

FIRST IN YOUR GRANDMOTHER & IN YOUR MOTHER

Text: 2 Timothy 1:3-5

Intro: This is the day that the leaders of our nation have set aside to honor mothers. For us it is first & foremost the Lord's Day--the first day of the week. Honoring our fathers & our mothers is an every day duty, no greater today than any other day.

But on this day, when it would be virtually impossible to not be thinking of motherhood, let us consider some thoughts from God's word on the subject.

I. TIMOTHY WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE A MOTHER, EUNICE, WHO WAS A CHRISTIAN.

- A. He was doubly fortunate that his grandmother, Lois, was also a believer in Christ.
- B. Note--Timothy was a 3rd generation Christian, with only 2/3 of the 1st century having passed.
- C. He had a spiritual advantage over many in his time & ours, having been taught the Scriptures from early childhood, 2 Tim. 3:15.
- D. The teaching they did & the examples they set made it easier & more likely for Timothy to do what was right.

II. LET US NOTICE THE FAITH THAT DWELLED IN LOIS--AND EUNICE--AND TIMOTHY.

- A. Its quality.
 - 1. Real, genuine.
 - 2. Not hypocrisy, not pretense.
 - 3. Personal conviction. They did not just pass on a family tradition. Timothy's faith was genuine. 2 Tim. 3:15; Romans 10:17.
- B. Its constancy.
 - 1. It dwelled, lived, abode. It was at home.
 - 2. Not a passing fancy, not a fad. Not just for good times--or just for bad times.

- C. It was a heritage.
 - 1. First in grandmother.
 - 2. Then in mother.
 - 3. Now in Timothy. A lot to live up to. Also, some help in doing so.

III. NOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL TRAINING.

- A. Christianity is a taught religion, Romans 10:13-17.
- B. Timothy was what he was because of what he had been taught, 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

IV. WE HONOR OUR MOTHERS WHO GAVE US LIFE.

- A. Most of us learned many valuable lessons at the feet of our mothers.
- B. Most of us learned about God & Jesus Christ & his church & His gospel, first from our mothers.
- C. Some us were not fortunate enough to have mothers who were Christians--but we must believe that if mother had properly understood the Scriptures, she would have obeyed them & taught them to us.

V. NOW, I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO APPEAL TO YOU WHO ARE, OR SOMEDAY WILL BE, MOTHERS.

- A. If you were fortunate enough to have a mother who was a faithful, genuine Christian like Lois & Eunice, I should not have to tell you how important that is in rearing your children.
- B. But if you were not that fortunate, you can, nevertheless, determine that your children will have a mother...
 - 1. Who is a genuine Christian.
 - 2. Whose faith is constant, and
 - 3. Who will see to it that her children begin to learn in childhood the holy Scriptures which are able to make them wise to salvation.

CONCLUSION:

A PARABLE OF MOTHERHOOD

by Temple Bailey

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is the way long?" she asked. Her guide said, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning." But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them and life was good, and the young mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then night came, and storms, and the path was dark and the children shook with fear and cold, and she drew them close and covered them with her mantle and the children said, "Oh, Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near and no harm can come." And the mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary, but all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mother." And the mother, when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage, today I have given them strength."

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth--clouds of war, hate and evil--and the children groped and stumbled and the mother said, "Look up, lift your eyes to the light." And the children looked up above the clouds and saw an everlasting Glory and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old, and she was worn, and bent. But the children were tall and strong and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather. And at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.

And the mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And

now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them." And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you've gone through the gates."

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said, "We can not see her, but she is with us still. A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence."

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