

THE AUSTRALIAN ANABAPTIST

God's solid foundation stands firm. 2 Tim. 2-19

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Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel,
but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in
the house.

Matthew 5:15

From The Editor's Desk.

Traditionally the month of May in our western societies sets aside one Sunday especially to encourage each of us to think upon our mothers, not to the exclusion of God, but as a gift from God, without a mother not one of us would exist and we acknowledge that it is He that created the very first mother of the human race. Genesis 3:20: *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

As a tribute to all mothers of all times we have endeavoured this year to bring together a variety of inspirational and thought provoking items including preached messages, poems and the ponderings of others on the subject of mothers. They hopefully will give each of us food for thought and perhaps some direction and for the mothers that may read this some encouragement that you are not alone and that even in those times of distress, pressures of home life, a difficult home situation or perhaps the very painful burden of a wayward child, God will not forsake you or leave you.

One sister has shared that as she was growing up into her teen years that she found out by chance she was adopted, it was a shock to her and there was a realisation at first of having been abandoned by her birth mother, many years later she did find out the reason for her adoption but in the meantime it was the Word of God that brought her the comfort of knowing that whilst others may desert us God is always there.

The words of this beautiful Psalm were shared by her as ones that carried her through the many dark moments of not knowing her birth mother whom she has never met or known. The Lord has honoured her faithfulness. He has not forsaken her but led her in a plain path to this very day.

Psalm 27:10-11

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up. [11] Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

We pray that these words may be an inspiration to you as well.

J.v.L

MY GOD AND MY MOTHER

Our God looks down from heaven above; He sees us as a piece of art
And knows just how He mastered the detail of each part.

It seems He looked from His throne - And saw no creature that could serve
With all its heart and soul and mind.
So He created humankind.

Our God He knows the intent of our heart, the hidden meaning in our eyes
Even a child has depth of thought.
God understands when a good mother tries.

The Lord feels the pain of every sin that each soul endures with time;
Every child loses innocence so young
And feels the guilt of the worst crime.

She never pushed or pulled me; she served the way her God designed
With depth of kindness here below—
We're blessed above all else to find.

I found the Lord at times, you see but kept it closed within my heart.
And God could not be praised
By this proud ugly piece of..... His art?

Mother came to me one day— A caring look of pain she had.
She knew I bore that heavy load
I had since I was but a lad.

Then Mother sat down at my side that very day I felt so lost.
The heavy burden of that dread—
How did she know my soul was tossed?

Dear mothers, take this little thought and use it with the carefulness
That Jesus shows us every day,
To help us serve in prayerfulness.

My mother helped me carry the heavy burden of my heart,
Because she cared like Jesus does.
Please, mothers, do your part! *Lorren Penner.*



THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD

Sister Becky Yoder, Missouri.



There is a variety of joys in motherhood. The first weeks you marvel at your little one's perfectly formed body. You giggle over the funny faces only babies can make. You're delighted with the first little smiles. It's fun to see your child's look of surprise and then fascination the first time they discover something new.

Soon they are crawling everywhere—the real exploring has begun. Sometimes we get pretty weary of these exploring excursions. Remember that this is a good sign of a healthy child. Keep a good sense of humor at all times.

What can be compared to little arms wrapped tightly around your neck or butterfly kisses and whispered "night nights"? In the morning, little children are so cuddly and quiet as they rest their soft heads on your shoulder. Oh, the blessings of hearing a childish voice lisp along to the song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus!" We may get tired of hearing, "Mom, look at the birds!" when it seems like we've looked at them a hundred times already.

We cannot fully enjoy the privilege of motherhood if we aren't willing to accept the many responsibilities. Instead of dreaming about the day when our children are older and more able to take care of themselves, let's treasure these days. If it means putting our hobbies on a shelf for a while, it will be worth it.

Mothers set the atmosphere in the home. If we can't be joyful in the tasks the Lord has assigned to us, we can't expect our children to be joyful either. Children become little miniatures of their parents.

Motherhood means a time of serving. Human flesh doesn't feel like serving. We need to ask God for enough love to gladly be of service to our husband and children. We need to have an unfeigned love for our children. They need to feel secure in our love, knowing they come first. They need sincere praise but not flattery. Children know if the time we spend talking and playing with them is out of duty or because we truly want to spend this time with them.

