

Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • April 2015

Jesus and the Scriptures

Charles Spurgeon

“He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” Luke 24:27

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had a most profitable journey. Their companion and teacher was the best of tutors; the interpreter one of a thousand, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The Lord Jesus condescended to become a preacher of the gospel, and He was not ashamed to exercise His calling before an audience of two persons, neither does He now refuse to become the teacher of even one. Let us court the company of so excellent an Instructor, for till He is made unto us wisdom we shall never be wise unto salvation.

This unrivaled tutor used as His class-book the best of books. Although able to reveal fresh truth, He preferred to expound the old. He knew by His omniscience what was the most instructive way of teaching, and by turning at once to Moses and the prophets, He showed us that the surest road to wisdom is not speculation, reasoning, or reading human book, but meditation upon the word of God. The readiest way to be spiritually rich in heavenly knowledge is to dig in this mine of diamonds, to gather pearls from this heavenly sea. When Jesus Himself sought to enrich others, He wrought in the quarry of Holy Scripture.

The favoured pair were led to consider the best of subjects, for Jesus spake of Jesus, and expounded the things concerning Himself. Here the diamond cut the diamond, and what could be more admirable? The Master of the House unlocked His own doors, conducted the guests to

His table, and placed His own dainties upon it. He who hid the treasure in the field Himself guided the searchers to it. Our Lord would naturally discourse upon the sweetest of topics, and He could find none sweeter than His own person and work: with an eye to these we should always search the Word. Oh for grace to study the Bible with Jesus as both our teacher and our lesson!

“Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures.” Luke 24:45

HE whom we viewed last evening as opening Scripture we here perceive opening the understanding. In the first work He has man fellow-labourers, but in the second He stands alone; many can bring the Scriptures to the mind, but the Lord alone can prepare the mind to receive the Scriptures. Our Lord Jesus differs from all other teachers; they reach the ear, but He instructs the heart; they deal with the outward letter, but He imparts an inward taste for the truth, by which we perceive into savour and spirit. The most unlearned of men become ripe scholars in the school of grace when the Lord Jesus by His Holy Spirit unfolds the mysteries of the kingdom to them, and grants the divine anointing by which they are enabled to behold the invisible. Happy are we if we have had our understandings cleared and strengthened by the Master! How many men of profound learning are ignorant of eternal things! They know the killing letter of revelation, but its living spirit they cannot discern; they have a veil upon their hearts which the eyes of carnal reason cannot penetrate. Such was our case a little time ago; we who now see were once utterly blind; truth was to us a beauty in the

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Table of Contents

Jesus and the Scriptures.....1-2
H23
The Lord’s Supper4
Editorial5-6
God Gave Them Up6
From our Fellowship Circle • Johnny’s Race.....7
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable.....8-9
Jesus • Make Us a King9
Living Together Outside of Marriage10-11
What Has Happened to Humanity?.....11
Victorious in the Struggles of Life.....12-14
The Men of the City • That Chocolate Cake.....14
Dear Citizen of Heaven.....15
Hauge Spring Bible Conference • UpDate.....16

dark, a thing unnoticed and neglected. Had it not been for the love of Jesus we should have remained to this moment in utter ignorance, for without His gracious opening of our understanding, we could no more have attained to spiritual knowledge than an infant can climb the Pyramids, or an ostrich fly up to the stars. Jesus’ College is the only one in which God’s truth can be really learned; other schools may teach us what is to be believed, but Christ’s alone can show us how to believe it. Let us sit at the feet of Jesus, and by earnest prayer call in His blessed aid that our dull wits may grow brighter, and our feeble understandings may receive heavenly things.

Morning & Evening,
by Charles Spurgeon,
Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. –
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Editor’s Note: Jesus didn’t rely on supernatural phenomena, visions, dreams, revelations or people coming back from the dead as proof for His life, ministry and mission. Rather, He relied solely upon the Scriptures which had been penned hundreds, and sometimes even thousands of years in advance of His coming. Jesus relied upon the same Old Testament that we have today. Jesus quoted them with full authority of God Himself speaking. When people deny the truth and inerrancy of the Scriptures, they are, in effect, denying the very Savior whom they claim. Jesus would say to them the same thing that He said to the doubting Sadducees, “*Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.*” (Matt. 22:29)

H2

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)

I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior on January 17, 1981. I had no church background and the new life in Jesus was the most wonderful thing I have ever had. Two things that God gave me right away were: Belief that the Bible was the very Word of God, and Assurance of Salvation. The verse that God used to settle the issue was Galatians 2:20: *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life that which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”* I knew that Jesus died for me and that was enough.

A friend of mine had a Kawasaki motorcycle. It was a 750 two-stroke and was the fastest bike that was made in that era. The designation that Kawasaki used for this beast was H2. On top of that, my friend had a Denco racing engine on it. This means that it was even faster than the production model. We had clocked this bike going zero to 100 mph. in a city block! It would do the quarter mile in about 10 seconds flat (or high 9's). It was as fast as actual race cars in the day.

Around April or May my friend asked me if I wanted to take this bike for a spin. I said “sure!” I made my way to a deserted area of north Davenport, Iowa. It was dimly lit and had curves that were hard to see. Even though the H2 was blistering fast in a straight away, it had lousy brakes and even worse handling. It was nick-named the “widow-maker.”

As I drove along, I asked myself, “Am I going to ‘turn her loose and see what she’ll do?’” As I pondered that question, I looked up the road ahead and envisioned in my mind what could be the likely outcome of doing such a thing. All I could think about was taking off in a flash and not being able to make a turn or not seeing an obstruction in the road. The end result would be that I would crash and probably die.

I remember looking down at the speedometer and the tachometer, then looking down the road ahead. I then turned my gaze to the heavens and asked myself the question: “What would happen to me if I died? Would I go to heaven or go to hell? Am I really sure where I stand with God?” As I pondered that, the Lord re-affirmed in my heart that since Jesus was my Savior and I had received Him and His salvation, I would go to heaven if I died.

I also came to the conclusion that it would be really stupid for me to race this thing and probably crash. I just turned around and took it back to the garage. My friend

asked me if I ran it out, and I replied, “No.” He wouldn’t understand what had transpired between me and the Lord on the seat of that H2.

Dear reader, do you have this precious Assurance of Salvation? Do you know where you are headed and why? Are the matters of heaven and hell and eternity settled issues for you? You don’t have to have an experience like I did on a racing motorcycle, but have you come to that place in your life to know for sure where you are headed? The Lord has promised to every true believer that inner assurance. *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”* (Romans 8:16) The great blessing of this is that, as we live in repentance and faith in Jesus, eternity is a settled issue. The greatest questions of life and the after-life are all answered and you know. You don’t have to face your death-bed with doubts, but can do so with that blessed assurance.

