



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • April 2016

Sin and the Sense of Sin

IN recent years, not a few have been of the opinion that we have preached people away from Christianity, especially by the way we have preached about sin.

They think that the strong and heart-searching expressions concerning sin and the sense of sin which are used in the Bible and by the church fathers should not be set up as criteria for the average person of today. To do so would only be to make hypocrites and spiritual eccentrics. It is thought that the average person, who has lived an ordinarily good and acceptable life, is not capable of feeling sin to the degree and in the manner that the usual preaching demands that he should feel it.

It is thought that this is especially true of young people. It is nothing short of criminal to force upon them such a sense of sin! There are so many clean and uncontaminated young people! Think of drilling into such young men and women a sense of sin which, by the grace of God, is entirely foreign to them!

They contend that as a result of such preaching many a virtuous youth becomes so confused that he even desires to embark upon a life of open sin, that he, too, may feel his sins, as other people.

Eventually, they say, such preaching becomes repugnant to young people; especially to our best young people, our young men in particular. This, they explain, is the reason why this kind of preaching does not attract our young folk, especially our young men.

These people advise us not to speak so much about sin to these young folk, but rather about the goodness of God and about God's love for them. We should speak to them about the joy and the wealth of happiness that a young person will find in fellowship with Christ and in consecrating

his life and his talents to God and the things of God.

I have given a great deal of serious thought to this question ever since I first came in contact with this way of thinking. Suppose that we, unknowingly and unintentionally, should be keeping someone away from Christ by erroneous preaching!

Undoubtedly a great deal could be said both for and against the aforementioned viewpoint. However, I do not desire to enter upon a discussion of that. I am more inclined to take another course.

I take it for granted that we are all agreed in looking upon Jesus as our only real authority, as the only one who is really qualified to speak as an expert in this matter as well as in all other questions pertaining to our salvation. For this reason I shall inquire into the method which Jesus used when He spoke to men about sin.

We all no doubt remember the account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in the fourth chapter of John. Jesus had sat down by the well, thirsty, tired and hungry, while His disciples had gone into the city to purchase food. A woman came to draw water. At once it seemed as though His weariness, thirst and hunger disappeared. Here was a wayward human soul who needed His help.

Let us now observe how simply and directly Jesus tried to gain access to her soul. He is thirsty and she has water, so He asks her for a drink. And when she asks if He, a Jew, can ask her, a Samaritan woman, for a drink, He replies, *“If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”*

Thus Jesus gently encouraged her to open her heart, but she did not make use of the opportunity. On the contrary, she scoffed at these words of Jesus. When Jesus thus

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had assured Himself that the sinner who stood before Him was by no means a **repentant one**, He suddenly shifts the conversation into an entirely different channel: “Go, call thy husband.” Thereby He thrusts the two-edged sword of His word into her heart’s most vulnerable spot.

However, she still resists, and tries to evade the truth. “I have no husband,” she says. “This hast thou said truly,” Jesus replies. “Thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband.”

This struck home. She left her water pot and went away into the city and said, “Come, see a man who told me all things that ever I did: can this be the Christ?”

Thus Jesus spoke to this poor woman about her sin. And it was precisely this hard saying that resulted in her salvation.

“Well, yes,” perhaps someone will say, “no doubt Jesus had to speak the way He did about sin to this woman who was so degraded and deeply steeped in transgressions.”

Let us then see how Jesus spoke about sin to a good and pious man like Nicodemus. We read about this in the third chapter of John.

To be continued in next issue of the Morning Glory

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The Worldwide Flood

“And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.”

Genesis 9:11

Those Christians who accept the concept of the “geological ages” commonly have to explain away the great deluge by assuming it was not really a global flood. They realize that any flood that would rise until “***all the high gills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered***” and in which “***every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground***” (Genesis 7:19, 23) would undoubtedly eliminate any evidence of the supposed geological ages. Therefore, they have suggested modifying the Bible record to mean an overflow of the Euphrates River or some such phenomenon that would destroy just the peoples of the “known” world at that time.

There are numerous problems with this “local flood” notion, however. Appendix 6 of *The Henry Morris Study Bible*, for instance, lists 100 reasons why the biblical Flood must be understood as worldwide and cataclysmic.

But probably the best argument is that such an argument makes God out to be a liar! God promised Noah that this kind of flood would never be sent on the earth again. There have been innumerable river floods, tsunamis, torrential regional rains, etc., in the more than four millennia since Noah’s day. If God’s promise referred only to some such flood as one of these, then He has not kept His Word!

But God does not lie, and He has kept His promise. There has never been another such Flood. “*He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar*” (1 John 5:10) Theistic evolutionists, progressive creationists, and all others who believe the geological ages instead of God’s Word should, it would seem, seriously rethink their position.

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

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Life In The Blood

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

Leviticus 17:11

This great verse contains a wealth of scientific and spiritual truth. It was not realized until the discovery of the circulation of the blood by the creation scientist William Harvey, in about 1620, that biological “life” really is maintained by the blood, which both brings nourishment to all parts of the body and also carries away its wastes.

Its spiritual truth is even more significant. The blood, when shed on the altar, would serve as an “atonement” (literally “covering”) for the soul of the guilty sinner. In fact, the “life” of the flesh is actually its “soul,” for “life” and “soul” both translate the same Hebrew word (nephesh) in this text. When the blood was offered, it was thus an offering of life itself in substitution for the life of the sinner who deserved to die.

Human sacrifices, of course, were prohibited. No man could die for another man, for his blood would inevitably be contaminated by his own sin. Therefore, the blood of a “clean animal” was required. Animals do not possess the “image of God” (Genesis 1:27), including the ability to reason about right and wrong, and therefore cannot sin. Even such clean blood could only serve as a temporary covering, and it could not really “take away” sin. For a permanent solution to the sin problem, nothing less was required than that of the sinless “Lqmb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). “*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us*” (Hebrews 9:12). Since His life was in His blood, He has “***made peace through the blood of His cross***” (Colossians 1:20).

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

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The Meek

An account was published of one who had heard “Lucky Baldwin’ pray. Lucky – whose real name was Christopher Balfe – had been redeemed from a life of deep sin and therefore recognized that God’s grace was the only thing in him that was worthy. It was reported that he said in his prayer, “O Lord I was nothin’, and I am nothin’ and nothin’ from nothin’ leaves nothin’, so I know Christ in me must be everything!”