When we look into the innocent little eyes of our children, we are looking into eternity. There we see a soul that will need to be led to its Heavenly Father. Loving them does not mean being permissive. In Proverbs 22:6, we read, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

We need to pray for wisdom to know when and how to start training at a young, tender age. We need to pray for strength when the Spirit nudges us into a training session. Asking advice from our husbands can be a great help. I was impressed with an article in the Messenger of Truth recently. The writer stated, "We need to prepare the child for the way, not the way for the child." How often do we carefully circle around our child's dislikes instead of teaching them to give in? Very small children know how to push our buttons with pitiful crying. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18). It's beautiful to see how quiet and still they become once they give up their wills. Can we look into the future and see that this makes it easier to submit to God when He calls them? Let's be careful about some of the modern-day theories of child training, which are not biblical at all.

Fulfilling all the duties of motherhood is a pretty tall order. It should bring mothers to their knees daily, asking for grace for the day. Of ourselves, we will never be sufficient—only with Christ working through us. He will cover for us in the many areas that we fail in.

Written in weakness.

MINISTER'S CORNER

MOTHER'S RESOURCES FOR THE PRESSURES OF HOME

Brother H.Lynn Martin.

The message we just heard very aptly laid a foundation for further discussion, I appreciated our brother sharing these points.

Mother has a very forceful influence in the home. What mother is sets the pace of the home, it does not omit the father, but the mother has a very significant role to fill.

I have known of numerous cases where the father forsook the faith and was unfaithful and became an ungodly man but due to the mother's faithfulness every one of the children still came and embraced the faith. But as I reflect on that I am not sure I can think of any instance where the reverse was true, now they're likely was, but I can't think of any. It simply shows the force and place that mother fills in the home. Indeed the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

I would like to look at another Bible woman. In first Samuel we have another woman we would like to draw some lessons from, most of you immediately associate the name Hannah with the first few chapters of first Samuel, I would like to look at her. A godly woman and fits in every way the description that our brother laid down so we want to notice some parallels. She faced some pressures and as she faced pressures she knew where to turn to find the answers.

Let's just notice, I would like to look first of all at some of the pressures that she handled. I am assuming we are familiar with this story how that she and her husband went up regularly to worship and how that there was some friction in the home, there was a desire that Hannah had and that was to have a child and how that once when she was in the temple she made this request of the Lord and Eli said that the Lord would answer her prayer. And the Lord did. And as a result of this answered prayer Hannah eventually, as well as her husband, turned over this child to the temple and this young child Samuel became a foothold for God in the life of Israel.

1] Some of the pressures, notice in verse two there was: The pressure of disappointment.

It says in the concluding phrase of verse two: Hannah had no children. and that was a disappointment to her. But disappointments constitute pressures and there is the disappointment of sickness, there is the disappointment of death, there is the disappointment of a financial difficulty, in fact it doesn't go too long until that new bride discovers that life just isn't what she always dreamt of it to be, and that somehow constitutes a pressure, and she somehow needs to cope with that.

2] In verse six: The pressure of interpersonal relationships.

It takes work to have relationships within the home what it should be, especially with growing children and it takes some corrective measures at times and all of that can constitute pressures. I have heard wives say already, mothers say already: Just what do you do when this child and maybe the other child had a little trouble getting along? And it constitutes a pressure.

3] Verse 22 sees another pressure: The pressure of home care.

I am sure Hannah would have liked to have gone up to the temple with her husband as she was accustomed to do but the care of this child made it necessary that she stay back. The pressure of home care. Home life has a times a way of interrupting but may have been at first preferences. Care, care, care. Sometimes as one views mothers it is a 24-hour job. You know that father can go off to work or he can go into the barn but mother has the care and it is the dirty hands and it is the cut finger and it this is the little one that just doesn't want to quieten down in church, and so mother doesn't always get as much out of the service that she would like. And so it is pressure, care of the home.

4] Verses nine and 19: The pressure of schedules.

I am impressed with this in this home, they were going up to the temple, they were coming back again and over the going up to the temple and year after year they went to the temple. This mother knew what it meant to meet schedules. She knew the pressures of all of that. Oh I am sure that every mother knows the pressure of that, it is getting up and its breakfast and its schoolchildren, it's lunchtime and then it's go pick up the schoolchildren

again and well then its supper and after supper it is prayer meeting and after prayer meeting it is bed time and it just seemed like a vicious circle. Mother knows the pressure of schedules.

