



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2010

The Foundation of Forgiveness

By Pastor Paul Chappell

Families should stick together. Families should watch each other’s backside. Families should stand together against outside threats, and stay close during difficult times. But sometimes that doesn’t always happen.

In the book of Genesis, the great man Joseph had done nothing wrong against his brothers. He simply had tried to obey God, obey his father, and treat his brothers fairly. Jealousy got the better of his brothers and they turned on Joseph. The men he grew up admiring, respecting, and trying to be like turned on him in a savage way.

Joseph’s brothers stripped him of his favorite coat, threw him in a pit, considered killing him, then sold him into slavery and told their father he was eaten by a wild animal. Some family! But all would not be lost as Joseph soon rose to be a very powerful ruler in Egypt, with God’s help. Soon Joseph’s brothers were seeking his help, and begging for his mercy. If there ever were a chance for revenge, this was it.

How did Joseph respond? He forgave them, mourned the time he’d missed with them, and offered to provide for their needs. What caused Joseph to forgive his brothers? He had learned the value of forgiveness and mercy.

One of the most difficult things to do is choose to forgive rather than seek revenge. Joseph had the power to punish his brothers for how they treated him and some would say he had every right to do so, but he chose instead to forgive his family. Like Joseph, none of our families are perfect. We all have struggles and difficulties, but if we desire to set a godly foundation for our families, we must learn to forgive each other.

You know better than anyone how difficult forgiving family members can be. The ones who are closest to you can hurt you the most. But God’s desire is for your family to be a place of forgiveness, grace, and restoration. You won’t feel like forgiving the loved one who wronged you, but just as God forgave you of your offenses against Him, so you can forgive your family members. The Bible says, *“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”* (Eph. 4:32)

Jesus is our example in every area of our lives. We look to Him for guidance in how to live godly lives on this earth. When it comes to forgiveness, His example is clear . . . forgive others as He has forgiven us. Others don’t deserve forgiveness for their wrong doings. But in the same way, we don’t deserve eternal life and forgiveness of sins. God has way more grace than we have sin.

How forgiving are you when a family member hurts you? This can be humbling, but don’t become so prideful that you hold on to anger and hurt. With Jesus’ example in mind, offer forgiveness when others wrong you.

Selected

Editor’s Note: The Bible is very clear that if you and I are not willing to forgive neither shall you and I be forgiven! You see that ‘forgiveness’ is a matter of the ‘heart’ (will), not the emotions. “And forgive us our debts (trespasses), as we forgive our debtors (trespass). For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses,

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Table of Contents

The Foundation of Forgiveness1-2
The Main Event • Accepted in the Beloved3
Five Definite Attributes Define the Deity of Christ • Children Need a Daddy •
Just Be Real in the Pulpit4
Waiting Still • By faith, Abraham5
From Our Fellowship Circle • ELCA Folks, listen to this man.....6
Editorial7
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable.....8-9
Thoughtful Praise.....9
Ministers of God • The Star in the Window • Thus Saith the Lord.....10
God so Loved • Revelation 3-511
Godliness with Contentment • Concerning th End12
Matthew 1-4 • An Arresting Phrase13
Good Tidings of Great Joy • Middle of the Roaders.....14
Learning From Lincoln • Self Esteem.....15
UpDate • Christmas Greeting.....16

neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matt. 6:12, 14-25. “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” Matthew 18:35. “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” Mark 11:25-26.

Please let me share one more Bible verse at this time, which is so important; *“bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.” Colossians 3:13.*

If we view our circumstances through the lens of Scripture - then our weeping will one day turn to rejoicing!

The Main Event

Luke 1:26-38

“You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.”

Luke 1:31

During the Great Depression that hit the United States in the 1930s, a family in the Midwest struggled to put food on their table. They had no money for luxuries.

One day posters all over town announced that a circus was coming. Admission would be \$1. A boy in the family wanted to see the show, but his father told him that he would have to earn the money on his own. The youngster had never seen a circus before, so he worked feverishly and was able to buy a ticket.

On the day the circus arrived, he went to see the performers and the animals parade through town. As he watched, a clown came dancing over to him, and the boy put his ticket in the clown’s hand. Then he stood on the curb and cheered as the rest of the parade moved by.

The youngster rushed home to tell his parents what he had seen – how exciting the circus was. His father listened, then took his son in his arms and said, “Son, you didn’t see the circus. All you saw was the parade.”

That story is a parable of Christmas, Many people get excited about the festivities but miss the main event. During this season, let’s remember what happened in a humble stable and what Jesus’ birth means to us. -Haddon Robinson

*The world drowns the carol with its sleighbells-
Giftwraps the manger-shoves it out of sight’
Yet though the darkness deepens and the din swells,
The Star of Bethlehem still shines as bright.*

-Gustafson

Jesus is the reason for the season

Taken from “Our Daily Bread”, Radio Bible Class Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI Copyright 2007, Permission Granted

* * * * *

“Accepted in the beloved” Ephesians 1:6

By C. H. Spurgeon

What a state of privilege! It includes our *justification* before God, but the term “acceptance” in the Greek means more than that. It signifies that we are the objects of *divine*

complacence, nay, even of *divine delight*. How marvelous that we, worms, mortals, sinners, should be the objects of divine love! But it is only “*in the beloved.*” Some Christians seem to be accepted in their own experience, at least, that is their apprehension. When their spirit is lively, and their hopes bright, they think God accepts them, for they feel so high, so heavenly-minded, so drawn above the earth! But when their souls cleave to the dust, they are the victims of the fear that they are no longer accepted. If they could but see that all their high joys do not exalt them, and all their low despondencies do not really depress them in their Father’s sight, but that they stand accepted in One who never alters, in One who is always the beloved of God, always perfect, always without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, how much happier they would be, and how much more they would honor the Savior! Rejoice then, believer, in this: thou art accepted “in the beloved.”

