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"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a women that feareth the Lord she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30

May is the month we observe "Mothers Day" as a special day to recognize and appreciate our Mothers. We realize that Mothers are a special gift from God to us. No one comes into this world that wasn't first incubated in a mother's womb. Today, we recognize the greatest holocaust perpetrated on the human race is the killing of innocent, helpless and unwanted babies in the wombs of mothers where they should have been in the safest and most protected place possible. For us who are alive, however, we can rejoice that we survived that potential holocaust.

In the verse quoted above we are told that women can be motivated by three different manners; favor, beauty, or-the fear of the Lord. First of all favor. The word "favor" comes from the Hebrew word "chen" and is translated favor or grace most often in the Old Testament. The word "deceitful" is the Hebrew word "shever" means an untruth or a sham, or without a cause. In other words because someone plays favoritism with someone else doesn't mean that they are special. They may be deceiving people about what they really are like.

The second motivation is Beauty. For some women their obsession with beauty will cause them to do some very vain things. The flourishing industries are those involved in providing beauty aids to women. The idea is that the more beautiful you are the more influence you will have. A study was conducted about how men responded to a woman's beauty. It was found that a woman that was more attractive was more likely to have men open doors for her and assist her in various ways.

The third motivation is the one God commands; a woman that "feareth the Lord" this is the one who realizes and acknowledges that God is in control of her life as well as the world and understands that every action she takes will reap a consequence orchestrated by God. That thought influences her actions, attitude, and aspirations. She knows some day she will stand before God and give an account of not only what she did but why she did it. In light of that, she lives her whole life.

The Bible says as a result "she shall be praised." Those that know her will see that God has had an impact on her life and it has brought a positive result.

How are you motivated; by favor, by beauty, or by the fear of the Lord? Is your life a lie, vain or a blessing to those observing you?

Pastor Buhrow