



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • August 2012

The Ministry of Prayer

By Pastor Jim Townsley, Southington, Conn.

Today we live in a highly organized and technological society. Churches need to be well informed, organized and up-to-date with the latest technology. However, accompanying these modern marvels comes a danger of substituting organization and administration for the power of God.

If a church is on the cutting edge of societal change but is missing the power of God, that ministry is a failure. A church without power is like an engine without gas or clouds without rain. There may be the appearance of power, but in reality, there is no power at all. If we are to accomplish great things for God, we must have His power.

Substituting service for prayer was a concern for the early church. The Jerusalem leaders were concerned about the possibility of occupying their leaders' time with distributing food to the poor widows. These men realized the most important facet of the ministry was prayer and preaching the Word of God (Acts 6:4).

We also can become too busy for the essentials of the Christian life. Prayer, witnessing and preaching the Word of God have always been the key functions of the church. These spiritual virtues are seldom the theme for a church-growth seminar, because they require humility, discipline and work. Who wants to work, if a seemingly easier way can be found?

But the keys to an effective ministry are of a spiritual nature rather than being man-made ideas and organizational structure.

The outward appearance of a ministry does not always reflect its true state. It is possible for a church to have a beautiful building, a large attendance and great offerings

while accomplishing little for the cause of Christ.

Without great praying, there cannot be great churches. Our prayers reflect our attitude toward God. A lack of prayer signifies that we do not really need God to do His work. Much prayer indicates our need for God and reflects our belief that only by His power can anything meaningful be accomplished.

During the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple, God reminded the prophet Zechariah that the work must be done by the power of God. *“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”*(4:6).

Church members must learn the importance of prayer at the very beginning of a new church (Ed. ANYTIME). Every service should begin and end with prayer. Every committee meeting should begin and end with prayer. Every counseling session should begin and end with prayer. Every Sunday school class should begin and end with prayer.

The midweek service should have a special time of prayer which should include the missionaries as well as the needs of members. In addition to the regular weekly services, a weekly time of prayer should be established. A Saturday morning or a Saturday night is usually a good time to schedule a special prayer time. This time should be for praying, not for fellowship. Fellowship is important, but it should not be a substitute for meaningful prayer.

From time to time, there need to be special seasons of prayer which may or may not include fasting. Every major decision of the church should be bathed in prayer. Times of trials as well as special occasions may call for

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special prayer. In addition, national events and tragedies offer an opportunity to call men and women to prayer for the needs of our country. God is interested in blessing a nation who prays and depends upon Him.

Prayer should be continual by the leaders and members of the church. This will only happen if the pastor leads the way. People will know if the pastor has been spending time in prayer, and they will follow his lead. Nothing is too small, and nothing is too big to bring before the throne of grace. We should learn to pray about everything. Prayer will limit gossip and criticism, because it is difficult to be critical while we are on our knees.

God answers prayer. There is nothing more exciting than answered prayer. Knowing that the God of Heaven has heard and answered our feeble prayers will increase our faith. Our community will hear of the working of God when we pray, and some will be influenced toward salvation. *“He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man”* (Ps. 147:10).

Many books have been written on the subject of prayer, but we must remember that prayer must be experienced, not merely studied. Prayer is not just a doctrine; it is an act of obedience and worship toward God.

Every new (Ed. & established) church planter will be tempted by the special methods of conference speakers, as well as by the seeming success of other pastors. We must be willing to leave our results to God and commit ourselves to spending our time in the Word of God and prayer. God will bless our efforts more than we can know.

“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.” – Eph. 3:20.

Taken from ‘Sword of the Lord.’

Editor’s Note: “And He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” Matthew 21:13. “Then He taught, saying to them, ‘Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” Mark 11:17 - also Luke 19:46. **Please prayerfully read JUDE!!**

PRAY, PRAY, **VERY MUCH** for the *future* of ‘our’ great **USA!** We are at a very crucial moment in the history of FREEDOM, in our USA. Also **Spiritually** which is definitely the **very most important!** But also for the sake of FREEDOM – be a mouth piece. Remember FREEDOM is never **FREE!**

* * * * *

IF I WERE THE DEVIL

By Paul Harvey, (1918 - 2009)

Delivered on his daily radio broadcasts, April 3, 1965

If I were the devil, I wouldn’t be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree – Thee. So I’d set about however necessary to take over the United States. I’d subvert the churches first - I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: “Do as you please.” To the young, I would whisper, “The Bible is a myth.” I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what is bad is good, and what is good is “square”. And the old, I would teach to pray. I would teach them to pray after me, “Our Father, which art in Washington...”

And then I’d get organized. I’d educate authors on how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I’d threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I’d pedal narcotics to whom I could. I’d sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I’d tranquilize the rest with pills.

Within a decade I’d have prisons overflowing, I’d have judges promoting pornography – soon I would evict God from the courthouse, and then the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I’d make the

symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil I’d have families war with themselves, churches that war with themselves, and nations that war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I’d have mesmerizing media fanning the flame. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions – just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you’d have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

If I were the devil I’d take from those who have and give to those who wanted it until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. What do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would question against extremes and hard work, and patriotism, and moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I’d keep on doing what he’s doing.

Paul Harvey, good day. Selected

Editor’s Note: Imagine what ‘insight’ Paul Harvey had **forty-seven years ago!!**

I remember distinctly how a beloved Pastor told how **many clergy** would **compromise** for the following **three reasons (not contending for the FAITH - Jude):** 1. Position, 2. Prestige, 3. Pension!

Divinely Called

Said J. C. Penny, “You and I may not have been called to serve Christ and humanity in a foreign land; but let there be no doubt about our having been called. Each one of us – the missionary, the preacher and the layman – has the same priceless gift to lay upon the altar of service: a life. That is of primary importance. Where the life shall be used is of secondary importance. Where there is a willingness to pay the price, God will surely find (*has*) place for you.”

Knights’ Up-to-the Minute Illustrations

What About Social Drinking?