Thou lookest within, and thou sayest, not everything acceptable *there*. Thy sins trouble thee; but God has cast thy sins behind his back, and thou are accepted in the Righteous One. Thou hast to fight with corruption, and to wrestle with temptation, but thou art already accepted in him who has overcome the powers of evil. The devil tempts thee; be of good cheer, he cannot destroy thee, for thou art accepted in him who has broken Satan’s head. Know by full assurance thy glorious standing. Even glorified souls are not more accepted than thou art. They are only accepted in heaven “in the beloved,” and thou art even now accepted in Christ after the same manner.

Of Sin and Salvation!

The moral issue and the subject of repentance always appear in scriptural faith. Biblical faith is thus unlike the other religions of the world. Others have their rules and may be allergic to certain things they consider wrong, but they do not have that great moral standard symbolized by the Ten Commandments and supplemented by the teaching of the Scriptures in general.

Before the Babylonian captivity, a besetting sin with the Israelites was their tendency to yield to the more popular forms of idolatry in order to keep up with the times. Under Baal worship, they had made some clever moves to unite or blend the false religion with the true. We have noted that one thing Babylonian captivity did for the Jews was to set them free from everything that resembles idolatry. But until one is saved in his heart, he usually gives up one sin to adopt another. Selected.

Five Definite Attributes Define the Deity of Christ

By W. Herschel Ford

1. God is Omnipotent. Omnipotence is also ascribed to Jesus. While He was upon the earth, He had power over disease and death, over the winds and the waves.

2. God is Omniscient. This attribute is ascribed to Jesus. The woman at the well found out that Jesus knew all the secrets of her heart. God is the only one who possesses all knowledge, so we know that Christ is God.

3. God is Omnipresent. He is at all places at the same time. It is even so with Jesus. He tells us that He will be wherever two or three are gathered together in His name. He tells believers that He will be with them “even unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:20), wherever they may be. He is at all places at all times.

4. God is Eternal. In Genesis 1:1, we read the words, “In the beginning (was) God.” In John 1:1, God says, “In the beginning was the Word.” God told Moses to say “I AM hath sent me” (Exod. 3:14). Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58).

5. God is Immutable. He never changes. But we also read of Jesus that He is “the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Jesus possesses every characteristic of God; therefore, He is God.

Selected.

Children Need a Daddy!

The crying need in America and in our churches is fathers who will lead! Children need direction!

“Oh,” someone said, “my children lack self esteem. They need their daddy to love them and build them up.”

That may be true, but let me tell you what they need more. They need Dad leading them directionally.

That’s what the Bible said about the multitudes: “They fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd” (Matt. 9:36).

A family, like a church, needs a shepherd. A shepherd has not only a staff, but he also has a rod!

A father must have a plan! A father must have direction for himself from the Lord! A father must have the

backbone to say, “We are going to church. No, you can’t stay home today.” A father must have the backbone to say, “No, you can’t wear that.” He must have the backbone sometimes to say even to Mama, “This is not what we are going to do. This is what I believe the Lord wants us to do.”

By Dr. Dan Reed, *Daily Manna*

Editor’s Note: “Reverence for God gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security.” Proverbs 14:26.

Just Be Real in the Pulpit!

Earnestness in the pulpit must be real. It is not to be mimicked. We have seen it counterfeited, but every person with a grain of sense could detect the imposition. To stamp the foot, to smite the desk, to perspire, to shout, to bawl, to quote the pathetic portions of other people’s sermons or to pour out voluntary tears from a watery eye will never make up for true agony of soul and real tenderness of spirit. The best piece of acting is but acting; those who only look at appearances may be pleased by it, but lovers of reality will be disgusted. What presumption! What hypocrisy it is by skillful management of the voice to mimic the passion which is the genuine work of the Holy Ghost!

Let mere actors beware lest they be found sinning against the Holy Spirit by their theatrical performances. We must be earnest in the pulpit because we are earnest everywhere; we must laze in our discourses because we are continually on fire. Zeal which is stored up to be let off only on grand occasions is a gas which will one day destroy its proprietor. Nothing but truth may appear in the house of the Lord; all affectation is strange fire and excites the indignation of the God of truth.

Be earnest, and you will seem to be earnest. A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue. To sham earnestness is one of the most contemptible of dodges for courting popularity; let us abhor the very thought. Go and be listless in the pulpit if you are so in your heart. Be slow in speech, drawling in tone and monotonous in voice, if so you can best express your soul. Even that would be infinitely better than to make your ministry a masquerade and yourself an actor.

C. H. Spurgeon

Waiting Still

By Fred Jarvis

*I have a little fellow
His name, you see, is
Paul,
And when I need a favor,
I call and call and
call.*

*But when we serve
refreshments,
Ice cream and cake
And tea,
I only have to whisper;
He's right there at my
knee.*

*How off we older people
Are just like that, in
Fast;
We like to get what's
Coming!
How selfishly we
Act!*

*Our privilege and
Blessings
We all accept with glee,
But when it comes to Going,
How few say, "Lord send me!"*

*'tis true alike of giving;
The offerings some
hate,
And when it comes to missions,
Their least goes in the
plate.*

*Salvation was provided
Two thousand years
ago.*

Yet millions still are

*waiting;
Why have we been so
slow?*

*Oh, let us go now quickly
To lands where darkness
reigns
And take the truth of Jesus
To those in Satan's
chains.*

*Let's give ourselves and
money
To save them from
their fate.*

*Let's do our best to reach
them
Before it is too late.*

Selected

By faith Abraham, when he was called obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

(Heb. 11:8)

Abraham did not know where he was going. And yet he went, for God had told him to go. This was faith; for faith is obedience.

