

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

Milo Rediger Writings & Addresses

Milo Rediger

Spring 1976

Let Me Share a Thought Series (12 items)

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Let me share a thought--

LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT---

Romans 13:1

"---unto the higher powers." I was delighted when, in the Third Morris chapel, reference was made to our need for subjection to authority. When I say this, some will hear an "authoritarian" speaking, but that has really never been my attitude or my commitment--that is, in the sense in which the term is often misunderstood. The one who spoke about it in chapel had the right insight--submission to the "higher" powers, the powers that are from God and "ordained" of God.

Those who plan, administer, and try to interpret the Taylor program are representing God as best they know how. There may sometimes be disagreement about interpretation, but there should never be any doubt about the spirit and the intent.

"There is no power but of God." If we act in our own power or on our own authority--of position or other status--we really represent no power at all. But to whatever extent the planning and implementing are God-led and in harmony with Scripture, "whosoever resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God." (Romans 13:2)

It is so urgent that we not let the quality and strength of Taylor erode gradually by not letting "every soul" (student, teacher, and administrator) be subject to the "higher powers." I am sure that, here at Taylor, we know what and who those higher powers really are.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor

Let me share a thought--

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY

Colossians 3:16

The word of Christ refers directly to what Christ taught His disciples--and us--when He shared with them what He claimed were not His own words but the wisdom of the Father who had sent Him. We are to remember those words, and let them enrich our lives. They will, because they are God's wisdom, and His thoughts are high above ours.

The promise is that they will "make you wise." I guess we all desire enrichment for ourselves and wisdom to share with others. We can have both by letting what Christ taught enrich us and make us wise. Neither enrichment nor wisdom come as much by striving and hoping as by letting, an exercise that takes place in the peace and power of His presence.

Both the enrichment and the wisdom are for sharing. ". . . teach them to each other and sing them out in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, . . ." (Living Bible) What an encouragement for us to be in fellowship with other Christians. Read the Word, share the wisdom, experience the enrichment of the body of Christ. We will find that we are enough alike to be attracted to each other, and enough different to be helpful to each other.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancelor

April 30, 1976

Let me share a thought--

A LOT OF "LETS"--FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT

Psalms 119, 130, 148

At this point in the semester, I can hear you saying things like "Let next week come and go real fast," or "Let us not have final examinations," or "Let me have more time to get ready for them."

But let me remind you that, as is our need, so is His strength. In fact, if we have done our best, He will be more than faithful to us.

As we study, let us not forget to pray also. Psalm 119, verses 173 and 175, says "Let thine hand help me, for I have chosen thy precepts." "Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me." God answers our prayers in accordance with our needs.

As we work to the limit of our ability, let us keep our hope and expectation high. Psalm 130, verse 7 says, "Let Israel hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption." His resources are unlimited; His grace "abounds" toward us; He gives us life "more abundant." We can be sure that there is a margin of adequacy between our need and His supply.

As we receive God's love and grace in time of need, let us not forget to praise Him. Psalm 148, verse 13 says "Let them praise the name of the Lord; for His name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven." He is more worthy of our praise than we are worthy of His help! You will never really grow until you learn to praise Him in everything, praise Him for who and what He is--then you will be able to praise Him for what He does for you.

Pray for His help, hope in His mercy, and praise Him for His excellence. You will experience His wonderful presence, peace, and power.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor

Let me share a thought--

LET LOVE BE WITHOUT DISSIMULATION

Romans 12:9

"Don't just pretend that you love others; really love them." (Living Bible)---

"Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other."

(v. 10)

If love is real, the welfare and the happiness of the loved ones will take precedence over our own. It is the reversal of self-centeredness--all the way to selflessness. If we do not allow self to get in the way, our relationship with Jesus Christ will put real love into our relationships with others.

St. Paul says certain attitudinal and behavioral results will be in evidence. If someone mistreats you, you won't curse him, you will pray that God will bless him. When others are happy, we are happy with them. When others are sad, we share their sorrow. We are not quarrelsome, and we do not pay back evil for evil. We do not avenge ourselves; we leave that to God.

If I have sounded like St. Paul, it is because I have been almost quoting what he wrote. I could not say it better than he did. What I am sharing with you today is that I just believe it--namely, that we can so let love motivate us that these behaviors will characterize our living.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor

Let me share a thought--

LET NOT HIM THAT EATETH DESPISE - - -

Romans 14:3

The King James terminology gets this idea into the "let" series. But I want to read the "line of reasoning" from the Living Bible. "You may believe there is no harm in this (eating meat offered to idols), but the faith of others is weaker; they think it is wrong, and will go without any meat at all---. Those who think it is all right---must not look down on those who won't. And if you are one of those who won't, don't find fault with those who do. For God has accepted them to be His children. "

This is pretty much what I want to say about it. Whether it has to do with eating or any other aspect of our behavior, let us not judge quickly and harshly those who differ from us in some of their convictions. Of course, there are "essentials" on which we must agree---"Ye must be born again" is hardly disputable. But there are many behavioral nonessentials on which our opinions may well differ. In a given society, we agree upon what we will observe and on what is not allowable, but not so much on "right and wrong" as on the principle of compatibility.

Perhaps here this motto will suggest our attitude:

In essentials, unity;
In nonessentials, liberty;
In all things, charity.

