



Morning Glory

“The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh” — James 5:8

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • September 2010

Lutherans and Conversion

By Dr. Craig Jennings

*(Editor’s Note: This very Biblical and Lutheran article was written with the Church of the Lutheran Brethren in mind; BUT is vitally important for all Lutherans and others as well. Don’t *gamble* with your eternal soul!)*

Lutherans and conversion: do those two words really belong together? Forty-five years ago a Lutheran pastor by the name of Jacob Andreasen wrote a book titled, *Lutherans and Conversion* in which he argued that conversion is “one of the very important doctrines of the Christian Faith” (p.8). He lamented the fact that there are those in Lutheran circles “who leave the impression that... conversion is only for non-Lutherans and for heathen” (p.6). **“The essential elements in conversion are repentance and faith which are produced by the Holy Spirit through the Word.”**

What is conversion?

Well, what is conversion? Andreasen defines the term this way: It is “that gracious operation of the Holy Spirit in the strength of which the sinner turns in repentance from his sin and in faith to Christ.”

He goes on to say, “the essential elements in conversion Are *repentance* and *faith* which are produced by the Holy Spirit through the Word” (pp.12, 13). His definition squares with our Lutheran confessions. Indeed, the *Formula of Concord* puts it this way: “For conversion is that kind of change through the Holy Spirit’s activity in the intellect, will, and heart of man whereby man through such working of the Holy Spirit is able to accept the offered grace: (11.83).

It is certainly fair to say that over the years the Church of the Lutheran Brethren has been marked by an emphasis on conversion. One hundred years later we all agree that such an emphasis is vital to who we are as a synod. We all agree that evangelism must be a top priority for our congregations – that is, we all agree that we are called to proclaim the good news of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We all agree that we must call people to turn from sin and personally receive the gift of salvation. We all agree that the unchurched, the pagan, and the godless need to be converted. But do we all agree that conversion preaching must be directed to the baptized churchgoers (both children and adults) who enter our sanctuaries week after week?

The center of preaching

I believe that the preaching of conversion -repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ -is vital in the context of our Lutheran Brethren congregation because the preaching of conversion is at the heart and center of all biblical preaching. There are two passages, which make that fact abundantly clear.

The first passage records the opening words of Jesus as he began his public preaching - words which sounded the keynote of His entire ministry: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; *repent and believe in the gospel*” (Mark 1:15 NASB, italics added).

The second passage is Paul’s farewell address to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20). In summarizing his preaching the great apostle declares that “I did not shrink from de-

Morning Glory

Volume XCII – Number 8
September 2010

MORNING GLORY (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, February, March, May, June, July, August, September, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Haga Publishing, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856. Periodicals postage paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56537.
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Morning Glory, c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland
508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529
email: haugerep@cableone.net

Send Announcements, Contributions, and Subscription Renewals to:
Barbara Stueland, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529

Internet Web Site: hauginnermission.com.

PUBLICATION OFFICE:
HAGA PUBLISHING, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Kevin GundersonDexter, MN
Vice President: Clifford Nelson.....Cannon Falls, MN
Secretary: Jim HagaShoreview, MN
Treasurer: Paul Peterson.....Kenyon, MN
Charles Hinderaker.....Austin, MN
Duane NessaGarden City, IA
Matt PetersonKenyon, MN
Rodney Stueland.....Dilworth, MN
Vacancy

CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is registered with the Department of Internal Revenue as a non-profit religious organization. Contributions for all phases of the Hauge Federation are deductible for income tax purposes.

Table of Contents

Lutherans and Conversion	1-3
Up Side Down • Repent and Turn.....	3
Editorial	4
Jesus said What? • He Wept • Calling Sinners to Repentance	5
From Our Fellowship Circle • Sugar Coated	6
Dear Friends in Christ • Creation: Does There Yet Remain A Question?.....	7
The Culture of Death • Do Your Duty	8
What Should I Wear?	9
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable.....	10-11
His Name • In 1992.....	12
Is Creation Written in Figurative Language? • Work Out Your Salvation.....	13
Forgiven.....	14-15
Fall Conference • Mailing Update	16

claring to you *anything that was profitable* (v.20, italics added)... I went about *preaching the kingdom* (v.25), italics added)... I did not shrink from declaring to you *the whole purpose of God*" (v.21), italics added).

And so the sum and substance of all New Testament preaching is repentance and faith – repentance created by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the law and faith engendered in the heart through the preaching of the gospel. It is the preaching of conversion. **Conversion is “one of the very important doctrines of the Christian Faith.”**

Active

Now, of course, we all believe that conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word. But having understood that to be so, we must not erroneously conclude that conversion is something passive. In fact, the Bible makes it plain that conversion (repentance and faith) is active.

According to the Bible, repentance is a deep sorrow for sin. It is a change of mind. It is a turning from sin. It is a forsaking of that which is evil (See Isaiah 55:7). “To repent is with heartfelt contrition and sorrow to acknowledge our sins, honestly confess them before God and earnestly seek His grace in Christ” (Explanation of Luther’s Small Catechism, Faith and Fellowship Press, 1959, question 183).

According to the Bible, faith, too, is something active. (The apostle John, for example, defines faith as “receiving” Christ.) Our church has, in fact, taught that faith involves three basic elements:

- Knowledge. I must know something of the truths concerning salvation.
- Assent. I must agree that what I know is true for me personally.
- Trust. I must accept the truth and make it my own.

Over the years the Church of the Lutheran Brethren has been marked by an emphasis on conversion.

All need it

Therefore, based upon such teaching of Scripture, our Lutheran Brethren church has clearly asserted that *all* people, even those baptized into Christ as infants, need to enter a conscious experience of repentance and faith - in other words, they need to be converted. As Lutheran theologian Iver Olson points out in his book *Baptism and Spiritual Life*, “There is a tendency on the part of some Lutherans to insist that a child who has been baptized, and who has remained in the baptismal covenant with God, needs no conversion later in life. Conversion is only for those who have fallen away from grace” (p. 82). Finnish Lutheran theologian Uurus Saarnivaara speaks with great concern along the same lines. In his book *Scriptural Baptism*, he writes the following, “Those who have practiced infant baptism, although their doctrine of baptism has been more Scriptural, have often neglected evangelism and even led people to assume that they are true Christians and saved just because they have been baptized, although they have no living faith and knowledge of Christ, and do not follow Him, which of course is a horrible deception and fatal error.” The meaning of baptism, Saarnivaara writes, “is that the baptized person should consciously repent, experience salvation in Christ, believe in Him as his personal Savior, and give his heart and life to Him” (p.56).

