

Quotes Worth Pondering

“The tongue is the ambassador of the heart.”

- John Lyly (1554-1606)

“The great test of a man’s character is his tongue”

- Oswald chambers (1874-1917)

“It is contrary to reason for a thirsty person to turn from a pure, sparkling mountain stream to quench his thirst at a stale, putrid cistern - yet that is what the human race does when it rejects God’s truth and standards in favor of the devil’s impure philosophies.”

- Billy Graham

“If you seek your own advantage or blessing through God you are not really seeking God at all.”

- Meister Eckhart (1260 -1327)

“I know not by what methods rare, but this I know, God answers prayer. I know not if the blessing sought will come in just the guise I thought. I leave my prayer to him alone whose will is wiser than my own.”

- Eliza M. Kickok

“Do not pray for easy lives, pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for task equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your task.”

- Phillips Brooks 1835-1893

“Our notion of sacrifice is the wringing out of us something we don’t want to give up, full of pain and agony and distress. The Bible idea of sacrifice is that I give as a love gift the very best thing I have.”

- Oswald Chambers

“If Jesus Christ is God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him”

- Charles Thomas Studd, 1862-1031

Prayers For Life....

Lord, give me words, I never know what to say.

Lord, give me wisdom, I never know when to say it.

Lord, give me love that I won't say it rudely.

Lord give me faith that you'll make the best of my feeble efforts.

Lord, give me passion to care for those who need to know you.

Lord, give me vision to see what they could become.

Lord, give me ears to hear what they are really asking.

Lord, give me words to share my love for you.

Encompass me with Your love and mercy gracious Lord; I have no security
except in You.

I am perpetually exposed to the destructive forces of this existence.
I am in constant danger of losing the battle to the very passions and desires of
my own nature.

I can only submit myself to You and believe that You will fulfill Your purposes
in me.

Your love, O God, is steadfast; Your grace is everlasting.

Even when I am beaten down by depression and ensnared by my weaknesses
and frailties and my own lust threatens to devour me, You are my God, and
You will not let me go.

I am determined to serve You, O Lord.

May my life be a continual thank offering to You.

I shall sing Your praises forever.

(from a book called Psalms Now by Brandt and Kent)

Prayers For Our Marriages

In His book *Marriage In the Making*, Richard Exley has at the end of each short chapter a prayer that a spouse may need to pray about the marriage....I thought they were very good prayers that at some time at least, most of us should have prayed! So will share just a few of them. (by the way I recommend the book...even if you have a very good marriage.)

“Lord, I can’t believe how selfish and immature I can be at times. Forgive me for sinning against my spouse and against my marriage. Change me. Make me the kind of husband/wife that I should be. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen”

Lord, I’m so competitive. Everything becomes a matter of winning and losing even my relationships. I have this insatiable need to be right, to win every argument, no matter who gets hurt. Forgive me for abusing the gift of competitiveness, for using it to get my own way. Give me the wisdom and grace to use it constructively and only in situations that really matter. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Lord, I have to confess that I often put unrealistic expectations on my spouse. I expect him/her to make me happy. I expect him/her to understand my needs when I can’t even put them into words myself. I expect him/her always to respond to my desires no matter what is going on in his/her life. In expect too much! Help me to make up for all the times I’ve made him/ her feel inadequate by expecting him/her to do what only You can do. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

Lord, I tend to think more about being loved than I do about being loving. Forgive me, for that is not love at all, but selfishness. Teach me to love my spouse unconditionally, whether I feel loving or not, whether I am loved or not. Manifest Your love through me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

Lord, love is not demanding. Therefore, when I demand that my spouse change to please me. I am not acting in love regardless of how much I protest to the contrary. Forgive my arrogance, Lord. How presumptuous of me to think I always know what’s right, what’s best. Give me eyes to see the good and not the bad and a heart filled with loving gratefulness. These are the gifts I am most in need of. In your holy name I pray. Amen.

