

Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • August 2007

A Just God

By C.H. Spurgeon (1834-1892)

When I was under conviction of sin I had a deep and sharp sense of the justice of God. Sin, whatever it might be to other people, became to me an intolerable burden. It was not so much that I feared the wrath to come, but that I feared sin. I knew myself to be so horribly guilty that I remember feeling that if God did not punish me for sin, He ought to do so. I felt that the judge of all the earth ought to condemn such sin as mine. I sat on the judgment seat and I condemned myself to perish, for I confessed that, had I been God, I could have done no other than send such a guilty creature as I was down to the lowest hell. All the while, I had upon my mind a deep concern for the honor of God's name and the integrity of His moral government. I felt that it would not satisfy my conscience if it could be forgiven unjustly. The sin that I had committed must be punished. But then there was the question how God could be just and yet justify me who had been so guilty. I asked my heart, *“How can He be just and yet the Justifier?”* (Romans 3:26). I was worried and wearied with this question; neither could I see any answer to it. Certainly I could never have invented an answer which would have satisfied my conscience.

The doctrine of the atonement is to my mind one of the surest proofs of the divine inspiration of Holy Scripture. Who would or could have thought of the just Ruler dying for the unjust rebel? This is no teaching of human mythology or dream of poetical imagination. This method of expiation is only known among men because it is a fact. Fiction could not have devised it. God Himself ordained it. It is not a matter which could have been imagined.

I had heard the plan of salvation by the sacrifice of Jesus from my youth up, but I did not know any more about it in

my innermost soul than if I had been born a Hottentot. It came to me as a new revelation, as fresh as if I had never read the scriptures, that Jesus was declared to be *“the propitiation for our sins”* (I John 2:2), that God might be just.

When I was anxious about the possibility of a just God pardoning me, I understood and saw by faith that He who is the Son of God became man and, in His own blessed person, bore my sin in His own body on the tree. I saw the chastisement of my peace was laid upon Him, and with His stripes I was healed (Isaiah 53:5). Have you ever seen that? Have you ever understood how God can be just to the full, not remitting penalty nor blunting the edge of the sword, and yet can be infinitely merciful and can justify the ungodly who turn to Him? It was because the Son of God, supremely glorious in His matchless person, undertook to vindicate the law, by bearing the sentence due me, that therefore God is able to pass by my sin. The law of God was more vindicated by the death of Christ than it would have been had all transgressions been punished forever. For the Son of God to suffer for sin was a more glorious establishment of the government of God than for the whole race to suffer. “Jesus has borne the death penalty on our behalf!” Behold the wonder! There He hangs, upon the cross! This is the greatest sight you will ever see: Son of God and Son of man! There He hangs, bearing pains unutterable — the Just for the unjust — that He might bring us to God. Oh, the glory of that sight! The Innocent suffering! The Holy One condemned! The Ever-blessed made a curse! The Infinitely Glorious put to a shameful death! The more I look at the sufferings of the Son of God, the more sure I am that they must meet my case. Why did He suffer, if not to turn aside the penalty from us?

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If, then, He turned it aside by His death, it is turned aside, and those who believe in Him need not fear it. It must be so, that since expiation is made, God is able to forgive without shaking the basis of His throne or in the least degree blotting out the statue book. Conscience gets a full answer to her tremendous question. The wrath of God against iniquity, whatever that may be, must be beyond all conception terrible. Well did Moses say, *“Who knoweth the power of thine anger!”* (Psalm 90:11). Yet, when we hear the Lord of Glory cry, *“Why has thou forsaken me?”* (Psalm 22:1) and see Him yielding up the ghost, we feel that the justice of God has received abundant vindication by obedience so perfect and death so terrible, rendered by so divine a Person. If God Himself bows before His own law, what more can be done? There is more in the atonement by way of merit than there is in all human sin by way of demerit. The great gulf of Jesus’ loving self sacrifice can swallow up the mountains of our sin, all of them. For the sake of the infinite good of this one representative Man, the Lord may well look with favor upon other men, however unworthy they may be in and of themselves. It was a miracle of miracles that the Lord Jesus Christ should stand in our stead and “bear, that we might never bear, His Father’s righteous Ire.” But He has done so. *“It is finished”* (John 19:30). God will save the sinner because He did not spare His Son. God can pass by your transgressions because He laid those transgressions upon His only begotten Son.

What is it to believe in Him? It is not merely to say, “He is God and the Saviour,” but to trust Him wholly and entirely, and take Him for all your salvation from this time forth and forever – your Lord, your Master, your All. If you will have the Lord Jesus, He has you already. If you be-

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lieve on Him, I tell you, you cannot go to hell, for that were to make the perfect sacrifice of Christ to none effect. If the Lord Jesus Christ died in my stead, why would I die also? Every believer by faith has laid his hands on the Sacrifice, and made it his own ...Oh, that you may have grace given you at once to look away to Jesus, Who is the fountainhead of mercy to guilty man! Will you come into this lifeboat just as you are? Here is safety from the wreck. Accept the sure deliverance. Leap for it just as you are, and leap now!

I will tell you this thing about myself to encourage you. My sole hope for heaven lies in the full atonement made upon Calvary's cross for the ungodly. On that I firmly rely. I have not a shadow of hope anywhere else. You are in the same condition as I am, for we, neither of us, have anything of our own worth thinking of as a ground of trust. Let us join hands and stand together at the foot of the cross and trust our souls once for all to Him who shed His blood for the guilty. We will be saved by the one and the same Saviour. If you perish trusting Him, I must perish too. What can I do more to prove my own confidence in the Gospel which is set before you?

Chapel Library
Pensacola, FL

Editor's Note: "Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect: For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He" (Deuteronomy 32:3b-4).

A Duck

(A True Account)

A bus driver had a girl on his bus. She was tough, and would get up in your face with threats, profanity and be ready to fight instantly.

One day when the bus got to her stop, there was a mallard duck in the front yard of this girl's house. She was absolutely petrified to get off the bus because she was afraid of the duck. A Duck!!! It was not until the bus driver got off the bus and shewed the duck away could she get off the bus. Every step to her front door was with great fear and constant looking out to see if that duck would come after her.

People can look and act strong on the surface, but unless the Lord is in the heart, there is no real peace, victory or safety. It is as the Scriptures say, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment. He who fears is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18)

Selected

Of The Spirit Or Of The Flesh? Let The Scriptures Discern!

The church of Jesus Christ seems to be under attack as much from within as from without these days. The God fearing church can best be described with verses from the Holy Scriptures.