And how does that conversion come about? The answer is simple: from the moment of baptism onward, the Holy Spirit is at work in a person’s life to awaken him in a conscious way to the issues of sin and grace. He is at work inviting and enabling him to personally respond to God’s grace in Christ (Lutheran Brethren Statement of Faith, article 7). *How* and *when* that awakening takes place in the life will be unique for each person, but such an awakening is necessary. And when that awakening is complete, “it necessitates a *choice*.” Indeed, “conversion is impossible except by a conscious and free choice” (Ole Hallesby, *Infant Baptism and Adult Conversion*, Augsburg Publishing House, pp. 83,43).

So what’s the bottom line for us as a church body? If what the scripture teaches is true, godly pastors and elders

will be concerned that all of those under their care have experienced a personal conversion. It will be the heart’s desire of all of us that each little one who has been brought to the grace of God in baptism, experiences a conversion. It will be our passion to make the most of every opportunity to speak to souls about their need for Jesus.

And yes, if we would retain our Biblical heritage, the words *conversion* and *Lutheran* must always be closely bound together.

Taken from *Faith and Fellowship* with permission granted.

Editor’s Note: What a ‘Biblical’ article for us ALL to ‘sit up and take notice’ as eternity is real! “*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*” **Luke 24:47, Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 26:16-18, 20:21 & 20:27-32.**

Up Side Down

Some have turned the biblical model of God upside down. Experience is sought over the revealed will of God. The scriptural model is to seek God, and then you will have experiences. Instead, a group of people has arisen who rush from one alleged “hot spot” to another and differ little from the inhabitants of Mars Hill who “spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing” (Acts 17:21-22).

The Berean Call

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. Acts 5:1

Repent and Turn

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. ‘Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.’”

Ezekiel 18:30.

Editorial

RES

Peace at any Price??

“Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9)

(Please read Ephesians 2:13-18)

There is a lot of misconception regarding this Bible Verse. Some ‘feel’ this means as long as things are ‘running smoothly’ it is of God and so don’t ‘disturb’ at any cost, which leads to *compromise and compromise leads to **confusion!*** You know sometimes silence is not golden, it is just plain yellow!

As I am writing this ‘editorial’ I am thinking of a Christian of years gone by who would say in regards to the home/marriage running smoothly ‘peace at any price’. Well what does ‘Scripture’ say in regards to the same? AS ALWAYS let us use ‘Scripture’ to interpret ‘Scripture’.

Let’s consider the life and ministry of Nehemiah found in the book of Nehemiah. As you are likely aware of: Scripture NEVER contradicts itself! To the one who says it does; that person is *either* Scriptural ignorant OR is yet in an unsaved condition. Hence the “*Gospel*” is hid to them because they are yet spiritually blind. (How much does a Spiritually blind person see?) **II Corinthians 4:1-6, Matthew 15:14, 23:24-26, II Peter 1:9 & Revelation 3:18.** When GOD Speaks ‘we’ need to sit up and heed/pay attention AND LET GOD speak through **His Word, THE BIBLE!** Now notice what HE says in regards to the days we are living in: *But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.*” II Timothy 3:13-14. Did you notice the ‘double deception’ God points out in these ‘two’ verses alone? Now how seriously we take God at His Word depends upon what value you place upon your soul that you are for now and for eternity!

Coming back to the book (please read the book of Nehemiah) and person of Nehemiah the seemingly right, useful opportunities from a human intellect he could have participated in; BUT his priorities as he was led by GOD. You see human reasoning is the greatest hinderance to a living faith. We must take our ‘human reasoning’ captive (submit) in obedience to the Word of God. Martin Luther speaks of the one who does not as like a weather vane and a hireling or fox. A ‘dulled’ conscience in the life of a believer may lead to eternal separation from God. How dare we ‘gamble’ with our ‘eternal soul’ that we are? **Luke 12:35-47. JESUS SAYS: “Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather**

division” Luke 12:51. (Matthew 10:34). *“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”* James 4:4. II Corinthians 6:11-18. Jesus says very clearly in His Word that we are either for Me OR against Me! By NO means am I seeking to encourage **discord** among the brethren; as such ‘discord’ is not only SIN - but **GOD hates!** WE are to strive to keep the ‘unity’ among the brethren, that God brings about to those who are in the house hold of ‘faith’.

Now coming back to Matthew 5:9; what is God saying then? In my words God is saying to you and me who know personally Jesus as our Savior to be spiritual mid-wives. Persons who not only take complete refuge in the finished work of Jesus for our Salvation; but who also are willing to call SIN it’s right name, **sin**, and in LOVE lead *lost souls* to a right relationship with ALMIGHTY GOD through Jesus Christ - Luke 19:10. *What GRACE*, as we *sow* (water & plant) His Incorruptible SEED; HE gives the increase. As in the last ‘parish’ I was privileged to serve, a Christian friend would remind me; “Rod, keep preaching the WORD; as you can’t save them anyway!” **Psalm 126:5-6, Isaiah 55:11, Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 119:89, & 1 Peter 1:22-25.**

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1.

As God is “the God of peace: (Hebrews 13:20) and Christ is “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6), so peacemakers in the Kingdom will be recognized AND also will experience persecution; as you read in verses 10 - 12. **It will be worth in all!** In the Kingdom of God, wealth, popularity, power and authority are not all that important for **Matthew 6:33!** Oh to have a clear, clean conscience AS only one life will soon be past, only what’s done with Christ will last. *“Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever”.* Daniel 12:3.

Don’t let spiritual ‘tolerance’ turn into spiritual ‘treason’!

By the Grace of God we are making No Apologies for the old time Christianity and seeking to practice the same; BECAUSE eternal souls are at stake; yours, mine and everybody else!

Jesus Said WHAT?

Most people think there are many different ways of getting to heaven. To listen to most preachers, you would think that it doesn't really matter what you believe, as long as you're sincere. You've probably heard the expression "All roads lead to heaven." In these politically correct days, people want to be broad-minded and not exclude any religion or religious leader. But what did Jesus say? Jesus claimed to be the only way to heaven. He clearly states in John 14:6, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*"

Notice that Jesus didn't say he was a good way, or a better way, or even the best way. He said I'm the way, and added that you cannot come to God (or heaven) except through Him! Now that would be perceived as pretty narrow in all inclusive days, but that is what the creator of the Universe said. Are you going to believe the broad-minded preacher, or God the Son? Jesus Christ also added, "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.*" (John 3:36)

Again, he intimates that he's the only way to heaven. The apostle Peter was apparently pretty narrow as well. He spoke of Jesus Christ and said, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

The apostle Paul adds, "*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*" (1 Timothy 2:5). Apparently St. Paul didn't think there were many different ways to heaven. The apostle John stated, "*This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life (heaven), and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life:*" (1 John 5:11-12). Apparently St. John didn't feel that all roads led to heaven. There are a number of other Bible verses, but the conclusion is clear. According to Jesus Christ and His Word, He is the only way to heaven...