Lord, I thank You for those times in the past when You have given me insight into the source of my anger and frustration. And I thank You for

giving me wisdom to deal with them constructively. Once again I come before You seeking help. Grant me both understanding and compassion that I may respond in love and not anger. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen

Lord teach us to live all the days of our life so that when death comes we will have no regrets. Let us speak every endearing word that fills our heart. Let us express all the love and affection that we feel, holding nothing back. Don't let us withhold a single affirming word, or even the smallest gesture of affection., Let us share all of our love all the days of our lives. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Lord it is so easy to take each other for granted when we live together. I see him/her every day; we eat at the same table and sleep in the same bed. Yet, I am discovering that we are often together without really being together. Genuine togetherness takes planning and effort; it doesn't just happen. Forgive me for the busyness and preoccupation with my personal responsibilities and interests. Reestablish my priorities. Help me to truly connect with my beloved. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

On Parenting

That mother means selfless devotion, limitless sacrifice and love that passes understanding is shown in this little story. I have read stories of animal mothers that are similar.

A number of years ago, a young mother was making her way on foot across the hill of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms. The wintry winds were stronger than she anticipated and her journey took much longer than planned. Eventually, she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard.

The woman never reached her destination. When the blizzard had subsided, those expecting her arrival went in search of her. After hours of searching, they finally found her body underneath a mound of snow.

As they shoveled the snow away from her frozen corpse, they were amazed to see that she had taken off her outer clothing. When they finally lifted her body away from the ground, they discovered the reason why. This brave and self sacrificing young mother had wrapped her own cloak and scarf around her baby and then huddled over her child. When the searchers

unwrapped the child, they found to their great surprise and joy that he was alive and well!

Years later, that child, David Lloyd George, became prime minister of Great Britain and is regarded as one of England's greatest statesmen.

“Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.” - John 15:13

“The Lord Is Our Rock”

(From “Does God Exist” John Claytons publication. Written by Paul Douglas Smith)

When we think of God as our rock we usually think of the defensive strength God provides....like a fortress. However, there is another aspect in which a rock can bring stability in times of turbulence to deliver us to the other side. Dr. Smith gives us an illustration.

Missionaries in Africa, who serve in very remote areas, often have to cross through swift running streams in order to get to the villages where they want to minister. The greatest danger in crossing these streams is getting swept off their feet and plunged into deeper, more rapid waters where they may get hurt or drowned. The local natives taught the missionaries to pick up a heavy stone and carry it along as they crossed the stream. The added weight would give them stability as they waded across the swiftly moving waters.

The world is a lot like these swiftly moving streams in Africa. As we wade through it, we must take care that we are not tripped up by the world's rapid currents and swallowed up by Satan's worldly devices.

Deuteronomy 32:4 shows us that the Lord 'is the Rock'. This is to say that He is our refuge and strength. Even more, when we truly have Him in our hearts, we will have stability and though we may stumble, we will never fall down in the dark and deadly waters of Satan's world. (Psalm 46:1)

“And David said The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer.” 2 Samuel 22:2 KJV

EXTRAORDINARY USES FOR ORDINARY THINGS

From Readers Digest

Cat Litter

- ✚ Make a mud mask. Make a deep cleansing mud mask. Mix two handfuls of fresh cat litter with enough warm water to make a thick paste. Smear the paste over your face, let it set for 20 minutes and rinse clean with water. The clay from cat litter detoxifies your skin by absorbing dirt and oil from the pores. When your friends compliment you on your complexion and ask how you did it, just tell them it's your little secret.
- ✚ Sneaker deodorizer. If your athletic shoes reek, fill a couple of old socks with scented cat litter, tie them shut and place them in the sneakers overnight. Repeat if necessary until the sneakers are stink free.
- ✚ Add traction on ice. Keep a bag of cat litter in the trunk of your car. Use it to add traction when you're stuck in ice or snow.
- ✚ Prevent grease fires. Don't let a grease fire spoil your next barbecue. Pour a layer of cat litter into the bottom of your grill for worry free outdoor cooking.
- ✚ Stop musty odors. Get rid of that musty smell when you open the closet door. Just place a shallow box filled with cat litter in each musty closet or room. Cat litter works great as a deodorant.
- ✚ Preserve flowers. The fragrance and beauty of freshly cut flowers is such a fleeting thing. You can't save the smell, but you can preserve their beauty by drying your flowers on a bed of cat litter in an airtight container for 7-10 days.
- ✚ Remove foul stench. Just because your garbage cans hold garbage doesn't mean they have to smell disgusting. Sprinkle some cat litter into the bottom of garbage cans to keep them smelling fresh. Change the litter after a week or so or when it becomes damp. If you have a baby in the house, use cat litter the same way to freshen diaper pails.