5] Then there is: The pressure of the routine of life.

I see this in verse seven and then in chapter two verse 19. Year after year it seems like this mother was doing the same thing. She went up to the temple, she made a coat for her son it says every year and they went up to see him, and sometimes it is just simply to have the pressure of the same thing on and on and on, Oh it may not be that it is so burdensome but just the same thing on and on and on becomes crushing. And so is the pressure of the routine. It may not be that the load is so heavy but it is the sameness and the on and on and on and the monotony of all of that.

You may have your own peculiar pressures but I trust this will provide a background now to look at some of these resources that Hannah reached for. I am not offering a magic formula, you may be here wishing that somehow something could be said this morning that you never heard of and as a result you could take it and find a new lease on life. We are not offering such a thing. In fact the things we are offering will likely be things that you have heard before.

The resources that Hannah took hold of are well within the reach of each and all. We admire persons that take what is at hand and accomplish something good and so it is this morning, the resources are at hand. We want to notice these resources, resources that every mother in the building this morning can find. Now the husbands here this morning, the men, the brethren here this morning may feel it is the time to nap because we are talking to mothers, but finally you are part of this resource and it is highly important that you be awake and understand your role in meeting the resources that are necessary for your wife and for the mothers.

The first resource that I would like to recommend to you is simply: Your God.

The resource: Your God. This is explained, Hannah tells us this resource in chapter 2 and I would like to just to read this prayer, she is praying and

she is telling what a wonderful God she has and how He was such a wonderful resource in facing the pressures of life.

1 Samuel 2:1-10

“And Hannah prayed, and said; My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. ²*There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.* ³Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. ⁵*They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble. ⁶The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. ⁷The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. ⁸He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them. ⁹He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. ¹⁰The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

Hannah found the resource that was reliable; Hannah found the resource that was ample. We want to look at this a bit further.

Hannah found that the Lord was ever present and always aware of her needs. The first truth I see is in verse one, the Lord is able to deliver from the pressures of life. Now He may not remove the pain as He did for Hannah, the pressure that was giving Hannah a lot of trouble the Lord actually reached over and He just took care of it so that there was no more pressure, but the Lord doesn't always promise to do that for us. He may leave the pain present but He can give us the ability to relate rightly even in the presence of the pain, He can deliver us from depression, He can deliver us from discouragement, He can deliver us from murmuring, He can give us a song in the midst of pressure.

I know of a certain brother who is a member of our group who grew up in a home situation where the father was ungodly, when I say ungodly he was unfaithful, but mother was faithful and she had some very, very adverse circumstances to face and it happens to be that everyone of the children of that home are faithful from which we all benefit. But I was impressed with his testimony, he says one of the things that always stood out to him was that even in the midst of adversity and reverses that his mother faced she always had a song. She was always singing, she didn't complain, she didn't murmur, she had found the salvation of the Lord to rise above her circumstances and have a song, and that man, who is now a grandfather in our setting, has this testimony that that fact alone was one of the things that drew him to the faith even though he would have had every reason to go otherwise.

And may God give us those kind of mothers that find that resources of the Lord.

In verse two another resource of the Lord. The Lord is right and trustworthy in all He does, she says: I just found Him to be that way. He is holy, He is right, there is just none beside Him and He is a rock, He doesn't move, He doesn't leave us down.

You may be tempted to think that your circumstances are not fair but His dealings with you are always for our best interests, that we can rest in. He has not allowed anything but that first of all He has considered whether you are big enough to handle it, and so every circumstance that comes our way the Lord has first of all tested it and considered it, He is not going to leave us down. So often we fail to depend on Him but He will never leave us down, the Lord is right and He is trustworthy and He is carefully portioning out that to which He calls us to.

In verse three: The Lord sees and honours the desires of the heart. It says the Lord is knowledgeable and He weighs the actions, He weighs the intentions of the heart. How often mothers have you sensed you are inadequate and you just simply feel that you are not your best? Oh, it is this pressure, it is this schedule, it's this work that is undone and somehow you tend to live with a little bit of guilt that you are just not doing your very best for your family. Well that is a sense in which every mother that takes her call-

ing seriously knows with that is about. But God, as I see it here, it is simply teaching that God is knowledgeable of that and He is weighing the motives, He is weighing your heart's desire and when you have an honest heart, an honest heart is not when you are lazy or not applying oneself, but is one who is giving themselves with all their intentions and yet still feels inadequate and at times fails to have a sense of accomplishment. I see the truth here that your God fills in the gaps. Your God fills in the gaps where you maybe feel you are not adequate, and He understands and He can give you a sense of His blessing, a sense of accomplishment, a sense of fulfillment even through the menial tasks of life and where the pressures seem overwhelming.

