

Worthy Women's Words

Anything Goes? *by Joella Pickup*

There is a new trend in religions of today (but which is actually as old as time itself), in which . . .

people borrow ideas from different traditions, adding them to whatever religion they are used to. But they don't want anything to do with "organized religion" (quoted from Lynn Garrett of *Publishers Weekly*.)

Back in January an article to Hanna Rosin of the *Washington Post* appeared in the *Tampa Tribune* about a man and his wife in Virginia who had begun their own church. They claimed organized religion had made them neurotic and unable to cope with life. They began by reading books on religion and "private spirituality" such as New Age, Buddhism, Jewish and Christian theology. They decided to "pick and choose those principles they agreed with and chuck the rest."

It seemed very strange to me that nowhere in the article was it mentioned about reading the Bible itself. Of course, that could be a reporting error, but I immediately remembered the scripture found in Romans 10:3 which says, "For they

being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness." That scripture discusses the erroneous mindset of the Israelites in relation to the eligibility of the Gentiles for salvation and the Israelites' concept of their own godliness. However, that inspired state-

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ment from God's Word will fit very well in any religious exercise or belief being practiced in our century that does not have the authority of God's Word behind it.

Romans 1:16-22 also came to mind which shows that only through the gospel of Christ can one obtain salvation. The

Tribune article made no mention of the couple's concern for salvation or any consideration of the afterlife, just life here on earth. If the next three quotes from the article had not been so horrendous a concept, I would have laughed aloud: "This should be called the ME-lennium," said Joan Brown Campbell of the National

Council of Churches, "They are building individual comfort zones." From Larry Crabb, psychologist and author: "We've trivialized God. Most of these books assume God is the butler who serves you for one reason, — to make you happy. We've turned Him into Divine Prozac!" A final quote from the article is given: The couple in Virginia often begin their group meetings listening to a tape of author Neale Donald Walsh having one of his "Conversations

With God", (whose part is spoken by the actor, Ed Asner), — "You are in the act of defining yourself," (God's Voice tells Walsh, who plays the confused but persistent questioner.)

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Anything Goes *concluded*

“Every act is a self-definition. All your life they told you that God created you. Well, I tell you this: **YOU CREATED GOD!**”

My blood ran cold when I read that last quote and contemplated God’s final judgment on souls such as these. The Holy Spirit counseled Timothy through Paul with these words: “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather themselves a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will

turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths” (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Yes, this new trend in today’s religious world was alive and well in New Testament days also and indeed extends back to the beginning of time itself. In the Garden of Eden, Satan hoodwinked Adam and Eve into considering a new interpretation of God’s instruction to stay away from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God said they would surely die if they even touched it. Satan said they would not die but be wise as

God. At their eating of the fruit they discovered the difference between Good and Evil and that their separation from God’s favor was in truth, **DEATH**. Putting rationalization before the wisdom of God always causes trouble. The Children of Israel wanted to choose their own god and their own way. We are also warned over and over to listen to the “witnesses” (1 John 1:1-7) and obey Him if we expect to have eternal life (Gal. 6:7-9). “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God” (Rom. 11:22).

God’s Glory in Poem

by Mary Lou Campbell

God Is Mindful

When you’re feeling sad and blue

— God is mindful of you

And you don’t know what to do

— God is mindful of you

When you think you’ll lose your mind

And your friends are so unkind

That’s the time when you will find

— God is mindful of you!

God is with you every day, every step along the way

He will never go away

— God is mindful of you.

Rambling

Sometimes my mind just rambles on

To things that I can’t understand.

How does the moon hang in the sky?

Why doesn’t water run uphill?

Explain the miracle of birth—

And why are some eggs brown?

Explain the axis and the earth—

What keeps it spinning round?

Some things we must accept by faith

And know that faith abounds.