



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • August 2013

True Health

A 5 point Spiritual Health Checkup

Have you had a checkup lately? Regular checkups are important.

In spite of all the advances in medicine, your body will eventually fail you. Your spirit, however, will live on. Have you had a spiritual checkup lately? Here is a 5 point checkup that will take only a minute and could change your life.

1. Check your eyes: Are you looking for God?

Luke 10:23 *“And he (Jesus) turned unto His disciples, and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see.”*

Cor. 4:18 *“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

2. Check your diet: Are you eating the right food?

John 6:51 *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

3. Check your hearing: Can you hear God?

Revelation 3:20 *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will eat with him, and he with me.”*

Luke 11:28 *“Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”*

4. Check your walk: Are you walking with God?

Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore now no condem-*

nation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

5. Check your heart: Is your heart pure?

Psalm 51:10 *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”*

How was your checkup? If you want to be spiritually healthy, there is good medicine available for you. God provided it when He sent His only son, Jesus, to earth to save us. We were doomed because of our choice to ignore God. Romans 6:23 says: *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

When Jesus paid the price for our sins He opened the doors of heaven so that all who believe will live eternally as children of God. He gave his life so we can be back in fellowship with our Father.

Here is what Jesus said about himself: John 10:28 *“And I (Jesus) give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”*

If you want to be spiritually well, turn back to your Creator; Ask the Father to forgive your sins. Accept the sacrifice Jesus made on your behalf. Submit to the Father’s will in your life. Your spiritual health will improve more than you could ever imagine.

I John 5:11 *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”*

The Tract League
Grand Rapids, Mich.

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FALL of the USA!

Look what is Happening in Our Great USA TODAY!

Please prayerfully read first: **Isaiah 59:12 through 13:** *“Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor...”* verses 14 – 16a.

AS IT WAS in the ‘days’ of Noah, Lot: so shall it be ... (Scripturally search it out)! You will be richly blest in doing so! Do as the Bearens did in the New Testament time**Search the Scriptures ‘daily’.**

* * * * *

Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature.

Benjamin Franklin

* * * * *

If you want to feel rich, just count up all the things you have that money cannot buy.

Daniel Webster

Ponder!

At ‘times’ in the business of life, we should take ‘time’ and ponder IF I am the ‘master’ of my work OR: Is work the ‘**master**’ of my life?

I trust in Your word

Psalm 119:42

The strength of our faith is in direct proportion to our level of belief that God will do exactly what He has promised. Faith has nothing to do with feelings, impressions, outward appearances, nor the probability or improbability of an event. If we try to couple these things with faith, we are no longer resting on the Word of God, because faith is not dependent on them. *Faith rests on the pure Word of God alone.* And when we take Him at His Word, our hearts are at peace.

God delights in causing us to exercise our faith. He does so to bless us individually, to bless the church at large, and as a witness to unbelievers. Yet we tend to retreat from the exercising of our faith instead of welcoming it. When trials come, our response should be, "My heavenly Father has placed this cup of trials into my hands so I may later have something pleasant."

Trials are the food of faith. Oh, may we leave ourselves in the hands of our heavenly Father! It is the joy of His heart to do good to all His children. Yet trials and difficulties are not the only way faith is exercised and thereby increased. *Reading the Scriptures also acquaints us with God as He has revealed Himself in them.*

Are you able to genuinely say, from your knowledge of God and your relationship with Him, that He is indeed a beautiful Being? If not, let me graciously encourage you to ask God to take you to that point, so you will fully appreciate His gentleness, and so you will know what a delight it is to God's heart to do good for His children.

The closer we come to this point in our inner being, the more willing we are to leave ourselves in His hands and the more satisfied we are with all of His dealings with us. Then when trials come, we will say,

"I will patiently wait to see the good God will do in my life, with the calm assurance He will do it."

In this way, we will bear a worthy testimony to the world and thereby strengthen the lives of others.

George Mueller

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* (Updated Edition)
Copyright 1997, by Zondervan

Editor's Note: Very good! Interesting the 'whole' Bible verse is following: "***So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.***" Psalm 119:42.

OVERCOMING BAD NEWS

LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. Psalm 4:6

READ: Psalm 4 – "There are many who say, 'Who will show us any good?'" (Ps. 4:6).

These words of David seem to describe the pessimistic outlook we so easily develop in our world today. The front page of newspapers and the top stories on the Internet or television seem to focus on crime, accidents, politics, the economy, and prominent people behaving badly. Our conversations at work and home begin to dwell on difficulties, and it's enough to discourage anyone. Where can we turn for better news?

In the midst of his troubles, David turned to the Lord, who relieved his distress (v. 1) and heard his prayer (v.3). Instead of hoping for temporary good from altered circumstances, he found unceasing encouragement in God. "LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us" (v.6). The result was a gladness of heart that surpassed any earthly prosperity or success (v.7).

Throughout David's life, before and after he became king of Israel, he was never without opposition. But at the end of the day, he could say, "I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety" (v.8).

Pondering the truths in Psalm 4 about God's care for us is a good way to begin and end every day.

David McCasland

*In His care confiding
I will sweetly sleep,
For the Lord my Savior
Will safety keep.*
Psalter

God is a safe dwelling place in life's storms.

Taken from *Our Daily Bread*;
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WE have an idea that it takes big crowds to have revival (Ed. Evangelistic Meetings/Bible Conferences). Not so! Big fires are not built with wagonloads of lumber, but with kindling wood. Great revivals begin with just a few Christians getting thoroughly right with God.

Curtis Hutson

The Shepherd and the Supply

“The LORD Is My Shepherd; I shall Not Want.”

Psalm 23:1

THE SHEEP

You will note that the word “LORD” in your Old Testament Scripture of Psalm 23:1 is printed all in capitals. This indicates that it is a translation of the Old Testament personal name of God – Jehovah. Your Revised Version, therefore, translates it, “Jehovah is my shepherd”. Really, the phrase here is “Jehovah-Roi,” simply meaning “Jehovah, my shepherd.” You will note that the little verb “is” is in italics, which indicates that it has been placed into the text by the translator. The statement is true, of course, but I like to let it stand just as it is – “Jehovah, my shepherd!”

That gives you the two persons with whom this Psalm has to do, and really there are only two persons in the Psalm. Jehovah is here: I am here. Jehovah is here: you are here. We repeat – the Psalm concerns only two persons.