Then first of all: The Lord protects from the looming destructive forces, the bows of the mighty men are broken. Many of our fears never come to pass do they? They maybe in the making but they never happen. What serious mother has not been concerned about the increased evil in the world? What serious mother has not at times looked into that innocent face and wondered if it would be possible if there would be a way for this one to be faithful as one sees the increased evil.

One mother that I had talked to had the fear that possibly as her children grew older that possibly this land would be overrun and their chance of being Christians and godly men would not exist. Well so often the fears we have never come to pass because the Lord has a grip on the evil about us and the Lord protects. He simply breaks the bows of the mighty men and makes it so that they are not able to destroy and so many of the fears that so many times we fear never come to pass.

Another truth is: The Lord touches faithful mothers with richness and fullness. I see this in verses five and six. Richness and fullness. The world would say go out and get a career. You're confined to the home that is too confining and that is too limiting. But I believe that the scriptures represent motherhood as one of the most fulfilling callings that a woman can have. When you feel bogged down and unnoticed remember that God sees. He is going to touch your little with His much. You may feel like your contribution it is so little but just remember that God can take the little, He took a Samuel and made a Prophet. God took a Samuel and had a new foothold in Israel as a result of a mother's faithfulness. God can take

your littleness and turn it into the much. Let's remember the Lord does that, the Lord touches faithful mothers with richness and fullness, God wants to do that. Nothing can transcend the fulfillment of being in God's will.

In verses seven and eight: The Lord works among the commonplace. It says He takes the poor and He lifts them up. He can take this and set them up on a throne of glory and the pillars of the earth are the Lord's and He has set the world upon them. The Lord works among the commonplace. We are apt to as humans to be able to see God in the midst of a storm but we somehow struggle to see God in the midst of the trivial and the routine. But God is at work in the commonplace. He is preparing right now mothers, right in your home God is preparing the future fathers and mothers, God is preparing the future grandfathers and grandmothers, God is preparing the future church builders, God is preparing the future church leaders. You know you look at your church leaders today and you appreciate them but remember, they had a mother and there was a day when they were on their mother's lap and that mother was likely unaware of the contribution she was making. But mothers God is working among the commonplace. That job that you don't like God can use even that when you respond rightly and your children know you don't like it, but they see you responding rightly, God can use even that.

Lastly: The Lord will triumph as faithful mothers share in the victory. Notice this in verses nine and 10. The Lord is going to break the pieces. He is going to thunder upon this wicked world and she was glad to say that He is going to exalt His horn but earlier in the chapter she says that her horn was also exalted, and so she recognised that she was going to share. You are going to be rewarded mothers, your work may seem so routine and unimportant but it is part of the victory. It is part of the victory. Your faithfulness, God is counting on it, the church is counting on it and the victory is depending on it and let's not grow weary in well doing as the Scriptures say. [Galatians 6:9]

You have your God as a resource.

You have another resource that is so commonplace to you that often maybe you don't see it as a resource. We would like to change our thought now and that resource is your husband. He is a resource. Notice how Hannah reached out to her husband as a resource.[1 [Samuel 1](#)]

Let's go back to first Samuel chapter one verse four. And when the time was when Elkanah offered he gave some things to his wife and there out in chapters 1, 2 and 3 you find that Hannah and her husband were worship partners and your husband is a worship partner and so he is a resource. Worship together is a vital necessity for facing life, pray together, share spiritual concerns. Many Christian couples do not have a strong spiritual bond and therefore they are not finding, they are missing one of the resources that God has given to us to be faithful and to find the strength. Too many attend church together and they go to prayer meeting together but that is the end of their spiritual bond or tie and their spiritual communication and when they are at home alone there is a wall between them spiritually. Mothers, wives, see in your husband a worship partner, one who prays with you, one who is a spiritual stamina to you, one who is a spiritual shepherd, one who is a spiritual protection, see that in him.