Selected

“And when he thought thereon, he wept.” — Mark xiv. 72

It has been thought by some, that, as long as Peter lived, the fountain of his tears began to flow whenever he remembered his denying his Lord. It is not unlikely that it was so, for his sin was very great, and grace in him had afterwards a perfect work. This same experience is common to all the redeemed family according to the degree in which the Spirit of God has removed the natural heart of

stone. We, like Peter, *remember our boastful promise:* "Though all men shall forsake Thee, yet will not I." We eat our own words with the bitter herbs of repentance. When we think of what we vowed we would be, and of what we have been, we may weep whole showers of grief.

He thought on his *denying his Lord*, the place in which he did it, the little cause which lead him into such heinous sin, the oaths and blasphemies with which he sought to confirm his falsehood, and the dreadful hardness of heart which drove him to do so again and yet again. Can we, when we are reminded of our sins and their exceeding sinfulness, remain stolid and stubborn? Will we not make our house a Bochim, and cry unto the Lord for renewed assurances of pardoning love? May we never take a dry-eyed look at sin, lest ere long we have a tongue parched in the flames of hell.

Peter also thought upon his *Master's look of love*. The Lord followed up the cock's warning voice with an admonitory look of sorrow, pity, and love. That glance was never out of Peter's mind so long as he lived. It was far more effectual than ten thousand sermons would have been without the Spirit. The penitent apostle would be sure to weep when he recollected the *Saviour's full forgiveness*, which restored him to his former place. To think that we have offended so kind and good a Lord is more than sufficient reason for being constant weepers. Lord, smite our rocky hearts, and make the waters flow.

Taken from *Morning by Morning*
by Charles Spurgeon

* * * * *

I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance *Matt. 9:13*

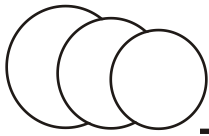
This means that He is come to call *you!* The sole purpose of His coming to earth was to call *sinners*. So dearly did He love them – so earnestly did He long to save them.

The righteous He passed by, He *had to*, for they did not need Him. In reality they were far from righteous; but they thought they were. They felt no need of help from anyone: they were self-satisfied, taken up with their own piety and their worship, and refused to admit that they were (Ed. lost) sinners who needed to be saved by grace.

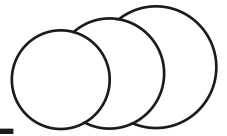
However, the poor, destitute sinner – who had no excuse, who was grieved over and ashamed of his sin – drew near to Jesus. *And he was never turned away.*

Therefore come! He is still the same: *the Savior of sinners.*

Taken from *Rest A While* by Fredrik Wisloff



From Our Fellowship Circle



J. S. **Story City, IA**
Thanks for printing the Truth of the Gospel.

A. & B. S. **Frederic, WI**
We read your *Morning Glory* from cover to end. May our Wonderful Lord bless you. Thank you.

W. H. **Blooming Prairie, MN**
Dear Friends in Christ Jesus, May the Lord bless you and yours. May He encourage you and may His joy and peace guard and keep your soul as you serve the Lord. Romans chapter 8.

P. P. **Naramata, BC, Canada**
The last two issues of the *Morning Glory* the printing of my name on the address label has changed - Please correct that as follows: ...Other wise may God bless you all.

A. & J. L. **Souris, ND**
Please keep up the good work. The *Morning Glory* is the only spiritual food and update on what the Lord is doing and allowing in these last days! Ephesians 6:10-18 & Deuteronomy 31:6.

Editor's Note: How it would be appreciated if you would write a brief letter telling of what the Lord is doing in your heart and life and can be printed in the 'Fellowship Circle' of the *Morning Glory* - Thanks.

Also, as I have shared before the Spiritual Battle is real and Satan knows his time is short so he is working over-time; so please continue to **pray for us and this ministry**. (The "us" includes 'all' who are directly involved in this ministry). Thank you so much.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints - and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" Ephesians 6:18-19.

WHEN you are with 'fellow believers' (homes, church, etc) WHY not spend some minutes '*praying together*' for our beloved USA, as America is at a very crucial/critical place in regards to the *future*?

Sugar Coated!

The more I study the Bible, the more I realize that sin personally must be dealt with before a thrice Holy God who is not only merciful, kind, forgiving, loving and full of GRACE; **but** also fair, just, pure and *Holy!* But it is easy to want to "sugar coat" sin in my life or in the lives of others. You know we all want 'friends' and we all like to be well thought of by other peers.

Being many seem to have no qualms about living in sin or covering up unconfessed sin, could we not remove the 'cross bones' off the poison bottle of sin and then convince ourselves that God just looks the other way? Not so, GOD is not accountable unto 'us'; BUT we need to spend more time at the foot of CALVARY and look to the crucified and Risen ONE! When we look upon sin lightly or make light of sin, we are gradually hardening our hearts! Isn't it marvelous that *if* we truly repent and confess our sins unto HIM and seek HIS forgiveness; He truly forgives and will abundantly pardon!

Thanks be unto GOD for we have a crucified and RISEN SAVIOR! For if He is not alive, WE ARE of all men the most miserable. Yes, then we are yet in our sins and our faith is in vain! Also our preaching is in vain. How tragic it would be if loved ones/friends (and all others) who died physically; but were alive spiritually, if there would be NO hope of ever seeing them again. Then they would have *perished*. If this were true, then Christ is yet dead and there is no hope beyond the grave.

BUT thanks be unto God, HE is alive and coming again! *What a day that will be!* WE want to see **Jesus** first of all, for HE is the way, the truth, and the life! He paid it all!

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 1918 Jewish song writer Irving Berlin wrote “*God Bless America*.” However, it was set-aside until 1938 when Berlin revised and released what would become one of the nation’s most beloved patriotic songs. Kate Smith’s golden voice made “*God Bless America*” an instant favorite across the nation.

Berlin’s inspirational song is a reminder that America’s continued reliance on God is essential, if we are to remain under His blessing and true to the ideals upon which this country was established.

Today, misguided political, social, and religious leaders have taken it upon themselves to move our nation away from our spiritual heritage. **They love what God hates and hate what God loves.** It is difficult to watch these leaders ignore the will of the American people and try to reshape the nation according to their godless philosophies. **The recent federal court ruling that the National Day of Prayer is unconstitutional may signal just how far from truth America has fallen.** Our nation is becoming unrecognizable from the vision of freedom and the heritage of faith handed down by our forefathers. America once shaped her values according to the principles of Scripture, but now progressive leaders demand we all live according to their ungodly beliefs and accept their humanistic views of morality. Consequently, the future of our nation hangs in the balance.

The true proclamation of the Gospel in our nation’s churches has become extremely scarce. The typical sermon seldom mentions **SIN** or presents the clear message of **SALVATION** in Jesus Christ alone. Rare is the sermon that focuses on the evils that are destroying our nation. Rarer still are sermons calling on Christians to stand against them. Instead, the average churchgoer today is plied.

