



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • August 2011

## The Power of God

By Dr. Curtis Hutson

*“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit,  
saith the LORD of hosts” Zech. 4:6.*

**Y**ou will run into somebody who can out-argue you. Men may be able to out-reason you. But men cannot out-argue or out-reason the Holy Spirit. God uses the Holy Spirit to convict the sinner.

I teach soul winning. I give a soul-winning lecture and tell folks how to use their Bible and present the plan of salvation. That is good, and we ought to do it; but in the final analysis, it is the Holy Spirit that takes the Word of God and convicts the sinner. God speaks to sinners. I am saying the power of soul winning is the power of the Holy Spirit.

We may as well close up our doors unless we are going to recognize this. We may as well send the choir home and give the musical instruments away, sell the building, sell the property and go out of business, because we are not in business unless we recognize that we must have the power of the Holy Spirit in our services. We've got to have that.

I heard the story of a company that was building a bridge. The construction men were drilling down to set a post to support the bridge, and they ran into a sunken barge. They decided it had to be moved. So they tried everything they could to move it, but to no avail. They got cranes on barges and tried to lift it up, but that didn't work.

Finally they had almost given up when one fellow standing by observing the whole thing said, “If you will give me a contract, I'll move that thing in twenty-four hours.”

They said, “All right. We want it moved.” The contract was signed to move that barge for several thousands of dollars.

He went to work. He had them bring in six barges. He hooked them altogether. He put them over the top of the sunken barge, and he sent divers down. These divers took chains and hooked them onto the sunken barge. They secured it with many strong chains. Then, when it was all ready, he stood back and said, “Now, it's just a matter of time until it will be moved.”

They asked, “What do you mean? What are you going to get in there to pull those six barges?”

He said, “We're not going to pull them; we're going to leave them there.” He said, “The way I figure it, in so many hours the tide will be in; and when the tide comes in, she'll come up.”

They stood by and waited. Sure enough, the tide came, and those six barges began to pull. The sunken barge creaked and groaned and cracked and popped, and it came loose. He floated it out into the Atlantic and sank it, collected his thousands of dollars and walked away.

What man could not do with all of his power, this one man did by harnessing the power of the Atlantic Ocean.

We have available for us in every service, in everything we do, the power of God. What we can't do, God can do.

Sword of the Lord

# Morning Glory

Volume XCIII – Number 8  
August 2011

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

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

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## A Sermon or a Message?

If your purpose is to preach great sermons, then you had better give up. The world does not need sermons; it needs a message, and there is all the difference in the world between a sermon and a message.

You can go to a seminary and learn how to preach sermons, but you will have to go to God to get messages. Sermons will never influence your congregation, but messages will. Sermons appeal to the intellect, messages to the heart.

What people need today are not great sermons, but great messages. We must go out to present Christ, the living Saviour.

The world, I say, is waiting for God’s messengers. If you are going into the pulpit to present Christ, a living Christ for a dying world, then God will bless you and use you for His glory. You will be engaged in the greatest of all vocations, that of the ministry, and you will never regret having responded to the call of God. At the end of life, you will look back over your ministry and thank God for a life spent in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oswald J. Smith

“If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity.”

Daniel Webster  
1782 - 1852

## Islam's Beliefs About Jesus

Liberals and ecumenists from various branches of Protestantism are falling all over themselves to show how Islam and Christianity are closely related theologically, especially when it comes to being a people of “the Book” and recognizing Jesus. However, the Qur’an and the Bible share nothing in common. The Qur’an contradicts nearly everything the Bible teaches.

The Jesus of the Qur’an and the Jesus of the New Testament are two entirely different persons. The Jesus of the Qur’an is not divine, nor is He the Son of God. The Jesus of the Qur’an was created, as was Adam. Though viewed as a Muslim prophet, their Jesus is considered inferior to Muhammad.

While Muslims teach Jesus was born of a virgin, they deny He actually died on a cross or was raised from the dead. The Qur’an claims Allah took Jesus directly to heaven. They said, ‘We killed the Messiah Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.’ But they did not kill him, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ in this matter are full of doubts, with no certain knowledge. They follow nothing but idle talk, but for sure they did not kill him.” (Sura 4:157).

Islam does not believe Jesus gave his life to atone for the sons of mankind. They view Christian doctrine of Jesus being equal with God as an unforgivable sin. Since nothing is more central to Christianity than the death, burial, resurrection and divinity of Jesus Christ, how could there possibly be any confusion over the relationship between the Jesus of Christianity and the Jesus of Islam?

According to Islam, the prophet Jesus will return with their messiah, called the Madhi, to help him establish his Islamic rule over the whole world. They claim Jesus will convince Christians they have been falsely taught over the centuries and should now give their allegiance to the Mahdi.

Taken from ‘The Vine and Branches’

\* \* \* \* \*

## Read Psalms 18-22

By Dr. John A. Hash

By God’s Word the worlds were created, and *the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows and proclaims His handiwork* (Psalms 19:1). The effects of the Word of God are marvelous. But most exciting is the transforming influence of God’s Word upon all who receive Him as Lord: *The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the whole person; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple* (19:7). Nothing else compares to *the Law of the Lord* in providing insight for man’s every need.

The first six verses of the 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm refer to God’s works in the world, and the rest to the marvelous influence of His Word on the lives of all who love Him. Only God’s Word can be said to be *perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, standing fast*.

In this short Psalm, six names are used to express the Word of God:

1. *It is the Law of the Lord* and, as such, It is *perfect* (19:7) – as far superior to the words of man as the heavens are above the earth. No modern-day writer dare say that his books are *perfect, restoring the whole person ... making wise the simple*. Then why settle for less than God’s best?

2. *It is the Testimony of the Lord* and, as such, *is pure* (19:7); for in It, God speaks ... *making wise the simple* (19:7). The Apostle Paul confirmed this to Timothy, saying: *You have known the Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation* (II Timothy 3:15).

3. *It is the Statutes of the Lord and, therefore, It is right* (19:8), meaning that It clearly and unmistakably provides direction and correction for one’s life. There is nothing like the searching Word of God to reveal what we are and what we are to do.

4. *It is the Commandment of the Lord* (19:8) – not mere counsel or suggested alternatives but It has all the authority of *commandments*. When obeyed from the heart, His commandments are not considered legalistic to those who desire to please the Lord. They provide freedom from sin, from self, from Satan – freedom to enjoy God’s blessings.