Many people today don’t have this assurance. Even though they might be faithful church members, when asked if they have assurance of their salvation, they answer: “I think so” or “I hope so” or “I trust everything will work out.” Compare this with the testimony of David in Scripture: *“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* (Ps. 23:6) He didn’t say, “I hope to dwell,” or “I might dwell,” but said, “I WILL dwell.” This should be the witness of everyone living in Christ. If you do not have assurance, go to the Lord and find out why not. God wants this to be a settled matter with you.

Interestingly enough, Kawasaki has just released a new version of the H2. They call it the Ninja H2 and is faster than the original. It is supercharged and is reported to go 250 mph. It is the fastest production motorcycle today. Perhaps there may be a wondering soul who will find themselves on this H2 and be scared enough to wonder before God what their standing is before the Almighty if they were to die. Perhaps the Holy Spirit can meet someone in a living way once again on the seat of an H2.

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

*“And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.”
(John 17:3)*

Lord's Supper

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Several perspectives are emphasized in this lively passage on the Lord's Supper. Our hearts should be occupied with each. In this verse, we are to look backward to the cross and see our Saviour giving his life for us. Secondly, we are to look forward and anticipate His return when we will not need the emblems anymore, but will see Him, be with Him, and be like Him. Again, we are to look upward to our great High Priest who is ever able to take our spiritual sacrifices and make them acceptable to God. Finally, we are to look inward. **"Let a man examine himself"** (v. 28), and then come with a pure heart to this holy feast.

Harold G. Smith

*Calvary! Calvary! Mercy's vast unfathomed sea.
Love, eternal live to me, Saviour; we adore Thee!*

Samuel T Francis

Editor's Note: First of all: The Lord's Supper is definitely more than a 'memorial'; it is a Sacrament! Our crucified and risen SAVIOR, Himself, instituted the Lord's Supper on the evening before His crucifixion. It is ONE of two Sacraments that God Himself 'instituted' through His beloved Son, JESUS, for 'our' benefit AND the Lord's Supper in intended only for His Children!

According to Martin Luther's Small Catechisms Explained, The Lord's Supper is: The true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine (Ed. new wine or grape juice – First 'fruit' of the "vine") give unto the saved to eat and to drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself (Ed. In/with/under). It is the same as the 'night' in which JESUS was betrayed, for we walk by faith and not sight! (not necessarily *understanding/intellect*).

Exclusively the Sacrament of the Altar (Lord's Supper) is intended ONLY for the Lord's children! If the unsaved participate at the Lord's Table, they will bring greater condemnation upon themselves: 1 Corinthians 11 and Judas who physically 'betrayed' Jesus and then went out into the night.

Furthermore, if it were to be 'wholesale' *forgiveness of SIN* for anybody who received it, what happens to the personal SINS during the week or weeks before? Not ONE sin will EVER enter Heaven. The Lord's Supper is not a place of 'absolution', for how can a specific sin(s) be forgiven twice by a God Who forgives and forgets and never will be 'retraced/remembered by GOD'!

By FAITH and in OBEDIENCE, God's children participate in the Lord's Supper with assurance of forgiveness of SIN. There are numerous other important 'biblical' elements in this 'practice' by faith out of LOVE for HIM who

first LOVED 'us'!

WHY?

"Nay but, O man, who art though repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"

Romans 9:20.

In this scientific age, it is essential for us to remember that "science" can never answer any question beginning with "why." Scientific research seeks to answer questions of "what" and "how," and sometimes "where" and "when," but it can never deal with "why" questions. Such questions require a moral or theological answer.

Probably the most vexing of all such questions is: "Why do the righteous suffer?"

Or, put another way: "Why is there evil in a world created by a God who is good?" The question becomes especially poignant when personal calamity comes and we ask, "Why did this happen to me?"

Many think the book of Job was written to answer such questions, for Job was one of the most godly men who ever lived, yet he suffered more than anyone. But God answered Job's searching questions only by pointing to the wonders of His creation. God has made us for Himself, and He is "forming" us for His own holy purpose; that is all we need to know right now. "What I do thou knowest not now," said Jesus, "but thou shalt know hereafter" (John 13:7).

Yet even Jesus in His human suffering cried out on the cross: *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Matthew 27:46). We do know, at least in part, the answer to this question. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin; but that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

For answers to the other "why" questions, we may well have to await God's own time. Until then, *"we know that all things work together for good to them that love God"* (Romans 8:28), and we can say with Job: *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him"* (Job 13:15).

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Days of Praise, Institute for Creation Research,
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Editor's Note: Personally I do not believe we are going to take any 'baggage' with us to HEAVEN! WHY would we want to take anything with us from this 'sinful' world into a 'sinless' world? We shall see JESUS and be as He is! By God's GRACE, be assured it will be worth it all!

Editorial

RES SNOW!

“Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’” (Isaiah 1:18)

Very likely when this monthly issue of the *Morning Glory* reaches the EYES of our ‘readers’, the great majority of YOU are glad that basically the snow fall is through until next Fall or Winter! The conditions that are not conclusive to the older (in years) are not highly sought after with delight! YET ‘snow’ is very beneficial especially to the Agriculture department.

To name a few of the benefits, it is great as an insulator to keep frost from entering deeper into the earthen soil, and it ‘adds’ moisture and nitrogen to the soil.

To the ‘human eye’ what is whiter than freshly fallen snow? For example: The ‘home-maker when she hangs out white washed linen; but then notices the contrast with the freshly fallen ‘snow’. SNOW is frozen precipitation in the form of white or translucent hexagonal ice crystals that fall in soft, white flakes.

Yet to my knowledge, under a powerful microscope a snowflake is made up of several dazzling colors!

SNOW is seen even in summer on Mt. Hermon, from points as far south as the Sea of Galilee; and falls in the elevated areas of Palestine in January and February. It seldom lies deeper than a few inches, though a blanket 15 inches deep covered the North shores of the Dead Sea in February 1950.

Look at this “marvelous” Bible verse a little closer:

First of all, the invitation – “Come now”– involves a person’s will! When Adam and Eve first ‘sinned’ they sowed ‘fig-leaves’ together and hid. They also blamed another for their actual sin. Sound familiar?? As by ‘our’ own personal fallen nature, we are born ‘attorneys’ in excusing ourselves and the excuse is usually a dressed-up lie.

So the ‘invitation’ from Almighty God is to **come now**. (By the way, this is the ONLY time that God challenges ‘us’ to use ‘reason’, for our primary/vital spiritual benefit/need). The time to come is not tomorrow or some later date; But NOW!

True ‘prayer’ is a two-way communication and in this marvelous verse God says “let us reason together”.