Please remember that Jehovah is the Old Testament name of our Savior. That is the name they gave Him when He was born of Mary, for the name “Jesus” means, “Jehovah is Savior,” or “Jehovah is salvation.” That means that J-E-H-O-V-A-H spells Jesus. Therefore, when you say, “Jehovah, my shepherd,” you are merely declaring that your Shepherd is the Lord Jesus. He is the one Shepherd of the New Testament Scriptures. He is called there the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20), the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). He Himself said, *“The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep”* (John 10:11). This contrast between the Old and New Testaments has often been noted. In the Old Testament the sheep died for the shepherd; in the New Testament the Shepherd died for the sheep.

In his book “The Parables” Rev. N. Levison gives an illustration of Christ’s words. He knew a shepherd named Mustapha, who tended his flocks on the slopes of Mt. Canaan. Levison learned of the death of this shepherd, and when he made inquiry about it learned that a leopard had killed him. The story was that a leopard had been preying on the flock and had killed many sheep. The shepherd did not have a firearm, and so the killing of the leopard was a very difficult thing, but he was a true shepherd and could not stand the death of the sheep of the flock. He made for himself a covering of a sheepskin, then wandered around the edge of the flock waiting the return of the leopard. Soon after he became aware of the approach of the beast, put his sheepskin covering over him, got down on his hands and knees, and crawled along with his long knife in hand. When the leopard drew near, he sensed the human who was playing sheep and bounded straight for him. Mustapha was ready for it and struck the beast hard in a vital spot, but before the brute ex-

pired it killed the shepherd.

So our Good Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep. His death means far more, however, than the protection of the flock, for apart from that death we could never be counted as the sheep of His pasture. It is through faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross that we become His sheep. Jesus Christ died to save sinners. He lives to shepherd saints. Every sheep in the flock of God is there because the Good Shepherd laid down His life.

He laid down His life, but God, *“brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant”* to protect us, and to provide for us, and to make us *“perfect in every good work to do His will.”*

It is true that *“all we like sheep have gone astray”* and thus merited wrath, but when the sword of God’s Justice awoke it was not against us but against the Shepherd – the Man Who was Jehovah’s Fellow (Zech. 13:7).

It is true that none of the ransomed ever knew how deep were the waters crossed nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed through, yet by the grace of God we know that the waters were crossed, and that the night of judgment has been passed through, and that, therefore:

“Justice now withstands no more
And mercy yields her boundless store.”

“The Lord is my shepherd.” Who makes this statement? Can you say it? Can I? Are we really His sheep? It is impossible to think of a shepherd without thinking of sheep, for the two go together. A sheep is an object of property. A sheep is not a wild animal. It is a domestic animal, and is totally dependent upon the care of a shepherd. It is the only one of the domestic animals that cannot exist without man. Horses may be left to themselves and will become wild and live on from generation to generation. So will dogs and cats and cattle. That is not true of sheep, however. Sheep left to themselves will be killed by the wolves or by the winter. No explorer has ever found sheep without a shepherd to care for them. No archeologist has ever found references to sheep without man caring for them. ...

THE SHEPHERD

The word “shepherd” has in it the thought of rule or authority. Some of the translations of these words are very interesting. Fenton, in his beautiful translation, makes it “My Lord attends me.” The Arabic is, “The Lord feeds me.” The Vulgate, “The Lord ruleth me.” Adam Clark quotes the Scotch, “The Lord governs me.” Moffatt translates it, “The eternal Lord shepherds me.” ...

Taken from *The Psalm of Psalms*, by R. L. Moyer, D. D., Submitted by Paul Peterson, Kenyon, MN

Editorial

RES *CIVIL WAR*

(Humility and How I Obtained it!)

“But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.” (Romans 7:8, 9, 12, 22)

The ‘self-life (old nature) LOVES to ‘wallow’ in ALL types of **sin**.

As usual ‘our’ text is very beneficial for both the saved sinner and the lost sinner and is relevant for ALL times! (Please keep in mind that not only is Paul being inspired by the Holy Spirit, but as a Christian also).

Are YOU perfectly ‘content’ with what God has entrusted into your midst?

The story of years gone by is told of a Quaker who had more than he needed and offered a parcel of land to the person who was ‘content’; free of charge. There were many applicants and thus with the ‘question’, why do you want the property that I am willing to give away, if you are content with what you have???

Seemingly ‘today’ the only sin is to name SIN by it’s name!

In Luther’s Small Catechism Explained, Question number 15 ‘Can we be saved through the Law?’ No; since the fall in sin no man can perfectly keep the Law. Rom. 8:7. “*The mind of the flesh is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be.*”

Question number 16. Of what benefit, then, is the Law?
1. It points out to us our sins and the wrath of God toward sin. Rom. 3:20. *Through the law cometh the knowledge of sin.* 2. It makes us anxious to seek Christ. Ga. 3:24. *The law is become our tutor (Instructor) to bring us unto Christ.* 3. It points out to the believer what fruits his faith must bear. Ps. 119:105. *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path.*” In a sense God’s Law is like a ‘mirror’ for both the Christian and the non-Christian: BUT You do not wash with a mirror! Spiritually the detergent is the BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.

AS I continue this ‘editorial’, very likely some of you will get sad, others mad and still others glad; and that is okay as I am going to tell like it is (Scripturally). It is no wonder that we see and hear so little of God working in

our day (Spiritually), among believers and unbelievers: Because God’s Law is not being preached in it’s sternness (absolutes) with His love for the two groups of people that God says there are (saved & lost sinners). You see, we all are ‘sinners’ and will continue to SIN as long as we are on this side of ETERNITY! This is where for the ‘believer’ the *civil war* takes place, between the ‘old nature’ and the ‘new nature’ as the NEW Nature doesn’t SIN.

A lady who had a short temper came to a Pastor for ‘counseling’ and after stating her ‘sin’ in this area, stated her temper was short lived and the Pastor responded; so is the case of a ‘shot-gun blast!’ AND he asked her what ‘nature’ did she receive when she accepted Jesus as her personal Savior? Actually a ‘born again’ person can not truly say “I am just human”, because the ‘new nature/heart there dwells within such a person is the Person of *the Holy Spirit!* Who then ‘wins’ the internal ‘*civil war*’: actually it depends upon which ‘nature’ gets fed the most (the old or new)! The Bible clearly states that a person who is a *new creature* in and through Jesus is to reckon themselves as dead unto sin and alive unto Christ. You and I are not to feed something that is ‘dead’; because that carcass only stinks!

