



More
Ponderings
FROM THE
**PASTOR'S
PARTNER**

CHERYL A HILDBOLD



Cover Photography taken by Cheryl A. Hildbold

Copyright © 2022 by The Reverend Chuck Hildbold.

All rights reserved worldwide. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review.

Scriptures noted are taken from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. All rights reserved worldwide.

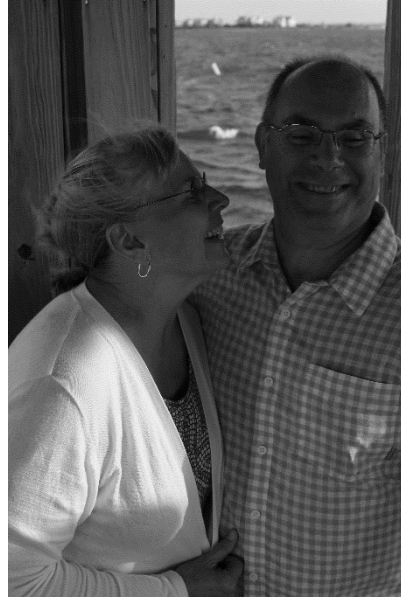
Editing and formatting of this book provided by YCS Global, LLC, owners Steven & MaryJo Young. www.YCSGlobal.com.

ISBN: 978-1-66786-201-1

Happy Anniversary!

Well, June is special to us for another reason: it's the month when we celebrate our anniversary. This year will be our 16th! Let me share with you a few things about the man I married and the father of my children.

First and foremost, Chuck is a man after God's own heart. He loves the kids and me very much but he loves the Lord most...and that's as it should be. I wouldn't have it any other way because by loving God first, Chuck is able to love us far better than he could on his own. He's free to love us with the love of God. Let me illustrate.



Last February, Chuck went to a Promise Keepers gathering for pastors down in Atlanta over Valentine's Day. Now, those of you who know me know that I like to make a big deal out of those small days and I was sad to know that my valentine wouldn't be here with me. When that special day arrived, so did a dozen red roses: a very extravagant gift! As much as I loved and appreciated those roses, what touched me even more were the notes I received each day in the mail. He's written them ahead of time and had someone mail them to me each day. That's thoughtfulness.

Most of you also know that I do most of the cooking for the family (and for the most part, we're better off that way!) but, on occasion, Chuck has been known to make dinner in order to surprise me or just to give me a break. Even though I could probably make it better myself, I recognize this as a true expression of his love for me because it isn't one of his strengths and he doesn't even pretend to like doing it! That's sacrifice.

Both of these are examples of what love is all about: putting someone else's interests before your own. Both of these are examples of how Jesus loves us and wants us to love others. Although these gestures were aimed particularly at me, they spilled over onto the kids as well. By Chuck's example, Charlie is learning how to show love to a wife and Carrie and Caitlin are seeing qualities that they should be looking for in a husband. Granted, they won't need this knowledge for quite a few years but you can't wait until they're ready to walk down the aisle to show them what to look for in a mate. Proverbs 22:6 says to "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Chuck and I feel that this training begins even before the child is born. Praying for your children and setting good, Christ-like examples starts long before they can understand your words.

We also read in the Bible where Jesus said to "Let the little children come..." and Chuck has always tried to make time in his busy schedule to spend time with the kids: from "this little piggy" to piggy-back rides; from "wrestlemania" in the living room to airplane rides into bed; from games of Candy Land to games of run-down in the back yard.

The kids and I have been blessed with a godly man who shows us Christ by the way that he lives his life. Happy Anniversary, Honey! Happy Father's Day, Dad! We love you!



A Little Tinge of Red

I saw something the other day that made me both sad and happy. One of the trees in our yard had just the slightest tinge of red in the leaves. The sad part is, summer is coming to an end. The happy part is, soon the trees will be arrayed in a variety of beautiful fall colors!

I'm sad because I'll eventually have to be putting my sandals away. I'm happy because I'll be able to wear the fun scarf that I crocheted last year to go with my favorite blue hoodie!

I'm sad that because of the two surgeries this summer, combined with an enormous amount of rain, we haven't been able to go biking yet this season. I'm happy because autumn is a beautiful time to go biking and we will hopefully be able to hit the trail several times before it snows!



I'm happy that my life is grounded in my Savior's love and that I'm saved by His grace!

I'm sad because Caleb has already gone back to college. I'm happy because we will see him several times this fall when we go up to watch him in the marching band at the football games!

Life is like that...full of happy/sad moments. As I look at myself in the mirror, I see a much older person than I used to be and I realize that I'm much closer to the end of my life

than I am to the beginning...and that makes me a little sad.
But I'm happy that my life is grounded in my Savior's love
and that I'm saved by His grace...and that I know when the
end of my life comes, I'll be with Him!

Imagine...all this pondering from a little tinge of red in
the leaves!

I Like Math

I like math and one of my favorite Christmas gifts was a magazine called *Math Puzzles and Logic Problems* by DELL. I would love to be able to find a cozy corner and curl up with this magazine for a few hours, my only other needs being a large supply of iced tea and a reliable pencil sharpener.

Unfortunately, the demands of church, family and home don't allow me this indulgence. I have to be satisfied with stolen minutes here and there, which is okay because in the scheme of things, logic problems are not that important. However, when solving logic problems, it's much easier when you can do it on a continuous basis...getting into the rhythm. Once you establish a pattern, you also establish the flow.

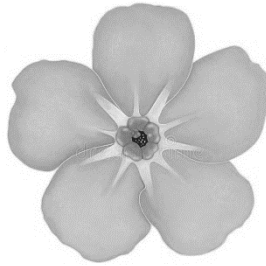
Life is a lot like solving logic problems and, therefore, so is our Christian walk. Our walk with the Lord is much easier when we do it on a continuous basis! Once we establish a pattern, we will also establish the flow.

Now, I won't waste time explaining how to solve a logic problem because remember: "In the scheme of things, logic problems are not that important." However, I will give some suggestions on how to establish a pattern in our Christian walk.

Assuming the presence of faith, one of the most important ingredients is consistency. As Christians, we should want to read the Bible and pray. This should be done consistently on a daily basis. We also should want to worship the Lord and fellowship with other believers.

Hebrews 10:25 says, *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...and all the more as you see The Day approaching.”* Think of the many excuses we hear as to why people miss church. I wonder how many people realize that when The Day approaches, we’ll have to explain all those excuses to our Lord face to face. Stolen minutes of our time may be okay when solving logic problems but not when we’re talking about time spent with our Lord.

Make a promise to spend time with God. Establish a pattern and watch out for the flow!



While this is the end of this book, it is not the end of the story. Share this book and our website with friends and family to keep Cheryl's stories going.

If you enjoyed this collection of Ponderings, please consider donating to help us publish the 3rd installment of Cheryl's writings, "Ponderings – A Devotional Guide".

More information is available at:

www.PonderingsFromThePastorsPartner.com



Thank you and God Bless!