Matt. 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Acts 2:47 "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Eph. 5:27 "That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Acts 16:5 "And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."

It would not be wise to attempt to judge an individual church's motive. However, as decisions are made within the church, it must be foremost in the hearts of man that the true church is Christ's church. The leadership and the congregation must be careful to never make decisions that are contrary to the Word of God. The directives of the church reveal who the leader is, man or Christ. One should always be able to sense the presence and blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ. The practices (goings-on) of many modern day churches, including evangelical churches, cause one to wonder if the focus is to "spiritualize the flesh (old nature)" rather than proclaiming the blood-sprinkled way of the Christian life through the Scriptural balance of law and Gospel.

What does this writer mean by spiritualizing the "flesh (old nature)"? He defines it as attempting to affect the spirits of people via the flesh, through worldly amusements. In contrast, God's Word instructs us in Romans 12:2, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of God."

We should stop here for a moment and look at the word "amusement" noted above. Noah Webster's 1828 "American Dictionary of the English Language" defines amusement as "a pleasurable occupation of the senses, or that which furnishes it". So then, if a church attempts to amuse the congregation it would cause the congregates to be entertained observers, rather than to search the Scriptures in all

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matters of doctrine, allowing God’s Word to do His work in their hearts. Do we desire our congregations to have our senses entertained at worship gatherings, or to be equipped with “food for our souls”?

With this being said, let us answer the following question and see where a lot of church activity/effort is centered. The question is, in each of the following present-day church activities, do they appeal to the spirit or flesh (old nature)? Make a check mark under one or the other columns to indicate where the focus appears to be:

	<u>SPIRIT</u>	<u>FLESH</u>
“Christian” rock and other contemporary music that lacks Scriptural depth _____		
Brothers and sisters in Christ loving and encouraging one another in their daily walks with Him, through Scripture, prayer and kind hospitality _____		
Game rooms for youth (ping pong, air hockey, etc.) _____		
Gymnasiums _____		
Strobe lights and fogging as done in dance halls _____		
“Positive only” preaching _____		
Families and various age groups fellowshiping and worshipping together, with the older, more mature Christians teaching and setting examples for the younger _____		
Theme park and skiing trips _____		
User friendly splashing of songs up on screens or walls of the church at the expense of the removal of hymnals _____		
Psychology in sermons, counseling, and Sunday School material _____		
Yoga classes _____		
Word-centered Law and Gospel preaching and teaching _____		
Laughing clubs _____		
Exercise classes _____		
Sarcastic and silly puppets in Sunday School and worship services _____		
Clowns _____		
Sky diving and circuses for Sunday School rally day _____		

Are you surprised at the outcome? Arguments may be made to try to justify desired church activities, but how do they stack up when we read Romans 13:14, “*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*” The Scriptures teach us to die to the flesh rather than yield to it. The flesh cannot be “cleaned up” even at church. The flesh/old nature cannot be spiritualized. In fact, James 4:4 tells us, “*...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*” As churches consider ways of “attracting” new members, they need to understand what someone has said, “When churches attempt to attract people by worldliness, they will lose them to the same.”

The Apostle Paul’s focus in his house church was, “*Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*” (Acts 28:31) Also, great comfort is realized when we see what the Apostle Paul wrote in (Colossians 1:23-24), “*If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His body’s sake, which is the church.*”

Let us most of all remember the words of Jesus Christ in John 4:24 and 6:63, “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*” “*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*”

Also, the admonitions of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5:16-17 tell us, “*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*”

Let us remember, there is true power in a Christ centered church led by a Holy Spirit inspired preacher and a holy life living people. May we who love Jesus as our Saviour and Lord search the Scripture and entreat God on our knees for wisdom as to how to best honor Him in congregational worship and gatherings.

“*Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*” (Eph. 3:20-21)

Townley (Toby) Knutson

Time of Testing

“Lord pierce my ear, I am your servant. I will faithfully follow and serve you the rest of my days. A free man I’ll never be. Lord I love you. You are my all in all. I surrender all. My life, my love, my all I give to you. Where you lead me I will follow. What you say I will do; Where you send me I will go. It’s all yours Lord, including my own life. Take it Lord, and use it; like Job of old said, *“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”*”

As a single 29-year old young man, I have prayed these kinds of prayers in commitment to God many, many times. Becoming a Christian at age of 14 and, because of my church setting, many times I needed to find my way alone. Having to find my way alone in our group and finally finding myself on the foreign mission field, there were many times that God proved Himself very, very faithful. In my heart I would respond in a deeper commitment to God, yet it wasn’t always without a struggle. I would spend hours on my face before God in wrestling with the things before me. I had altar experiences of utter abandonment with God dealing with my stubborn will in my bedroom, out on the mountains, along the seashore, out in the woods, behind the barn, and yes, even at church.

I can testify that a completely surrendered life to God is a blessed life filled with peace and satisfaction, and yes, God becomes very real and precious. In the scriptures we are given two well known accounts of people who made tremendous commitments and sacrifices, yet God knows the heart of man and our words alone to Him are not enough. Often, He calls us to a trying of our commitments.

Consider with me Hannah in her commitment to God found in 1 Samuel 1:11 *“And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life...”* When God fulfilled her prayer she replied *“For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. (27-28)*

In Genesis God promised Abraham a son. God was faithful to His promise and gave Abraham a son. But then in chapter 22 God put Abraham to a test. *“And He (God) said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee to the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”* God was pleased with how Abraham responded saying: *“For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thy only son from me.”*

Brothers and Sisters, it is very easy to say the right words and make everything appear yielded and surrendered on the outside, but it is only after God has put us to the test and proved us faithful that He accepts the words of commitment we have spoken to Him. God is able to creatively and thoroughly prove our words of commitment to Him, if we allow Him.

My Test

This is where I found myself this past year. On Saturday the 19th of April 2004, I received a certified letter. This letter was a result of having donated blood a few weeks before which I’ve done many times. The testing lab was letting me know that my blood sample had come back positive for the HIV virus that causes AIDS. They added, however, that a secondary confirmatory test had been negative. The letter said that I would have to wait six months to find out whether or not I have the virus. After answering some questions, they concluded I very likely didn’t have it, but could not be certain.

There I sat and it seemed like God was saying “Well son, what are you going to do? This letter is a test that I have allowed and my grace will be sufficient for you, but you must bow your heart and begin living as if you had the virus.”