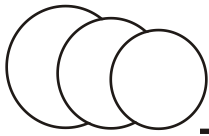
Faith is to obey without knowing *why*. Therefore Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son. Faith is to obey without knowing *how*. Therefore Abraham believed when God promised him a son. Faith is to obey without knowing *where*; therefore Abraham went out without knowing where he was going.

He who *believes* God need not *understand* God in order to obey Him. He himself need not see a way out; he need not know God's plan for the future. Faith is confidence. He who believes God relies on Him and commits his life and his pathway into the hand of the Lord.

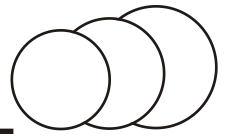
Faith is to leave the responsibility to God. His own sole responsibility is to be obedient and then cast himself upon the Lord.

Lord, teach me the obedience of faith.

Taken from "Rest A While" by Fredrik Wisloff



From Our Fellowship Circle



D. & A. T.

Seattle, WA

In times like these we need a Savior and praise God we have Jesus which is wonderful to know Him and to know He has forgiven me of all my sins! I still remember the day I went forward and Christ forgave me and gave me eternal life - that was on July 1, 1961 at Lutheran Brethren Bible Camp!

Thank you for a wonderful paper called '*Morning Glory*' that is filled with good stuff.

A. & J. L.

Souris, ND

Enclosed please find a gift of \$... for the ministry of the *Morning Glory*. Thank you for faithfulness in getting God's Word out to people who don't receive it in church!

U. & L. P.

Venice, FL

Thank you and may God bless your ministry. We share your articles with so many people!

Editor's Note: We Need To Hear From YOU!

* * * * *

ELCA Folks, Listen To This Man

I was honored to make the acquaintance of Bishop Michael C. D. McDaniels, former ELCA bishop of the North Carolina Synod, Director of the Center of Theology at Lenior-Rhyne College, Hickory, North Carolina, and a member of the ELCA Church Council. Throughout his tenure as Bishop of North Carolina (1982-1999), McDaniel had been an ardent supporter of the ELCA and an opponent of anyone who believed in the inerrancy of Scripture. Yet, several years prior to his death in 2004, the Bishop had a radical transformation, a conversion if you please. He came to love the Bible as God's "inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God," and he came to see the ELCA as a threat to authentic Lutheranism.

McDaniel's conversion for me was akin to the Apostle

Paul's conversion and the reaction of people in the early Church to his conversion. McDaniel once attacked me for my beliefs regarding the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture. Here are but a few excerpts of a speech McDaniel gave at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis:

"You are surely aware that the ELCA has been taken over by the very people our parents warned us not to play with when we were little. It is only now that the majority of our members are beginning, slowly and reluctantly, to realize that the persons writing our literature and directing our programs are hijackers, and that this church, once so dear, so wonderful, so shining with grace and glory, is way off course. As more and more people awaken to this fact, there are increasing distresses and demands that the leaders faithfully lead.

"To put human sexual gratification above the Commandments of God and the clear teaching of Scripture is simply unthinkable; yet, without any ELCA leader to say a clear "no," there is a continuing push for the ordination of homosexuals as if they were marriages. Furthermore, as long as the ELCA health insurance program covers abortions, a percentage of each Sunday's offering presented before the altar of the Lord is going to finance murder.

"In view of these and other matters in which the ELCA bows to the paganizing of the church, we must ask whether this ELCA that we are so benevolently offering to share with other denominations any longer qualifies as bona fide Lutheranism. Indeed, is it a Christian church?"

"In the study of God's word, the Pandora's Box of the higher-critical method (as professor Lawrence Rast has called it) must be firmly shut and thrown away. Much ink has been spilled over whether or not the problem is the method itself or those who have used it. But, in any case, let us avoid it. For, as the saying goes in the mountains of North Carolina, "if you lie down with dogs, you'll get up with fleas." I have dedicated the remainder of my life to attempting to open the eyes of my brothers and sisters in the ELCA to the liberating, glorious truth of the infallible, inerrant word of God."

Taken from "The Vine and Branches"

Revival

I have seen revival meetings without much advertising, but I have never seen a real revival without tears.

Hyman J. Appelman

Editorial

RES *HOPE*

“That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast; and which enters the Presence behind the veil.” (Hebrews 6:18 - 19)

HOPE has a lot to do with life as we journey from ‘hurdle’ to possibly a ‘mountain top experience’ (A person who has NO ‘hope’ is in a ‘hopeless position’ in their opinion). We ‘hope’ for those who we appreciate and love; including the *economy*, the moral decay, etc. for our beloved USA; *as righteousness exalteth a nation and sin is a reproach unto any people!* We ‘hope’ for a good job, education, position, health, retirement, etc. which is not wrong in itself. HOPE builds upon the solidity of God’s Word and is not a desperate grasping in the air; BUT a certainty, it is a **blessed, purifying, comforting assurance** knowing that God’s Word is forever settled in Heaven! Absolute certainty because GOD will *never* change, nor HIS PROMISES! (Being God will never change - neither will His Promises). We have an ‘anchor’ of the soul, both steadfast and sure **IN CHRIST JESUS!**

The noun “hope” when used in the New Testament, does not imply a wishful attitude, but rather a joyous and confident expectation in that which is promised will come to pass. For example: in a sports activity we ‘hope’ that our team will win. No doubt many times it is with enthusiasm, expectation and anticipation; but that does not guarantee ‘us’ that they will win! Yes, a good attitude is important, but it does not guarantee an absolute win!

