



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

*Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2014*

## The Unknown Saviour

By Pastor R. Norheim

**T**he Name of Jesus is known around the world, the best known of all names. And still only a small minority really know Him. A book was once written “The Man Nobody Knows.” The title was too strong and the book was too weak! There are some people who do know Him, and they know Him far better than the author portrayed, as merely a good man and a great teacher. To us He is known as the Son of God, the Saviour of the lost, the Lamb of God, who shed His blood to atone for sin. But we must add: He is not known, as such, by many.

When the Apostle Paul preached at Antioch, shortly after his ordination and call as God’s missionary, as recorded in Acts 13, we find him making this significant statement, in verse 27: “For they that dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.”

Here Paul dares to say that they knew not the Lord Jesus, and that’s why they condemned Him. Had they known Him, they would not have done so; they would have been like the people Jesus described in John 10:27, “my sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” And in verse 14, “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”

### The Difference

There was a vast difference between Christ’s disciples and the rulers of Jerusalem: their difference in attitude is explained in only one way: they knew Him – the rulers didn’t. And when we say that the disciples knew Him, we mean more than a casual acquaintance, such as having

heard Him speak. They knew Him not only as a man, not merely a “good man”, for He was more than that. Like Peter they could say, “Thou art that Christ, the son of the living God.” They knew Him as their personal Saviour, the Lamb of God, the sin-bearer and burden bearer, who had set them free. John 8:36. The rulers in Jerusalem did not know Him as such, nor the dwellers there. Had they known him so, they would not have crucified Him. Paul wasn’t excusing them: for they could have known Him too, if they had not been so unwilling to know their sins! But, because they refused to know their sins, they could not know the Saviour.

What Paul explains is the plain fact that had they known Jesus, they would have been of a different nature: they would have worshipped Him, not crucified Him. “If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that has told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.”

Here we have the key to some very perplexing problems today in so-called Christendom. How can people who call themselves Christians drink, dance, play cards, gamble, cheat, and in general live and act very much like the world of Christ rejecters? Why can they be church members in good standing, of good character, but still be enemies of spiritual awakening, conversion of sinners and Holy Spirit power? Why should a disciple of Christ never open his mouth in public to tell his fellowmen what Jesus has done for him? The answer is – they know Him not! For to know him is to love Him and His people, and to see sinners brought to Him. If you know Him you also know something about the experience Paul spoke of in Philippians 3,

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telling about the difference between being “religious” and “saved.” As a religious man, Paul admits that he was proud of himself and of his religious ability; but now as a saved man he has one passion: *“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”* Vs. 10. *“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away, and behold, all things have become new.”* (2 Cor. 5:17)

#### See It?

You see – to know Him – doesn’t merely put a nice coat on a dirty man. It is not a cloak for man’s meanness and shame. To know Christ is to let Him in – into your heart, your thought life, emotions and will. It is surely possible for worldly people to copy the lives of saved people; they can quit questionable amusements, swearing and vulgar talk. They can train themselves in regular church attendance, even keep awake if the sermons are lengthy, and remember parts of the talks. Some can also conduct a form of family worship, reading daily portions and a prayer. They can be honest in business, good neighbors, kind and thoughtful of others. They can be all this, and more, and yet not know Jesus Christ! Yes, people can imitate born-again Christians in so many ways that we’re not at all surprised to meet those who have made decisions, “taken a stand for Jesus”, that know him not!

#### Splitting Hairs? No!

Some may have been spiritually awakened, but they went on their ways without experiencing repentance, sorrow for sin and a newborn desire to turn away

from every appearance of evil. There was very little difference before and after: in their thought life and in their hearts. To these He is still the Unknown God!

And so we have a problem today, harder to get at than any we've ever faced: Why are there so many religious people who profess to know God, who really have not been saved? Born again? What can be done to awaken such people to actually see their lost condition? And how can they be brought to a real saving experience of the grace of God?

I know only one answer, and the key scripture is in Matthew 1:21, "*Thou shalt call his name JESUS, for he shall save his people from their sins.*" Note two words: "save" and "sin." We must preach sin as sin before people can be saved from sin. The reason so few are saved is because so few have seen their sins! But once a sinner sees that he is lost, the Saviour will not find it difficult to save him.

But not even an Omnipotent God can save a sinless man! "*They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*" (Mk. 2:17)

Taken from "*The Lamplighter,*" April, 1978

\* \* \* \* \*

**When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God ... go after it ... that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way before.** Joshua 3:3-4b

All the Israelites had to do was follow the Ark of God, the symbol of His divine presence, when entering the Jordan River. Fear of the unknown likely gripped their hearts. But God was going through the experience with them. How perfectly in keeping with God's love for us. He isn't just an observer of our struggles – He enters into them. He is with you today. Jim Comte

*Following Jesus every day by day,  
Nothing can harm me when He leads the way;  
Darkness or sunshine what e'er behalf,  
Jesus my Shepherd is my All in All.* –Jim Weaver

***Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*** Isaiah 43:1

The closing verses of the previous chapter paint a vivid picture of the thunderous fury of God's anger towards sin, but in the above verse the clouds have been driven away, and the warmth of God's redeeming love can be felt. I love the intimate words of Boaz, "Ruth, the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased (redeemed) to be my wife"

(Ruth 4:10). Dear child of God, take as your own the personal message of redemption and preservation, as God says to you, "***I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.***" Arnot P. McIntee

*I think of my blessed Redeemer, I think of Him all the day long'*

*I sing, for I cannot be silent; His love is the theme of my song.* – Fanny J. Crosby

**Ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy** John 16:20

WE find these words in the midst of Jesus' "messages of comfort." They show us how Jesus both would and could comfort His people.

In the first place they show us how Jesus *sympathizes* with His friends.

What the disciples were to pass through during the hours immediately ahead of them, was, comparatively speaking, not a great deal. It was in fact very little in comparison with that which was before Jesus. We might therefore have thought that Jesus would not have paid much attention to the lesser things which the disciples were dreading so much.

But Jesus entered into the very depths of their sorrow and anxiety as though He Himself had nothing with which to contend. The most important thing to Him that night was not what He Himself was about to suffer. It was the disciples of whom He was thinking and for whose welfare He was concerned.

Hear this, you who are a disciple of Jesus and who, at this very moment, perhaps, are in sorrow and distress, a dread of the future filling your soul. While others make merry boisterously and with shouts of laughter, you are weighed down with bitter sorrow. They do not understand you in your sorrow. Even if they did understand, there would be few who would take the time or would be willing to sympathize with you and enter into the real cause of your suffering.