For a few moments there was a great struggle that went on within my heart and my flesh, then in utter brokenness I just bowed my heart and I said “Yes Lord, I accept this letter, its message and all the consequences it will bring into my life as from You. Oh – the inner strength and peace and grace that flooded my heart and being at that moment and every moment after for the next eight months.

Never once did I have to struggle with the fear of the unknown, I just bowed my heart and said, “Yes Lord!” The following days I spent much time in soul searching. It is amazing what all can go through your heart and mind when you’re faced as a young man that your life may be cut short, you may never marry, and your life will begin to slowly just die away. Many things that had seemed so important before now were forgotten; it seemed like my whole future and all my plans, dreams, and goals just simply died! I had a great longing for heaven. The shortness and frailty of life became very real and the reality of a sure eternity was ever before me.

God began to burden my heart in a very deep way of lost souls and how short a time was left for them to be told of the Lord Jesus Christ and His life changing saving power for all men. God began to show me the kingdom of His Son the Lord Jesus in a completely new way.

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As I sought the Lord in practical areas of my life, God made it very clear that I should continue doing the things I was currently involved with (work, Ministry), but no major decision or changes in any way could be made. In the area of courtship and marriage God took me to a deeper sense of yieldedness and surrender; even to completely surrender; even to complete giving up any hope of even having a family or wife of my own.

For almost the last four years of my life, I have been working only part-time and even that at times became challenging to remain committed to, as God just kept gripping my heart with the reality of eternity during this experience. I came to love God in a much deeper way; my daily walk with Him became very real and I just longed to be in His presence forever.

With all these things in my heart I found it easier to pray, fast and intercede on behalf of others' needs and struggles. I prayed, "Lord, You are truly worthy of my whole life, and I will always follow you." Eight months later after retesting they have completely cleared me of any possibility that I have the virus.

God is faithful; He calls us unto a life of faithful commitment and full surrender to His sovereign plan to glorify His name and manifest the saving, changing power in the name and blood of Jesus Christ. Truly in humbling me, God has lifted me up and established my goings forever. (James 4:6-10).

"Testimony by Lee Stauffer"

Taken from "The Heartbeat of The Remnant"

* * * * *

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

In response to questions being asked concerning the objectives and ministries of the HAUGE LUTHERAN INNERMISSION FEDERATION, we share this brief information. While the Federation has enjoyed a long history among Lutheran Christians in many areas of this country, there are those, especially of the younger people who are quite unfamiliar with the movement. Should you be one of these, we trust this information will be helpful and informative. The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is:

A FREE MOVEMENT AMONG LUTHERANS FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE. It is not to be confused with any church body or synod. Rather, it is a fellowship of Lutheran Christians working for revival and spiritual life within the existing church and throughout the Christian community. The "Hauge connection" identifies the movement historically with the Haugean revivals in Norway which had such a

powerful impact upon that nation in the early nineteenth century. The Hauge Federation today exists as a REVIVAL MOVEMENT, stressing the desperate need of spiritual awakening and new life in Christ.

A LAY-WITNESS MINISTRY IN THE HAUGEAN TRADITION. Following his conversion to Christ as a young farm boy, Hans Nielsen Hauge promptly felt the call to be a witness for Christ. He began at once sharing the Gospel with his neighbors and friends, and ultimately throughout the length and breadth of Norway. The Hauge Federation today is essentially a lay-movement encouraging spiritual life and leadership among the lay people. While the involvement of pastors and of church leaders is always welcome, the work is directed largely by laymen.

A RESOURCE MINISTRY FOR EVANGELISM. The Hauge Federation desires to be a spiritual resource providing assistance to pastors and churches in their evangelistic efforts. As an inter-Lutheran fellowship, the Federation is not bound by synodical affiliations, but is supportive of all Lutheran church bodies that are faithful to the Word of God. Some of the current ministries include: Spiritual Life Rallies in various areas, Evangelistic meetings, Bible conferences and an annual Weekend Retreat. Smaller fellowship/testimony meetings are encouraged.

THE PUBLISHER OF THE "MORNING GLORY", 8/yr devotional paper for the home and family (soon 10 issues/yr as funds permit). MORNING GLORY, which is edited by Pastor Rodney Stueland, is a refreshing Christian witness in print, featuring the best in devotional reading, evangelistic messages and religious news. Haga Publishing is the publishing arm of the Innermission. We are planning on printing a number of evangelistic/pietistic tracts, booklets and brochures. We are currently working on printing "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" and "Mirror of the Heart." Your subscription to the MORNING GLORY may be secured by writing:

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Barbara Stueland, treasurer

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“I thank Him that enabled me, even Christ Jesus our Lord, for that He counted me faithful, appointing me to His service.” (1 Tim. 1:12).

THAT is the way Paul looks at his life and at his work.

The Lord appointed him to the service, counted him faithful, and made him strong. He was only an instrument that God had chosen and had made capable in His work, and therefore the Lord was indeed everything to him.

It was this same view that David had of his life when he sang, “The Lord is my shepherd, He leads me, He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Thus we too should look at our life and our work.

When so many things go wrong in the struggle for existence and in the Christian work, the reason usually is that we put ourselves in the place where the Lord alone must rule and have all the responsibility. Because we have not attained to this genuine Christian view, our ego, our will, our responsibility, and our honor, all crowd in to the realm where the Lord alone shall have both the honor and the responsibility. If we looked on our life and work as service to which God had appointed us, and for which He had given us faith and strength, much of what we now consider a burden would be transformed to a song of praise, because we had discovered God’s plan for our life.

It has been said that in the school that God keeps for His children there are three classes. In the first we get only far enough to learn, “I and Jesus.” In the second it is “Jesus and I,” and in the third, “Jesus only.” The third class is the hardest one to get through. Many fail there. May you and I attain to passing the examination in this class!

*Blessed is he who in truth can say: Jesus only!
Then in a nobler, sweeter song,
I’ll sing Thy power to save,
When this poor, lisping, stammering tongue
Lies silent in the grave.*

Taken from “Thy Kingdom Come” by Ludvig Hope

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently” (1 Peter 1:22).

THIS short but mighty word of exhortation leads us into one of the deepest and most serious realms of our Christian life. The hottest battles are fought here. Many have fallen away from God because they forgot to purify their souls.

