

Let's Chat

BY MABEL B. JORDAN
Columnist

TIME TO SHOUT AND SING

The somber days of fall are past. It's time for brighter things. The color and the music that Christmas season brings. The wishes sent across the miles on season, festooned greeting cards. It is time to sing old carols. Time to clear our hearts and minds.

PEACE AND TRANQUILITY

To find peace and tranquility, go through life learning and demonstrating total acceptance by having an open mind and by being a good listener.

YOU ARE YOUNG

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt, as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair. In the central place of your heart, there is a recording chamber. So long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, love and courage, so long you are young.

FAITH

A good crop of faith helps you to make the best decisions in every area of your life. Faith helps you go the extra mile as a witness.

POWER

If we can convince someone with problems that he or she is not powerless to overcome them, or that no attitude is unattainable even though outside help is not readily available, the person's battle is over.

JOY

We can do nothing well without joy and a good conscience is the ground of joy.

LOVE

Love is giving, forgiving and sharing. Love is deep and tremendous. Love is a many splendored thing. Love is the song the world wants to sing.

HAPPINESS

My first wish is to see the whole world in peace, and the inhabitants of it as one band of brothers, striving who should contribute most to the happiness of mankind.

POSITIVE IMAGE

The desire to be appreciated is a deep human need. To be an attractive person, you must start with a long look at yourself. You must not allow fear to destroy your image. Guilt is a damaging emotion. Doubt is the last destroyer of self-image. Hope is the antidote for doubt, and hope is built on faith.

THE LOVE OF WONDER

There is in every heart the love of wonder, the undaunted challenge of events and the joy and the games of life.

PEACE

To find peace and tranquility, go through life learning and demonstrating total acceptance by having an open mind and by being a good listener.

THE RETURN

Instead of allowing yourself to be unhappy, just let your love grow. Seek goodness in others. Love more persons. Love them more impersonally, more faith, courage and vision are always in charge. In the face of a difficult challenge, we must react in faith and certainty.

THE GIFT OF JOY

Joy is another word for love. Joy is the positive emotion that a human being experiences when he is really touched. When you have a tremendous positive feeling, it is joy—a gift to you!

ATTITUDE

A positive attitude is the gateway to creativity.

PAINFUL DUTIES

To apologize when found wrong, to admit errors to admit errors candidly are painful duties.

WITHOUT WORDS

No lecture, no pep talk, no insightful platitudes, no recital of understanding. Just your presence. Just a shared silence to touch and to help. Without words, is all that is asked.

OMISSION

The little acts of kindness, so easily out of mind, those chances to be helpful which everyone may find is one of the sins of omission.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS

People can't change truth, but truth can change people.

Most people don't plan to fail; they fail to plan.

Paul Debated On Slavery Or Political Action

The apostle Paul's letter to Philemon occupies barely a page of the Bible, but it has influenced nearly two millennia of social teaching and political action on slavery.

In an age when a former leader of the Ku Klux Klan is seeking the presidency, appealing to a claimed newfound Christianity to erase his past, a renewed debate has emerged over the Pauline view of slavery found in Philemon.

One scholar, Allen Callahan of Holy Cross College, proposed a radically new argument at a recent meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Kansas City: Philemon isn't about slavery at all, but is an attempt by Paul to reconcile two brothers who are on the outs.

For centuries, the letter has been interpreted as a plea by Paul to Philemon on behalf of a runaway slave. According to the traditional interpretation, Paul sends the runaway slave Onesimus back to Philemon, but encourages the master to take him back no longer as a slave but as a "beloved brother."

Illustrating the chasm between principle and practice, those who have favored slavery throughout the ages see only the act of Paul returning a slave. In U.S. history, Philemon was the primary New Testament text invoked in favor of the Fugitive Slave Act.

Those opposed to slavery have long argued that Paul's appeal to Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother went as far as the apostle could to oppose slavery at a time when it seemed an insurmountable social institution.

Conference On Bill Of Rights Overturns Thinking Of Free Speech, Racist Talk

DENVER, Colo. (AP)—A state-wide conference on the Bill of Rights apparently has changed some teachers' perspective on free speech, racist talk and freedom of religion.

Edna Sutton, who teaches social studies at Montbello High School in northeast Denver, said the first time she saw a school policy barring racist talk in the classroom, she was in favor of it.

The policy "said everything I believe in my heart," she told her 11th-grade class last week during a Bill of Rights discussion.