- ✚ Keep tents must free. Keep tents and sleeping bags fresh smelling and free of must when not in use. Pour cat litter into an old sock, tie the end and store inside the bag or tent.
 - ✚ Repel moles. Moles may hate the smell of soiled cat litter even more than you do. Pour some down their tunnels to send them scurrying to find new homes.
 - ✚ Make grease spots disappear. Get rid of ugly grease and oil spots in your driveway or on your garage floor. Simply cover them with cat litter. If the spots are fresh, the litter will soak up most of the oil right away. To remove old stains, pour some paint thinner on the stain before tossing on the cat litter. Wait 12 hours and sweep clean.
 - ✚ Freshen old books. You can rejuvenate old books that smell musty by sealing them overnight in a can with clean cat litter.
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In The Garden

Ants in Your Plants

(excerpted from Gardening how to magazine)

The fate of your garden depends on ants. That might sound like an overstatement, but these insects---which most people think of as pests---play several important roles in your yard's ecosystem.

Ants are movers and shakers. Many ant species are predators of other insects. Without the millions of ants in your garden, more caterpillars, beetles and grasshoppers would be left unchecked to devour your plants.

Ants themselves are prey for larger predators. Northern flickers are woodpeckers that specialize in feeding on ants. A flicker laps up ants by the dozen with each flick of its long tongue. Unlike other woodpeckers, flickers, which are found across North America, regularly feed on the ground, where ants are easiest to find. Horned lizards in desert Southwest also feed on ants...sometimes exclusively. Most backyard birds feed their babies insects, including ants. If your garden lacks a healthy ant population, these other critters will be less likely to visit.

Plans also rely on ants. Ant tunnels channel air, water and organic matter directly to plant roots and loosen the soil, making it easier for more to grow. Ants also disperse the seeds of many plants, including trilliums, violets, Dutchman's breeches, trout lilies and datura. The seeds of such plants have fleshy, nutritious appendages called eliasomes, which lure ants. The ants feed the eliasomes to their larvae and then ditch the seeds in nutrient rich midden heaps outside the colony where the seeds germinate.

Ants generally aren't pests. Only a few ant species become pests. Carpenter ants tunnel through soft wood to create a nest and can cause damage in homes with decaying wood. Tiny, exotic Argentine ants are common home invaders, where they feed on all sorts of food items and have been known to damage electronic equipment. The red imported fire ant creates huge mounds and has an extremely painful bite. Unfortunately we tend to spray first and ask questions later, when in most cases ants are probably providing beneficial services to your garden. Start by identifying the species and determining if it is truly a pest. If poison is your only option, soak bread in a mixture of 3/4 cup water, 1/4 cup sugar and 1 tablespoon borax and put it in a small plastic container with holes in the side. This method is effective and essentially nontoxic to people and other animals.

Ants have a great social skills. Just like humans, ants owe their success to their social nature. Within a colony there's a complex tremendously efficient division of labor. Depending on the species an ant colony could include, foragers, warriors, hunters, nannies, janitors, undertakers, engineers, gardeners, herders, guards, egg laying queens, and even ants that turn their bodies into food storage units for other ants.

Ants communicate via chemical pheromones, which they detect with their antennae. Some species lay pheromone trails to food sources; foragers from their colony follow and strengthen these trails. When crushed, certain species release a pheromone that causes other ants in the area to attack or to flee. Each colony has its own pheromone; some species will attack ants with a different smell.

Ants don't harm peonies, but it's a myth that they help buds open. They do drive away pests that might eat the buds; in return, they feed on the sugary liquid the buds produce.

As you learn more about these fascinating, diminutive insects, you'll come to appreciate the role they play in keeping your garden healthy!!

