



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • April 2013

God Will Provide Himself a Lamb

The title of this booklet (Gospel Tract) comes from the great story found in the book of Genesis (Genesis 22:8) when Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. At the last moment, God stopped Abraham and provided a ram as a substitute. The theme of the lamb acting as a substitute is continued in the story of the first Passover found in Exodus 12. God told Moses to tell the people to choose a lamb out of their flocks, to sacrifice it, and to put the blood of it on the doorposts of their houses so that they would escape the judgment that God was about to bring upon the land of Egypt. Together these two stories give us a picture of the Messiah, whose death as our substitute and whose shed blood provides redemption from the judgment that God must bring upon the world because of sin: **THE PASSOVER**

The feast of Passover is a time of great joy for the Jewish people around the world. It is a remembrance of the rapid departure of the children of Israel from the life of sorrow that they led under the cruel hand of Pharaoh. Also recalled is the escape of the first born from the judgment brought by the tenth plague. Redemption is the theme woven throughout the story of Passover. It was redemption brought about by the blood of the lamb which the children of Israel were told to put on the doorposts of their houses (Exodus 12:7, 13).

A Lamb (Exodus 12:3)

Every family was to set aside A LAMB. In choosing the lamb, the children of Israel were not only obeying God but also putting their faith and trust in His Word. This is the beginning of the redemption from the judgment that God was about to bring upon Egypt, and looks forward to

the judgment that God will bring upon the world in the future.

The Lamb (Exodus 12:4)

Everyone was to participate in the eating of THE PASSOVER LAMB. They were to combine households if the family was too small. Every individual was to partake of THE PASSOVER LAMB. THE LAMB would be sufficient to prove protection from the judgment about to fall upon the land of Egypt and all its inhabitants.

Your Lamb (Exodus 12:5)

The lamb is now referred to as YOUR LAMB which implies that the salvation provided by the blood of the lamb was to be personal. Every individual had to make the decision to bring himself under the protection of the blood of the lamb. Notice that the lamb had to be without blemish. This is because only a perfect lamb could be offered to God (Deuteronomy 15:21) to make atonement.

The blood of the lamb was to be put on the doorposts of each house. Judgment would then “pass over” that house. Notice, also, that the qualification was not whether the house was occupied by a Jewish family, but whether or not there was the blood of their lamb on the doorposts. First, it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul (Leviticus 17:11).

The story of Passover is a picture of the redemption from the judgment that God must bring upon the world because of sin. There is no way for either Jew or Gentile to be exempt from this judgment because, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). “All we like sheep have gone

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astray; we have turned everyone to his own way ...” (Isaiah 53:6).

But A Holy God Demands Atonement

“... and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6). This speaks of the Messiah.

Although God’s judgment is righteous, He has provided for all men A LAMB. “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7).

All men, Jew and Gentile alike, may partake of the salvation provided by THE LAMB, “... by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; but he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53:11, 12).

YOUR LAMB is the only way that all men, Jew and Gentile alike, can escape the judgment that God will bring. “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall pros-

per in his hand.” (Isaiah 53:3, 4. 10).

Today, not even a lamb without blemish can take away sin. God sent His son, Jesus the Messiah, A LAMB for the sacrifice, as THE LAMB in which to put your faith and trust, and as YOUR LAMB to shed His blood that you might apply it to the doorposts of your heart in acceptance of His sacrifice for your sin atonement. Jesus the Messiah is the perfect Lamb of God. Just as the judgment came not upon the houses with the blood on the doorposts, the judgment of God will pass over those who accept the blood atonement provided by the Messiah, Jesus. Why not ask Jesus the Messiah to come into your heart and accept His blood atonement for your sins? He will do it and grant you eternal life with Him in heaven. He is YOUR PASSOVER LAMB. Put your faith and trust in him and pray:

“Dear Jesus, I realize that you are the Lamb of God and that your sacrifice and your blood can cause the judgment of God to pass over me. I accept you as my personal sacrifice for my sin and I put my faith and trust in you as my Messiah. Come now into my heart and grant me eternal life as you promised. Amen.

Taken from Gospel Tract, *GOD Will Provide HIMSELF A Lamb*, by The Everlasting Nation, Hixson, TN.

Editor’s Note: Hebrews 9:22. Every essential, as you notice **blood**, is like a ‘ribbon’ throughout ALL of **Scripture**. Even in the ‘Garden of Eden’, after Adam and Eve *sinned*, an innocent animal was sacrificed for the ‘guilty’ and *likely* it was a ‘lamb’ which GOD sacrificed to clothe Adam and Eve with skins! See Genesis 3:21.

* * * * *

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Charles Haddon Spurgeon lived and preached in England from 1834-1892. This man, who was called the Prince of Preachers, refused to compromise with evil. His fight for the faith cost him his life. A few days before his death he wrote the following words:

“Numbers are easy-minded people who wink at error so long as it is committed by some clever man and good-natured brother, who has so many fine points about him. Let each believer judge for himself, but for our part we have put a few fresh bolts on our door, and we have given orders to keep the chains up, for under color of begging the friendship of the servant, there are those who aim at robbing the master. These preachers are not mistaken friends, but enemies of the Cross of Christ. There is no use in employing circumlocutions and polite terms of expres-

sion – where Christ is not received as the cleansing of His blood and the justifying merit of His righteousness, He is not received at all. Those who know and love the truth of God cannot have fellowship with that which is diametrically opposed thereto, and there can be no reason why they should pretend that they have such fellowship. My counsel has always been, “*come out from among them.*” I have felt that no protest could be equal to that of distinct separation.

To pursue union at the expense of truth is treason to the Lord Jesus. If we are prepared to enter into solemn “league and covenant” for the defense of the crown-rights of King Jesus, we cannot give up the crown jewels of His Gospel for the sake of a larger charity. To tamper with His doctrine would be to drift into compromises which they would not at first propose but which they seem forced to justify. Yielding to be the creatures of circumstances, they allow another to gird them and lead them whither they would not; and when they wake up, and find themselves in an undesirable condition, they have not always the resolution to break away from it.

As a matter of fact, believers in Christ’s atonement are in declared religious union with those who make light of it; believers in Holy Scripture are in a confederacy with those who deny its plenary inspiration; those who hold evangelical doctrine are in open alliance with those who call the “Fall” a fable, who deny the personality of the Holy Ghost, who declare justification by faith immoral. Yes, we have before us the wretched spectacle of professedly orthodox Christians publicly avowing the union with those who deny the Faith, and scarcely concealing their contempt for those who cannot be guilty of such gross disloyalty to Christ.

