



Fishing the springtime tailwaters

By Don Oliver
Special to the Drum



It's springtime. Accessibility to the high country is still very iffy. The rivers at lower elevations have taken on the color of chocolate milk. And the new fly rod that was a Christmas gift has cobwebs growing on it.

What is a dedicated fly-fisherman to do? Well, if you're one of those that has a "poor me" attitude, there a couple of options. You could cast your fly into some of the really deep potholes that are beginning to appear. Or how about filling some youngster's wading pool, stocking it with goldfish, and trying to make a gentle presentation from behind a row of hedges?

If none of those ideas sound exiting, let me tell you what I do: I fly-fish tailwaters. For those of you not familiar with fly-fishing terms, tailwater is water that is released from a lake at the bottom of a dam. The most famous tailwater in this area is the San Juan River, below Navajo Dam.

However, I suggest you try two other tailwaters: the Dolores River below McPhee Reservoir and Williams Creek below Williams Reservoir are two of the places I like to head at this time of year.

Years ago, the Dolores River below McPhee was an incredible fishery. There were big brown trout to be had on dry flies, and almost nobody fished it. There were days when I drove the entire length of the river, 12 miles, and did not see another living soul.

About seven years ago, the cubic-foot release from the dam dropped dramatically and the fishing went to almost zero. The river became so slow and shallow trout could not survive. It seemed a great trout fishery was lost forever.

The most famous tail-water in this area is the San Juan River, below Navajo Dam.

However, a couple of years ago I was told the Dolores was making a comeback. The flows had been increased and trout, especially just below the dam, were alive and well. It didn't take me long to go and find out for myself if the rumors were correct.

They were. Even though it may seem like a long drive — a little over an hour — it can be worth it. The flows coming from the dam are keeping the river at a good depth and temperature. And once

again, the Dolores River below McPhee is a great tailwater.

Williams Creek below Williams Reservoir is about 20 miles north of Pagosa Springs. Being so close to Pagosa Springs, you will see more fly-fishermen than on the Dolores. But don't let that discourage you. I have caught lots of trout as other fishermen looked on.

Williams Creek has not been through the evolution that the Dolores has, so it has stayed a steady fishery through the years. The closer you stay to the dam during the spring run-off, the better the fishing should be. As you wander farther downstream, the water will cloud up, and the flows will begin to increase with other tributaries emptying into the river.

On both rivers, the fish should be hungry after their winter vacation. I like to use a three- or four-weight rod. Being the dry fly fanatic that I am, I'll always start with dries. If there are no bugs in the air or on the water to imitate, I'll use attractors.

A size-16 Royal Wulff is my favorite. If that fly is ignored, I'll try a Beetle before going subsurface. Once I make the decision to go underwater, my favorite fly is a Woolly Bugger. If those don't catch trout in the spring on those two rivers, I'll just sit down and smoke a cigar. By the time the cigar is smoked, the trout are ready to bite. I promise.

There you have it: My cure to a shortage of fishable moving water during the spring. It's worked for me for long time. I hope it works for you.

Who am I?

Exploring man's purpose of existence

By Tim Yaw
Nuuciu Bible Baptist Church

Hello friends! After months of investigation, we have reasonably proven God as being the external source of genuine love who wants to share his love with us and through us to others, thus answering our original question of how humans can live peacefully with each other.

In proving this sacrificial love, we first had to examine our existence, an investigation that proved we are created beings and our creator is named God. We then saw that the real person is not our bodily flesh; rather, we are living souls comprised of emotions, wills and desires. The body simply manifests these emotions, wills and desires.

Evidence then revealed that when the physical body ceases to exist, the soul continues to live, in a conscious state, to dwell forever in one of two realms of existence. These existences are determined as to whether the soul is reconciled to God or separated from God.

The two existences are called Heaven and Hell. There is no in-between realm. Remember, these realms are forever and once entered, no change can be made!

Through past evidence, we answered the three universal questions of mankind: Who am I? What is my purpose in this existence? Where am I going when my body dies?

We proved previously that our reason for existence is to glorify God, since he is our creator. So then, why does everyone not glorify God? You remember: Our love of ourselves hinders us from putting God or anyone else before us. We called it pride and proved that pride is sin; as matter of fact, pride is the root cause of all sinful acts.

So it appears that the crucial period of our existence centers on the here and now; our purpose. Let's see how God, due to his great love and mercy for us, orchestrates the purpose for our existence in order to bring us into his desired relationship with mankind.