But Jesus takes the necessary time.

Your distress is His distress. Notice that the disciples did not ask Him for comfort. That night they understood very little of what awaited them. Jesus, however, thought of their distress even before they themselves thought of going to Him with it. Such a friend is Jesus.

You fear oftentimes that your sorrow is of such a minor nature that Jesus is not concerned about it. But none of your sufferings are of minor importance to Him. He has purchased you with His own life-blood.

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# Editorial

RES

## PRECIOUS NAME!

*“A good name is better than precious ointment”* (Ecclesiastes 7:1a); *“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches”* (Proverbs 22:1a); *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21)

Especially at this time of the year there is a lot of contemplation, hurry and scurry in picking just the right gift for loved ones and dear friends. For a fair share of folk, (in one sense), it becomes a ‘burden’ to go through the Advent and Christmas Season.

Another time that gets somewhat stressful (with joy) is when younger parents are expecting an “inheritance” from the “Giver of all good and perfect *gifts* in Whom there is no shadow of turning”: A child is to be born. Their planning began at conception in choosing just the ‘right name’ for the child.

For the virgin Mary, the Name of the unborn Child was given at the time of conception as GOD chose the Name! There is something so very special for that personal precious Name ‘JESUS’, for HE shall save His people from their sins! *“Nor is there salvation (deliverance) in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* For there is no other way we can (dare to) approach the Throne of GRACE/MERCY in the presence of the ‘Holy of Holies’— Who is GOD; except through the Name of **JESUS!**

It is only the broken and contrite sinner who reaches beyond the ‘veil’ (ceiling figuratively); but, a lost sinner who is in desperate NEED of mercy/pardon/forgiveness and Grace. It is such a person that our Holy God looks upon through the BLOOD of His Son JESUS as justified before a thrice Holy God. Then a marvelous miracle takes place in Heaven: God looks upon such a ‘sinner’ as though he had never sinned! YES, GOD is the ‘justifier’ and it takes place in His Presence.

Christianity is the only religion which proclaims that Salvation is DONE on our behalf because of the finished work of God’s Son (JESUS) who loudly proclaimed “It Is Finished” from Calvary. Thank God for the **BLOOD** atonement! Hallelujah, what a Savior we have!

ANY religion (or force) that is anti-Christian is of the Devil and we need to realize any religion (or force) that is determined to kill Christians (true believers) is Satanic and is inspired of the “Deceiver of the whole world.”

Repeating myself, but always keep in mind that of all the ‘religions’ of the world, Christianity is the only one which proclaims that salvation is ‘**Done**’, while all other religions proclaim what you have to ‘**Do**’ for salvation. But as it is with Christmas *gifts* among those we love, you have the Giver, Gift, and Receiver! Thus Christianity is motivated by LOVE and other religions are motivated out of fear or some other driving influence.

Today we are not worshipping a ‘Baby born in a manger’; as JESUS was born to die, while you and I are born to live; but what an appropriate place for the Son of God to be born. A stable/barn is, generally speaking, a somewhat stinky place. This corresponds to our stinking condition before God. *“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags: We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind. Have taken us away.”* Isaiah 64:6, Jeremiah 17:9. But when we receive JESUS as our personal Savior, He gives us a new heart and dwells therein by the Holy Spirit. *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”* Ezekiel 36:26.

*“Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.”* Jeremiah 24:7, 32:19 and II Corinthians 5:17.

In the Gospel of John, the third chapter, it says that we must be “born of the water and the Spirit.” (John 3:5) Most certainly JESUS is not talking about *Baptism* because JESUS had not instituted the Sacrament of Baptism yet!

A ‘born again’ person is a manifestation of God’s LOVE flowing in and through a cleansed, forgiven sinner. He wants only the best (Love) for his neighbor; because of the **Blood of the crucified and risen One (JESUS)** on our behalf. Therefore, since he has received the best from God, he wants the best for his neighbors. When Gods LOVE flows into a forgiven sinner, such a person cannot stand idly standby; but must be involved, because such a person cares for both the saved and lost! A lot of people are willing to talk about GOD;

but **JESUS** is a different thing, because the Name Jesus is His personal Name and He came to be our personal Savior!

Never take for granted your 'freedom' either spiritually or secularly, just because JESUS freely went to Calvary for you and me! YES, many throughout the world would give their life to experience that freedom in and through JESUS and experience the Freedom and Liberty you and I possess. Freedom is never free, it always costs someone or ones a tremendous price for our freedom.

In and through His WORD (the Bible) **Jesus** loves that He speaks more about Hell than Heaven, because HE so loves YOU! Yes, to be so loved is better to be forewarned as there is a Hell to shun and a Heaven to gain. Yet people go to Hell loved; but sadly not forgiven of their sin through the shed BLOOD of **JESUS!** Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:11-15, 1 John 5:11-13.

**JESUS** is a stumbling block for many because of 1 Corinthians 1:20-31; yet He came to be Isaiah 9:6, Ephesians 2:11-22.

JESUS also came to divide! *"Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all but rather division."* Luke 12:51, Matthew 10:34, Luke 17:1, Romans 9:33, 1 Peter 2:8. (Interesting though: Even our timing worldwide is based on God's INCARNATION – **Jesus birth!**)

Therefore a person who is 'born again' and walking in fellowship with JESUS; HE is the 'Pearl of Great Price'. Yes, to him, both **the Name JESUS and the person JESUS is indeed Precious!** 1 Peter 2:1-8. II Peter 1:1 & 4 and 1 John 3:1-2 declare this to be true.

What a day that will be, when my JESUS I shall see!

At this very special time of the year, I recall reading about a family gathering around a Christmas Tree with gifts wrapped and one gift especially was given by the spouse to her husband, but he refused to open the gift as he felt so UNWORTHY (for a long time).

Maybe you, dear reader are putting off personally receiving the Greatest Gift of all – which is **Jesus**. **Perhaps** the Devil is whispering to you that you are either good enough to go to Heaven the way you are, OR that you are too bad of a sinner. IF that were the truth, then why was JESUS born to die on Calvary for our sin? WELL, Jesus is able to save unto the uttermost!

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."* II Corinthians 8:9.

**"Thanks be to God for His indescribable (words are inadequate to express) gift!"** II Corinthians 9:15. **OH, HOW PRECIOUS IS THE NAME 'JESUS' (Personally)!**

**Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord, according to thy word, in peace; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.**

IT is not easy to grow old.