By the way; **Often** the Holy Spirit uses ‘redeemed sinners’ to expose SIN in the life of a lost sinner and also in the life of a saved sinner. The Holy Spirit (In accordance with the WORD of GOD) uses forgiven/cleansed vessels to bring about guidance and conviction of SIN in the lives of others. (By the way: When is the last time you heard a ‘cleansed vessel’ mention sin by it’s name, SIN? Oh, I can almost ‘hear’ some of you say: ‘Just let the Word of God do the ‘convicting; which many times is only a cop-out! Those under the ‘Blood’ of our crucified and risen Savior are clearly told from the Inspired Word of God to, nourish, rebuke, exhort, fore-warn, etc with the Bible: in life, word & deed. 11 Timothy 2:11-15, 4:11-15, James 5:19-20, Ezekiel chapter 3 & 33, Ephesians 5:1-18, Galatians 5:1. “**And that repentance and**

remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, ...” Being silent can be a definitely sin also, as silence is not always golden – sometimes it is plain YELLOW. See **Revelation 22:18-19: either SIN of omission OR commission!**

How much do YOU care about the ‘eternal soul’ of other people? One’s you rub shoulders with every day? Sit next too, in the same ‘pew’ on Sunday mornings? In the next ‘State’? Throughout the world?

UNTIL ‘we’ are willing to call/name SIN by it’s proper name and deal with it as such: ‘we’ will never experience a ‘Heaven sent’ awakening nor ‘revival’: WHICH WE SO DESPERATELY NEED! Frankly & honestly ‘we’ who are in the USA (nation) are on the **Titantic!** *Otherwise we will continue to skid down the slippery, steep slope of APOSTASY* as a ‘Nation’. (Remember it is we ((as individuals)) that make up our beloved Nation – USA!) PRAYERFULLY identify with Psalm 51: for example.

Let me just begin to name by name some ‘sins’ that are in the ‘camp’ of ‘sins of omission’ OR not necessarily seen by others: Envy, Jealousy, back biting, gossip, slander, not seeking out Christian fellowship (of brethren), not hungry for the WORD of GOD, indifference, complacency, needless discord, anxiety, worry, fretting, immodesty, lusts, unforgiving spirit, bitterness, grudges, withholding money (tithing) from the LORD, love of money, fear of man, refusing to separate from false teachings and leaders, too busy, not taking a stand for what is ‘right’ **James 2:10, 4:17, 1 Thess. 5:22, Romans 7:14-25, GALATIANS 5:16 – 26, Rev. 18:4-5, 11 Cor. 6:14-18, Matt. 6:33.** “*For faith without works is dead.*” (example same-sex marriages, abortions): and definitely pride: **which is the ‘backbone of all SIN!** **Example:** Likely you know what ‘talent(s) God has entrusted to you: right? And you are asked to ‘sing’, ‘teach’, ‘serve’, ‘hospitality’ to old’, etc.; but so ‘humble’ you turn down the privilege/challenge/responsibility. Yet the ‘bottom line’ is that you are afraid you will make a ‘fool of your-

self’, which equals PRIDE! REMEMBER GOD will never ask you to do something; that HE will not provide the Grace/Means to accomplish the same to the ‘glory of Himself.’

What is the ANSWER? “*I beseech (beg/plead) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone, who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*” Romans 12:1-3, Proverbs 3:5-10, 14:26-27, Psalm 119:105, **1 Peter 2:1 – 12.** (Study, listen too, mediate, memorize (The WORD, prayer, seek out fellowship with persons of like mind & spirit). Philippians 3:-12 – 4:8, Colossians 3:1 – 10, Proverbs 4:18, 11 Corinthians 15:57-58, Psalm 73:23-24. By the way personal ‘humility’ is one thing that you do not ‘thank’ God for; because as soon as you do, you are dealing with PRIDE!

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

“Hear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.” Psalm 86:1

*I need Thee ev-‘ry hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.*

I need Thee, O I need Thee;

Ev-‘ry hour I need Thee!

O bless me now, my Savior,

I come to Thee. A –men.

P. S. There is absolutely NO question that the USA is on the ship ‘Titantic’ morally & spiritually. **Pray earnestly, expectantly and live in ‘obedience’, out of LOVE to His Word!**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thank you for specifically praying and expecting great things from our Great Living God in behalf of the Annual HLIF/MG Conference at Bethesda Lutheran Brethren Church in Westby, Wisconsin. The LORD gave us a marvelous time gathered around His Word in Sermon, Song, Fellowship & Hospitality. Praise the LORD as we give credit to Whom credit is due!

The Presence of the LORD was sensed in a real way, attendance was good and every one who came like a ‘deer’

that panteth for water went away truly blest and encouraged.

The ‘Testimonial period’, along with singing of Gospel Songs, was great and it reminded me of the olden days with ‘spiritual popcorn.’

It was great to be gathered around and in His Word as we make no apologies for the ‘old time Christianity’ and seek to practice the same! AMEN!

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this Psalm 37:5

The literal meaning of this verse is: “Roll your way unto *Jehovah* and trust upon Him, and **He works.**” This brings to our attention the immediacy of God’s action once we commit, or “roll,” burdens of any kind from our hands into His. Whether our burden is a sorrow, difficulty, physical need, or concern over the salvation of a loved one, “**He works.**”

When does He work? “He works” *now*. We act as if God does not immediately accept our trust in Him and thereby delays accomplishing what we ask Him to do. We fail to understand that “He works” *as we commit*. “He works” now! Praise Him for the fact that this is true.

Our expectation that He will work is the very thing enabling the Holy Spirit to accomplish what we have “rolled” onto Him. At that point it is out of our grasp, and we are not to try to do it ourselves. “He works!” Take comfort from this and do not try to pick it up again. What a relief there is in knowing He really is at work on our difficulty!

And when someone says, “But I don’t see any results,” pay him no attention.

“He works” if you have “rolled” your burdens onto Him and are “looking unto Jesus” (Heb 12:2 KJV) to do it. Your faith may be tested, but “He works.” His Word is true! V.H.F.

I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me. *Psalm 57:2*.

One beautiful old translation of this verse says, “He will perform the cause I hold in my hand.” That makes it very real to me today. The very thing “I hold in my hand” – my work today, this concern that is beyond my control, this task in which I have greatly overestimated my own abilities – *this is* what I may “cry out” for Him to do “for me,” with the calm assurance He will perform it. “The wise and what they do are in God’s hands” (Ecc. 9:1). Frances Ridley Havergal

The Lord will follow through on His covenant promises. Whatever He takes and holds in His hand He will accomplish. Therefor His past mercies are guarantees for the future, and worthy reasons for continuing to cry out to Him.

Charles H. Spurgeon

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

“I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the Heavens and say there is no God.” – Abraham Lincoln

We do not know what we ought pray for
Romans 8:26

Often it is simply the answers to our prayers that cause many of the difficulties in the Christian life. We pray for patience, and our Father sends demanding people our way who test us to the limit, “because suffering produces perseverance” (Rom. 5:3). We pray for a submissive spirit, and God sends suffering again, for we learn to be obedient in the same way Christ “*learned obedience from what he suffered*” (Heb.5:8).