So much of the church has taken on the characteristics of this depraved world, that it is increasingly difficult to distinguish the differences. The blame for America’s present spiritual and moral deterioration must be placed at the doors of Bible-denying clergy and churches for their failure to proclaim **TRUTH**.

If you are part of a Bible believing congregation where the Word of God is honored, rejoice and praise God! If your pastor believes the Bible is true from cover to cover and faithfully proclaims the whole counsel of God, support your congregation and uphold your pastor in prayer. If you are not part of such a congregation, find one now.

Indeed, we have many reasons to rejoice! God is still on the throne! Psalm 2 reminds us – “*Though the kings of the earth and rulers take counsel against the Lord and His*

Anointed...He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them.” Neither men nor nations will be allowed to shake their fists in God’s face with impunity The Lord will be exalted among the nations.

Jesus Christ is the only Hope for our nation and this lost world. The Holy Spirit is calling out His remnant Church from the sin, shame and apostasy that permeates so much of today’s church and politically correct religion. We, the people of God, must take our stand and be counted for the Lord while there is yet time. We can make a difference as we press on with the work of speaking truth to our culture, knowing God will have the last word in the affairs of men and nations. ...

Pastor David R. Barnhart
(Director of “Abiding Word Ministries”)

CREATION: DOES THERE YET REMAIN A QUESTION?

Just now, sitting on the west side porch of my home, I had an opportunity to view a vast and majestic sunset. This beautiful view is unequaled by any effort of man either with his paintbrush or word pictures. Simultaneously noticing the tiniest of ants scrambling hither and yon between my feet, a most revealing thought came to mind. This ant and all its smallest of cellular structures and this panoramic sunset were spoken into existence by the same Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Did I hear you say, from whence did we come?

Was it from a big bang or a pond of scum?

My poor dear fellow, with a brain so numb,

It is from our Creator God that we did come!

By Toby R. Knutson,
 Fargo, ND (Summer, 2010)

Go!

I can’t find a verse of Scripture that commands a lost person to go to church (but) I know a lot of Scripture that commands believers to go into a lost world.

Howard Hendricks

*Editor: Giving/Sending out the
Morning Glory is one way!*

The Culture of Death

As spiritual darkness covers the earth, including America, the light of Jesus Christ must shine forth through the witness of the church both individually and collectively (Phil. 2:14-16). This can be done in a variety of ways: casual conversations, writing letters, preaching sermons, giving testimonies in church or submitting articles for publication. The editorial below is a good example of what I am suggesting. It was written by Maris Bentely and appeared in our local newspaper on January 21, 2009. I was deeply moved when I read it.

Fifty Million Reasons Why America's Greatness Is At Risk

"Thursday, January 22, [2009] marks the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion. Since that day in 1973, 50 million Americans have been eradicated, primarily by those who should have the highest regard for human life: mothers and doctors. Fifty million is a staggering number. For most of us, it is beyond our ability to comprehend. Fifty million dead would make the Vietnam Memorial Wall 80 miles long instead of 500 feet. Fifty million gone – and we will never know what they had to offer.

"I go weekly to the abortion mill in my city to pray and to speak to those who are going in and out of that place. What I see and hear sickens me. I see a teenager getting out of a car to throw up. She looks up at me with tears in her eyes as her mother yells at me and her. I see a man, angry and vulgar, escorting a woman in, her eyes down cast. She never looks nor speaks. I see a young man who comes out to smoke who tells me he is not ready to be a father yet. When I reply that is too late, he already is a father, and I ask, "Why not adoption?" he tells me that he wouldn't want someone else raising his child. I talk to the workers who tell me that this is a better alternative. These babies are unwanted and would likely be abused, become criminals or burdens to society.

"This is the culture of death. When I first heard Pope John Paul II use the term and apply it to our country, I remember feeling surprised – and defensive. What I didn't understand then, I do now. Our affluence, our technology, our secularism and our materialism have brought us to this point. We are wealthy and Powerful. We can have what we want, when we want it, even if we can't afford it. We have kicked out God and traditional morality and embraced "whatever makes you happy" relativism.

"Can't have a baby? We'll make one for you in the laboratory. Don't want the baby you have? We'll get rid of

it at the Planned Parenthood clinic. Want to marry someone of the same sex? We'll change the laws and reinterpret centuries of prohibitions. Don't like your hair line or your gender? We've got the doctors. Worried about aging and death, suffering from Alzheimer's or Parkinson's? Those frozen embryos and aborted fetuses will be put to good use to find a cure. Otherwise, we'll just mercifully put you out of your misery (when your intake exceeds your output).

"This is the culture of death. Roe v. Wade is both a cause and a symptom of what ails us. Our nation will never rise to previous heights of greatness. Instead, our beloved country will continue in a downward spiral into moral depravity and all that accompanies it as long as we continue to destroy what is truly our most precious natural resource: our children."

This timely editorial is a dynamic declaration of truth which exposes in graphic terms the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11-17). It shows that our prophetic task has both positive and negative dimensions, namely, the proclamation of the Gospel of grace and the application of the moral law which condemns sin and its destructive fruits so that men might repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness and find a new life of holiness (Rom. 12: 1,2).

Dear sister, thank you for your article, your courage and your clarity of expression!

Taken from *Rod and Staff* by Rodney Lensch
Spring, 2009

Do Your Duty Mark 16:15

A clergyman was once asked by the Duke of Wellington, "How are you getting on with the propagation of the gospel abroad? Is there any chance of the Hindus becoming Christians?" To which the clergyman replied, "Oh no! I do not see anything doing there, I see no reason to suspect any work of the kind being successful." "Well," said the Duke, "what have you to do with that? What are your marching orders? Are they not 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature'?" (Mark 16:15). Do your duty, sir, and never mind results." Pulpit Helps — Revival Tidings

What Should I Wear?

Proverbs 7:10, Jeremiah 2:32

By Pastor Jeff Farnham

Usually, the question about what to wear to this or that particular occasion is more a matter of style than anything else. The two texts cited above refer to two women in diametrically opposed situations. One is a seductress who has chosen to dress in a way that will promote unholiness and fornication. The other has attired herself beautifully, symbolic of the holiness of marriage.

I. The Spiritual Question: Is My Clothing Biblically Modest?

Modesty is a spiritual issue. The modesty of spiritual people is never questionable. Only when a person is carnal, worldly and unspiritual is there a pushing of the “modesty envelope.” Close fellowship with God always produces modesty, chastity and beauty.

II. The Moral Question: Is My Clothing Distinctly Masculine or Distinctly Feminine?

This is not a treatment of machismo and feminism, but of biblical masculinity and biblical femininity based upon God’s moral code. God divided mankind into male and female. The distinction in their very creation is intentional; therefore, the presentation of that created individual in public and private should maintain those unique qualities of God’s creative purpose.