Then one has reached the days of which it is written: *"I have no pleasure in them."* Old age is without a doubt the hardest class of all in the school of God. The trials of old age are both numerous and great.

My believing old friend, you who have reached this class, may I extend my good wishes to you? You have almost finished the course and kept the faith. What a victory!

Your life is moving in a small circle now, and your labors are not of far-reaching consequence. You are fortunate, you who have employed your powers unto the glory of God.

You are doubly fortunate, you who submit graciously to God now also, when He permits old age to deprive you of your physical and mental powers.

It is grace from God to be permitted to use one's powers unto the glory of God. But it is twofold grace from God to be able to relinquish one's powers in faith and to say gratefully: *"the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken*

*away; blessed be the name of the Lord!"*

There is a sacred halo of glorious beauty about those old folk who have gained the victory in the battle with old age and can pass their declining years in happiness. They have conquered! Not merely given in, resigned, to old age.

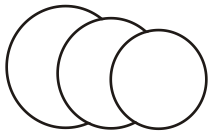
They are no longer offended when reminded of their age. Nor do they continually find fault with the times and with the young people. They realize that they cannot follow along with the times.

And still there is not the atmosphere of hopelessness about them.

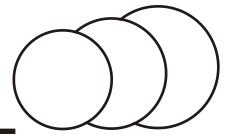
They have been saved by the grace of God, and by the faithfulness of God they have been led from childhood to the gray hairs of old age. With courageous hearts they are prepared to meet the final enemy in His name.

And pass through death into life!

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# From Our Fellowship Circle



**Ms. T. G.**

**Mayville, ND**

Dear Friends,

I'm wondering how you two are doing, as I do pray for you each day. (Ed. Thank you, greatly appreciated). ...

It is a beautiful Fall day and the farmers are busy getting their beautiful crop harvested.

Yesterday we had dinner in our church in honor of ... who joined our congregation. They are active in our church, when they haven't gone South for the Winter.

I wish I could send a bigger check for the paper but,...

(Ed. The Lord will not ask of us more than HE will provide and HE is fully aware of our limits!)

**T. S.**

**Forest City, IA**

I just received the *Morning Glory* and it has been such a blessing to me and so naturally I appreciate receiving the same.

I am doing fine but miss getting out to Meetings, but they take good care us.

I just had my 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday so I have had a long life. ...

I read my Bible every day and do so enjoy also the M.G. and basically after I have read it, I lay it out where other folk can take and read it also.

God Bless you in the Lord's Work!

**R. L.**

**Collins, Col.**

Thank you so much for all the Good Food we get from the pages of the *Morning Glory* for our Soul.

I am from Norway and see you have Wisloff and Hallesby articles numerous times in the same...

**G. & P. N.**

**Garden City, IA**

Thank you for publishing *Morning Glory* as I place it in my ... so my patrons can read it too. God Bless.

**D. & D. C.**

**Lynnwood, WA**

We appreciate receiving the *Morning Glory* and we thank God for standing true to the Word of God and conservative Biblical theology.

**A. & D. A.**

**Aberdeen, SD**

As a young man, I was taught by my Father to never join the Mason's and that Lutherans were against them because they were a Cult. ...

My Great Grandfather was a Hauge Lutheran as he came from Norway to this Country. ...

What is the standing of the HLIF in regards to joining the Mason's, etc.?

(Ed. Definitely against 'joining' the same, even IF they do 'good things', False religion?!?!)

\* \* \* \* \*

## **On Being Known**

Read James 5:16-20

*I acknowledged my sin to You ... I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.* Psalm 32:5

One of the most difficult inner conflicts we have is our desire to be known versus our fear of being known. As beings created in the image of God we are made to be known – known by God and also by others. Yet due to our fallen nature, all of us have sins and weaknesses that we don't want others to know about. We use the phrase "dark side" to refer to aspects of our lives that we keep hidden. And we use slogans like "put your best foot forward" to encourage others to show their best side.

One reason we are unwilling to risk being known is that we fear rejection and ridicule. But when we discover that God knows us, loves us, and is willing to forgive even the worst thing we have done, our fear of being known by God begins to fade away. And when we find a community of believers who understands the dynamic relationship between forgiveness and confession, we feel safe confessing our sins to one another (James 5:16).

The life of faith is not about showing only our good side. It's about exposing our dark side to the light of Christ through confession to God and also to others. In this way we can receive healing and live in the freedom of forgiveness. — Julie Ackerman Link

*Lord, help me to expose my sin,  
Those secret wrongs that lurk within;  
I would confess them all to Thee;  
Transparent I would always be.* —D. DeHaan

**The voice of sin may be loud, but the voice of forgiveness is louder.** —D. L. Moody

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# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

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## Guess What?

According to a fairly recent 'poll' 61% of the Adults in our USA favor the freedom of expression of 'daily prayer' in the school class room! Selected

## Just Look Around US in our USA and we see:

A national debt near \$18 trillion – a record 92 million Americans not working, out of our total population of close to 319 million – an ineffectual foreign policy that emboldens America's enemies and puts CHRISTIANS in danger worldwide – radical Islam on the march – over 40% of American children now born out of wedlock – judges overturning marriage-protection laws in dozens of states and legalizing homosexual marriage – the IRS destroying evidence while under investigation – a national health care law that is endangering the most defenseless among us and a populace addicted to governmental wealth-redistribution plans (close to SOCIALISM).

The voice and stand of CHRISTIANS is needed now as possibly never before than it is right now at this time! ALL who 'care' deeply about 'our' country need to work hard to call America back to its true greatness, founded, as George Washington said, on the twin pillars of religion and morality. He believed America could return to these foundations, BUT – it would require the hard work of Christians and most certainly the blessing of God (God's forgiveness and mercy).

***There is hope for USA, but it will require PRAYER and action from you and me. It has been said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."*** We need to plead with the ALMIGHTY for real conviction of SIN (Godly Repentance), forgiveness and Restoration! (PRAY specifically for these).

Selected

## Sixteen Trillion Dollars Federal Revenue Has Been Lost Due to Abortions

A pro-life political scientist's published research found that as much as \$16 trillion in Federal revenue has been lost due to on-demand abortions in America ...

... (Mark) Olson claims that his research used pre-Roe vs. Wade estimates and includes the generations of offspring that would have been born to people who were aborted. The results suggest that the U.S. has suffered a population loss of over 125 million people.