Is this your attitude? Then you can expect the reward of the meek!

H. G. Bosch

Careless Words

(Please read James 3:1-12)

The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. V. 5.

My daughter has had a lot of ill health recently, and her husband has been wonderfully caring and supportive. “You have a real treasure there!” I said.

“You didn’t think that when I first knew him,” she said with a grin.

She was quite right. When Icilda and Philip got engaged, I was concerned. They were such different personalities. We have a large and noisy family, and Philip is more reserved. And I had shared my misgivings with my daughter quite bluntly.

I was horrified to realize that the critical things I said so casually 15 years ago had stayed in her memory and could possibly have destroyed a relationship that has proved to be so right and happy. It reminded me how much we need to guard what we say to others. So many of us are quick to point out what we consider to be weaknesses in family, friends, or work colleagues, or to focus on their mistakes rather than their successes. “The tongue is a small part of the body,” says James (3:5), yet the words it shapes can either destroy relationships or bring peace and harmony to a situation in the workplace, the church, or the family.

Perhaps we should make David’s prayer our own as we start each day: “***Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips***” (Ps. 141:3).

Marion Stroud

Father, please curb my careless speech and put a guard on my tongue today and every day.

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Proverbs 25:11 NKJV

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Be Forgiving of Both Yourself and Others

By Dr. Curtis Hutson

In the pattern prayer, the Lord taught us to pray, “*Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*” (Matt. 6:12). Then He said, “***For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:***

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” – Vss. 14, 15.

It is impossible to be like Christ and not be forgiving. Keep in mind that we do not deserve His forgiveness, but He forgives us anyway.

When someone asks for forgiveness, immediately assure him that he is forgiven – and mean it. You will never bring it up again – never. For no reason under any circumstances will you ever mention it to the individual again. It is forgiven. I’m not saying you must forget it – that is not always possible – but never bring it up again.

To have an unforgiving spirit and harbor bitterness hurts only oneself. Hatred is a poison that destroys the vessel in which it is kept.

Then, too, learn to forgive yourself. We all make mistakes (Ed. SINS). The problem is not failing but failing to take advantage of the provision God has made for our failures. First John 1:9 promises, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

Here is the Christian’s way to forgiveness and cleansing. When we confess our sin to Christ, we may know that we’re forgiven and cleansed, because that is exactly what He promises in that Scripture.

Once God has forgiven you, then forgive yourself. Assure yourself that God not only forgave you but also cleansed you and the wrong no longer exists; it is gone. So don’t keep punishing yourself for something that God has forgiven and forgotten.

Isaiah 43:25 says, “***I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.***” Don’t worry about things that God has blotted out and does not remember.

Some go through life miserable because they will not forgive themselves. So be forgiving, not only of others, but also of yourself.

Selected

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

The majestic eagle mates for life. It is known for its swiftness, scent, and keen sight. But here the emphasis is on the exceeding strength of his wings. That strength can be dispensed to all those that wait upon the Lord. How? By the power of God’s Word, through His Spirit, and prayer.

E. MacLelland

Editorial

RES

WHAT A TESTIMONY!

“I WILL love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; ... In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.”

(Psalm 18:1-6)

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THAT YOU TOLD JESUS THAT YOU LOVED HIM, AND ALSO TOLD SOMEONE ELSE???

Notice what David (a child of God) said many, many years ago; when he was delivered from his many enemies, and even king Saul! You know, often the fear of man worketh a snare! Also notice what JESUS says in Matthew 10:26-34!

Please, first note that David is telling that his relationship to our Living God is personal, present tense and possessive. It is much similar to that *favorite* Psalm of many in Psalm 23:1; **“THE LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want”** (lacking nothing).

Absolutely nothing can survive without some *measure* of light! David further states his testimony in verse 28, *“For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.”* By our spiritual nature we are born blind and in rebellion against God.

The very first thing we find of God’s marvelous Creation in His Holy Word is this: *“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’, and there was light”* Genesis 1:3. Then HE tells us to walk in the light while you have the light and anoint thy eyes with eye-salve that we may see! IF we do not let God do this to us, the following is very relevant: *“...And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”* (Matthew 15:15b, Luke 6:39) IF you need further evidence than God’s inspired WORD, notice that JESUS Himself spoke these words! YES, we come into this world spiritually blind as SIN has covered our eyes, and we are also naked; so we desperately NEED to be ‘clothed’ in His righteousness at the foot of Calvary, where the BLOOD of the crucified and risen ONE said, **“It is finished”**.

Martin Luther rightly shares that unless we are willing to deal with our sin, the BIBLE is a closed Book, for as we know, the Bible is given for needy sinners.

There is a distinct difference between witness and fellowship, as we are to witness to the world and fellowship with fellow believers. We are to tell the unsaved sinners (the fact) of their need and the Good-News of the Word of God. Fellowshiping is inner-action, as it is a two-way street.

AS we witness to the world, be sure what you witness is anchored in and with the Word of GOD, for there is really no other sure foundation as JESUS is the Solid Rock.

ONE of the definite *ear-marks* of being in the family of God is this: **“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.”** (1 John 3:14) In other words, we love to be in the midst of born-again believers!

Years ago a Haugen testified that when personal testimonies are no longer a (welcome) part of a Worship Service, such a church is slipping spiritually.

Remember, a Christian’s testimony is given to lift up (or glorify) the Name of JESUS, and it is to be personal, present tense and comes from a saved sinner’s heart and life; whether this person is testifying to one or many!

Now, coming more directly back to our text, notice what David states: First of all, **MY**, that is present tense, possessive and personal.

David is made out of the same ‘dust’ as you and I.

In verse 6 he states: **“In my distress.”** In a person’s distress, some of the most earnest and specific prayer requests are heard in the ear of God before the Throne of GRACE. You see, when the barn is full, *seemingly* a person can live without God or when the purse is bursting with gold!

In this brief personal testimony, David mentions a number of things: **MY strength, rock, fortress, deliverer, God, shield, horn of salvation and stronghold.** Therefore he says, *“In my distress I called upon the*

LORD, And cried out to my God' He heard my voice from His temple (dwelling place) And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.” – v. 6.

Don't forget that we live in a sinful world and we also have a three-fold enemy: The World, Satan and our own Flesh! But for the sinner who knows personally of Ephesians 2:11-19, then, “...**the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.**” 1 Peter 3:12.