As I have stated before Martin Luther says; “unless we are willing to deal with SIN, the Bible is a closed Book!”

Verses 16-20 in Isaiah 1 is an ‘invitation’ to **godly repen-**

tance; and the result thereof will be a time of refreshing – as snow refreshes the soil. See Acts 3:19, Matthew 3:8, Mark 1:15, 2:17, 6:12, Luke 24:47.

The model Old Testament ‘home-maker’ prepared warm scarlet clothing for her family and was therefore “Not afraid of the snow.” Proverbs 31:21

OTHERWISE If you and I are to have our ‘sacrifices’ accepted, and our prayers answered, we must begin at the right end: Being converted according to God’s LAW/WORD. If you haven’t been converted, don’t expect to be fruitful in ‘occupying’ for and with Him even in your devotional life. As justice and love will never atone for false religions and profaneness, so prayers and sacrifices will never atone for fraud and oppression. Thus you should seek direction and guidelines from God’s Eternal Word, the BIBLE; thus inquiring whether it was according to God’s Will or not.

Though our sins have been as scarlet and crimson, which is a deep dye, – though we have been often dipped, by our many sins and backslidings; – though we have remained in them a long time, as cloth does in the scarlet dye – Yet pardoning mercy will thoroughly discharge the stain! SIN is very filthy before our Holy, sinless God – Isaiah 1:6, 64:6. Even IF we tried to wash ourselves with lye, we could not remove the stain. But if ‘we’ truly repent (II Corinthians 7:10) and seek to be obedient in accordance to His WORD; than our sin will be pardoned and God will make us white by a full remission – for His Name Sake. God will forgive and forget and ye shall eat the good of the land! Isaiah 43:25, 44:22, 1 John 1:7 - 2:1-2, 11 Chronicles 7:14, II Corinthians 5:17.

Do YOU remember your Mother or Father saying unto you: ‘Don’t eat the SNOW, it is dirty’? And as a young person you didn’t quite understand; but they were correct! BECAUSE within every snowflake there is a particle of dust. What a symbol of a Christian as to the very core ‘we’ are sinful sinners; but when ‘we’ are washed in the BLOOD of the LAMB, we are **white as snow before ‘our’ Holy, Triune GOD**. God declares: “For when I see the BLOOD over your ‘doorpost’ (heart), I will pass over YOU! (Ex. 12:13) **Justification of the repentant believing ‘sinner’ takes place in HEAVEN by Almighty GOD** – Isaiah 61:10, Malachi 3:17, II Corinthians

5:21 & Revelation 19:7-9!

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire" Daniel 7:9.

"White as SNOW" appears only six times in God's WORD, the Bible and this amazing vision of our everlasting God on His fiery judgment throne – The symbol of holiness is pure white: as white as SNOW!

David after confessing his own sin, prayed: *"Have mercy upon me, O God...Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin...wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow"* Psalm 51:1-2, 7.

The cleansing BLOOD of Christ, the Lamb of God, is the only substance that can turn blood-red scarlet into snowy white. Know and wonder that the LAMB OF GOD was born and placed in a 'manger' wrapped in 'swaddling cloths'. Swaddling cloths were also used to wrap corpses in. This shows us that JESUS was born to

die, and YOU and I are born to live! (Further references in regard to SNOW – Mark 9:3, Matthew 17:5, Matthew 28:3, Revelation 1:14.)

Thank God for JESUS every 'day' and 'thank-you' **JESUS** for **Matthew 1:21, II Corinthians 9:15!**

P. S. PRAYER and my Need has an important part in the Life of a believer's victory over temptation and SIN.

It is important to realize when 'we' are tempted, we, in 'reality' have not actually sinned. JESUS was tempted in ALL points like as 'we' are; yet did not sin. It is when a person yields to 'temptation' they SiN!

As we grow older in the Lord (towards maturity), we also will continue to be tempted more in 'our' *thought life*.

Martin Luther used a graphic illustration: You can not stop a bird from 'flying' over your head but you can 'stop' it from nesting in your hair.

It is when we yield to temptation it is SIN! Saying NO to temptation is saying YES to God and an opportunity to express our LOVE for/to JESUS!

God Gave Them UP

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." Romans 1:28

This is a terrifying verse, climaxing the awful indictment (in Romans 1:18-32) of God against a world in rebellion against its maker. This burning passage begins with Paul's declaration that God's wrath has been revealed against all those who 'hold the truth' – or, more explicitly, "hold down or suppress the truth" in unrighteousness.

Then in a rising crescendo of testimonies of wickedness and resulting condemnation, one fearful clause appears no less than three times: *"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts... For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections... God gave them over to a reprobate mind"* (vv. 24, 26, 28).

As terrible as such judgments seem, the provocations were infinitely worse. They *"changed the glory of the uncorruptible God"* into idols depicting His creatures (v. 23). They *"changed the truth of God into a lie"* and rejected Him as Creator (v. 25). They subjected Him to critical philosophical scrutiny and chose not *"to retain God in their knowledge"* at all (implied in the Greek *"did not like"*) (v. 28). Thus it was that our God of all grace finally had to give them up!

But the frightening thing is that this dark scene describes more than ancient paganism. Every verse is also a precise indictment at this present, evil "post-Christian" world, as we almost seem to be reading therein a documentary of the present age. What a picture it draws of modern evolutionary humanism in practice!

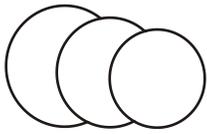
Yet the apostle Paul was still preparing to go to Rome, *"not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,"* for that gospel was then – and still is – *"the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth"* (Romans 1:16)

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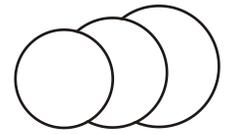
GOD ALSO 'CREATED' THE SABBATH DAY AND 'HE' RESTED!

"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done" (Genesis 2:2) Naturally, this was a LONG time before the time of Moses and the giving of the Ten Commandments!!

In the New Testament 'time' AND *today*, Christians (it should be everybody) observe 'Sunday' as the Sabbath for a number of New Testament reasons.



From Our Fellowship Circle



N. F. **Rudd, IA**
Thank you for your inspiring messages. I especially liked “How did we get into this Mess?” – Comparing the current trends in Christianity.

Enclosed is a check to help you keep up your GOD’s saving Work.

J. J. O. **Newfolden, MN**
Blessings to you and Rodney in the Name of Jesus! Jesus is wonderful isn’t HE! He promises to ‘us’ that He would be with us here, and then the supreme Hope of Heaven some day, all because of HIM!

S. & A. L. **Gifford, IL.**
A blessed New Year in the Lord to you! Thank you for your faithful ‘ministry’. Hope you are feeling better, health wise.