Olson adds, "We can argue over a balanced budget amendment or tax-and-spend policies, but the reality is that we have lost over 125 million persons – no liberal or conservative economic policy can make up for that loss. We need to stop destroying our most precious economic resource, our people."

...Dr. Jim Denison points out in a 2013 article for the Christian Post, "Since roe, more than 55 million lives have been aborted. According to the Movement for a Better America, the resulting labor lost to our nation will cost our future GDP some \$45 trillion." ...

–Stoyan Zaimov for ChristianPost.com

## Why Is the World Silent While Christians Are Slaughtered in Middle East and Africa? Another Holocaust Underway!

As violent persecution against Christians around the world intensifies, Ronald S. Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, in a recent op-ed bluntly asks, "Why is the world silent while Christians are being slaughtered in the Middle East and Africa?"

"In Europe and in the United States, we have witnessed demonstrations over the tragic deaths of Palestinians who have been used as human shields by Hamas, the terrorist organization that controls Gaza," wrote Lauder in his published article in the New York Times. "The United Nations has held inquiries and focuses its anger on Israel for defending itself against that same terrorist organization. But the barbarous slaughter of thousands upon thousands of Christians is met with relative indifference." ...

Alex Murashko for ChristianPost.com

## Common Core-Less Education

The Obama administration's "Common Core" education curriculum is lowering the bar for American students and giving the federal government even greater authority in education than they have had in the past. Rather than strengthening American education, they have the potential to do serious harm to our children's knowledge and global competitiveness. Not to mention that it becomes a direct pipeline of liberal, anti-family values from the cultural elites to your child's classroom. ...

Family Research Council

## Comments from Barbwire.com

Here is the latest of thousands of isolated incidents from all over the country: Saying “Bless you” after sneezing is hardly the Sermon on the Mount. But to the (faculty member) from the teachers’ union who was in charge of that class, “Bless you” is forbidden. “We will not have godly speaking in my class!” (she) said.

You don’t have to live in a blue state for your kids to get a blue state education. The teachers’ unions control public education in all 50 states.

## Ground Zero Cross Allowed to Stay, Says Court

American Atheists, Inc., tried to have a cross removed from the National 9/11 Museum in New York. The Second Circuit Court voted that the 17-foot cross can stay. Even though the atheists tried to argue that the cross violated the Constitution, the court disagreed and made the following statement:

“The stated purpose of displaying the cross at Ground Zero is to tell the story of how some people used faith to cope with the tragedy is genuine, and an objective observer would understand the purpose of the display to be secular... there is no evidence that the static display of this genuine historic artifact excessively entangles the government with religion.” (Townhall.com, July 28)

This is a victory for Christians in America because the visitors to the museum for years to come will realize the importance that the Christian faith played in one of America’s darkest hours.

Dr. Ron Baity, RETURN AMERICA

\* \* \* \* \*

**And an highway shall be there, and a way,  
and it shall be called The way of holiness. –  
Isaiah 35:8**

**Holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for  
ever. – Psalm 93:5**

If holiness is to be our aim, why is it so hard to obtain? Even though we have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3), we still often warm ourselves by the world’s fire and are surprised we have no testimony for Him. Pulled out of the miry clay with our feet upon the rock, all too frequently we step off that high ground and show it by our muddy footprints. How much better to side with Him and travel the road that has been paved by His hand and lined with His promises? It is a far better road to take! —Mark Kolchin

## A time to be born, and a time to die. Ecclesiastes 3:2

There was a time when you were conceived. Your life began and you grew in your mother’s womb. After nine months you were born and eventually grew into adulthood. You married and had children. Life was busy and happy. But death is coming; it is as sure as birth. There will come a time when you must leave this life. Are you ready? How have you prepared? Are you sure you are saved and ready to face God? If not, repent of your sins and turn to Christ in simple faith and receive Him. He died to pay the penalty for your sin. If you are saved, live a wise and holy life, ready to meet your Lord. Your life will be judged. Do not waste it. — Donald L. Norbie

*My faith has found a resting place, not in device nor creed,*

*I trust the ever living One, His wounds for me shall plead.* Lidie H. Edmunds

## **For Christ entered not into a holy place made with hands... but into heaven itself, now to appear before the face of God for us.**

There is only one great High Priest, our Lord Jesus Christ. His work is unique and infinitely superior to that of the Aaronic priests who entered the holiest of all only once a year and then with a cloud of incense covering the mercy seat (Lev. 16:13). Our Lord is in the presence of God now. He has an unbroken communion with the Father and He ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). This work is “*for us*”. It humbles us to think that He labours there on behalf of each of us. How we praise Him! —Drew Craig

**The mountains shall depart, and the hills be  
removed; but my kindness shall not depart  
from thee, neither shall the covenant of my  
peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath  
mercy on thee. – Isaiah 54:10**

*Let the wind blow, and billows roll,  
Hope is the anchor of my soul;  
It fastens on a land unknown,  
And moors me to my Father’s throne.*

**Hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of  
God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.–  
Rom. 5:5**



## Dear Citizen of Heaven through Faith in Christ,

I pray this letter (Ed. Morning Glory) finds you well and rejoicing in our Savior, Lord, and soon-coming King. Let's agree together on this fact – being “well” does not exclude us from encountering problems in this life. The world (cosmos) is, by definition and experience, an ordered system headed by Satan beginning at the time of man's fall in the Garden of Eden. That makes life in this world an up-hill battle, or, if you prefer, a world of contrary currents, riptides, and, occasionally, hurricanes. However, we can confront it all victoriously because “...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

### *Peter's Message Became His Swan Song* (2 Peter 1:12-15)

The apostle Peter was probably more than seventy years of age. He wanted very much to tell us something. Three times he tells us he wants to be sure to remind us of it. Peter said, (Ed. the Holy Spirit through Peter) “*Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance*” (2 Peter 1:12). Peter said, “*Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle (body), to stir you up by putting you in remembrance*” (2 Peter 1:13). Peter said “*Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance*” (2 Peter 1:15).

Peter knew his life on earth was coming to an end. His death was near at hand. He spoke of his demise. And he said, “*Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me*” (2 Peter 1:14). This was an amazing prophecy which the Lord gave to Peter almost forty years earlier (John 21:18-19). Jesus told the apostle he would grow old and that he would be martyred.

