

Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2008

The Unknown Saviour

By Pastor R. Norheim

The 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, telling about the difference between being “religious” and “saved.” As a

continued on pg. 2

Morning Glory

Volume XC – Number 10
December 2008

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

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The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is registered with the Department of Internal Revenue as a non-profit religious organization. Contributions for all phases of the Hauge Federation are deductible for income tax purposes.

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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 new born 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

facéd: 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

Read the Word

“You shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life” (Philippians 2:15, 16)

There are many hindrances to reading the Word of God. They may be likened to opponents, and among them named our sluggish nature, the captivating world, and the angry devil. These hindrances cause us to neglect God’s Word, and because of this neglect we have so much wretchedness that we might not otherwise have. It is because of this we have weaknesses in the Church and in individual members. The diligent use of God’s Word is really the source of all spiritual good in the world.

God gave us a remedy from heaven, a holy Seed, his holy Word which, planted in the heart of man, can be used to restore illumination to man’s reason and new spiritual faculties. It is a holy means whereby spiritual blindness can be overcome, faith nurtured, and blessed freedom in Christ realized.

If you do not have as much time as you need for the Word of God you must arrange to take the needed time. A while taken during the day or night should be planned. After all, “*one thing is needful.*” (Luke 10:42)

*“Word of mercy giving succor to the living;
Word of life supplying comfort to the dying!
O that we discerning its most holy learning,
Lord, may we love and fear thee; evermore be near thee!”*
(Henry Williams Baker, 1861)

PRAYER: Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your Word” (Psalm 119:18). Amen.

Taken from “*Rosenius’ Daily Meditations*”;
by Carol O. Rosenius
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

MOTHER’S HANDS

By Pastor A. E. Windahl

A pioneer mother’s hands would not have passed inspection in a college of beauticians. They were work-worn hands, often cracked and rough from much scrubbing and washing in strong lye water.

But those hands were beautiful in spite of this—beautiful for their ministry of sacrificial love. The feverish brow of a child felt those hands, and the fever seemed to subside. The wounded pride of a rebellious son felt the tension and bitterness ease when those hands stroked his unruly hair. A little girl’s bruised knees seemed to smart less under the ministry of those hands, and the tears dried quickly.

Her hands were not permissive. They could chasten and turn the willful child back into the paths of obedience and respect for authority. Thank God, she had not read the current crop of books on child psychology, but she knew and lived by the Good Book and sanctified Christian principles. As a result, the children were secure after being chastened, and their sleep was sweet.

A Christian mother’s hands lifted in prayer have stood guard over family and fireside, over church and nation. They are strong hands, for they touch the very throne of God. They have turned to flight the armies of aliens. They have delivered sons and daughters from the jaws of death and from the poser of the Destroyer. They have gently guided straying feet back to the narrow way—the way of life, of peace, of righteousness and of honor.

Hannah prayed, and God gave her a son and Israel the greatest judge in its history – Samuel.

Elisabeth prayed, and John the Baptist – the greatest born of women – called a rebellious nation back to God.

Susannah Wesley prayed, and her sons were used by God to save England from bloody revolution and bring the nation back to God.

The crying need today is for old-fashioned mothers who know how to pray — mothers who have turned to God from the vanity and waste of the self-life and from the frivolity of the bridge club and the beer tavern to become intercessor with God. God bless you mothers of America. As you go the nation will go. In memory, I kiss the hands of my mother and thank God for her ministry of love.

**CHRISTMAS began in the heart
of God. It is complete only when
it reaches the heart of man.**

The Spirit – A Guide To Christ

However, let us not forget that there is another kingdom in the world, the kingdom of Satan. This is also a spiritual kingdom with great powers. It is not a kingdom that is satisfied merely by holding what it has. It has this in common with the Kingdom of God, that it is a Kingdom of conquest. It always aims to reconquer that which it has lost. With all the hosts of evil Satan searches out every Christian on earth, and seeks to draw him into his own kingdom again. God's Word admonishes us therefore to be on the watch so that we may not become victims of Satan's treachery.

We must not forget that Satan is not particular about the means and methods that he uses when he wants to deceive God's people. If he cannot gain his point by an outright temptation to sin, he will don the wings of an angel and show himself as though he were the Spirit of God and a servant of Christ.

The Word of God therefore exhorts us to try the spirits to see if they are of God. Why should the Bible remind us of this if Satan does not have the power to show himself as the Spirit of God? The magicians of Egypt could imitate the miracles of Moses by their secret arts.

According to the Word of God we are bound to believe that not every spirit that purports to be the Spirit of God actually is so. Many Christians do not seem to understand this, and therefore they are drawn into by-paths. It has been a mystery to us how honest and sincere Christians could be led astray by a spirit that is shown to be something else than the Holy Spirit. The answer undoubtedly is this: That Satan has betrayed them to think that he is the Spirit of God

Many Christians do not dare to criticize anything which purports to be spiritual and lays claim to being of God. Especially is this so if this manifestation seems to be more than ordinarily spiritual; Christians are afraid of quenching the Spirit, or at least wounding Him, by any adverse criticism. But to try the spirits to see if they are of God is precisely what the Word of God asks us to do. Those who then blindly and uncritically open their arms and hearts for every wind and spirit that claims to be from God expose themselves to the danger of being deceived.

Much could be gained for the Kingdom of God, and much would be lost for the kingdom of Satan, if Christian people would not forget this.

My purpose with that which is written here is to try to discover some of the ways in which the Holy Spirit works in bringing a person to Christ. I shall also try to point out how He helps God's children through all the dangers in this life and brings them safely to their heavenly home. May the Holy Spirit direct my thoughts so that what is here written may be of help to many who strive to gain the imperishable

crown...

It is sin which has made the separation between God and us. It was sin that made Christ to become the Lamb of God in order to die for us sinners. If we are to know ourselves as we really are, we must learn to know our sin; if we are to have any particular use for Christ as our Savior, we must be inwardly convinced that we need Him.

It is therefore the work of the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin.