“It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.” (Rom. 14:21)

It is the attitude of many Christians that they can drink alcohol as long as they don't get drunk. They are quick to admit that the Bible condemns drunkenness, but they feel that it is OK to “drink in moderation.” They would say, “People in the Bible drank alcoholic wine all the time, including Jesus. There is nothing wrong with it as long as you don't get drunk. In fact, Jesus Himself turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana in John 2 so that all the guests there could drink wine. If you choose not to drink, that is your conviction, but there is nothing Biblically wrong with drinking alcohol. Stop judging me with something that is in the Scriptures.”

There are other issues connected with drinking that many Christians never consider. The context of Romans 14 is not to tempt a weaker fellow Christian so that he stumbles, and may possibly lose faith and go lost. One person who you might tempt with alcohol is yourself. Are you so sure that you can stop drinking before it is too late? Do you realize that “about half of all alcohol problems occur among social drinkers?”¹ Your next drink could be the start of a life enslaved to alcohol. The Scriptures tell us, “Each one looking to yourself, lest you also be tempted.” (Gal. 6:1) I started with one drink one day. “Wine is a mocker, and strong drink a brawler, and whoever IS DECEIVED by it is not wise.” (Prov. 20:1)

Another consideration is how alcohol will affect those around you. Dear parents, will you send your son off in the car and say, “Remember to drink moderately, son;” when “motor vehicle accidents are the single leading cause of death for Americans ages 15-19, with alcohol-related crashes accounting for 45 percent of all fatalities in that age group.”² Are you going to send your daughter to a party where alcohol is served and tell them, “Remember not to get drunk;” and wonder why she ends up pregnant because “teens who drink are 7 times more likely to be sexually active.”³ Alcohol is consistently associated with immorality in the Scriptures. “Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, who mix in your venom even to make them drunk, so as to look on their nakedness!” (Hab. 2:15) All this happens because alcohol lowers your restraint. When beer companies tell you to “Drink Responsibly,” that is an oxymoron, because the very thing that you are drinking is the very

thing that will make you act irresponsibly. Thus the effect of alcohol on you is opposed to what the Holy Spirit wants to do in you, because, “The fruit of the Spirit is self-control.” (Gal. 5:23)

How about the effect of alcohol on your friends, neighbors and other acquaintances? What if you offer a drink to someone who has come out of a life of alcoholism and they are not strong enough to resist? Just the smell of it can set off a weak soul. It could be the start of them going right back to the life that Jesus delivered them out of. What if they end up going lost because of it, because the Scriptures say, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; ...drunkards ...shall not inherit the kingdom of God?” (1 Cor. 6:9-11) What will you say before the Lord on Judgment Day when your social use of alcohol resulted in condemning a soul that Jesus had once saved?

Any association with alcohol can destroy your witness for Christ in our society. The Scripture says, “That you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” (Phil. 2:15) According to this Scripture, you must prove that you are blameless and innocent before those who are lost. Even the social use of alcohol will destroy your witness, because the unconverted will label you a hypocrite because your life is no different than their life is. How can you be light and salt to the lost and dying world if your life isn't any different?

What about the fact that people in the Bible drank wine all the time, and even Jesus Himself drank wine, and was called a wine-bibber? What about the fact that Jesus Himself went to the wedding at Cana in John 2 and changed water into wine so the wedding feast could continue? (See John 2:7-9) What are we to do with the fact that the Greek word used to describe this end product is in fact wine, and not grape juice?

The answer is as simple as the context. John 2:1 says, “And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee ...” The Jewish wedding observance lasted seven days. When Jesus showed up, they had already drank wine for three days. If you threw a party for three days and served currently available wine, what do you think would happen?

1 National Clearinghouse for Alcohol Information

2 Teen Alcohol Abuse

3 Ibid.

People would get VERY drunk, vomit, pass out – and some might even possibly die from alcohol poisoning. This would clearly be a sin according to the Scriptures, and not something Jesus would help along, because He is going to give them enough wine for four more days!

This should tell you that the wine that was served – and the water that that Jesus subsequently changed into wine – was different from the wine we have today.

In the days of Jesus, “Wine” could refer to diluted wine with water of different amounts, even 8 to 1 or 20 to 1. Wine only diluted 1 to 1 was called “Strong drink.” Wine in the O.T. was diluted and strong drink was undiluted and was said to “cause madness”⁴ So this wine that Jesus made was diluted to where people couldn’t get drunk!

What about social drinking? There are three considerations to take into account: 1) It can lead to your eventual downfall and your next drink could be the start. (Galatians 6:1) 2) Alcohol can destroy your witness for Christ in our society and make all other attempts to be a faithful witness null and void. (Phil. 2:15) 3) Alcohol can cause a weak brother to stumble. (Rom. 14:21)

Alcohol is something that a Christian should avoid entirely.

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

I have prayed for you...that your faith may not fail. (Luke 22:32)

Dear Christian, remember to take good care of your faith, for *faith is the only way to obtain God’s blessings*. Prayer alone cannot bring answers down from His throne, because it is the earnest prayer of one who believes that leads to answers.

Faith is the communication link between heaven and earth. It is on this link of faith that God’s messages of love travel so quickly that even before we ask, He answers. And while we are still speaking, “he hears us” (I John 5:14). So when the connection of faith is broken, how will we obtain His promises?

Am I in trouble? I can receive help by expressing faith. Am I being battered by the Enemy? My soul will find refuge by leaning in faith upon God. But without faith, I call to Him in vain, for faith is the only road between my soul and heaven. If the road is blocked, how can I communicate with the great King?

Faith links me to God and clothes me with the power of Jehovah. Faith insures me that each of His attributes will be used in my defense, helping me to defy the hosts of hell. It

causes me to march triumphantly over the necks of my enemies. So without faith, how can I receive anything from the Lord?

Therefore, O Christian, carefully watch your faith. “Everything is possible for him who believes” (Mark 9:23).
Charles H. Spurgeon.

WE as a people take such pride in being so practical that we want something more sure than faith. Yet Paul said, “The promise comes by FAITH, so that it may...be GUARANTEED” (Rom. 4:16).
Daniel Crawford

Faith Honors God, and God honors faith.