The New Testament not only teaches the necessity of contending for the faith, but it also exhorts us to separate ourselves from those who deny the faith. There is no need for any child of God to be in ignorance as to his stand and his position before God and man. The Word of God is clear as to His instructions.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith, which was once (for all) delivered unto the saints” Jude 3.

“Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the Doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God-speed: For he that biddeth him God-speed is partaker of his evil deeds”” II John 9-11.

Selected

Editorial

RES

TESTIMONY/TESTIMONIES!

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

(Romans 10:9-10)

The above verses were among my Dad’s favorites after he got saved. Now I know for sure ‘dad’ has been ‘Home’ for many years and now more recently my ‘mother’ as well, etc. Praise the LORD!

Years ago a fellow ‘Haugean’ said, that when personal ‘testimonies’ are no longer part of the ‘Worship Service’ that a great part of the power of the ‘Worship Service’ will leave.

ACTUALLY those who don’t like personal ‘testimonies’ usually do not possess a ‘personal testimony’ themselves. Notice for example John chapter nine. All are born *spiritually blind*.

What is a ‘testimony?’ First of all it is NOT: “I think so”, “hope so”, “feel so”: BUT know so! A more than ‘recommended’ ‘testimony’ is not *necessarily* lengthy; but manifesting/telling what God’s Word (JESUS) is doing in their life (& can do); anchored in or with God’s Word and which HE CAN DO that *glorifies our crucified and risen SAVIOR!!*

Scripture is clear that a sinner saved by Grace is to **fellowship** with other *forgiven sinners* and **witness** to *lost sinners* (the world). ‘Fellowship’ has an open two way street, while ‘witness’ is to be clearly anchored in & with God’s WORD. This can be on a one to one basis OR to the multitudes! IF you are to be a ‘witness’ in a court room setting and on the ‘witness stand’ thought/think/assume: your ‘witness’ would be quickly brought to a halt or corrected. A witness is telling what they know/experienced/saw.

NOW “*Enoch walked with God*” (Genesis 5:24 & Hebrews 11:5). **What a testimony!!** Knowingly there are ‘Christians’ who will say: “I will just live my Christian life!” and that’s it!

WELL a ‘multitude’ of *Pharisees* tried that yesteryear and today as well; but just living a (Christian life?) such as the Pharisees; draws attention just to themselves! (Read Matthew 23 for example). While a lost sinner who has been found wants to lift up and glorify Christ. YES, definitely your life style (priorities, dress, what you participate in or not); are very important; but God says believe with/in (to believe is to come – faith in ac-

tion) your heart and confess with your mouth and thou shalt be saved. Be careful that what you are speaks so loud they can’t hear what you say. “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*” Matthew 5:16.

AS you study/search the ‘Scriptures’ it is very evident that Enoch walking with God, is not a spiritually ‘mute’ person. God states that IF you are a ‘child of His’ you ARE ‘salt/light’; not shall be or become – but **are!** “***So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God***” (Verbal/printed)- Romans 10:17. Please prayerfully read Matthew 10: 26-34 and I for now will just emphasize verses 32 -33: “*Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My father who is in heaven.*”

God says that ‘we’ are salt, light; not that we ‘should be’, nor shall be: But ARE! Certainly ‘salt’ can loose it ‘savor’ or light can be dimmed by compromise, etc.

A gentleman in the state of Iowa shared his ‘testimony’ and always talked about JESUS; not his past life. Gently he was asked why he never spoke of his past. He responded that folk knew what his past was like; but maybe did not know about JESUS! **1 Peter 3:15 & 11 Peter 3:9.**

In one of the ‘parishes’ I was privileged to serve, a younger couple wanted to give me a ‘plaque’ with one of my ‘favorite’ Bible verses etched on it; which is 1 Peter 5:7. At the business place where this was being done; the business personal asked IF this was a street address.

This brings me another ‘concern’. Occasionally as you listen to ‘testimonies, individual(s) will talk about when they got saved: that is great; but fail to bring their testimony up to the present and that is: How is your walk with Jesus today? A **‘living faith’ is present tense!** Realistically a person can be a Seminary Professor and not know JESUS personally; thus is spiritually **blind and lost!**

As stated ‘earlier’ fellowship is a ‘two way street’.

I am reminded of a very dear, close Christian brother (spiritually) who told of taking an older Christian with

him some distance away for a ‘fellowship meeting.’ On the way home this gentleman remarked that his relatives will be disappointed with him as they were having a Birthday get together in his honor that very afternoon. Our Christian brother apologized for taking him away not knowing the Birthday gathering was taking place. The guest stated that really he had been with his real (spiritual) *family* and that was fine! 1 John 3:12, Hebrews 10:24-25, Psalm 133:1 & Malachi 3:16 & very special promise in following verses 17 & 18). *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. Like an earring of gold an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.”* Proverbs 25:11-12.

Have you noticed how ‘slang’ and even more gross words have invaded into every day Christian conversations and at ‘times’, even in Bible Studies and sermons? Shame! It is the ‘Christian’ that is to be a salt/light unto the world; not the world influencing (fashions, styles, words, etc) the ‘Christian.’ No wonder ‘we’ see so little happening in ‘our’ part of the world but God is the Same, The Word is the Same and the Holy Spirit is the Same - **as yesterday!!** Look up the word ‘slang’ in a dictionary! Martin Luther’s Catechism! Most certainly the BIBLE! Jesus (Bible) says out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh!

It is Biblically evident that ‘walking with God’ is more than ‘living’ a certain life style! AS God does not nor will not ever change – Malachi 3:6 & Hebrews 13:8. (A very serious ‘challenge/privilege in Matthew 10: 26-34). **SO** coming back to the Bible TRUTH ‘we’ must not only live the life of a Christian, but witness (testimony); be it

in private or to the masses: ideally to BOTH! **Because** *“We love Him because He first loved us.”* 1 John 4:19

Yes, we will be made fun of, ridiculed, persecuted, etc. **1Cor. 1:18-25. 11 Timothy 3:12**, etc. as we know the fear of man worketh a ‘snare’; **SO** *daily* take up thy ‘cross’ and follow HIM and ‘we’ will definitely find ‘it will be worth it all when we see JESUS! **KEEP IN** mind that ‘Satan’ will not prompt you to ‘testify’ unto an ungodly (without God) world, out of LOVE.

Now to think that each time you ‘testify’ it is going to be met with ‘receptive’ ground is assumption. Nothing could be further from Biblical truth. **Isaiah 55:10-11, Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 119:89.** You and I are to prayerfully **sow the Incorruptible SEED and leave the results with GOD!** *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* Hebrews 9:14. Quitters never win and winners never quit!