Fun Facts about Garlic

- ❖ Cooking cools the heat of raw garlic, leaving only the flavor.
- ❖ Common causes for small or no bulbing include high temperatures, excessive water, wrong cultivar for your climate and weed competition
- ❖ Elephant garlic is actually a bulbing leek. It tastes like a cross between mild garlic and onion and has the same growing requirements as true garlic. The 5 inch bulbs store for up to 12 months.
- ❖ Young scapes (the false stems on hardneck garlic varieties) taste good in a salad or stir fry.
- ❖ Don't plant grocery store garlic. It's treated with antisprouting chemicals and might not be adapted to your area.
- ❖ The naming and identification of garlic cultivars can be confusing, as some garlicks go by several different cultivar names.
- ❖ Harvesting and storing garlic, if you grow it in your garden. Stop watering two weeks before harvest, which can range from late May in warm climates to mid August in cooler areas. A standard sign that garlic ready to harvest is when half the lower leaves turn brown. That method isn't foolproof, though, the only sure way to tell is to scrape away soil to see if the bulbs have developed cloves. Harvest too soon and cloves won't be fully formed, too late and bulbs will shatter.
- ❖ Dig (don't pull) bulbs, being careful not to damage the outer skins. Newly dug garlic sun scalds easily, so place bulbs in a dry, shady, well ventilated location. Don't wash them. After three days, tightly braid the foliage of softnecks. Cure bulbs, with foliage intact, for two to three weeks. Once foliage is completely dry, wipe bulbs or peel away an outer husk to clean. Trim tops to 1 inch and roots to ½ inch. Store in mesh bags or braided strings in a dark, cool place (between 32 deg F and room temperature) preferably with 65 to 70 percent humidity. Do not refrigerate.
- ❖ Garlic will keep from three months to a year, depending on the variety, growing conditions and storage conditions. To extend storage, crush and freeze garlic for cooking. As stored bulbs gradually lose moisture, their flavors concentrate and strengthen.

Kitchen Stuff

Some recipes to try....

A yummy **Dr Pepper sauce** for hotdogs! Or whatever you like it on!!

Ingredients:

4 Tbsp (1/2 stick) unsalted butter	1/2 cup cider vinegar
1 large yellow onion, chopped	1/3 cup Worcestershire sauce
4 cloves garlic, chopped	3 Tbsp tomato paste
1 12 oz can Dr Pepper	2 tsp ancho chili powder
1 cup ketchup	1 tsp finely ground white pepper
1/2 cup packed brown sugar	1 tsp kosher salt

Directions:

For sauce, in medium sauce pan cook and stir onion and garlic in hot butter over medium heat about 10 minutes until onions are tender. Add all ingredients. Reduce heat. Simmer, covered, 15 minutes. Cook, uncovered, until sauce begins to thicken, 20 to 30 minutes. Remove from heat. Cool sauce 10 minutes. Puree sauce in pan with immersion blender or transfer to a blender jar cover and blend until smooth. Put on hotdogs in buns!!!

Quick Chocolate Cake

Prep time 5 min Cook time 35 min

Ingredients:

3 cups all purpose flour	2 tsp baking soda
2 cups sugar	2 tsp white vinegar
2 cups cold water	1 tsp salt
2/3 cup vegetable oil	1 tsp vanilla
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder	

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 deg F. In large mixing bowl combine all ingredients. Beat with electric mixer on medium to high speed until well combined. Pour batter in a greased 9x13x2 inch baking pan. Bake 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream

or dust with powdered sugar...or frost with favorite frosting . Makes 12 servings.

Hints For Storing Food

- Store onions in old panty hose to keep them fresh for up to eight months (tie a knot in between each one to keep them separate.
- Chop dry green onions and store them in an empty plastic water bottle. Put the bottle in the freezer and sprinkle out what you need when you're cooking.
- When storing potatoes keep them away from onions (this will make them spoil faster.) Storing them with apples will help keep the potatoes from sprouting.
- Asparagus should be stored in your fridge upright in a glass of water (like cut flowers, cut the asparagus bottoms off first) and covered with a plastic bag.
- Store salad greens in a bowl covered with plastic wrap, and add a paper towel to help absorb moisture. A salad spinner will also help remove excess moisture, (a key culprit in wilting leaves,) from your greens
- Mushrooms should be stored in a paper bag in a cool dry place or in the fridge. Avoid storing mushrooms in plastic as any trapped moisture will cause them to spoil.
- Swirl berries in a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider) to 10 parts water. You won't taste the vinegar but the solution will help keep your berries from getting moldy and soft.
- When storing chipped avocado or guacamole, leave the pit in, spritz it with some lemon juice or olive oil, cover with plastic wrap and put it in the fridge. This will help keep it from turning brown.
- If you spot a rotten apple, remove it right away, as one rotten apple really can spoil the whole bunch.
- Put plastic wrap around the crown of a bunch of bananas to keep them fresh for days longer (and be sure to store them away from other fruits, as they emit a lot of ethylene gas which accelerates ripening.)