III. The Attitudinal Question: Is My Clothing a Testimony for or Against Jesus Christ?

We are with Him or against Him, gathering with Him or scattering abroad. The attitude of the harlot works to destroy, while the mindset of the bride seeks to build. Clothing is the most visible part of a believer’s testimony to those who pass by, and it ought to be decidedly in favor of the purity and holiness of the Saviour of man’s soul.

IV. The Functional Question: Is My Clothing Appropriate?

The first question in this vein that should be asked is not about the clothing, but about the activity. Any activity that “demands” a woman to wear masculine clothing or that “requires” a man to wear effeminate clothing is a wrong activity. Men’s and women’s roles and duties may occasionally overlap, but God designed certain things for men only and certain other things for women only. Believers must not be cross-dressers or “cross-functioners.”

V. The Cultural Question: Is My Clothing Godly or Weird?

An ever changing culture where style is in a state of flux demands that what is chic today, we chuck tomorrow. The issue here is whether clothing is godly for Jesus’ sake or weird (Editor: scant, reviewing, immodesty; to be in style, fashionable, conforming – like the world) for the sake (Editor: not) of being different. The adulteress wears weird clothing - stark, ghastly and jarring to both eyes and conscience. She does this to make herself stand out as different for the sake of being different.

Christians ought to be different, but for Jesus’ sake. No believer enhances the cause of Jesus by being purposely weird (Editor: immodest) for weirdness’ sake.

Taken from *Sword of the Lord*

Editor’s Note: IF a conscientious ‘believer’ really knew how ‘immodest attire’ entices the ‘eyes’/thoughts of the opposite sex to lust, they would change their attire! “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:28. SIN is serious! It is not wrong to appear neat, attractive and beautiful, but ... “*Abstain from every form (appearance) of evil*” I Thessalonians 5:22. “...*Nor did they know how to blush* ...” Jeremiah 5:15.

WE also need to keep in mind that IF you know JESUS as your personal Savior; then you are adopted into the family of God and a ‘child’ of the KING and an eternal ‘heir’. Also then you are the temple (dwelling place) of the third person of the Holy Trinity (Holy Spirit) as you have been bought with a price, the very **life blood** of the very SON of GOD (Jesus) and represent HIM here on earth. Being we have been ‘bought’ with the ‘price’ of the perfect Lamb of God, we are not our own; but we belong to HIM. What Amazing Grace! So what we wear, (etc.) indirectly/directly represents Him!

Making no Apologies
for the old time
Christianity!

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

American missionaries gunned down for 'preaching Christianity'

Kathy Gannon - Associated Press Writer - 8/7/2010

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban terrorists have declared they shot and killed a team of missionaries, including six Americans, because they were 'preaching Christianity.'

Ten members of a medical team, including six Americans, were shot and killed by the Islamic terrorists as they were returning from providing eye treatment and other health care in remote villages of northern Afghanistan, a spokesman for the team said Saturday.

Dirk Frans, director of the International Assistance Mission, said one German, one Briton and two Afghans also were a part of the team that made the two-week trip to Nuristan province. They drove to the province, left their vehicles and hiked for hours over mountainous terrain to reach the Parun valley in the province's northwest.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told The Associated Press in Pakistan that they killed the foreigners because they were "spying for the Americans" and "preaching Christianity."

Frans said the International Assistance Mission is registered as a nonprofit Christian organization but it does not proselytize.

"This tragedy negatively impacts our ability to continue serving the Afghan people as IAM has been doing since 1966," according to a statement released by the charity. "We hope it will not stop our work that benefits over a quarter of a million Afghans each year."

The team, made up of doctors, nurses and logistics personnel, was attacked as it was returning to Kabul following a two-week mission in Nuristan, Frans said. They had decided to travel through Badakhshan province to return to the capital because they thought that would be the safest route, Frans said.

Among the dead was team leader Tom Little, an optometrist from Delmar, New York who has been working in Afghanistan for more than 30 years, Frans said.

Little was expelled by the Taliban government in August 2001 after the arrest of eight Christian aid workers — two Americans and six Germans — for allegedly trying to convert Afghans to Christianity. He returned to Afghanistan after the Taliban government was toppled in November 2001 by U.S. -backed forces.

Frans said he lost contact with Little on Wednesday. On Friday, a third Afghan member of the team, who sur-

vived the attack, called to report the killings. A fourth Afghan member of the team was not killed because he took a different route home because he had family in Jalalabad, Frans said.

According to Frans, two members of team worked for International Assistance Mission, two were former IAM workers and four others were affiliated with other organizations, which he did not disclose.

He said five of the Americans were men and one was a woman. The Briton and German also were women.

Gen. Agha Noor Kemtuz, police chief in Badakhshan province, said the victims, who had been shot, were found Friday next to three bullet-riddled four-wheel drive vehicles in Kuran Wa Munjan district.

He said villagers had warned the team that the area was dangerous, but the foreigners said they were doctors and weren't afraid. He said local police said about 10 gunmen robbed them and killed them one by one.

He said the two Afghans were interpreters and were from Bamiyan and Panjshir provinces. A third Afghan man, who had been traveling with the group, survived.

"He told me he was shouting and reciting the holy Quran and saying 'I am Muslim. Don't kill me,'" Kemtuz said.

OneNewsNow.com

Your Tax Dollars at Work???

(World Net Daily is reporting July 2 that) more than a million dollars in U.S. federal funds will be used to examine homosexual male prostitutes in Vietnam.

The National Institutes of Health has awarded \$1.44 million for a "study of drug and sexual risk among young male sex workers (in) Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam."

World Net Daily

Governor of Rhode Island Vetoes Hate Crimes Expansion!

On July 1, Don Cardieri, governor of Rhode Island, vetoed a bill that would have expanded the state definition of a "hate crime" to include "gender identity and gender expression." Governor Cardieri is a strong pro-family advocate.

—SWORD PRESS SERVICE

“Son of Hamas” Granted Asylum in United States

Mosab Hassan Yousef, the eldest son of a prominent Hamas leader on the West Bank and author of a globally circulated book recounting his conversion to Christianity, has been granted asylum in the United States by an immigration judge.

In a 15 -minute hearing June 30, Judge Rico Bartolomei said Yousef will be allowed to remain in the United States after he is fingerprinted and passes a routine background check. An attorney for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security told Bartolomei the government was dropping its objections to Yousef’s request for asylum.

The surprise decision came after a storm of public criticism over Homeland Security’s announced intention to deport Yousef back to his West Bank homeland - making him almost certain to be killed by Hamas, supporters said. His life also would be in danger for leaving Islam to follow Jesus Christ, they noted.

Baptist Press

Wisconsin High Court Upholds Gay Marriage Ban

The Wisconsin Supreme Court on (June 30) upheld a state constitutional amendment that affirms traditional marriage and bans same-sex civil unions.

The court ruled 7-0, stating in the opinion that “the marriage amendment was adopted by the people of Wisconsin using the process prescribed by the constitution and is properly now part of our constitution.”...