The first experience of an unconverted person with the Holy Spirit is that of being disturbed in his life apart from God. In the heart of every one who has been instructed in the Word of God the Spirit is at work; He is trying to disturb all those who are sleeping in sin. The Spirit is at work with men while they are about their daily tasks; He calls upon them in Church and in gospel hall; He is active at sea and on land; He pleads with men in sick-rooms, theaters and dance halls. Every once in a while man's mind and conscience is brought face to face with God, the day of reckoning is brought into view, and the heart feels itself condemned, tired and sore.

Thus the Spirit of God seeks to convict man of sin.

A person is not permitted to walk in his sin as peacefully as it sometimes appears to us that he does. Under the hardest countenance and coarsest blasphemy may be found a soul that is crying and longing for peace. That people sometimes throw themselves into sin and shameful vices is not always caused by a desire to destroy themselves; they are just trying to stifle the cry that the Holy Spirit has called forth in their hearts. We can therefore often see that those whom we thought to be farthest away from God are the first ones to become Christians. Where the day has been given to merriment, laughter and jesting, night may offer no sleep; in its stead bitter tears are wrung from a head that is sore and a soul that is longing for God.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of an unconverted person.

Who can number the times that the Spirit of God has been knocking at the door of our hearts?

For all who have been called and drawn to God, but who have resisted the Holy Spirit, it will be terrible to be a human being in the day of judgment. ...

But how can you be saved? That is the great question which the Holy Spirit is trying to answer; unless this question is solved by the Holy Spirit, it will never be solved. While you are occupied with yourself, how you are and how you ought to be, and while you are praying bootlessly for a new life and another mind, the Holy spirit is seeking to show you in the Word that it is such people Jesus wants to save.

You do not realize that you can never become rightly

prepared – you who are dead in trespasses and sins. Therefore the Holy Spirit coaxes you and draws you to Him who justifies the ungodly and brings salvation to the sinner.

That is how it happened to me and many others – may it also happen to you. We saw that Jesus alone is sufficient. We saw that we had need of nothing else for salvation. We had to be saved just as we were. The light of salvation came into the soul. Where there formerly was fear, night, and death there came to be peace, day, and life.

Under the Cross of Jesus the day of grace began to dawn. The Spirit introduced Jesus to our heart, and life's most vexing problem was solved. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. He has led the sinner to Christ, and the sinner is saved. God's Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are the children of God.

Excerpts taken from the chapter "*The Spirit – A Guide To Christ*" from the book "*Spirit and Power*" by Ludvig Hope

* * * * *

SALT

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by man. (Matthew 5:13)

When a Christian, in order to please men, loses the power of the Spirit so he no longer can rebuke that which is evil, nor confess Christ, he is good for nothing as a witness. The salt has lost its savor; the light is hidden under a bushel.

Our Lord said, "*Have salt in yourselves*" (Mark 9:50). This is the zeal of true love which only the Spirit of God can create. One should be tenderhearted, especially when admonishing another. But one must guard against a humility developing which is flexible and leaves one powerless. We are to manifest earnestness in the Christian life both in confession and in fellowship.

If fellowship has its basic direction as being acceptable to the world it can scarcely be in harmony with the Word and example of Christ and his apostles. Ponder this so that one's running in the race will not be in vain!

*"Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vain world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?
Nay, I must fight, if I would reign:
Increase my courage, Lord;
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by thy Word."*

(Isaac Watts, 1724)

PRAYER: Let my life, O Lord, be effective as the intended 'salt' of faithful witness. Amen.

Taken from "*Rosenius Daily Meditations*"
by Carl O. Rosenius

Editor's Note: **Notice** IF you are a Christian, JESUS did not say you shall become or ought to be, BUT you are 'salt'! Then the 'question' is: What kind of 'salt' are you and I?

A New Manager's Mismanagement

A newly appointed principal was shocked to witness several teachers cart away stacks of textbooks and supplies from an unattended storage room. He searched for the janitor, who held the only key to the space, and asked, "Who is responsible for controlling the inventory in the stockroom?"

"I am, sir," replied the janitor.

"Well, I just saw a group of teachers walking out of there with supplies for which they had no requisition form."

"The teachers usually give me a list of what they've taken after they've stocked their classrooms," said the janitor. "They're pretty good about returning excess materials."

"I'm not so sure that's a good idea to allow the teachers to have this kind of unlimited access to the supplies," said the principal. "Can we depend on them to be completely honest about what they're doing?"

The janitor just stared at the principal. "We trust them with the children, don't we?"

—Adapted from the Cool Quiz!Web site

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Rick Warren

Rick Warren, famed author of the Purpose Driven series and pastor of Saddleback Church in California, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a globalist organization that is helping to shape a one-world government. Not long ago Rick Warren made a trip to Syria and sat down for conversations with the President of Syria, Bashar Assad. Warren later spoke of how well the Christians of Syria are treated. However, he forgot to mention how Assad is furnishing arms to Hezbollah and Hamas for use against Israel.

Jim Wallis, Warren's close friend, is helping him to transfer his emphasis from salvation preaching to the eradication of global poverty. Warren's new emphasis was clearly presented on a Fox News program, Sunday, February 10, 2008, when Sean Hannity asked Warren to tell people how they can go to heaven. Rick Warren looked into the camera and said: "Give as much of yourself as you understand and as much of Jesus as you can understand, and then you must keep growing in it."

Warren's formula for obtaining eternal life has no basis whatsoever in Scripture. Compare Warren's instruction on how to be saved with that of St. Paul: "...*That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*" (Romans 10:9).

Rick Warren has had both Hillary Clinton and Barak Obama speak at his church. After a protest arose from some concerned evangelicals regarding Barak Obama's appearance in the pulpit of the Saddleback Church, especially in light of his pro-abortion stand, leftist evangelicals published an open letter in support of Warren's invitation to Obama. Among those signing this letter were: Tony Campolo, James Forbes, Ron Sider, Jim Wallis and Jeremiah Wright.

Selected

New Version of Great Commission

"Go ye into all the world and dialogue with all the major world religions!" That is how the Great Commission of Jesus Christ is being interpreted by liberals and evangelicals who recently joined Islamic leaders at the Yale Divinity School, July 28 – 31, 2008, for a four-day Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Just what does Islam have in common with Christianity that would prompt such a dialogue? Absolutely nothing! Even though many liberals and evangelicals often refer to Islam as one of the three Abrahamic religions, it is not! Only

two major world religions can rightly trace their spiritual history to Abraham – Judaism and Christianity. Islam's claim to Abraham was contrived nearly 600 years after Jesus Christ walked this earth.