In the time of Noah, Lawlessness was rampant and today we do not only have lawlessness rampant; but also horrendous persecution against CHRISTIANS and the Jewish people through Muslim terrorists. (See *II Timothy 3, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, Matthew 5:10, John 8:35-47*)

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought

at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) In a *sense*, a Christian is made twice in the image of God. (See Genesis 2:7)

BEFORE I close this editorial, let me ask you this question: What kind of standard-bearer are you for JESUS – in word, actions and life-style? Remember, you are an *ambassador* of our Triune GOD in a world that would crucify JESUS again, if that were possible! (See II Corinthians 5:17-21, Hebrews 11:25, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Deuteronomy 33:27, Isaiah 59, Hebrews 10:30-39, Mark 4:21-25, Colossians 2:10, Jude 24-25. Please prayerfully read the texts of the immediate references also!)

My hope is built on nothing less than JESUS' BLOOD and RIGHTEOUS... Mark 4:21-25, Hebrews 11:14-16.

LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO

THE BIBLE!

The Bible is not a single book; it is a combination of sixty-six books written; but definitely inspired by the third Person of our Triune GOD, the Holy Spirit. God used many human authors of different walks of life in its composition of sixteen hundred years; but it is the same AUTHOR!

It was written by men on many places of social life, from the herdsman, fisherman and a medical doctor up to the King on His throne. It contains history, biography, poetry, and law.

Very shortly after God's Creation, the “father of lies” came into the Garden of Eden full of pride as the *serpent* of liberty. The scene ends with the *serpent* bound, whose aim is to *deceive* the whole world!

It begins with death and ends with no more death.

It begins with paradise lost and ends with paradise restored. **WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL BOOK!**

Philip Schaff has said, “Viewed merely as a human or literary production the Bible is a marvelous Book and without a rival. It embraces works of forty authors representing the extremes of society from the throne of a king to the boat of a fisherman; it was written during a long period of sixteen centuries – on the banks of the Nile, in the desert of Arabia, in the Land of Promise, in Asia Minor, in classical Greece, and in imperial Rome. It commences with the creation and ends with the final glorification, after describing all the intervening stages in relation to God and the spiritual development of man.

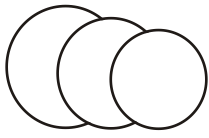
It uses all forms of literary composition. It rises to the highest heights and descends to the lowest depths of humanity. It measures all states and conditions of life – it is acquainted with every grief and every woe; it touches every chord of sympathy. It contains the spiritual biography of every human heart; it is suited to every class of society and can be read with the same interest and profit by the king and the beggar, by the philosopher and the child. It is as universal as the race and reaches beyond the limits of time into the boundless regions of eternity.

Of all the books in the world, the Bible is the only one of which we never tire but which we admire and love more and more in proportion as we use it. Like the diamond, it casts its luster in every direction; like a torch, the more it is shaken the more it shines; like a healing herb, the harder it is pressed the sweeter its fragrance.”

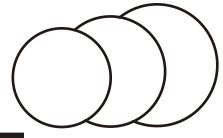
Please read II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:16-21, Psalm 119:89, Psalm 19, Revelation 22:18-19.

REGARDLESS if a man believes it or not; it will remain the same, for God says what He means, and means what He says: **WHAT A MARVELOUS MEANS OF GRACE!**

Believe it, follow it, obey it AND a person will never go wrong! ***The BIBLE is God's Word from cover to cover*** and it is inspired, *in-breathed by the Holy Spirit*) inerrant and infallible. *Even the cover is almost inspired by the Holy Spirit as it states: “Holy Bible.”*



From Our Fellowship Circle



C. L. **Viroqua, WI**
I read your good magazine from cover to cover. It has so many good articles in it and is a rich blessing and encouragement to me.

May God continue to give you both health and strength to carry on.

A. G. **Karlstad, MN**
Thank you for the *Morning Glory*. The last issue had so much good “food” for the saved.

I was so inspired reading and knowing that others agreed on what the ‘Word stands for.’ It just makes you feel the Lord is coming soon! I am certainly one who is awaiting for that time.

May God bless you for the faithful work you are doing. (I wish I could help more)!

L. & J. W. **Alexandria, MN**
Just a note to let you know we appreciate your magazine and what you stand for. Thank you for the articles – long and short.

Am enclosing a check for \$... to help you continue to spread the message of “Good News”.

Also we have a new address ... our old address was ...

O. B. **Sun City West, AZ**
I heard about your publication through the ‘Vine and the Branches’. Would you please send me a copy to review.

Blessings to you for the Lord’s Work!

E. G. **Story Plain, ALTA, Canada**
Please find enclosed my donation for a subscription to the *Morning Glory*. I read of the warnings therein and I know that we see all this also in Canada and with a burdened heart it becomes troubling.

How we need to pray that God will send a ‘revival’, as that is the ‘answer’ or else we would welcome His coming to take us Home (Heaven).

The lies and deception that are working their way into the church is unbelievable.

However, I am willing to be found faithful to God whenever He asks me to stand for the TRUTH!

God bless you all ...

Hidden Treasure

(Please read Proverbs 2:1-5)

Search for wisdom (insight and understanding) as for hidden treasure, v. 5.

My husband and I read in different ways. Since English is a second language for Tom, he has a tendency to read slowly, word-for-word. I often speed-read by skimming. But Tom retains more than I do. He can easily quote something he read a week ago, while my retention can evaporate seconds after I turn away from the screen or book.

Skimming is also a problem when I’m reading the Bible – and not just the genealogies. I’m tempted to skim familiar passages and stories I’ve heard since I was a child, or a psalm that is part of a familiar chorus.

Proverbs 2 encourages us to make the effort to know God better by carefully seeking a heart of understanding. When we read the Bible carefully and invest time memorizing Scripture, we absorb its truths more deeply (vv. 1-2). Sometimes reading the Word aloud helps us to hear and understand the wisdom of God more fully. And when we pray the words of Scripture back to God and ask Him for “insight and understanding” (v. 3), we enjoy a conversation with the Author.

We come to know God and His wisdom when we search for it with our whole heart. We find understanding when we seek it like sliver and search for it like hidden treasure.

Cindy Hess Kasper

Dear Lord, help me to slow down and listen to what You want to teach me through Your Words so I can be the person You want me to be.