The amendment was approved in 2006 by 59 percent of state voters. It states: “Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state.”

University of Wisconsin professor William McConkey filed a lawsuit the following year, arguing that the amendment violated the constitution by addressing more than one subject (marriage and civil unions).

But the high court concluded that the two sentences of the marriage amendment “relate to marriage and tend to effect or carry out the same general purpose of preserving the legal status of marriage in Wisconsin as between only one man and one woman.”

Jim Campbell, litigation counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief last year on behalf of the Wisconsin Family Council, maintained that voters adopted the amendment “for one clear

and simple reason: to protect the institution of marriage.”

...
Voters have stated that they wanted to pass the amendment to prevent “activist judges” from legalizing same-sex marriage and to protect the current definition of marriage. A number of state supreme court decisions overturning the marriage laws of other states were the primary reason for the amendment.

Nathan Black for ChristianPost.com

Study: Abortion More Than Triples Breast Cancer Risk

The Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer notes a study in the journal, *Cancer Epidemiology*, reporting that Sri Lankan women with abortions more than tripled their breast cancer risk (3.42 odds ratio). Abortion was the most significant factor in the study. Researchers found a significantly reduced risk associated with prolonged duration of breast-feeding and a nearly tripled increased risk from exposure to passive smoking. The study entitled “Prolonged breast-feeding reduces risk of breast cancer in Sri Lankan women: A case-control study was led by Malintha De Silva and colleagues from the University of Colombo.

Christian Newswire

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. (Ps. 25:14)

As a mother is deeply concerned about her nursing child, so the Lord has compassion on His children. It is *natural* for a mother to care for her child. The little one is a part of herself. The child’s whole existence is dependent upon the mother. For this reason the mother cannot forget her child.

But even though she should forget, it is utterly *un-thinkable* that God should forget you. Even in the smallest matters you are dependent on Him. If He should forget you, you would perish. But God’s heart is filled with compassion. Even more tenderly than a mother cares for her child, God will care for you all the days of your life. It is God’s eternal “nature” to care for you.

“Yea, they may forget, *yet will I not forget you,*” declares the Lord.

Taken from “Rest A While” by Fredrik Wisloff

His Name

The Old Testament gives us names of God such as: Elohim, Eloha, Tsebhaoth, Elyon, Adonai, Yah, El, Shaddai and JHVH (Yahovah, Yahwe). God's name JHVH we do not know how to pronounce because the vowels are not known. I think you should be aware of the fact that only the High Priest was to pronounce his name. He would quote his name when he went into the Most Holy Place of the temple on the Day of Atonement. Therefore, nobody else knew how to pronounce his name but the High Priest.

There are a few verses in the Old Testament I would like to bring to our attention that speak to us about God's Son. Proverbs 30:4-5. *"Who but God goes up to heaven and comes back down? Who holds the wind in his fists? Who wraps up the oceans in his cloak? Who created the whole wide world? What is his name - and his son's name? Tell me if you know!"* The question is asked; "What is his son's name?" We know that His Son's Name is Jesus. Another interesting verse is found in Psalm 2:12. *"Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of our pursuits - for his anger can flare up in an instant."* Notice how it speaks about God's Royal Son Jesus, telling us to submit to him. If we do not submit to Him we will lose out for eternity.

When it comes to the person of Jesus, He is called by many different names in scripture. I have counted 92 different names. Here are just a few of the names with their references.

1 Cor. 15:45 the last Adam; Rev. 3:14, the Amen; Rev. 1:8, the Alpha and Omega; Heb. 2:10, the author of their salvation; Isaiah 9:6, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace; Acts 3:15, the author of life.

Jesus has a name that is above every other name. There is salvation in no other name but the name of Jesus. The Bible tells us when Jesus died for us on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sins. He arose from the dead. Believers in Christ are therefore called "sons of the resurrection." A great proclamation comes to us in Philippians 2:9-11 *"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

The Old Testament reference says: "Submit to God's Royal Son." If you will not submit willingly, You will do so some day. At least you will submit before the throne of God even though it will be too late for your soul's salvation. I will quote Isaiah 45:23 that tells you what will happen! God says; *"I have sworn by my own name, and I will never go back on my word. Every knee will bow to me and every*

tongue will confess allegiance to my name." You see God is not mocked nor does He tolerate it. If you recall, his commandment in Exodus 20:7 says, *"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."*

His name is Holy, awesome, powerful and eternal. Therefore, I like to quote Psalm 111:9b -10.

"What a Holy, awe-inspiring name He has! Reverence for the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. The rewards of wisdom come to all who obey him." If you obey Him in life, He will reward you. Show reverence to His name! That is the beginning of true wisdom. You have everything to gain and you will never lose in doing so.

Jeremiah 10:6 *Lord, there is no one like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power."*

Greetings from one who has experienced this power.

Rev. Wilmore Gunderson, (Fergus Falls, MN).

Taken from *Revival Tidings*

IN 1992,

I was worshipping with a congregation in northern Nigeria. The Muslims had burned their large church building to the ground. The Christians rebuilt, erecting a building of sheet metal. The next month a man came with a bulldozer and knocked it to the ground. The Christians came back, lined up their pews on the bare ground and continued to sing under the hot sun. They were blessed.

In our flesh we recoil at hatred or rejection. If we as Christians are insulted by the media, ridiculed by a college professor, or fined thousands of dollars by the New Mexico Human Rights Commission, (as Christian photographer Elaine Haguenin was for refusing to photograph a lesbian wedding) we feel as if we are cursed or slapped in the face.

The reason the early church survived and grew under severe persecution in the first few centuries is because it was blessed by the Holy Spirit with a love and passion for the world. This same grace and attitude of forgiveness was their soul's protection. The fact that early Christians were beaten and many times lost their property was only an additional reason to rejoice in faith. We realize that greedy Romans were not converted by greedy Christians. The Christians experienced a New Testament blessing, not one dependant upon emotional or material gratification.

The growing Christian community in Iran is also experiencing a blessing from being hated. Are we willing to be rejected? Are we willing to go outside our gate of comfort for Jesus' sake?" Tom White, (Edited for brevity) JMH

Submitted by James M. Hite

Is The Account of Creation in Genesis Meant to be Taken Literally or Was it Written in Figurative Language?

By Henry Morris

Just as any building is only as strong and safe as its foundation, so the doctrines of the Bible and of Christianity rest on the foundation doctrine of creation and are bound to fall if the foundation is undermined. All biblical doctrines have their foundations laid in the Book of Genesis, and the Book of Genesis itself is founded on the events of its first chapter. Therefore it is extremely important that we understand exactly what is revealed by God in this all-important chapter of the Bible and that we believe it whole-heartedly.

Many critics have maintained that Genesis is mainly an old legend and that it is filled with scientific and historical errors. However, the writers of the New Testament frequently quoted from Genesis and obviously regarded it as historically accurate and as divinely inspired.