We pray to be unselfish, and God gives us opportunities to sacrifice by placing other people’s needs first and by laying down our lives for other believers. We pray for strength and humility, and “a messenger of Satan” (2 Cor. 12:7) comes to torment us until we lie on the ground pleading for it to be withdrawn.

We pray to the Lord, as His apostles did, saying, “Increase our faith!” (Luke 17:5). Then our money seems to take wings and fly away; our children become critically ill; an employee becomes careless, slow, and wasteful; or some other new trial comes upon us, requiring more faith than we have ever before experienced.

We pray for a Christ-like life that exhibits the humility of a lamb. Then we are asked to perform some lowly task, or we are unjustly accused and given no opportunity to explain, for “he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and . . . Did not open his mouth” (Isa. 53:7).

We pray for gentleness and quickly face a storm of temptation to be harsh and irritable. We pray for quietness, and suddenly every nerve is stressed to its limit with tremendous tension so that we may learn that when He sends His peace, no one can disturb it.

We pray for love for others, and God sends unique suffering by sending people our way who are difficult to love and who say things that get on our nerves and tear at our heart. He does this because “love is patient, love is kind . . . It is not rude, . . . it is not easily angered . . . *It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*” (1 Cor. 13:4-5, 7-8).

Yes, we pray to be like Jesus, and God’s answer is: “I have tested you in the furnace of affliction” (Isa. 48:10); “Will your courage endure or your hands be strong?” (Ezek. 22:14); “Can you drink the cup?” (Matt. 20:22).

The way to peace and victory is to accept every circumstance and every trial as being straight from the hand of our loving Father; (*Editor’s Note: I do not believe that all we experience in life (beyond our control) is sent from GOD, but PERMITTED!* (Father filtered. See Job, the Apostle Paul for example); to live “with him in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 2:6), above the clouds, in the very presence of His throne; and to look down from glory on our circumstances as being lovingly and divinely appointed. Selected.

I Prayed

*I prayed for strength, and then I lost awhile
All sense of nearness, human and divine;
The love I leaned on failed and pierced by heart,
The hands I clung to loosed themselves from mine;
But while I swayed, weak, trembling, and alone,
The everlasting arms upheld my own.*

*I prayed for light; the sun went down in clouds,
The moon was darkened by a misty doubt,
The stars of heaven were dimmed by earthly fears,
And all my little candle flames burned out;
But while I sat in shadow, wrapped in night,
The face of Christ made all the darkness bright.*

*I prayed for peace, and dreamed of restful ease,
A slumber free from pain, a hushed repose;
Above my head the skies were black with storm,
And fiercer grew the onslaught of my foes;
But while the battle raged, and wild winds blew;
I heard His voice and perfect peace I knew.*

*I thank You, Lord, You were too wise to heed
My feeble prayers, and answer as I sought,
Since these rich gifts Your bounty has bestowed
Have brought me more than all I asked or thought;
Giver of good, so answer each request
With Your own giving, better than my best.*

Annie Johnson Flint

Taken from *Streams in the Desert*, by L. W. Cowman,
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BLINDNESS

Read Matthew 6:22 – 25

Physical blindness is very common in the East and in many parts of Africa. Because of contagious diseases many are born blind, and because of malnutrition and lack of sanitation great many of the people have defective eyesight.

Pathetic as it is to be physically blind, it is many times worse to be spiritually blind. The Pharisees were spiritually blind as they had eyes, but were not wanting to see.

The wilfully blind person walks through time and into eternity without knowing where he is going. He steps into the endless eternity of suffering without being spiritually awake to see it.

It is written about Jesus that he came to open the eyes of the blind. Many are the blind eyes that he opened while

on earth. Paul says that he was sent to the Gentiles to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, from the dominion of Satan to God. Let us thank God we who have our spiritual eyes opened to see that we have a Saviour who is able to save us from this wicked world and bring us to his heavenly home.

Let us do all to protect our spiritual eyesight; the glory of this world is apt to make us spiritually blind.

Thought Question: *What should we do to maintain good spiritual sight?*

J. I. Kaardal, Taken from the devotional book *Take Time*, published by Lutheran Brethren Publishing Co

GOD'S WORD

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable ..."* II Timothy 3:16

It was vacation time and we were traveling along the highway toward our destination. To help make the time go faster and keep the children occupied, I suggested that we sing some songs. One of the children, who was about five years old at that time wanted to sing "Jesus Loves Me" by himself and so we all kept quiet as he sang. And this is the way he sang it: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for I TOLD the Bible so."

Now I could understand how a five year old child could get his theology mixed up, but what concerns me is that many adults have the same view of the Bible. The Bible to them is not the final authority in their lives. They believe that they know more than the Bible and that they have the right to tell God what is right and wrong.

Let us forever settle it in our hearts and minds that the Bible is God's Word and is fully inspired from cover to cover and therefore we have no right to tell the Bible anything. But rather it is the Bible's right and prerogative to speak to us. Whenever we disagree with God's word we are following the same path that Adam and Eve followed in the Garden of Eden. Let us never forget that what Satan wants is to get us to reject the truth as recorded in the Scriptures.

One of the most important characteristics of a child of God is his willingness to subject himself to the Word of God each day.

Thought Questions:

1. *How is the Bible different from other books?*
2. *What should be our attitude toward the Bible?*

David Christenson, Taken from the devotional book *Take Time*, published by Luth. Breth. Publish Co.

The Man Who Stayed In The Closet

"I acknowledged my sin ..." Psalm 32:5a

A college choir was giving a sacred concert in a public auditorium. The intermission was at hand. The director left the platform to go to the basement for the interval while an offering was taken and announcements were made.

But he was unfamiliar with the building. There were two doors on the platform. To the amusement and delight of the audience, he opened the door of the broom closet rather than the door to the basement. And rather than expose himself to the laughter of the audience, he went into the broom closet and stayed there for the entire intermission period. Many in the audience knew what was happening, and were convulsed by the humor of the situation. But the director refused to acknowledge his error. He faced the dark closet rather than facing his mistake.

Do others reflect this stubborn attitude? Do you?

Many a man or woman has taken a wrong door in their life's choices. They dwell in darkness. But they fear the public reaction of their friends and loved ones. They let the opinion of others decide their eternal destiny.

It is sometimes overwhelming to what extent this is carried. Some will even commit suicide rather than face public embarrassment. And those who have chosen the way of unbelief choose eternal darkness of soul.

David took the right **way**. He faced his sin. He came out of the dark closet. He was restored to **peace** and joy. Let all of us be honest enough today to acknowledge the wrong doors we have entered.