5. It reveals *the fear of the Lord* which is *clean* (19:9), meaning not a fear of being in His presence, but one of admiration for His holiness and a fear of hurting or disappointing His majesty.

6. The Psalmist expresses well what our feelings should be concerning God’s most Holy Word. *It is more to be desired than gold, even than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings from the honeycomb* (19:10). This means that no accumulation of wealth or physical satisfaction compares to the delight of meditating upon His Word. And nothing or no one else can provide the great rewards that are bestowed upon all who cherish His Word and make it the supreme concern of their lives.

God’s Word is the one True Source of what is right and wrong. *Who can discern his lapses and errors? Clear me from hidden and unconscious faults. Keep Your servant also from presumptuous sins* (19:12-13).

All who love the Lord will pray: *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my firm, impenetrable Rock and my Redeemer* (Psalm 19:14).

Bible Pathway

# The Bruised Reed And The Smoking Flax

*“A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench; he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth; and the isles shall wait for his law”*

Isaiah 42:3-4.

The bruised reed and the smoking flax mentioned in the above passage is a spiritual condition into which some people have entered. It appears to me that they are such who are not saved, but whom the Holy Spirit has disturbed to the extent that they no longer have peace in their sin. More than anything else they resemble a bruised reed and a smoking flax.

There are two ways in which this finds expression in life.

In the first place it is *sin* itself which looms so large before us when the Spirit begins to work in our heart. The knowledge of sin grows side by side with a desire for God. If we refuse to acknowledge sin, our desire for God will soon die. These work as cause and effect.

Secondly, the sin which the convicted sinner sees working in his heart, or the working of sin which we all can observe round about us, is not the most appalling fact about this destructive force. That which is worse is *what sin has done to us*. Our text declares that sin has broken us completely and has extinguished the spark of life in us.

There are many in our day, even among those who are teachers of others, who will hear nothing of this.

Their teachings are something like this: Sin has not destroyed us so completely that we are dead in trespasses and sins. It has merely entered our lives and works in us. The problem for us is to remove sin from our lives again; to the extent that we are successful in this we become better and more like God. The good which is in us will gain the upper hand more and more as sin is removed.

To insure success in this spiritual house-cleaning we must really be serious and do our best; we must seek God in prayer, meditate on His goodness, comfort ourselves with His grace, and earnestly strive to live as Jesus did. Then we shall become better and better, and shall some day be perfect.

Man is thus not supposed to be a bruised reed or a smoking flax; he has merely been kidnaped by an enemy and is held in prison. Just as soon as the enemy is evicted man will be as free and good as ever. For this reason he has no need for a Savior who died for his sins; neither does he need to be born again. All that is necessary is that he be delivered from his predicament.

Thus Christianity is proclaimed today from many a pulpit and lectern.

This heresy comes to us as an angel of light. There is much talk of Jesus, of God's grace, and of the seriousness of life. That this preaching is silent about Christ's atoning death on the cross is noticed only by a few. Neither do many notice that in this preaching man is never condemned to death and eternal perdition if he is not born again. Those who proclaim this gospel are careful not to make such gratifying statements; they do not believe it is true that man is a smoking ruin and a broken reed.

This fine deceptive doctrine draws large numbers of people into eternal death. Unbelievably many imagine that they are going to get into the kingdom of God by a little effort and a bit of religious white-washing.

Many of you who read these lines have undoubtedly been deceived by this falsehood. Would to God that you might become aware of it before it is too late. It is Satan's desperate attack against your one precious life – that life which must be born of God if it is to live with God.

All who seriously want to become Christians will soon encounter this cold power of death; it is the same power which has wrought havoc with the human race. I find it extremely difficult to picture the deep depravity of our race. My thoughts are not great enough and my words are not strong enough to open the grave in which we are lying. But let me ask some question of you who seek unsuccessfully to become Christian.

My first question is: Are you a sinner? With your whole heart you will surely say that you are. You may even be able to describe how sin has crushed you in so many a way.

My second question is: Do you not believe that Jesus is your Savior? Do you believe He has atoned for your sin? Again you answer in the affirmative.

You are saved then, are you not? Precisely this it is that you are not certain of. You believe and know that you are a sinner. You believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world; you even believe that He is your Savior. But still you are not saved!

How can this be? What is wrong? *Everything* is wrong you say. Your case is absolutely hopeless; you are one of those who cannot be saved. You are up against a solid wall that you cannot break down; there is a burden on your heart which you cannot remove.

You are so weary of your sin, and yet you love it. Even your cries to God seem to be no more than the twitter of a bird. They are a smoking flax and a broken reed.

It is on this point that you are trapped; it is here that a large number of our young people are stalled, not least of those who study and have done some thinking. Many remain here for life.

When asked if they want to become Christians, many people reply that they have tried it and have failed. They mustered all the power they could command, and still they failed. So they gave up and turned their backs upon God; Christianity, they conclude, is “beyond human power.”

It is indeed a good thing that people learn to know themselves so well that they realize the problem is great for them. This is to discover a truth that God has long ago declared of us. But it is sad to think that so many people are so near to the kingdom, and yet fail to find Jesus.

Would to God that you might be led to see that it is precisely such as you who have the right to believe that they are saved – for Jesus’ sake!

There are also Christians who see themselves as the bruised reed and the smoking flax. In their own opinion they do not amount to anything as Christians; they are as weak and lifeless as broken straws and smoldering ruins. Many more than we realize are burdened by such dismal thoughts as these. They feel their state to be so pitiable that they do not even dare to speak of it.

There are many critic who hold that such Christians are cold, carnal, and unspiritual legalists. If there is any spiritual life in them at all it is lived at bare minimum level, according to the critics.

Perhaps this judgment is correct, though I do not believe that it is. At any rate, let us agree that it is right to be honest. If you ever feel that you are poor, wretched and mean, do not ever try to conceal it either from God or from yourself. Be just as you are. Do not become a slave to the opinions of men. Appear before God with the girdle of truth about your loins. In the long run that will be best for all of us. To pretend that one is what he is not is hypocrisy; and a Christian must never be a hypocrite.

*“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite one.”* Isaiah 57:15.

*“But to this man I will look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”* Isaiah 66:2.

*“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”* Psalm 34:18.

*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”* Psalm 51:17.

These are passages that we do well to mark and take to heart. It seems reasonable to us that God should inhabit the high and holy places; after all, He is holy. But that He also lives in the heart of him who is of a contrite spirit seems unreasonable to us. Just imagine – He will not only sympathize with us, but He will live with us.