There were a ‘few’ people in the New Testament time who were looking for the coming of the promised Messiah after 400 years of ‘silence’; yet resting on the surety of the Promise of God for HE can not lie! *“God is not a man, that He should lie. Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”* Numbers 23:19

When we speak ‘frequently’ of the coming of the LORD; Jesus did not speak of His coming for speculation or debate particularly; BUT with the purpose in mind to exhort and encourage us to live a godly life. *“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. Beloved, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”* I John 2:28, 3:1 & 3:3. WE are to be *“looking for the blessed*

hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” Titus 2:13-14. This blessed hope can be none other than *“our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope”* I Timothy 1:1b.

This is an **active and alive HOPE**: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”* I Peter 1:3.

In the meantime We are to be ‘occupying till HE comes’! **Saved by GRACE – we are saved to Serve!** *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* Ephesians 2:10.

Just think of the LOST who are facing a **hopeless ETERNITY!!!** *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”* John 3:18 & 36. (Where IN Scripture do you find that you are to be a ‘friend’ before you witness to others? YES, the **love of Christ constrains you/me!**

Consider the situation when a ‘ministry,’ that at large has ‘fallen’ by the ‘wayside’ by preaching only ‘positive’ messages, is correcting/rebuking a brother/sister IN Christ who is cuddling/practicing SIN IN LOVE. The question is not should a believer challenge another believer who is erring; **but how!** Just think for a few moments IF you were the one who is straying – would you appreciate a concerned/loving person ‘correct’ you with ETERNITY in view? *“Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death (separation from God & eternal Hell - Editor) and cover a multitude of sins”* James 5:19-20.

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work” II Thessalonians 2:16-17.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

The Story of ST. NICHOLAS

The Story of ST. NICHOLAS is more than Reindeer and a Red Suit. When he was imprisoned and tortured, Nicholas of Myra refused to deny Christ.

Once released he went out of his way to share the love of Christ by helping those in need. Your children would be amazed at the bravery of the man behind the legend of "Santa Claus."

Selected

Tanzanian Bishop Chastises ELCA

The Rev. Alex G. Malasusa, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, chastised the ELCA in his Easter sermon, and he had harsh words for the Lutheran Church in Sweden for their recent approval of same-sex marriages. "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania refuses to recognize the decision to allow same-sex marriages because it is against the Holy Bible. It's time Africa preached to the rest of the world and remind them of God's Word because it seems they have forgotten what the Bible teaches," Malasusa told his congregations. He also urged his church to strive for financial independence so that the U. S. and European churches "don't use their money and wealth to threaten us. Rather, we should leave them with their money and stick to the Word of God."

The Vine and Branches

The Faith/Testimony of Honest Thomas:

Did you know the Apostle Thomas was the first person to bring the Gospel message to India? Today, many Indian believers trace their heritage of faith to the man once called "*Doubting Thomas*". Thomas' real legacy was to carry the message of JESUS Christ to the far reaches of the known world. He faced many who despised his (God's) message, but his faithfulness sustained him even to martyrdom.

Selected

The Holy Spirit is faithfully working in Iran

Despite the government's crackdown, Christianity is alive and growing in Iran. There are 'many' hungry and open hearts in Iran!

Leila, a Muslim girl, needed answers to her spiritual questions (Not necessarily Iran). She went to her father, and he beat her. She went to her Islamic teacher, and he abused her. She finally found the answer in Jesus Christ – whom is the ANSWER!

Selected

New Jersey Train Conductor Fired After Burning Quran

A New Jersey train conductor who burned pages from the Quran outside a planned mosque near Ground Zero ...has been fired by Jew Jersey Transit.

The agency says in a statement that the worker "violated his trust as a state employee". New Jersey Transit would not elaborate.

The firing raises questions about whether the man's First Amendment rights were violated.

Ed Barocas, New Jersey legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, says a person can't be fired for off-the-job political expression when that person is employed in a nonpolicy-related role.

OneNewsNow.com

Denouncing America at Islamic Press Conference

Did you know that United Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, evangelical and other church officials very recently gathered with the Islamic Society of North America for an "interfaith summit" and press conference in Washington, D. C. to denounce a supposed "anti-Muslim frenzy" in America?

Portraying Americans as bigoted and "Islamophobic," these church officials and others claiming to speak for you and your church slammed our country as supposedly a dangerous place for Muslims to live. Of course, they cited opposition to the Ground Zero mosque as their evidence.... Does skepticism about building a megamosque at the site of 9-11's carnage at the hands of

"Whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 10:33

radical Islamic terrorists necessarily equal hatred? Many church officials evidently think so!

Institute on Religion and Democracy

Texas Education Board Approves Ban on “Pro-Islam” Textbooks

In a narrow vote, the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) ...approved a controversial resolution that calls for the rejection of text books that are “pro-Islamic, anti-Christian.”

The resolution passed in a 7-6 vote during a reportedly contentious meeting. Although the resolution has no impact on current standards, it sends a warning to publishers that Texas – the nation’s second largest textbook market – will reject all schoolbooks that are favorably biased toward Islam while painting Christianity in an unfavorable light.

“This resolution will ensure up front that potential biases are taken care of before these books reach the board,” said board Chairwoman Gail Lowe, according to the *Dallas Morning News*.

On Friday, the 13-member panel - two were absent - considered a resolution authored by Randy Rives, who is not a board member, which would prevent future Texas social studies textbooks from containing religious bias, specifically between Islam and Christianity...

The impact of the SBOE’s decision is expected to be felt nationwide. Publishers usually cater to the textbook demands of the larger states and offer those schoolbooks to students in smaller states. Texas is the second-largest textbook market in the country, behind California.

ChristianPost.com

Appeals Court Lets ESCR Funding Continue

A federal appeals court ruled ...that government funding of embryonic stem cell research may continue while a legal challenge to the Obama administration’s policy on the ...experimentation goes forward.

