

GOD'S  
*Portrait*  
OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

DOROTHY DAVIS

REGULAR BAPTIST PRESS  
1300 North Meacham Road  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-4806

GOD'S PORTRAIT OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

© 1996

Regular Baptist Press • Schaumburg, Illinois

1-800-727-4440 • [www.regularbaptistpress.org](http://www.regularbaptistpress.org)

Printed in U.S.A.

All rights reserved

Fifth printing—2004

# Contents

<i>Preface</i> .....	5
<i>How to Use This Study</i> .....	6
<i>LESSON 1</i> Preparing the Canvas: The Proper Support .....	7
<i>LESSON 2</i> Preparing the Canvas: Stretching and Priming . . . .	14
<i>LESSON 3</i> Putting on the Paint .....	20
<i>LESSON 4</i> Shaped by Our Thoughts .....	28
<i>LESSON 5</i> The Tint of Attitudes .....	35
<i>LESSON 6</i> The Color of Our Words .....	41
<i>LESSON 7</i> The Color of Actions .....	47
<i>LESSON 8</i> The Heavenly Glow of Our Good Deeds .....	53
<i>LESSON 9</i> Attention to Details: Our Appearance .....	61
<i>LESSON 10</i> Attention to Details: Our Use of Time .....	68
<i>LESSON 11</i> The Color of Relationships .....	76
<i>LESSON 12</i> The Unifying Factor: Love .....	81
<i>LESSON 13</i> Framing It All with Prayer and Praise .....	88
<i>Conclusion</i> .....	94
<i>Leader's Guide</i> .....	95

# In Dedication

To my husband, Dale, and our children—Paul, Kristen, Kevin, and Seth—  
who have supported me by their love, patience, encouragement, and  
prayers as the Lord has worked on my portrait.

# Preface

Have you gone to a museum and looked at the painted portrait of some prestigious person of long ago? Did you marvel at the ability of the painter's hand to capture the character and particular beauty of that human being?

Since the first moment of creation, God has been the Master Painter. We often acknowledge this when we see a sunset, the ocean or the brilliance of an autumn hillside. But as the Master Painter, God also desires to paint portraits. Each person, whom He has created, has the potential to be a portrait of godly beauty and the fulfillment of His perfect design for that human being.

Psalm 139:13 refers to the fact that God created our "inmost being" ("reins") and put us together in our mothers' wombs. Not only that; verse 16 says that God knows all the days that are ordained for us. From these verses we learn that God is not some distant spectator of our lives but the very One Who designed us, made us and planned all our days. At this very moment He is at work in His children's lives, making each of us what He intended us to be. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

A painter starts with a canvas and a palette of colors that are applied with a brush or other tool for the desired result. Think of your life as a canvas upon which the Lord is painting a portrait that will conform to the perfect design of His will for you. The purpose of this study is to help you cooperate with His work in your life as He seeks to make you into His masterpiece. He desires to make you into a beautiful portrait of His grace—more beautiful and more captivating than any portrait that has been painted by man!

# How to Use This Study

Each lesson in this study is divided into five sections. Follow these suggestions as you prepare each lesson.



## **I: VERSE(S) FOR MEMORIZATION AND MEDITATION**

Memorize the verse or verses. Or, at least read them several times in preparation for the lesson. Answer the questions that pertain to the verse(s).



## **II: EVALUATION FOR PREPARATION**

The questions in this section are designed to prepare your heart to receive God's Word. These questions will not be discussed in your Bible study group.



## **III: SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY**

The questions in this section are aimed at concentrating on the actual text of God's Word and understanding what it says. Answer the questions as completely as you can. Use a standard dictionary to look up any words you do not know.



## **IV: APPLICATION FOR GROWTH**

As you answer the questions in this section, you will see how the truths of God's Word apply to your life.



## **V: CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE**

The suggestions in this section will help you put into practice the things you have learned. As with section II, these questions will not be discussed in the group.