You may search the Scriptures from beginning to end, but you will never find that God has spoken a harsh word in judgment of those who are meek and lowly and have no high opinion of themselves. A constant stream of comfort flows from the Word of God to such people.

God is like a mother whose heart goes out particularly to the child that is sickly and weak. Softly and tenderly He says to such: I will not break – I will not quench. Out from His gracious heart will come justice upon the earth, for He is the defender of the helpless.

Ho! All ye that struggle and strive unsuccessfully in your own power: Come to Him who desires to dwell in the heart of the humble. He can give you new life. As Mephibosheth was permitted to eat at the king’s table even though he was lame, so you may sit at meat in the Kingdom of God – as a bruised reed and a smoking flax.

He who gave Himself for us – so that He became as a bruised reed and a smoking flax – He arose again in power for our sake. What does it matter, then, if we never amount to much? Our sufficiency is in Jesus Christ. (*Editor: II Corinthians 3:5 & Colossians 2:9-10*).

In the Kingdom of God this is the rule: When I am weak, then I am strong.

Taken from “*Spirit and Power*”, by Ludvig Hope, translated by Dr. Iver Olson

## A Neurosis of Emptiness

Carl Jung, the eminent psychiatrist has written: “Those psychiatrists who are not superficial have come to the conclusion that the vast neurotic misery of the world could be termed a neurosis of emptiness. Men cut themselves off from the root of their being, from God, and then life turns empty, inane, meaningless, without purpose. So when God goes, goal goes. When goal goes, meaning goes. When meaning goes, value goes, and life turns dead in our hands.”

Christ said the first commandment we must hold to is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Underlying the ministry of John the Baptist was the exalted position he gave Christ; John did not count himself worthy even to untie the thongs of Christ’s sandals. One of the great passions driving the Apostle Paul was his desire to know Christ and make Him known. If life is deteriorating and if society is sick and if the church is irrelevant it is because we have allowed the foundations of life to be washed away. A people who dare to follow God and hold His guidelines for life find that the ultimates of life are clearly defined.

The Standard

# Editorial

## RES *HOW LONG???*

*“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4*

WE are so fortunate; aren't 'we'? BUT can you imagine what it would be like to eat only one kind of food, meal after meal, meal after meal? What a 'diet' that would be! Most certainly it would not be what we call a 'balanced diet'! YET are 'you' aware of the fact that many professing 'Christians' go *window shopping **spiritually*** almost every SUNDAY? Sunday after Sunday!! They 'only' hear what they want to hear; *because* they only 'hear' what they want to 'hear' and many 'pastors' know that, so they give them a 'diet' of what they like best, and thus they likely get a larger following and more in attendance! YES, because both from the *pulpit* and in the *pew* they have an 'ear problem' and don't want to go to the **great Physician** for a *cure!* *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,”* I Timothy 4:1.

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables”* II Timothy 4:3-4. (Emphasis mine).

You see, the 'Under shepherd' does not want to 'rock the ship', nor be known as a 'negative preacher', for *if* he should preach the LAW; some people might become 'legalistic' (which most certainly can happen). He wants to please the congregation more than the ONE to whom he will one day give an account to! The desire to build a 'mega' church, regardless of the COST, is a very real temptation. It is so easy to seek to be *successful*, much more than being **faithful!** (By the way; when is the last time 'you' heard your 'pastor' preach the Law out of LOVE **or** name *sin* by its name: *SIN*)?

Just now I am reminded of a little story that explains what I am trying to say. A prospective 'patient' came to his Doctor and after examination (including X-rays), the Doctor, because he cared; informed his 'patient' that he would need to have 'surgery' in order to correct the 'problem'. The patient exclaimed very clearly that he couldn't afford that! So the Doctor got up off from his chair/stool and began to leave the room and the patient asked emphatically where he was going? The Doctor's response was that he "going to change the X-rays!"

At this point it is very essential and necessary that you and I ask the same question that the twelve Apostles ask at the institution of the Lord's Supper: **Lord, is it I?** That is because our 'hearts' are desperately deceitful and wicked (Jer. 17:9).

At the present time while I am writing this editorial, my wife, Barb, is making home made Strawberry Jam from our home grown Strawberries (fortunate). It is essential that she follows the recipe AND it is essential that you and I are exposed to the whole Word of God (His recipe). Yes it is a wonderful privilege and responsibility to share the GOSPEL (Good News), but both both saved and lost need to see their NEED!

*What's missing?* God used Peter (a **blood** cleansed vessel) and about 3,000 souls were SAVED, *“and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”* Thus it is sad to say that many sermons are preached to-day before one soul is saved! *WHY?* One reason is that preachers are not 'filled with the Holy Spirit' (*controlled by the Holy Spirit*). **When a preacher Preaches/testifies of GOD'S LAW** in love, but with sternness, is not pleasant, nor does the old nature enjoy it! There is no-give in God's Law. It is God's Law that breaks the 'stony heart' to pieces and it is our 'school master' to bring us to Christ! What is it that the Holy Spirit uses to show us our need – both to the saved sinner and the lost sinner? **The WORD!** Spiritually, *if you have not seen yourself as a LOST SINNER; chances are you are not saved either!* Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost, those who need the great **Physician**. *“The LORD is righteous in her midst, He will do no unrighteousness, Every morning He brings His justice to light; He never fails, But the unjust knows no shame.”* Zephaniah 3:5 God says in Zechariah 4:6b **“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the LORD of hosts”.** *“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”* Psalm 19:7 How is a person saved? **By the Word of God!** How is a Christian fed? **By the Word of God!** How is a believer kept? **By the Word of God!** How, etc.? **By the Word of God! It is GRACE all the WAY!** *“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”* I Peter 1:23. **Preach the WORD, tes-**

tify with the WORD, because you can't save them anyway!

How long will it be before 'we' realize the necessity of returning to the OLD PATHS?

*"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Je-*

*sus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; PREACH THE WORD (Emphasis mine)! Be ready in season and out of season, Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." II Timothy 4:1-2*

## IT IS WRITTEN

By Bill Stowe

*"It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Luke 4:4*

*Always, yes, always 'tis fittin'  
To steadfastly stand with this Book in our hand  
And say loud and clear, "It is written!"*

*If Satan assail and good feelings fail,  
With doubts we are sorely smitten,  
We need, then, to stand with this Book in our hand  
And say loud and clear, "It is written!"*

*When people allure to pleasures impure  
That this Book clearly says are forbidden,  
We need, then, to stand with the Book in our hand  
And say loud and clear, "It is written!"*

*And when people say, "There's no God-no way-  
Nor life after this one, so fittin',  
We need then, to stand with this Book in our hand  
And say loud and clear, "It is written!"*

*Always, yes, always 'tis fittin'  
To steadfastly stand with this Book in our hand  
And say loud and clear, "It is written!"*

Selected

## WHO IS THAT LADY?

In New York City one very cold day in December some years ago, a little ten-year-old boy was standing on the street before a shoe store, barefooted, peering through the window and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, "My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!"