All who struggle to live uprightly with God know how easy it is to forget the purification from sin. Everything unclean that is about us and in us, and that we meet day and night has a strong tendency to dull the sensibilities for what is clean and holy. Then we are tempted to compare ourselves with other

Christians instead of with God, and with that we are in the midst of the danger – and do not see it ourselves. The angel of the church in Laodicea was not only wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, but the greatest calamity was that he did not know it. This is where our greatest danger is found too: we may become blind to our own impurity.

We know the truth, and if we walk the way that is shown us there, we will find the path to “the fountain in the house of David.” Let us bring to that fountain everything unclean that has settled on our inner life. Cleanse away in the sea of grace pride, love of the world, hatred, evil words, and everything else that is unclean. It is this that Satan, above all things, wants us to omit. But blessed is he who keeps himself clean!

*Each soul astray
From Christ, the way,
Should keep God’s people humble;
Jesus warns, “O watch and pray,
Lest ye fall and stumble.”*

Taken from “Thy Kingdom Come” by Ludvig Hope

IS IT REALLY OF GOD?

Every false cult or heathen religion places great emphasis on the beneficial experiences that those who follow its teachings can expect to receive. Thus, if a person embraces a particular religion and undergoes a physical healing, a financial fortune or a reduction of mental or physical stress, he offers those occurrences as “proof” that his religion is truly of God and that it really works. When someone accepts experience as a verification of truth, it is extremely difficult to point out to that person the serious errors in the teachings of the group to which he or she belongs. It is common to hear such people say, “You can’t tell me my religion is false. I know what it has done for me.” But even *if* the experience were genuine, was it truly of God?

It is vital for believers to remember that, as verse 20 states, the only test of truth is the Bible, God’s Word. Satan often gives people counterfeit experiences in order to blind their eyes to the liberating truth found only in Christ, the Living Word, and in the Bible, the Written Word. The charismatic movement, with its unscriptural teachings and programs, is one of the greatest modern-day deceptions; public healings and other “miraculous signs and wonders” are mistakenly considered to be God’s approval of its false message and messengers. But the believer needs to remember that Matthew 7:21-23 prophesies that many who “work iniquity” will do “many wonderful works.” We should not be surprised when seemingly inexplicable wonders are broadcast on television or reported in print. The Bible, not experience, is the only test of truth. Do not be deceived by counterfeits that purport to be doing the work of God. MHR

Taken from “Feature”

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Editorial

RES *ENLARGEMENT*

“Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes” Isaiah 54:2.

Today as I write, it is that ‘blessed day’ called Independence Day (July 4th) and what a blessed privilege and responsibility it is to be part of this great nation that God has entrusted to us, *the USA!* By the GRACE of God we can ‘claim also’ the wonderful faithful promise found in Isaiah 61:1-3. Don’t forget to thank God and pray for our Nation each day and make use of the **freedom we have**. *Yet, we also need to realize that our liberties are under attack as never before!* Remember “Freedom” is never “Free”, both spiritually and secularly. Some ONE or ones have paid a great price; because Freedom is never Free! Often wicked political policies run concurrent with the actions and beliefs of leaders who are under the influence/power and bondage of the sin nature. Satan is a master counterfeiter. He and his angels of light use false promises of liberty to deceive. (II Peter 2:19 and Isaiah 5:20)

Personally I was not at the recent annual conference of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, but what a blessing it is as good news trickles through of the Bible based messages that were shared, warm Christian fellowship and the special presence of the Lord in a very real way. Thank you for praying for the same and in other ways that you supported. Praise God as HE is ‘always’ good! A ‘thank you’ is certainly in order to Faith Lutheran Church of London, MN and host Pastor Rueben Unseth for hosting the conference *again*.

As you will note IN our text we have a number of *challenges*, “Enlarge, Stretch out, Lengthen and Strengthen” and by the Grace of God we are seeking to do just that!

Yes, I want to ‘update you’ on the basic decisions that were made by the Annual Conference and Board/Directors of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. First of all, the members of the Board remain the same, as well as Officers. How grateful we should be for their willingness to do the same, as ALL of the members do so ‘gratuitous’ because they love Jesus and this portion of His Work in the Kingdom of God. (Pray for the Board members and their families as the enemy of our souls would so like to divide us).

As the Lord leads and provides through you, it was decided to **print** the *classic* book “Mirror of the Heart” (very seldom will you find a Christian book as Scriptural and graphic as this one) and also the booklet “Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God” by Jonathan Edwards. “Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God” is a sermon that Jonathan Edwards gave many years ago and **many** precious souls came to know

JESUS as their personal Savior through the same. Yes, we are to ‘water and plant’ and it is GOD who gives the increase! These two items are to be made available at a very nominal price, as we are more concerned about getting the written ‘Word’ into the hands of many than making a noticeable profit.

Also, it was decided to increase the number of issues of the *Morning Glory* from eight/year to ten as this dispensation of GRACE is running out! These are steps of Faith by godly men and so, without apology, we ask YOU to support them. Enlarge, Stretch Out, Lengthen and Strengthen as the “Spiritual Battle” continues on.

Not last nor least, the *Morning Glory* is under consideration of being on an Internet Web Site. Please pray for us in this regard as we consider not only posting the *Morning Glory* on the Internet, but also the whole ministry of the Innermission.

We need to be conscious of the fact that we don’t pursue our own desires/agenda; but seek to obey and respond in *harmony* with God’s Holy Word. How I/we need to take our human reasoning in captivity, out of LOVE for HIM, **in obedience** to His Word, the BIBLE. Martin Luther speaks of ‘human reasoning’ as the greatest hindrance to a ‘living faith’. This by the GRACE of God is what we are seeking to do as we hear the admonition/command: ‘occupy (do business) till I come’! (Luke 19:13b). **Making no apologies for the old time Christianity!** We cannot preserve our liberties (spiritually & secularly) in our Bible based convictions if we wobble. This is no time for pacifism or silence. Are YOU willing to stand with us in proclaiming the LIFE GIVING, LIBERATING, GOOD NEWS of the **Law and Gospel of the BIBLE?** ***Enlarge, Stretch Out, Lengthen, and Strengthen!***

AMERICA’S PROBLEM IS SIN and JESUS IS the answer! Thus being in a ‘spiritual battle/warfare’ - let us take to heart this scripture verse, “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if any one competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules ...but the word of God is not chained” (II Timothy 2:4, 5, 9b). Pray for us that we may **boldly** tell the TRUTH (Law & Gospel) in *Calvary’s Love!*

Launch out into the Deep!

Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

Jesus' Death for sins of mankind makes God sound like a Psychopath, says cleric

The latest attack on true Christian doctrine concerns the atonement of Christ. Rev. Jeffrey John, Dean of St. Albans, has decided to join those who consider the atonement of Christ unacceptable to modern man.