Though scholars often define Islam and Christianity as being monotheistic, there is no rational connection between them. Belief in one false god should never be equated with belief in the one, true and living God of Scripture.

An examination of the Islamic faith discloses that Allah is not the God revealed in the Old and New Testaments, rather he is the "moon god" of the ancient Ka'aba. Allah is a nonexistent god created from the fanciful mind of Muhammad. Liberal and evangelical leaders who are asking their people to accept Islam's Allah as being identical with the God of the Bible are promoting a horrendous deception!

Pastor David Barnhart

"The Vine and Branches," Fall 2008

Openly Gay Pastor Ordained in ELCA

Lura Groen became the first openly gay Lutheran pastor in Texas. She joins a growing list of homosexuals and lesbians who were ordained and now serve churches in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Groen, rostered by the Extraordinary Ministries, was ordained July 26 at Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA) where she now serves as pastor. Groen's "extraordinary ordination" was the third since the ELCA's policy of "refrain and restraint" was passed at its biennial assembly in August 2007 at Chicago. It would appear that no discipline will be brought against Groen, the ELCA congregation where she is now serving, or ELCA clergy who participated in her ordination service. A total of 14 ELCA congregations are now being served by practicing homosexuals who were ordained by Extraordinary Ministries. Perhaps as many as 100 practicing homosexuals are now serving ELCA churches.

Selected.

*"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
(Genesis 6:5)*

Norway Permits Same-Sex Marriage

This past June, the Norwegian parliament approved legislation giving same-sex couples the right to marry and adopt children. The law will take effect January 1, 2009.

The State Church of Norway – the Evangelical Lutheran Church – has already sanctioned same-sex partnerships and homosexual clergy. There remains a real question as to what demands will be placed on clergy in Norway who object to performing same-sex marriages.

Other countries that now authorize same-sex marriage are: Canada, Belgium, Netherlands, South Africa and Spain. In addition, a growing number of countries now recognize same-sex partnerships.

Selected

Ray Boltz Shocks Christian Community With Gay Admission

There is shock and sadness in the Christian community over word that famed Christian music singer Ray Boltz has publicly announced he's living a homosexual lifestyle.

"If this is the way God made me, then this is the way I'm going to live ...I really feel closer to God because I no longer hate myself," Ray Boltz said in an interview with the Washington Blade about his decision to engage in homosexuality. Boltz, a father of four who was married for 33 years before divorcing his wife this year, is well known for his widely acclaimed songs "Thank You" and "I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb."

From OneNewsNow.com 9/15/08

Editor's Note: Isn't it something how people like to 'blame' God for 'our' pursuing and practicing SIN; while the real foundation is found in **James 1:13 – 16!**

Hamas Leader's Son Becomes A Christian

Masab Yousuf, son of notorious Hamas leader Hassan Yousuf, recently moved to America where he converted to Christianity. In an exclusive interview with an Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz* Masab praised Israel and condemned Hamas. He said he hoped his terrorist father will open his eyes to Jesus.

"I know that I'm endangering my life and am even liable to lose my father, but I hope that he'll understand this and that God will give him and my family patience and willingness to open their eyes to Jesus and to Christianity. Maybe one day I'll be able to return to Palestine and to Ramallah with Jesus, in the Kingdom of God," Masab said. Masab said he previously aided his father, but now has affection for

Israel and laments Hamas.

"You Jews should be aware: you will never, but never have peace with Hamas. Islam, as the ideology that guides them, will not allow them to achieve a peace agreement with the Jews. They believe tradition says that the Prophet Muhammed fought against the Jews, and therefore they must continue to fight them to the death."

Masab's father is considered the most popular figure in the West Bank. He is serving a sentence in Israel for planning or involvement in multiple terror attacks. In a statement to a Palestinian news agency, Masab's brother, Suhaib, strongly denied that Masab converted to Christianity. But *Haaretz* stood by its story. The newspaper said it sent a correspondent to the U.S., who met with Masab for a detailed, in-person interview.

From *WorldNetDaily*, 7/31/08

Priest: No communion for Obama supporters

Priest says it's because the Democratic president-elect supports abortion

A South Carolina Roman Catholic priest has told his parishioners that they should refrain from receiving Holy Communion if they voted for Barack Obama because the Democratic president-elect supports abortion, and supporting him "constitutes material cooperation with intrinsic evil."

The Rev. Jay Scott Newman said in a letter distributed Sunday to parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greenville that they are putting their souls at risk if they take Holy Communion before doing penance for their vote.

"Our nation has chosen for its chief executive the most radical pro-abortion politician ever to serve in the United States Senate or to run for president," Newman wrote, referring to Obama by his full name, including his middle name of Hussein.

"Voting for a pro-abortion politician when a plausible pro-life alternative exists constitutes material cooperation with intrinsic evil, and those Catholics who do so place themselves outside of the full communion of Christ's Church and under the judgment of divine law. Persons in this condition should not receive Holy Communion until and unless they are reconciled to God in the Sacrament of Penance, lest they eat and drink their own condemnation."

Risking their immortal soul

During the 2008 presidential campaign, many bishops spoke out on abortion more boldly than four years earlier, telling Catholic politicians and voters that the issue should be the most important consideration in setting policy and de-

ciding which candidate to back. A few church leaders said parishioners risked their immortal soul by voting for candidates who support abortion rights.

But bishops differ on whether Catholic lawmakers — and voters — should refrain from receiving Communion if they diverge from church teaching on abortion. Each bishop sets policy in his own diocese. In their annual fall meeting, the nation’s Catholic bishops vowed Tuesday to forcefully confront the Obama administration over its support for abortion rights.

According to national exit polls, 54 percent of Catholics chose Obama, who is Protestant. In South Carolina, which McCain carried, voters in Greenville County — traditionally seen as among the state’s most conservative areas — went 61 percent for the Republican, and 37 percent for Obama.

“It was not an attempt to make a partisan point,” Newman said in a telephone interview Thursday. “In fact, in this election, for the sake of argument, if the Republican candidate had been pro-abortion, and the Democratic candidate had been pro-life, everything that I wrote would have been exactly the same.”