- Store tomatoes at room temperature away from sunlight, in a single layer with the stem side up (don't put them in plastic bags, which will cause them to spoil faster.)
- Store delicate herbs like parsley, basil, cilantro and chives upright in a glass of water (like cut flowers) in your fridge. Put a plastic bag over the top and secure it around the glass with a rubber band for optimal freshness.
- Bunch oily herbs like thyme loosely together, secure them with a string around the base and hang them in your kitchen for storage.
- Fill an ice cube tray with olive oil, then add chopped herbs (rosemary, sage, thyme or oregano) to each cube. Pop one out when you're cooking for instant herb infused oil.
- Store fresh ginger root in the freezer. You can grate it frozen (peel and all) when cooking.
- Rub the cut side of a block of cheese with butter to keep it from drying out.
- Cheese should be wrapped in cheese paper or wax paper, not plastic wrap, then put in a plastic baggy.
- Store cheese in the warmest part of your fridge, such as the vegetable or cheese drawer.
- Nuts can be stored in the freezer to keep them fresh longer. Ideally put them in Mason jars that have the air vacuumed out with a Food Saver and attachment.
- Keep milk and other highly perishable items on the middle shelf in your fridge, not in the door where temperatures fluctuate.
- Avoid mixing produce and meats in the same drawer, as cross contamination can lead to food waste.
- Avoid over stocking your fridge, as a crowded fridge will keep air from circulating properly leading to warm spots that can cause spoilage.
- Avoid chopping up your fruits, veggies and meats before storage, as this will make them spoil faster.

- Glass mason jars make a great food storage option and you can seal them with an automatic vacuum sealer like Food Saver for even more freshness.
 - Remove spoiled food from your fridge promptly to keep mold from transferring to fresh food.
 - Get an ethylene gas absorber for your fridge, they're available online and can keep your produce fresh up to three times longer than normal. There are many types of bags that can do this. They are typically called 'green bags'. One example would be Debbie Meyer Green Bags.
 - A gadget called the Herb Savor, which has a well for water and a plastic cover to keep herbs fresh, claims to make herbs last for up to three weeks.
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Car Smart

Ways to save on Gas....get more mileage out of every tank. By Michael Frank from Popular Mechanics via Readers Digest.

- A warm engine is more effective, so string errands together by driving to the farthest destination first, which will get the block heated up, and then working your way home.
- On local roads, keep cool by opening the windows, enjoying the breeze and turning off the gas draining air conditioning. At highway speeds, however, driving with the windows down creates drag. So at 40 mph or faster, roll up the windows and put on the AC.
- Notice to hoarders; you don't need to lug around a case of oil, a bag of sand or that box of antique tools you got at the garage sale, right? So empty the trunk, less weight, better mileage.
- At the pump avoid gas rated E15; the E is for ethanol, which has about 30 percent less energy than gasoline and kills mpg (Ethanol free gas is rare today; you'll probably to settle for E10)
- Avoid traffic pinch points when you can. Driving at speed is more fuel efficient than creeping along in low gear.

- While at the filling station, inflate your tires properly and check them for uneven wear. And steer clear of those stickier, wider performance tires, which increase road friction and can sap mileage per gallon. Instead, opt for eco- focused tires, which reduce rolling resistance.
 - Finally, get a tune up; a smooth running engine is more efficient.
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Craft Items

Fall is going to be upon us before we know it. We soon will have pumpkins available. There are some things that you can do with the smallest ones for great decorations. For instance cut the stems from pumpkins and add sparkly buttons in their place...can use them for decorating whatever you want, just use the appropriate buttons for getting right colors and themes.

Or put stickers on them again using whatever sticker match what you are using them for...like stars, flowers etc. Sequins also work well for this. And take the stem off and cut out a round hole in the top of the pumpkin big enough to fit a votive or tealight candle.