And we can be in love and fellowship while we are deciding on the essentials and agreeing on the nonessentials.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor

Let me share a thought--

LET NOT YOUR GOOD BE EVIL SPOKEN OF

Romans 14:16

The apostle Paul is telling us that we can either restrict ourselves legalistically beyond requirement, or we can, on the other hand, be too careless of our influence on others. We cannot be so independent as to say it doesn't matter what others think in relation to our actions, nor need we allow our total behavior to be dictated by what others think.

Paul's example here in the context deals with the eating of meat offered to idols. He knew that, since "nothing is unclean of itself," he could eat the meat without harm to himself or his conscience--but it was important not to do so in the presence of his "brother" who would misunderstand and be offended.

Note these verses in the Living Bible: "Don't do anything that will cause criticism against yourself even though you know that what you do is right. For, after all, the important thing for us as Christians is not what we eat and drink but stirring up goodness and peace and joy from the Holy Spirit."

We have not gained anything if our "right" stirs up misunderstanding (evil-speaking of us), contention with anyone, and unhappiness for anyone.

**Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor**

3-5-76

Let me share a thought--

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

John 14:1

Sometimes the "lets" in the Bible are positive and sometimes negative. Here Jesus encouraged His disciples by urging, Don't let your heart (and mind) be troubled. Troubled by what, or by whom? Generally, the troubler is Satan, and generally the trouble is sin.

Jesus is triumphant over the troubler, and Jesus is Savior from sin. Here are our assurances: "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Jesus said, "Believe in God, believe also in me." This believing, this faith, is what enables us to let our hearts not be troubled. He said it in the context of His going back to the Father. Don't be disturbed because or while I am away, Jesus said; I will be preparing a place for you in my Father's house, and I will come again for you, so that you may also be where I am. Pardon the paraphrase, but it expresses so simply why and how we need not be troubled either in this life or about the life to come.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor

Let me share a thought--

LET LOVE GUIDE YOUR LIFE

Most of all let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony. The first words of this verse remind me of I Corinthians 12:31--Paul goes beyond all the other gifts to the "more excellent one," the best of all--love. Here he says to the Colossians, most of all, let love guide your life.

Love is such a great force and such a great experience, it is good to think about it from any angle. However, here the emphasis is on its superiority as a unifying and harmonizing force. The whole church, the body of believers, the true disciples of Jesus, will "stay together in perfect harmony," a completely impossible human achievement. Where there is divisiveness and strife, obviously, love is not guiding people's lives! But love will keep us "together in perfect harmony."

And, again, this is something the Christian can "let" happen. Permit it; don't struggle to create it; just don't oppose and obstruct it. It is God's way for us--it will happen if we let it--even across miles of geography and times of separation. I pray for you--let love guide your life.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor

Dr R
Echo Article

LET ME SHARE A THOUGHT:

"Don't hide your light. Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so they will praise your heavenly Father."

Shining comes by letting. If you enter a dark room, how do you get rid of the darkness? Do you get a broom and sweep it out? No, you touch a switch and let the light illuminate the darkness away.

If the light has been lit, it will shine unless you don't let it. If you hide it, like under a bushel basket, it won't shine. If you force it too much by effort, you will blow it out. If you refuse to share it in the world's darkness, it will "pale down" by lack of contrast. But, if you "let" it, it will shine. The results: others will be illuminated by it, and your heavenly Father will be glorified.

If you let your light shine, you will brighten your corner of the campus-- and of the world.

**Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor**

for Echo

Let me share a thought--

LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE (REIGN) IN YOUR HEART

Colossians 3:15

The peace of heart and mind that we long for comes from Jesus Christ if we do not prevent it, that is, if we let it. If we reject His reign (or rule) we will not experience the peace. But to let His peace control mind and heart, is both our responsibility and our privilege. Letting is to the spiritual life what relaxation is to the physical--and so peace comes through Him.

And if you let the peace of God dwell in your heart, it will keep your "heart and mind" through Jesus Christ. Keep, in this sense, means to safeguard or hold secure. Another translation is, His peace will keep your thoughts (mind) and your affections (heart) quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor

Let me share a thought--

LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK

James 1:4

Patience is often the slowest growing of the Christian virtues--but it does grow. Sometimes I have felt that its growth in me has been imperceptible, but I am encouraged to know that the growth comes by letting. As I wait behind a "slow starter" after a traffic light has turned green, I find it hard to "let patience have her perfect work." But I know that I must, because patience is in the very center of the nature of human living. James says that when your patience "is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete."

Did you realize that patience, the quiet and powerful virtue, is so much at the center of character? And did you realize that patience "has a chance to grow when the way is rough, full of difficulties and temptations? Isn't it comforting to know that, somehow, growth in this important part of our Christian character comes by letting it happen. Just don't hold it back; just don't get in its way.

Milo A. Rediger
Chancellor

LET ME SHARE A THOUGHT

The word "let" in the Bible is like the current words "fast" or "wind." There are several meanings, and the context determines which is meant. Is it wind blowing or a winding road? Is it a fast train or a pillar fast to the foundation?

Let was used to mean "prevent" or hold back, as in Romans 1:13 and II Thessalonians 2:7. But our current use is to permit like in Matthew 5:16; Romans 12:9; John 14:1; James 1:4; Colossians 3:16; Colossians 3:15.

If you are interested, look up these references, and watch for "Let Me Share a Thought" in the next several issues of the Echo. The point is: some things happen in our lives more by letting than by effort.

Milo A. Rediger