Last year, Jeffrey John lost his bid to be appointed a bishop in the Anglican Church when it was learned that he is a practicing homosexual. On a BBC broadcast, the Anglican cleric stated that Christianity's traditional teaching on Christ's crucifixion for the sins of mankind is "repulsive," "insane" and makes "God sound like a psychopath." He said, "If a human behaved like this we'd say they were a monster."

Anglican cleric Giles Fraser, writing in *The Guardian*, came to John's defense. "For, once again, what (John) has been saying is nothing other than a truth known by most people in the pews: that the idea of God murdering his son for the salvation of the world is barbaric and morally indefensible. It turns Christianity into 'cosmic child abuse.'"

The Vine and Branches

Editor's Note: In a way this shouldn't surprise us as horrible as it is. Satan knows his time is fleeting and he has made numerous attempts to soil and spoil God's perfect plan (atonement) for our sins! Without the shedding of BLOOD there is no remission of sin! For you and me, Spiritual LIFE is in/through the BLOOD of the Crucified and Risen ONE!

Judge Orders "Gay" Agenda Taught to Christian Children

A federal judge in Massachusetts has ordered the "gay" agenda taught to Christians who attend a public school in Massachusetts, finding that they need the teachings to be "engaged and productive citizens."

U.S. District Judge Mark L. Wolf ...dismissed a civil rights lawsuit brought by David Parker, ordering that it is reasonable – indeed, there is an obligation – for public schools to teach young children to accept and endorse homosexuality.

Wolf essentially adopted the reasoning in a brief submitted by a number of homosexual-advocacy groups, who said "the rights of religious freedom and parental control over the upbringing of children ...would undermine teaching and learning."

WorldNetDaily

An Emergent Church with a Twist

A new congregation, known as The Journey, has begun offering services in a renovated factory building in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The United Church of Christ Grand West Association is providing funds to help the start-up church get underway.

Bill Freeman, a former television news reporter and a radio talk-show host, is serving as the congregation's pastor. Freeman has a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

According to Freeman, the new church will not have pews, but will "look kind of night clubby with small tables and chairs." He plans to wear jeans and "probably a sport coat," instead of robes. He said the services will be "more spiritual than religious."

Instead of hymns, they will use songs heard on mainstream radio, such as U2's "Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" and "How Far is Heaven?" by Los Lonely Boys.

"We're going to be trying to get people in touch with their spirit, to have a deep relationship with the divine," said Freeman. He said sermons will be based not only on the Bible, but they will use other sacred sources such as the Qur'an or something Gandhi or the Dalai Lama said. So it's Bible-plus."

Freeman said he would classify The Journey as a progressive Christian church with some of the evangelical "Emergent" movement mixed in.

*Information for this article taken from:
The Grand Rapids Press by Pastor David Barnhart.*

God Or Sports?

Virtually all parents love their children and want the very best for them. However, many parents, including Christian

"Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." (Ps. 1:5-6)

parents, don't always seem to know what the best is. Often they end up choosing the good over the best.

A recent study by *Leadership* magazine, a publication of *Christianity Today*, revealed that a growing number of families would rather spend their free time together than at church. An astonishing number of families are dropping out of church, because when they are required to choose between church, sports or school activities, church is at the bottom of their list.

Eric Reed, writing in *Leadership* magazine, stated: "The increased emphasis on 'family time,' even at the expense of meaningful involvement in church life, is a sign of the times. It's the one way Generation X and Y are making up for the hands-off, latch-key childrearing styles that characterize their Boomer parents: heavy investment in the kinds, and everything else takes a back seat, including church."

Dr. R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, recently observed: "When parents take their kids to Little League games rather than worship on the Lord's Day, these parents teach their children that team sports are more important than the worship of God." He added, "Every kid has a 'thing' going on virtually all the time. That is the condition of life today, it seems. But when that 'thing' keeps the child or the whole family away from church, we need to name that thing what it is—at best a snare, at worst an idol."

Excerpt written by Pastor David Barnhart

New England Synod Council Sanctions The Blessing of Same-Sex Couples

The New England Synod Council (ELCA) has not only approved the blessing of same-sex unions in their churches, but they also have developed an order of service for such ceremonies. In support of these actions, synod officials defend their decision based on "the Holy Spirit's work in the 2005 Churchwide Assembly" of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Most people in the ELCA thought the Churchwide Assembly had rejected such actions, but several ELCA synods don't see it that way.

Selected

Rhode Island Students must Watch *Inconvenient Truth* to Graduate

To receive a degree from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island, students must watch *An Inconvenient Truth*, the documentary on global warming produced by former Vice President Al Gore. The science class requirement has prompted one conservative student to declare that "we

should stop calling these schools 'bastions of knowledge' since they're really bastions of leftist thought." The controversy at Roger Williams began the week before Earth Day, when the professors teaching the laboratory portion of Core 101: Science, Technology and Society required their students to watch Gore's Oscar-winning film in class.

CNSNews.com

Maryland School Over-rides Parents in Sex-Ed Curriculum

The Maryland State Board of Education has ruled that the right of the state supersedes the rights of parents in teaching children about homosexuality. The Board said the "right (of parents) is not absolute. It must bend to the State's duty to educate its citizens."

The ruling means that the teaching of homosexuality as an accepted and approved lifestyle in Maryland public schools can move forward. **Very important!** Some professionals feel that the Maryland curriculum could become the model for promoting the homosexual lifestyle in public schools across the nation.

The new policy prohibits any unfavorable view of homosexuality from being presented. A video for use with eighth-graders instructs students on how to put a condom on a pen-s.

The Board has been trying to incorporate the promotion of homosexuality into their sex-education classes. A federal judge overturned a previous attempt to include the promotion of homosexuality because of the curriculum's expressed hostility toward Christianity.

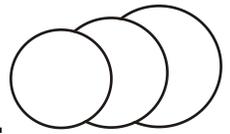
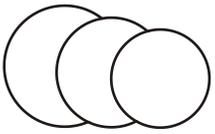
But in approving the new curriculum, the Board refused to hear arguments from those who oppose the promotion of homosexuality in the classroom.