If you wish you can add different things and make cute candle holders...for instance take black pipe cleaners and bend them to look like spider legs and attach (just poke the one end into the pumpkin at the appropriate places.) to the pumpkin at the right places where the spiders legs should be. You can use your own imagination and I am sure come up with various other things to make with the little pumpkins.

Edible Flowers

Edible flower petals can be used to decorate many food items. For instance, cupcakes. Set edible rose petals into the frosting, sprinkle with colored sugar crystals, and pop a gumdrop in the center.

NOTE: be sure to use rose petals that are organically grown or sold as edible flowers—most florist rose are sprayed with toxic pesticides.

Many gourmet food stores, such as Whole Foods Market, sell pesticide free, organic or edible flowers. For mixed edible blossoms (great for salads, too) check the fresh herb section of your grocery store or try a bakery that makes wedding cakes...edible rose petals are a favorite decoration.

Use your imagination for many other ways to use them in your cooking, and special occasion desserts etc. There are a lot more edible blossoms that we realize! You can dream up centerpieces using them on various cakes or other baked items. They are very pretty and good to eat too!!

Along the same line only using flowers from your garden, put water in a shallow dish, set small round flower frogs in it and put your flowers of choice with short stems in each one...use enough frogs to fill the dish...makes a lovely centerpiece. Quick and easy to do too.

Answers To Last Month's Questions

1. Solomon I Kings 11:3
2. Lamech Genesis 4:19
3. Jacob Genesis 29:15-25
4. Gideon Judges 8:30
5. Samuel I Samuel 1:1-2
6. Esau Genesis 26:24, 28:9
7. Saul I Samuel 14:50 2 Samuel 3:7
8. Tamar Genesis 38:6-10
9. the woman at the well John 4:6-19

This Month's Trivia Quiz

More Multiple Marriages.....

1. Who asked Jesus a ridiculous question about a woman who successively married seven brothers?
2. Who had Mahon and Boaz for husbands?
3. What woman, given to Phaltiel by her father Saul, was later reclaimed by David?

4. What king of Judah had 14 wives?
5. What Persian king had wives named Vashti and Esther?
6. What son of Solomon had 18 wives and 60 concubines?
7. Whose wives included Abigail, Maacah, Haggith and Eglah?
8. What patriarch took Keturah as his third wife?
9. What king, much influenced by his dominating wife, also had other wives?
10. What judge of Israel lost his Philistine wife to his friend?

Thoughts On Heaven

I have read several books and articles on Heaven recently and while there were many different thoughts expressed....one theme seemed to run through them all.....if we gave more thought to Heaven...our eternal home....perhaps it would make a difference in how we lived while on earth! There are many unanswered questions about Heaven but God gives us enough information in the Bible so that we can rest assured it is a place we want to be.....eternity will be spent in one of two places ...heaven or hell...and we have information enough on both to make the decision as to which place we want to live forever. A couple of the thoughts in one article, I will quote in part.... they were written by Randy Alcorn in his book entitled Heaven and were in the Focus on the Family magazine Thriving Family. I found them interesting and motivating.

• Heaven is not our default destination. Scripture is clear that what keeps us out of heaven is universal sin. Our sin separates us from a relationship with God and we are therefore not entitled to enter His presence. Unless that problem is resolved, we go to our true default destination ... hell, a place of utter misery and punishment. The reality of hell should break our hearts and take us to the doors of those without Christ. But today it's common to ignore Scripture's clear teachings on hell. Talking about hell isn't fun. There are certainly more enjoyable topics, but if you were giving someone directions on how to go somewhere and you knew that one route led there safely but a second ended at a sharp cliff, would you only tell him about the safe road? No, you would talk about both,

especially if you knew that the road to destruction was often traveled. We mustn't believe it's improper to discuss hell. Indeed, the most loving thing we can do for our families is to clearly explain the road that leads to destruction and the road that leads to life. How great that road to life is. The price for our sin has been paid. Consider the wonder of it. God so desires us not to go to hell that He made the ultimate sacrifice on the Cross so that we could instead live forever with Him in heaven.