Peter probably wrote this letter in A.D. 66 from a Roman prison during the Christian persecution by Emperor Nero. Peter was taken from prison by Roman soldiers and executed. Tradition suggests he was crucified upside down because he pleaded to not be crucified like his Lord. It is clear that when Peter wrote Second Peter, he knew his death was imminent and that he was going to be martyred. Final words often take on special meaning. There was something Peter wanted to be sure we remembered, and he thought it was important. It was his “swan song.”

### *The Source of Peter's Message* (2 Peter 1:16-18)

Where did the apostle get the message he was so burdened to communicate to his readers? First, he wanted to provide one very important caveat. That is, he wanted to share how he did not get his message. He said, “*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made*

*known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 1:16). Then he turned immediately from the negative to the positive. And he shared the source of his message, “*but (we) were eyewitnesses of his majesty*” (2 Peter 1:16). The question is, Who are the “we” who did not follow cunningly devised fables but saw Jesus coming in power and glory?

In a context when the Lord was speaking to His disciples about His second coming, Jesus said, “*Verily I say unto you, There will be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom*” (Matthew 16:28).

Six days later Jesus took three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on a high mountain (Matthew 17:1-9). These three are the “we” Peter was referring to who saw Jesus coming in power and glory. On the holy mountain Jesus “*...was transfigured before them; and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light*” (Matthew 17:2). Peter, James, and John were the fulfillment of the Lord's teaching that they would see Jesus coming in his kingdom before they died and long before He returned. They were unusually privileged to behold a preview of coming attractions. They saw the glory associated with Christ's second coming before it actually occurred. And they heard the voice of God the Father say, “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him*” (Matthew 17:5).

### *Peter Places the Prophetic Word Above His Own Experience* (2 Peter 1:19-21)

The Lord Jesus, in His Olivet Discourse, described His coming with these words: “*And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory*” (Matthew 24:30). This is precisely the same thing Peter, James, and John beheld on the Mount of Transfiguration. They beheld God's power and His glory as it will be manifested at Christ's second coming.

As astounding as that event was, there is an even greater testimony to the second coming. And Peter tells us what it is. He said, “*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed*” (2 Peter 1:19). He was referring to the Lord's second coming. And the point he was making is this: The written word of prophecy, as found in the Old and New Testaments, is more authoritative than what he saw on the Mount of Transfiguration. The important principle is this: The inspired Word of God always supersedes experience. When someone tells me that “God told them,” or they “had a vision,” I hand them my Bible and say, “show me.”

Peter instructs us with these words: “*Knowing this*

first; that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation” (2 Peter 1:20). That is, no prophecy originates in the mind of one man. The question then to be asked is: From where does it come? And the apostle provides us with the answer:

*“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved (borne along) by the Holy Ghost”* (2 Peter 1:21).

The emphasis Peter was trying to make is this: Jesus is coming again in power and glory. He saw the manifestation of that power and glory on the holy mount. And more significantly, holy men of God were inspired (Ed. ‘in-breathed’) to write of the second coming of Christ in the Bible. Peter wanted to remind us of the glorious second coming of the Son of God.

Do you believe He is coming? Do you believe He is coming soon? Do you believe He is coming soon with all your heart? Do you believe He is coming soon with all your heart to turn the world right side up? Do you believe He is coming soon with all your heart to turn the world right side up and that He is coming to establish a golden age under his rule for one thousand years? ...

If you do, then you can be sad over the insane, sinful, wicked, corrupt direction of our nation and world. You must not allow this world to defeat you and take away your joy in Christ.

In closing, I must apologize – for I intended this to be a letter to thank you for your prayers and support for ... (Ed. Most certainly for the ‘ministry of the Morning Glory and HLIF). However, it turned out to be a short theological epistle. I trust our Lord will use it to bring you comfort and encouragement during these challenging days. May the Lord bless you and keep you under His wings until He returns in power and glory...

Yours in His love, grace, and power, Marv Rosenthal

P. S. Please continue to fervently pray for the peace of Jerusalem. It is critically important to stay current in your understanding of the events taking place in Israel today as they relate to Bible prophecy...

*Straight from the Heart of Marv Rosenthal, Zion’s Hope*

*Editor’s Note:* Please keep in mind that this article is dealing with “The Second Coming of Jesus”, not the Rapture which takes place before and in a ‘twinkling of an eye’ when men least expect HIM! ALSO ‘remember’ ALL Scripture is inspired by the Third Person of the Godhead; the Holy Spirit in and through ‘godly men’ of old.

**For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.** (Lord means ‘Master’) 2 Samuel 22:29

When we are in literal darkness, we value the help of a powerful lamp. Likewise, when life’s problems envelop us, the Lord, as a shining lamp, is always available to lighten our darkness”. To “walk in His light” means to trust Him step by step, in the assurance that His hidden purposes will have a glorious outcome. — George Hall.

*Editor: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* Psalm 119:105.

*All the way my Saviour leads me;*

*Oh, the fullness of His love!*

*Perfect rest to me is promised,*

*In my Father’s house above.* – Fanny J. Crosby

### **For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy**

We speak sometimes of loyalty, and then we speak of blind loyalty. The former is good, the latter is dangerous. The same can be said of jealousy. Protective, guarding jealousy is one thing; selfish, fearful jealousy is another. Paul combines the two positive qualities of loyalty and jealousy in the first six verses of this chapter. [2 Cor. 11] It could be described as a “zealous protection” of some very important elements of the Christian life. In Paul’s case, he was jealously loyal to the church of God, (vv. 2-3); the truth of God, (v. 4); and the ministry of God, (vv. 5-6). Like Paul, we too should strive to keep the church pure, as well as ensuring that nothing lead it away from the simplicity that is found in Christ. – Norman Craig Funston

Faith must obey its Father’s will, as well as trust His grace; A pardoning God is jealous still for His own holiness. Isaac Watts

### **Pray, Preacher, Pray**

One thing is certain. Unless the preacher actually prays instead of merely talking about prayer, he simply cannot “expect great things from God” and “attempt great things for God.” The preacher does not exist whose personal magnetism is so great, whose cultural background is so strong, that he can afford to neglect to pray. To depend upon one’s own wisdom and strength is to exhibit a self-sufficiency unworthy of one who is to proclaim the Word of God.

*John Huss*

## ***Unto You Is Born ... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. – Luke 2:11***

This is the greatest pronouncement the world has ever heard. It stirred the hearts of men to both enmity and adoration.

The Babe cradled in the manger at Bethlehem was a Child of Destiny. The task given Him to do far exceeded the effort of any man. It was not a task that grew from personal ambition or a desire to simply reform a decadent world. Rather, He was born to meet the great need of mankind. He came to seek and to *save* the lost! (Luke 19:10).