A three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a new suspension of a federal judge’s August 23 ruling that had halted funding of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) under guidelines published last year by the National Institute of Health (NIH). President Obama had issued an executive order earlier in 2009 overturning a more restrictive funding policy and ordering NIH to devise guidelines consistent with his decree.

The ability of stem cells to convert to other cells and tissues has provided great hope for developing cures for

various diseases, but extracting stem cells from an embryo results in the destruction of the days-old human being. ESCR has not proven as effective as other forms of stem cell experiments that do not harm the donor. It has yet to provide any treatments for human beings and has been plagued by tumors in lab animals.

BAPTIST PRESS

THOUGHTFUL PRAISES

(Read Psalm 47)

God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding - Psalm 47:7

I wonder what God thinks about the way we sing at church. I’m not talking about the quality of our voices, but the honesty of our words. If we’re being truthful, the following rewritten hymn titles might more accurately express what’s in our hearts as we sing:

“Just As I Am” is “Just As I Pretend To Be.”

“O How I Love Jesus: becomes “O How I Like Jesus.”

“I Surrender All” is actually, “I Surrender Some.”

“He’s Everything To Me” means “He’s Quite A Bit To Me.”

Jesus said that we are to worship Him in truth (John 4:24). Singing sincerely and with understanding is a serious challenge (Psalm 47:7).

Let’s take up the challenge by seeking God’s help to make the original titles of these hymns true for us. In repentance and without pretense, let’s turn to Him just as we are. In His forgiving presence, let’s declare total love for Jesus by surrendering all to Him. As a result, Jesus truly will become everything to us. Then we will be able to sing honestly about Jesus Christ and our love for Him.

As we make melody in our hearts to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19), let’s worship in spirit and in truth.

Joanie Yoder

You are the chosen of the Lord

To sing His highest praise,

And through the melody of song

To show His wondrous ways. - Anon.

To sing God’s praise, keep your heart in tune with Him.

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Ministers of God

In all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in labors, in watchings, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report as dying, and, behold we live (2 Cor. 6:4-9).

Paul also mentions other trials, such as imprisonment and the like, which we have not experienced. We are, however, familiar with the experiences enumerated in our text. It is in the midst of these trying circumstances that we will discover whether or not we are true servants of God.

What about our *patience*? A true servant of God will not be given to murmuring and complaining. What spirit do we display in circumstances of distress and difficulty? We are familiar with *labors*, that is, strenuous toil; but in our toiling do we show ourselves to be true and happy servants? What of *watchings*, referring to wakeful nights? The night should also be dedicated to the Lord in the event that He should require our service while others are sleeping. “By *honor*,” that is, when we enjoy popularity. So we show ourselves to be true servants of God at such times? “By *dishonor*” – when we are disliked, when people slander us and seek to damage our reputation. Do men find us also under these experiences to be such as are humble and willing to suffer?

Paul declared: “I do all things for the sake of the Gospel” (I Cor. 9:23).

Taken from “*Rest A While*” by Fredrik Wisloff

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The Star In The Window

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. John 3:16

During World War II, it became a custom in the United States for a family who had a son serving in the military to place a star in a front window of their home. A gold star indicated that the son had died in support of his country’s cause.

Sir Harry Lauder told a touching story about this custom. One night a man was walking down a New York City street with his 5-year-old son. The little boy was interested in the brightly lighted windows of the houses and wanted to know why some houses had a star in the window. The father explained that those families had a son fighting in the war. The child would clap his hands as he saw another star in the window and would cry out, “Look, Daddy, there’s

another family who gave a son for his country.”

At last they came to an empty lot, and a break in the row of houses. Through the gap a star could be seen shining brightly in the sky. The little lad caught his breath, “Oh, Daddy,” he cried, “Look at the star in the window of heaven! God must have given His Son too.”

Yes indeed! There is a star in God’s window. Do you realize what He did for you? Because of God’s love for us, He gave His Son, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:4). Have you thanked Him? — M. R. De Haan, M.D.

*For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son
To die on Calvary’s tree, from sin to set me free;
Someday He’s coming back, what glory that will be!
Wonderful His love to me. -Smith*

**Many give their lives for their country,
but Jesus gave His life for the world.**

Taken from “*Our Daily Bread*”,
Radio Bible Class, Grand Rapids, MI.
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THUS SAITH THE LORD

Is History repeating itself? Look at this passage in Jeremiah 5:30-31 and see: “*A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?*”

Certainly history is repeating itself! False prophets are on every hand, beguiling unstable souls and preaching their false messages from within the church (2 Pet. 2:1-21). The ministry has been degraded into a “profession” rather than a “calling,” and those who should be “undershepherds” have become “overlords” (I Pet. 5:2-3).

“And My people love to have it so. “How true today! The masses of people are content to have the false prophets tell them what they want to hear (2 Tim. 4:3-4) even though they do not speak the truth. And perhaps worse yet, many of God’s ministers who know the truth are afraid to “cry aloud and spare not.”

A church that has grown “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:16-17) and ministers who have become “*dumb dogs that cannot bark*” (Isa. 56:10) need to be awakened by the certainty of God’s coming judgment. God’s true servants will be sounding the alarm and crying aloud, “*Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord*” (2 Cor. 6:14-18).

M. H. Reynolds, Sr., 1952, *Foundation, Fundamental Evangelistic Assn.*, Copyright 2001

God so loved...

John 3:14-18

People around the world today are reacting to Christmas in a variety of ways. For many, this is a day of religious pageantry and ceremony. For others, today is the climax of a commercialized frenzy of foolish spending or a time of self-indulgence and sinful behavior. Others treat Christmas as they would any other day of the year. Some refuse even to mention the incarnation of the Lord of Glory.

