellent Woman

(See Proverbs 31:10; Ruth 1:1-4:22; Ruth 3:11)

D. The Valiant Man

(See Judges 6:1-8:28; Judges 6:2-4; Judges 6:12)

E. The Affirmation of Jesus Christ

(See Romans 8:1; Genesis 48:16; Exodus 6:6;
Leviticus 27:9-25; Leviticus 25:47-55; Numbers 5:8;
Hebrews 2:11; Hebrews 2:16-18; Hebrews 4:14-16;
Zephaniah 3:17)

¹⁰ An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. ¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹² She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. ¹³ She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight. ¹⁴ She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. ¹⁵ She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens. ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸ She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle. ²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. ²¹ She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. ²² She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³ Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells *them*, and supplies belts to the tradesmen. ²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. ²⁶ She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*: ²⁹ “Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.” ³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, *but* a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. ³¹ Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

III. Conclusion

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please contact the church office and the pastor will contact you.

Passage of Study
Proverbs 31:10-31

All quotations are taken from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted. NASB. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers 1985.

A free PDF of this note sheet is available at www.cssbchurch.org/sermons-2

J.A. Motyer, "Acrostic," in *The New International Dictionary of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987), p. 12.

A Woman of Excellence

The initial letters of each verse go through the Hebrew alphabet in order. Hebrew is written from right to left, so the first letter on the right is the initial

letter in each verse. The English word that represents the initial Hebrew word in each verse is underlined.

- 10 אֲשֶׁת־חַיִל מִי יִמְצָא וְרָחֵק מִפְּנִינִים מְכָרָה:
A worthy woman who can find? For her price is far above rubies.
- 11 בָּטַח בָּהּ לֵב בַּעֲלָהּ וְשָׁלַל לֹא יִחְסֹר:
The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he shall have no lack of gain.
- 12 גָּמְלָתָהּ טוֹב וְלֹא־רָע כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיהָ:
She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- 13 דָּרְשָׂה צֹמֶר וּפְשִׁתִּים וּתְעַשׂ בְּחִפְזָן כַּפְיָהּ:
She seeks wool and flax, And works willingly with her hands.
- 14 הֵיחֵתָה כְּאֲנִיּוֹת סוֹחֵר מִמְּרָחֵק תָּבִיא לֶחֶמָה:
She is like the merchant-ships; she brings her bread from afar.
- 15 וַתִּקַּם בְּעוֹד לַיְלָה וַתִּתֵּן טָרַר לְבֵיתָהּ וְחֹק לְנַעֲרֹתֶיהָ:
She rises also while it is yet night, and giveth food to her household, and their task to her maidens.
- 16 וַתִּמְמָה שָׂדֶה וַתִּקְחֶהּ מִפְּרֵי כַפֵּיהָ נִטְעַ כְּרָם:
She considers a field, and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
- 17 חִגְרָהּ בְּעוֹז מִתְּנִיָּהּ וַתַּאֲמִץ זְרָעוֹתֶיהָ:
She girds her loins with strength, and makt strong her arms.
- 18 טָעַמָה כִּי־טוֹב סְחָרָהּ לֹא־יִכָּבֵה בַלַּיִל גְּרָה:
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable: her lamp goes not out by night.
- 19 יָדֶיהָ שְׁלָחָהּ בְּפִישׁוֹר וְכַפֵּיהָ תִּמְכּוּ פִלָּה:
She lays her hands to the distaff, and her palms hold the spindle.
- 20 כַּפָּה פָּרְשָׂה לְעֵנִי וַיָּדִיחַ שְׁלָחָהּ לְאַבְיוֹן:
She stretches out her palms to the poor; yea, she reaches forth her hands to the needy.
- 21 לֹא־תִירָא לְבֵיתָהּ מִשְׁלֵג כִּי כָל־בֵּיתָהּ לְבֶשׂ שָׁנִים:
She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all

- her household are clothed with scarlet.
- 22 מְרַבְּדִים עֲשֻׂתָהּ־לָהּ שֵׁשׁ וְאַרְגָּמָן לְבוּשָׁה:
She makes for herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- 23 נוֹדַע בַּשְּׁעָרִים בַּעֲלָהּ בְּשִׁבְתּוֹ עִם־זְקֵנֵי־אֶרֶץ:
Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.
- 24 סָדִין עֲשֻׂתָהּ וַתִּמְכֹּר וַתְּהַגֹּר נְתָנָהּ לְפָנַעֲנִי:
She makes linen garments and sells them, and delivers girdles to the merchant.
- 25 עֲדוֹנָהּ־דָר לְבוּשָׁה וַתִּשְׂחַק לְיוֹם אֶחָדוֹן:
Strength and dignity are her clothing; and she laughs at the time to come.
- 26 פִּיהָ פְּתֻחָהּ בְּחָכְמָה וְתוֹרַת־חֶסֶד עַל־לְשׁוֹנָהּ:
She opens her mouth with wisdom; and the law of kindness is on her tongue.
- 27 צוֹפְיָהּ הִלִּיכוֹת בֵּיתָהּ וְלֶחֶם עַצְלוֹת לֹא תֹאכַל:
She looks well to the ways of her household, and eats not the bread of idleness.
- 28 קָמוּ בָנֶיהָ וַיִּשְׁרְוּהָ בַעֲלָהּ וַיְהַלְלֶהּ:
Her children rise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her, saying:
- 29 רַבּוֹת בָּנוֹת עָשׂוּ חַיִל וְאֵת עֲלִית עַל־כָּל־נָה:
Many daughters have done worthily, but thou excel them all.
- 30 שְׂקָר חַסֵּד וְהַבֵּל חֵפִי אִשָּׁה יִרְאַת־יְהוָה הִיא תִתְהַלֵּל:
Grace is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that fears Jehovah, she shall be praised.
- 31 תַּגִּידֶנָּה מִפְּרֵי יָדֶיהָ וַיִּתְּלוּהָ בַשְּׁעָרִים מְעֻשִׂיהָ:
Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her works praise her in the gates.