GOD'S  
*Portrait*  
OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

DOROTHY DAVIS

REGULAR BAPTIST PRESS  
1300 North Meacham Road  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-4806

GOD'S PORTRAIT OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

© 1996

Regular Baptist Press • Schaumburg, Illinois

1-800-727-4440 • [www.regularbaptistpress.org](http://www.regularbaptistpress.org)

Printed in U.S.A.

All rights reserved

Fifth printing—2004



# Contents

<i>Preface</i> .....	5
<i>How to Use This Study</i> .....	6
<i>LESSON 1</i> Preparing the Canvas: The Proper Support .....	7
<i>LESSON 2</i> Preparing the Canvas: Stretching and Priming . . . .	14
<i>LESSON 3</i> Putting on the Paint .....	20
<i>LESSON 4</i> Shaped by Our Thoughts .....	28
<i>LESSON 5</i> The Tint of Attitudes .....	35
<i>LESSON 6</i> The Color of Our Words .....	41
<i>LESSON 7</i> The Color of Actions .....	47
<i>LESSON 8</i> The Heavenly Glow of Our Good Deeds .....	53
<i>LESSON 9</i> Attention to Details: Our Appearance .....	61
<i>LESSON 10</i> Attention to Details: Our Use of Time .....	68
<i>LESSON 11</i> The Color of Relationships .....	76
<i>LESSON 12</i> The Unifying Factor: Love .....	81
<i>LESSON 13</i> Framing It All with Prayer and Praise .....	88
<i>Conclusion</i> .....	94
<i>Leader's Guide</i> .....	95

# In Dedication

To my husband, Dale, and our children—Paul, Kristen, Kevin, and Seth—  
who have supported me by their love, patience, encouragement, and  
prayers as the Lord has worked on my portrait.

# Preface

Have you gone to a museum and looked at the painted portrait of some prestigious person of long ago? Did you marvel at the ability of the painter's hand to capture the character and particular beauty of that human being?

Since the first moment of creation, God has been the Master Painter. We often acknowledge this when we see a sunset, the ocean or the brilliance of an autumn hillside. But as the Master Painter, God also desires to paint portraits. Each person, whom He has created, has the potential to be a portrait of godly beauty and the fulfillment of His perfect design for that human being.

Psalm 139:13 refers to the fact that God created our "inmost being" ("reins") and put us together in our mothers' wombs. Not only that; verse 16 says that God knows all the days that are ordained for us. From these verses we learn that God is not some distant spectator of our lives but the very One Who designed us, made us and planned all our days. At this very moment He is at work in His children's lives, making each of us what He intended us to be. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

A painter starts with a canvas and a palette of colors that are applied with a brush or other tool for the desired result. Think of your life as a canvas upon which the Lord is painting a portrait that will conform to the perfect design of His will for you. The purpose of this study is to help you cooperate with His work in your life as He seeks to make you into His masterpiece. He desires to make you into a beautiful portrait of His grace—more beautiful and more captivating than any portrait that has been painted by man!

# How to Use This Study

Each lesson in this study is divided into five sections. Follow these suggestions as you prepare each lesson.



## **I: VERSE(S) FOR MEMORIZATION AND MEDITATION**

Memorize the verse or verses. Or, at least read them several times in preparation for the lesson. Answer the questions that pertain to the verse(s).



## **II: EVALUATION FOR PREPARATION**

The questions in this section are designed to prepare your heart to receive God's Word. These questions will not be discussed in your Bible study group.



## **III: SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY**

The questions in this section are aimed at concentrating on the actual text of God's Word and understanding what it says. Answer the questions as completely as you can. Use a standard dictionary to look up any words you do not know.



## **IV: APPLICATION FOR GROWTH**

As you answer the questions in this section, you will see how the truths of God's Word apply to your life.



## **V: CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE**

The suggestions in this section will help you put into practice the things you have learned. As with section II, these questions will not be discussed in the group.



L E S S O N 1

## Preparing the Canvas: The Proper Support

**O**F PRIMARY IMPORTANCE in any great and enduring painting is the preparation of the canvas. As anxious as the artist may be to apply his mastery in color and texture, he knows that if the canvas lacks proper support and surface preparation, the result will be a waste of his best efforts. The condition of the canvas itself is as essential to a great work of art as what goes on it.