P. S. “Enoch walked with God”, what a privilege and responsibility; **BUT** keep in mind that ‘Enoch’ was created out of the same kind of ‘dust’ that you and I are made out of!

It will be worth it all when you and I see JESUS!

“O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.” Psalm 96:1-3 (NRSV).

God Must Love Me More

Read Job 12:1-10

A (disaster) is despised in the thought of one who is at ease; it is made ready for those whose feet slip. Job 12:5

During a difficult recession, I organized a support group for fellow Christians to help them cope with unemployment. We provided resume reviews, networking, and prayer support. One problem emerged: Whenever someone got a job, he or she almost never returned to the group to offer encouragement. That increased the loneliness and isolation of those left in the group.

Worse, though, were comments from those who had never experienced a job loss. They mirrored the accusations of Job’s friends in his suffering: “If you were pure and upright, surely now (God) would awake for you, and prosper (you)” (8:6). By chapter 12, Job is starting to express

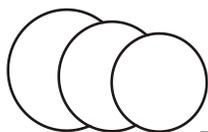
things in terms modern workers can understand. He says that he feels despised by those whose life is easy (v. 5).

When things are well for us, we may start to think that we who don’t have troubles are better somehow, or are more loved by God, than those who are struggling. We forget that the effects of this fallen world are indiscriminate.

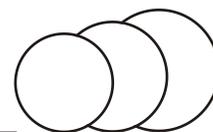
We are all loved by the Lord and we all need Him - in good times and bad. The successes, abundance, and positions that God has given to us are tools to help us encourage others in their time of need. Randy Kilgore

Give us the humility, Lord, not to act like Job’s friends who accused him of sin because of his trials. Show us how to help those who are struggling so that we might give the kind of encouragement You have given us. Humility toward God makes us gentle toward others.

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From Our Fellowship Circle



H. B. **Story City, IA**

I enjoy reading the articles in your magazine. I truly believe we are living in troublesome days and our only real hope is in the living Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior!

Enclosed is a gift for your ministry in memory of Gordon Nelson; who was my neighbor and friend...

M. & N. R. **Sand Creek, WI**

It is such a blessing to read the *Morning Glory*. God Bless all your efforts. He is coming soon!

Pastor & Mrs. **Astoria, OR**

It is about time we get at least a short letter off to you. It has been some time since the last one we sent. We do hope and pray that this finds you both in good health and that God is blessing you and in your work for Him...

I seem to keep busy but am feeling my age. ... is always busy with things at home and many activities in the Church. ... There have been a lot of things going on but many blessings also. God has blessed us so much in so many ways. Rodney, isn't it a great blessing to have a faithful, energetic, wife?

Now, speaking of blessings, we want to tell you again what a blessing it is to receive the *Morning Glory*. We cannot thank you enough for all your faithful work in getting it out and we pray for you and thank God for you and for each issue you get out. All the articles are such a blessing, challenging and convicting. We do wish that we could send much more money and hope what we do send at least covers the cost for ours.

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" Isaiah 41:10.

D. E. **Northfield, MN**

It is good to hear from you and I trust you continue to be well.

My hands are getting quite stiff so it is hard for me to write; although for being ninety-three and a half years old I am doing quite well.

Thanks for the good reading.

What would we do without the Lord? I talk to Jesus/God many times a day.

May the Lord bless you!

Mr. & Mrs. A. H. **Twin Valley, MN**

We trust that you are being blessed and experiencing a

blessed New Year as well!

Thank you for the *Morning Glory*- it helps keep us closer to our Lord and Savior!

We appreciate so much as persons and the ministry of Pastor David & Mary Barnhart. We were privileged to hear Pastor Barnhart last year at ... Definitely godly people.

"When the Pharisees challenged Jesus to name the greatest commandment, He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'" Matthew 22:37. That's why the Lord should have a prominent place in our hearts and our love for Him should permeate every area of our lives." Taken from 'Life Principles Notes on Living God' by Dr. Charles Stanley.

D. C. **Lynnwood, WA**

We appreciate receiving the *Morning Glory*.

God bless you and your ministry.

The Only REAL Hope!

The only real hope for the future of our beloved USA is to, with humility and godly repentance, return back to GOD and obedience to His Word (The Bible). This miracle can only really happen as individuals (You & I) follow God's 'recipe'. Are 'we' willing to do that?

The 'channel' with which GOD can do that is by preaching HIS WORD; be it on an individual basis or corporate!

One such 'channel' is by using the calling and gift of evangelism!

With this **biblical truth** *in heart and mind*: are you willing to seek to arrange for evangelistic meetings and/or a Bible Conference in your midst? Lord willing, this can take place in your church, local hall, school, tent meetings, home! You say that your church has such a *full schedule/program* that there is not room for a series of evangelistic meetings nor a Bible Conference! IF so, what is wrong with conducting house meetings which is very 'biblical'!

REMEMBER **God is the same, His Son is the same, the Holy Spirit is the same, the Word of GOD is the same (the Bible): why not try and trust HIM?**

The Way of the Cross Leads Home

By Toby Knutson, Fergus Falls, MN

Col. 1:3-22

Easter morning, HE IS RISEN and the response, HE IS RISEN INDEED. Resurrection (Easter) Sunday is a wonderful reminder of what Jesus Christ has done for all. What a joy to hear the familiar greetings on this day. We rejoiced together as the Pastor held high the Name of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Almost a Mount Transfiguration atmosphere was experienced in the Easter Morning worship service as the Lord used preaching, prayer, solos, choir and congregational singing bring laud and honour unto our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, we will also be looking to the Scriptures to see what this conversation about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ is all about. The title of the sermon, THE WAY of the CROSS LEADS HOME, is of course, the title of a song as well, but what is meant by all of the celebration of the WAY OF THE CROSS?

Today we will look at three main thoughts concerning the cross:

THE NEED OF THE CROSS

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

THE CROSS AND ITS CONNECTION TO HOME

The message will not do an exegesis of this whole Scripture text, but I want to select out of several verses that bring out THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME.

So, let's first look at:

I. THE NEED OF THE CROSS

As we allow our thoughts to go back into the Old Testament book of Genesis, we find what can be referred to as the "need of the cross".

Remember with me, what God said in Genesis 2:31 "*And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good...*"

This means, dear friends, there was no sin, no sickness, no suffering, no death, no destruction, not anything that would mar God's beautiful creation.