— Selected

LIVING IN SPIRITUAL POVERTY

By Pastor Mike Klenner

Through the years of my ministry, I have considered it a privilege to share God’s Word with those at home, in the hospital, the jail cell, the care facility, and elsewhere. Most individuals appreciate the Bible passages and prayer; a few have been noticeably uncomfortable.

I recall a lady that stared at the New Testament I placed on the armrest of the chair I sat in when I went to visit her in her home. She seemed to watch it like a hawk. Another widow lady I visited often was called Emmy, which is Finnish for “grandma.” She would take out her well-worn Finnish Bible, and I would find the place for her to read as I read in my English version. She would be busy underlining in pencil, and since we could not understand each other’s language, we communicated with head nods and hand gestures. Upon leaving she always said “God’s peace” in Finnish and “see you” in English. She had a happy heart. The morning of the day she entered eternity, she said in her hospital bed, “The Heavenly Father is coming tonight.”

The Bible to many is a friend; it is God’s inspired Word, able to save their soul because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. To others, it is simply a piece of literature or just another book on the shelf with little meaning. And to some, it is an object of mockery.

I once heard the story of an elderly woman in Scotland who was living in abject poverty. Many years earlier, her son had come to America and had not returned to his native land. One day a friend visited the mother and inquired, “Does your son ever help you with expenses?” Reluctantly she admitted, “No, but he writes me nice long letters and sends me interesting pictures.” The visitor wanted to speak harshly of the man, but he held back and asked, “May I see the pictures?” The aged mother brought them out of a drawer, and to the friends’ amazement, they were valuable bank notes. Through the years she had been needlessly living in poverty because she did not understand their value.

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law” (Psalm 119:18). Many people today are doing well materially yet living in spiritual poverty, and it is needless.

What are you doing with God’s Word in light of eternity? Search the Scriptures, and you will find the riches of eternal life in Christ (John 5:39).

Used by Permission: “Free Lutheran Bulletin Service”

A Gift For Christmas

*What can I give to men whose empty
eyes*

*Trouble my thinking at this
Christmastide?*

*Lord, make me humble, loving, strong,
and wise,*

*That I may give them Christ, the
crucified.*

*Let me not choose the lesser gifts of
earth,*

That pass in dust and are futility:

Lord, at this sacred season of Thy birth,

*Lead me from giving things to giving
Thee.*

What can I give to Thee, O God above?

There is so little that our God could need

*And yet, in all my dreams, Thy heart of
love*

Is wounded still: I see it break and bleed

NO ROOM

By Pastor Wilmore M. Gundersen

I'm sure it has happened to you as you have traveled across this country. You drove in your car, and when evening came you wanted a Motel room. You wanted to take a shower and get a good night's sleep. You drove up to a place and there the sign read: "No Vacancy." So you moved on to look for another place.

This summer my uncle told me he had gone from place to place, until three in the morning, and had not been able to find a room. So they had to sleep in the car until morning dawned.

In like manner it was with Joseph and Mary as they came to Bethlehem. There was no room for them; so they stayed with the cattle that night. It was different for them though, because Mary gave birth to a child that night. The child was Jesus, the Only Begotten Son of God. He was born into the human race, born of the Virgin Mary.

There was no room for them in the Inn's even after the birth of Jesus. When the shepherds visited them they were still in the stable.

There was no room for Jesus in the heart of the people of Israel either. Scripture says: "he came to his own but they received him not." John 1:11. All through his ministry we notice the same thing. He traveled for three years proclaiming the gospel, the good news of Salvation. Yet we notice there was no room for Him. They argued, mistreated, laughed at and scorned this man (God-man) of sorrows.

The Bible speaks of Jesus becoming poor, not owning that which he could even lean His head on. We sing with the song writer: "He became poor to ransom my soul." He left the splendor of heaven as well. Scripture says: "Although He existed in the form of God, (He) did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of man. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Phil. 2:6-8. All this he did for us!

Willingly Jesus walked the dusty streets of Capernaum, Nazareth and Jerusalem, as well as many other places. He knew that many would have no room for Him nor His Word, because the heart of man is wicked and deceitful. Still He preached the Word, and He preached with authority. "Never did a man speak the way this man speaks." John 7:46. Being convinced who he was, they still had no room for Him. "Nevertheless many, even of the rulers, believed in Him; but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the

approval of men rather than the approval of God." They had no room for Jesus; so they crucified Him.

Proving to be the one he claimed to be, Jesus rose from the dead. Today he is sitting at the right hand of God the Father. He is now asking you, through His Word and through His ambassadors: "Do you have room for Jesus?" Confess your sin to Him, and allow Him to come into your heart. Oh, what a difference it would make in your life, if you would make room for Jesus! He would make all things new for you. The Lord bless you to accept Him, today!

Taken from "The Lamplighter," December, 1978

* * * * *

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

"I wish I had never read Huckleberry Finn," a man once told its author, Mark Twain. With a scowl, the great humorist asked the reason for such a remark. "So that I could have the pleasure again of reading it for the first time," came the reply.

Could it be that the Christmas story loses some of its gripping excitement for us because it has become so familiar? Why not read it again – as if you were reading for the first time the earth-shaking drama that is less than 500 words in length. You'll find it in Luke 2:1-20. Maybe your response will be like that of a well-known writer who said, "Christmas is such a wonderful story that only God could have thought of it."

Selected

Christmas In The Heart

*It is Christmas in the mansion,
Yule-log fires and silken frocks;*

*It is Christmas in the cottage,
Mother's filling little socks.*

*It is Christmas on the highway,
In the thronging, busy mart;*

*But the dearest truest Christmas
Is the Christmas in the heart.*

Anonymous

Editorial

RES *FEED ME!!!*

“Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled” (satisfied). (Luke 6:21a) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6) “As newborn babes, desire (crave) the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (1 Peter 2:2-3)

During this ‘festive’ time of the year the homemaker spends many extra hours in the kitchen in preparation of those very special choices of food that possibly aren’t hardly thought of during the rest of the year! Precious hours enhanced with LOVE carefully want to meet those taste buds of the guests who will be in her presence. There is almost a contest to see who gets to eat first and the most! The BIBLE tells us to taste and see that the Lord is Good!