We may make a parallel to this in our own lives. Each of us is like a piece of canvas with the potential to become God's "work of art." But in order to be receptive to God's masterful working in our lives, we must have the proper "support" and "preparation." The first two lessons of this study deal with the necessary conditions in order for us to be receptive to God's work upon our hearts.



### I: VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION AND MEDITATION

*"My sheep bear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:27, 28).*

Earlier in John 10, Jesus said some people were not His sheep (v. 26). There are only two groups of people: His sheep and not His sheep.

## 8 GOD'S PORTRAIT OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

1. In John 10:27 and 28 what did Jesus say about His relationship with His sheep?

2. How do His sheep respond to Him?



### II: EVALUATION FOR PREPARATION

Think about the following questions; then jot down your answers in a few sentences.

1. Have you ever personally received God's gift of eternal life? How do you know?

2. Do you think you could ever lose your place in Heaven? Why?



### III: SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY

Just as the first step in preparing to paint a portrait is to put proper support under the canvas, so, too, God can begin to paint His masterpiece in us only if our lives have been properly placed upon the "support" of His Son, Jesus Christ. Apart from Him we are unable to please God or be conformed by Him to His divine design.

How does a person obtain this support? It is called "salvation." Think of it in terms of a four-sided framework.

*Side 1:* The Bible states that every person is a sinner, separated from a holy God. No one can enter Heaven because of his/her sins. A person must acknowledge her sinful condition.

1. Romans 3:9 says that everyone—Jew or Gentile—is

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Romans 3:23 states, “For \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ . . . .”

3. Ephesians 2:1 describes us as “ \_\_\_\_\_ in

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .”

4. Why is it so important to acknowledge our sinfulness?

*Side 2:* The Bible states that the end result of sin is eternal death (separation from God in Hell). We are unable to do anything to rectify our sinful condition. But because God loves us and does not want us to spend eternity in Hell, He punished His sinless Son, Jesus, upon the cross for our sins. Salvation is not a result of anything we can do, but it is a free gift from God, based on what Christ has already done for us on the cross.

5. According to Romans 5:6, for what kind of people did Jesus die?

6. Romans 5:8 restates that idea. God showed His love in that Jesus died for us \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

7. First Corinthians 15:3 says that Christ died for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Titus 3:4 and 5 teach us that God saved us according to His \_\_\_\_\_ . That means He withholds the punishment we rightly deserve because the Lord Jesus took it for us.

*Side 3:* The Bible teaches that we may obtain forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Heaven by coming to God in faith and by believing that Christ died for our sins, putting our trust totally in Him to save us.

9. Read John 6:37 and 40. What two things did Jesus say we must do?
  
10. What has He promised to do in return?
  
11. Can you think of some other verses that explain how we can receive God's gift of salvation? If you need help, look up the words "believe" and "receive" in a Bible concordance.

*Side 4:* Salvation is not a feeling, but a decision. Romans 10:9 and 10 say we are to confess with our mouths and believe in our hearts that these things are so (i.e., we are sinners, we cannot save ourselves, Jesus died for us).

12. Once we have made this decision, what is God's promise in Romans 10:13?

This is the framework of salvation. If you have placed your life upon this support, it will not fail or fall apart. You don't have to worry that it will become loose or wobbly or that it will break apart. As believers in Christ and recipients of God's salvation, we have "eternal security." We can never lose our place in Heaven because we do not get or keep ourselves saved—Christ is the One Who has done the work by shedding His blood.

