

# 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!