"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

So took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, you will be more comfortable now."

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand and, looking up into her face with tears in his eyes, asked her, "Are you God's wife?"

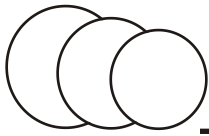
Progress

## MY SUBSTITUTE

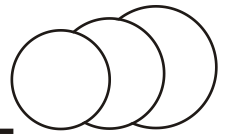
I saw Him as my substitute  
Upon the cursed tree,  
Five bleeding wounds for me He bore;  
He died to set me free.

And as I saw Him hanging there,  
And there beheld His face,  
My heart in gratitude exclaimed;  
"Thank God! He took my place."

Selected



# From Our Fellowship Circle



**A. & J. L.**

**Souris, ND**

Thank you for another great June issue! Would it be possible to request 4 June issues; so we could give away to some... friends; as they may not know what all the ... is involved in and because we care we want them to know. ...

Thank you and enclosed is a donation for \$.....

May God continue to bless you and your work.

**E. & M. H**

**Sisseton, SD**

It was just wonderful seeing you all again! What a great day and we're so glad we could join in on your 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration.

... needs a change of address and she hasn't been in her own home for about five months and is now in a Nursing Home. She has many health problems.... She enjoys getting the *Morning Glory* and has vivid memories of her Dad reading the *Morning Glory* from cover to cover and underlining portions, etc.

We're sending a check for the amount of \$.... for her subscription and our's. ...

Hope we'll see you again soon.

**D. & N. H.**

**Hoffman, MN**

Am enclosing an additional \$... along with our contribution for your work and we would like to receive two copies of 'Altar Steps' by Pastor R. P. Haakonson.

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In His Grip

## INSTRUMENTS OF BLESSING

By Wilbur E. Nelson

"Why," asked a little boy, exasperated at the food prescribed by his mother, "are all the vitamins in spinach and not in ice cream where they ought to be?" We smile at that, but it is not unlike the attitude of his elders when they ask why it is that life's most valuable insights seem to come amid difficulties rather than in the more pleasant moments where they would like to find them. Vitamins are in things like spinach. That's just the way it is. And God seems to appoint difficult situations as His special instruments of blessing. ...

Jeremiah cried out against the trials through which he had to pass. Then suddenly his faith glimpsed the truth that God had been with him all the while. With courage he exclaimed, "*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness... though, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.*" Divine wrath frequently contains mercy in disguise. When disasters assail, men often come up with a start to see the error of their ways and turn from them.

There are times when mercy dictates that the surgeon's lancet be used. Gentle caresses – no matter how dear – are powerless to effect a cure. So we submit to painful surgery and are thankful. Thus, when despairing of all earthly hope, men of faith find a sure, abiding prospect in unchanging mercy and faithfulness of God. "*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*"

Selected



# The Shield Of Faith

(A Radio Message By Wilbur E. Nelson)

Paul says in Ephesians 6, verse 16; *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*” I read an interesting comment on this verse recently. Whoever wrote it said, “Now when a man gives me that kind of counsel, advising me to go into the battle of life wearing a particular piece of armor, and when he calls that particular piece of armor a shield, I want to know whether he wore that piece of armor himself and what kind of life and what kind of experience was the result.” Well, the man was right. If we’re going to have a prescription, we want to know who makes it. We want to know whether he knows what he’s talking about. If we are counseled by the Apostle Paul to wear a shield, let us see what the shield did for him.

We know that he was not protected from adverse outward circumstances. To read the experiences of Paul during his journeys and ministry is to be impressed over and over again with the calamities and adversities which came to him. 11 Corinthians, the eleventh chapter, tells us something about the things he had to endure. Neither was he protected from physical weakness, He was not given a robust, sturdy body with which to carry out the difficult tasks which God commissioned him to do. The Scripture tells us that he was given a thorn in the flesh. He testifies that his bodily presence was weak and contemptible. Neither was he shielded from exacting and exhausting labors. He speaks often of his ministry in labor. Our English word does not bring out the depth of that of that word “labor”. When Paul says, “I labor”, it is the labor of a woman in travail. It is labor to the point of pain, to a degree of sacrifice, to the extent of exhaustion, of sacrificial toil.

Neither did that shield protect him from the heartache of apparent failure. He built up churches and they became afflicted with heresy. He brought men to the cross of Christ, as the Spirit of God worked with him, and then they fell away from him and went back into the world. The Galatians, the Corinthians and others were a terrible pain to the heart of this great man. Even his personal friendships deteriorated and broke down. Discipleship degenerated to apostasy. There is a pang in his words as he says, *“Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.”* So when Paul says that he wants us to wear the shield of faith, he is not saying that we are to have a protected life against adverse circumstances, or physical weakness or exhausting labor or disappointments of other kinds.

The Apostle speaks of a shield which was for the purpose of protecting those things which really count. When

the Apostle Paul speaks about life, he is thinking about spiritual values. Anything and everything he said was directed toward the matter of the growth or decay of the soul. We are so prone to drift away from this point of view. Even in our Christian work we have this terrible tendency to think of success only in terms of bigness. A Sunday School is considered a success only if it has a lot of people in it. It is a failure if it doesn’t have very many. I think it is more important what those who come are taught, than how many of them come. Of course, this is not to say that we do not want to reach as many as we can. But what we are reaching them with counts supremely. Let us get away from the practice of living in the suburbs of the Christian life, rather than in its center; in its environment, rather than its disposition; in the body, rather than in the spirit. Let us not think of our Christian life as a shield to protect the body and defend us from every physical ill. If we assume that this is the purpose of the Christian life - to make things comfortable and reposeful and pleasant for us - then we are going to be startled and confused and frantic when life doesn’t turn out that way. We are not to live in circumstances and to want a shield to make us comfortable. We should live in character and we should want a shield, not to keep us comfortable, but holy, so that whatever circumstances come to us we might be defended against that which might injure the soul and affect the relationship of our loves to God. Thomas Carlyle once said, “You cannot fight the French merely with red uniforms. There must be men inside them. So God wants to develop real, genuine, dynamic Christian manhood and womanhood in us, to make us strong.