Then God formed man out of the dust and his wife out of one of Adam's ribs. God also gave them a command not to eat of the TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE of GOOD AND EVIL. Well, you know what happened and you are experiencing the results of the fall of mankind into sin.

Let's visit briefly about why Adam and Eve were not allowed to remain in the Garden of Eden after they disobeyed God.

There was also another tree located in the Garden, in

the very midst of it as a matter of fact, it was called THE TREE OF LIFE. Now that man had fallen into sin, they would not be allowed an opportunity to eat of the TREE OF LIFE and live forever in their sin as stated in Genesis 3:22-24 (Read).

However, even before Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden, our merciful Heavenly Father gave a promise of the Redeemer as He talked to the serpent in Gen. 3:15 where He says, "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*"

I think we all are aware of the death, suffering, despair and sorrow located throughout the Old Testament, and through the eyes of the prophets of old, we can see the NEED of the promised Redeemer. I trust we all understand that the penalty of sin must either be born by us for eternity or paid by a substitute. The Old Testament points forward to the CROSS and our substitute. The Gospels give the actual account of the CROSS and our substitute, and the Epistles and Revelation relate the result of the victory of Jesus Christ on the CROSS; yes, He is the Substitute for all who will believe.

This Leads Us To Our Second Thought:

II. THE WAY OF THE CROSS

What was gained for you and I on the CROSS of Calvary? Let's look at our Scripture text and gather our thoughts around the WAY OF THE CROSS. When THE WAY OF THE CROSS is talked about, it is important to explain what the victory of the CROSS really means.

Remember with me from what was said earlier in the message - our sin debt needed to be paid in full so mankind could regain favor with God. I John 2:1-2, tells us, "*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation (regain favor/appease) for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*" Yes, Jesus Christ has gained the victory over sin, Satan and the grave for all who will believe. Please fully understand as well, that Christ's death on the Cross of Calvary would have only been an execution had it not been for His resurrection the 3rd day.

We see in verse 3 that the Apostle Paul is giving thanks to God for the FAITH of the brethren at the church at Colossae. We know without faith it is impossible to please God. Yes, Paul was very thankful for the faith of the Brethren at Colossae. Now let's go down thru our Scripture text and see more clearly the WAY OF THE CROSS.

Look with me at verse 4 (Read) - we see the WAY OF THE CROSS provides LOVE amongst the brethren. Oh! How sweet it is to see Christian love on display in the fellowship of believers. The story has it that the [Roman Em-](#)

peror, Hadrian who reigned from 117 AD – 138 AD, told Aristides to spy on the “creatures” known as Christians. When Aristides returned to give his report, he made a well known statement repeated even today. He saw the Christians in action and said to Emperor Hadrian, “Behold, how they love one another.” Yes, love between the brethren is the WAY OF THE CROSS. We know of this love because God first loved us as told to us in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Let me remind you of a story of love. “During the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, sentenced a soldier to be shot for his crimes. The execution was to take place at the ringing of the evening curfew bell. However, the bell did not sound. The soldier’s fiancée had climbed into the belfry and clung to the great clapper of the bell to prevent it from striking. When she was summoned by Cromwell to account for her actions, she wept as she showed him her bruised and bleeding hands. Cromwell’s heart was touched and he said, “your lover shall live because of your sacrifice. Curfew shall not ring tonight.” Yes, this is an example of love of a woman for her fiancée’, but what a far greater love shown by our Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ in that... “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8b)

As we read in verse 5 we see another truth about the WAY OF THE CROSS. “For the hope that is laid up for you in Heaven, ...” We all can probably remember times in our lives when it seemed that hope was in short supply. Now the hope talked about here is not a “hope so” but as I Peter 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” I am thankful our hope is not as temporary as heard in an account of a man that walked up to a little league baseball game. As he approached the dugout he asked one of the boys on the bench, “What’s the score son”? The young boy responded, “the score is 18 to zero and we are behind”. The man quickly said, “Oh! My, you must be discouraged.” “Oh! Why would I be discouraged, we haven’t even got up to bat yet.” Well, a hope that far supersedes the hope of this youngster is provided in the WAY OF THE CROSS.

Now let’s drop down to verse 9, “...that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” We know how the world tries to fill our being with all sorts of beliefs and temptations, but when we come to the foot of the cross in humbleness and repentance the Holy Spirit fills us with a desire to be in His Word and from God’s holy Word we begin a journey of wisdom and spiritual understanding. Yes, praise

God, the WAY OF THE CROSS provides everything we need for this life here on earth and our eternal life with our Heavenly Father in our Heavenly home. The Bible is a tried and true and unfailing GPS for us.

In verse 12 we catch the words, “...to be partakers of the inheritance...”. What is the Apostle Paul saying here? Let’s turn to Acts 26:18 and see that Paul is agreeing with what Jesus said to him on the road to Damascus, “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” Amen, the WAY OF THE CROSS gives to all who know Jesus as Lord and Saviour a wonderful inheritance; yes, we are partakers of the inheritance of eternal life thru His shed blood on the Cross of Calvary.

As we ponder the wonders of the WAY OF THE CROSS, it is good to be reminded of what Jesus Christ has delivered us from. Verse 13 tells us, “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.” What may this darkness be, you may ask? Hopelessness, dejection, despair, sin separates us from God, no true fellowship in this world, eternal life in Hell, just to name a few. Yes, the WAY OF THE CROSS delivers us from a state of hopelessness to an eternal life of hope.

Well now, specifically the WAY OF THE CROSS provides redemption as noted in verse 14, “In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

Do we all understand what redemption is? The Noah Webster 1828 dictionary defines redemption very clearly, “The purchase of God’s favor by the death and sufferings of Christ; the ransom or deliverance of sinners from the bondage of sin and the penalties of God’s violated law by the atonement of Christ.” The story is told about a gardener of the Churchill’s. “A gathering of friends at an English estate nearly turned to tragedy when one of the children strayed into deep water. The gardener heard the cries for help, plunged in, and rescued the drowning child. That youngster’s name was Winston Churchill. His grateful parents asked the gardener what they could do to reward him. He hesitated, then said, “I wish my son could go to college someday and become a doctor.” “We’ll see to it,” Churchill’s parents promised. Years later, while Sir Winston Churchill was prime minister of England, he was stricken with pneumonia. The country’s best physician was summoned. His name was Dr. Alexander Fleming, the man who discovered and developed penicillin. He was also the son of that gardener who had saved young Winston from drowning. Later Churchill remarked, “Rarely has one man owed his life twice to the same per-

son.” We see in the Scriptures the truth that if we know Jesus as our Redeemer, we are born twice and only need to die once. This is truly provided by THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

Let’s now come down to verse 20. *“And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself.”*

Remember with me the NEED of the cross as mentioned earlier in the message. The peace between our Heavenly Father and mankind was broken in Adam and Eve’s fall into sin. Praise God, the NEED OF THE Cross has been met. Jesus Christ has made peace and reconciled all Believers unto God. Charles Wesley puts it this way, *“I rest beneath the Almighty’s shade, my griefs expire, my troubles cease, Thou, Lord, on whom my soul is stayed, Wilt keep me still in perfect peace.”* This is truly the WAY OF THE CROSS.