ADVENT means “The coming or arrival, esp. of something awaited or momentous: example = The birth of Christ, The period including four Sundays before Christmas.” Are YOU preparing for the coming of JESUS? (Rapture). I want to bring to your attention two of the signs of His coming found in II Timothy 3:4. People will be *“unthankful and lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of GOD!”*

MANY Americans are conscious about their physical health in watching their **diet**; BUT how sensitive are we in regards to our ‘spiritual’ **diet**? This physical body is likened unto a ‘vapor’ in the Scriptures compared to *eternity*, and YET, which **diet** do you follow the recipe most closely? Lately I have heard of a church youth group that decorated the church (building) in honor of the 1950’s with Elvis Presley as the main figure. The decorations were according to the 50’s, the music accordingly and an image of Elvis was near the altar in the sanctuary. **JESUS SAID, “MY HOUSE IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER!”** In another church they are encouraging eating during the worship service and this same congregation went to the theater to conduct a worship service with access to popcorn. Still another church announced that a Professional JAZZ BAND would lead the music for their two worship services. In another the newscast stated that this church would appear more like Santa’s Sports Shop than a church. *Could it be the world and its peer pressure have invaded the church with popularity attraction rather than JESUS and HIS WORD?* These are Lutheran churches that I am now referring to; BUT it has crept IN across the board. **FEED ME**; but what are we being fed? *“Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” II Timothy 3:5.* Does **HE who is LOVE (Incarnation) need to cleanse the church again?** According to the Scriptures HE cleansed the temple twice in a short period of time. **Watch that the Word of God does not just become common for it is living and active; and it is ALIVE (powerful)!** We are being exposed to the idea that JESUS and HIS WORD preached are not enough in this present world to draw people to the House of the Lord!

According to the Scriptures the church should be like an **Oasis in a desert!** Church should be, especially for the believer a place of refuge, nourishment, spiritual refreshment, renewing in the faith, admonition and a re-charging, being forewarned and

equipped. Let us go with an attitude of expectancy of not ONLY what do I receive, but what can I contribute as well! Indeed, it is a privilege to meet with fellow believers. It should be a place of genuine Christian Fellowship and listening to God’s Word being expounded; both the LAW and the GOSPEL.

John Wesley declared: “Before I can preach love and grace I must preach sin, law and judgment!” Right! For, until the conscience is awakened to sin and judgment, there is little need for or appreciation of God’s love and grace. Yet, how seldom we hear such preaching! And we reap the meager results of these modified messages!

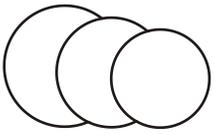
When spiritual deadness gets the upper hand personal testimonies are the first to be thrown out and thus you throw spiritual life overboard. “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is SIN” **James 4:17.** IF you know the living TRUTH but fail to make it known to dying sinners – it is SIN! **Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:27-33.**

It is not lack of activities or organizations (which some equate to ‘spiritual life’), BUT **lack of the presence of the Holy Spirit that creates deadness. YOU know** that if you are making a special food item for this special season and leave out a **vital ingredient**; the end product will be a failure! How can it be that seemingly the right words are being spoken, and yet one experiences an *emptiness in the heart* as you depart to SERVE? Could it be that the emphasis is because people are focusing on programs, activities, etc. instead of the **WORD (Law & Gospel), JESUS CRUCIFIED, RISEN AND COMING AGAIN FOR ME!**

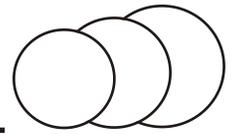
“I am the bread of life. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; As the living father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. John 6:48, 51a, 57. (Please read also John 6:60-71) Could it be the ‘church’ has little NEED; but is *“rich, wealthy, and have need of nothing”* – in their own opinion? Revelation 3:14-22. MAYBE the *“Candlestick” is being removed*, because we have treated HIS WORD as with common place and indifference? Soldiers NEED a solid balanced DIET to be energetic and disciplined to be effective SOLDIERS! It is individuals who make up the church; so what kind of church are YOU helping to make?

In Algebra Class, I believe the letter “X” stood for an unknown quantity. Some treat Christmas as an “X.” JESUS says, “If you LOVE ME feed my lambs and sheep” John 21:15-17. *“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers”* 3 John 2.

When *Christmas* is celebrated in HEAVEN with the Banner of Love over us; will YOU be at that “Banqueting Table”? “And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven”. Matthew 8:11, Luke 13: 22-30.



From Our Fellowship Circle



S. R. **New Auburn, WI**
My parents always kept *Morning Glory* so it is a special newsletter to me. To God be honor and glory! We've had a lovely fall and the leaves are at their peak now.

I am quite settled and it was difficult downsizing from a large country home to living in an apartment; but am now adjusting and I'm so fortunate in being near our church where the fellowship is so good although we seem to remain small in numbers.

Editor's Note: Our precious JESUS has promised by the Holy Spirit to be in the midst of them who are gathered in His Name! Wonderful Promise!!!

B. & A. H. **WA**
Thank you for your note as it is much appreciated. Happy Thanksgiving and God's blessing be with you as you work in His Kingdom.

L. E. **Mayville, N.D.**
Just got some back issues of the "*Morning Glory*" from a friend. I had gotten the magazine by mail myself years ago; but for some forgotten reason now – I let it go!

I am a good friend ofas we've known each other for over 40 years.

I want to be back on the mailing list of the *Morning Glory* and will try to send in a regular donation even though I am on a limited income; but I really do love the *Morning Glory*. May God continue to bless the ministry of the *Morning Glory*. May you and yours have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

D. & I. L. **W. Des Moines, IA**
Enclosed is a donation to help publish this wonderful periodical that always remains true to Biblical principles. We can always read it cover to cover and not be concerned about the content. It is encouraging and challenging throughout. We give thanks to the Lord for all the people who write the articles, do the research and put this all together each issue.

We moved here at the end of June to be close to our son as we are getting older and he wanted to be available to help us. It was difficult leaving Montana but good to be here with ...

I wish we could send a larger donation now, but will try to send another one soon. God's blessings to all of you.