Read the Bible carefully and study it prayerfully.

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Editor’s Note: Implied in this article is that we need to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His Word to us. Keep in mind that God is the Author of the entire BIBLE! WE are to crave, memorize and meditate (like cattle chewing their cud) upon it. NOTICE: **“Be diligent (Study) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the world of truth.”** (2 Tim. 2:15) Notice whose approval a Christian should seek!

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Alabama Chief Justice Says Judges Must Uphold the State's Sanctity of Marriage Amendment

Alabama Chief Justice Ray Moore issued an administrative order ... saying, "Alabama probate judges have a ministerial duty not to issue any marriage license contrary to the Alabama Sanctity of Marriage Amendment."...

Pursuant to his responsibility to "take any such other, further or additional action as may be necessary for the orderly administration of justice within the state," Chief Justice Roy Moore has ordered Alabama probate judges to uphold the Alabama Sanctity of Marriage Amendment.

"I applaud Chief Justice Roy Moore for this order re-affirming the marriage law in Alabama," said Matt Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel. "The Alabama Supreme Court issued an order in March, 2015 barring probate judges from issuing same-sex marriage licenses after a federal court in January of last year overturned Alabama's voter-approved constitutional amendment defining marriage as one man and one woman,"...

Liberty Counsel

Editor's Note: Pray for Chief Justice Roy Moore. As far as I know, he is a godly man!

President Vetoes Bill Defunding Planned Parenthood

President Obama squandered no time in killing legislation that would have largely defunded the country's No. 1 abortion provider.

On January 8 (2016), the president vetoed a budget-related bill that would have cut nearly 90 percent of federal money in the next year for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and its affiliates. The legislation also would have essentially gutted the controversial 2010 healthcare law opposed by nearly all pro-life organizations.

Obama, a strong backer of both Planned Parenthood and the healthcare law, had promised to veto the legislation. He followed through only two days after the House of Representatives approved the bill...

Obama's veto protected the interests of an organization that performs more than 300,000 abortions a year and receives more than \$500 million from the govern-

ment annually; and continues to be plagued by scandal...

The Senate approved the measure in a 52-47 vote in early December, while the house passed it in a 240-181 roll call January 6.

Tom Storde for BAPTIST PRESS

Atheist Files Another Lawsuit to Remove "In God We Trust" From Currency

Christiannews.net reports: "Atheist Michael Newdow, who has filed numerous suits challenging the mixture of God and government, first submitted a complaint in the Southern District of New York in March 2013, asserting that the motto violates the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution as it serves to proselytize unbelievers.

"But in September of that year, U.S. District Court Judge Harold Baer, Jr., ... rejected Newdow's arguments, opining that 'the inclusion of the motto on U.S. currency....does not violate the Establishment Clause'"...

Now, Newdow is trying a new ploy by bringing in children and saying they are being hurt by the attempt of the government to promote God on the currency: "His new federal suit, filed in Ohio... has 43 plaintiffs, with nine of them being children..."

Atheists declare they reject the idea of God, but they really reject the freedom to believe in God in a public and practical way.

If a person's lifestyle reflects his belief in God, it's inevitable that the lifestyle will offend someone – especially atheists.

Since we live in a country in which so much of our law and civilization is based on the Bible, atheist are always offended because they represent an ideology that had little to do with anything in the founding of our country.

Dr. Ron Baity, RETURN AMERICA

Bible Belt Bans Bibles, Invites Islam

What's the worst thing a child could stumble on in school? Drugs? Gangs? Maybe bullies? Try a Bible. According to one Tennessee school district, it seems the biggest threat a student could face is seeing a copy of Scripture up close.

To “spare” kids this “horrifying” experience, Bledsoe County schools is booting the Gideons from school property because a single student complained.

After years of offering free Bibles to those who wanted them, Chaplain Charlie Queen was stunned at the superintendent’s overreaction. “We simply go in; we lay it on the table. We tell them what it is and who we are, and if they want one ... they freely take one,” he explained. “We do not hand it to them; they take it freely and voluntarily.”

Unfortunately, one “offended” child seems to be all it takes to overrule the Constitution – which is exactly what Bledsoe officials are doing.

As one reporter pointed out, “Even the ACLU notes that it is ‘simply wrong’ to assume that the Constitution had declared public schools to be ‘religion-free zones’”

Still, Superintendent Jennifer Terry is terrified of standing up for the district’s other 1,911 students and issued this statement: “Bledsoe County Schools do not allow the distribution of religious materials from any religious groups. The distribution of religious materials in a public school is in violation of constitutional provisions and well-established federal and state laws and precedence (sic).”

That’s interesting, since the Supreme Court has said the exact opposite. From Christian clubs to other faith-based activities, the justices have been clear: religious expression in schools isn’t illegal.

What’s more, the school can’t ban religious distributions if it allows other nonreligious distributions! That’s content-based discrimination...

Of course, the story of this controversy is that while this is happening in Pikeville, parents in the Nashville area are furious that their kids are learning the five pillars of Islam in middle school. Apparently, Tennessee schools are fine with officially acknowledging Islam’s place in history but will not even allow the Bible on school grounds!

While it may not be intentional on the superintendent’s part, the effect is the same when officials cower in the face of anti-freedom secularists. The young student who complained has every right not to take a free Bible, but he or she doesn’t have the right to deprive others of one.

Tony Perkins, FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL

Editor’s Note: I am by no means a history scholar, but it is so very interesting that, at least two or three times in our country’s history, the Federal Government had printed and distributed BIBLES!

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The Gospel of Christ

Archibald G. Brown once said: “The Gospel is a fact; therefore, tell it simply. It is a joyful fact; therefore, tell it cheerily. It is an entrusted fact; therefore, tell it faithfully. It is a fact of infinite moment; therefore, tell it earnestly. It is a fact about a Person; therefore, preach Christ.”

After forty-one years of service for the Lord in one place, Dr. Baldwin said: “I testify that at thirty, after examining as best I could the philosophies and religions of the world, I said, ‘Nothing is better than the Gospel of Christ.’”

“At forty, when burdens began to press and years seemed to hasten, I said, ‘Nothing is as good as the Gospel.’”

“At fifty, when there were empty chairs in the home and the mound builders had done me service, I said: ‘There is nothing to be compared with the Gospel.’”