D. & C. H. **Roland, IA**
We want to thank and encourage you for your faithful service to our Lord.

It is so good to read the *Morning Glory* and its’ basis on Scripture. We all need that as our Rock in this changing world.

We will continue to pray for your encouragement, health and strength in this New Year.

W. H. **Blooming Prairie, MN**
I am sorry it has taken me so long to send in a gift, but at 88 years old I tend to get sick and it takes longer to recover than it used too and I also tend to forget easier. I am sure thankful that the LORD does not forget His promises and is a very present help in time of need.

God bless you and your work.

H. & L. M. **Reva, S.D.**
We praise God for the *Morning Glory* and are so blessed by all of your articles!

We truly miss fellowshiping with you Rod and would love to get together again sometime! ...

We have wanted to come to the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Conference, but with such distance, we haven’t been able to yet. Still plan on it though!

We want the following special people to receive the *Morning Glory* and renewing ours’ ...

Thank you! Enclosed is \$... Thank you too for speaking the TRUTH!

May God bless you and in His Love we continue to pray for you!

Johnny’s Race

Please read: Hebrews 10:19-25

Comfort each other and edify one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

When 19-year-old Johnny Agar finished the 5K race, he had a lot of people behind him—family members and friends who were celebrating his accomplishment.

Johnny has cerebral palsy, which makes physical activity difficult. But he and his dad, Jeff, have teamed up to compete in many races—Dad pushing and Johnny riding. But one day, Johnny wanted to finish by himself. Halfway through the race, his dad took him out of his cart, helped him to his walker, and assisted Johnny as he completed the race on his own two feet. That led to a major celebration as friends and family cheered his accomplishment. “It made it easier for me to do it with them behind me,” Johnny told a reporter. “The encouragement is what drove me.”

Isn’t that what Christ-followers are meant to do? Hebrews 10:24 reminds us, *“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”* (NIV). As we model the love of our Savior (John 13:34-35), imagine the difference it could make if we all set out to encourage each other—if we always knew that behind us we had a group of friends cheering us on. If we took the words “comfort each other and edify one another” (1 Thess. 5:11) seriously, the race would be easier for all of us.

Dave Branon

Help us, Lord, not to think that we can go through life Without others. Cure us of our independent spirit. Use us to bless others and humble us To accept encouragement.

A word of encouragement can make the difference between giving up or going on.

Our Daily Bread, 2014 RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Permission Granted.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Lesbian Dean of Religion Believes Churches Should Stop Trying to Convert People

WND.com (December 29, 2014) reports that the dean of religious life at Stanford University believes that churches should stop trying to convert people to Christianity. "They should stop doing all those conversions and shouldn't even 'do religion' all the time, contends Rev. Jane Shaw, who plans to teach 'empathy' in her religion classes.

"The school explained her duties are to provide 'spiritual, religious and ethical leadership to the university community, serve as minister of Memorial Church and also teach undergraduates and graduate students as a professor.'" ...

Dr. Ron Gaity, RETURN AMERICA

Millions of Indian Christians Forced to Choose Between Faith and Government Benefits

Millions of Christians in India from the lowest caste system, known as "dalit," are being forced to choose between their faith and receiving government benefits available only to "untouchables," a report has said.

The International Christian Concern noted ... that there are close to 25 million Dalits across India who've converted to Christianity but now must make the choice between maintaining their faith or benefitting from a government program that helps them only if they identify with their Hindu background...

Stoyan Zaimov for ChristianPost.com

Abortion Clinic Closures Show Progress, but 739 Facilities Still Open

The pressure on the abortion industry is getting some results. Over the past five years, the number of surgical abortion facilities in the U.S. has declined by 23 percent, according to LifeNews.com.

The details of their reporting show that in 2012, 24 facilities were closed. In 2013, there were 93 abortion clinic closures. In 2014, there were 73 closures.

As long as even one of these butcher shops remains open, we must be vigilant in our efforts.

SWORD PRESS SERVICE

Family TV Not "Family-Friendly," Parents Television Council Finds

Contemporary television series showcasing family life will likely include sex, profanity and violence that make the entertainment unsuitable for family viewing, the Parents Television Council has found.

As many as 99 percent of the broadcast television shows about family that PTC studied contained some form of adult content in 2013, they noted in a December 10 report. Profanity was found in 94 percent of shows, sexual content in 84 percent; 33 percent contain violence...

BAPTIST PRESS

Christians Are Taking Action That Atheists Can't Stop

When one lady asked for volunteers to join her at a Rivertown Mall in Grandville, Michigan to sing "Amazing Grace," 250 people responded with RSVPs, and over 1,000 showed up at the mall. What makes this different from other "flash mobs" is that the lyrics were given out in a ...gospel tract form (so that anyone could join in with the singing).

Christiannewswire.ccsend.com

Dove And Pampers!

At least TWO Companies know the importance of *families!* So much so, they have inspirational Videos that promote the value of father-head, marriage and families and these two are Pampers and Dove.

Terrorists behead Christians in Libya

The Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt confirmed the death of 21 hostages.

A video surfaced Sunday night [February 15, 2015] on YouTube and militant social media that appeared to show the beheadings of a group of Egyptian Christians seized by Islamic extremists in Libya in the past two months. ...

Egypt's state news agency quoted a spokesman for the Coptic Orthodox Church as confirming the deaths of the 21 Christians. They had been captured in two incidents in the central coast city of Surt, according to their families and the government, and militants declaring allegiance to ISIL had threatened to kill them. ...

In the video, shot on a beach, the prisoners are marched into place by a line of knife-wielding captors. At first, they kneel, the lips of some of the doomed men moving in apparent prayer. Then they are forced to lie down in the sand, and the executioners reach down and begin sawing their necks. ...

Unlike some ISIL videos that have cut away before the victims' heads are sawed off, this one presents the beheadings in graphic, jagged jump-cuts, culminating with the severed heads being placed on the backs of the corpses.

Despite growing dangers over the last year as Libya has fallen into deepening chaos, impoverished Egyptian laborers have continued to flock to the neighboring energy-rich state, where wages are far higher than at home. Many are Christians, and when the two groups of Copts were seized, statements from their Islamist captors made it clear they were targeted primarily for their religion.

