

RHYME & REASON

What Matters to Me?

What things do I set before my eyes?
Things which are holy, or should be despised?
Who walks beside me throughout the day?
God's children who work hard, or others who play?

To whom do I listen when out in a crowd?
Those who praise God, or the slanderous and proud?
Those who worship The Lord up on high?
Or those who ridicule – blaspheme and deny?

To whom do I turn when things seem to go wrong?
God's Faithful Servants, or the unholy throng?
Do I laugh at bad jokes so dirty they smear?
Or do I find humor that Jesus could hear?

Do I pretend to be like the rest?
So I won't appear different when put to the test?
Do I speak up for Jesus when others condemn?
Or sit by in silence while they make fun of him?

When I stand before God on Judgment Day
Will I be happy at the words He will say?
"Enter in through the gate, you've done all I require,"
Or "Depart from me into everlasting fire?"

Galatians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 7:19

A Broken Promise

She had a plan; it was in place
And, anyone would say,
“Though not my style to take this course
It’ll be an awesome day!”

Her love of ancient times and ways
Secured within her mind
A final resting place of wood,
Not the fancy, newer kind.

And so she asked with earnest heart
A friend, if he could make
A simple casket made of pine
To shroud her at her wake!

“Oh yes, my friend,” he said with glee
“This task I’ll gladly do
But, not with pine; that’s way to plain,
I’ve a better plan for you!”

I must have walnut for this job
Though costly it will be,
When others stand before your pall
They’re going to think of me.

And since you want before that time
A coffee table there
Before your sofa holding things,
You’ll need to use much care.

A sheet of glass upon its top
Will cost a bundle more
But must, without a question here
Be included with this chore.

The thousands that she thought she'd save,
The thousands that he took,
She never thought would then become
Another bait and hook.

The days soon passed, then weeks and months
His promise she inquired
"You need it not today," he spoke
Though that's why he was hired!

"Yes, not today," she then agreed,
"But, what tomorrow then
If I should breathe my last, can you
Complete the job, my friend?"

He laughed, she cried, and 8 long years
Was treated as are fools
His promise she would never know –
He said he lacked the tools.

A man who works all day with wood
Exclaimed, "I had no saw!"
Yet, neither would he borrow or rent
Such – to obey God's law!

Psalms 101:7

A Challenging Job

Persuading all the lost I can
In love, I do my best
But how does one get through to man
Who taunts until you're stressed!

There's Eric, Jimmy, Frey and Dave
Newell, Richard and Rob
Yet, none of them want to behave
As they ridicule my job.

It'd be best for me to walk away
Just pull the plug and quit
I feel more unfruitful every day
While to God they won't submit!

But, then I think, "What will they do
If I don't chide or scold,"
They'll lose their souls – with not a clue
They're outside of God's fold!

The names, of any living or dead, have been changed to protect the guilty. If, however, you find yourself in the category of ignoring what God has said, feel free to insert your own name onto the line of names in place of one of the others.

A Christian's Prayer

Lord God, my father in heaven above
Forgive for the wrongs I have done
Help me to always obey Thy commands
And walk in the paths of Thy son.

Let my light shine 'round about as I go
Give me courage to stand up and speak
May the lost have no fear to ask what I know
Give me wisdom to help teach the weak!

Lord God, my father, I kneel before Thee
Asking that you'll make me whole
When tempted and tried, help me to seek
Someone righteous, to pray for my soul!

Lord God, deliver me out of the hands
Of Satan, who waits at my door
Help me with conviction say, "Get behind me
I'll serve only God, evermore!"

James 5:16 and Matthew 16:23

A Confident Man

I'll seek a man who makes me smile
Ease my pain and laugh a while
A man who sings a happy song
Until the fearful feeling's gone
A man who leads yet doesn't push
A man who guides but doesn't crush
A man who lets me have a say
Though he doesn't agree with me anyway
Who'll love me whether I'm right or wrong
Accepting the woman I know I am
Yes, a man who freely gives
And hinders me not to freely live!

Several years ago I watched a movie where King Arthur was charged with finding the answer to the question, "*What one thing does a woman most desire of a man?*" He was given a year, by a strange knight who had accosted him, to find the answer. If not found, he would be slain at the end of the year. He was fortunate enough in the story to find the answer – *Sovereignty!* I was young and single at the time and didn't understand what that meant, but with time and maturity I have learned exactly what *Sovereignty* means... but even before I knew, I knew the concept, as every woman inherently understands, and I wrote this poem.

A Covenant of Hope

Lord, help me love and accept
Every created being
And appreciate the goodness
Of all mankind
Let me cherish every act
Or deed
That's kindly given
In part or in full
In weakness or in strength
And attempt before I die
To give back
To every man, woman or child
That I meet
The hope
Of tomorrow!

This is a sample of the material contained in
*What Matters To Me: A Collection of Poetry Depicting the
Trials & Blessings of an Ordinary Woman, Always Looking
for Guidance from Above*
by Nancy L. Culver Thomas

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Thank you!