The entire world was under the sentence of judgment because of sin. Would this cause all men to perish? What could prevent such a catastrophe? Read again the angelic message: “*Unto you is born ... a Saviour.*” How could this Babe be a Saviour? He was the Christ, the Son of the living God, who appeared in “*the fullness of time*” (Galatians 4:4) to “*put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself*” (Hebrews 9:26). ***He was born to die!***

When you were born, the hope of your parents was that you would be happy, or successful, or make a name for the family. When you have passed into eternity people would then say, “He was a fine person and will be missed by all.” But Jesus was born, and so named, because “*He shall save His people from their sins*” (Matthew 1:21) – yes, ***you*** from ***your*** sins!

The sin of man demands the judgment of God. At Calvary, when wicked men nailed the Son of God upon a cross, sin had reached its utmost bounds. No sin could be greater. Man’s guilt was fully exposed, and you were represented in that guilt along with ***all*** mankind. Could anything now save unrighteous man from the righteous judgment of God? Yes! And the answer is in the very Man on the cross – the Babe that was born to die! He suffered and exhausted the just judgment of God as a Substitute for you! He “*was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification*” (Romans 4:25).

All mankind ***could*** be saved by this work He accomplished (1 John 2:2) – the greatest achievement this world will ever know. Alas, many are not saved because this Saviour is largely refused and neglected now as when He was here on earth. However, every person who confesses to God that he or she is a lost, ruined sinner and believes that Jesus died to pay for his or her sins will eternally benefit from Christ’s work of redemption. (Ed. As long as he/she remains **IN JESUS CHRIST**).

Let me ask, Will ***you*** be the next sinner to accept such great salvation? “*For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the Gift of God*” (Ephesians 2:8).

By trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Sav-

our, you will come to know the unspeakable blessedness of these words; “*Unto you is born this day ... a Saviour.*” F.G.B.

*Moments with the Book*, PO Box 322,  
Bedford, PA 15522

**Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward.** 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – 18

CHILDLIKE prayer for the Spirit of prayer will little by little bring a change into our prayer life such as we had scarcely thought possible.

Without our noticing the change, prayer will become the unifying center of our busy and distracted lives.

All that we experience from day to day will draw our hearts and minds quietly and naturally toward God. A desire to speak with God about everything will arise from time to time.

The things we see and hear in connection with our dear ones, our friends, our enemies, the converted, the unconverted, in connection with things temporal and spiritual, little things and greater things, the easy and the difficult – all the observations and experiences which give form and content to our daily lives will begin in a natural and happy way to formulate themselves into prayer.

Two people who love each other have not really experienced the things of love until they have told each other of their experiences. So also in prayer. The Spirit of prayer unites your soul with God in such a way that you speak with God about your experiences even before you are through experiencing them, whether you do this only in petition, or in sighing, grieving, fervent desire, or in thanksgiving and adoration.

You will experience it as blessed release thus to be able to speak with God about everything in your daily life, especially to be able to speak with Him about it at once, while it is still warm with interest and of actual import.

It will dawn on you more and more that prayer is the most important task in which you engage. And that you cannot employ your time to better advantage than in prayer, either while you are resting or while you are working.

Wherever you are!

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# A Most Excellent Way

By O. Gornitzka – 1 Corinthians 13

In approaching this chapter we feel, as when dealing with John 17, the words are too sublime to be touched with explanations of imperfect mortals. They are best understood by the heart willing to be searched and humbled in the presence of God. It is therefore our prayer that no words of ours may come between the Word as it stands before the heart of the reader.

May we suggest that before this outline study be read, the chapter itself be read at least three times at one sitting. And not for information only, but for search of heart and with a humble spirit willing to be convicted of sin.

This chapter, as will be realized by the reading of 12:31, is an integral part of the whole discussion of spiritual gifts, Ch. 12-14. Griffith Thomas calls it “the guardian of the gifts” – a very appropriate name. Live as the guardian that spiritual gifts be not misused. They were misused by many of the members in the Corinthian congregation. Through possessing “gifts” they had become puffed up, which is the very opposite of love. But all gifts will serve the kingdom of God if expressed in the spirit of love. Therefore the apostle points these Christians to a most excellent way whereby they may serve the cause of Christ in the up-building of the church...

## *Importance – v. 1-3*

Love is the supreme fruit of the Spirit in the life of the believer. It is the most excellent among the three spiritual graces, faith, hope and love.

As we read these verses we are reminded that there is a distinction between gifts of the Spirit and spiritual graces. Gifts are extraordinary to serve the up-building of the church. Graces are abiding fruits in the believer. Gifts are **what we possess** for awhile. Grace is **what we permanently are**. Gifts are tools to work with. Graces make up our very character.

We also observe that it is possible to possess the gifts without having attained to the graces, to be a truly Spirit-filled personality. This is very searching as we thus realize that it is possible to be used in the kingdom of God and yet to be lacking in the essentials as far as our personal relationship to God is concerned.

## *“I am become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.”*

Speaking in many and even the most beautiful languages without the genuine ring of love produces but a hollow, meaningless sound. There may be **much noise but no nurture** in the message. Eloquence, vocabulary and grammar is no substitute for a heart that is on fire for the Lord.

One will stand as a hypocrite before God and before the bar of one's own conscience.

## **“I am nothing”**

Even if I have the gift of expounding the mysteries of God, revealing a deep insight into divine truth (Rev. 2:2), yes, if I possess a miracle working faith as spoken of by the Saviour (Mark 11:23), without love I am nothing. Great work may be accomplished, even to astound the world, but the Lord does not recognize me in the doing of it. They are works apart from my own inner self. As a working man operates the machine in a perfunctory manner just for the gain there is in it, so do I in the service of God – without love.

## **“It profiteth me nothing”**

Even though I offer the supreme sacrifice, that of giving not only my goods but my own body to be burned, there is no reward if the true motive of love is lacking. It may be done in zeal for the truth, in the enthusiasm of a great movement for the glory of a martyr's crown, but is of no value to me apart from love. **Love is the material with which to build if our castle is not, in the end, proven to be an air castle.**

This is the lesson impressed by Jesus when He so often speaks of doing things in His name. **All that is done in His name is done in love because it is done in life-fellowship with Him who is Love.** Even a glass of cold water in the name of Jesus shall not lose its reward.