Taken from the *Star Tribune*, February 16, 2015

Editor's Note: Jesus' prophetic words are being fulfilled right before your eyes: *"They will make you outcasts of the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God."* (John 16:2)

JESUS

Jesus' life shows us what God is like for *"He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of His nature."* Hebrews 1:3

By Jonathan Lindell

God indeed, yet true man. Mightier than man in word and deed. Has all authority in heaven and earth; commands physical elements, sees through darkness, multiplies food, walks on water, heals all manner of illness, not limited by distance, raises the dead. Overcomes Satan and evil spirits, casting them out of people. Though tempted does not sin, is sinless, fulfilling all righteousness. Does not respect man's false traditions of caste or holiness, and is not defiled by what comes to him from without. Knows what people think or say in secret. Has a steadfast interest in individuals, in children equally with adults. This interest comes from love compassion, pity, and concern for their well-being. This gives him a self-willed purpose to save mankind. To this end He seeks out people in towns, villages, and country, in house and street, among every class of society. Does not want people living in ignorance, but in truth and light, hence teaches essential truths about

Himself and man, the way of living, and the meaning of life. Forgives the sins of repentant sinners and receives them into the family of His sons and daughters. Calls on men to follow Him, live like Him, and work for the spread of His kingdom. Seeks faith in people toward Himself, and His Word, discerns such faith, encourages it, and honors it. Gives the Holy Spirit to dwell in and with His followers. Ordains the sacraments. Commands a worldwide program for the extension of His kingdom. Spends His life in a going out and a giving out for men's good, in interest, energy, and finally giving His life as a ransom for redeeming men from their sins. Resurrected, living now, and coming again to consummate all things in the great Day of the Lord.

Lutheran Colportage Service

* * * * *

Make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1 Samuel 8:5

And the LORD said unto Samuel... they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

1 Samuel 8:7

It seems that even in the church there is a constant desire to usurp the Throne of God. Christ is the head of the church but so often He is replaced with a human hierarchy. He should be guiding the local assembly through His written Word, but elders often ignore the Bible when making decisions. He should be sovereign in my own heart and life but how often do I place myself on the throne and do things my own way? The Scriptures are clear, if I reject God's Word to control my own life and behavior, it means I am rejecting God and commandeering His throne.

David Croudace

King of my life I crown Thee now, Thine shall the glory be,

Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow, lead me to Calvary.

J. Hussey

***"Too soon old
and too late smart"***

Living Together Outside Of Marriage!

Cohabitation is a subject not easy to talk about, yet it is necessary. There are many in our country living together outside of marriage today. As a pastor, it is my duty to watch over the spiritual needs of the people I am involved with. This is what the Bible says to me as a servant of God's Word. In Ezekiel 3:17-21, God says I am to warn the people of sinful things. Verse 19 says; **"If you warn them and they keep on sinning and refuse to repent, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved your life because you did what you were told to do."** In verse 20, I am told to warn you, and if I don't, God says to me: **"...I will hold you responsible, demanding your blood for theirs."** That makes it serious for me to be a preacher because I have a responsibility to proclaim the Word of God in truth.

I write this article using the New Living Bible. (Not a Translation)

According to God's Word we have to ask ourselves this question: Is it right or wrong to have a sexual relationship with another person outside of marriage? Today, many people have compromised with sin so much in their life that their conscience doesn't even bother them anymore. The conscience is so damaged that they can gossip, swear, steal, cheat, lie, etc. and it doesn't seem to bother them one bit. The Bible speaks of people like that in this way, that they are: **"dead in trespasses and sins."** Ephesians 2:1-2. **"Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God."**

It is deception to think you can live any way you want and still be a born again person. When it comes to sexual relationships notice what Hebrews 13:4 says. **"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."**

The Bible teaches us that as a Christian we are to obey His will. John 14:15. **"If you love me, obey my commandments."** A little further down in that chapter Jesus says in verse 24. **"Anyone who doesn't love me will not do what I say..."** When you look at what Jesus says here, it becomes quite obvious that our relationship with Him has to affect the way we live. A person who is a Christian has Jesus living in their heart by faith. Is your desire to please Him in all that you do? It is fitting to quote Romans 8:5-10. **"Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled**

by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God."

"But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God Living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.) Since Christ lives within you, even though your body will die because of sin, your spirit is alive because you have been made right with God."

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 **"God wants you to be holy, so you should keep clear of all sexual sin. Then each of you will control your body and live in holiness and honor – not in lustful passion as the pagans do, in their ignorance of God and his ways. Never cheat a Christian brother in this matter by taking his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. God has called us to be holy, not to live impure lives. Anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human rules but is rejecting God who gives his Holy Spirit to you."** The Lord want us to know what is right from wrong and learn how to avoid sexual immorality. With the Holy Spirits help in our life we learn how to turn our back to sin, that's called self-discipline. We cannot do this in our own strength, that's why I need a Savior, a helper, his Holy Spirit who teaches and helps me.

In the Old Testament there were no less than 23,000 people that God killed in one day because of their immoral living. You can read the whole story in Numbers 25:1-9. It is also referred to in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 10:8. **"And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day."** That's a lot of people who died because of their immoral living. We will all harvest what we sow!

Proverbs 21:4. **"Haughty eyes, a proud heart, and evil actions are all sin."** God speaks very clear to all of us through His Word about this. Ephesians 5:3 **"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed because these are improper for God's holy people."** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. **"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you are bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body."**

There is real danger in marrying a person that does not shown spiritual maturity. If anyone allows cohabitation to be a part of your life, you're asking for trouble. Statistics

show us that those who live together before marriage, increase their chances for divorce even if they marry that person.

Galatians 5:19-21 **“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”**

Maybe you ask yourself this question. “What will happen if I keep on living in a cohabitation relationship?” God says in His Holy Word, that He is not pleased with anyone who openly and willingly lives in sin. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. **“Don’t you know that those who do wrong will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves, those who indulge in sexual sin, who are idol worshipers, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers, and swindlers – none of these will have a share in the Kingdom of God.”**

The Lord tells us on the last page of Scripture, Revelation 22:15. **“Outside the (Holy) city are the dogs – the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, and murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie.”**

Notice in Scripture, the authority and power God has over mankind. Luke 12:4-5. **“I tell you my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear. Fear him, who after the killing of the body, has the power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you: Fear Him.”** These are very powerful words written to each of us. God hates sin, and will judge accordingly! These words are written to help us remember that God has the final say over all mankind.

Therefore, it behooves us to seek after God’s will and to obey God’s Word, not in an attempt to earn our salvation, because we can’t do that. Salvation is a gift! Romans 2:20. **“For no one can ever be made right in God’s sight by doing what his law commands. For the more we know God’s law, the clearer it becomes that we aren’t obeying it.”** We realize that we are saved by grace, yes, by grace alone! Jesus is the mediator between God the Father and us. Jesus changes us and makes all things new. Ephesians 2:8-9. **“God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”** Then Ephesians 3:8 says. **“Just think! Though I did nothing to deserve it, and though I am the least deserving Christian there is, I**

was chosen for this special joy of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.”