Also your husband is a leader in the home and that is a resource. We see this in verses three, five and eight and 19 were Elkanah was taking his place in the home and giving direction.

Give yourself to his leadership. It is a resource. You as the wife and mother are not equipped emotionally to handle the rigours of decision-making and child rearing without a man. The scripture say in [1 Peter 3:7](#) give honour, it says to the husband to give honour as unto the weaker vessel. It means husbands you are to take the blows of family raising and of moneymaking and you are to face that cruel world. Wives leave your husbands to do it. It is their God calling. It is a resource for your protection and for your emotional well-being. He is the leader in the home, allow your husbands to make the decisions and take the leadership role and if you do that you can find a rest and a security and a inspiration and a resource that God has given to you.

Also in verse five I see a mature, affectionate lover, and that is your husband. It says that he, the husband, loved Hannah, he loved her. Love is more than a sentimental feeling or an emotion, love is an act of the will, it

is a commitment, it is a showing concern and affection. Some individuals have the idea that love is some kind of emotion and well if it is based on emotion it is going to fly away at times. But love that the scriptures call for is a commitment, it is loving regardless of how I feel and it is loving regardless of what the response is on the part of the other. It is a choice, it is a decision to love because it is right.

Love can be expressed through patience, through tolerance for failings, by meeting needs and avoiding criticism. Back home in the local newspaper this week I noticed that there was a couple that had been married for 70 years, now that's a long time, and the wife's testimony was that she never, never heard her husband give a sharp word to her. That is a challenge to husbands, that's a challenge to husbands. But that is a form of expressing love, that is a form. The world has a lot of mushy stuff around but that is not love. Love is the extension of affection in spite of the failings, in spite of that which would call for something else in the natural man. As you show love you are going to find inspiration and energy for living. Wives this morning as you contribute to the marriage your part in that love relationship, you will find an inspiration and an energy for facing the rigours and pressures of home life that this world knows so little about where there is a tremendous "give up your idea of a perfect marriage" There will be things to work out, it is not always going to have everything so perfect, but work them out and make your contribution to the love relationship, being patient and gentle and giving yourself to the relationship. Be satisfied with life and your circumstances. There is nothing that destroys your own satisfaction and your husband's satisfaction than to be dissatisfied with your life circumstances, there is nothing that destroys quicker.

Seek to please your husband even if it is nothing more than putting his socks in the drawer the way he likes it, but as you make that contribution to the marriage you find an inspiration and energy that is satisfying. Seek to be understanding of him, that is part of your finding a resource for facing home life.

In the next place: Your husband is a responder to communication. I notice this in verse eight. Her husband came to her and says: Why are you weeping or why are you not eating or why is your heart grieved, am I not better to thee than 10 sons?

That impressed me, how he viewed it, and husbands that is a challenge that we are that kind of communicator that we are that sensitive to our wife's needs and know what's going on, and if we don't quite understand we seek to understand. But wives this morning you need to see in your husbands one to whom you can communicate. The husband talked and then in verse nine it says: She rose up. As there was communication between husband and wife she was able to rise up and to go forward and it was an inspiration to face what she was finding.

In verse 22 I see an open communication. She shared with her husband why she was not going to go up to the temple, there was communication. Someone put it this way: There have been billions spent to talk to men who land on the moon but all the while many in this nation cannot talk across the breakfast table. It is a challenge. We need to have such relationships and communications that will provide an inspiration and a resource. In some homes all that is talked about is who is going to pick up the school children, who is going to pay the phone bill, but the real satisfying and the real invigorating communications never happen in so many homes. We need to be having communications and wives you may say: Well you don't know my husband well, he just don't talk. One wife said: My husband doesn't have any feelings at all and I find it hard to communicate. Well wives if we at least understand that our husbands are given to us as a resource for communication that will go a long way in helping.

Express your ideas, your feelings, your goals, your opinions, your conviction, share those kind of things, share sometimes even when the truth hurts and the scriptures give room for that when it says we are to share the truth in love. [[Eph. 4:15](#)]

In verse 19 I see another: Your husband is an ever present companion. It says year-to-year they went up, they did things together, they raised the family together. Sometimes in our world when you talk about doing things together the husband and wife immediately think of leaving the children with the grandparents and going off to something, in doing something. But we rather ought to find our inspiration in seeing the raising of those children as a project that we do together and find our companionship in that effort and in that work, not saying there is absolutely no place for the other, but our first thought ought to be that we see family raising and child train-

ing as the very thing that we are doing together and as a project that we are having our common interest gathered around and that we finally find our joy in. Sharing the joys and sorrows of life together. If one's relationship is built merely on the excitement of the relationship it will not do. We need to have a relationship that is a companionship where we can lean on each other and find each other to be dependable.