- Heaven is a real, physical place. The eternity described throughout the pages of Scripture is not an ethereal realm of disembodied spirits, Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms" John 14:2 A place is by nature physical, just as human beings are by nature physical and spiritual. Jesus chose familiar physical terms, giving us something tangible to anticipate—a home, where we will live with Him. (Perhaps like the world was before Satan successfully tempted Eve) The home God originally intended for us

- Redeemed, Restored, Renewed, Resurrected....back to the original design God had for it all.

- Heaven inspires our faith. Does the thought of heaven fill you with excitement? I believe a biblically energized view of heaven can bring a new spiritual passion to our lives and to our families. When we fix our minds on heaven and see the present in light of eternity, even little choices become significant. After death, we will never have another chance to share Christ with a friend, to give a cup of water to the thirsty, to reach out to the lonely. God desires the redemption of everything...and everyone! Our goal should be to raise heavenly minded kids who see human beings and the earth not simply as they are, but as God intends them to be.

- We can't live perfect lives, nor can we expect our children to. But knowing that our destiny is to live as redeemed, righteous people on a redeemed, righteous earth (the new heaven and new earth, 2 Peter 3:13) with our righteous Redeemer should be a powerful incentive to call upon His strength to live as righteously as we can today.

Praise Him In Song

“God Will Take Care of You”

On a Sunday in 1904, Civilla Martin was in Lestershire, New York, where her husband Walter, was compiling a collection of hymns for the Practical Bible Training School. They were planning to travel to another town that day, for Martin had a preaching assignment. Civilla woke up sick and Martin was about to cancel his plans, when their young child piped up and said: “Oh, Daddy, you don’t have to stay home because of mother ---God will take care of us.” Martin proceeded to the train station and fulfilled his appointment. When he returned, Civilla handed him the words of “God Will Take Care of You,” which she had written in his absence. Going to his little organ, Martin composed the music and it was first published in the songbook he was compiling for the school.

Some years later.....Civilla’s words in this song were instrumental in bringing peace and direction to someone in deep depression.

J.C. Penney, who descended from a long line of Baptist preachers, was well on his way to establishing a successful career when the 1929 Great Depression threw him into crisis. His business deals turned sour and Penney became overwhelmed with anxiety and insomnia. He developed a painful case of Shingles and was hospitalized, but tranquilizers and drugs only made things worse. His mental state deteriorated until, as he later said, “I was broken nervously and physically, filled with despair, unable to see even a ray of hope. I had nothing to live for. I felt I hadn’t a friend left in the world, that even my family turned against me.”

But one morning he heard singing coming from the little hospital chapel. The words of the song said, “Be not dismayed whate’er betide, God will take care of you.”

Entering the chapel, he listened to the song, to the Scripture reading, and to the prayer. “Suddenly—something happened. I can’t explain it. I can only call it a miracle. I felt as if I had been instantly lifted out of the darkness of a dungeon into warm, brilliant sunlight.” All worry left him as he realized more fully than he had ever imagined just how much the Lord Jesus Christ cared for him. From that day J.C. Penney was never plagued with worry, and he later recalled those moments in the chapel as, “the most dramatic and glorious twenty minutes of my life.” He later became one of America’s greatest retail merchants.

“God Will Take Care of You”

words by Civilla D. Martin and music by W. Stillman Martin, 1904

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you.
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.
Thro' days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you,
when dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.

All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.
No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you.
Lean, weary one upon His breast,
God will take care of you.

God will take care of you.
Through every day, o'er all the way.
He will take care of you;
God will take care of you.

Roadside History

(I am interested in History and find the Roadside History books very good when I am traveling. As I go through the towns and places I can get a thumbnail sketch of their history. Here is an excerpt from James McTighe's book Roadside History of Colorado.)

Golden

The city of Golden, west of Milepost 274, was established as a camp in late 1858 by three prospectors---Thomas L Golden, James Saunders, and George Andrew Jackson. Jackson was the man who a few months later would make one of the first big gold strikes in the Rockies. The town itself takes its name from Jackson's confidant, Golden, who was the only other person to know initially of Jackson's strike.

Golden in the late 1860's was also the home of William Austin Hamilton Loveland, the founder of the Colorado Central & Pacific Railroad, an enterprise that never got beyond the continental divide but won its founder memorials in a city and a mountain pass. Loveland's railroad did make it, however, to two important mining camps at Georgetown and Central City.