If they were wrong about Genesis, they were probably wrong about other things and are thus not really dependable guides at all. Jesus Himself specifically quoted from Genesis 1 and 2 (Matt. 19:4-6), accepting it as historically accurate and divinely authoritative. Thus, even Christ may not really be believed if Genesis 1 and 2 are not true.

It is not surprising that the earlier wide spread rejection of Genesis and its account of creation has been followed by the present-day rejection of the teachings of Christ and His apostles, and especially by the almost universal rejection of the doctrines of sin, salvation, redemption and regeneration. If Christ is not a reliable Teacher, then He can hardly be trusted as Saviour and Lord of one's life!

Some Bible teachers have suggested that the author of Genesis wrote in terms of creation rather than evolutionary development because the primitive Hebrews for whom he was writing could not have comprehended such a sophisticated concept as evolution. He thus supposedly wrote in his figurative language merely as an accommodation to the naïve culture and mentality of the people of that day.

This notion is quite unsound, however. "All of the ancient religions and philosophies were evolutionary systems, regarding matter as eternal and the earth as extremely old and developing into its present form through many ages or cycles. This was true in particular of the ancient Egyptians and Babylonians with whom the Israelites had most frequent contact.

This concept of special, recent creation by an eternal, all-powerful, personal God is unique in the Bible! It was a radically new revelation to a people surrounded by pagan evolutionary speculations. In order to be understood at all, it thus had to be simple, clear and direct, not mystical and vague.

Therefore, the Genesis record of creation was meant by its author to be a sober, straight forward, historical record of the actual events of creation. It is God's revelation to man of that which man could never discover for himself. "*All things were created by him ...and by him all things consist*" (Col. 1:16,17). Since He is our Creator, He is also our Judge. For those who are willing to believe and trust Him, He can also be personal Saviour and Lord.

Taken from "Sword of the Lord"

* * * * *

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling

Phil. 2:12

Holy fear must never disappear from the heart of a Christian. When fear is no longer present, the soul is on its deathbed.

Consider what is at stake: eternity, heaven or hell, salvation or damnation, an almighty and holy God, and a powerful enemy of the soul, Satan. And a puny child of man should not tremble!

Do not worry because you always experience a secret trembling within your heart. This is not a mark of death, but of life. It is this trembling which keeps your assurance of salvation from becoming carnal security.

If, however, this holy fear is at the point of death, then wake up in earnest! It may soon be too late. Heaven is not reached by a path of ease. Fear is always – to keep you awake and to drive you to your God, whom you not only fear, but love.

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Taken from *Rest A While* by Fredrik Wisloff

Editor's Note: Read on: "*for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure*" Philippians 2:13.

FORGIVEN

“May I really know that I am forgiven? How can I know that?” Perhaps you have not known the great joy of being assured that you were forgiven. Perhaps you “hoped so.” Or you longed to be assured. At one time you may have had the assurance of forgiveness but soon that joyous feeling was gone.

Have you come to be truly sorry for your sins? No, not just “feeling sorry.” But so convicted of your sins that you can no longer excuse them. You are willing to admit that you are not what you ought to be. Have you honestly told that to the Lord? “

“IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS”

No, not merely say that you will confess them, but that you go and *do* it. So many are trying to rid themselves of the burden of sin without confession but to no avail. Do you recall when as a child you were naughty? Did you try to cover up your sin to conceal it from mother? No matter how hard you tried to cover it up, to forget it, you found no peace, no quietness of heart until you came and confessed to mother. You just blubbered it all out on her lap. How good it felt to unburden your heart! And above all to hear her say, “Yes, I’ll forgive you.”

God says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1: 9). Notice there is an “if,” a condition attached. It implies that there can be no forgiveness without confession. For unless we are willing to confess, we do not really want forgiveness. We may think we do. But we merely want to escape the consequences of sin, its punishment, without having sin itself exposed and dealt with.

“HE IS FAITHFUL”

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins.” What is meant by being faithful? That He keeps His word, that He will do exactly what He has said. If God then is faithful, and if you have honestly confessed your sins to Him, are you not forgiven? Perhaps you will reply, “I can’t feel it. If I could just feel it I would be happy.” But then you are guided by your feelings and not by God’s Word.

Let us use an illustration. If I ask you to come to my home tomorrow at nine o’clock, and you promised you would come, would I expect you to be there? Would you expect me to be there? Why? Because of what you said and of what I said. You would not need to have any particular feeling about it. You and I would take each other’s word for it. Why can you not take God at His Word the same way? I have done so, countless others have done so,

and He has not failed to keep His promises.

FORGIVENESS FOR CHRIST’S SAKE

But even though you may believe that God is faithful to forgive you when you ask Him, you may not be assured of forgiveness anyway. There may be several reasons. You may say, “I never know if I am sorry enough, if I have begged hard enough, if I have prayed earnestly enough.” If as a child you asked mother to forgive you, would she have said, “No, you aren’t sorry enough. You have to cry some more.” And so you would go and weep very earnestly. Would she yet say, “You have to weep still more”? No, mother would not be that foolish. We should be sorry for our sins. If not, we are not repentant. But the measure of our sorrow will not make God forgive us. Jesus says, “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions *for my own sake*, and I will not remember your sins” (Is. 43:25).

Or you may doubt you are forgiven because you realize that you are “not good enough,” not worthy of forgiveness. Why do you want to be good enough? Are you not then because of your own goodness wanting to merit being forgiven? (The same is true of seeking to be sorry enough to merit forgiveness.) You have learned that “By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8, 9). You have agreed that salvation is “not of works,” and yet, is not trying “to be good enough” just so much “works”? You do not look upon it in that way but it is true nevertheless.

When Christ died on the cross He exclaimed, “It is finished.” But with your desire for added sorrow or added good works, you are declaring that His was not a finished work. You have to add something to it. What an insult to Christ.

Nowhere in the Word does it say that Christ died for those who were “good enough.” But it does say, “While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6). It says Christ came to “save sinners,” those who were “lost.” Are you willing to be counted “ungodly,” a “sinner,” or “lost”? If so, then you can be forgiven, then you can be saved.

What does Jesus mean when He says, “I blot out your transgressions for my own sake”? We have learned that Jesus Christ came to earth in order to suffer and to die, to give His life “a ransom for many.” We must always link our forgiveness with the price that secured it. “We have our redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses” (Eph. 1:7). What Christ did for us through His suffering and death we have learned as a fact. But have we claimed it as having been done on our behalf, so that it was as though we ourselves did it? Only then will we know it by experience.