For the believer, however, Christmas should be a reminder of the truth found in today's text. Perhaps no other verse in the Bible sets forth with such simplicity and certainty the wonderful love of God to all mankind as John 3:16. The gift that He gave was His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. The result of receiving that gift is everlasting life. How wonderful it is that this priceless gift is available to "*whosoever believeth in Him.*" Absolutely no one is left out from this invitation to eternal life (Rev. 22:17).

We do not know the exact date of Christ's birth, but we know He did come to seek and to save the lost and that one of these days He is coming again to receive us unto Himself (Jn 14:6). As believers we should rejoice in the glorious truth of the incarnation of Jesus Christ as set forth in I Timothy 3:16, which says, "*Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*" Make sure you have received God's wonderful gift and use this Christmas Day as a special opportunity to witness to unsaved loved ones, friends and neighbors. Many know about Christ, but they do not yet know Him. We must make Him known.

Taken from 'Feature'
Fundamental Evangelistic Assn., Inc.
Telephone 805-528-5335

Read Revelation 3-5

The church in Sardis had no Nicolaitanes, no Balaam, and no Jezebel. They could boast that there were no false teachers, nor was false doctrine being taught; but there was an equally serious evil. What a fearful revelation when the King who knows all things announces: *I know your works, that you have a name (reputation) to be alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen what still remains and is ready to die: for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent* (Revelation 3:1-3).

The world could endure the church in Sardis because it had "lost its purpose for existing" – just as a branch separated from the vine, it *could bear no fruit* (John 15:1-10). Thankfully there were *a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life* (Revelation 3:4-5).

Although the Christians in Philadelphia had little strength, Jesus commended them for their faithfulness, saying: You have kept My Word, and have not denied My Name (3:8). The Lord assured them: Because you have kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world (3:10).

The church members in Laodicea probably congratulated themselves on being moderate and broad-minded. They could pity the zealous Christians in other churches who provoked the anger of the world and the worshipers of false gods. The Laodicean believers could also pride themselves on their ability to compromise and make friends with those who hated Christ. But Jesus condemned this church for being *neither cold nor hot... ..because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth... ..You say, I am rich... ..and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind!* (3:15-17)

Our Lord appealed to them to buy of Him gold tried in the fire. ...Be zealous therefore, and repent (3:18-19), which means pay the price for true faith which is much more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire (I Peter 1:7), and pay the price for white raiment, to clothe your shame (Revelation 3:18).

Popularity, power, and material wealth can give a false perception of success and the blessing of the Lord. Compromise is self-deceiving and self-destructive. It distorts one's understanding of right and wrong.

Christ was not in the midst of this satisfied Laodicean church, but outside, standing at the door, knocking (3:20). To shut out Christ is to shut out the Captain of our salvation, the only Intercessor between God and Man, the Lord of our lives, and the Head of His Church.

Our Lord rebukes His people when we stray, and calls us to repent. Such rebukes are signs of His love. We have the promise that those who endure the testing and repent will receive promised rewards in eternity.

The King of kings is still knocking on doors of men's hearts with the invitation: To him that overcomes, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, even as I also overcame and am sat down with My Father on His throne (Revelation 3:21).

Taken from "*Bible Pathway*," Murfreesboro, TN

But godliness with contentment is great gain

1 Timothy 6:6

The stress of economic difficulty darkens many a home. I am not now thinking of the fact that many people are poor and live in very modest circumstances. That in itself need not darken their homes. But I am thinking of this, that many parents do not have the courage to tell their children that they are poor. The children have therefore no idea of how meager the resources of the home are. And when they see how well their companions are dressed and what expensive amusements they indulge in, they demand the same.

Then many parents do one of two things:

Either they refuse to give their children these things, but do not dare to give the real reasons for doing so – at which the children become irritated and feel that father and mother are doing them an injustice.

Or they give their children these things, though they know that they cannot afford to do so. They would not have their children inferior to their companions.

The family debt mounts, and the unhappiness of both the parents and the home increases. This is, no doubt, the situation in more homes than we suspect.

How entirely different it would be if parents would acquaint their children with their economic situation! Let your children know how much you have to live on for the month or for the year. Figure out for them how much there will be for clothes and how much for amusements.

Yes, some say, but is it not too early to darken the lives of our children with economic worries at their age?

Try, and you will see! You will not deprive them of any of their joys. On the contrary, you will be giving them something very valuable: *a sense of responsibility*. And with a new *joy*, the joy of helping father and mother make both ends meet.

You will also be giving them something more valuable than amusements and fine clothes. You will be helping them toward contentment. And those who receive a legacy of this kind begin life with a wealth of riches.

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Concerning The End

Father, I will that they also whom thou has given me may be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory. (John 17:24)

Ought we talk to young people, those who are just beginning their journey, and are yet in life's springtime, about the end? May it not mar their happiness? Yet it is only the simple fact which the Psalmist declares, "Our life is soon cut off, and we fly away." And, too, we may raise the question whether the thought of death necessarily does mar our joy in life or our relish for work. That may be true of those who are altogether of the world. Death does end all – at any rate it ends all that they understand life to be. These have good reason, indeed, to dismiss thoughts of death and eternity. But is such a course wise? The writer just quoted also says (Ps. 90:12) "*Lord, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*"

But we have already learned, that in the case of our Savior the thought of death not only did not mar his joy in his life's work, but on the contrary aroused him to greater diligence in "redeeming the time." Just as little did it affect his enthusiasm for life itself. Hear in that wonderful high-priestly prayer in John 17, uttered when he stood face to face with death, the clear note of triumph and glorious assurance. And how many of his disciples, with their end in full view, have remained strong and joyful, under circumstances which would have left the worldling without even the semblance of gladness and courage. Even so shall it be in your case, if you will prove yourselves disciples indeed of Jesus Christ; for the Master's prayer will be heard in your behalf, "Father, I will that they also whom thou has given me may be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory."