Lookout Mountain Road

Denver had been dubbed the "Queen City of the Plains," but city fathers from the beginning have sought to emphasize the city's kinship with the nearby mountains. Before WW I a plan was developed for a chain of mountain parks to benefit Denver's citizens. The first link in that chain lay on Lookout Mountain at milepost 272, just west of Golden. The city hired Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., a renowned landscape artist who had designed the spectacular Capitol Mall in Washington D.C., to lay out a road up Lookout Mountain. The result was the breathtaking, twisting, turning and aptly named Lariat Loop Road. Completed in 1914, Lariat Loop Road rose more than one thousand feet in elevation over an 'as the crow flies' distance of about one mile. In the 1970's hang gliders would soar from the summit of Lookout Mountain over gawking motorists on Lariat Loop Road to land on a tiny triangle of land where U. S. 6 merges with Colorado 58. Concern for the safety of both flyers and motorists forced a ban of the sport.

Notable historic features of the road are its rustic style stone guardrails and shelters. At the summit in the same style is the museum marking the grave of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE

(Reading from a book written by Ben Kinchlow, entitled Black Yellow Dogs, I quote the following paragraphs.)

America, as of yet, is not and was never intended to be a secular society – for good reason. Ultimately, a secular society, as demonstrated by countries like China, the now defunct USSR, and some of its former satellites can maintain public order only through coercion. People who support a purely secular position must of necessity support ever increasing government activity, intervention and legislation to manage public behavior. George Washington underscored this in his final farewell address to the nation, an admonition so stirring that Jefferson established it as required reading at the University of Virginia. He said:

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness – these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.

The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice?

And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

At the risk of stepping into a politically incorrect mine field, the fact of the matter is, the founders of the American Republic were obviously and specifically referring to the religion of the Judeo-Christian Bible. The political, religious and personal freedoms (including the right of dissent) enjoyed and unfortunately taken for granted by Western civilization in general and America in particular, is a derivative of the Judeo-Christian worldview and can only exist freely in societies founded upon this world view. As Patrick Henry said, “It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains. A vitiated “weakened or debased” state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom.”

History and an unbiased view of the geopolitical world of today verify this.

A French historian and political scientist, Alexis de Tocqueville visited America in the 1800's and was deeply impressed with the people's commitment to God and country. According to published reports, he said: "I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers—and it was not there...in her fertile fields and boundless forests—and it was not there...in her rich mines and her vast world commerce – and it was not there...in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution...and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.."

The founding Fathers were not perfect, but they knew right from wrong, good from evil, and made the best decisions possible given the harsh realities of the day. They believed the future of America rested upon the character, integrity and continued moral growth of a Bible reading people. Because of their faith, they understood that the continued existence of a free republic depended upon moral virtues exercised from within, by individuals who understand that a society of individuals is held together as a whole, not by externally imposed law, but by internally imposed self government. It is therefore no accident; the most prominent words in one of the most profound documents every made by man, the Constitution of the United States of America, are "We, The People."

August ... those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. Watermelon, ice cream, picnics, swimming etc etc. I have always loved each of the seasons because each brought their special times and memories....and I have some wonderful ones of each of them while growing up. I am so thankful to the Lord for those memories and for His wisdom in His creation. His design for the changing seasons, the beauty of each one, the colors of each one and the different lessons we learn from each one. The experiences that go with them and the memories we make with those experiences!! God is good, all the time!!! His creation is amazing and I for one am in awe of Him and it all. Thank You Heavenly Father.

Enjoy this season and these days He has given you....live in the moment of each day and rejoice for it truly is the day He has made. Thank Him for each day He gives you....it is a gift! (It's called the present!)

Blessings,
Lila

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As I finish this issue, sorry, I know a bit late, (too many irons in the fire to get it done on time), I am praying for someone who will enjoy doing this as much as I have to take on the ministry of writing it up for the website. I have enjoyed doing it for the past 10 years. I have learned a lot from my research for the articles I put in it. I pray it will continue to be a part of the website and an interesting, helpful, outreaching ministry as it was meant to be with new ideas and thoughts from a different source!!!

Thank you for considering this and I will be praying for whoever decides to do it.

Because of Him,
Lila