Streams In The Desert by L. Cowman
Zondervan, Copyright 1997, Original text, Copyright 1925

Divorce & Re-Marriage

“*Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.*” Luke 16:18.

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. When you read the above verse in the original, you will find the verb ‘commits adultery’ means a continual action, not a one-time act. I don’t have the ‘answer’, BUT **God does!** As always, let Scripture interpret Scripture, led by the Holy Spirit as Scripture does not contradict itself.

Editor

In God is my salvation and my glory (Ps. 62:7).

If God is a man’s salvation, He will also be his glory. But, strange to say, not all people feel that way. Rather they feel ashamed to confess their faith in Him. Therefore they prefer to be silent.

How confused our ideas of honor and shame become. He who curses does it without shame, but the believer is reluctant to confess his faith.

The greatest honor that can come to us is to be a child of God. “In God is my salvation and my glory.” If our love toward Christ becomes burning, if the riches in Christ become great to the soul, if the heart is filled with joy, there will also be an inner urge to speak to others about it.

If God today gives you a chance to confess His name, do not fail Him. Show that HE is your salvation and your glory.

Fredrik Wisloff
Augsburg Publishing House

4 *Ambassador Institute: Doctrine of the Lord’s Supper* by Dr. Francis Monseth, Disk 7, 2008.

Editorial

RES HEARING!!!

“...Behold, the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. And the LORD said to me, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A plumb line.’ Then the LORD said; ‘Behold, I am setting a plumb line In the midst of My people ...’”
(Amos 7:7-8)

Personally I have definite hearing loss and thus have a third and fourth ear (Hearing Aids) in order to somewhat communicate. Hearing is a very important *gift* for much of God’s Creation. Basically the only advantage in ‘hearing loss’ is that I do not have to hear some of the **yuck** that is put forth in the English language; YET **God says: in HIS love, grace & mercy**; for “our” benefit – **LISTEN & OBEY!!!** “*He who has an ear, let him hear...*” Notice: *IF* Amos did not listen and see; he would have missed God’s significant & vital purpose for him!

Personally I do not believe that a person can experience God’s Salvation through His beloved Son/Jesus without at least hearing/reading a ‘small’ portion of God’s Eternal Word; nor can a true child of God grow in Grace and knowledge of His Word, without exposure to His Word. (**Acts 4:12-13**). “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” Romans 10:17. “*And do not be conformed (squeezed) to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” Romans 12:2. “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power (dynamite) of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written ‘The just shall live by faith.’ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*” Romans 1:16-18. “Now faith is the substance (*conviction*) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 12:1 & 6. “**For we walk by faith, not by sight**” 11 Corinthians 5:7. (Now you see again why ‘we’ of the *Morning Glory/HLIF* have strong ‘convictions’ how the Bible must be central in a believer’s life and in ‘our’ public worship services – the Law & Gospel – both for the saved and the unsaved!. *If* the Law and the Gospel is not enough to bring people to JESUS, what have ‘we’ with our ‘little’ finite minds to add to

God’s glorious infinite mind? Trying to ‘add’ something to make the Word more attractive: is that implying that God’s Word is inadequate and is Jesus insignificant?

(By all means ‘we’ encourage good Gospel/Hymns Songs, personal testimonies, etc., BUT it is because of what the Word means to us and to HIM be the glory - **John 1:1, 12-14**. BUT God’s Word (JESUS) is able to save not ‘only’ individuals, but ABLE to transform congregations, communities and even nations! YES **Jesus saves, keeps & satisfies!** Hebrews 7:25, John 6:29 & 37.

Oh how America needs to get back to the WORD: Thus saith the LORD! Probably the words of Patrick Henry are appropriate here: “Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!”

Freedom is never free: it always costs someone or ones a great price and in so much of the preaching/teaching/testifying today, the blood is missing, that Scarlet Thread God’s Holy Book, the Bible: **the blood of Jesus Christ** that was ‘shed’ for your sins and mine!

Sadly *today* there are ‘many’ under nourished Lambs & Sheep; because God’s Law & Gospel are not being presented in its fullness – **truth and purity!** *If you love ME*, feed my lambs and sheep. Where ever the LAW of GOD is not preached in Love; but in its sternness, SIN will definitely move in the believer’s life, congregation and community! “We” NEED to be fed the milk & meat of the Word of God!

Pastors, teachers, believers: *if* the group/individual you are seeking to ‘minister too’ is small or large – *Be thou faithful* unto death and God will give you the Crown of Life!

One reason there are so many *polar bears* in the pulpit, is that there are so many *ice bergs* in the pew! YES, “*And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to de-*

ceive, if possible, even the elect” Matthew 24:12 & 24. Because many: Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place - unless you repent” Revelation 2: 4 - 5.

One of the great reformers said: the time would come that ‘they would be stabbing at truth and scattering doubt’; needless to say we are living very much in that era. This is nothing new as Satan did the same in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3. Not only is this true in much of today’s preaching/teaching; but notice even in some Bible translations is now: “*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD GOD, That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD, They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it*” Amos 8:11 - 12.

Oh how the Psalmist had the answer: “**Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You**” Psalm 119:11. (Also Psalm 119:49 - 72 & 28 - 64). ‘We’ should hunger for His Word as an infant hungers for food at meal time!

My friend, you do not have to doubt what God says because you cannot at times explain it or because someone has challenged you on it. When God has said it, that settles it! The Bible which ‘we’ hold in ‘our’ hands: is given by inspiration of God (not the translation in itself) preserved for ‘our’ generation and for the genera-

tions to come, Lord tarrying. “The words of the LORD are pure words...Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever” Psalm 12:6-7. **Psalm 119:89, Proverbs 30:5-6. Dare ‘we’ not subtract from His Word OR add to His Word - Revelation 22:18-19.**

For those Pharisees, Sadducees, Neo-orthodox, liberals, etc. I am reminded of the following story:

In love we can be like the kindness of an old Quaker who found a man in his barn. The Quaker pointed a shotgun at him and said, “Sir, I mean thee no harm, but thou art standing where I am about to shoot.”

