

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Ideals

"Ideals are like the stars – we never reach them, but like the mariners of the sea, we chart our course by them." – Carl Shurz

"Our ideals are the blueprints of our lives." – Roy L. Smith

"The ideal man bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances." – Aristotle

"A man of personality can formulate ideals, but only a man of character can achieve them." – Herbert Read

"Be strong in body, clean in mind, lofty in ideals." – James Naismith

An ideal has been defined as, "A standard of perfection; a principle to be aimed at." We might look at it as a goal to attain. Without a benchmark, without something to serve as an ideal or perfect standard, we have nothing to drive us to do better.

For example, in Proverbs 31 we have the words of King Lemuel, which thoughts were credited to his mother. It is designed to help the king to find the right or ideal woman. Beginning in the 10th verse, the chapter proceeds to set forth a virtuous wife. What follows is a rather lengthy list of an ideal woman's capabilities. Many a sister in Christ has been frustrated by this account. Instead, they should look at it as a blueprint for an ideal wife.

Ideals will help us to achieve what we seek; prayerfully a better father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, employer, employee, etc. If we are honest with ourselves, likely we have room for improvement.

Perhaps the greatest ideal is to be the best Christian we can be. But again, to improve we first have to admit we need to change for the better. Has one found himself or herself the ideal Christian? No. But that should not stop us from wanting to move closer to that goal.

One of the greatest books in Scripture to help us in our pursuit of the ideal, is the book of Proverbs. "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise" (Prov. 6:6). "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom..." (Prov. 9:10). "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise" (Prov. 10:19).

One can readily see that Proverbs is such that it helps us with practical living as well as our spiritual relationship with the Lord. If a person wonders how to live, and how to act, the book provides a wealth of information.

No, you may not be the ideal Christian, but prayerfully you will strive to do better each and every day that God blesses you with life.