If you are not living right with the Lord Jesus Christ today, be honest with Him and tell Him so. Talk to Him in prayer right now, ask Him to forgive you of all your sins. Ask Jesus to change you, allow Him into your heart and life. He will make you a new person. Give Him free access to every part of your life. Only then will you experience conversion, then He will make all things new for you. He will help you do an about-face. You can’t do that in your own strength, you need His help.

1John 1:9. **“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.”** Thank Him! Praise Him! Worship Him! Yes, give Him honor and glory!

My desire is to see you get it right with the Lord and to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. You can do that by studying God’s Word and obeying it. Then you will develop a desire to please Him in all that you say and do. Love Him and serve Him! Then and only then can we expect God’s blessings upon our life.

Prayerfully submitted,
Pastor Willmore Gundersen

What Has Happened To Humanity?

By Pastor Al Sather, Audubon, MN

Could it possibly be blamed on our unforgiving attitude? Maybe we need to review Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) each Morning! **“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.”**

I love this quote: “Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another.” (Jean Paul Richer)

Remember, because God has forgiven all our sins (*Ed. That is, as repentant believing sinner*), we should not withhold forgiveness from others. As we realize how completely Christ has forgiven us, it should produce in us an attitude of forgiveness toward others. The risk we take is when we **don’t** forgive others, we are actually setting ourselves above Christ’s Law of love.

Let’s put Eph. 4:32 to memory and practice. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we would see the day when the lion lays down with the lamb?

Editor’s Note; Absolutely biblically clear that, IF we don’t ‘forgive’ others, neither shall we be forgiven! That doesn’t mean to agree with evil or wrong. Forgiveness is a matter of the ‘will’.

VICTORIOUS IN THE STRUGGLES OF LIFE

1 Samuel 17:26 - 33

By Pastor Bulcsu Szell, From the Country of Hungary

Introduction

I think of a great man of God who was always fighting for souls and against sin. Once he traveled to another country, and at the border the customs officer asked him, "Do you have anything to declare?" He answered: "Yes, I have to declare that if you don't give your heart to Jesus, you'll be damned."

It's a big mistake to think that there will be a time in God's children's lives where there will be no more fights. As we read in the book of Ecclesiastes 8:8: "*No one is discharged in time of war.*" As long as we live in this world, we always have to fight. We are subject to the attack of the devil, the Philistines and Goliath. This is especially so in these days. More Christians died (killed) for their faith in the 20th century than in the first 19 centuries combined.

1. Socoh – a place where conflicts occur.

(1 Samuel 17:1)

Sometimes Satan re-conquers areas which were cleansed by Jesus once. The example of Socoh teaches this. Judah conquered it once, but now it's in the hands of the Philistines. Many of us can confess that we have areas in our lives which have been re-conquered by the enemy, even though once Jesus cleansed them with his precious blood. But we haven't guarded over them, so the enemy invaded them again and attacks us from these areas. Luke 11:26: "*Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself...*" This is the most difficult fight: inside us. We let the world into our hearts and now we have to fight with it. At the same time when we fight against sin, it's the sign of the grace of God. You can be in great depths, but if you disagree with sin there's hope for you. Don't be resigned to sin and to lies: pray and be an example.

I'm thinking of a high school girl from our church 35 years ago, who was a believer. She went to a school where she learned to sew clothes, and once a week the students went to a clothes factory for practical training. Once she was sent to the storeroom for buttons with two other girls. One of the girls said: "How beautiful these buttons are" – and she took away some. The other girl said: "I like those ones" – and she took away some. This newly converted girl didn't say anything, she just did what she was told to do. After a while one of the girls said to her, "Take some,

look, how beautiful these buttons are." She replied quietly, "I don't want any." She didn't give an explanation, she didn't instruct them. She was quiet and stood still in this fight. After a while one of the girls said, "These buttons are not so beautiful" – and she put the buttons back. The other girl said, "I don't want them either!" – and she put them back, too. This was a great victory with the Lord.

2. Get on the front line in the battles you face.

(v. 24, 28)

Grow stronger when you get into the front line. Recognize that you are in a battlefield, not in a playground. If those who are in front of you fall, you get into the front line without any doubt, even if you are an insignificant person. You were a child in your family, then you became a young person, but one day you'll be the parent, you get to the front line. In your workplace after a while you'll be the oldest worker. Maybe there's a stronger Christian in your workplace or in your congregation, but this person goes away, and you get to the front line. We, pastors and members of the church, are in the front line in the world fighting against the evil. You might consider it frightening, but you could also see it as God's appreciation, and He entrusted you with the greatest task. There are bishops, archbishops, deans and office workers, but the fight for God's kingdom is fought in the front line by the members of the church. You are in the front line. This is a privilege and a great responsibility from God to you. You are not in the first row of a cinema, but in the church, in the fight for God's Kingdom. Do your colleagues see that you follow Jesus?

David got to the front line, too. It wasn't he who wanted to get there. He didn't want to become king, but God found him and called him. And he couldn't resist this. It wasn't on purpose either, that he got to the battlefield. He was told to take some food for his brothers. But here he saw that the two armies were facing each other, and no one dared to fight with Goliath. If I hear this, if I'm the Lord's, and no one stands up, than I have to speak up! And I have to act. Is it so with you? Jesus is symbolized by David's willingness. No one could stand up against the army of the devil. But Jesus Christ came and stood there, for us. As we sing it in the song "A Mighty Fortress is Our God:"

*For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe-
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide
Our striving would be losing,*

*Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.*

*Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same,
And HE must win the battle!*

3. Look to Jesus – not to the deceitful Goliath!

(vv. 10-11)

Don't get discouraged, you can look at Jesus, you don't have to look at the Deceiver. The name David means **Beloved**. And the name of Goliath, the biggest evil foe means **Deceiver**, because he cheats us and wants to demolish us. He stands up and says bad things about his enemy, shows his weapons, and boasts. No wonder Israel got scared seeing this tall Goliath. We read that the height of Goliath was six cubits and a span (9'9" tall!). Israel looked on the enemy and the problems only. They were so intimidated by the enemy, they only saw how big he was. They could not imagine that somehow they could win over him. They put too much attention on the enemy and the problems. In Matthew 6:27 Jesus says: *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?* (KJV) Don't worry, your heavenly Father takes care of you. He gives you everything you need in this life: food and clothes.

My daughter once came home alone in the dark. Suddenly somebody sprang forward from the dark and attacked her. He held her so tight, she couldn't do anything. Nobody was near. Then she cried out, "Lord Jesus, help me!" That man let her go in that moment, and he was so confused that he ran across the street back and forth, and at the end he ran away. There's great power in the holy name of JESUS, if you look to him and cry out to Him in faith.