The sin that separates humans

from God, pride, leads to eternal separation from him — Hell. Our continuing investigation revealed that there is only one standard set by God that reconciles humans to him.

That standard is a heartfelt belief that Jesus Christ, the God-man, 100-percent human and 100-percent God, and sinless during his mission on earth, took the sin of the world on himself and died in that sin; thus paying the penalty for us that condemned us to Hell.

We previously examined the standard of belief in Jesus Christ set by God as the only way to reconciliation. Let us now explore God's part and our part in bringing this heartfelt belief of Jesus' atonement for our sin to fruition.

The key word here is "heartfelt," which has the meaning of genuineness. A heartfelt belief goes a step further than simply believing in something or someone. This step beyond enters into having faith in something or someone, which adds reliance and trust to belief. So belief and faith are not the same thing.

Webster's dictionary defines belief as "An opinion, expectation or judgment." Belief is an internal, or self-formed, opinion in expectation of self-satisfaction, and is based on pride. In other words, self-satisfaction determines what a person believes or does not believe.

Faith, on the other hand, is defined as an unquestioning belief that does not require physical proof or evidence. Thus, faith must come from an external source outside a person, eliminating the self-satisfying desire.

When one is not seeking selfish gain for himself, his mind is open to reason and logic. This is exactly what we have done through our reasonable examination of God. We have seen him clearly by using reason and logic!

To understand the difference between belief and faith, let's look at these verses from God's word, the Holy Bible: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no

one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

What God is saying here is that we have been saved through his grace because of his love, and that God has given the believer the faith to have the heartfelt belief needed for reconciliation. This faith comes from God, which is not the simple opinion, expectation or judgment of belief as we defined above.

God, through his Holy Spirit, acts on people's souls by pointing out their shortcomings and comparing them to the purity and holiness of God. This is when a person sees himself as unrighteous in the eyes of God and believes that a change must be made.

When this belief of the need to change is confessed to God, he accepts the confession and empowers the person with the faith to go further. This faith is matured through the gaining of knowledge and understanding of God.

God orchestrates the growth of faith when he knows the belief and desire to change is heartfelt in the person. In other words, the initial information given by the Holy Spirit brings one to the belief that there is a standard to be met, and as the person moves in God's direction, he or she is allotted faith because God has given spiritual evidence and proof of his existence by revealing his love to the person.

Now you see how the gift of salvation, or reconciliation with God, is administered through God-given faith! It is not of us or of our own effort. If it were possible to reconcile sin with God through our good works and actions, then Jesus would not have needed to die in our place.

God could have just wiped his hands clean of his human race, but because of his great sacrificial love for us, he manifested himself in human form to pay our debt for us. On top of that, this act is a gift from God: a gift that is unmerited and unearned.

Listen, brothers and sisters: This gift from God is free for the asking. If you are sincerely willing, God will give you the faith to believe in him! Do not take only my words; ask God to prove it to you by seeking out this truth through prayer.

StarWheels

Horoscopes by "The Starlady"

ARIES (March 21–April 20)

BIRTHDAY WISHES ARIES! The SUN shines brightly in your sign this month warming you with confidence, and firing up your ambitions. As an added benefit your new Solar Year begins on a high note with generous JUPITER expanding the money section of your chart. Be resourceful RAMS ... sell items you no longer want, and smile all the way to the bank. This is the month to be noticed. Make use of that famous ARIES expertise. It's a great time to showcase your creative talents, and leadership abilities.

TAURUS (April 21–May 21)

Spring cleaning might take on a whole new meaning for you this month. More than likely many TAURUS folks will be clearing away the remnants of an old cycle before embarking on a fresher course later this month. Much like cleaning out a closet, you could find yourself finally letting go of old ideas, and fixed opinions. Be especially cooperative on the 15th when the SUN and SATURN may coerce you into taking a challenging viewpoint with co-workers.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21)

Lovely VENUS enters your sign on the 3rd ... just in time for a much needed breath of fresh air. No doubt there will be a new spring in your step, along with a compelling desire to look your best. But it's your legendary charm that will once again be attracting the opposite sex. Your youthful personality and gift of gab generally opens doors for you GEMINI. Meetings with others could bring positive results.

CANCER (June 22–July 22)

Good News MOON KIDS! You have a chance to be at the top of your game this month. With the SUN and URANUS high in your chart, recognition and rewards may be forthcoming. Put some effort into your endeavors and fix your sights on future goals. The NEW MOON on the 21st awakens hopes and dreams. As an added benefit MERCURY arises from its slumber on the 4th, just in time to mentally guide you closer to your objectives. Listen to your intuition. Don't let your shy reputation keep you from achieving your intentions. Be daring MOON KIDS!