American Family Association

July 6, 2007

Editor's Note: This is yet another event in a series designed to accept homosexuality and silence the voice of any who would oppose. There is (at the time of this writing) legislation that would make it a "hate crime" for anyone to speak out against homosexuality. This is House bill H.R. 1592 and Senate bill S. 1105. This would include a pastor preaching in the pulpit, a Sunday School lesson, or an article in a periodical like the *Morning Glory!* Punishment would include fines or imprisonment. This is the law currently in Canada, and [it seems] it is only a matter of time before it is in the U.S.A. as well.

This could be the very scourge which will drive the true church underground, like it is in other parts of the world which must exist under a hostile government.



MP **San Diego, CA**
 I thoroughly enjoyed the May 2007 edition of *Morning Glory*, especially the article on “Militant Islam: A clear and Present Danger”. It was very enlightening, spelling out the beliefs of Islam, and the militant Muslims in particular. The portion entitled, “Australia Takes a Different Tact”, was most interesting.

My grandfather read *Morning Glory* faithfully. I remember him when I was a little girl sitting in his old wooden rocking chair, reading his magazine, his tattered Bible in his lap. My uncle began sending me the magazine some time ago, and I have read it faithfully since then.

T & J **Mission, BC**
 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105 Just received the May issue of *Morning Glory* after a couple of years of moving around. Thank you and here is our donation. - God Bless You -

R & D **Radcliffe, IA**
 ...enjoy reading the *Morning Glory* so much when they come to visit that I would like to order it for them. I am sending a gift along as well. Thanks so much.

A & K **Livingston, NJ**
 Thank you so much for *Morning Glory*. We have shared it with many. May God continue to use you to bless many.

RB **West Union, IA**
 The *Morning Glory* has been a real blessing to me down through the years. The Lord has been so good to me. He is our only hope. We must put our trust in Him. He is coming soon. May God bless you and what you are doing for Him.

B & A **Snohomish, WA**
 Thank you again for a great newsletter. God gave us the privilege of celebrating our 60th Wedding Anniversary in June. What a blessing and we give Him the honor and praise.

(Editor’s Note) Send us your testimony of what Jesus has done for you. It is an encouragement to all of us on “The Way”.

BP **Ulen, MN**
 A friend showed us her copy of “Morning Glory” and enclosed is...to place us on the subscription list. What a wonderful publication! Please send us a copy of the June

edition. Thank you!

Mothers Who Drugged Us!!!

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question:

Why didn’t we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?”

I replied, “I had a drug problem when I was young.”

“I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals.”

“I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.”

“I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults.”

“I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn’t put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.”

“I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom’s garden and flower beds and cockleburs out of dad’s fields.”

“I was drug to the homes of family, friends, and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood; and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.”

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin; and, if today’s children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place.

God bless the parents who drugged us.

– Selected

Does A Pastor Have Authority to Forgive Sins?

“But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” (Mark 2:10)

In some liturgies, after the confession of sin, the pastor stands in front of the congregation and pronounces something similar to this:

“Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”

Note that he is not just pronouncing God’s forgiveness, but he himself is forgiving the listeners their sins. Does he have the authority under God to do this?

Were you to question a pastor on this, he would probably tell you that Jesus promised the apostles that they could forgive and retain the sins of others. *“If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”* (John 20:23) It is called “The Office of the Keys” where the pastors are said to have this authority to “bind and loose, or forgive and retain” the sins of others based upon John 20:23.

Please note two important things about this verse: 1) It is pronounced to the apostles only, not to the pastors of churches. Both Timothy and Titus were pastors and the apostle Paul never said anything of this sort to them. Also note: 2) There is no record in Scripture of the apostles themselves ever doing this. Rather, Scripture records where they pronounced (preached or wrote) what God had said in His Word about repentance of sin and faith in Jesus in order to get forgiveness of sins from God.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached to the crowd assembled in Jerusalem. They were pricked to the heart of their sins and their need for salvation. They then asked the apostle Peter what they must do. Peter’s reply was this: *“Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 2:38). Notice that Peter did not forgive these people their sins, rather he told them what they must do so that God could forgive them their sins.

Also the apostle Paul pronounced what God would say about people and their sins: *“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless, you are still in your sins.”* (1 Cor. 15:17) Paul was making a rhetorical argument for the resurrection of Christ and stating that if Jesus were not raised, you would still be in your sins. Notice that he did not tell them “I retain your sins, and therefore you are still in them,” rather he was stating that only the resurrected Christ can forgive sins, and if He be not risen, then you are in your sins. (Thank God that Christ is risen!)

Notice in these two examples of the apostles forgiving and retaining sins, they were simply pronouncing what the Scripture records: Anyone who comes to Jesus in repentance of sin and faith in Him has the promise of Scripture of forgiveness of sins from Jesus, not through any other agent.

Since only God has the authority to forgive people their sins (Mark 2:7) and this is through Jesus, Who is God in the Flesh (Mark 2:10), the apostles and the church are given the authority to declare what God does when a man either repents and accepts His Son or not. A pastor (or other Christian) can simply repeat what Scripture says: *“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:8-9) Note that the apostle John did not retain and forgive sins, rather pronounced the truth of God: If you deny sin, you are not forgiven. If you confess your sins, God will forgive you.

I once had a “run in” with a pastor who believed in his ability to retain and forgive sins. When I left the church, he told me on the phone that he would retain my sin and not forgive me and therefore I was not going to heaven! I told him that I was glad that he wasn’t Jesus Christ!

Are you relying on this for forgiveness of your sins? Are you relying on the fact that your pastor has pronounced to you that your sins are forgiven, when you have not repented of your sins before God and come to Jesus in faith? Then hear what Jesus Himself says about this: *“I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.”* (John 8:24)

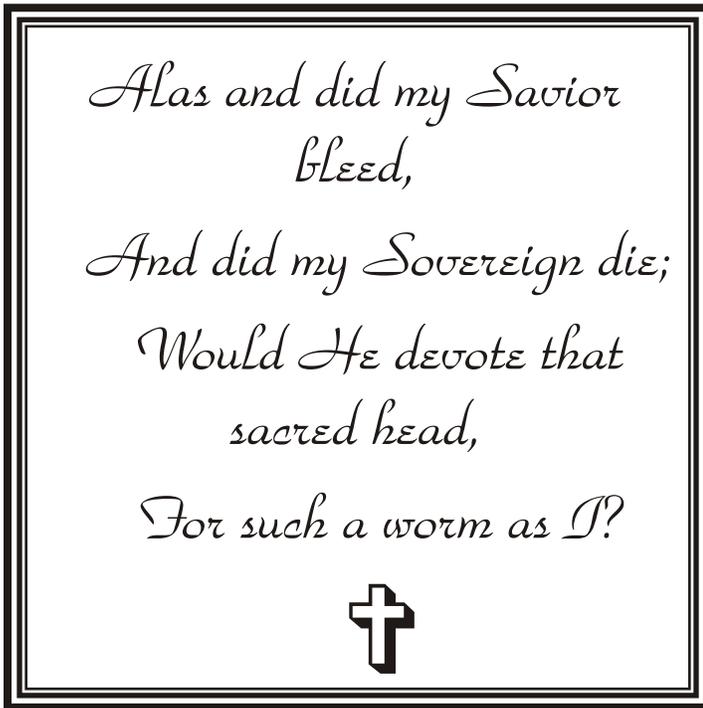
Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