Let it ever be true of you, "In the world, but not of the world," and of you, living or dying, it shall be said: "All's well that ends well."

To this end may our heavenly Father renew and increase in you the gift of his Holy Spirit, to strengthen you in faith, to enable you to live according to godliness, to give you patience in suffering, and to keep you in the sure hope of everlasting life!

*Jesus, still lead on,
Till our rest be won;
Heavenly Leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our Fatherland.
Amen.*

Taken from "Follow Me" by Benevolus, 1905

Read Matthew 1-4

Mary of Nazareth was betrothed to Joseph, who was also from Nazareth and a descendant of King David (Matthew 1:18). It was the Jewish custom that the betrothal lasted for one year although it was not physically consummated until after the actual wedding took place. However, the Jews considered the betrothal as legally binding as marriage and required a divorce to dissolve it (Deuteronomy 22:13-30; 24:1-5). This explains why the angel told Joseph to *take unto you Mary your wife* (Matthew 1:20).

The birth of Jesus Christ took place this way: When His mother Mary was espoused (betrothed) to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child (pregnant) of the Holy Spirit (1:18). When Joseph learned that Mary was with child by a miraculous act of God, he found this hard to accept and considered breaking off the engagement privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, fear not to take to yourself Mary your wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, behold, the virgin shall be with Child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His Name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us (1:19-23).

Prophecy foretold that the Messiah would belong to the royal house of David. Both Mary and Joseph were descendants of David. However, if Joseph had been the biological father of Jesus, He would have been born with the Adamic sin nature which is passed on to the children through the father. This would have made Jesus a sinner, like all mankind, and thus unable to save us from our sins. Furthermore, He would not have had a right to the throne of David, because Joseph was a descendant of King Jeconiah, those descendants God had disqualified from ruling as Messiah (Jeremiah 22:24-30; also II Kings 24:8-15; II Chronicles 36:8-10). Mary was also a descendant of King David, not through Solomon and Jeconiah, but through Nathan, another of David's sons (Luke 3:31; II Samuel 5:13-14).

The miracle of the conception of Jesus had been revealed by the prophet Isaiah 700 years before the event, when he foretold: *The virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel* (God with us)...*the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor; The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6). The prophet Isaiah spoke of "the one" virgin in the history of mankind who would conceive miraculously by the Holy Spirit. This resulted in the birth of "the One" who is (Matthew 1:23). The (Holy Spirit through - Editor) Apostle John confirmed this when he wrote: The Word (Christ) was made

flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Our Lord and Savior was born by miraculous conception *in the likeness of sinful flesh* (Romans 8:3), but without the inheritance of the Adamic sin nature. Our Creator took on our physical nature in a miraculous union of the human and the Eternal One, so that we might be redeemed from sin and created spiritually new in the image of God.

Christianity started with a miracle, the Babe of Bethlehem, who was both the Son of God and the Son of Mary. Likewise, a miracle takes place in the lives of all who *receive Him, to them He gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: who are born not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God* (John 1:12-13).

Taken from "Bible Pathway," Murfreesboro, TN

An Arresting Phrase

Luke 3:23 - 38

You may have heard of the man who had been reading the phone book. When asked what he thought of it, he replied, "Well, it has a large cast of characters, but there's not much of a plot." Perhaps that is your sentiment when reading the genealogical records of the Old and New Testaments. You know what it is like when you come to them – you heave a sigh, your eyes glaze over, you start to wade through them and finally give up and move on, wondering to yourself what earthly good there could be in including such a list of names in the first place! This is exactly what too many Bible readers do – they either skip over such a list of names or read them quickly so as to move on. Yet it is important to pause and see their importance.

Unlike Matthew who provided a genealogy from Abraham (Matt. 1:1-17), Luke includes a genealogy that reaches back to the beginning of human history – to Adam (v. 38). The point is that Jesus is not only the fulfillment of the promises to Abraham (v. 34) and to David (v. 31) but also the embodiment of perfect humanity. Jesus Christ is very God and very man – two whole and perfect natures joined together into one person. Thus, an *arresting phrase*, referring to our Lord, is employed by Luke in verse 23 – "And Jesus Himself." Why add the word *himself*? It would have been simple enough to say, "Jesus began to be about thirty years of age." Instead, Luke emphasized the personality that he had already described through the first three chapters – "the man Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 2:5). Mary was instructed to "call His name JESUS" (1:31), and Luke reveals this "Jesus Himself" – and none other, as His genealogy confirms. JED

Taken from "Feature," Fundamental Evangelistic Assn. Inc., Telephone 805 - 528-3335

Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:10-11.

JESUS was born on a dark winter night.

Yes, since the day of the fall, it had been one long night. Without light from heaven, the souls of humankind groped their way toward the grave, generation after generation. Without hope and with fearful forebodings.

However, some stars did light up the darkness.

They were the promises God had given the little, despised, and now so grievously oppressed, people of Israel. And there were some righteous and devout people looking for the consolation of Israel.

The darker it grew, the more precious the stars became.

And one winter night, while some shepherds watched their sheep outside of Bethlehem, the light for which they had been waiting finally came. The glory of the Lord shone round about them.

And they were sore afraid.

But the angel understood them and said: "I bring you good tidings of great joy. A Savior is born to you this night. Enter into the city and you will see Him yourselves!"

There upon he drew aside the veil and the heavens were filled with angels who sang the joys of Christmas into the hearts of fearful human beings.

Christmas fear and Christmas joy – the two have gone together ever since the first Christmas here on earth.

We all become fearful when the celestial light shines upon us and we see how little Jesus means to us, how occupied we are with ourselves and with our own affairs.

Let us now go hand in hand to the manger and tell Him the truth, how full of fear we are and what it is that we fear. And then let us ask that heaven may be opened a little also unto us, that we may join in the heavenly song of praise: "Glory to God in the highest!"