THE WRITTEN RECEIPT

To use an illustration. If you owed one hundred thousand dollars to a certain firm you would be frightened at the very thought of it. What if a friend, who is rich and who loves you very much, paid your bill and brought you the receipt. When would you know that your bill was paid? Naturally, when you took the receipt. But if you said, "I can't take that receipt. I don't deserve that you do so much for me." Then you would never know the joy of having your bill paid. But if you took the receipt, your first experience would be one of wonderful joy. You would feel happy because you believed the written receipt, the word. The psalmist says, "Make me to *hear* joy and gladness" (Ps. 51:8 ASV). When you hear it, you will soon also experience it. Knowing your bill was paid you would also desire to do something for the one who had paid your bill. Not to repay him the amount, for you could not do that. But you would love to do something for him who did so much for you. This is the motive for a joyful service for Christ. "He died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Cor. 5: 15). If you accept forgiveness for Christ's sake and rest in His finished work you will want to do something very definitely for Him in return.

FORGETTING PAST SINS

In one of our hymns we sing (about our sins):

"I leave them all with Him who blots the record,
And graciously forgives, and then forgets."

My sins forgiven and forgotten! "May I really believe that? Don't I have to worry about them any more?" Christ has said, "I blot out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins" (Is. 43:25). When you have confessed and claimed the blood of Christ as cleansing for your sins they are forgiven. And then God forgets them. Why shouldn't you? Satan does not want you to forget them but to continue to be troubled over them, Whom shall you believe, God or Satan? God has also said, "As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12). How far is the east from the west? You cannot measure it. So far your sins are removed from you when forgiven.

Suppose a child asked mother for forgiveness and heard her say, "I'll forgive you"—what if that child would return in an hour and say, "Mother, I'm still feeling sorry for my sin. Won't you forgive me?" If after another hour, during the next day and the next week, the child did the same, how would the mother like it? Everytime the child comes again to ask for forgiveness it calls mother a liar. Why should you by your unbelief call God a liar? He has said, "If we confess our sins he is faithful." Let us go by His Word and not by our feelings and let us not allow Satan to

cause us to doubt God's Word.

But if you still cannot believe your sins forgiven, so as to forget them, you will need to examine your own heart. Perhaps you have wronged some one so that you will need to ask forgiveness, or you may need to make restitution. Ask the Lord to show you if there is anything in your life that needs to be set aright. Then wait on Him, and if He continues to point out your sin asking you to make amends, do as He directs, and your heart will be set at ease and you will find peace. Then rest in His promise, "I will not remember your sins."

COVERING YOUR SIN

"He who conceals his transgressions shall not prosper" (Prov. 28:13). Trying to conceal your sin is deceiving yourself. If you do that you cannot prosper. God has said so. But He has also said, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Ps. 32:1). When God forgives your sin He forgets it and He covers it. When the blood of Christ is claimed as being shed for you God covers your sin. And the sin that is covered by the blood of Christ God does not see. Claim His promises. Stick to them when you are tempted. Memorize His Word and hold fast to it. Only thus can you be kept assured that your sin is forgiven and covered.

THANK HIM

Have you thanked Him for forgiveness of sin? You say, "How can I when I don't feel they are forgiven?" Did you confess? Then did not He say that He forgave you? Begin to thank Him that according to His Word you are forgiven, not according to your feelings. You will soon rejoice in the assurance that your sins, too, are blotted out and forgiven, and that you have found peace from a guilty conscience. Go to Jesus in all simplicity with

YOUR CONFESSION

"Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner. I have an evil, sinful nature. I confess 'that in me, that is in my flesh, dwells no good thing: I do evil things that I should not. I neglect doing the things that I should. Forgive me all my sins, the sins of my nature, the sins that I do, the sins of omission, and the sins of commission. For Thine own sake blot out my transgressions. I have no merit of my own. I rest alone on Thy mercy. "

"According to Thy Word Thou hast now forgiven me. I claim Thy promises over against all the doubts of my own heart. I claim Thy abundant grace for every need of mine. I thank Thee for unmerited grace. I thank Thee for forgiveness. Help me to hate sin. Make my life a blessing to others, one that shall reflect Thy glory. Amen."

Taken from *The Way of Life* by A.W. Knock

HAUGE LUTHERAN FALL BIBLE CONFERENCE

At St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota
September 24 - 26, 2010 (Pastor Jim Fugleberg, Host
Pastor) — **Note their new address:** 2802 12th. St. S.

Theme: Standing On The Promises - Romans 4:21

Friday Evening – September 24th

6:30 p.m. – Prayer Time

7:00 p.m. Service – Pastor Jim Haga, Shoreview, MN,
followed by Fellowship & Refreshments

Saturday – September 25th

8:30 a.m. – Prayer Time

9:00 a.m. Session – Mr. Marlow Nash, Colfax, ND

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 am. – Coffee & Refreshments

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Session – Pastor Rodney
Stueland (History & present HLIF)

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Noon Break
(Lunch will be served at Church)

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Session – Mr. Joel Zeltinger, Bis-
marck, ND

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Coffee Break

3:00 p.m. - to approx. 4:00 p.m. Session – Testimonies
& Hymns/Gospel Songs

4:30 p.m. – Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation
Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Service – Pastor Jim Haga, Shoreview, MN

Sunday – September 26th

8:45 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

Worship Service at 10 a.m. - Guest Speaker: Pastor
Jim Haga

Also planned is 'special music' for many sessions

**We would love to see you at the conference
and most certainly we want and need
PRAYER SUPPORT.**

WELCOME!

*IF you are led to bring refreshments - that would be ap-
preciated*

Mailing Update

If you or someone you know have moved and are no
longer receiving the *Morning Glory*, please notify us.
We don't always receive the forwarded address, and
some people end up being off the mailing list simply
because they moved and we don't know where they are
now. — **Thank You**

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Hauge Lutheran Innermission
c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center
1026 West Alcott Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Volume XCII • Number 8 • September, 2010
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Update — CAUSE!

You have no doubt noticed that the 'secular' world is not
hesitant to present their 'cause' and not reluctant to ask
for donations (money) for their *cause*. How much
'greater' *cause* we have that know JESUS as our per-
sonal Savior. We are dealing with Eternal souls! We are
presenting the *cause* of Jesus Christ. In the Scriptures
Jesus speaks much about 'money', because 'money'
matters! In Matthew 6:19-20 HE tells us where to lay
up 'treasures'. In Matthew 6:21 Jesus says: "*For where
your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"

By the GRACE of God we of the *Hauge Lutheran
Innermission Federation/Morning Glory* are privileged
to have a little part in the ministry of the Kingdom of
God! What an **Awesome responsibility!** We are seek-
ing to 'occupy' with **Eternity In View!**

Praise the Lord we have experienced an encouraging
'summer'; BUT that is no reason to 'slack up' as the
Devil, the world and our own flesh does not take a 'va-
cation'. (Satan knows his time is short - so he is work-
ing overtime!) July's Income for *Morning Glory* is app.
\$2,475.00

The cost for each issue of the *Morning Glory* is more
than \$2,400.00