Caution! A person can read God’s entire WORD, memorize Scripture, hear ever so many Bible based sermons, etc. and still not know JESUS as their personal Savior! Yes, ‘head knowledge’, but not heart experience! **11 Corinthians 5:17. Do you know JESUS as your personal Savior?** Are you walking by faith (personally) today with Him today?

Thus it is ‘our’ challenge to do the following: “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” 11 Timothy 2:15.

And as you study the book of not resolutions but of Acts – they **preached the WORD AND THAT IS WHAT WE NEED TODAY!!!** – for **Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6, Psalm 119:104 & 109, 119:7 - 14. Let us by the third Person of ‘our’ triune God – PREACH, TEACH, PRACTICE, and LIVE THE WORD!!!**

* * * * *

Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation (Ps. 62:1).

It is never so difficult to keep peace of mind and of heart as when times are hard. Then we are tempted to restlessness. The mind is excited and heart is disturbed. The eye looks around for help, and reason considers every possible avenue of escape.

But this is not the way of faith. Faith knows from whence help must come. “Truly my soul waiteth for God: from him cometh my salvation.”

Faith is tested by hard times. Then it becomes apparent whether we really rely upon God. Restlessness and anxiety are signs of a weak faith. Faith produces peace and confidence, even when we can see no human way out

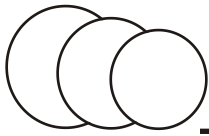
of trouble. “My soul waiteth for God.”

Wait on the Lord. “From him cometh my salvation.”

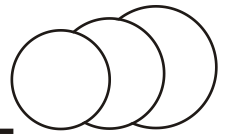
Fredrik Wisloff
Augsburg Publishing House

*God has made me fruitful in the
land of my suffering.*

(Genesis 41:52)



From Our Fellowship Circle



J. & B. E.

Franksville, WI

We are members of the ...and really appreciate your wonderful conservative stand on Christian Doctrine. Truly by Scripture: Grace Alone, Word Alone & Faith Alone are we saved!

May God continue to bless your Ministry!

J. R.

Lake City, IA

Just a little something to help pay postage. (*Editor: Many drops fill the bucket - nothing is small or insignificant in God's Kingdoms Work!*)

I truly love your publication and I read every word and especially the 'Believable ...Yet Unbelievable' pages - WOW!

Thank you so much.

H. K.

Austin, MN

Your messenger is Great - Good articles and timely news. Thanks.

A. G.

Story City, IA

A very good magazine. Many excellent articles!

Keep up the good work.

D. E.

Northfield, MN

Praise the Lord for the *Morning Glory!* What good reading and I received mine today and was impressed with "A Grateful Nation Remembers".

Thanks to President Roosevelt he mentioned **four vital words** that were missing when Congress talked about the Japanese attacking Pearl Harbor; "**So Help us God**". We should hear this more often in Washington, D. C. and else where!

My first husband was killed one month after that; July 5, 1944 - he had been on 10 missions.

Enclosed is a small gift.

I am getting slower, but the Lord has been good to me - I miss my husband - I'm 93 years old now.

Keep up the good work.

It Matters Not

It matters not if I've been hurt;

It matters not all

That sometimes from my weary

Eyes

The scalding teardrops fall.

What matters most is if I've erred

And not confessed the sin

And through my lack some needy

Soul

Has failed to follow Him

It matters not if cherished friends

On whom I lean in vain

Have wounded me by word and

Deed

And left me with my pain.

What matters is can I forgive

Again and yet again?

It's not, "have they been true?"

But,

"Lord, have I been true to

Them?

'Twill matter not, when evening

comes,

How rough the road I've trod,

If only I have walked with Him

And led some soul to God!

Selected

Three Types Of Spirituality

(Read Mark 2:18-22)

“And John’s Disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they come and say to him, Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?” Mark 2:18.

When Jesus appeared among the Israelites the religious people were divided into four groups. From the New Testament we know these as the disciples of the Saducees, Pharisees, John the Baptist and Jesus.

We shall not deal with the Saducees in this chapter; we shall center our discussion on the other three.

All three of these spiritual trends have many things in common. They all stress faith in God, life after death, punishment and reward, salvation and judgment. They disagree on the means and methods by which a man may find God and be saved.

Jesus and the Pharisees were diametrically opposed to each other on this question, so much so that Jesus warned His disciples above all things to be on their guard against the leaven of the Pharisees.

The followers of John were much closer to Jesus on this score, though the Pharisees were successful in drawing them into a debate on fasting.

A disciple of John should naturally develop in the direction of Jesus. John was called to direct people to Jesus; this was the sole purpose of his life. His teaching was of such a nature that his followers would either have to find Jesus or give up all hope of salvation. Christ’s first disciples had been followers of John.

Remarkably enough, John rejoiced when his best disciples left him to follow Jesus. The world has not seen many such leaders, either in the political or the religious field, who have rejoiced when the people left them for other leaders. When John heard the complaint that Jesus had begun to baptize and that the people were flocking to Him, he replied with the meek and significant words, *“He that hath the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, that standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. This my joy therefore is made full.”* (John 3:29)

The basic trends in Christ’s day are represented among spiritually interested people today also. We have reason to believe that in every larger group of religious people there are adherents of the Pharisees, of John, and of Jesus. Usually the group following Christ is the smallest; John and the Pharisees are more popular.

*On earth there is a little flock,
Whose treasure is the solid rock,
The Word, which saints love dearly;
But ‘mong this group until today,
A few alone there find we may,
Who worship God sincerely.*

What is it in the doctrine of the Pharisees which is so contrary to true Christianity? What does a Pharisee think and believe?

Many are of the opinion that a Pharisee is a hideous and shockingly bad person. Nothing can be farther from the truth; a Pharisee is a good person. He is a man who has a reputation for piety and good works. Luther speaks thus of the Pharisees: “They were the pride and adornment of their people, and shone as the sun. No group was so highly praised as they were. He who wanted to name a holy man would have to name a Pharisee.”