T.& F. W. **Red Wing, MN**
May the Lord continue to bless the work of the *Morning Glory*. We enjoy it very much and it was so nice to meet you folk over at Emmanuel (Aspeland) for the Annual Bible

Conference; which was so good.

J. A.T. **Roland, IA**
Thank you again for the *Morning Glory*; of app. 20 mailings that come from Christian organizations, *Morning Glory* is one of the most informative and Biblically based! Enclosed is a donation.

P.S: So glad to see the article about the "Shack" book, as too many people are taken in by it and not seeing the whole picture! I haven't read it but showed the *Morning Glory* article to some friends that liked the book and they were glad to have read this viewpoint. Thanks again – now perhaps they will be more discerning when they read the "so called" popular Christian books!?!

T. F. **Jamestown, N.D.**
I was told about your newsletter, (*Morning Glory*)and how good it was. I would be interested in receiving this. Thank you.

G. T. **Fosston, MN**
I'm sorry that I cannot send more. Your paper (*The Morning Glory*) means so much to me. Over the years, I've learned so much from it – it's helped me to become a Christian.

Editor's Note: As you are already aware it is not the financial amount that is all important; but the attitude of the heart! The Lord blesses (loves the cheerful giver); as an example the widow's mite (give as the Lord has entrusted to you).

E. L. **Fergus Falls, MN**
I am enclosing \$... for a subscription to the *Morning Glory*. I am a new subscriber. A good neighbor told me about you. May God richly bless you.

D. & S. P. **Viroqua, WI**
Would you please add us to your mailing list for your paper? Thank you.

Editor's Note: GLADLY! Each encouraged 'reader' please keep this ministry in prayer before the Throne of Grace and prayerfully consider WHO you can add to the 'mailing list' with a donation included. Thanks.

E. S. **Wanamingo, MN**
Enclosed a check to help out in printing the *Morning Glory*; as it is surely needed to be read by everyone.

It seems some people want to get rid of the important and true Message that this Country was started on.

I pray that this paper can continue to spread the Good News. May you and yours have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

A. L. Bismarck, N. D.
Sorry I have been out of touch with you for some time now as you will see the change of address; as we sold our Condo and have moved into a Retirement Place and I think I will enjoy it here. Meanwhile I will just keep trusting the Lord and look forward for His likely soon return.

Several weeks ago we had a pleasant surprise as Pastor and Mrs. ... were here several days and it was a joy to see and fellowship with them again.

I will close for now and pray God's blessings on you as we approach Thanksgiving and are thankful for our Savior who came to seek and save us!

I. R. Thief River Falls, MN
Please take my name off your mailing list. I am no longer able to read this fine magazine. Thank You.

Editor's Note: Here would be a good ministry, to read Christian literature to others.

The Right Attitude

The true measure of a man's worth is not always the number of his friends, but sometimes the number of his foes. Every man who lives in advance of his age is sure to be understood and opposed, and often persecuted and sacrificed.

"Marvel not...if the world hate you" (1 John 3:13). The Lord says, *"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!"* (Luke 6:26); and, *"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own"* (John 15:19).

Like Him, therefore, we must expect often to be unpopular, often to stand alone, even to be maligned, perhaps assailed and driven "without the camp" even of the religious world.

Two things, however, let us not forget. First, let us not be afraid to be unpopular, and, second, let us never be soured or embittered by it but stand sweetly and triumphantly in the confidence of our Master's approval.

— Selected

Dear Morning Glory Reader and Friend of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation,

Gift-giving is one of the special joys of the Christmas Season. *"And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh."* (Matthew 2:11) In the Scripture passage just quoted these wise men first worshiped HIM and then brought treasures to the Christ Child. Likely it won't be long until similar scenes unfold in your home and mine!

Don't you relish the warm sensation of seeing a delighted smile on the face of a child or loved one that lets you know your "gift" is appreciated? Does GOD look for a similar sign of gratitude on the part of those who have received His wonderful GIFT to them? God is the Giver of every good and perfect *gift* and Christmas giving began with God!

What a gift and how sorely needed! No package under any tree compares with the **GIFT** of the Savior born in Bethlehem – born a **King**. My 'friend', we have had the privilege and responsibility of proclaiming HIM through the pages of the *Morning Glory*, Bible Conferences, Booklets, etc. again through another year of GRACE. Our part has been to present a consistent Bible centered message. Your part has been to help us shoulder the work through believing prayer support, financial under girding and inviting others to participate in the same. Together it has been encouraging and a rich blessing (by the Grace of God).

BUT the challenge and responsibility is not finished; we must continue to clearly proclaim the Law and the Gospel which is from our Lord. This 'gift' must not be hidden or locked in a closet.

God's children must never cease distributing the Gift to others while it is day; thus continues to be a time for action!

Please **Pray** for a "Heaven Sent Revival In Our Midst" and support as the Lord lays on your heart!

Let "us" express our heartfelt thanks for your genuine concern and interest in this 'Ministry'.

May you and your's experience a truly blessed Advent Season and a wonderful CHRISTMAS, followed with a blessed New Year in HIM; the greatest of all Gifts! May He richly bless you always – all ways – is our desire!

From the Members (& their families) of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation (Morning Glory).

MUSIC

In considering the role of the organist in the worship services of the Lutheran Church, a few comments on the position of Martin Luther concerning music in general may help to clarify the attitude which the Lutheran organist should strive to maintain within himself and within the congregation he serves. Martin Luther considered music one of God's greatest gifts. He is quoted as saying: "Music is a beautiful and lovely gift of God ..." And again, "One of the most beautiful and most precious gifts of God is music ..."

He continues by saying "Music drives away the spirit of sadness, as may be seen from the life of King Saul ..." Luther acknowledged the power of music when he wrote, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in this world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits. This precious gift has been given to man alone that he might thereby remind himself of the fact that God has created man for the express purpose of extolling and praising God." We find statements to this same effect repeated several times referring to the use of music by man to praise God. In the preface to a collection of part songs based on the sufferings and death of Christ, Luther wrote: "A greater praise we cannot imagine..."

Even the Holy Spirit honors music as a tool of His work, since He testifies in the Holy Scriptures that through the medium of music His gifts have been put into the hands of the Prophets (e.g. Elisha), again, through music the devil has been driven away ..."