13. How do the following verses give us this assurance?  
John 3:16

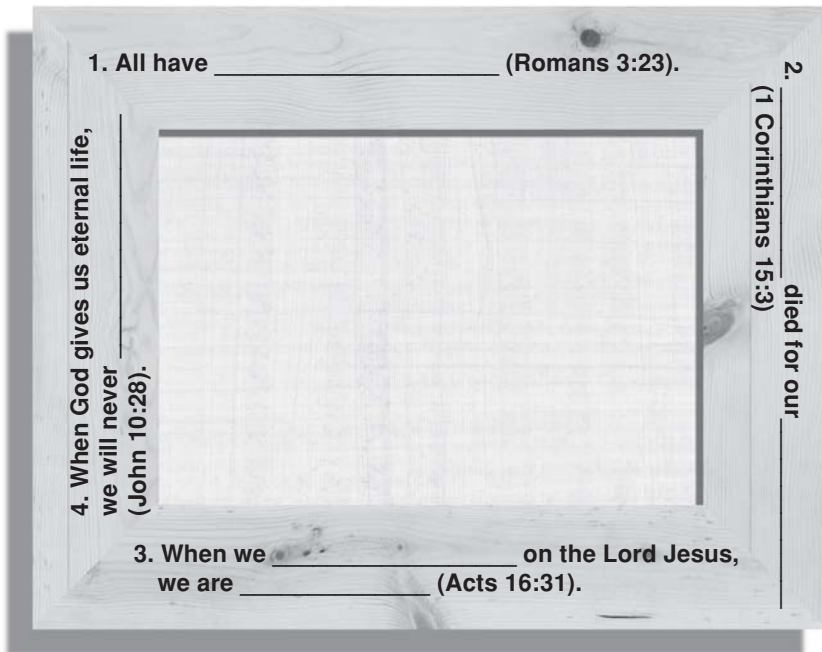


John 10:27-29

1 John 5:11-13

Jude 24

14. Review the four basic truths of salvation by completing each side of the frame.





**IV: APPLICATION FOR GROWTH**

1. You may have been saved for a long time or just a short time, but the wonder of God's gracious provision should always be with you. Think about each of the following topics; write a sentence about how each one affects your life.

Forgiveness

God's love

Jesus Christ

Salvation

Eternal security

2. Select one of those topics and describe further how it will help make a portrait of beauty out of your life.



### **V: CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE**

Select at least one challenge to put into practice this week.

1. Look back at the statements you wrote in section II. Answer the questions again. If you know for certain that you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin, thank God for saving you. Ask Him to change your life according to His will as you study these lessons.

2. If you have not made this all-important decision in your life, won't you reconsider the verses presented in this lesson and call upon God to save you? Remember: Only with this "support" can God begin to paint His portrait of beauty in you.



### **FINISHING TOUCHES**

IN PREPARATION for the studies to follow, you need to evaluate the condition of your portrait. Are you living securely in the forgiveness, love and power of the Lord Jesus Christ? Or does it seem to you that your life has fallen apart as the result of events, relationships and choices? If you are dissatisfied with your life, let Christ Jesus give you the stability that only He can give. Place your trust in Him today—for life right now and for eternity. Having done this, you can watch with excitement as He works on the portrait of your life in His own special way.

## Preparing the Canvas: Stretching and Priming

ONCE THE ARTIST puts the canvas on a support, he could begin to paint the portrait, but the finished piece would be flawed and fragile. The canvas must undergo two more procedures before it is completely ready to receive the artist's work.

First of all, the artist must be certain that the canvas has been tightly stretched in all directions upon the framework. This will allow the canvas to display his finished work without bulging or warping, which could crack the dried paints and ruin his work. Stretching the canvas produces the proper surface to best display the artist's design and skill.

Second, the surface of the canvas must be primed. Usually a type of gesso is used. Gesso is a white, glue-like substance that causes the paints to adhere when they are applied. This gives the portrait a great enduring quality; the artist's work will not fade as time goes on.

In the portrait of a woman's life, two conditions are necessary to assure that the Lord's work will take hold and endure. As a believer, she must acknowledge the sovereign purposes of God in all her life's circumstances and the right of Jesus Christ to be the Lord of her life. Just as stretching the canvas makes it the ideal surface for "showing off" the artist's work, so the circumstances that God allows in our lives will help us display "God-like-ness" (godliness). Similarly, as priming the canvas makes it receptive and adhesive, so the decision that we make to let Christ be the Lord of our lives makes us receive and hold on to God's work in us as He convicts, teaches and changes us.