The Pharisee lived a godly life according to the prevailing views of his time and the interpretation of the Scriptures made by the Scribes. He did what was right and tried to keep the law. It was against the background of such a life and viewpoint that the rich young ruler replied to Christ’s question of keeping the law, *“All these things have I kept from my youth up.”*

A Pharisee shuns every form of outward sin with all his might. That which clearly is evil, and which in the public opinion is held to be sinful, he will flee from as from a pestilence. He reads the Word of God and listens diligently to sermons. He is found at the Lord’s Table. Under no circumstances will he break with tradition. He may even be zealous for missions and ready to help the poor and needy. Most of all, however, does he cleave to that which is customary; traditions are the apple of his eye.

Jesus said of the Pharisees that they discarded the Commandments of God in favor of the commandments of men.

When the Pharisee then has done everything that he can-according to his own opinion - he is satisfied to let the matter rest. If there is still something incomplete about his salvation he will leave that to a gracious God. The Lord certainly cannot be so strict as to condemn a person who has done his very best. If God is so severe, who can then be saved?

These are characteristic words of a Pharisee. There are many today who believe and live thus; what is worse, they believe they are good Christians.

If you ask a Pharisee if he thinks he will be saved, he will reply, “I hope so.” But if you ask him if he is saved, he will answer with manifest displeasure, “What do you mean by that? Are you trying to condemn me? You had better tend to your own affairs; I shall take care of

myself.”

No one must touch the heart of a Pharisee; he cannot stand that. His godliness is a mere form devoid of power. He is a whited sepulcher which outwardly may be beautiful, but inwardly is full of dead bones. This is Christ’s stern judgment over such people.

You poor, blind Pharisee! None other is so helplessly lost as you are. A drunkard, thief, or adulterer knows that there is something wrong with him. But you think that everything is in order with you, because you cannot see beyond the whited grave of your exterior life.

If a person only had the power of opening the grave of your heart so that you might see the depth of sin that is in you! Then there would be hope for you also. You would then become a sinner before God, and for such there is grace. (to be continued)

Taken from *Spirit and Power* by Ludvig Hope,
Copyright 1959 by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission
Federation.

There Is Light in the Day of Your Greatest Darkness!

By R. B. Ouellette

Hank Williams was one of the first true music superstars. He started performing as a teenager and quickly became one of the best-selling artists in the nation. He recorded nearly a dozen Number One songs. But his personal life was an ongoing disaster. He enjoyed the immoral lifestyle that came with his fame. His drinking and drug use spiraled out of control, causing him to be fired more than once. Through all the chaos, he continued to write hit music. One of his best remembered songs is “I Saw the Light.”

*I wandered so aimless, life filled
With sin;
I wouldn't let my dear Saviour in.
Then Jesus came like a stranger in
The night;
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.*

*I saw the light; I saw the light -
No more darkness, no more night.
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow
in Sight;
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.*

In August 1952, not long after being divorced from

his wife, Williams was fired from the Grand Ole Opry radio program for appearing on stage while he was drunk. Depressed, his drug use and drinking increased. After Williams left the stage drunk in San Diego, California, Minnie Pearl and the wife of the show’s promoter took him riding to sober him up.

They tried to get him to sing “I Saw the Light” with them; but after one stanza, Williams said, “That’s just it, Minnie; there ain’t no light.” Shortly thereafter, on January 1, 1953, Williams died at the age of twenty-nine. He believed there was no light, but he was tragically wrong.

The Devil convinced him that there was no hope, nor help, no future and no Good News. I fear that he died and went to Hell for eternity, and if he did, it is because he believed a lie. The best news in the world is that God loves you. Jesus died for you, and your sins can be forgiven. You can go to Heaven when you die.

Sword of the Lord

Under His Wings

An article in National Geographic provided a penetrating picture of God’s wings.

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno’s damage.

One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother’s wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies.

When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. She had been willing to die so those under the cover of her wings would live.

Being loved this much should make a difference in your life. Remember the One who loves you, the One who died for you and One who covers you with His wings.

—Selected—

Editor’s note: This account may be familiar to all of you. Why not do a Bible study research re: the wings of God.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Testimony Takes Coach “From Hero to Goat”

A college football coach is coming under fire for his biblically backed stance against homosexuality.

University of Nebraska assistant coach Ron Brown works with the Cornhuskers’ running backs. He recently testified in front of the Omaha City Council against a proposed ordinance that would give special class distinction to homosexuals.

“As you look through the Scripture, you realize that homosexuality, according to the Word of God, is a sin,” he notes. “It’s a lifestyle that is not endorsed by God.”

The veteran coach tells OneNewsNow that is why he cannot support the measure. But some are intolerant of Brown’s biblical view and want him to be fired. Meanwhile, he recalls receiving applause not too long ago for leading a midfield prayer before Nebraska’s game at scandal-torn Penn State.

“And then, just a few months later, I shared at a public forum in Omaha regarding the sin of homosexuality, and you go from hero to goat,” he accounts. “It just reminds me that as a Christian, we’re not here to just save our lives, and after Penn State, for example, just to play it safe and keep getting the applause of men. We’re not here to save our lives; we’re here to lose our lives for the sake of the Gospel.”...

The coach concludes there is a good news for homosexuals and everyone else: Christ offers grace and can forgive sin.

OneNewsNow.com

Is Traditional Marriage Finished In America?

All six ELCA synods in Minnesota have passed resolutions opposing the Marriage Amendment that will be on the ballot in November. The amendment states: “*Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota.*”

In the Service Book and Hymnal, used by the predecessor bodies of the ELCA from 1958 through the 1970s, the Order for Marriage stated: “Forasmuch as Marriage is a holy estate, ordained of God, and to be held in honor by all, it becomes those who enter therein to weigh with reverent minds, what the Word of God teaches concerning it.”

Then follows two passages of Scripture – Genesis 2:18 and Matthew 19:4-6, affirming that marriage was es-

tablished by God for the union of a man and a woman. Times may have changed, but God’s Word has not changed!

On CNN, May 19, 2012, Don Lemon led a four-person panel discussion on the topic of marriage. Lemon asked the panel if they thought marriage was finished in American society. Most concluded it was, at least in the way we once knew it. They cited the divorce rate and same-sex marriage, then laughed and joked about why anyone would want to get married and bear the financial burdens marriage brings or end up paying alimony. One panel member asked why it is necessary to have children.