Verse 22 is probably one of the most descriptive verses in Scripture when we look into the WAY OF THE CROSS.

“In the body of His flesh...” You see, God, in His love, became fully human in Jesus Christ to take the penalty of our sin debt. God knew that none of mankind was able to accomplish this plan of salvation. We must needs have a redeemer, and yes, Jesus Christ is that Redeemer.

Now, see what THE WAY OF THE CROSS provides:

“...present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight.” *Praise Almighty God!* Unblameable – this, dear friends, tells us that born again Believers are no longer held blameable for their sin. Unproveable means we can no longer be blamed or censured for our sin. Jesus Christ is THE WAY OF THE CROSS, He is our ALL IN ALL. He finished the plan of salvation on the Cross of Calvary. Have you received His gift of salvation? If you have rejected this gift of salvation, our final thoughts today do not PERTAIN to you, however this wonderful gift is AVAILABLE to you.

III. THE CROSS AND ITS CONNECTION TO HOME

Let us look at some Scripture texts to see where THE WAY OF THE CROSS leads us. Pastor Rodney Stueland has a way of making this point very clear when he asks, “How do you spell Heaven? I spell it, H O M E”. Yes, the blood-bought Believers have been promised this HOME in the Bible.

John 14:1-3 says, *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you*

unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Have you given much thought about Heaven/Home? Rev. 21:3-4 lays out the beauty of our new Home. *“And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

As we close this message today, please be individually reminded, without the blood sprinkled way of salvation of Jesus Christ, there is no connection of the cross and HOME. It is only THE WAY OF THE CROSS THAT LEADS HOME.

Do you remember that we started out by referring to the Tree of Life in Genesis and Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat of it so they were sent out of the Garden of Eden? Well, let’s look at Rev. 22:1-2a and see what it has to say about this Tree of Life. *“And He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the Tree of Life...”*. Yes, THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME and it is HOME where we will enjoy the Tree of Life for eternity.

OH! Dear friends, THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME. Are you on the Pilgrim journey today? If not, don’t hesitate before getting the WAY OF THE CROSS settled in your heart. Let the angels in Heaven rejoice as you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into the Bible and show you THE WAY OF THE CROSS’ plan of salvation; which leads YOU HOME!

Never Too Young or Too Old

Golda Meir was seventy-one when she became prime minister of Israel. William Pitt was twenty-four when he became prime minister of Great Britain. George Bernard Shaw was ninety-four when one of his plays was first produced. Wolfgang Mozart was just seven when his first composition was published.

Now how about this! Benjamin Franklin was a newspaper columnist at the age of sixteen and a framer of the United States Constitution when he was eighty-one.

From Wall Street Journal

Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

THREE!!!

There were 3 outstanding things that had taken place before the Communist took over China (now for decades Red China).

1. The 'morals' of the country were very 'liberal'; and 'immortality' was very rampant.
2. The people were brain washed in believing that the Government will take care of YOU.
3. The registration of firearms (Guns)

Socialism and extreme Muslims seemingly have the same 'agenda'. We are 'now' at the very threshold of the same. PRAY *specifically* for our 'beloved' USA that 'we' might retain Freedom and Liberty! All that is necessary for 'evil' to succeed is that good men do nothing! **Isaiah 55:6-7, 56:1-2, 59:1, 14-19** (*Please read the entire 59th chapter*), **Ecclesiastes 8:11 and Daniel 9.** *"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place"* 11 Chronicles 7:14-15.

Christian Counselor Wins Appeal Against Michigan University

In a ... case (similar to the one in Georgia), Julea Ward from Eastern Michigan University was also expelled from her counseling job because of her views on homosexuality. She had requested that a gay client be transferred to another counselor, which the school argued went against its policies, despite the fact that it allows client transfers based on non-religious reasons. A lower-court initially ruled in favor of Eastern Michigan University, but the 6th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the decision, arguing that Ward's constitutional rights were violated.

ChristianPost.com

Monaghan Asks Federal Judge to Stop Enforcement of HHS Mandate Before January 1

The Thomas More Law Center (TML), ...in Ann Arbor, Michigan, late Friday, December 21, 2012, filed an Emergency Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRJO) on behalf of Tom Monaghan (Domino's Pizza owner) to stop enforcement of the HHS Mandate in order

to prevent immediate irreparable injury to his fundamental rights.

The HHS Mandate requires employers to pay for health insurance that covers abortion-inducing drugs, contraception and sterilization under threat of draconian fines. It also requires employers to educate their employees about use of those drugs. Tom Monaghan is a staunch pro-life advocate and Catholic philanthropist. His religious beliefs prohibit him from paying for abortion-inducing drugs, contraception and sterilization.

...If granted, the TRO would permit Monaghan to continue to provide insurance for his employees that does not violate his constitutionally and statutorily granted rights to free exercise of religion free speech and free association.

Christian Newswire

That "Religion of Peace" Shows its Ugly Face (Again)!

A Muslim mob in Pakistan stormed a police station to seize a mentally unstable Muslim man accused of burning a copy of Islam's holy book. The Pakistani police reported December 21 that the mob beat him to death and then set the body on fire.

The country's harsh blasphemy laws can result in a death sentence or life in prison to anyone found guilty. Critics say an accusation or investigation alone can lead to deaths, as people take the law into their own hands and kill those accused of violating it. Police stations and even courts have been attacked by mobs.

Sword Press Service

China Poised To Play Debt Card - For U.S. Land

Could real estate on American soil owned by China be set up as "development zones" in which the communist nation could establish Chinese-owned businesses and bring in its citizens to U.S. to work?

That's part of an evolving proposal Beijing has been developing quietly since 2009 to convert more than \$1 trillion of U.S. Debt it owns in equity.

Under the plan, China would own U.S. Businesses, U.S. Infrastructure and U.S. High-value land, all with a U.S. Government guarantee against loss. ...

PolitiChicks, Newsletters 1/21/13

Editor's Note: ??? Check it out!