I would like to look next at the church. We have looked at the resources in your God, we have looked at the resources in your husband there is one other resource that we would like look at yet and that is: The resource in your church.

Now we are in the Old Testament so the church is not here per se, but the temple is here. The temple is here and Hannah found some real resources right here as it related to the temple and Eli.

We want to notice first of all that it was their worship centre and your church this morning is your worship centre. It was in the temple that Hannah had got new inspiration and a new perspective in relation to her problem, it was in the temple that she found that. It was with God's people that she found the courage to go on. Verse 19: And they rose up, she rose up. Verse 18 it says that she went out and she ate and her countenance was no more sad, as a result of the inspiration found in worship. With God's people is where we obtain a true perspective for life. I am sure mothers as well as fathers know the experience where maybe in the middle of the week we have a bogged down feeling and just lost our perspective, it just seems like all this life this is just work and responsibility and then we go to prayer meeting and suddenly after prayer meeting we have a new zip in our step. Somehow we see what this is all about again and so it is a resource. Mothers in your church you can find a resource as there is collective worship.

I also see another fact and that is that in your church there are burden bearers, right in your church. Verses 17 and 18 Eli answered and said: Go in peace and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition which thou hast asked of him and she said: Let thy hand maid find grace in thy sight, and so the woman went her way and did eat and her countenance was no more sad. She had found a burden bearer. Now I believe that is one of the resources that we have, seeing your sisters, your fellow sisters in the church as bur-

den bearers, as a resource. Too often our relationship to church life and to one another is so aloof that we would be embarrassed to share with our fellow brothers and sisters that we have a burden. But the scriptures are clear that we are to confess our faults one to another and pray one for another that: Ye may be healed. [James 5:15] I believe this is an area where it goes untapped too often, it is the resource within our brethren and sisters, our burden bearers. We need to see that if we are having a struggle in an area or may be with one of the children and we can find counsel in an older sister, that is what our older sisters are for the scripture says, we found that out in our Sunday school lesson, we ought to use this resource.

I believe that in your church there also comes spiritual challenges. Notice in verses 14 and 16 that Eli said to her: How long will thou be drunken?

Now Eli was mistaken but at least I see something that in this church, in this temple, Eli was ready to challenge. And so we can find challenges, spiritual challenges within your church and that is a resource. We ought to be open and eager for the rebukes and the warnings that we need. It provides a sense of security to me this morning as a leader, as a father to know that if I start to sidestep that there will be brethren in there who will tap me on the shoulder and say: Just now what is all this about? And you know sisters that is one of your resource as you hear the preaching and the teaching and in Sunday school as brothers and sisters may tap your family on the shoulder. It is a resource that we ought to be open to and as a result find security and peace, it is a resource in your church.

In verse 24 I see another resource: In your church is a safe haven.

It says that they took this child to the temple and they left him there and it says the child was young. It tells me that they had confidence in the temple. Now a little later on we see reasons for them not to have confidence in the temple and that is sad when it is that way. That is unfortunate when our young ones cannot be trusted in the settings where we are. But by and large we ought to be able to look at our churches as a safe haven where we can place and let our young, our children, and our young and our youth mingle with the youth and find inspiration to go right. But in our church we find that kind of resource. Oh I thank God this morning for the blessings that the church can be to my family. Oh the disadvantage it

would be without a faithful church that is on the move but rather a faithful church that is solid and stable.

In verse 19 I see the last one: In your church there is an opportunity for contribution.

Oh the enrichment that this mother must have experienced as she saw the product of her faith standing in the temple. Oh the encouragement.

This morning mothers you have opportunity after opportunity to make a contribution to your church. Think of the blessings that this home enjoyed and think of the opportunities mothers that you have to make contributions to the church that are tangible contributions.

Hannah's contribution gave God a new foothold in dealing with Israel and mothers this morning you have that opportunity and in your church there is that resource, in your church is that challenge. In your church is that opportunity.