What is faith? Paul called it here, a shield. It is the lifting of the heart to our blessed Lord. It is a fixing of our thoughts upon Him. It is an absolute reliance upon the honor of God to keep His promise. There will be no violated treaty. There will be no broken covenants, no betrayals, no faithlessness when we have lifted our hearts to the Lord and taken His Word and have accepted His promise. Faith is also a steady and constant obedience to the will of God. You cannot have strong faith if you are disobedient. Nothing will take away your strength and leave you weak and spiritually impotent more than disobedience to God. You will wander in a wilderness of uncertainty and frustration and failure so long as you say by either lips or life, in either heart or mind, “Not so, Lord.”

I feel that I must continue to stress that the essence of spiritual victory is saying yes to God. Without that yes you cannot have faith, for faith is not bringing God around to our point of view and persuading him to do our bidding. Faith is as much, or more, yielding ourselves to Him, trusting Him to work His will and to accomplish His purposes both in and through us. George Mueller, that man of

faith has this to say; “Faith is the assurance that the thing God has said in His Word is true and that God will act according to what He has said in His Word. This assurance, this reliance on God and this confidence in His Word – this is faith. Faith deals with the Word alone... impressions ... probabilities ... appearances are not to be taken into account; they have nothing to do with faith. The question is whether God has spoken in His Word.”

Yes, friend, faith will be a shield to you when trouble comes. When calamity descends upon you, when loneliness or grief or anything else that life may bring come sweeping over you, you may stand protected and shielded by faith in God, knowing of a surety that His will, whatever it is, is best and its ultimate end is His glory and your good. Take this shield; wear it today. Wear it in the busy traffic; wear it in the tension-filled atmosphere of those troubled times. Wear it at work. Take it wherever you go. It will never fail you

Taken from “Grace Broadcaster”

*Editor’s Note:* Keep in mind that a *‘living faith’* is first of all a gift from God! But we have the privilege and responsibility of **exercising** this ‘gift’ from God. **Hebrews 11:1, 6**

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## FOCUS ON ISRAEL

By Pastor David Barnhart

### What’s Ahead For Israel and the Middle East?

#### *The Insurgencies*

Israel is facing an unsettled future because of Islamic revolutions and unrest now taking place in various Middle Eastern countries, including Syria and Jordan. These events have changed the Global political landscape. While progressives in the West have hailed these uprisings as steps to Jeffersonian democracy in the Middle East, just the opposite is the case. These insurgencies will eventually allow radical Muslims to gain power and further threaten Israel’s very existence.

In Egypt, for example, secular reformers make up a significant percentage of the insurgents, but that does not mean Egypt will end up with a secular democratic government. Likewise, although some of the insurgents in Libya may want secular reform, al Quaida and other Islamic radicals could end up controlling the country.

This past March elections were held in Egypt regarding proposed new constitution and fall elections. The big winner in this referendum was the Muslim Brotherhood, while the big losers were moderates who desire democracy with more freedoms.

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated recently that the world could not handle another Islamic state like Iran. Even so, who seems to be emerging as the domi-

nant power among the Islamic nations? It is Iran, of course, a country that has telegraphed its intentions to wipe Israel off the map.

In February, Iran sent two war ships to Syria via the Suez Canal as a demonstration of their rising influence in the region. Two weeks later a ship flying a Liberian flag and containing 90 tons of weapons was seized by Israel a few miles off their coast. The ship, called the Victoria, had set sail from Turkey bound for Alexandria, Egypt. From Egypt the weapons were to have been smuggled into Gaza. The week prior to Victoria’s capture, the weapons had been loaded at Latakia, a port in Syria. Latakia is also a newly established base for the Russian navy. By coincidence, Latakia was the port where the two Iranian warships had docked.

### Do Any of These Events Have Biblical Significance?

The current uprisings in the Middle East could have great biblical significance, but we must be careful not to try to squeeze these events into a mold of our own making. Still, the recent destructive earthquakes, the move toward a global economy, wars and the growing threat of Islamic terrorism remind us of the Bible’s warnings that such events will occur prior to the coming of Jesus Christ.

The Bible describes certain events as “birth pangs,” which will intensify as the actual time of Christ’s coming draws near (Mark 13:8). Jesus said: “*there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven ... There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken*” (Luke 21:11,25,26).

In the case of recent events in the Middle East, they certainly fit the prophecies recorded in Ezekiel 38-39, where an alliance is described between Russia and a group of Islamic states for the purpose of attacking Israel. Place the Bible alongside the morning newspaper, and it is hard to miss the similarities.

The Bible identifies some of the nations in Ezekiel 38-39 by names that are known today, such as Persia (Iran), Put (Libya) and Ethiopia, however the Ethiopia of biblical times might better refer to the Sudan area. Other names mentioned such as Gog and Magog are thought by Bible scholars as referring to portions of modern-day Russia and Turkey. Regardless of some ambiguity over certain names in Ezekiel 38-39, it is clear that an alliance between Russia and Islamic states surrounding Israel will be in place in end times. That is happening today. Surely, we need to heed the Bible’s admonition: *Lift up your heads, for your redemption is drawing near*” (Luke 21:28).

Taken from “The Vine and Branches”

# KNOW THE ENEMY

## *The Muslim Brotherhood*

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” 1 Peter 5:8.

The Muslim Brotherhood, one of the oldest and most radical Islamic organizations in the world, was founded in Egypt in 1928 by Hassan al Banna. It is widely believed the Muslim Brotherhood plotted the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981. The Muslim Brotherhood’s creed declares: “Allah is our objective; the Qur’an is our constitution; the Prophet is our leader; Jihad is our way; and death for the sake of Allah is the highest of our aspirations.” Today, the Muslim Brotherhood has cells in at least 70 countries.

Former President Jimmy Carter claims he knows members of the Muslim Brotherhood and “they’re not anything to be afraid of.” The same Jimmy Carter praised the emergence of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran in 1978 and presided over the 15-month ordeal of 59 Americans held hostage by Khomeini.

Barack Obama’s National Intelligence Director James Clapper echoed Carter when he told a Congressional panel that the Muslim Brotherhood is a “secular organization.” Even the White House janitor knows this is not true. Muslim Brotherhood leaders have stated they are not interested in democracy but in the reestablishment of the Caliphate.