The day marriage is finished in this country, the country is finished! The question Moses asked the Israelites after they made and worshipped a golden calf should be asked of all who support same-sex marriage today - **Who is on the Lord’s side?”**

The Vine and Branches

Utah Becomes First State to Have 72-Hour Waiting Period for Abortion

Utah has become the first state to enact a 72-hour waiting period for women seeking an abortion. The new law took effect on May 8.

...HB 461 expands the previous 24-hour waiting period for an abortion by two days, making it the longest waiting period in the country...

Neither Planned Parenthood nor the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah have expressed any intention to presently file a lawsuit. However, both organizations have expressed an intention to closely monitor the implementation of the law.

Before Utah’s statute took effect, South Dakota had passed a bill that would have made it the first state to have a 72-hour waiting period. However, a court blocked the measure from taking effect.

Michael Gryboski for ChristianPost.com

Bible Translator Criticized Over Muslim Compromise

One of the largest Bible translators in the world has agreed to an independent review of its policies after criticism over how it handles the terms “God the Father” and “Son of God” in some translations.

Critics say Orlando, Florida-based Wycliffe Bible Translators has omitted the terms from materials used in

mostly Muslim countries to avoid controversy. Wycliffe CEO Bib Creson says the organization is just trying to accurately present the gospel message to a diverse array of communities.

The World Evangelical Alliance is appointing a panel of scholars to review Wycliffe’s translation policies. Creson says Wycliffe won’t publish any disputed materials until after the panel releases its findings.

OneNewsNow.com

School Backs Down From Student Wearing Jesus T-Shirt

A student who has been frequently disciplined by a Canadian school for wearing a Christian T-shirt is now allowed to attend classes wearing the shirt.

School officials from Forest Heights Community School in Chester Basin, Nova Scotia backed down from disciplining William Swinimer, who had been given multiple in-school suspensions for wearing a yellow shirt that read “Life is Wasted without Jesus.”...

The incident garnered considerable attention, especially from groups concerned about religious liberty for students.

ChristianPost.com

One Nation Under Debt

When you add up all forms of debt in the United States at this point, it comes to more than 54 trillion dollars. That is more than \$178,000 for every man, woman and child in America. We truly are one nation under debt, and we have created the biggest debt bubble in the history of the planet.

Unfortunately, all debt bubbles eventually burst, and when this one bursts, the consequences are going to (be catastrophic). When most Americans think of the “U.S. debt problem,” they tend to only think of the U. S. national debt. Well, that certainly is horrifying, but it is only a small part of the overall problem.

Conservative Action Alerts

Editor’s note: In Minnesota, there is going to be an amendment to the state constitution that would define marriage as only between a man and a woman, thus eliminating the possibility of Gay Marriage. The following article shows how even corporations are publicly stating their intent on this amendment.

General Mills Against Gay Marriage Ban

General Mills is taking a stand against a proposed

state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, becoming the most prominent corporate voice making such a public declaration. Chief executive Ken Powell voiced the company’s opposition Wednesday [June 13] at a General Mills function attended by 400 gay and lesbian professionals, followed Thursday by a Web letter from the company’s vice president for global diversity and inclusion, Ken Charles.

“We do not believe the proposed constitutional amendment is in the best interests of our employees or our state economy,” Charles wrote. “We value diversity. We value inclusion.”

Taking a corporate position on such a politically charged issue as gay marriage is a risky move for a big company like Golden Valley-based General Mills, with such well known brands as Cheerios and Yoplait.

Yet companies nationwide are increasingly taking a pro-gay marriage stances and going public on other political issues, marketing and public relations experts say. ...

General Mills’ Charles wrote that “obviously, there are strongly held views on both sides. We acknowledge those views, including those on religious grounds,” he said. “We respect and defend the right of others to disagree. But we truly value diversity and inclusion – and that makes our choice clear.” ...

[In response to this statement] John Helmberger, chairman of Minnesota for Marriage [said], “It’s ironic that a corporation that makes billions marketing cereal to parents of children would take the position that marriage should be redefined.”

Taken from *Star Tribune*, April 15, 2012

* * * * *

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him, God is a refuge for us (Ps. 62:8).

“Ye have not because ye ask not,” says James (4:2). Failure to pray is followed by much spiritual suffering. Many people live entirely within themselves. In their hearts dwell fear, worry, discouragement, and a divided mind. Many such will not admit it to themselves, nor speak to others about it. They will not even open their hearts fully to God.

This is a great calamity. The cure lies in giving expression to what dwells within the heart. “Pour out your heart before him.” Let anxieties, worries, discouragement, and all else that lives in the soul be brought to God. Pour it out. Keep nothing back. It will ease your burden. It will heal your soul. It will make you free and happy.

Fredrik Wisloff
Augsburg Publishing House

The Rain

A poet stands by the window watching a summer shower. It is a fierce downpour, beating and pounding the earth. But the poet, in his mind's eye, sees more than a rain shower falling. He sees a myriad of lovely flowers raining down, soon breaking forth from the freshly watered earth, and filling it with their matchless beauty and fragrance. And so he sings:

It isn't raining rain to me – it's raining daffodils; In every dripping drop I see wild flowers upon the hills. A cloud of gray engulfs the day, and overwhelms the town;

It isn't raining rain to me – it's raining rose down.

Perhaps you are undergoing some trial as God's child, and you are saying to Him, "Oh God, it is raining very hard on me tonight, and this test seems beyond my power to endure. Disappointments are pouring in, washing away and utterly defeating my chosen plans. My trembling heart is grieved and is cowering at the intensity of my suffering. Surely the rains of affliction are beating down upon my soul."

Dear friend, you are completely mistaken. God is not raining rain on you – *He is raining blessings.*

If you will only believe your Father's Word, you will realize that springing up beneath the pounding rain are spiritual flowers. And they are more beautiful and fragrant than those that ever grew before in your stormless and suffering-free life.