God Made a Farmer

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon — and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of hay-wire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

Paul Harvey, 1978

Editor's Note: When this speech appeared in the 2013 Super Bowl Commercial featuring Dodge Ram trucks, the part that says, "and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church" was omitted.

Quenching the Spirit

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God.
Ephesians 4:30

How do we grieve and drive away the Holy Spirit of God? In brief, it takes place when we exercise all kinds of disobedience to the Holy Spirit. There is something He desires to accomplish in you. He is urging you in the direction of some goal, but when you answer Him with disobedience you grieve Him, you drive Him away. He wants to bring about sorrow for sin, a repentant spirit and reconciliation with God. When you simply turn away from all that He is trying to accomplish in you, you obliterate all the impressions which He has made on you; you make no effort to conserve and enlarge these impressions and promptings. All this resistance on your part adds up to grieving, despising and extinguishing the presence of the Holy Spirit of God.

He attacks and punishes some sin in you, prompting you to give this up. If then you will not obey Him but still insist on harboring this sin you are then grieving God's Holy Spirit. Even if you do wish to surrender this sin but not just now; you do have in mind to surrender to the Lord but not just now, then there is something false in your spirit, a despising of the "*time of thy visitation*" (Luke 19:44). This can cause God's Holy Spirit to leave you. Supposing you do wish to turn to God in repentance and faith but you are unwilling to heed the Lord's voice. You are not willing to take the road He has mapped out for you, the road that leads you to take refuge in Christ. His way is to make you a poor sinner. But you have a way of your own; you wish to believe first and then rejoice and then become strong in the Lord. You will not accept the counsels of God. You resist the election, which means you are grieving the Holy Spirit.

But finally having acceded to following these admonitions of the Lord but unwilling to use the means God has given you for this, His Holy word; you are unwilling to make use of the time available to read, hear and deepen yourself in it; you will be tempting God and extinguishing His Holy Spirit. Mark well this final point; you will repent and turn to God but only by applying your own effort on your own heart toward this end. You pry for the help and the grace of the Spirit for this but you will not use the means employed by the Spirit. Thus you will never come into possession of what you asked for. God has never promised this on our own terms. No, God has given us His Word; there in His Word He wants to meet us. There He wants to live and work but not without the Word.

Taken from *Thy Cross* devotional by
Carl Olof Rosenius

The Book of ECCLESIASTES

Interesting, in my 'New King James' Bible: man's insight as an introduction to the book of 'Ecclesiastes' is: "THE key word in Ecclesiastes is vanity, 'the futile emptiness of trying to be happy apart from God.'

The preacher (traditionally take to be Solomon - 1:1, 12 - the wisest, richest, most influential king in Israel's history) looks at life 'under the sun' (1:9) and, from the human perspective, declares it all to be empty. Power, popularity, prestige, pleasure - nothing can fill the God's shaped void in man's life but God Himself! But once seen from God's perspective, life takes on meaning and purpose, causing Solomon to exclaim ... skepticism and despair melt away when life is viewed as a daily gift from God. ... The Latin Ecclesiastes means 'Speaker Before an Assembly.'"

Sorrow is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart (Ecclesiastes 7:3)

Sorrow, under the power of divine grace, performs various ministries in our lives. Sorrow reveals unknown depths of the soul, and unknown capacities for suffering and service. Lighthearted, frivolous people are always shallow and are never aware of their own meagerness or lack of depth. Sorrow is God's tool to plow the depths of the soul, that it may yield richer harvest. If humankind were still in a glorified state, having never fallen, then the strong floods of divine joy would be the force God would use to reveal our souls' capacities. But in a fallen world, sorrow, yet with despair removed, is the power chosen to reveal us to ourselves. Accordingly, it is sorrow that causes us to take the time to think deeply and seriously.

Sorrow makes us move more slowly and considerately and examine our motives and attitudes. It opens within us the capacities of the heavenly life, and it makes us willing to set our capacities afloat on a limitless sea of service for God and for others.

Imagine a village of lazy people living at the foot of a great mountain range, yet who have never ventured out to explore the valleys and canyons back in the mountains. One day a great thunderstorm goes careening through the mountains, turning the hidden valleys into echoing trumpets and revealing their inner recesses, like the twisted shapes of a giant seashell. The villagers at the foot of the hills are astonished at the labyrinths and the unexplored recesses of a region so nearby and yet so unknown. And so it is with many people who casually live on the outer edge of their own souls until great thunderstorms of sorrow reveal hidden depths within, which were never before known or suspected.

God never uses anyone to a great degree until He

breaks the person completely. Joseph experienced more sorrow than the other sons of Jacob, and it led him into a ministry of food for all the nations. For this reason, the Holy Spirit said of him, "Joseph is a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall" (Gen. 49:22). It takes sorrow to expand and deepen the soul.

From The Heavenly Life:

*The dark brown soil is turned
By the sharp-pointed plow;
And I've a lesson learned,*

*My life is but a field,
Stretched out beneath God's sky,
Some harvest rich to yield.*

*Where grows the golden grain?
Where faith? Where sympathy?
In a furrow cut by pain.*

Maltbie D. Babcock

Every person and every nation must endure lessons in God' school of adversity. In the same way we say, "Blessed is the night, for it reveals the stars to us" we can say, "Blessed is sorrow, for it reveals God's comfort." A flood once washed away a poor man's home and mill, taking with it everything he owned in the world. He stood at the scene of his great loss, brokenhearted and discouraged. Yet after the waters had subsided, he saw something shining in the riverbanks that the flood had washed bare. "It looks like gold," he said. And it was gold. The storm that had impoverished him made him rich. So it is oftentimes in life.