Meanwhile, a highly respected authority on Islam, Robert Spencer, believes the Muslim Brotherhood could seize power in Egypt, establish Sharia and force the nation to conform with its goals of Islamic domination. The Obama administration is backing the Muslim Brotherhood’s inclusion in any new Egyptian government.

The Muslim Brotherhood, closely allied with Iran, was instrumental in the formation of Hamas, al Qaida and terror groups in Spain. Although it no longer seems friendly with al Qaida, it keeps a close relationship with Hamas which now controls the Gaza Strip. Already the Muslim Brotherhood has called on Egypt to develop closer ties with Hamas.

The media paid little attention when two weeks after Mubarak was ousted from power and the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Yusuf al-Qaradawi, returned to Cairo from exile. One of the first things he said to the crowd gathered in Cairo’s Tahrir Square is that Israel must be destroyed.

Col. Allen West said, “*The Muslim Brotherhood is the mothership of all terror groups.*”

Taken from “The Vine and Branches”

# Male and Female

## *Genesis 1:27*

A man should be a leader. This does not mean that he is to be domineering or a bully, but in every sense of the word, he should be a leader that commands the respect of his wife. On the other hand, a woman should be a woman in every sense of the word and not “mannish.” While some men have become so effeminate in their hairstyles, their manner of dress, and their very character that they are a disgrace to the name of man, it is equally true that some women have become so “mannish” in hairstyle, manner of dress and habits of life that they are not worthy of the name “woman”.

Bruce Cummons

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## Some Soul, One Soul!

*Lead me to some soul today;  
Oh, teach me, Lord, just  
What to say.  
Friends of mine are lost in sin  
And cannot find their way.*

*Few there are who seem to  
Care,  
And few there are who pray.  
Melt my heart and fill my life’  
Give me one soul today.*

Wendell P. Loveless

\* \* \* \* \*

Remind yourself of the times God has answered prayer and honored your faith and the faith of others. Remember that if God has honored faith in the past, He will honor faith now. So you have a right to believe Him. The early church progressed on the wings of faith. They believed – and kept believing – and their faith was strengthened. Faith is not out-of-date. The faith that made our fathers victorious is the faith that can bring to pass any petition within the boundaries of God’s holy will.

The faith of the past is the faith for the present and the faith for the future.

Doubt says to repine – faith says rejoice.  
Doubt says retreat – faith says advance.  
Doubt is quicksand – faith is the solid rock.  
Doubt is shipwreck – faith is the lifeboat.  
Doubt limps and lags – faith laughs at obstacles.  
Doubt is a dungeon of despair – faith is a palace of joy.  
Doubt trembles at trouble – faith says trust.

By Bernie Smith, selected

# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

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## Gay Marriage in New York

ALBANY, N.Y. — After days of contentious negotiations and last-minute reversals by two Republican senators, New York became the sixth and largest state in the country to legalize gay marriage, breathing life into the national gay rights movement that had stalled over a nearly identical bill here two years ago.

Pending any court challenges, legal gay marriages can begin in New York by late July after Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed his bill into law just before midnight Friday.

At New York City's Stonewall Inn, the Greenwich Village pub that spawned the gay rights movement on a June night in 1969, Scott Redstone watched New York sign the historic same-sex marriage law with his partner of 29 years, and popped the question.

New York becomes the sixth state where gay couples can wed, doubling the number of Americans living in a state with legal gay marriage.

"That's certainly going to have a ripple effect across the nation," said Ross Levi, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda. "It's truly a historic night for love, our families, and democracy won."

"We made a powerful statement," Cuomo said. "This state is at its finest when it is a beacon of social justice."

The leading opponent, Democratic Sen. Ruben Diaz, was given only a few minutes to state his case during the Senate debate.

"God, not Albany settled the issue of marriage a long time ago," said Diaz, a Bronx minister. "I'm sorry you are trying to take away my right to speak," he said. "Why are you ashamed of what I have to say?"

The Catholic Bishops of New York said the law alters "radically and forever humanity's historic understanding of marriage."

"We always treat our homosexual brothers and sisters with respect, dignity and love," the bishops stated Friday, "We worry that both marriage and the family will be undermined by this tragic presumption of government in passing this legislation that attempts to redefine these cornerstones of civilization."

...The bill came to the floor for a vote after an agreement was reached on more protections for religious groups that oppose gay marriage and feared discrimination lawsuits.

"State legislators should not decide society-shaping issues," said the Rev. Jason McGuire of New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms. He said his organization would

work in next year's elections to defeat lawmakers who voted for the measure.

The big win for gay rights advocates is expected to galvanize the movement around the country after an almost identical bill was defeated here in 2009 and similar measures failed in 2010 in New Jersey and this year in Maryland and Rhode Island.

*USA Today*  
June 25, 2011

## Court Rules National Day of Prayer Is Constitutional

A panel of the U. S. court of appeals overturned a ruling that previously found the law requiring the president to proclaim a Nation Day of Prayer each year as unconstitutional. The U. S. Court of Appeals for the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit, based in Chicago, ruled 3-0 that the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) and its plaintiffs do not have standing to continue their challenge of the 1952 congressional act declaring an annual National Day of Prayer...

The National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of America, evidenced by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

Christian Newswire

## Speaker Hires Top-Notch Attorney to Defend Defense of Marriage Act

U.S. House Speaker John Boehner announced (April 18) that Paul Clement, who (was) solicitor general (in) the George W. Bush administration, (will be the attorney who defends) the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Boehner (had already) announced the House would step up to defend the 1996 law.

CitizenLink.com

## California Lutheran University to Remove "Christian Growth" From Constitution

The senate of the student body at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA has voted to amend the

college's constitution by removing the words "to further Christian growth" and to replace them with the words "to inspire the maturity of faith and reason in an environment of Lutheran tradition."

The proposal is supported by student body President Evan Clark, an avowed atheist. The change will have to be passed with a two-thirds vote by the entire student body in order for it to be implemented. Reports indicated the measure likely will pass, though some students are voicing their opposition to the change.

Selected

## Lawsuit Prompts Virginia Officials to Allow Prisoners Access to Non-Music Religious CDs

In response to a First Amendment lawsuit filed by the Rutherford Institute, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) has agreed to allow prisoners access to non-music religious compact discs which had been previously banned. ... The lawsuit, which was filed in February, 2010 with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, alleged that VDOC's policy forbidding non-music CDs violated the rights of inmates to receive information and practice their religion under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.