But, after talking it over with other teachers, Sutton decided a ban on racial slurs might stifle valuable discussion because even wrong opin-

ions must be expressed so they can be dispelled.

"As a teacher, I want every one of you to express what you think. It's important to me," she told her students. "It's my job to help you see the other side."

Sutton and other Colorado teachers put the Bill of Rights under a microscope last week as the nation celebrated the 2090th anniversary of the document.

Classrooms were decorated with posters displaying the text of the Bill of Rights, and students discussed what the document means and what rights it guarantees.

Colorado teachers offered messages for students: that a

was founded on respect for other people's opinions and that drawing a line between rights and irresponsibility opens up a tangle of ambiguity.

"The goal is that they keep thinking about it. That's what Thomas Jefferson was all about," said Mary Kay Buckius, a social studies teacher at Campus Middle School in the Cherry Creek School District.

Campus eighth-graders were asked to render decisions on conflicts drawn from real U.S. Supreme Court cases that pitted freedom of religion against other social goals.

Among examples was the case of the Christian Science couple who allowed their baby to die of an intes-

tinal blockage that could have been cured.

The Cherry Creek middle school students also were asked to decide cases in which the Supreme Court attempted to balance religious freedom with state laws.

One case pitted members of a North Carolina group that believes the Bible requires people to handle poisonous snakes against a state law barring dangerous reptiles.

Some students thought religious freedom should take precedence over danger laws.

But 13-year-old Chayla Olson was more concerned about the irreparable harm that might occur if the snake bit a child.

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Sunday School Lesson

A HYMN TO THE CREATOR

Psalms 8:1-2
In his hymn to the Creator, David was particularly awestruck by two wonders. First, he was impressed by God's glory as reflected in the created universe—the earth and the heavens. Second, he was impressed by God's crowning finite humans with glory and honor.

David began his song by focusing his attention on the Creator. Verse 1 points out the regal dignity, splendor, and grandeur of God's name. By calling God's name "excellent," David expressed that God's very existence is majestic and glorious. In the Old Testament, one's name revealed the true character and being of that person. Thus David's reference to God as "O Lord our Lord" is important.

The phrase "O Lord" is actually a translation of the Hebrew word *Yahweh* (YAH-weh), the personal name for God in the Old Testament (*Yahweh* is often wrongly rendered *Jehovah*). The name conveys the idea of eternal self-existence. *Yahweh* did not come into being at a point in time; He has always existed. He was not born; He will never die. He does not grow old because He is beyond the realm of time.

David often referred to God as "our Lord," a translation of the word *Adonai* (AH-doe-nye). *Adonai* indicates God's absolute sovereignty and rule over His creation. This title pictures God as the supreme authority in the universe.

Verse 2 illustrates God's glory in a more concrete way. David applauded God for evoking the praise of little children—the weakest and frailest of all human beings—to silence the arguments of His enemies. Only God can accomplish such a feat. Hence, God's glory is declared by the highest heavens and the frailest humans.

David was clearly impressed by God's creation. Perhaps he was observing the sky on a clear night, beholding innumerable stars from horizon to horizon. He reflected on the majesty of the Creator and Sustainer of the universe as he viewed the splendor of Creation before his eyes.

Perhaps it was this dazzling display in the heavens that led David to question, "What is man that you are mindful of him?"

PRAY FOR PEACE!

Join us each Wednesday evening at 7:34 p.m. as we honor the Black Madonna, Queen of Peace, and pray for an end to War and God's own Peace for our world.

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A parish in the Roman Catholic tradition small enough to call home
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ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

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Bible Study 7 p.m. Tuesday
Prayer Meeting 8 p.m. Tuesday
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Come Let's Think

BY EVA L. PERRY

LOVE

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, and are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28).

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Timothy 1:7).

"The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." (II Thessalonians 3:5).

"Whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him—If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (I John 2:5-15).

"Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (I John 3:17-18).

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations." (Deuteronomy 7:9).

"If we love one another God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us. We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." (I John 4:12).

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (I John 4:17).

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. And every one that loveth Him that begat loveth Him also that is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments." (I John 5:1-2).

I have found that the Word of God turns on the searchlight for everyone. If we will only read the Bible prayerfully and diligently, we will find out exactly what we need to know about ourselves. God answers prayer! He is glad to lift us and bring us to the fullness of the statute of Christ.

Read your Bible prayerfully and think!