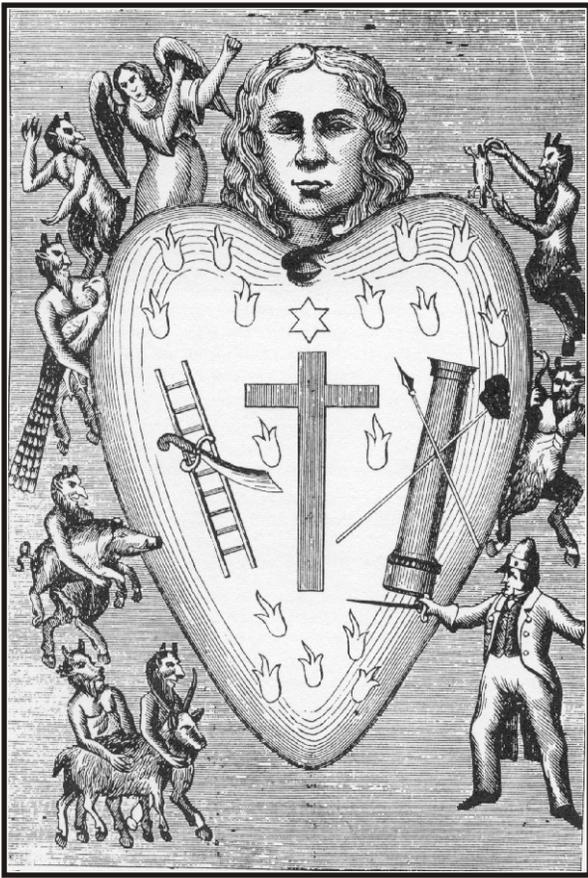
Henry Clay Trumbull

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman,
Copyright 1997 by Zondervan

Editor's Note: ALWAYS use Scripture to interpret Scripture – and let the Holy Spirit enlighten/lead. ALSO interesting in the book of Proverbs 15:13a & 17:22a it states the following: "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance" and "a merry heart does good, like medicine."

I Would Fly!

John and Charles Wesley were in a prayer service together. Charles said, "I feel so happy that if the Lord should tell me to fly, and I had wings, I would fly!" John replied, "If the Lord should tell me to fly, I would fly whether or not I had wings!"



The Sixth Picture

A person's inner condition whose zeal has cooled, and who has again begun to love the present world.

In the sixth picture you see a face that expresses indifference. One eye seems drowsy, the other looks around arrogantly. The cross—the sign of Christ's suffering—has become less distinct. The beams of grace have been quenched. The star of faith has been darkened. It has lost its light and radiance. It shows that a person may neglect watchfulness and prayer and become lukewarm. He begins to look at the vanities of the world. He permits himself more of the pleasures of the world and the indulgences of the flesh. He thinks less often of his Saviour's sufferings, and seldom looks up to the Crucified, the author and finisher of his faith. Thus he gradually loses Christ from his heart; piety is quenched; love grows cold; grace is lost; faith falters and dies. A cold, thick darkness enters his heart. He becomes spiritually indifferent and indolent. What happens then?

The man with the dagger in the picture represents the world, which now forces its way into the heart. He has no longer any power of faith, no clear vision, no love, no courage to resist. He fears the threats of the world. He is beguiled by its flattery and enticements. He again loves

the world. When such a condition prevails, Satan will return dragging with him the old creatures into the heart. His success is much easier this time because he meets no guard and no resistance. The sinner has become lukewarm in spirit, indolent in prayer, and does not shun the temptations to sin; he exposes himself to the danger.

The angel, representing God's grace, seeks to drive Satan away; but when the man himself resists the grace, does not watch and pray, and by his sins opens the gates and the doors, then sin presses in; and with sin, Satan enters again.

Here is where the words of Christ need to be heeded when he says: *"Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation,"* and *"pray without ceasing."* Prayer is the life of the soul, the spiritual breathing. When prayer becomes weak or ceases, then all spiritual life dies. Thus, when we do not watch, but become spiritually drowsy, the enemy will come and sow the tares among the wheat.

An unarmed and unguarded heart stands open for sin and Satan and all the spiritual enemies. Watchfulness, prayer, and heartfelt devotion must never cease. Keep your eye fastened on Jesus, the Crucified, and never let it slumber. Let nothing unclean enter God's temple and pollute it. *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (I Peter 5:8). *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."* We must never lay off the armor which the Apostle Paul describes so beautifully in Ephesians 6:11-19: *"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ...Above all, take the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."*

It is faith that can quench the evil darts. Faith, therefore, must always be living and firm, and love always burning. This can be possible only when our minds and hearts are constantly directed toward Jesus. We must turn our eyes away from the world and its enticements and look up to Him. We must close our hearts against the lust of sin, continually maintain communion with God in prayer and meditation of His Word. We must yield to the gracious promptings of the Holy Spirit. Faith and love rest upon Jesus Christ, the Crucified. When He departs from the heart, faith loses its power, light, and life.

PRAYER

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts." Thou, all-knowing God, knowest my

weakness, my unreliable heart, and how my love so easily grows cold and my faith fails. Thou knowest how much I am inclined to sin and the world, how I shun every exertion and hardship, and every serious self-denial and watchfulness. Revive me and strengthen me! Sustain me and give me steadfastness! Without Thee I can do nothing. My God and Saviour, do not let me stumble; do not withdraw Thy sustaining hand from me. I cannot abide in Thee unless Thou abide in me and uphold me. Do not quench the light in my soul; do not let my love grow cold; and do not let my trust grow weak and my faith die. Give me more light and power in prayer! Help me to come boldly to the throne of grace. Give me cheerfulness to always look up to Thee and find strength and courage in Thy suffering. Turn my eyes from the vanities of the world and up to Thee! AMEN.

My Soul, Be On Thy Guard

My soul, be on thy guard,
 Ten thousand foes arise;
 And hosts of sin are pressing hard
 To draw thee from the skies.

O watch, and fight, and pray!
 The battle ne'er give o'er;
 Renew it boldly every day,
 And help divine implore.

Ne'er think the victory won,
 Nor lay thine armor down;
 Thine arduous work will not be done,
 Till thou obtain thy crown

Fight on, my soul, till death
 Shall bring thee to thy God!
 He'll take thee at thy parting breath
 Up to His blest abode.

Taken from *Mirror of the Heart*, author unknown, copyright 1959 by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. Copies of this book may be obtained for a suggested offering of \$3.00 plus 75¢ shipping.

* * * * *

Questions — Answered

Misuse of the Tongue
 By Dr. Curtis Hutson

Q. *"I have a habit of gossiping about people and having a critical spirit toward them, including my pastor. How can I overcome this sin and control my tongue?"*

A. The first thing is to recognize gossiping, a critical spirit and faultfinding as sin. Confess them to the Lord; ask Him to forgive and cleanse you and help you in overcoming these sins.

The Bible has much to say about misuse of the tongue. It is such an important subject that the entire third chapter of James is given over to a discussion of the danger of the misused tongue. Once you recognize what a deadly sin is committed when you gossip and find fault with others, especially your pastor, confess it and ask the Lord to cleanse you.

Then you ought to set out to make a habit of speaking kind things about those you have criticized. James 3:8 says *"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."*

It is such a little member that it seems we could do something with it. The Bible says that man cannot train his tongue. We can train ourselves to say things right, but in an unguarded moment, the wild tongue will take over again. The tongue is unsettled. It is full of deadly poison. The harm it can cause is beyond conception. We are helpless to control it on our own.