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Editor's Note: There seems to be some concern in regards to actually what time of the year Jesus born was (Incarnation). What difference does it make? The FACT is that HE WAS BORN TO DIE for your sin and mine; which is the absolute IMPORTANT FACT! "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. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (II Corinthians 8:9 & 9:15) "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star" (Revelation 22:16). "You are worthy, O Lord. To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things. And by Your will they exist and were created. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come! And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals: For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 4:11, 4:8b, 5:9-10)

* * * * *

Middle of the Roaders!

The middle-of-the-road man is the theological menace of this century. He has been a danger-driver; to his influence may be attributed the triumph of infidelity in the various camps. His vote has been the balance of power, and it goes almost uniformly to the theological leftists. The middle-of-the-road man commonly mistakes compromise for discretion.

Some years ago, on the rapid rise of modernism (liberalism), we believed that many of these people were self-deceived and did not intend to be companions in the destruction of the Faith and the distress of the true church; but as time has moved along and the results of liberalism have become increasingly evident, it seems impossible that intelligent individuals should not realize that.

The middle-of-the road man will tell you in private conversation that he accepts all the fundamentals, but when there comes a showdown, he uniformly votes with the opposition and consequently disclaims the Faith which he himself has professed, since he is easily the balance of power in popular assemblies. On that account, the middle-of-the-road man is a greater menace to the Faith than is the liberal.

Believers can meet the liberal in the intellectual forum and come out worse in a debate, but that fact avails little, since the victory and the argument are wrested by the popular vote. That is why the middle-of-the road man menaces the very life of the Lord's churches.

Dr. W. B. Riley

Learning From Lincoln

Few people have the tact that President Lincoln had when dealing with a situation that tempts one to use harsh measures.

When the darkest clouds of the Civil War were hovering over the Capitol, many things done by the generals were not approved by either Lincoln or Secretary of War Stanton. Lincoln let Stanton show his anger, and when the latter exclaimed, "I would like to write him a letter and tell him what I think of him!" Lincoln remarked quietly, "Well, why not do so? Sit down and write him a letter, saying all that you have said to me."

Stanton was surprised, for he thought that President Lincoln would object to this. He declared that he would take the president at his word.

Two days later, he brought Lincoln the letter he had written and read it to him. When Stanton had finished, Lincoln smiled and remarked, "That is all right. You have said all you told me you would. Now, what are you going to do with this letter?"

"Why, I am going to send it to him, of course."

"I wouldn't," replied the president quickly. "Throw it in the wastebasket."

"What, after spending two days on it!" exclaimed Stanton.

"Yes, it took you two days to write it, and it did you a lot of good. You feel a great deal better now, and that is all that is necessary."

The letter went to the wastebasket, and Stanton learned an important lesson.

What do you think was "the important lessons" learned from the president? Could it be that he learned the following:

1. Don't react in anger.
2. You don't have to say everything you think.
3. You sometimes can wisely leave well enough alone.
4. Seeking confidential counsel can keep you from making a mis-step.
5. Harshness is not a good approach.
6. Kindness seasoned with mercy is always in order.
7. A wrong response to someone else's wrongdoing can make a bad situation even worse.

What else did you learn from the Stanton-Lincoln illustration?

Adapted from 'Capitol Voice'/Sword of the Lord.

SELF-ESTEEM

"Let nothing be done through strife or vain-glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Philippians 2:3.

There is a great emphasis these days, even among Christians, on developing a positive self-image, building up one's self-esteem, and seeking self-fulfillment. The emphasis is on one's own self. But God's Word teaches differently.

One famous television pastor even developed his own unbiblical definition of sin: "Sin is any act or thought that robs myself or another human being of his or her self-esteem." Then he even redefined being born again as being "changed from a negative to a positive self-image."

Such concepts are diametrically opposed to Scripture, though often cloaked in pseudo-biblical garb, and they are leading multitudes away from the true gospel and true Christian life. We do not need a positive self-image. In reality, we need a realistic self-image – to see ourselves as God sees us. Paul warned: *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to ever man the measure of faith."* (Romans 12:3)

Paul served Christ faithfully for 30 years, yet still esteemed himself as chief of sinners (I Timothy 1:15), and testified that it was only *"by the grace of God I am what I am"* (1 Corinthians 15:10). Jesus said: *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself"* (Luke 9:23). *"God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: "That no flesh should glory in his presence."* (1 Corinthians 1:27-29)

Henry M. Morris, PH.D.

Taken from 'Days of Praise'

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**Compromise is Self-deceiving and Self-destructive;
It distorts one's understanding of right and wrong!**

UpDate

Closing one year & starting a new!

TIME is also a blessing/gift from GOD! You see in 'eternity' there are no Timex's watches/clocks NOR calendars as 'eternity' is 'timeless'! But GOD in His mercy broke down 'time' for our benefit even though we are 'eternal' beings! Isn't HE marvelous? "*So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom*" Psalm 90:12. Oh how we NEED to hear from you in order to keep this 'ministry' going - preferably on a 'regular' basis; but rest assured that 'all' gifts are truly appreciated be they big or small in the eyes of man. May the Lord especially bless you who are obedient to His promptings.

Accept this challenge: Why not also share in this 'ministry' collectively through the Annual Meeting of your local congregation? *Time is fleeting and the need is great!*

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" Hebrews 11:6. We don't encourage to 'give' in order to 'get' but notice another of God's many promises: *Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine*" Proverbs 3:9-10.

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**Making no apologies for the old time
Christianity and seeking to
practice/preach the same
(by the GRACE of GOD)!**

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families and workers:
*May YOU enjoy the blessings
that God bestows upon YOU
and have a Blessed Christmas
and a truly Wonderful New
Year!*