Excerpt taken from "A Guide to Effective Hymn Playing"

By Margaret Sihler Anderson

Copyright 1964 Augsburg Publishing House

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Prayer in Light of Christ's Glorious Return

In today's Scripture, Christ links the importance of prayer to the events that will increasingly unfold as "the last days" and "perilous times" (2 Tim. 3:1) approach (v.1 cf. Lk. 17:22-37). He impresses upon His hearers the appropriateness of prayer at all times – "men ought always to pray" (v. 1). This parallels God's Word through Paul to the Thessalonian believers – "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17); that is, do not allow prayerless gaps to develop in your life. Make it a habit to pray; build a frame of mind that is ready always to cry out to God. Failure to meet this challenge will lead to the alternative of *fainting* and, thus, of caving in under pressure and stress. Faith expresses itself to God in prayer, and prayer nourishes our faith and courage.

Jesus then spoke a parable about an uncompassionate, self-seeking judge who refused to hear and respond to the

cries of a widow in need of his help (vv. 2-5). Yet, because she persisted in bringing her case before him to the point of exasperation, he finally gave legal satisfaction in avenging the injustice against her. Jesus contrasts the unjust judge with our heavenly Father. If that judge will finally act because of persistence in requesting, how much more will the Father respond to your prayers (vv. 6-8)!

In our present age, "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" (2 Tim. 3:13), and the Father, "not willing that any should perish," forebears long, allowing the unsaved to come to repentance if they will (2 Pet. 3:9,15). But when God does avenge, it will transpire suddenly (v. 8; II Thess. 5:3). Conditions between Christ's first and second comings are not conducive to prayer, but we must pray on (Rev. 22:20). JED

Taken from "Feature" – Fundamental Evangelistic Assn.
Telephone 559 – 438-0080

The Conqueror's Way

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:35, 37)

It is difficult to live in constant possession of the joy and comfort of the gospel. Sin rages in our flesh and we are often unable to sense anything good within ourselves. This is often experienced in time of crisis. It is then we should be on guard lest we be moved purely by subjective feelings.

Let us never lose sight of the eternal foundation on which rests our relationship to God. One is still a person for whom God gave his Son. Christ is our Brother who has redeemed us to God by his blood. Though our sins are a problem, God's provision in Christ is worth a thousand times more. One could never have sinned so grievously but that God can cleanse by the expiation of Christ. It is in this faith and by the grace which God alone gives that we can weather the spiritual storms.

"Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand."

(William Williams, 1745a)

PRAYER: Instill within my heart, O God, the love and faith that ought to be burning brightly. Help me to be a conqueror in Christ. Amen.

Taken from "Rosenius Daily Meditations"
by Carl O. Rosenius
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

Why Study the Old Testament?

“For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven.” (Ps. 119:89)

There is an attitude among many in Christendom that the Old Testament is a history book of the Jewish nation, and prophecies that point to our day and beyond, yet not a portion of the Scripture that we should study. The general feeling is that the Old Testament was under the Law and the New Testament is under Grace. Some feel that the Old Testament was for another time (Dispensation) and is not for our day. It is true that some dealings of God with man were different in the Old Testament, yet God has a rich source of spiritual life to be found in the pages of the Old Testament!

Do you realize that “approximately ten percent of the New Testament is direct quotations, paraphrases, or allusions to the Old Testament? Of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament, only nine are not expressly referred to in the New Testament.”¹

The Old Testament lays the groundwork for what we read in the New Testament. Without understanding what was first laid in the Old Testament, you can’t fully understand what it is referring to in the New. Every aspect of Jesus’ life was prophesied in the Old Testament, including His incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas. *“Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Emmanuel, which is translated God with us.”* (Matt. 1:23, a fulfillment of Isaiah 9:6) Repeatedly in Matthew, it says, *“...that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets.”* (See Matt. 3:23 for example) The Old Testament prophets laid out the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus in advance.

Jesus’ very mission to die for the sins of the world was already laid out in the Old Testament sacrificial system. An innocent victim, free from defect, must die to atone for sin. It also must die with the shedding of blood. (See Exodus 12 and Leviticus 16). In fact, Jesus used the Old Testament example of Jonah being swallowed by a whale as the basis for His resurrection. *“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”* (Matt. 12:40) Jesus believed in the literal account of Jonah, which modern man scoffs at. Yet, how can they deny the literal account of Jonah and yet believe in the literal resurrection of Jesus, when Jesus used the Old Testament account as the basis for His resurrection? They can’t! Jesus had absolute faith in the Old Testament as He quoted 3 times from the Book of Deuteronomy when tempted by the devil. (See Matt. 4:1-11)

The Old Testament people are the example of faith to us

in the New Testament. In Hebrews 11 there is an entire list of people of faith, all of them Old Testament people. We can go back and study how these people walked and served God in their daily lives as an example to us today. In fact, the New Testament says *“The just shall live by faith.”* (Rom. 1:17, which itself is a quotation from the Old Testament, Hab. 2:4). The very heart of the Reformation that Luther discovered was born out of the Old Testament!

The lives of the Old Testament saints demonstrate this to us in both victory and failure. Even though they lived under the Old Testament order, their lives had to be lived by faith before the Lord, just as ours do. You can read of Moses’ victory over Pharaoh in Exodus, and his frustrations of leading the people in the wilderness after that. Through all of this, you can see how God dealt with him in his daily life. You can read of Gideons’ victory and Samson’s failure in Judges, Saul’s demise in I Samuel, David’s intrigue in II Samuel, Solomon’s great life and horrid fall in I Kings and many more. Through all of this, you see exactly what it means for the godly to live by faith.