May God help each mother to rise to that and make that contribution. You are in the midst of your morning in the dishes and some of the work has got neglected over the weekend so you could be here, you are in the midst of all of that and somehow you may begin to wonder: What's it all about?

Well in the midst of that routine and in the midst of that mundane you are making a contribution to your church and family and let us ever see that and keep our eyes in focus.

I would like to conclude with a poem, somewhat of a legacy to every mother here this morning.

She could not give her children gold,
So she gave them faith to have and hold.
She could not give them royal birth,
A name renowned throughout the earth.

But she gave them seeds and a garden spot,
And shade trees when the sun was hot.
She could not give a silver spoon,
Or servants waiting night and noon.

She gave them love and a listening ear,
And told them God was always near.

She could not give them ocean trips,
Aboard majestic sailing ships.
She gave them books and quiet times,
Adventures found in prose and rhyme.

She could not give them worldly things,
But what she gave was fit for kings.
But with her faith and books and sod,
She made each child aware of God.

Transcribed from a sermon given at Shirksville Mennonite Church

SNAPSHOTS.

Brief excerpts from historical publications

ANABAPTIST MENNONITE VIEW OF JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus Christ: God's Revelation

For **Anabaptists**, as for other Christians, Jesus constituted the heart of Christian faith. Most statements about Jesus made by **Anabaptists** are orthodox in nature, that is, they accept the traditional creedal statements. Beyond that, however, the unanimity ends.

A major feature of **Anabaptist Christology** was the weight placed on the function of Jesus as model and example. That involved an emphasis on his human life with his actions and words as described in the Gospels. But it did not lead to a denial or even an under emphasis on the divine nature of Jesus.

All **Anabaptists** are united in emphasizing that the confession of Jesus as Lord must be combined with obedience to his words. If obedience is not there, the faith is, by definition, counterfeit.

Balthasar Hubmaier, "The Twelve Articles," ca 1526-7.

I believe also in Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord. I believe that he has made atonement to you, my Father, for the fall; that he has made peace between you and me, who am a poor sinner, and has won, through his obedience, an inheritance for me. He has now given me strength through the Holy Word which he has sent, so that I may become your child through faith. I hope and trust in him entirely. He will not allow the healing and comforting name of Jesus to be lost to me, a miserable sinner, but rather will save me from all my sins. For I believe that he is Christ, true God and true man.

Leonhard Schiemer, "Letter to the Church at Rattenberg," ca 1527.

Christians obey the sovereigns of this world with body and goods. But they are obedient to the Sovereign of heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ with the soul and everything that pertains and belongs to faith. For in him dwells the fullness of deity. He alone is the Lord of all lords and the King of all kings, a Healer and Saviour of the human race. To him is given all authority in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. Therefore we are properly subject to him, give him our obedience, and honour, fear, and love him above all creatures.

Pilgram Marpeck, "Concerning the Love of God in Christ ca 1543.

Love is all power, authority, strength, might, wisdom, reason, skill, understanding, truth, righteousness, mercy, forbearance, patience, meekness in all humility and lowliness. She is fully God in all, in, with, and through her summation Jesus Christ our healer. She is the complete, whole, eternally coming true love of the Father, and the Father himself is the true love of the Son, one Spirit, God, and Lord forever, not mixed but One from eternity to eternity, not separated into two or three but three in One eternally.

No creature has been found to express, teach, and to witness and state with power what love is, along with its virtues and powers except the Man Jesus, Jesus, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The same was brought forth, glorified, and revealed by the Father with that glory which he as the incarnate Word had before the Father from eternity, as he also with love declares himself to be the true Son of God commissioned even to the death of condemnation, and has achieved the fullest, greatest, exalted love in that he

gives his life for his friends. For no one has greater love than he who gives his life for his friends.

To this Christ has witnessed and in love declared himself, with the incarnate Word, deed, and power.