*Are you Living today with
Eternity in View?*

Worm Theology

“Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel” (Isa. 41:14)

When Isaac Watts wrote his classic hymn, “Alas and Did My Savior Bleed,” he penned the words below:



Newer hymnals have changed the last line to read “For someone such as I” or “For such a sinner as I.” The thought of calling people something as lowly and insignificant and helpless as a “worm” is offensive to the modern hearer. Was Isaac Watts unique to this “worm theology?” Hardly!

William Carey (1761-1834), known as the “Father and Founder of Modern Missions,” developed remarkable gifts as a linguist. He became the first missionary to India sent out by the Baptist Missionary Society. His motto was: “Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.” In his will, Carey directed that the following words be cut on his tombstone:

“William Carey, born August 17, 1761: died
‘A wretched, poor and helpless worm,
On Thy kind arms I fall.’ ”¹

Charles Wesley (1619 -1696), brother of John Wesley, the most famous poet and hymn-writer of all time, died in his 77th year. A few days before his death, he dictated the following lines to his dear wife who wrote them down as they came from the lips of her slowly dying husband:

“In age and feebleness extreme
Who shall a sinful worm redeem?
Jesus, my only hope thou art,
Strength to my failing flesh and heart;
O, could I catch a smile from Thee
And drop into eternity.

Before he dropped into eternity he said:

“Come my dearest Jesus, the nearer and most precious, the more welcome. I cannot contain it! What manner of love is this to a poor worm? I cannot express the thousandth part of what praise is due Thee. It is but little I can give Thee, but Lord, help me to give Thee my all. I will die praising Thee, and rejoice that others can praise Thee better. I shall be satisfied with Thy likeness! satisfied! satisfied! satisfied! O my dearest Jesus, I come.”¹

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), in his great sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” said, “O! then, what will be the consequence? What will become of the poor worm that shall suffer it [the fierce wrath of God]?”

Richard Baxter of Kidderminster, who preached as a dying man to dying men and women, wrote many of his most useful works between 1682 and his death in 1691. Notwithstanding his wasted, languishing body, Baxter continued to preach, and the last time he did so, he almost died in the pulpit. While upon his deathbed, the saintly Baxter gave utterance to some of the most precious truths ever to leave his anointed lips:

“I am the vilest dunghill worm that ever went to heaven. Lord! what is man; what am I, vile worm, to the great God!”¹

Luther, in his explanation to the second article of the Apostles’ Creed, said that “[Christ] has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature.”

The problem is that modern man doesn’t want to face the truth of what they are and modern ministries don’t want to tell them because their audience will go where they can hear polite things which don’t offend.

Because of this modern trend to exalt man and not call him anything offensive, Scriptural words which do exactly that have disappeared from modern preaching and modern music. Some of these are: “Wicked” (Isa. 48:22), “Wretched” (Rom. 7:24), “Vile” (Isa. 32:6), “Lewd” (Acts

continued on pg.14

17:5), “Evil” (2 Tim. 3:13) and Brutish and Fools (Senseless and Stupid) (Ps. 94:8).

Since this is the truth of Scripture, are we not doing people a real dis-service in not telling them the truth of their condition before a holy God? Is it not when people finally realize that they are absolutely wicked to the bone, wholly guilty before God, and totally unable to do anything about it themselves, that they turn to Jesus, their only hope and righteousness? This demonstrates the real beauty of grace: God’s love and forgiveness offered to sinful men who don’t deserve it and have not earned it.

It also exalts God’s salvation in Christ. “*For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*” (Rom. 5:6) It also robs people of the help that they so desperately need. When God said, “*Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel...*,” He also went on to say, “*...I will help you, declares the Lord and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.*” (Isa. 41:14) When people realize that they are, in fact, humble, lowly, and powerless as a worm, then they will turn to the Almighty Lord God who can bring real change and real help. Self-sufficient modern man will not tap into this power of God, which is evident by the lives that most lead.

“*But I am a worm, and not a man, A reproach of men, and despised by the people.*” (Ps. 22:6)

–Selected

1. Excerpts taken from: *Last Words of Saints and Sinners* by Herbert Lockyer

* * * * *

Where to Bestow Our Wealth

“*And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*” (Luke 12:16-17)

God called this rich man, “*Thou fool*” (Luke 12:20) – because, rich as he was in his own eyes, he was “*not rich toward God*” (v. 21). Instead of choosing to bestow his goods on others in need, or on any kind of ministry for God, he decided to build more barns and “*there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods*” (v.18). The barns did not need them, however, and neither did the rich fool, for he died the very night on which he made this selfish decision.

The intensity of his self-centered nature is pointed out by the fact that he used personal pronouns (I, my) no less than eleven times in three verses (vv. 17-19). Furthermore, no counselor advised him on this course of action. He just

“*thought within himself*” (v. 17) to keep it all for his own comfort and pleasure.

Jesus told this parable not just to rebuke selfish rich people, however, but to warn all of us against the wicked sin of covetousness “*which is idolatry*” (Colossians 3:5). “*Beware of covetousness,*” He said, in introducing the parable, “*for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth*” (Luke 12:15).

Complaining American Christians (and almost all American Christians are wealthy compared to multitudes in many other nations) need to hear the ancient word of the psalmist still relevant today: “*Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him ...Man that is in honor, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish*” (Psalm 49:16, 17, 20).

HMM

Taken from “Days of Praise,”
Institute for Creation Research, Copyright, 2007

* * * * *

Without Natural Affection

“*Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful*”

(Romans 1:31)

This phrase “without natural affections” is the translation of one Greek word, *astergeo*. It was a characteristic of many pagans of the ancient world. Significantly, it is also prophesied to be a characteristic of the humanistic pagans of the end-times. “*In the last days ...men shall be ...without natural affection*” (II Timothy 3:1-3). These are the only two occurrences of this word in the New Testament.