The Old Testament serves as a warning for us to avoid the mistakes that God’s people made in the Old Testament. 1 Cor. 10 list several incidents in the life of Israel where they sinned and brought God’s judgment upon themselves. Verse 7 refers to gross acts of idolatry and sensuality from Exodus 32, verse 8 refers to immorality and sensual worship from Numbers 25, verse 9 refers to the time when Israel put the Lord to the test from Numbers 21 and verse 10 refers to grumbling and unbelief from Numbers 16. The conclusion is stated in v. 11, *“Now all these things happened to them as an example, and they are written for OUR admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”* These mistakes of Israel in the Old Testament are written for us New Testament saints to avoid. If we don’t take time to study them, how can we avoid them? With these many references to sensuality and sensual worship, perhaps we could study the Old Testament and see through the new contemporary worship for what it really is. It has already happened and it has already failed as Exodus 32 and Numbers 25 so painfully remind us. There is nothing new under the sun, as Solomon reminds us.

Dear reader, will you read and study the Old Testament from a New Testament perspective?

Selected

¹ *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation* by Henry A. Virkler, pg. 53.

Simeon

“And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel.” (Luke 2:25)

WE are not told a great deal about old Simeon. But what we do hear is wondrously beautiful.

He was a God-fearing and righteous man who waited for the consolation of Israel. The Spirit of God was upon him. It moved him also on the day that he came to the temple and saw the new-born Messiah.

Whereupon he praised the Lord and prayed that he might depart in peace from this world, now that he had finished his course.

A blessed life!

It is not thus with all old people. There are many unhappy old folk. I am not now thinking of their poverty, their loneliness, or their helplessness. This is heavy enough to bear. But far worse is their restlessness, their lack of peace, the hard and rebellious attitude of mind with which they cling so tenaciously to life. Oftentimes also they are earth-bent and greedy.

My old friend, you who sit with this book in your hands, how have you fared in life ?

Are you numbered among those who wait every day for the consolation of Israel and are led daily by the Spirit into the temple where they can with their own eyes behold their Savior? Or are you one of those who have never sought reconciliation with God, but continually hope for the best, vaguely trusting that God is merciful and will not cast out a sinful soul?

My aged friend! Take care! You are on the very brink of your grave.

Have you never heard of *dead* faith?

Pray God to open your eyes that you may realize your true condition and not give yourself peace or rest until you are in the right relationship with God and can say with old Simeon: “Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord, according to thy word, in peace; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation!”

Taken from *God’s Word for Today*
O. Halesby
Augsburg Publishing

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Have You Forgotten God?

“Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and

*houses of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you shall eat and be satisfied, **then watch yourselves, lest you forget the Lord your God** who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”* (Deut. 6:10-12)

There is much talk and concern today about the economic slow-down. Stores are closing, some people are losing their jobs and everyone is affected. Yet, perhaps we have failed to consider what the Lord is up to in our nation.

God had to warn the Israelites long ago that when great prosperity would come, there would be a lax in knowing and following the Lord. When their houses were full, their vineyards were fruitful, and life was good, that was precisely the time that God warned them to watch themselves lest they forget Him. We would think that their hearts would be melted in gratitude for God’s great blessings, yet the very opposite happened. They got so fixed upon their prosperity that they forgot who gave it in the first place. When times were tough, they had to live in a close relationship with God to see Him provide their very daily meals and clothes (as happened during their wandering in the wilderness). But after they conquered the land of Canaan and they enjoyed the prosperity of the land, they forgot about the Lord and went after other gods. Joshua had to reprimand them for this in chapter 24 of Joshua.

Amos had to rebuke Israel before the captivity for this as well! *“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion ...those who recline on beds of ivory and sprawl on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who improvise to the sound of the harp, and like David have composed songs for themselves, who drink wine from sacrificial bowls while they anoint themselves with the finest of oils, yet they have never grieved over the ruin of Joseph.”* (Amos 6:1, 4-6)

Is this not precisely what has happened to the people and the Church in America? As we have undergone unprecedented prosperity in recent decades, have we not forgotten the Lord? Have we not gone after bigger is better as far as churches, ministries, books and all the related things that are now a “must have if we are going to really conduct effective ministries.” Have we not forgotten that the simple, basic need to hear the Law in all its sternness and the Gospel in all its sweetness is all that will really satisfy the soul? Have we forgotten that the more we own, the more we have to take care of? All of this chokes out that simple child-like faith in the Lord at His Word.

Perhaps the Lord has brought this economic recession upon us to try and bring us back to Himself. If you have forgotten God, return to Him today!

— Selected

Update

APOSTASY

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition."

(2 Thessalonians 2:3)

There is absolutely no question that WE are living in days of *apostasy*, as literally the word 'apostasy' means **falling away!** Martin Luther addresses this tragic reality by saying the one who thinks others will be deceived; but they themselves won't, has 'reason' to fear more than all! Remember our 'heart' is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.

When we address this 'tragic' reality we are NOT questioning the GRACE and POWER of GOD in His ABILITY to KEEP; but rather underscoring the deceitfulness of our own heart and the DECEPTION in this fallen, sinful world! YES, in the meanwhile, we are to be "looking up" in anticipation of His coming (Rapture) and be found faithful in obedience to His Word! BUT in this 'spiritual vacuum,' we see the lack of preaching/teaching the LAW & GOSPEL and it becomes more and more apparent; someone needs to seek to fill in the 'vacuum' AND I believe that this 'ministry' is in part the answer; by the Grace of God, in "**occupying till He comes!**" This shoulders and challenges "US" (you & I) to an OPEN DOOR IN CONTINUING TO PROCLAIM HIS WORD and in doing so; first of all, WE need your PRAYER SUPPORT and then your financial support as the Lord leads! Are YOU open and available to the Lord's leading in helping 'US' in doing the same?

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 3.

October Income for the *Morning Glory* is \$3,691.56 (Part of an 'Estate' is included in this amount).

Cost for each issue of the *Morning Glory* is approximately \$2,375.

**May you and yours experience a very
Blessed Christmas Season and a
Joyous New Year!**

Altar Steps

The Hauge Innermission Federation is considering reprinting the devotional entitled "*Altar Steps*" by Rev. R.P. Haakonson. This is a daily devotional which is geared for family use with children. This devotional has been out of print since 1959. We have permission from the Haakonson family to do this.

The cost of setting up the printing for this is \$500. The final cost will tentatively be \$5.00 each. If the Holy Spirit is impressing you to give toward this, simply respond in the envelope that is located in the center of the magazine.

Thanks to everyone for their consideration and may the Lord bless you richly as you serve Him.

Volume XC•Number 10 •December 2008
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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