He does not “feel good” when a tale of someone's sins comes to his ears. Not even if the sinner has done him harm. There is no spirit of revenge in love. But he does rejoice in the progress of everything which is of the truth. The victory of truth is his own victory.

## **“Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things”**

Love is all-inclusive, does not put up limit markers. “*Beareth all things*” is also translated “*covereth all things*” and is thus in harmony with 1 Pet. 4:8 where we read: “*Love covereth a multitude of sins.*” Unless it would be against the welfare of the individual who has sinned, or society as a whole, he who loves has no interest in publishing the sins of others, but rather in covering them up. This is because he believes in the possibility of every sinner's salvation and hopes that each one may be saved. He may realize that the sinner is **down** but does not want to believe that he is **out** and he is willing to endure all things to see the sinner brought to repentance and faith. In other words, true Christian life is akin to true mother-love, which does not want to give up however hopeless the plight of the child may be.

Without Love – Nothing, v. 2-3

With Love – All Things, v. 7

*A Study Guide, 1 Corinthians, by O. Gornitzka*

## Warm It Up!

Vance Havner

The early Christians did not need a shot in the arm every Sunday to keep them going. They knew Jesus; and they upset the world and worried the Devil and gave wicked rulers insomnia and started something that jails couldn't lock up, fire couldn't burn, water couldn't drown, swords couldn't kill.

The need today is for daring saints instead of more diplomats. This world has never been moved by cold, calculating brass hats but by fools with their facts on fire.

You may be little experience and speak of the dangers of emotions, but we are suffering today from a species of Christianity as dry as dust, as cold as ice, as pale as a corpse, and as dead as King Tut. We are suffering not from a lack of correct heads but from a lack of consumed hearts.

God forgive us in an hour like this that we have been dry Christians preaching a dynamite Gospel and living firecracker lives. Let us get alone with God, confess our sins, claim the cleansing blood, be filled with the Spirit, and go to be Christ's fools with our facts on fire!

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Importance of Singing

Homer Rodeheaver led the music for twenty years for the great Billy Sunday crusades of the past century. Playing his trombone and directing the service, Rodeheaver understood the important place that music played in the evangelistic service. "Sing to save" was a phrase he would teach future song directors and one that he practiced throughout his years.

At the invitation during these great tabernacle meetings, hundreds would come forward to make a decision for Christ. Billy Sunday liked to shake hands with each person before he or she was assisted by a personal worker.

Rodeheaver would lead the great choir as the throng of individuals walked "the sawdust trail." The choir would begin with "Almost Persuaded," then follow with "Oh, Where Is My Boy Tonight?" As the altars filled, he would change to "Lord, I'm Coming Home" and finally "Ring the Bells of Heaven; There Is Joy today."

Russ Dennis, Jr., 'Billy Sunday: The Man and His Message' by William T. Ellis

## No Disappointment in Heaven

*There's no disappointment in Heaven,  
No weariness, sorrow or pain,  
No hearts that are bleeding and broken,  
No song with a minor refrain.  
The clouds of our earthly horizon  
Will never appear in the sky,  
For all will be sunshine and gladness  
With never a sob nor a sigh.*

*We'll never pay rent for our mansion;  
The taxes will never come due.  
Our garments will never grow threadbare  
But always be fadeless and new.  
We'll never be hungry or thirsty  
No languish in poverty there,  
For all the rich bounties of Heaven  
His sanctified children will share.*

*There'll never be crepe on the doorknob,  
No funeral train in the sky,  
No graves on the hillsides of Glory,  
For there we shall nevermore die.  
The old will be young there forever,  
Transformed in a moment of time;  
Immortal we'll stand in His likeness,  
The stars and the sun to outshine.*

*I'm bound for that beautiful City  
My Lord has prepared for His own,  
Where all the redeemed of all ages  
Sing "Glory!" around the bright throne;  
Sometimes I grow homesick for Heaven  
And the glories I there shall behold;  
What a joy that twill be when my Saviour I see,  
In that beautiful City of gold!*

F. M. Lehman, *Sword of the Lord*

*"Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples."*

*Psalm 96:2-3.*

# How Did We Get Into This Mess?

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This is the first of a three-part message about the current trends in Christianity. In pointing out these problems, the solution is to reverse these trends back to the Biblical Standard.

## **The Problem: The World**

Many Christians today are indistinguishable from unconverted people – what the Scriptures call the World. They look the same – right down to long hair on a man and tattoos. Where did they ever come up with this idea? Certainly not from the Scriptures. *“Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?”* (1 Cor. 11:14) *“You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead, nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves: I am the Lord.”* (Lev. 19:28) On top of that, Christian women wear enticing clothes, even to the house of the Lord, even when the Scripture says, *“Likewise I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly ...”* (1 Tim. 2:9)

Many Christians today talk the same as the world, even using four-letter vulgarities. They think that as long as they don’t reference God or Jesus – then it is OK. Some modern preachers are even using profanity in their sermons! Yet the Scripture says, *“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for the edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to the hearers.”* (Eph. 4:29)

In many instances, today’s Christians believe the same as the world. We have Christian ministries who support a woman’s right to an abortion. We have churches that support the homosexual movement and will perform same-sex “marriages.”

In a growing number of churches, the emphasis is on being like the world as this is how they go about attracting the world to come to their church. Muscle car shows, carnivals, skits, concerts, comedians; and even the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus; all carefully crafted not to confront or convict anyone.

How did this invasion of the world ever enter into the House of the Lord? I believe that initially it was the acceptance of the new music, commonly called “Contemporary Christian Music,” which paved the way. Consequently, today you have many churches which have worship services that are little or no different than going to a secular rock concert. Drums, electric guitars, and synthesizers all cranked up to a volume that is deafening. If you can get past the deafening noise you’ll see that the lyrics of the new music is very shallow. You will find an emphasis on God’s Love and little else. When leaders saw

what a crowd they could draw with using the world’s music, they decided to remove anything that would offend people and adapt the church to be like the world, but only with Jesus in it.

The system of the world is a belief that is centered on ME and not God. It is centered on Who I Am, what I want and what I can be. I John 2:16 tells us exactly what the world is. *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”* The Lust of the Flesh is the desires that the old nature craves within us. The Lust of the Eyes is the desire for those things that are visually appealing because it is enticing to look upon. Just take a quick look at TV and see the sex, violence and other things that will draw your eyes. The Boastful Pride of Life is this: *“Look Who I am and all that I can do!”* It is the very spirit of the age we have today. *“We have the answers in ourselves and we don’t need any religion or god to tell us what to do.”*

What does God say about adapting the standards of the world? *“Do not love the world, nor the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* (I John 2:15) To love and embrace and use these things of the world is to defy the direct command of God and is absolutely counter-productive. In fact, those who love the world do not have the love of the Father. Isn’t it interesting that the modern church movement – which proclaims the love of God so much – does not even have the love of God at all when they embrace worldly principles. This is what God Himself says.