Thought Questions:

1. Why is it so hard for us to admit our mistakes? (Ed. SIN)
2. What are some ways that we can help each other admit mistakes (Ed. SIN) more easily?

Omar Gjerness, Taken from the devotional book *Take Time*, published by Luth. Breth. Publish. Co.

* * * * *

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan said, "The world hates Christian people if it sees Christ in them."

It will tolerate the watered-down compromise of the church with the world found in modern Christianity, but it hates Christ and will hate us. We are sheep among wolves There is no way under Heaven to reconcile the once-born with the twice-born, the wolves with the sheep.

The only way for the church to escape hatred and hostility is to secularize the church and conform to this age; but if we escape hatred and hostility that way, we only in-

vite contempt and scorn, for the world has no respect for a compromising Christian. A sheep trying to act like a wolf is a ridiculous sight to behold. Vance Havner Selected.

* * * * *

Five Ways to Get Rid of Your Pastor

1. Sit up front, smile and say, "Amen" every time he says something good. He will preach himself to death.
2. Pat him on the back and tell him what good work he is doing in the church and community. He will work himself to death.
3. Increase your offering to the church. He will suffer from shock.
4. Tell him you've decided to come to visitation and help win souls for the Lord. He will probably suffer a heart attack.
5. Get the whole church to band together and pray for him. He will get so efficient that some other church will hear about him and give him a call. That will take him off your hands.

Selected

* * * * *

Communism Destroys Freedom!

Only the early centuries of Christianity, the apostolic days and the few short years that followed them produced such devotees to a cause as are being produced among the communist. They are sold out on the proposition that communism is the answer for all the world's problems, that they have been delegated to propagate its teachings to the ends of the earth.

To this cause, sacred to them – and you need not shudder at the word sacred in this connection, because it is sacred to them – they are devoting blood, thought, time, talent, liberty, life itself, everything that they are and have. They are zealous bigots dangerous foes. They are narrow, concentrated – much worse, consecrated to the god of their communism.

But the group of whom I am mostly afraid in the United States of America and, for that matter, perhaps around the globe, are neither the parlor pinks nor the misfits nor the unfortunates nor the zealous communists, but the indifferent, the mass of unconcerned citizens who are fiddling while the nation burns.

Many of them are not even enough sold on the principles of our wonderful land to use their franchise rights.

They do not see the danger to Christianity because they do not take enough interest in any of these. They do not see the danger of a godless government taking over our land.

Now Americans should thank God for their freedom. We can sing "God Bless America." God has blessed America. But has America blessed Him?

Look at your privileges. You may say what you want; you may read what you want; you may write what you want; you may go where you wish without reporting at a police station. No Gestapo will trail you. You may criticize anyone you desire, even the president. You may work where you will or be idle; you may worship where you like; you may unite with a church or stay out; you may join any organization you wish.

This freedom is our most cherished heritage of all our God-given blessings.

Wake up, America! Fight to retain this freedom as the most precious thing any human being can have.

*(Editor's Note: Not quite; SALVATION in and through JESUS is the most precious! BUT I agree that the **USA must wake up before it is too late!!!**)* Lend yourself to God as a soldier of the cross in this crusade for Christ, for revival, for the souls of men. Selected.

* * * * *

I Can Still Hear That Train Whistle!

In a church on the East Coast a pastor delivered a sermon on abortion, and after the service, a German man who had lived in Nazi Germany told of his experience. ...

I lived in Germany during the Nazi Holocaust. I considered myself a Christian. We heard stories of what was happening to the Jews, but we tried to distance ourselves from it, because what could anyone do to stop it?

A railroad track ran behind our small church, and each Sunday morning we could hear the whistle in the distance and then the wheels coming over the tracks. We became disturbed when we heard the cries coming from the train as it passed by. We realized that it was carrying Jews like cattle in the cars!

Week after week the whistle would blow. We dreaded to hear the sound of those wheels because we knew that we would hear the cries of the Jews en route to the death camp. Their screams tormented us.

We knew the time the train was coming, and when we heard the whistle blow, we began singing hymns. By the time the train came past our church, we were singing at the top of our voices. If we heard the screams, we sang more loudly, and soon we heard them no more.

Years have passed, and no one talks about it anymore. But I still hear that train whistle in my sleep. God forgive

me; forgive all of us who call ourselves Christians and yet do nothing.

*Is your place a small place?
Tend it with care!
He set you there.*

*Is your place a large place?
Guard it with care!
He set you there.*

*Whate'er your place, it is
Not yours alone, but His
Who set you there.*

John Oxenham
Selected.

The Tragic Flaw

Read: 2 Chronicles 26:3-15

"His fame spread far and wide for he was marvelously helped till he became strong." 2 Chronicles 26:15

In literature a tragic flaw is a character trait that causes the downfall of a story's hero. That was true of Uzziah, who was crowned king of Judah at age 16. For many years, he sought the Lord; and while he did, God gave him great success (2 Chron. 26:4-5). *"But things changed when 'his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong. But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction"* (vv. 15-16).

Uzziah entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar (v. 16), openly defying God's decree.

Perhaps pride convinced him that God's rules applied to everyone except him. When Uzziah raged against the priests who told him this was not right, the Lord struck him with leprosy (vv. 18-20).

In literature and in life, how often we see a person of good reputation fall from honor into disgrace and suffering. "King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, ... cut off from the house of the LORD" (v. 21).

The only way we can prevent the nectar of praise from becoming the poison of pride is by following the Lord with a humble heart. – David McCasland

*Humility's a slippery prize
That seldom can be won;
We're only humble in God's eyes
When serving like His Son. – Gustafson*

The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives Proverbs 27:21 NIV

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Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Christian Group apologizes for gay ‘cure’ program

The leader of Exodus International, a Christian ministry that worked to help people repress same-sex attraction, has apologized to the gay community for inflicting “years of undue suffering.” He plans to close the organization while launching a new effort to promote reconciliation.

“The church has waged the culture war, and it’s time to put the weapons down,” Alan Chambers told the Associated Press on Thursday [6/20], hours after announcing his decision at Exodus’ annual conference and posting his apology online. “While there has been so much good at Exodus, there has also been bad. We’ve hurt people.”

Based in Orlando, Fla., Exodus was founded 37 years ago and claimed 260 member ministries around the United States and abroad. It offered to help conflicted Christians rid themselves of unwanted homosexual inclinations through counseling and prayer, infuriating gay rights activists in the process.

Exodus had seen its influence wane in recent years as mainstream associations representing psychiatrists and psychologists rejected its approach. However, the idea that gays could be “converted” to heterosexuality through prayer persists among some evangelicals and fundamentalists.

