

# FIRST TIMOTHY 2:9-15

## THE JOY OF MOTHERS

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Despite a colorful past in the history of the church, this passage and teaching of Paul is marvelously redemptive and liberating. And while it has been used to create rules, bolster legalism and degrade women, it actually does the opposite, which is what God intended.

Again, **1 Timothy 2-3** focuses on the membership of the local church. It focuses on matters that teach us “*how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*” (**1 Timothy 3:15**)

**2:9**—Paul continues his instruction by addressing women. The text even borrows the main verb (*I want*) from the statement to men in **v.8**.

**2:9-10**—Godly women care more about their ministry than their vanity. Excessive attention, time and resources spent on *braided hair, gold, pearls*, and such, which were extremely costly and opulent in Paul’s day, are unnecessary distractions to a life of joy and ministry in the church.

Although this was undoubtedly a specific problem in the Ephesian church in which Timothy was a leader, this instruction is not void for us today. Paul’s arguments make its continuing relevance clear.

**2:11-12**—It would seem that the false teaching which plagued the Ephesian church found a comfortable home in its women (men get their due later in the letter). But rather than finding a voice of chauvinism or oppression in Paul, the following commands represent a liberal progression of contemporary gender issues. The background of both the Jewish and Greek view of women at this time was miles behind Jesus and Paul.

**2:13-14**—Most importantly, in his gender commands, Paul continually represents an *equality in value/worth* but a *diversity in role/rank*. He uses **Genesis 2 and 3** as his chief example. Adam was first in creation order (woman created as a companion), and Eve was first in the Fall. Notice, Adam wasn’t *deceived* because he sinned willfully! Furthermore, the rest of the Scriptures attributes the effects of the Fall to Adam.

**2:15**—This verse is difficult because of its wording, but it communicates a very simple and beautiful truth: **A mother’s nearness to Jesus will unleash life and joy in the home.** The word “*preserved*” (*saved/delivered* in other translations), communicates a *fullness of life* that is connected to motherhood. This is God’s design for mothers.

For more background and helps on First Timothy, go to our site [faithbibleonline.org](http://faithbibleonline.org) under the *Messages* tab for the **First Timothy Tool Kit**. Open an easy PDF and you are on your way.



## APPLICATION

This wonderful passage in **First Timothy** is worth our full attention. Although it is difficult, it has splendid meaning for women and mothers as well as men and fathers.

What are three things that challenge you about this passage?

How does this passage encourage and/or challenge your role in the home?

Try to identify one person that you can encourage this week with the meaning of this passage.

Blessings on the hand of women!  
Angels guard its strength and grace,  
In the palace, cottage, hovel,  
Oh, no matter where the place;  
Would that never storms assailed it,  
Rainbows ever gently curled;  
For the hand that rocks the cradle  
Is the hand that rules the world.

Infancy's the tender fountain,  
Power may with beauty flow,  
Mother's first to guide the streamlets,  
From them souls unresting grow--  
Grow on for the good or evil,  
Sunshine streamed or evil hurled;  
For the hand that rocks the cradle  
Is the hand that rules the world.

Woman, how divine your mission  
Here upon our natal sod!  
Keep, oh, keep the young heart open  
Always to the breath of God!  
All true trophies of the ages  
Are from mother-love impearled;  
For the hand that rocks the cradle  
Is the hand that rules the world.

Blessings on the hand of women!  
Fathers, sons, and daughters cry,  
And the sacred song is mingled  
With the worship in the sky--  
Mingles where no tempest darkens,  
Rainbows evermore are hurled;  
For the hand that rocks the cradle  
Is the hand that rules the world.

**William Ross Wallace, 1865**

# FIRST TIMOTHY

2:9-15

Happy  
**Mother's  
Day**

MAY 8, 2011