God is so adamant about this that he says, *“And the world is passing away, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever.”* (I John 2:17) It says that those who do according to the world will pass away with it. If you live by the world’s philosophy and spirit – You will pass away with it. If that isn’t a strong enough admonition for you – then hear this: *“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself the enemy of God.”* (James 4:4) To adapt the new fashion of ministry presented today – which embraces the world – means that you have made yourself the enemy of God!

## **The Answer: The Cross**

What is the answer to this desire and acceptance of the world with all its lusts? It is the Cross! *“But may it never be that I should boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to*

me, and I to the world.” (Gal. 6:14) The Cross is an instrument of death, and that is exactly what God does with it. He brought death to Jesus through it, and consequently salvation is now made available to all men of all time. But God uses the Cross for more than that in the lives of His people. Not only is the Cross for Jesus, it is for every one of His followers. “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.’” (Matt. 16:24) This is where the old nature of ours is put to death. The old nature is that part of us that we were born with that is contrary to God. It lusts after everything that is contrary to God and is in line with the ways of the sinful world. In many circles today the cross is presented as a means of forgiveness for your sins because of what Jesus did – but it is not presented as an instrument to deal with who you are as a sinful man.

The old nature is worthless and needs to be put to death, and that’s just what Jesus said needed to happen to anyone who wanted to follow Him. When this happens, then your affinity to the world will die as well. You will find that the things which once excited your soul and thrilled your life and drew all your attention, desire and time are now no longer important. The things that were once enticing to you are now repulsive to you. You will now yearn for the day when you can be set free from this sinful flesh and live free from this wicked world. You will grieve over the things that are drawing people into the world and away from a fruitful life with the Lord, and yearn for the time when you can be free from this fallen world and enter into the presence of the King of Glory.

Dear reader – Have you come to the Cross – not only to find forgiveness of sins, but a new life also? Will you come and pray: “Now, Lord, crucify me. Put to death all my passions, lusts and pride and affection for the world. Now let the life of Jesus come forth in me so that I have a true spiritual life.” Only when you do this will you truly discover what the Scriptures teach as the true path to spiritual life from Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

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**To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.** Daniel 9:9

*Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.*

O Lord, to us belongeth confusion (shame) of face – because we have sinned against thee.

Selected

\* \* \* \* \*

**Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.** 1 Timothy 4:13

Paul called Timothy his true son in the faith. We would do well to heed his fatherly advice and give attention to these three things he mentions. Reading. The only way we can know the mind of God is to read His Word. READ IT DAILY. Read it often. Exhortation. The ministry of encouraging fellow believers in their walk with the Lord is greatly needed today. Is there someone you can encourage in the Lord? Doctrine. We need to know what we believe and why we believe it. Have you made yourself conversant with the foundations of your faith? **Give attendance to these things!** Rex Trogdon

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**Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness** James 4:9

The modern world seems obsessed with pleasure, laughter, and “positive thinking”. Sadly, this shortsighted, now-centered thinking also inflects the professing church. A shallow version of Christianity is popular today – short on substance and long on entertainment. What is truly needed is heartfelt sorrow over sin and repentance from spiritual apathy. A joy that is rooted in this world is baseless. True joy must be rooted in the Lord and His Word. If you are backsliding, turn back to the Lord by walking in the Spirit through prayer and the Word of God (Gal. 5:16). Humble yourself and He will exalt you.

– K. R. Keyser

On his eighty-fifth birthday, someone asked Dr. R. G. Lee if he intended to continue preaching. His answer is classic:

**“When there are so many unsaved people around; when there are sorrowing hearts to be comforted; when so many young people are throwing away in folly’s court and carnal pleasure’s market the wealth God gave them at the start; when there are so many evils against which protest must be made; when so many people are lonely on the sunset trail; when, in 1910 at my ordination, I was married to preaching until death do us part, why should I not in the eighty-fifth year of life keep on preaching?”**

## Update

### AGAIN, AGAIN & AGAIN

In and through the LORD we are dependent upon you and folk like you to keep this faith 'ministry' on-going in the Lord's Vineyard with your prayer and financial support!

This 'ministry' is a free-Lutheran Movement that is definitely Bible-based, biblical Lutheran and pietistic and dependent upon individuals/congregations to provide/support the same!

Those of you who prayerfully read the Scriptures regularly (hopefully daily) know that Jesus talked about finances/stewardship frequently, because 'money' is important and HE knows how difficult it is for you and I to let-go and let Him lead in this area of our lives; YET HE only wants the best for each of us in this life and for all Eternity!

ACTUALLY "give," "gift," and "gave" appears more than 2,000 times in the Bible. The Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul praises the Corinthians in chapter 8 and encourages us to follow their example. IN verse 24 he challenges 'us' to show "the proof of your love"!

Do you pray 'specifically' about in and where you should invest your financial encouragement for time and Eternity? Matthew 6:21, Luke 6:38.

IF MG/HLIF ministry has been a blessing to you, please know we appreciate so much your tangible 'proof of your gifts, for this is the Lord's ministry. Also please keep in mind/heart that we are to begin/maintain spiritual life first in 'our' home community, ... unto the end of the earth! MG/HLIF is definitely 'home missions' and then beyond! (Acts 1:8)

It would be so encouraging to not only meet our conscientious monthly obligations but catch up as 'we' have experienced several lean months in this past year! Will you prayerfully help us in 'our' battle for Truth? John 8:31-36.

As always, MG/HLIF remains deeply grateful for those of you who serve alongside 'us' with your prayerful and financial support, and we truly Thank You and GOD for the same. THANK YOU AND MAY OUR LIVING SAVIOR RICHLY BLESS YOU THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AND ON!

October's Income for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* is approx. \$3,137.00.

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### ON BEHALF

OF each and every Board Member of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory, it is my privilege to wish each of you Morning Glory 'readers' and 'supporters' a **very blessed Advent, Christmas Season and a Joyous and Blessed New Year!**

May 'our' Living Savior Richly Bless YOU in order that YOU may become an even richer blessing unto others!

*"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, Just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth."* III John 2-3