You can see the rain, but can you also see the flowers? You are suffering through these tests, but know that God sees sweet flowers of faith springing up in your life beneath these very trials, You try to escape the pain, yet God sees tender compassion for other sufferers finding birth in your soul. Your heart winces at the pain of heavy grief, but God sees the sorrow deepening and enriching your life.

No, my friend, it is not raining afflictions on you. It is raining tenderness, love, compassion, patience, and a thousand other flowers and fruits of the blessed Holy Spirit. And they are bringing to your life spiritual enrichment that all the prosperity and ease of this world could never produce in your innermost being. J.M.M.

Songs across the Storm

A harp stood in the calm, still air,

Where showers of sunshine washed a thousand fragrant blooms;

A traveler bowed with loads of care

Struggled from morning till the dusk of evening glooms

*To strum sweet sounds from the sonless strings;
The pilgrim strives in vain with each unanswering chord,*

*Until the tempest's thunder sings,
And, moving on the storm, the finger of the Lord*

*A wondrous melody awakes;
And though the battling winds their soldier deeds perform,*

*Their trumpet-sound brave music makes
While God's assuring voice sings love across the storm.*

From *Streams In The Desert* by L.B. Cowman
Zondervan, Copyright 1997, Original - 1925

No Room for Broad - Mindedness

The preacher is sometimes accused of being narrow-minded because he insists upon the Christian's forsaking all to follow Christ.

Yet all of life is narrow, and success is to be found only by passing through the narrow gate and down the strait way.

There is no room for broadmindedness in the chemical laboratory. Water is composed of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. The slightest deviation from that formula is forbidden.

There is no room for broad-mindedness in music. There can be but eight steps in an octave. The skilled director will not permit his first violin to play even so much as one-half step off the written note, chord and key.

There is no room for broadmindedness in the mathematical classroom. Neither geometry, calculus nor trigonometry allows any variation from the exact, even for old times' sake. The solution of the problem is either right or it is wrong – no tolerance there.

There is no room for broadmindedness in biology. One varying result out of a thousand experiments will invalidate an entire theory.

There is no room for broadmindedness on the athletic field. The game is played according to the rules, with no favors shown for charity's sake. There is no room for broadmindedness in the garage. The mechanic there says that the piston rings must fit the cylinder walls within one-thousandth part of an inch. Even between friends there cannot be any variation, if the motor is to run smoothly.

How, then, shall we expect that broad-mindedness shall rule in the realm of religion and morals?

Selected.

re: Think

by: Brent Juliot

Without the Holy Spirit

We don't talk too much about the Holy Spirit. Perhaps it's because we are so very conscious of the Holy Spirit's stated role. John 15:26 and John 16:13-14, for example, make it clear that the Holy Spirit wants to draw our spiritual focus to Jesus Christ.

But maybe we avoid too much talk about the Spirit because we view that as someone else's denominational niche. Worse yet, perhaps we've almost forgotten about the third person of the triune God. Do we minimize him-his value, his work in us and for us?

This is matter of concern; it's dangerous ground theologically. If we don't talk about the Holy Spirit because we don't even think about the Holy Spirit, we need to consider an important question: What if the Holy Spirit had not come at Pentecost? Where *would* we be without the Holy Spirit?

To answer that question, take the exercise of walking through many of the biblical references to the Spirit of God. The list of words below describes where we'd be if the Spirit didn't do what the supporting references tell us he does.

- Alone - Psalm 139:7-8
- Imprisoned - Romans 8:1-8, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:18
- Speechless - Matthew 10:19-20
- Joyless - 1 Thessalonians 1:6
- Thirsty - John 7:37-39
- Ignorant - John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:12, 14
- Uncertain - Psalm 143:10
- Weak - Acts 1:8
- Timid - Acts 4:31, 2 Tim 1:7
- Aimless - Acts 20:22-24
- Unable to pray - Jude 1:20
- Without Scripture - 2 Peter 1:20-21
- Unrepresented - Romans 8:26-27
- Disunite - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 4:3-4
- Disowned - 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
- Unholy - Romans 15:16, 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- Unclean - 1 Corinthians 6:11
- Ungifted - Luke 11:13, Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- Uninvited - Rev 22:17
- Unborn - John 3:5
- Hopeless - Romans 15:13
- Lost - Romans 8:9

This is a powerful list of words – powerful in a bad way. Not a pretty picture. Frightening, in fact. But the Scriptures listed with the words confirm that the Holy Spirit has taken every one of those negative descriptions of us, and turned them 180 degrees in the positive direction for those who believe. God had indeed given us His indwelling Spirit.

Pentecost is the Church Year anniversary of this most wonderful gift: God's Holy Spirit in us through faith in his son Jesus Christ. Rejoice!

from 'Faith & Fellowship'
Fergus Falls, MN

Director of VOM Commits Suicide

Tom White, director of the Voice of the Martyrs, took his own life this past April, amid allegations he had molested a 10-year old girl. "Our hearts are broken," said a ministry spokesman, "but the Voice of the Martyrs will continue serving our persecuted brothers and sisters." Prior to his death, neither VOM's staff or board of directors knew of the allegations brought against White.

Voice of the Martyrs was known as Jesus to the Communist World, when it was founded by Pastor Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand in 1967. The Wurmbrands were both imprisoned by the communists in Romania – Richard for 14 years and Sabina for 3 years. Selected

Editor's Note: Whether or not the allegation is true that seemingly prompted Tom White to take his life, we believe his failures should not be held against this dedicated organization that serves the persecuted church. (To my knowledge) - this is a great ministry and encourage Christians to go on supporting VOM and praying for the White Family, VOM staff and the possible victimized girl.

"We hear much talk about contemporary worship and traditional worship, but what we really should be talking about is Scriptural worship."

The Sword & Staff

Better than Joshua

(Please prayerfully read ((as always)) Hebrews 4:1 - 11).