If you and I will receive all the hard circumstances of life and grow in them, and if we will allow Jesus Christ to be not only our Savior but also Lord in all areas of our lives, then the portrait that God unveils "in that

day” (2 Thessalonians 1:10) will be astounding in its beauty and grace—a glorious reflection of HIM! Let’s look into His Word and encourage our hearts to be stretched and primed!



### **I: VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION AND MEDITATION**

*“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6, 7).*

1. According to these verses, how are we to receive Christ Jesus?
  
2. Look up the word “lord” in a dictionary or Bible dictionary. What does it say?



### **II: EVALUATION FOR PREPARATION**

1. What are some of the hard circumstances (past or present) that have been part of your life?
  
2. How have you reacted to these things?
  
3. What changes have you made in your life since becoming a Christian?



**III: SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY**

1. Look up the following verses and jot down in your own words what each verse teaches about God's role as Planner and Creator.

Psalm 119:73

Psalm 139:15, 16

Exodus 4:10, 11

Proverbs 16:9

Proverbs 16:4

Romans 8:28, 29

2. Write a brief paragraph that summarizes how these verses relate to your life.

3. Look up the following verses that speak of the tests and trials of life. Fill in answers under each column.

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Words used to describe "trial"</b>	<b>Result of trial</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
<b>Job 23:10</b>			
<b>Psalms 119:67</b>			
<b>Romans 5:3</b>			
<b>2 Corinthians 4:17</b>			
<b>Hebrews 12:11</b>			
<b>1 Peter 1:6, 7</b>			

4. Based on these verses, how should we respond to suffering? What will be the beneficial results?

5. When a saved woman allows Jesus Christ to be the Lord of her life as well as her Savior, how is this revealed in her life? Read Luke 6:46-49; Colossians 2:6, 7; Ephesians 5:8-17; 1 Peter 3:13-16.



#### **IV: APPLICATION FOR GROWTH**

1. Consider again the difficult aspects of your life (including race, religious upbringing, handicaps, illnesses, accidents, death of loved ones, birth order, scars, abuse, divorce, etc.). What beneficial results has God worked for your good through these difficulties?

2. How should you respond to trials in the future?

3. What attitudes may keep you from making Christ your Lord?

4. What attitudes do you need in order to be receptive to God's work in you?

5. What things make it difficult to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life?



#### **V: CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE**

Select at least one challenge to put into practice this week.

1. Make a list of five hard circumstances in your life and the corresponding benefits. Thank God for these things.



2. Do you have a prayer partner to support you as you strive to make your life a “living sacrifice” to the Lord? Ask someone to pray for you that, as you face the trials and obstacles of life, you will respond to them according to God’s will for you.

3. Has the Lord shown you a specific area in which you have resisted His Lordship? a decision? a habit? an attitude? a relationship? Commit yourself to do what He says as you talk to Him in prayer. Think of a practical way to help yourself make this change a reality; e.g., memorize a verse, tell a godly friend of your commitment and ask her to pray for you or help you by some other means.



### **FINISHING TOUCHES**

APART FROM SALVATION, the two conditions we have studied in this lesson are foundational to our relationship with God. Our response to God’s working through our circumstances and our obedience to Christ’s commands will determine how enduring and effective our walk with the Lord will be. (See Luke 8:5-15 for the way in which trials and self-centeredness will choke God’s Word and work in a life.) Being “stretched” by our circumstances is not easy. Being “primed”—having one’s self covered over and hidden by the Lord Jesus—takes humility. But stretching and priming will result in a portrait of excellence. As women of God, we should desire nothing less.

Are you being stretched by life’s circumstances? See it as God’s way of making you into His portrait of a beautiful woman. Is your life being covered over by the likeness of Jesus Christ? Is He the Lord of your thoughts, attitudes, words and actions? Ultimately, God’s will is for your portrait to be a portrait of Him.