

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

P. O. BOX 20331—GREENSBORO, N. C. 27420
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Second Class Postage Paid at Greensboro, N. C.

10c Per Copy Published Weekly \$6.00 Per Year

Salute to An Ideal Mother

Each year as the month of May approaches all of us look forward to Mother's Day, a day that is observed nationwide in honor of those who stamp the coin of character and make the beginning of what we are and what we hope to be.

Mother's Day had its origin in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1907. Miss Anna M. Jarvis who promoted the idea realized what a great part mothers play in giving strength and inspiration to the world. She was so impressed with the idea that she called a special meeting to discuss the possibility of setting aside a special day and asked that all persons attending wear a white carnation. Through her appeal to those attending the meeting, the second Sunday in May was designated as the day to be observed. By 1911 all the states were observing Mother's Day.

In 1914 it became a national and international affair and it was submitted to Congress as a legal bill and signed by President Woodrow Wilson.



Our chosen Mother of the Year for 1968 is Mrs. Rosetta B. Florance, the wife of David L. Florance and the mother of five children, three of which are college graduates.

Mrs. Florance was chosen because she has exhibited the finest qualities of both motherhood and womanhood. She has served in her church in many capacities, the community and in the Greensboro school system where she has been employed as a secretary for many years. At present she is employed at the James B. Dudley High School. Lastly, she has worked in her home which is the most tedious and rewarding job of all. She has worked indeed and we (the Future Outlook staff) feel she should be honored.

As a mother she has been loyal, trusting, devoted, loving and has been and still is both a parent and a friend.

Through total cooperation with her husband, Mr. David Florance, she was able to educate three of her older daughters, two of which are presently employed in the Greensboro public schools. While her daughters were in public school they all played vital roles in scholastic and extra-curricular activities such as dramatics, the Glee Clubs, the dance group and the bands. Too, they were all honor students. They also rendered important services to the community in the area of music. Greensboro residents may recall hearing the melodious voices of the Florance Sisters in the various churches and other character building centers such as the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., the recreation centers and at times in home affairs, while their mother Mrs. Florance, oftentimes accompanied them with her musical talent or moral support.

Finally but not least after 10 (ten) years God blessed Mrs. Florance with a son and the girls with a brother,

This Week's Sunday School Lesson**WISDOM FOR FAMILY LIVING****What Is Our Concern?**

Delegates to the Golden Anniversary White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1960 were told that there are not enough resources to help all the couples with serious marital problems who seek such help. In fact, agencies in large cities have waiting lists of thousands of persons who want counsel; and the delay between application and the first interview runs anywhere from three months to a year. Private marriage counselors also have more clients than they can handle.

The most common marriage problems in America today are quarreling, finances, sexual incompatibility, irresponsibility, alcoholism, gambling, in-laws, religion, general incompatibility, and children. However, marriage experts contend that, with regard to children, the chief difficulty lies in the marital relationship rather than in the child.

Considering all these problems and the inadequacy of the sources of help, we can understand why many marriages end in divorce. The present divorce rate is about one in four marriages. The highest divorce rates are among those who were married in their teens, who have only a grade-school education, who have a low income, or who were formerly married.

The causes of divorce are complex, and it is naive to oversimplify either its cause or its cure. Instead of simply condemning those whose marriages end in divorce, the church should seek to reclaim as many marriages as possible through premarital and marital counseling and through educating youth in preparation for marriage.

Before You Read the Scripture

The passages from Proverbs 4 and 6 were written by a wisdom teacher who either took a fatherly role in relation to his pupils or who actually shared insights based on his personal experience of parenthood. In either event, the teachings can be tested by modern parents in their own experience.

The hymn of praise to "a

good wife" found in 31:10-31 is the final collection of proverbs in the book. In Hebrew the poem is an acrostic, that is, each verse begins with one of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet in order. This section portrays the dignity of Jewish womanhood at its highest.