Pilgram Marpeck, "Judgment and Decision," 1543

Conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary, Jesus Christ is the Son of God according to Spirit, Word, and power. The Father has certified God in him, through the power of his divine essence, with all powers, works, and miracles. He has also shown and certified his true humanity. As the Lord says in John 14 [10]: "Philip, do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? If not, why do you not believe for the sake of the works that I do?" Thus, the Father is certified in the Son as true God and the Son in the Father, one God, manner, nature, and divine essence, all in the Son of Man. Brought forth from the seed and line of David, he was shown to be, in his weakness, a natural, earthly, true man. He was born of the race of man, but without the seed of man or sin. He was born of Mary, the spotless virgin in flesh and blood, in the manner of the human race; he grew and was brought up by earthly creatures as a truly earthly man. His physical life was sustained by eating and drinking and he died a natural death. Like those who also died a natural death, or who will yet die, he rose again from among the dead through the nature of God, Spirit, and Word, which is the resurrection and the life (as he said to Martha). He was taken up into heaven and seated himself at the right hand of his heavenly Father. We wait for his return and for our resurrection from the dead according to the flesh, to be received through him. Forgiveness and remission of sins come alone through the Lord Jesus Christ. That, briefly, is the testimony concerning the true divinity and true humanity of Christ. The divinity is testified to and known through power, and the humanity through weakness in death, for death does not come from heaven. I write on this matter because many Antichrists have now appeared who deny both the divinity and humanity of Christ.

Dirk Philips. The Knowledge of Jesus Christ ca. 1558

The doctrine of Jesus Christ is the word of the heavenly Father (Jn. 7:16; 3:11; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10, 24). The teaching of the Son and the testimony of the Holy Spirit is superior to all the teachings of the prophets, and it con-

tains all that serves and promotes godliness. Nor can the will of the heavenly Father be found and confessed anywhere so clearly as in the words of Jesus Christ, by whom the Father has in these last days spoken, made known his will, and fully expressed it (Heb. 1:2). Hence all that is contrary and not conformable to the words of Christ, is not God's word or will: for no other foundation can be laid, than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11).

Hence no doctrine has any status that does not harmonize with the teaching of Christ and his apostles. Man does not live by other words which proceed from the will of man, but alone by the words of God (Mt. 4:4), which have been made known to us by Jesus Christ and his apostles. Here is the bread of heaven; here is the water of life.

Menno Simons, "Triune God," ca 1550

Dear brethren in the Lord, we believe and confess that this same eternal, wise, almighty, holy, true, living, and incomprehensible Word, Christ Jesus, which was in the beginning with God and which was God, incomprehensible—born of the incomprehensible Father, before every creature—did in the fullness of time become, according to the unchangeable purpose and faithful promise of the Father, a true, visible, suffering, hungry, thirsty, and mortal man in Mary, the pure virgin, through the operation and overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, and so was born of her. We confess that he was like unto us in all things, sin excepted; that he grew up as do other men; that at the appointed time he was baptized and entered upon his preaching task, and office of grace and love which was enjoined upon him from the Father, and which he obediently fulfilled. He erased the handwriting, that is, the law, which was against us; and has at last, through the eternal Spirit of his heavenly Father, offered himself in this human flesh, nature, and weakness, in which he sighed, wept, and prayed unto the Father, and sweat water and blood, and thus purified our hearts of dead works that we should serve the true and living God. All who believe on him and through him received grace, mercy, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life, and that by means of his crimson blood which he has in his great love sacrificed and shed on the cross for us poor sinners, according to the good pleasure of the Father. And so he has become our only and eternal High Priest, Atoner, Mercy Seat, Mediator, and Advocate with God his Father.

How Does The World See You Sister?

From a booklet:

“Personal Appearance in Light of God’s Word” written by Lloyd Hartzler.

It says some years ago when the Mennonite church was more uniform in practice a man of the street gave the following testimony after observing modestly dressed Christian ladies in Portland, Oregon.

From time to time upon the street I see a welcome sight,
Her dress is decent and discreet, she is a Mennonite.

Not vain is her concern, nor folly her desire,
Sobriety we can discern in her and her attire.

Her conduct is so very odd as though she had a soul,
As though she thought there is a God and heaven was her goal.

So when I see the painted cheek, scarlet lips, crimson claws,
And then I see one mild and meek the contrast makes me pause.

Apparently she doesn't need as on her way she goes,
Combustion of the filthy weed from either mouth or nose.

She is so odd, so very queer, a most peculiar one,
The way she is makes her appear not like the common run.

And yet it seems she can survive, both sensible and good,
And will much longer stay alive and certainly she should.

Anonymous.



Just For Mothers



*May God bless all the Mothers
That give of themselves
And tend to their household needs
Before the needs of 'self'
For they are there with comfort
For each child's broken heart
Bringing them to God in prayer
With His love to impart.*

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