Don't look at the circumstances in the first place, but to the Lord. Satan is a great deceiver. He discourages and deludes you, he paralyzes you in the fight. It's true that Goliath is greater than you, little David, but you are God's precious child! Look at the problems through the Lord and they get small. The problems and the enemy are greater than you. You can't overcome them. But your Lord is even greater than any kind of problem. As we read in Psalm 48: vs. 13 – 15: "*Walk about Zion, go around her; count her towers, consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell of them to the next generation. For this God is our God for ever and ever, he will be our guide even to the end.*" Yes, watch the Lord, delight in Him, look at Him seeing the details as much as you did with your problems. Then your heart will brighten up and

it will prompt you to worship Him. And there will be no fear any more. We read in Nehemiah 8:10 "*...the joy of the Lord is your strength.*"

4. Know why you have come to the battle – why JESUS led you here! (vv. 36-37, 46-47)

He protects you from getting discouraged and He strengthens you in the fight, if you know why you came. And if you know why Jesus has come! There were many distractions for David: the circumstances, his brothers, the big coat of armor of the king, the mockery of the enemy. But he trusts in God. His brother Eliab accuses him and says: "*...you came down only to watch the battle.*" He wants to distract him with false accusation, with his anger, and with not understanding him. (I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is). He wanted to distract him by disparaging him and accusing him that he doesn't do his task. (With whom did you leave those few sheep?) And Saul wanted to discourage him by saying: You can't go, you are only a boy and he has been a fighting man from his youth. And he wanted to discourage him by the fact that David couldn't wear his armor.

But all these things are not true. David hasn't come to see some kind of catastrophe. He hasn't come to see something interesting, special, some kind of disaster that he can watch – such people don't do anything to help. David came because he had a task, a mission: to bring some food, to inform his father about his brothers, and – what he didn't know beforehand (for this you need to be in a close relationship with God) – to get into the front line and stand against the Evil to look at God who is greater than Goliath. He replies calmly: "*Let no one lose heart on account of the Philistine, your servant will go and fight him.*" (vs. 32). That's why Jesus has come (and David is a type of Jesus): to fight with the Enemy, the deceiver who couldn't discourage Him! And Jesus went straight to the cross. That's what Satan wanted, and still it became his downfall. When he saw that Jesus wins with the salvation, the cross and with His love, then Satan wanted to distract Jesus by different kind of things: by Peter's words, by the mockery of the crowd and the thief on the other cross, by the fact that the disciples didn't understand him, by foreseeing his destiny, but Jesus went forth purposefully! He said: "*Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!*" And He stood in front of the crowd who wanted to arrest Him and accepted the cross consciously. He did this to save me and you. And through this we can go to Heaven. Because there is no other way, only Jesus. It is only He who can help us. He knew why He came to the Earth and why He accepted the Cross and the fight. And He won! And we can be the followers of the Winner. Through Him and with Him we can get salvation and we can go to Heaven.

Have you given your heart/life to Him yet? Have you been moved by His great love?

5. Fight with the weapons God gives you – not someone else’s weapon. (vv. 38 – 40)

Finally, you can be a winner in the fights/struggles of this life, if you fight with the armor of God. Saul wanted to clothe David with his armor, but it was too big for him. The clothes and armor of this world never fits you. God shows you that those are not for you. You can’t win with the armor of the world in the fight against Goliath, against the world. The world can see those things, but they are not for you (violence, terrifying, lying, cheating). If you lie, Satan and the world reveals it, and with lying it gets you into bigger trouble.

So what is the armor that fits us? The armor of God. We read in Eph. 6 that our only offensive weapon is the Word of God. So we have to get God’s Word known to other people. The power of the Word disarms the enemy and many can get saved. And you are not alone. When I was enlisted as a soldier I was a seminary student. On the first day, I was body searched and they took away my Bible. I was a new Christian and I was discouraged by this. How can I stand in my faith? Two days later God gave me the thought that I’m not alone. They could take away my Bible, but they couldn’t take away HIM, who is in my heart. Jesus is with me everywhere, and He leads me and gives me the words I need. By thinking about this I found peace, even though there was no change yet.

My prayer for you is this: May God give you the strength to fight the battles of life, to be faithful and consistent throughout your whole life, looking at the winner, JESUS. Then you can also be a winner! **“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”** (Rev. 2:10)

Editor’s Note: Good to hear from this ‘brother IN Christ’ from the Country of Hungry and, even though many, many hundreds of miles separate ‘us’ physically; we are one/united IN Christ – communion of saints – body of believers – the family of GOD.

Martin Luther mentions that IF you are not in the trenches of the front-line in battle, then you are a *Fox or Weathervane*.

* * * * *

“And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren” II Kings 2:19

Here is an apt description of this world – it looks beautiful from man’s viewpoint, but to the spiritually discern-

ing, the “water” is bad, and the ground barren. How true! The world is a wilderness wide and it lacks true refreshment for the soul. Apart from Christ, it offers no spiritual fruit for God. But Christians can say with confidence, “All our springs are in thee” (Ps. 87:7). God says in return, “From me is thy fruit found” (Hosea 14:8). The world may look pleasant, but Christ is the only source of true satisfaction. Drink from this well and you will never thirst again.

Mark Kolchin

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That Chocolate Cake!

H G. Bosch

It was my privilege for several years to work with Pastor Wendell P Loveless. I recall how he used to tell about the delicious cake which Mrs. Loveless often baked for him.

My wife can make the best chocolate cake of anyone I know. I thought one day that I would go into the kitchen to see what wonderful ingredients she put into the batter.

First she sifted out some flour – this did not appeal to me at all, for it was dry and unappetizing. Then she put in some sour milk – I certainly would not have wanted to partake of that by itself, for it would have turned my stomach.

Then to make matters worse, she threw into the whole un-tasty mess of ingredients a raw egg! By this time I was not too sure whether I liked chocolate cake or not.

I left just as she was popping it into the oven.

To my surprise, that evening her “masterpiece” was as delicious as any I had ever had before!

I saw in the whole thing a parable. In this life we often experience many dry stretches (like the flour), tasteless and uninviting. We also have sour experiences (like the milk); and even a few raw deals (like the egg); but after we have gone through the furnace of affliction (the oven), praise God – reverently speaking – it will all be chocolate cake over there!

In that assurance, may we continue courageously onward with our eyes fixed on Jesus and with our wills resigned to His precious leading.

Thus calmly, Lord, on Thee we rest;

No fears our trust shall move.

Thou knowest what for each is best,

And Thou art perfect Love. Anon.

Editor’s Note: This ‘reminds’ us of the often quoted/read Bible Verse found in Romans 8:28. It is TRUE since GOD says it: BUT let God be the ‘mixer’; past, present and future and then we find the ‘reason’ in the following verse – Romans 8:29. (We are to be flexible/softened clay and HE is the Potter!)