“At sixty, when my second sight saw through the delusions and vanities of earthly things, I said, “There is nothing but the Gospel.’”

“At seventy, amid many limitations, I sing:

***“Should all the forms that men devise
Attack my faith with treacherous art,
I’d call them vanities and lies
And bind the Gospel to my heart.”***

Isaac Watts

* * * * *

**Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right
hand Psalm 80:17**

This verse pictures the honored position Christ enjoys at the Father’s right hand – a place of power, privilege, and preeminence. Christ is seen as God’s right hand: after He purged our sins (Heb. 1:3); after He rose from the dead (Rom. 8:34); after He ascended and was exalted by God (Acts 2:33). It must have been comforting for the martyr Stephen to see, “*the glory of God and Jesus standing on the right hand of God*” (Acts 7:55). It behooves us to, “*Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God*” (Col. 3:1).

Milton Haack

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,

Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne, Thy saints have dwelt secure;

Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Isaac Watts

The Prodigal's Brother

A Radio Message By Wilbur E. Nelson

Jesus' lesson about the prodigal son is well known – of his leaving home, of his life of wickedness in a far city, of the destitution which came to him, of his return to his father's home and of the father's gracious and loving welcome when his son returned.

This father had another son – the older one who was in the field. And when he heard all of the music and became aware of all the joyful celebration that was taking place, he asked one of the servants what was going on. And when he was told what had happened, he was angry and would not go into the house.

This elder brother of the prodigal son has always been held up as a type of Christianity, but I wonder if it is not more accurately a picture of the nominal church member. He was something of a Pharisee at heart. He thought of his brother as a sinner and no doubt thought of himself as an example of good conduct and manly virtues. But no doubt he brought as much sorrow to his father's heart as did the prodigal. He never went down to the far country. He did not devour his living in riotous manner of life. His sins were different from the prodigal's but they were sins, nevertheless.

These two men were not only brothers by blood. They were brothers in character. The separate streams of their transgression just happened to flow in different directions. We know very well about the sins – the flagrant sins – of the prodigal. He was drunken, he was riotous, he was an outspoken sinner. The elder brother's sins were more ingrained.

They were not so obvious and open. But in the eyes of God he was a sinner. Let us think for a few moments about his life. In the first place, he was able to say to his father, *“Neither transgressed I at any time thy commandments.”* You have to say his conduct was good. Outwardly he was a puritanical individual. He had never openly broken one of his father's commandments. He was no doubt proud of his exemplary behavior. He gloried in his self-righteousness. There are many people who, instead of confessing Jesus Christ, will confess their own righteousness and brag on their own flawless character. It is true that many people can refrain from minor sins or open sins and they take great pride in the fact that they have never done this and never done that. Much honor is due to the man who lives a clean and pure life. But if a man is depending upon his own goodness and own moral restraint to save him, he will die and go to hell in spite of the clean, moral record he has.

There are visible sins and invisible sins. It is sometimes easy to refrain from committing the visible sins of

pride, envy, hatred and greed and selfishness. When you study the teachings of Jesus you will find that He said very little about physical sins which are easily identified as sins. But He hurled a great many darts at the sins of covetousness, the love of money and conceited, egocentric thinking and living.

In the second place, this elder brother served his father, but with a feeling of drudgery. I feel sorry for a man like that. Think of the church member listening to the Sunday morning service with his eye on the clock instead of the Lord, with his heart on the golf course instead of the church. He cannot enjoy his religion, if his miserable profession might be called religion. He is a wretched man. The older brother worked in the field, but it was a service of drudgery. It had in it a note of anguish. The way had been dreary. The work had been weary. He had found no joy in serving his father. As he toiled in the field, he would gaze up longingly at the sun to see how soon this wretched day could be over.

We meet people like that, don't we? They are suffering along with a kind of religion which is something like the man with a headache. He can't afford to lose his head and it hurts him to keep it. This religious philosophy produces the sour looks and the wretched countenances that infest so many churches of today. My friend, there is a place in grace where the service of Christ is the most joyous and the most blessed thrill in all the world. There is a way of life which is a constant parade of blessing and glory and where one may serve God in joy and in gratitude, not because of a compelling, fearful dread of God's anathema.

I think the outstanding sin of his elder brother was his envy. Envy has broken up many a successful church. It has built a fence of bitterness between brothers and sisters in the family of God. I think it is one of Satan's most useful tools in tearing down the church of God.

Oh, what a forceful lesson this is to us of the danger of mere negative religion, of mere moral decency and moral goodness. How it underlines the fact that every man needs to be lifted above himself, to be delivered from the sin and the guilt and the condemnation, not merely of what he has done, but what he is. How it underlines the problem of sin as being not merely in doing but in being.

Now, how about you? Have you come to see that your own righteousness is as filthy rags, that your own goodness will never stand the test of what God requires of us? If you have not, I trust that today you will come to Him saying, ***“Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come, Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.”***

The Grace Broadcaster

The Open CHANNEL

(a Parable)

By B. E. Newcombe

In some places in the Orient, the tallest and most beautiful bamboo trees are marked with the owner's name carved into the stem in order that no one else shall claim it. When these bamboos are cut down, the core, "heart," is gouged out, and the tree is converted into a water-pipe or channel and is used to conduct water from the mountain-springs to irrigate the dry plains below. Such a tree tells its story to you.

A beautiful tree stood among scores of others on a lovely hillside, its stem dark and glossy, its beautiful feathery branches gently quivering in the evening breeze.

As we admired it we became conscious of a gentle rustling of the leaves, and a low murmur was distinctly heard: You think me beautiful, you admire my tall stem and graceful branches, but I have nothing to boast of. All I have I owe to the loving care of my Master. It was He who planted me here in this very beautiful hill, where my roots, reaching down and dwelling in hidden springs, and continually drinking of their life-giving water, receive nourishment, refreshment, beauty and strength for my whole being.

"Do you see those trees to one side, how miserable and parched they are? Their roots have not yet reached the living springs. Since I have found the hidden waters I have lacked nothing."

"You observe those characters on my stem? Look closely – they are cut into my very being. The cutting process was painful – I wondered at the time why I had to suffer – but it was my Master's own hand that used the knife, and when the work was finished, with a throb of unutterable joy, I recognized it was His own name He had cut on my stem. Then I knew beyond doubt that He loved and prized me and wanted all the world to know I belonged to Him. I may well make it my boast that I have such a Master."