What the Scripture Says

The Scripture for today is Proverbs 4:1-5a, 20-27; 6:20-23; 31:10-31. Selected verses are printed below. See Home Bible Study suggestions in the back of the quarterly.

Proverbs 4:1-5a, 20-23

1 Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight;
 2 for I give you good precepts: do not forsake my teaching.
 3 When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother,
 4 he taught me, and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live;
 5 do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.

20 My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.

21 Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart.

22 For they are life to him who finds them, and healing to all his flesh.

23 Keep your heart with all vigilance; for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 6:20-23

20 My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

21 Bind them upon your heart always; tie them about your neck.

22 When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you;

and when you awake, they will talk with you.

23 For the commandment is a lamp

and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.

Memory Selection: Do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

—Ephesians 6:4

How We Understand The Scripture

The Proverbs writer does not spin his ideas out of thin air. He is passing on the wisdom of the generations. See 4:3-4: "When I was a son with my father," we read, "he taught me . . ." The oral tradition of wisdom went on for generations before it was committed to writing; it points to the respect the young had for what their parents had learned about life.

The Hebrews thought of the "heart" (4:4) as being, among other things, the seat of thinking. Hence, we should understand this passage as saying, "Let your mind hold fast my words"—that is, Don't forget.

"Keep my commandments, and live." This statement points up the close relationship between wisdom and life. We should seek wisdom not for its own sake but for the sake of a well-lived life.

In 4:23 we read, "Keep your heart with all vigilance"—that is, your mind, will, emotions—"for from it flow the springs of life." (The King James Version says "issues.") The writer of this profound verse was saying something like this: "Don't be careless about your inner life, for it is the place from which the decisions and actions of life spring."

The whole passage, 4:20-27, points up the totality of the right way of life; it refers to ears, eyes, feet, mouth (speech), and heart (mind). Verse 27 reminds us of Jesus' reference to the hard and narrow way. (Matthew 7:14)

Proverbs 6:20-23 refers to the commandments and righteous teaching as "light"—a symbol that became central in Christianity. Also, the wisdom writer points out that "the reproofs of discipline are the way of life." (6:23) The emphasis upon discipline carries through the Old Testament and is picked up in the New Testament in such teachings as Ephesians 6:4, the memory selection for this lesson.

The section of Proverbs that describes "a good wife" (31:10-31) provides a sharp contrast with all the warnings against evil women that are included earlier in the book. Here we see a good wife and mother, bringing up her children carefully so that they respect her and bless her (verse 28), speaking kindly and with wisdom (verse 26), working hard at household tasks (verse 27), and doing things that help her husband "all the days of her life" (verse 12).

What the Scripture Says to Us

Practically every mass-circulation magazine has had a special issue in recent years on "the changing roles in marriage" in modern America. Cer-

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David Lewis Florance III. After seven (7) years another blessed event occurred with the birth of another Florance sister, Constance Louise Florance. Both David and Constance are outstanding students in the Greensboro City Schools.

It is a mother's influence that molds character. She is the point around which affection, obedience, and thousands of tender endeavors to please and concentrate are born. Her love endures all; in good and bad repute regardless to the evils and condemnations a mother still loves.

To me a real mother remembers the infant smiles that once filled her bosom, the joyful shouts and merry laughter of childhood, one who teaches the first hymns of praise, kindness, truthfulness, who teaches the child to have faith and courage when the path seems dark and to give strength to attain the goals they have set in life.

Mother is the most precious jewel in the world, and it is her love indeed that is the golden link which binds youth to age.

After one reads this story and by chance passes the office of Dudley High School and sees Mrs. Florance in her role as secretary for the institution, one might mistake her for a lady of a mere 29 years. It would be almost unbelievable to conceive the fact that she is the mother of five and the grandmother of 6 children. She is also a mother to her three sons-in-law.

It is not hard to recognize an ideal mother when you see her, for she stands tall. It is shown in her countenance, revealed in her voice and felt in the touch of her hands.

Those of us who know Mrs. Florance can certainly say she is an ideal mother.