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22)

A HOT combination, namely the SUN in fiery ARIES ignites a yearning to broaden your horizons. Before you hop in the car, or board a plane in search of adventure, see that current projects are completed. MERCURY the travel planet begins its forward movement on the 4th encouraging expansive ideas. The friendly FULL MOON on the 6th illuminates interesting travel destinations, but SATURN'S influence in the same section of your chart requires responsibility in your daily affairs. Take extra time to plan Lions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 23)

In the grand scheme of things, APRIL'S forecast may not be as accommodating as you would like. Best to be as diligent and thorough as you can with tax matters. Known for your reliability, your responsible actions may be rewarded with a nice refund, or some other type of wind-fall. If it's applicable, joint finances could use a little tweaking. Be resourceful with spending VIRGO. The bottom line is clear ... MARS in your sign awakens on the 13th and gives you a green light to move forward with personal plans. Rely on your no-nonsense talents to steer you in a favorable direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 24–Oct. 23)

Peaceful coexistence with a partner is key for the month of APRIL. Communication and understanding will help. It's important to be especially objective on the 15th when SATURN (currently in your sign) steps into a repressive stance opposite the SUN. Not to worry LIBRA, it moves away quickly. Try to avoid petty differences with a loved one. VENUS your ruling planet shines brightly in the sky and tempts your sense of adventure and travel.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 22)

APRIL'S planetary action puts the emphasis on work and employment. Perseverance is your best ally, just forge ahead SCORPIO and do what needs to be done. The SUN and URANUS have your back and will do wonders for your confidence. Try to revise negative health habits, and turn destructive habits into positive ones. A powerful NEW MOON in your opposite sign of TAURUS transfers your attention to partnership matters. Watch out single Scorpions ... this could mean the beginning of a romance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23–Dec. 21)

Relax Saggies ... APRIL'S planetary pattern indicates that it will be a favorable month to participate in more playful pursuits. A love of freedom is usually at the base of whatever you do, and this month social affairs, leisure interests, and creativity, are all on your, "do what you want list". Time spent with loved ones is always time well spent. Explore your spiritual beliefs on the 1st and the 8th, and involve the family. Just be sure to set aside time for some serious EASTER EGG hunts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 20)

PLUTO the power planet slams on the brakes when it turns retrograde on the 10th. Because PLUTO is currently in your sign it may help you to relax a little and slow your daily pace. Domestic matters could turn your attention to family concerns. The good news is that MERCURY comes out of hibernation on the 4th and impels you to move in a brighter direction. A gentle approach is best when dealing with parents and elders this month. Neglected household chores can now be completed with ease.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21–Feb. 19)

Activities with relatives and siblings pick up as the SUN, followed later by MERCURY on the 16th, enter the communication area of your chart. Easter family gatherings are likely to be filled with love, laughter, and Jelly Beans too! Furthermore visiting relatives from out of town will be adding to the festivities. But that's not all folks ... fun-loving VENUS in the playful sign of GEMINI brings out the kid in you. Go and play AQUARIANS, it's written in the STARS!

PISCES (Feb. 20–March 20)

MERCURY'S backward dance in your sign may have prevented you from taking action to improve your finances. It's OK Little Fishes, MERCURY moves forward on the 4th and rouses your desire for advancement. A light hearted energy comes rolling in on the 16th. Gone are the lethargic days of the past month as they are replaced by the high-powered ambition of ARIES. Have faith in yourself PISCES. There's no guaranteed formula for success. But you DO need to take some type of action!

Environmental Programs cleans the air • from page 1



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Chris Herman puts the finishing touches on a state-of-the-art ventilation system that will pull radon gas from the lower levels of the Cuthair home in Oxford. The fans are controlled from a sensor that is located in the building's interior wall. The system has a relatively low visual impact, venting any toxic fumes outside and above the roofline.

whether it's a hood for a range or a bathroom fan left on for a while.

As the temperature begins to rise, along with your windows, radon-testing season comes to a close. The Environmental Programs Division will continue to perform tests for the membership upon request, but the quality of the data drops significantly. If a building is not being occupied and the doors and windows remain closed, it can be tested any time of year.

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Display/Classified Ads & jobs, Stories & news, announcements, greetings, wishes & birthdays.

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