Dear Citizen of Heaven

You are a citizen of Heaven through faith in Christ, and I implore you to live daily in the reality of that truth.

I greet you in the infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, and holy name of our soon-coming King of glory.

...My preaching, teaching, and spending time with our missionaries in Jerusalem has required me to visit Israel at least twice – and occasionally three times – a year since 1973. These frequent visits have provided me with a perspective of what is actually unfolding in the Holy Land and the surrounding Muslim nations that few have been privileged to behold. You don't get the truth of what is actually happening from the secular media. Most of what you see, hear, or read is largely politically driven, and little is in context.

Permit me to share a few thoughts with you that come from my heart – guided by my understanding of God's Word and what is occurring in Israel and the surrounding nations.

First, most of the nations of the Muslim Middle East seek the annihilation of the Jewish nation. They don't care how it gets done, but they want it to happen. It is not because of what Israel has done, but simply because Israel exists. It is not because of differing political ideologies, but because of the Islamic religion itself. The Middle East conflict is all about spiritual warfare. In human terms, there is no hope that negotiations will bring a real and lasting peace. When the Antichrist arises, however, he will offer a false "peace", and Israel will enter into what God's Word refers to as a "*covenant with death*" (Isaiah 28:15, 18). The Jewish state will not realize with whom they are dealing until the midpoint of Daniel's Seventieth Week and the commencement of the Great Tribulation, which begins with the Antichrist committing the abomination of desolation in a rebuilt temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.

Second, in the past 66 years since it became a nation, while in the midst of five wars, non-stop terrorist attacks, and surrounded by hostile countries, Israel has somehow built a dynamic, powerful, and democratic nation. It is not perfect, but better than most, and perhaps the most humanitarian country in the world. Ask the tens of thousands of Africans who have endured Muslim persecution, and have found refuge security, and peace in Israel. No, Israel is not perfect, but she is far better than all of the other nations surrounding her.

Third, the false religious system of Islam can trace the roots of its conflict with Israel back to the Garden of Eden. This is not an oversimplification. Jesus is the Seed of the woman who will crush Satan (Genesis 3:15). Jesus is the seed of Abraham, the Seed of King David and of the royal tribe of Judah. The Antichrist, who is the progeny of Satan, will most likely arise from within the Islamic world and the ancient region of Assyria.

Fourth, the wicked and brutal murderers battling for position in Iraq (ancient Babylon), Iran (ancient Medo-Persia), Syria (ancient Greece), and Turkey (part of the ancient Roman Empire) are setting the stage for the rebirth of an Islamic caliphate. A caliphate is a united Muslim Empire led by a single ruler – a caliph – with the intent to rule the world through the implementation of Islamic *shariah* (Islamic religious law). I believe it is quite possible that the coming caliph may be the biblical Antichrist. Historically the Ottoman Turkish Empire was a caliphate from 1517 until 1917 when it was defeated by the British during the First World War. Even as I am writing this letter to you, one of our missionaries stationed in Israel is now in Northern Iraq/Kurdistan with eight Christian volunteers from America. They are feeding the hungry, giving medical aid to infants and the elderly, and providing large tents and thousands of blankets for the homeless. Above all, they have distributed more than 7,000 New Testament Bibles and children's Bible stories in the appropriate languages, all in the name of Christ. (Christians are at the center of the persecution, and are being slain throughout Iraq and Syria.) Of course we are praying for their safety. ...

Fifth, what of Israel? She has built up her military to an amazing capability on the land, in the air, and in the sea. Her ground forces, air forces, and naval forces have done all they can militarily to prepare for what the Bible makes clear in the inescapable coming war. Yes, war is coming – of that you can be sure. But Israel has not yet put her trust in the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Peter, John, and Paul; therefore, we must continue to pray fervently for Israel's salvation.

Through the years I have been privileged to witness an increasing number of Israelis putting their faith in Christ. However much of the nation remains in unbelief. One day soon, when they are on their backs and surrounded by hostile nations, with no human help available, God says at that time, "*they shall look upon me (Christ) whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn*" (Zechariah 12:10). In that day, the nation of Israel will at last gloriously come to saving faith in her long-rejected Messiah. ...

In the bonds of Calvary,
Marv Rosenthal. Zion's Hope

*Editor's Note: Here is 'trusting' that this biblical article is of a special blessing/information and help to you in 'praying for the peace of Jerusalem. Some of us (or many) do not necessarily agree in regards to the time structure of the Great Tribulation and surrounding events, but do not let that become a wedge among true believers. **BUT prepare for the worst and look for the better!***

HAUGE BIBLE CONFERENCE

Abundant Life Free Lutheran Church

Pastor Michael Johnson, Host Pastor

Thief River Falls, MN

April 18 & 19, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday)

THEME: **TRUMPETS!**

“For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle”

I Corinthians 14:8,

Also Isaiah 59:9 -19

Theme Gospel Song – “Hold the Fort”

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. – Prayer Time

9:30 a.m. – Coffee/Refreshments

10:00 a.m. – Pastor/Evangelist Willmore Gunderson,
Fergus Falls, MN

11:05 a.m. – Pastor Lindell Quam, Osakis, MN

12 p.m. – Noon Meal at Church, Free-will offering

1:15 p.m. – Mr. Joel Zeltinger, Bismarck, ND

ALSO Testimonial/Singspiration time

2:30 p.m. – Pastor Lindell Quam

3:30 p.m. – Coffee/Refreshments

7:00 p.m. – Evangelist/Pastor Willmore Gunderson

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – Bible Hour – Pastor Lindell Quam

11:00 a.m. – Worship Hour – Evangelist/Pastor
Willmore Gunderson

Pray For: Presence of the Holy Spirit, Christian Fellowship, Special blessings on the Hospitality and that our Triune GOD might be glorified!

***Welcome to all those who hunger
for Spiritual Food!***

Would be great to see YOU and Fellowship with YOU – WELCOME!

“BEHOLD, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

For those of you who are able to: please bring ‘home-made’ goodies for Refreshments!

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UpDate

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER!

“He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you” II Corinthians 9:6b – 8a.

Contentment, according to one observer, “is not an economic quality but a spiritual attainment. It is not a state of accounts but a state of heart.”

Money, etc. is what you make it – A master or a servant for God sees the ‘Giver’ as well as the ‘gift’ – the heart as well as the hand.

The apostle Paul said (led/inbreathed by the Holy Spirit): *“Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

February’s Income for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* is \$4,298.61.

The cost of publishing and mailing the *Morning Glory* each month is approx. \$2,000 plus other noticeable expenses for this ‘ministry’.