Anyone who controls his tongue must give it over into the hands of the Holy Spirit. First, the heart must be changed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. That happens when one trusts Christ as Saviour. His body then becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit. Of course, the old nature is still with us, but the power of the Holy Spirit is there to control us as we yield our members to Christ. Romans 6:13 says, *"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God ...and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."*

You ought to fill your heart and mind with good things from God's Word and practice saying good things. When you start to say something unkind, the Holy Spirit will remind you, and you can instead say something good.

Sword of the Lord

Editor's Note: Keep in mind though that there is constructive criticism and destructive criticism. Most certainly 'gossiping' is ALWAYS **SIN!** *"Deliver my soul, O LORD from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue."* *"Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips."* Psalm 120:2 & 141:3.

**"Prayer and helplessness are inseparable.
 Only those who are helpless can truly pray ...
 Your helplessness is your best prayer."**

Ole Hallesby

The Wonder of the Book

By Dyson Hague

"Thy testimonies are wonderful" is the enthusiastic outburst of Psalm 119:129. It has been echoed from soul to soul through the centuries, for the wonder of the Book grows on us as experience is enlarged. The more deeply we search it, the more we feel that the Bible is not merely a book, but the Book. All other books are mere leaves, fragments. It alone is the perfect Book. It is the eternal Book. It is the Voice – all others are merely echoes.

Of course, we all know that the Bible literally means "the Book." It is a translation of the Greek title of the Bible, Biblos Geneseos, which almost might be rendered the "Bible of Genesis," the Bible of the beginning or origin or source; a curious counterpart to the first words of the first chapter of the Old Testament.

It is the Book that stands alone – unapproachable in grandeur, solitary in splendor, mysterious in ascendancy. It is as high above all other books as Heaven is above earth, as the Son of God is above all sons of men.

Oh, do not think and do not say, as you have heard men say they think, that we ought to read this Book as we read any other book and that we ought to study it and analyze it just as we do any textbook in it with awe. Read it with reverence. Regard it with a most sacred attention. *"Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground"* (Exod. 3:5).

Never, never compare this Book in terms of human comparisons with other books. Comparison is dangerous. Those books are of earth; this book is from Heaven. And do not think and do not say that this Book only *contains* the words of God. It is the Word of God. To say the Bible contains the Word of God instead of saying the Bible is the Word of God is inadequate and misleading. Everything that is in Scripture would authenticate itself to us as the Word of God, if we understood it in its right connection with the center.

Therefore, think not of it as a good book, or even as a better book, but lift it in heart and mind and faith and love far, far above all. And ever regard it, not as the word of man, but as it is in truth, the Word of God; nay, more, as the living Word of the Living God - supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, divine in authorship, human in penmanship, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application and inspired in totality.

Selected

The Old Paths

"Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls"

Jeremiah 6:16

I liked the old paths, when Moms were at home. Dads were at work. Brothers went into the army. And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay; Hard work did; And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook; Dads would work; Children would behave.

Husbands were loving; Wives were supportive; And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry; And Men wore the pants. Women looked like ladies; Men looked like gentlemen; And children looked decent.

People loved the truth, And hated a lie; They came to church to get IN, Not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded Godly; Sermons sounded helpful; Rejoicing sounded normal; And crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked; Drugs were for illness; And divorce was unthinkable.

The flag was honored; America was beautiful; And God was welcome!

We read the Bible in public; Prayed in school; And preached from house to house.

To be called an American was worth dying for; To be called a Christian was worth living for; To be called a traitor was a shame!

Preachers preached because thy had a message; And Christians rejoiced because thy had the VICTORY!

Preachers preached from the Bible; Singers sang from the heart; And sinners turned to the Lord to be SAVED!

A new birth meant a new life; Salvation meant a changed life; Following Christ led to eternal life.

Being a preacher meant you proclaimed the Word of God; Being a deacon meant you would serve the Lord; Being a Christian meant you would live for Jesus; And being a sinner meant someone was praying for you!

Laws were based on the Bible; Homes read the Bible; And churches taught the Bible.

God was worshiped; Christ was exalted; And the Holy Spirit was respected.

Church was where you found Christians on the Lord's day, rather than in the garden, on the creek bank, on the golf course, Or being entertained somewhere else.

I still like the old paths the best!

Selected

UpDate

“Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, and not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” II Corinthians 9:5-7

Possibly you have heard of the young ‘chap’ who had a ‘paper route’ and was Biblically being instructed and challenged to tithe in regards to his ‘meager’ income; which he did and promising the LORD that he would continue the practice in his life time. Well, the LORD richly blest him financially as a conscientious business man. In fact: his income became so great that the tithing became large amounts! And so, he one day went to seek ‘council’ from his ‘pastor’ to see if he could break this covenant with the LORD. After a ‘moment’ of hesitation the Pastor responded and shared that they could ask the LORD to **decrease** this gentleman’s income until he could afford to continue ‘tithing’.

YES, that’s another ‘reason’ tithing’ is so practical as it follows a person’s income like a shadow. Naturally, IF a person is to practice this ‘challenge’, that person first needs to consider IF the giving (tithing or tithing & offerings) is invested *cheerfully/joyfully out of love unto the LORD.*

Secondly, I believe that the LORD intends that a person should not only ‘consider’ giving; but where?

Sadly, there not so few of you who ‘give’, but fail to ask/seek the LORD’S **guidance** in the same! Tragically, there are also ‘some’ who are giving to supposedly ‘Christian causes’ which are contrary to their ‘convictions’ based upon the Holy Word of God, the Bible! With the above having been said, I am not *insinuating* that the HLIF/MG is the only one that is ‘**contending for the faith**’; but challenging you to prayerfully consider the same. You know the LORD knows much more about ‘finances’ than ‘we’ can imagine, and HE is a very good Bookkeeper! Just pray about it and let the LORD lead.

Thank you for coming alongside, in ‘our’ team

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effort that GOD might be glorified with your prayer support and financial giving – trusting that ‘souls’ have been/are being saved and God’s Lamb and Sheep are being edified and nourished through this ‘ministry’.

February Income for *Morning Glory* was app. \$1520.00.

The actual cost of publishing and mailing each (monthly) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,000. There are definitely other expenses involved as well.

Watching, Planning, Looking Forward

to the

***HLIF/MG Annual Conference In June,
(Lord willing).***

Details coming in the May Issue of the
Morning Glory.

PRAY FOR and Plan to Attend!!