This brings up the subject by which the author is able to make a comparison between Jesus and Joshua, namely that of **the promised rest**. Ch. 4. For the Israelites there was a promised land which they hoped to enter. For us, too, there is “**a promise of entering into his rest**” and we should fear lest any one of us should even “**seem to have come short of it.**” “**or indeed we have had good tidings preached unto us, even as also they.**” He has already revealed that the good tidings preached unto us are much better than the good tidings preached unto them. But whether it be the people of old or whether it be us, God’s good tidings will profit us nothing unless the truth of God be united with our lives by faith. Here we see faith as the spiritual organ which appropriates the promised of God so as to unite them with our very life.

Taking the thought from the statement in the ninety-fifth Psalm: “**They shall not enter into my rest,**” chapter four shows us that **Jesus is a better leader than Joshua** because He can lead us into a better rest than that into which Joshua led the people of Israel. In order to bring out the meaning of this rest in its fullness, he discusses it from various viewpoints and distinguishes it from other rests.

The discussion concerning the rest can be summed up under three heads.

1. **The promised rest**-Ch. 4:1-2
...This rest is to be entered by faith.

2. **God’s rest** - Ch 4:3-5

Our promised rest is to be distinguished from God’s rest. ... God’s rest from His creative work on the seventh day is in Scripture spoken of as in the past, whereas in this ninety-fifth Psalm, He speaks of something future:...

3. **Joshua’s rest** - Ch. 4. 6-8

We now also see that God had in mind another rest than Joshua’s rest. They (the Israelites) not only failed to enter the promised land but they also failed to enter into that rest of which God was speaking in the Psalm. ...Even David, who lived so long after Joshua was given to speak of a rest that was still future. ...Joshua is spoken of as a type of Jesus Christ. Moses is a type of Jesus from Bethlehem to Calvary. Joshua is a type of Jesus seated at the right hand of God and by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives giving us victory over our enemies and causing us to take possession of all the promises of God.

As a type he also falls short and therefore there are

many interesting contrast between Joshua and Jesus Christ. A reading of the Book of Joshua for the purpose of seeing in it types of the Christian experience is very profitable.

Taken from ‘*A Better Life*’ by Samuel Miller

* * * * *

ELCA Professor Claims Jesus Was A Muslim!

Robert F. Shedinger, Associate Professor of Religion and Department Head, at Luther College (ELCA), Decorah, Iowa, claims Jesus was a Muslim in his book, ‘*Was Jesus a Muslim?*’

In a video interview Robert Shedinger tells how he came to this belief, saying a student challenged the way he taught Islam and it led him “...over eight years to completely rethink the whole way that I think about Islam and the whole concept of religion which culminated in me asking the question ‘Was Jesus a Muslim?’ and answering it ‘Yes.’ Even as a Christian I have to say ‘yes’ to that.” Professor Shedinger went on to say the purpose of his book “is to call for Muslims and Christians to learn how to work together for social justice.”

Shedinger states, “the world is in dire need of a movement of Christian-Muslim solidarity...”

Positioning Jesus as a point of commonality between Muslims and Christians may be a first step toward this goal, and this book seeks to accomplish just that” (page 12).

Later in the interview Shedinger said: “And I think that is who Jesus was in the first century, so I conclude that Jesus is more like a Muslim than the Christianized Jesus, that is more a spiritual savior and not as interested in issues of social justice.”

So while the Luther College website boasts that Professor Shedinger “has been a regular speaker in mosques and Islamic centers around the country,” Bible-believing Christians everywhere should let the leadership in the ELCA and Luther College know that they disapprove of anti-Christian teaching happening in their church supported schools. Let us not be found silent.

By Dan Skogen, Selected.

Update

Tangible & Invisible

"It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things"

Romans 15:26.

Wonderful God's Truth continues to march on!
"...But the word of God is not chained" 11 Timothy 2:9b.

Almost needless to say; but the battle (spiritually) and struggles continue to engage 'us'. Satan knows his time is 'short' and thus works overtime! Isn't it *wonderful*, though, we know how the 'battle' ends, as we read in the last chapter of His Book, the Bible.

In the mean time though 'we' have to face reality, and that is *if* this 'ministry' is to continue at the present 'pace' OR even enlarged: we definitely NEED to hear from you!

Through God's Grace; we trust this 'ministry' is a great blessing to many of you: *If* not all of you! It is a source of blessing, nourishment, encouragement, enlightening, awaking, etc. – to God be the glory!

How 'we' appreciate those of you who are such regular supporters (in prayer & finances) and we thank our Living God for you. Then there are many of you who have been blest similarly and who have not shared in this portion of the Lord's Work financially for months OR even years. Just a challenge, *if you* are being blest also; please show tangible support: BUT keep in mind/heart that **God loves a 'cheerful giver'!**

It reminds me of the following story. A Pastor was inviting/challenging a 'believer' to be involved in his biblical congregation by attendance & membership.

The 'believer' kept saying that he was a member of God's *invisible* Church and that was sufficient.

Finally the Pastor asked the fellow 'believer' to hold out his hand as he wanted to give an *invisible* gift to the *invisible* church! **1 Corinthians 15:57 - 58.**

June income for *Morning Glory* is app. \$1,548.00 - besides the 'annual conference offering'.

The actual cost of publishing and mailing each issue (monthly) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,000.

There are definitely other expenses involved besides!

P. S. The offering at the annual conference held at Stavanger Lutheran in Garden City, Iowa was very good; for which we 'thank' the 'givers' and Praise the Lord! Otherwise the financial ingathering has been **lean this summer.**

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Lord willing: the Hauge Fall Bible Conference will be held at Faith Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes, MN on October 12-14

Help us get the 'Morning Glory' OUT to your family, your friends, your church and others YOU know! A lot of these folk have no monthly newsletter coming to their homes, that is biblically Lutheran in doctrine, practice, learning & a trumpet bearer. As you already know the *Morning Glory* is among the few who are doing such! In the same; you find the 'biblical' way of Salvation, Nourishment, Fellowship and a voice in the wilderness. Prayerfully send in names and addresses of those you are especially concerned about. Also feel free to 'ask' for a number of 'Morning Glory's that you would prayerfully hand out!

Let 'us' work 'together' in getting the 'good news' out, while there is yet freedom and time, by God's GRACE.