The word *stergeo* (“natural affection”) is one of four Greek words for “love,” but it is never used at all in the New Testament. It refers to the natural love that members of the same family have for each other. It is such a common characteristic of all peoples that there was apparently no occasion to refer to it at all – *except* when it is *not* present, when people lose their instinctive love for their own parents and children, and thus are *without* natural affection.” One thinks of the widespread abortionism of these last days, as well as the

**Don’t ask God to direct you
aright, IF you have NO
intentions of obeying HIM**

modern breakdown of the family in general.

Another Greek word for “love” is *eros*, referring to romantic love, or passion. Like *stergeo*, *eros* also is never used in the New Testament. The other two words, however, are used frequently. *Phileo*, referring to “brotherly love,” occurs over thirty times. It indicates fondness, based on a community of interest with the person or persons so “loved.”

The fourth “love” word, of course, is *agape*, which is used over 300 times. This is the type of love called out of one’s heart by the preciousness of the object loved, the love that impels one to sacrifice his own interests for the benefit of the person loved. This is the love of Christ, who “*loved me, and gave Himself for me*” (Galatians 2:20). And this is the love generated by the Holy Spirit in the believer for “*the fruit of the Spirit is love...*” (Galatians 5:22)

HMM

Taken from “Days of Praise,”
Institute for Creation Research, Copyright, 2007

“And that in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15).

HERE at last we hear about those who hear the Word in such a way that they are saved by it.

The Death of Luther

Martin Luther, the monk God used to shake the world, was spared the agony of a torturous death. When he came to die, his lips were laden with Scripture. Thrice over he repeated the prayer:

*“Into Thy hands I commend my spirit!
Thou has redeemed me, O God of Truth.”*

As he breathed his last, Luther repeated John 3:16 and the verse from Psalm 68:

*“Our God is the God of whom cometh salvation.
God is the Lord by whom we escape death.”*

With his hands clasped together, and without a finger or a feature being disturbed, this mighty man of God ended his pilgrimage.

Taken from *Last Words of Saints and Sinners*
by Herbert Lockyer

The Family that Prays Together, Stays Together!

The old Family Altar will alter many a Family!

The first thing we hear is that they received the Word. Yes, that is the beginning. The Word of God comes to a soul; God speaks. That is the beginning, what we know as the *awakening*. He has been awakened who has been spoken to, called by God.

He who heeds God when He speaks, he is *converted*. To be converted really consists in this: to *accept* the Word of God; to continue to pray each day, “Lord, speak; Thy servant heareth. Tell me all that I must hear about my sins! And speak in such a way that I shall hear Thee!”

The Word begins to *bear fruit* at once in such as receive the Word in this way.

First they begin to *suffer* under the burden of their sins and to be *sorry* for them. Then they begin to *confess* their sins, old and new, great and small, secret and open sins. Next they begin to be *afraid* of themselves.

Everything goes to pieces. They feel that they cannot be as sorry for sin as they should, cannot hate sin, cannot love God, cannot believe. But still they cannot live without Christ. However, souls such as these have reached a state in which grace can be imparted to them. The cross has become their only refuge.

And all this fruit they bear with patience, Jesus says.

Yes, indeed, it is not always easy. For they themselves do not always see the fruit.

The seed grows without their knowing it.

Taken from God’s Word for Today
O. Hallesby

Editor’s Note: In this devotion, Dr. Hallesby shows the *Order of Salvation*. These are the steps which the Holy Spirit takes sinners through as He brings them to salvation and then finally to heaven. These steps are: The Call, Awakening (also called Illumination), Repentance and Conversion, Regeneration, Mystical Union and Sanctification (which includes Final Glorification).

It is possible to be called by God and even awakened to your lost condition and to desire Christ and His salvation, but until the Holy Spirit is able to convince the sinner that he must repent of his sins and be converted, the soul is still lost in his sins. Dear reader, make sure where you are with the Lord in regards to this.

HAUGE BIBLE CONFERENCE

“Revive Us Again”

August 24th (Friday evening) through August 26th (Sunday Noon)

Hauge Lutheran Church, Goldfield, Iowa

Pastor Wayne Almlie, Host Pastor

A Heaven Sent REVIVAL is “Prayed Down,” not worked up – so please earnestly pray for this ‘Area Bible Conference’. Please pray for each speaker to be moved upon by the Holy Spirit to bring the Message that God wants for each time.

Friday

Evening Service at 7:30 p.m. — Guest Speaker: Pastor Jim Haga, Shoreview, MN

Saturday

9:30 a.m. -9:45 a.m. – Prayer Time

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. – Guest Speaker, Pastor Jim Haga

11 a.m. - 12:00 noon – Guest Speaker: Pastor Don Greven, Viroqua, WI

Noon meal provided at the church

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. – Guest Speaker, Pastor Don Greven

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Fellowship Time, Testimonies, Gospel Songs & Hymns

Evening Service at 7:30 p.m. – Pastor Rodney Stueland, Dilworth, MN

Sunday

Worship Service 10:00 a.m. – Pastor Rodney Stueland

Housing

Iron Horse Inn, Clarion 515-532-6647

Sandman Motel, Eagle Grove 515-448-4751

Super 8, Humbolt 515-332-1131

WELCOME and not only try to attend, but invite and bring folk with YOU!

May God Be Glorified!

Update – Negative??

Praise the Lord and Thank you for your support to carry on this portion of ministry in the Lord’s Kingdom; even now during the summer months.

Over the many years of the existence of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and *Morning Glory* unfortunately there have been those in opposition who have called this work “negative.” Now there are two kinds of criticism: constructive/positive criticism and negative criticism. IF a ‘music teacher’ does not ‘correct’ the student when the student is in ‘error’ the student will just continue in the same. Correction in such cases from a ‘caring teacher’ would be ‘constructive/positive criticism.’ **By NO means** would we want to even be guilty of hinting that ‘either the AUTHOR nor HIS BOOK, **the Bible** are negative. For it is God’s mercy and grace that God says what HE means and means what HE says. YET there is much in the Scriptures that many folk would call ‘negative’. For example: Sin, man’s fallen sinful nature. Each of US have only ‘one’ life to prepare for ETERNITY – in which we will find ourselves in either Heaven or hell, The BIBLE is a book of absolutes, there is only ONE way to have your sins *forgiven* and to be *saved* and that is through **the shed blood of Jesus**.

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