The Rutherford Institute News

## Christian Law Association Wins Minnesota Senate Prayer Issue!

A pastor in Minnesota was told that he could not pray in Jesus' name in the Minnesota Senate. CLA (Christian Law Association) gave the pastor a letter memorandum with the law and the facts. After the pastor took his stand with CLA's help, the Senate changed its policy and re-invited him to pray! He prayed in Jesus' name, and now a senator is stating that he felt "left out," and he is trying to change the policy back ... Our Founding Fathers would never have imagined this being an issue in the nation they founded!

ChristianLaw.org

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## Some Praying and Some Working!

By Dr. Sheldon Smith

On one occasion, D. L. Moody was on a boat that

caught fire, and the passengers had to stand in line with the crew and pass the buckets so that they would have water to put out the blaze. Another preacher who was with Moody, said, "Mr. Moody, let us go aside and pray."

But Moody returned, "Not on your life. We will stay in line and continue to pass the buckets and pray all the while."

That's the way God wants us to pray. There is a story told of an elderly man who prayed, "Oh, Lord, send me a rooster." But the rooster did not come.

Then he prayed, "Oh, Lord, send me after a rooster," and right away he got results.

That is the way that we should pray for people to attend our meetings. "Oh, Lord, send me after the lost, that I may bring them into Thy house."

Nothing has ever been found that equals the people of God going from house to house with a prayer for the blessings of God upon them and with a definite mission in mind - that of bringing people to the house of God where they may hear the preaching of the Word.

Too often today we are satisfied to announce a meeting and preach the Gospel to those who come, but we cannot expect large results unless we go to the people in the highways and hedges and constrain them to come in.

When Jesus gave the parable of the sower, He said, "*Behold, a sower went forth to sow*" (Matt. 13:3). A man does not sow his grain in the barn or in the barn lot. Just so, our churches would profit greatly if they would go out into the field to sow the Gospel Seed.

Why do we assume that the crowds always just flocked to the meetings of Moody, Finney and Billy Sunday? Why do we suppose that the great churches that were led by now renowned pastors just automatically drew huge crowds?

It was not so in either case! Evangelists and pastors must orchestrate the crowds. By that, I mean they must go after them. Should you wait for crowds to come to you, it may be a long wait.

Get out into the town! Go to the malls! Take to the streets! Knock on doors! Use your phone! Send e-mail and regular mail. Put a good ad in your local paper. Organize your workers and go after the folks you want.

If you and I do what others have done, we too will have crowds. On the other hand, if we wait for them to discover us, we're going to be lonely, and the crowds will remain lost!

Sword of the Lord

*Editor's Note:* Keep in mind that 'crowds' are made up of *individuals*, and that ONE Soul is worth more than the whole world.

## Is Homosexuality Still a Sin?

The issue regarding the morality of homosexuality was once so clear that it was difficult to find anyone in doubt. Yet mainline denominations (Editor: Lutherans at large, for example) increasingly refuse to condemn the behavior at all. One might expect such from a world that is spiritually blind (II Cor. 4:4), but how can one who claims faith in the Bible ignore a statement like *“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination”* (Lev. 18:22)?

As homosexual activists portrayed their lifestyle as normal, liberal theologians could respond in one of three ways. They could condemn the behavior – but they had adopted the philosophy of tolerance above all and were not willing to do this. They could admit that they reject the teaching of the Bible – but they are often paid by institutions that are supposed to be based on it. This left the option of finding a way around what Scripture clearly says. This resulted in a new “understanding” of the Bible.

Homosexuality was clearly not accepted under the Levitical law. But I recently read a “biblical” defense of this lifestyle that made a distinction between *sin* as a conscious rebellion against God, and *uncleanness*, the result of external contacts involving no bad motives.

It said Israel was to reflect the perfection and order of God, so things like physical blemishes and mixing of categories, whether cattle, seed or garments (Lev. 19:19), were classified as unclean. To Israel, supposedly, homosexuality was a mixing of categories, and so it was rejected as unclean – but it was not called sin. Leviticus 18:24 says, *“Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things.”* The Hebrew word, *tame*, translated “defile” here is translated “unclean” roughly half the time.

Why is this distinction so important? It is coupled with Romans 14:14, *“There is nothing unclean of itself,”* to claim that the New Testament does not condemn homosexuality; it was only a problem in Israel under the Old Testament. This seems a neat bit of reasoning – but it appears the desired conclusion was reached before consulting the Bible.

Is this distinction between sin and uncleanness valid, or is it a case of *‘wresting the Scriptures’* (II Pet. 3:16)? This is important, because God says that people wrest the Scriptures *“unto their own destruction.”*

Attempts to claim a physical determinant for homosexuality have been around for decades, all without success. There are only vague claims hoping to create the impression that it is so. The real reason claims of normalcy are made has to do with what the heart feels.

I say this because of Jeremiah 17:9, which warns, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately*

*wicked: who can know it?”* It is because our hearts will deceive us that we need the inspired revelation of God to guide us. Eve fell because she felt that eating the forbidden fruit would make her more like God, but that was because she had chosen to believe the lie of the Devil instead of trusting what God had clearly said. Likewise, trusting feeling rather than Scripture has led many to claim legitimacy for the homosexual lifestyle.

So what does the Bible actually say in regards to these claims? First, the division between sin and uncleanness is artificial and contrived. Paul was not addressing such matters of morality in Romans 14.

His subject had to do with dietary – and ceremonial matters.

Second, it is a grave error to try to categorize homosexuality with things like mixed seeds or garments because chapter 18 and 19 of Leviticus are in the same rough context. When one uses the word “defile” in 18:24 to indicate that verse 22 is speaking only of something “unclean” rather than immoral, he is ignoring the immediate context.

Again, verse 24 says, *“defile not ye yourselves in any of these things.”* “These things” refers to verses 21-23, of which verse 22 is only the middle. Verse 21 says, *“And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech.”*

Are we, then, to believe that burning an infant to death is only “unclean” and not really sinful? Perhaps it is no coincidence that a society which, in one generation, gave official sanction to killing the unborn is, in the next generation, insisting that homosexuality is normal and must be accepted.

But be warned that these verses are followed by verse 23:

*“Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.”*

Anyone believing that homosexuality is the greatest perversion of which man is capable is sadly naive. And Satan is nowhere near the end of his efforts to debase a once-Christian society. Acceptance of one abomination is only a step to the next one, until revival turns a people back to their God.