Even as the tree was telling us of its Master, we looked around, and lo! The Master Himself stood there. He was looking with love and longing on the tree, and in His hand He held a sharp axe.

"I have need of thee," He said. "Art thou willing to give thyself to Me?"

"Master," replied the tree, "I am all Thine own – but of what use can such as I be to Thee?"

"I need thee," said the Master, "to take My living water to some dry, parched places where there is none."

"But, Master, how can I do this? I can dwell in Thy living springs and imbibe their waters from my own

nourishment. But how can I give water to others? I but drink what suffices for my own food. What have I to give others?"

The Master's voice grew wondrously tender as He answered, "I can use thee if thou art willing. I would fain cut thee down and lop off all thy branches, leaving thee naked and bare. Yes, and I would still use the painful knife, but all those barriers within thy heart should be cut away one by one, till there is a free passage for my living water through thee."

"Thou wilt die, thou sayest; yes, my own tree, THOU wilt die, but **MY** Water of Life will flow freely and ceaselessly through thee. Thy beauty will be gone indeed. Henceforth, no one will look on thee and admire thy freshness and grace, but many, *many* will stoop and drink of the life-giving stream which will reach them so freely through thee. They may give no thought to thee, it is true, but will they not bless thy Master who has given them His water through thee? Art thou willing for this, My tree?"

I held my breath to hear what the answer would be. "My Master, all I have and am is from Thee. If Thou indeed hast need of me, then I gladly and willingly give my life to Thee. If only through my dying Thou canst bring Thy living water to others I consent to die. I am Thine own. Take and use me as Thou wilt, my Master."

And the Master's face grew still more tender, but He took the sharp axe and with repeated blows brought the beautiful tree to the ground. He continued to strike till the stem was severed again, and the glory of the tree, its wondrous crown of feathery branches, was lost to it forever.

Now indeed it was naked and bare – but the love-light in the Master's face deepened as He took what remained of the tree on His shoulders, and amid the sobbing of all its companions, bore it away, far, far over the mountains.

But the tree consented to all for the love of the Master, murmuring faintly, "My Master, where Thou wilt."

Arriving at a lonely and desolate place, the Master paused, and again His hand took a cruel-looking weapon with sharp pointed blade, and this time thrust it right into the very heart of the tree – for He would make a channel for his living waters, and only through the broken heart of the tree could they flow unhindered to the thirsty land.

Yet the tree repined not, but still whispered with breaking heart, "My Master, Thy will be done."

So the Master with the *heart of love* and the face of tenderest pity dealt the painful blows and spared not, and the keen-edged steel did its work unflinching till every barrier had been cut away, and the heart of the tree lay open from end to end, and the Master's heart was satisfied.

Then again He raised it and gently bore it, wounded and suffering, to where unnoticed till now, a spring of Living Water, clear as crystal, was bubbling up. There He laid it down – one end just within the *healing waters*. And the stream of life flowed in, right down the heart of the tree from end to end, along all the road made by the cruel wounds – a gentle current to go on flowing out, ever flowing, never ceasing, and the Master smiled and was satisfied.

The Master returned to His tree and lovingly asked, “My tree, dost thou now regret the loneliness and suffering? Was the price too dear – the price for giving the Living Water to the world?” And the tree replied, “My Master, no, a thousand times no!”

“He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, from within him shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:18).

Selected

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Sleep On, “Silent” American

Sleep on, *silent American*... Turn your ears from the clamor of mobs in the street, the anguished cries of young Americans dying on foreign soil, the wail of a starving child... Sleep on, *silent American*. If tomorrow’s headlines frighten you, just don’t look.

Sleep on, *silent American*... Say nothing, do nothing; and the problems of this nation, you hope, will vanish... Don’t be annoyed by your children ...Tell your toddler not to bother you but to go play with his toys... Your eight-year-old has books and games and a color TV... It isn’t necessary for you to go to his room to hear his prayers... Let him entertain himself.

Sleep on, *silent American*... Hand your car keys to your teenager, give him some cash, and tell him to go have himself a good time; but don’t ask him where he’s going... That would be a violation of his privacy and an infringement upon his civil rights... Don’t require him to work and earn his own money.

Sleep on, *silent American*... Don’t go to the polls on election day... Resist the urge to display an American flag on your lawn, and never be seen with your hand over your heart... Applaud nudity in the theater and pornography on the newsstands... That is the New Morality... Haven’t you heard?

Sleep on, *silent American*... Certainly, you won’t mind giving up a few of your constitutional rights and having your taxes increased a bit each year... Someone must pay for the special privileges, the doles, grants, tax exemptions, etc., with which the Federal bureaucrats “buy” the support of special interest and minority

groups.

Sleep on, *silent American*... If you would find favor with the Federal bureaucracy, you will surrender your “antiquated” principles and convictions, along with your schools and other institutions... You’ll approve too of the mongrel yoke which is being fashioned for coming generations of your posterity.

Sleep on, *silent American*... Your ancestors sacrificed, bled and died to win for **you** the freedom **you** are now surrendering... but times have changed... **you** won’t be present to witness the anguished existence to which, by **your** apathy and indifference, you are helping to condemn another generation... But don’t let the fate of that generation worry **you**... just cover **your** eyes, close **your** ears, deafen **your** conscience, and **SLEEP ON.**

Sword of the Lord

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Keep the Fire Burning

I once lived in a house with an underground kitchen that was so damp that when we failed to keep up a vigorous fire, the floor was encrusted with white mold – so much so that the maid could fill her dustpan with it; but when the fire was burning bright and warm, the bricks and walls were kept perfectly dry.

There was always the latent tendency to being damp, but it was kept in abeyance by the heat so that it could not do as it otherwise would. So when the Holy Ghost, as fire, works mightily within the heart, those tendencies to sin which are, alas, natural to us are overcome and thwarted and kept in the place of death.

The Holy Ghost is in every Christian. **“If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”** (Rom. 8:9). But in many He is cribbed into a narrow space, confined in an attic or a cellar of their souls; therefore, He cannot do for them what He would.

If that has been so, and if therefore your life has been one of failure and disappointment, open every department and room of your being to His gracious operations. — F. B. Meyer

Editor’s Note: The Holy Spirit is a person who is equal with Jesus and God the Father; so a person is either the temple of the Holy Spirit or not! The question is then: How much of your person does the Holy Spirit control – your heart, mind and life style? For example: you either are married or not, and yet there is a vast difference of harmony between married couples!