‘We want to see bridges built’

The announcement that Exodus would close was not a total surprise. Last year, Chambers – who is married to a woman but has spoken about his sexual attraction to men – said he was trying to distance his ministry from the idea that gays’ sexual orientation can be permanently changed or “cured.”

In his statement Thursday [6/20], Chambers said the board had decided to close Exodus and form a new ministry, which he referred to as reducefear.org.

He said the new initiative would seek to promote dialogue among those who’ve been on opposite sides in the debate over gay rights. “We want to see bridges built; we want peace to be at the forefront of anything we do in the future,” he said.

Gay rights activists welcomed Chambers’ apology, while reiterating their belief that Exodus had caused great damage. “This is a welcome first step in honestly addressing the harm the organization and its leaders have caused,” said Sharon Groves, director of the Human Rights Campaign’s religion and faith program. “Now we need them to

take the next step of leadership and persuade all other religious-based institutions that they got it wrong.”

‘It takes a real man’

Chambers said the decisions announced this week had been under consideration by Exodus’ board for a year. Regarding the timing, he said it was not linked to rulings from the Supreme Court on same-sex marriage that are expected within the next week.

“I hold to a biblical view that the original intent for sexuality was designed for heterosexual marriage,” he said. “Yet I realize there are a lot of people who fall outside of that, gay and straight . . . It’s time to find out how we can pursue the common good.”

He said there were many influences on his personal decision. Among them, he said, was the interfaith work overseas of the U.S.-based Christian relief group World Vision, which he praised for its cooperation with Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist groups to aid at-risk children.

Truth Wins Out, another group that had been harshly critical of Exodus, praised Chambers for “integrity and authenticity.” “It takes a real man to publicly confront the people whose lives were destroyed by his organization’s work, and to take real, concrete action to begin to repair that damage,” said the group’s associate director, Evan Hurst.

However, Hurst noted that some of Exodus’ former followers – disenchanted by Chambers’ evolution – had formed a new group called the Restored Hope Network, which calls itself an “ex-gay ministry” and continues to promote the idea that gays can be converted to heterosexuality. That group’s board members, gathering in Oklahoma City for their annual meeting, issued a statement saying they “grieved” Chambers’ decision.

Chambers was criticized by Regina Griggs, executive director of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays. Her group had been a member of Exodus before resigning four years ago, and it’s now part of the Restored Hope Network.

Griggs said Chambers shouldn’t be discrediting the efforts of others to help people who were uncomfortable with same-sex attraction. “We do not owe an apology to the gay community,” she said. “Nobody’s ever forced to change.”

Among those commending Chambers was California state Sen. Ted Lieu, author of a recently passed law seeking to ban licensed counselors from trying to turn gay teens straight.

The law has been put on hold by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

“In the past, Exodus International practiced the quackery known as reparative therapy or various versions of gay conversion therapy,” Lieu said. “Exodus International’s mea culpa and shutdown put another nail in the coffin for reparative therapy.”

« FOR QUITE SOME TIME WE’VE BEEN IMPRISONED IN A WORLDVIEW THAT’S NEITHER HONORING TOWARD OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS, NOR BIBLICAL. »

Alan Chambers

Taken from the *Star Tribune*, June 21, 2013

Editor’s Note: Let’s set the record straight. The Bible says, “*Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolataters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of God.*” (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

To state that the Bible supports homosexuality is wrong. The Bible clearly calls homosexuality a sin.

The Bible also clearly states that God can forgive this sin when the verse above says, “...*but you were washed ...but you were justified ...*” This is the forgiveness of sins that comes to people who repent of their sin and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

The Bible also clearly states that people can and do change from these behaviors because Jesus is in the business of changing people, as it says, “*And such WERE some of you.*” (v. 11). The Lord Jesus Christ has the power to set men free from the bondage and shackles of sin. In Luther’s explanation to the Second Article, he states, “I believe the Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and FREED ME from all my sins, from death, and the power of the devil ...”

The true Church is also composed of drunks who are now dry, prostitutes who are now pure and gays who are now straight. Jesus is still greater than all the power of sin and Satan.

Glory To His Name!

Every Word Matters

READ Deuteronomy 4:1 -10

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 4:2

Kim Peck was a savant (a person with extraordinary memory) who memorized all of Shakespeare’s plays. During a performance of *Twelfth Night*, Peck noticed that the actor had skipped a word from one of the lines. Peck suddenly stood up and shouted, “Stop!” The actor apologized and said he didn’t think anyone would mind. Peck replied, “Shakespeare would.”

Words matter. But especially when they are the very words of God. Moses warned Israel, “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God” (Deut. 4:2). Moses often reminded Israel of God’s mercy and faithfulness to them in the past. But he also stressed the importance of obedience to God’s commands as they prepared to enter the Promised Land. He told them that obedience would result in blessings of life and a rich inheritance (vv. 39-40). Every command and regulation mattered to God. The value He placed on God’s Word showed their view of Him.

Today, when we value God’s Word, handle it with great care, and obey what it says, we give God the reverence He truly deserves. – Marvin Williams

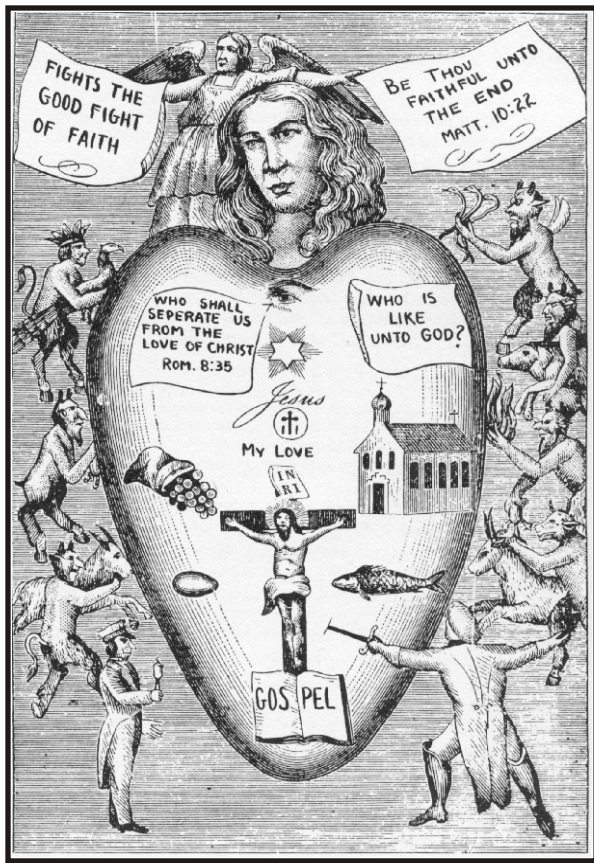
*The Bible stands, and it will forever
When the world has passed away;
By inspiration it has been given –
All its precepts I will obey – Lillenas*

God’s Word needs no additions or subtractions.