Sword of the Lord

*Editor’s Note:* Deut. 22, 23:17, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 5:11, 6:9, Jude 7. If something is right, it is right; and if it is wrong, it is wrong. And no amount of rationalizing, wishing or even praying can change it. **The Bible is an inspired (by GOD) Book of ABSOLUTES! Revelation 22:18-19.**

## Trouble For A Purpose

God never permits affliction without a wise purpose. When Dr. Moon, of Brighton, England, was at the height of all his mental powers and acquisitions, he became blind. At first there was a constant rebellion against God. "What are all of my powers worth now, when I am shut up here and the whole world is shut out?"

But Dr. Moon began to ask himself if it were possible that he might help the blind to read the Word of God. While his own eyes were sightless, he invented the Moon system of the alphabet. This has gone into twenty different countries, and has assimilated to itself the language of those countries. From three to four million blind people all over the world are reading the Bible in their native tongue because Dr. Moon became blind. Trouble was sent (Editor: permitted) in order that Dr. Moon might help other people out of trouble.

Selected - Article printed in 1978

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### Read JOB 41 - 42

By Dr. John A. Hash

Much has been revealed in the Book of Job concerning the suffering, sorrows, and tragedies of Christians, but there are still many unanswered questions. However, through Job, we learn it is not meant for us to know the answers to all life's problems.

By a series of approximately 60 questions, God revealed Himself to Job in wonders of the universe never before known to mankind. Once again Job experienced glorious revelations of the incomparable greatness and perfection of God and His ways: *I had heard of You only by the hearing of the ear, but now my spiritual eye sees You* (Job 42:5).

Job realized as never before the perfection and greatness of God compared to himself of whom God had said: *There is none like him on the earth* (Job 1:8). Job responded: *Behold, I am of small account and vile! ...I lay my hand upon my mouth* (40:4). This means: "Although I do not understand, I will not question what God does or what He allows to happen since His love and wisdom are perfect."

Job was fully confident that he did not need to know "why?" There is a revelation of God and His Word that goes beyond just believing the truths of the Bible. Those who trust in the Lord, as Job did, are not searching for the answers to all of life's problems or asking the question "why?" or "why me?" They are simply trusting our lov-

ing, all-wise Father who always, without exception, knows what is best.

Job's friends were confident of God's approval of their efforts to convince Job how wrong he was. Eliphaz must have been astounded to hear the voice from Heaven say: *I am angry with you and your two friends because you did not speak of Me what is right, the way My servant Job did* (42:7). Job could have become proud when God came to his defense. Instead, he humbly prayed for his three friends who had so cruelly misjudged him. Because of Job's prayer on their behalf and God's grace in their lives, the three friends learned not to be so quick to judge a friend's sufferings, hardships, and difficulties as condemnation from God.

On the other hand, Job must have been equally surprised to hear that God was pleased with him, for immediately preceding the voice from Heaven, Job had said: *I abhor myself* (42:6) – *I am so insignificant that I am as nothing compared to the Majesty and holiness of the Almighty Creator of the universe.* Although Job recognized his faults, he had a sincere desire to please the Lord.

Those who know God best are most conscious of their imperfections and unworthiness. When godly Isaiah saw himself in contrast to the Holy God, he fell on his face, *I am a man of unclean lips* (Isaiah 6:5). This was also true of Daniel by the River Hiddekel (Daniel 10:9) and of John on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:17). The Apostle Paul said: *I have been crucified with Christ (in Him I have shared His crucifixion); it is no longer I who live, but Christ the Messiah lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in, by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me* (Galatians 2:20).

Bible Pathway

## Moral Battles

We must not remain silent when great moral battles are being waged. Those who would have us ignore the battle being fought over life have forgotten the lessons of history. As in the days of a house divided, America's darkest moments have come when economic arguments trumped moral principles. A nation that will not stand for life will not stand for long. You know there can be no lasting prosperity without a moral foundation in law.

Representative Mike Pence

## UpDate

### **Question? What Should I Say OR Shouldn't I Say!**

*“Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly. Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: ‘Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all.’” I Chron. 29:9-12.*

For whatever ‘reason’, financially summer is a *difficult time* for ‘faith’ ministries and the *Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation* is no exception. But seeking to obey Matthew 6:33 we know the actual future is in HIS Hands – **but ‘we’** also know that He uses cleansed ‘vessels’ to establish and further His Kingdom. Thus there is a ‘rest’ for the people of God and ‘we’ ought not be anxious/fret/worry about the *future*. In other words, not to barrow/take on *from tomorrow*, we seek to exercise **1 Peter 5:7**; by faith.

THANK YOU for the support you have given and will continue as the LORD leads you & us (Team Work/Fellow Laborers).

As this ‘ministry’ is privileged/responsible to ‘occupy’ in His Kingdom Work; may it then be used for the Salvation of Precious Souls and edifying God’s Lambs and Sheep to His Glory – all of GRACE!

June Income for Morning Glory is app. \$4,319.00 . Some of the income for the month of June is result of offerings received at the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation Annual Conference.

The actual cost of publishing and sending each issue (month) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,300 plus considerable other expenses.

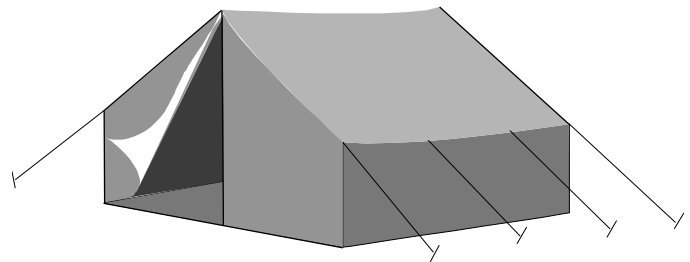
Thank you to everyone who has given to this ministry. We appreciate very much your sacrificial giving, which enables us to continue to print the *Morning Glory* and keep the Hauge Innermission alive and well.

Periodicals Postage Paid at  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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

Volume XCIII • Number 8 • August, 2011  
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

## Tent Meetings



The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is sponsoring Evangelistic Tent Meetings at the truck stop in Wannamingo, MN. They will be held August 21-24 each evening at 7 p.m. The Evangelist is Pastor Wilmore Gunderson.

Plan now to attend and invite your friends who don't know the Lord. Please remember these meetings in your prayers, and, if possible, pray at the time that these meetings are going on. Pray for the Holy Spirit to anoint the speaker, and to produce real repentance and genuine conversions.