Is the Islamic God the Same as the Real God?

By Dr. Shelton Smith

As the Islamic inroads in America are progressively paved into the mainstream of our society, the debate is being carefully manipulated to garner as much publicity as possible. With their advocates having time in front of the cameras and in the printed press, they are thereby enabled in their current strategy for the Islamization of our nation.

One of the items presently on their agenda is to convince the American public, including Christians, that Christians and Muslims worship the same God. In December that topic got a push forward by the inane actions of a Wheaton College professor.

The New York Times reported (December 17, 2015) that “Dr. (Larycia) Hawkins posted photographs of herself on Facebook in a Muslim head covering, which she pledged to wear at work, in airplanes, and at social events during the weeks before Christmas in solidarity with Muslims facing religious discrimination.

“I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book,” she wrote in part. “And, as Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God.”...

“Two days later, Dr. Hawkins said on Facebook that after her gesture of solidarity with Muslims, she had ‘received pushback almost exclusively from other Christians.

The pushback has primarily centered on the claim that Christians and Muslims worship the same God.”

This event accomplishes two things for Muslims. First, it paints Islam as being a victim of discrimination and persecution (which is a lie); and second, it creates an image of Christians as intolerant bigots (which is another lie).

Unfortunately the Wheaton professor, the Catholic pope, and even some pastors have muddled the water on whether or not the Islamic god is the same as the God of Creation...

Islam’s False God

Allah! Who is Allah? What is his history, his track record? Is Allah just another name for the God of Creation? Is Allah the same as Jehovah? Or is Allah just a fictional character, another mythological god of sorts?

The Muslim’s motto, called the Shahadah, says, “There is one god, his name is Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.” Is that true? Is it fact or fiction? Is it possible that they are right?

No! It is not true! They are not right. Still, the repetitious recitation of this statement is the creed of Islam. For Muslims, the repeating of the Shahadah several times a day is the confession that is the essential expression of

what it means to be Muslim.

Islam is monotheistic – that is, they believe in one god, namely, Allah! Although they do give Jesus Christ place as a prophet, they reject outright and forcefully the idea that He is God. The Koran says that Jesus Himself regards any claim for His divinity in being blasphemous (Surah 6:101, 9:30; 19:88, 89, 91, 92).

To the Muslim, the doctrine of the Trinity is a claim of polytheism. To suggest that someone else is the same level as Allah meets with their firm resistance. They believe that Christians who attest the truth of the Trinity or who ascribe deity to Jesus are “infidels.” The Christian’s beliefs about Jesus are considered to be superstitious and pagan. To the Muslim, Jesus was a prophet but entirely human, only a man and never God.

The truth is, the Islamic Allah is a god borrowed from the mythology of the paganism which was prevalent in the Middle East in the time of Muhammad. In effect, Muhammad “created” Allah.

The hard evidence demonstrates that the god Allah was a pagan deity. In fact, he was the moon god who was married to the sun goddess, and the stars were his daughters...

The moon god was called Alilah, the god, which was shortened to Allah in pre-Islamic times...

Muhammad was raised in the religion of the moon god Allah. But he went one step further than his fellow pagan Arabs. While they believed that Allah (the moon god) was the greatest of all gods and the supreme deity in a pantheon of deities, Muhammad decided that Allah was not only the greatest god but the only god...

The Muslim’s claim that Allah is the God of the Bible and that Islam arose from the religion of the prophets and apostle is refuted by solid, overwhelming archeological evidence...

(Robert Morey, *The Islamic Invasion*, Las Vegas, Nev.; Christian Scholars Press, 1982, pp. 211-218).
Excerpts, The Sword of the Lord.

Editor’s Note: I used to *think* that Matthew 15:14 applied only in the spiritual realm, but now I am definitely convinced it deals both with Christianity and also society. “...they are blind leaders of the blind; And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch”.

P. S. It is now known that over **800 Wheaton graduates** have signed a petition saying that they will stop supporting the college if Dr. Hawkins is not reinstated. **Pretty sad, indeed!**

Reaching People for Jesus

A man in this church was very successful in reaching people for Jesus. He did not know much. He would just reach out and get hold of people and bring them to the Lord. It amazed me. I have seen him go to people and say three or four words, and those people would start forward. He brought literally dozens down this aisle.

One day I went to where he was in a small business. He worked alone. I went to his office. I never saw such a man in my life. He was not handsome, he didn't have the greatest personality in the world, but he would just reach out and lay hold of somebody for Jesus just like picking apples off a tree.

I wanted to find out about that fellow. There was something about him that was miraculous. So I went to his office to see him. I said, "Friend, what in the world is it about you? You draw people to Christ like a person drawing in fish."

I, a preacher, had to humble myself. I said, "What do you say to them?"

He answered me like this: "Tom, years ago when I lived in Detroit, I was the worst drunk in the world. Nobody had any hope for me. I literally drank my family down the drain. But one day a person came to me and said, "You know, the Lord can save you. I too was a drunk and an alcoholic and the Lord saved me. The Lord can change your whole life."

"Brother Tom, the Lord reached down in the gutter, got hold of me and saved me. Since then I have just been telling people what Jesus did for me."

I said, "I have seen you go to total strangers, folks you had never laid eyes on, and reach out to them; and here they came. What do you say to them?"

He replied, "Just what I told you. I tell them the Lord has done great things for me. I tell them I was an alcoholic and He saved me. I tell them that He can save them no matter how deep in sin they may be. That is all I know. That is all God told us to tell people."

Dr. Tim Malone

Selected

True Repentance

We are sometimes repentant because of the harm we have done ourselves and others in our transgressions, but there is little repentance toward God. We may regret what our sins do to our testimony and its evil effect on others, but we are little concerned because the fellow-

ship with God is broken. This makes for shallow and inadequate confession because we have not touched the heart of the trouble.

Vance Havner

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God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth John 4:24.

TO worship God is not the same as to pray. Worship is the highest form of thanksgiving, admiration, and trust. It is humbling to lift one's spirit up to God. It is to let the inner man kneel and acknowledge that God is God, Almighty, Eternal, and Gracious, and that we are helpless creatures who have no one else to depend on but Him. This veneration of God, this longing to honor and thank Him causes the soul to yearn deeply for the refuge of His divine power and grace and thus create in us a holy desire to do His will.