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Fool me once, shame on you.

Fool me twice, shame on me.



The Ninth Picture

The inner condition of a Christian who continues to fight the good fight and remains steadfast to the end.

In the ninth picture, you will see how the heart of a Christian is surrounded on all sides by enemies. Satan and sin are always spying on us, seeking to recapture the old control of the heart. In the picture below the heart, you will see two men who represent the world. The one holds up a goblet and invites to sensual joy and worldly pleasures. The other one with the dagger seeks by threats, persecutions, disgrace, and other forceful means to discourage the believer in that which is good and lead him into a sinful life.

Against the enemies of our salvation—the flesh, the world, and Satan—the Christian has to fight in this life. But his heart is guarded so they cannot subdue him. Above the heart you see the angel, representing God’s grace, who always encourages him and exhorts him to stand firm. He calls to him, “There will be no crown unless you strive lawfully.” *“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

In his heart the star is shining bright and clear, which means that he has a living faith. *“This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”* (I John 5:4). He is filled with confidence and trust in God. On the left side in his

heart is written, “Who is like unto God? God is with me, and with Him I can do all things. His grace is sufficient unto me.” On the right side is written, *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword? ...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* (Romans 8:35-37). Faith and love are always uppermost in his heart to fortify him in that which is good.

In the center of the heart can be seen a little cross with the inscription, “Jesus, my love.” This reveals that he hungers after the true living bread, which is come down from heaven and giveth life to the world (John 6:23). This living and life-giving bread nourishes and strengthens his faith and love. Furthermore, you will see Christ, the Crucified. Below the cross you see an open book, the Holy Bible. To read and meditate on God’s Word, especially the suffering and death of Christ, will always be the Christian’s dearest employment and sweetest refreshment. By the Holy Scriptures he strengthens and equips himself to resist the onslaught of sin, the flesh, and the world, and of Satan.

Any person who does not retain Jesus, the Crucified, in his heart is surely dead, though he is living. Anyone who does not love God’s Word, does not delight in the Gospel more than any other book, does not read and meditate on it, prefers it not before all knowledge, and does not make it the rule and guidance for his life, is at least spiritually sick, if not altogether dead and rejected.

Finally you see in the heart a little church, an open money purse, a loaf of bread, and a fish. The church signifies that the child of God delights in the worship of God. He partakes regularly of the holy Sacrament, and finds in this participation the sweetest comfort and eternal life, as Jesus Himself said, *“Whosoever eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day”* (John 6:54). He continues in prayer without ceasing, both in the assembly of believers as well as privately in the prayer closet. Wherever he goes and whatever he does, his heart seeks to live in communion with God. He rejoices in God’s presence and gives himself to Him. Without sincere prayer and devoted worship, no one can be preserved in piety, faith, and love.

The open purse testifies of his charity and love for his fellowmen. He fights stinginess, but delights in sharing with needy brethren as much as he can of what he possesses. He practices giving and deeds of love in order to free himself the more from the attachment to the world. He knows that a person may renounce sensuality, immoderation, and other besetting sins, but at the same time be secretly overcome by covetousness. He may again be ensnared by Satan, and he will seek to find all kinds of excuses for being penurious.

The bread and the fish are to represent moderation, tem-

perance, and sobriety. The child of God will seek to be moderate in all things, both in eating and drinking, that he may not nurse the flesh and suppress the Spirit and make him unfit for Christian devotion.

With these weapons the resolute Christian fights. This equipment he never lays aside. With these weapons he holds the ground and wins victory over all his enemies, the world, the flesh, and the devil.

PRAYER

O Jesus, my Love! “Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides Thee.” Abide Thou in me, and let me abide in Thee; then I may always be a fruitful branch; but without Thee I can do nothing. Quicken my faith more and more that I may apprehend Thee, the Almighty for whom nothing is impossible, and gain victory over all! May Thy love be found in me and inflame my whole heart that I may love Thee.

Thou art the greatest beauty and eternal glory. Apart from Thee I find nothing really beautiful, nothing glorious, nothing appealing, nothing worthy of my love. Let nothing separate me from Thy love. Grant me grace that I may remain steadfast. Thy cross, Thy death, and Thy holy sacrament must be the nourishment of my love to bind me inseparably to Thee. Grant me already here in this life what Thou hast promised, eternal life; and by faith dwell in my heart. May Thy Word, which is Spirit and life, awaken, enlighten, comfort, and encourage me daily in all patience and faithfulness. Let my whole heart and all my inclinations, thoughts, and desires be directed toward Thee. Leave me not to fight the battles alone against evil lust, covetousness, sensuality, envy, pride, anger, revenge, and self-indulgence. Help me to pray without ceasing and obtain power from Thee to gain the victory and remain faithful to the end. AMEN.

Taken from *Mirror of the Heart*, Author Unknown, Copyright HLIF

Editor's Note: No doubt many of you who are ‘careful’ readers of the Morning Glory realize by this time that this book would be very beneficial in family devotions, given to a new believer in Christ, very helpful in teaching a Sunday School Class, etc. For a donation of three dollars and a dollar for shipping, it can be yours by ordering it from the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.

A HIGH MAN WHO CAME DOWN

“Three questions in John 3”

By Pastor R. Norheim

(Continued from last issue of the Morning Glory)

The Third Question

People who seek council should be prepared to receive rebuke as well as advice. Ministers of the Gospel should not be limited to pleasant preaching, comforting consolations and palatable plaudits. Putting the mildest form of construction on Jesus’ question to Nicodemus one cannot escape the fact that He intended to rebuke this ruler of Israel. There might even have been a tint of ridicule in His words. Jesus knew his important position; so He was not interviewing him for a “case study”; nor was He filling out a questionnaire. Nicodemus knew that. So he must have felt a certain sharp sting in this question:

“Art thou a ruler in Israel, and knowest not these things?”

For a moment or two he may have wondered if Jesus were treating him as a child. So far, Nicodemus had been asking all the questions; now the teacher asks the question.

This is God’s usual pattern: the sting of the needle precedes the doctor’s injection. The Law always prepares the way for the Gospel. Man must know pain before he can know pardon. The Lord wasn’t a graduate with the back-slapper’s class. He taught as one having authority, and not as the scribes and Pharisees. Matt. 7:29. No wonder some modern psychologists are confused – and their patients are even more so. The customer must always be pampered and pleased; no cross-grain irritation allowed; he may not return! Jesus knew this better than anyone else, and still He didn’t pamper Nicodemus. The Lord gives comfort where comfort is due; but He never puts the cart before the horse. There’s a method to His seeming madness. In the words of Hosea, in chapter 6, verse 1, we agree: “He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up.”