To worship is not to beg for food or health or other earthly things. It is to feel that you are very, very small, and that God is unspeakably great and good. The wings of the spirit then grow larger and stronger, so that we more easily get away from ourselves and move up to God, away from distrust and impotence. Then we forget life's little sorrows, and we bless and praise Him who does all things well. Worship lifts us a step nearer to God and ennobles our spirit, so that we become holier men. When once we enter heaven and stand in God's presence, then we will join in worship with angels, and with people from all races and countries.

May we learn more of the blessed art of worship while we are still on the way home.

"Such doth the Father seek to be His worshippers."

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Thy Kingdom Come, by Ludvig Hope, Copyright, Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted

There is a common, worldly kind of Christianity in this day, which many have and think they have enough – a cheap Christianity which offends nobody and requires no sacrifice, which costs nothing and is worth nothing.

J. C. Ryle

Reaping and Sowing

One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye have not labored: others have labored, and ye are entered into their labor. John 4:37-38

THERE were Christians who lived and worked before us; God takes into consideration what they did, too. If their work had not been done, we would not be gathering fruit.

Granted that sometimes the work of our ancestors was primitive and unimpressive – nevertheless mother often took us in her lap and folded our child hands in prayer. She told us about God, about Jesus, about the angels and heaven, and about evil that lurks around us. We had our seat in school, too, with Bible history, catechism, and hymn book; and we sat in church and chapel and heard the Word of God. Then was good seed sowed in our heart, too.

It is a privilege to have a part in times of great spiritual awakenings, and to help people to find peace with God. But we must never forget those who worked before us. God does not forget them. The work of every prayerful and believing laborer in the kingdom of God will bear fruit. Even though we do not see it now, the fruit will appear in due time. We will believe what God has said, and then we will be made strong to hold out.

“In due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

*Jesus, Master! At Thy Word
I will work whate'er betide me,
And I know Thou wilt, O Lord,
By Thy Word and Spirit guide me;
At Thy Word my faith shall see
All things work for good to me.*

Thy Kingdom Come, by Ludvig Hope, Copyright, Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted

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**The righteous God trieth the hearts
and the reins** Psalm 7:9

God is righteous in His judgments. This is an absolute truth. He shows His righteousness by considering all factors before He judges, even the hidden ones. He alone can do this, for He alone knows “the hearts and the reins.”

When it says that God tries the hearts, it means that He will not judge the life of a human being or a single act according to superficial evidence, but according to the

motives. The great Judge does not look merely at the outward acts by themselves, but He looks for the reason which has driven a person to commit them. Without a noble motive an act is not good. Love must be the driving power. Without it, we are nothing before God. And the sinfulness of sin is the evil disposition behind it. All sin is measured by this standard.

Test yourself by the standard of God.

Streams of Gladness by Fredrik Wisloff, Copyright by Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted

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For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

Psalm 5:12

The picture is taken from warfare. The battle is hard. Death-dealing arrows are being shot at the soldier, and his life is in utmost danger. But the danger is warded off. The warrior is accompanied by a shield-bearer. The arrows strike against the shield and fall to the earth, while the unscathed soldier moves steadily forward.

Thus it is also in the battle of the Lord. The enemy of the soul shoots his arrows, and the battle is hard. But the warrior stands secure. God Himself is his shield-bearer. He covers him with the shield of grace, which quenches all the fiery darts of the evil one. He is able – “having done all to stand.”

Therefore you are safe, struggling child of God!

“With favor wilt thou compass him about as with a shield.”

Streams of Gladness by Fredrik Wisloff, Copyright by Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted

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I cried unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication. Psalm 142:1

Generally speaking, caves are unpleasant places. In a figurative sense multitudes live in caves every day – caves of worry, discouragement, depression, bitterness, fear, doubts, loneliness, to name just a few. When David wrote this psalm he was in a literal cave, perhaps Engedi or Adullam, hiding from King Saul who wanted to kill him. What did David do? He prayed.. And this is what we should do when we find ourselves in a dark and troublesome cave.

W. Ross Rainey

UpDate

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful...” Ephesians 6:18a.

I know that, at this time, the political arena is in full force in the “boxing ring” for the betterment of the future of our great Nation (USA); but a fuller recovery would be returning to the old time biblical Christianity which we seek to practice and make NO apologies for keeping.

At this time we still are struggling financially, and maybe I have *failed* to express how vital and crucial you are in the battle to promote biblical truths in these days of apostasy. ALSO, we need to preserve, protect and promote our desperate NEED for a Heaven sent Revival in our USA and beyond, both spiritually and secularly.

IF we do not, nor cannot, uphold God’s Standard, at home, the ‘aboard’ will suffer and souls will be lost for time and eternity – in both areas!

We are in a battle for both the nourishment and salvation of precious souls; including yours and mine! (This is not a threat, but reality in the light of God’s Holy word, the BIBLE). Can WE count on YOU for either further enforcement or welcoming YOU in joining our ranks?

Onward Christian Soldiers marching as to war ...

“Praying always... with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints – and for me (*us*) that I (*we*) That I (*we*) may open my (*our*) mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I (*we*) are an ambassador ... boldly, as I (*we*) ought to speak” Eph. 6:18-20 – as Ambassadors.

February’s income for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* is \$2,064.00.

The cost of publishing and mailing the *Morning Glory* each month is approx. \$2,000 PLUS staff salary and other expenses.

FRANKLY, each issue of the Morning Glory costs approximately \$1.25 per copy.

ALSO, does the LORD want YOU to leave in your ‘Last Will and Testament’ the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory ministry?

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Annual Conference Of The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation

“**BUILDING AND BATTLING**” is the theme for this year’s Annual conference of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory – based on Jude 3 and the Book of Nehemiah.

It will be held June 24-26 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Fargo, ND with Pastor Micah Hjermstad as Host Pastor.

Scheduled guest speakers include: Pastor/Evangelist Willmore Gundersen, Circuit Judge Timothy Tingelstad and Ag/Business man and Farmer, Marlow Nash.

Pray that people will come from near and far with a hunger for the WORD of GOD and Christian fellowship, and that Christ may be glorified!

We are looking forward to seeing YOU in attendance and please pray specifically for this Hauge Bible Conference.

WELCOME!