It is quite obvious that the rulers in Israel did not know these things pertaining to the new birth. Theologians, today, too, have highly differing interpretations of what Jesus meant when He said, “Ye must be born again.” Modernists can use the same terminology true Blue Bible believers use, but they mean something else, often just the opposite. “Conversion” becomes man’s ability to make the right choice, instead of God’s power in turning a man from sin to salvation. “Inspiration” simply means the Bible inspires me, instead of the fundamental fact the Bible is God-inspired. It is God’s Word whether it inspires or condemns me. So beware of words; some men are clever in the use of them. Whichever way the wind blows – they blow! But a truly born again person knows the meaning of Jesus’ statement in verse 5: “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but can’t tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one

that is born of the Spirit.”

He that is born of the Spirit is a miracle-moving man. “Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new”. II Cor. 5:17. The first movement was toward Sinai, where the demands of a thrice-holy God made man tremble with the realization that he was totally lost and could never become righteous by law observances. The second movement was to Calvary, where the demands of God were met by man’s Substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ, where the blood of Christ was shed to atone for man’s sin, where man and God were reconciled, where God can be both righteous and just in granting forgiveness to sinners who identify themselves as such. The third movement is the “going in and out” of John 10:10; or, in the language of Romans 8:14, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

“*Under Divine Control*”, is the three-worded motto of every person created by God the Father, redeemed by Jesus Christ and enlightened by the Holy Spirit. This does not make man a robot, without exercise of the will; but it does explain the fact that his spiritual life is a miracle; his movements are God-directed, and therefore God-accepted. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh.” It may be dignified, religious flesh, but it’s nothing more than flesh. Man’s best efforts can never satisfy the just demands of God. Therefore he must be born again.

Isn’t it tragic that these truths are unknown to so many religious leaders? Why are there multitudes of preachers who preach everything and anything but the new birth? Evidently, they can’t express what they haven’t experienced. A blind man can’t explain the blue sky, the colors of the flowers nor the beauty of nature. He has never seen these things. “If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” Matt. 5:14. Therefore I must ask you, today, you who are leaders in your church – you pastors, Sunday School superintendents, teachers, elders, trustees and other leaders of church organizations, “Are you born of the Spirit?” If you will not be converted, the best thing you could do would be to resign from your position leadership. It is not a small thing to mislead those who have placed their confidence in you, and look up to you as their spiritual leader. Jesus spake some terrifying words in Matt. 18:6, 7, when He said, “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world **because** of offenses! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence come.”

Yes, it is tragic to not know these things; tragic for you as well as for those you are supposed to help. But it is not only tragic: **it is an open transgression!** What right do you have to fill a place someone after God’s heart should

fill? “The Lord knoweth them that are his. And let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” 2 Tim. 2:17. “Thou therefore that teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, doest thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, doest thou commit adultery? Thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking of the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you.” Romans 2:21-24.

The higher you’ve climbed, the farther it is to the bottom; the more you’ve been elevated, the greater the humiliation to be abased. I was a preacher’s son; but I had to come down at the altar of my home church, to request prayer for salvation. The Pharisee in the temple (Luke 18) was high and lifted up; he refused to come down. But the Publican “would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” But “This man went justified down to his house rather than the other: *for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*”

Years ago, while serving as the Youth Pastor in our Brooklyn, N.Y. church, I heard a convert say in the Jerry McAuley Cremorne Mission: “The only way **up** is **down.**” He added, “The only way up into the arms of Jesus is down at the foot of the cross.” I’ve never forgotten this. It has been my repeated experience. It is my present abiding place: the place commended Mary for taking, and recommended for Martha. (Luke 10). If you are still up in a sycamore tree with Zacchaeus, do like he did: make haste and come down! If you think you are climbing Jacob’s ladder (Genesis 28), remember it wasn’t Jacob that ascended that ladder, but angels of God. God came down to us; but none of us can climb up to Him. Poor Jacob had to come down too. We see him lowest at Peniel, when he wrestled with God, and limped the rest of his life as one whom God had humbled. “Come down! Come down!” is God’s call to every creature. **You** are no exception. Come now, let Jesus come into your heart. Then, and then only will you be “seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 1).

*“At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.”*

Taken from *A High Man Who Came Down*,
by Pastor R. Norheim, Lutheran Gospel Hour.

UpDate

Are 'we'???

"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. ...But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You." 1 Chronicles 29: 9 & 14 (Please 'read' the in between verses and the following verses)!

ARE WE truly walking in the 'center/light' when we withhold something from GOD; like money? *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."*

GOD says, Try Me, Prove Me, *"Give, and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you"* Luke 6:38.

Are YOU as tired of being 'challenged'? As tired as I might be in challenging YOU to give to this 'cause' as the Lord lays on your heart? YES, I could easily get 'tired' IF it wasn't for the Kingdom of God's Work!

IF 'Scripture' wasn't so crystal clear that included in 'stewardship' is 'cheerfully giving 'finances' as an important part of His Kingdom's Work. YES, the cattle upon a thousand hills are the LORD's, but HE has chosen in eternal wisdom to use cleansed vessels to further His Kingdom. (Check it out!)

"Never before have we witnessed so many satanic forces at work in the churches or in our culture. Christians are under attack; marriages and families are under attack, as are many of our personal liberties and freedoms. Deceptions are everywhere. The blind are leading the blind. People are being told by preachers, politicians and social engineers that truth is relative and constantly changing. They say biblical values must be discarded, and that we must learn to be more tolerant. In such an atmosphere of deception and with so much at stake, (HLIF/Morning Glory) continues to boldly proclaim God's unchanging truth, because in the end we know the victory is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ." – Pastor David and Mary Barnhart.

June's Income for *Morning Glory* is app. \$3,100.00 including the offerings received at the annual conference.

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Evangelistic Tent Meetings

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of rural Kenyon, MN will be using the Innermission tent for evangelistic meetings. Pastor Jim Haga of Shoreview, Minnesota will be the speaker. The meetings will be at the Wanamingo Truck Stop.

The dates for these meetings are August 25-28, 2013. They will start each evening at 7:00 p.m.

Please consider who you might personally invite to attend with YOU and hear the WORD of God!
WELCOME!

Perhaps your church or fellowship group would like to use the Innermission tent for evangelistic meetings. Would you commit this in prayer to the Lord and see what He would like you to do? There are people in eternity with Jesus now because they attended a gospel meeting in a tent.