



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2011

## A Fresh Joy of Christmas

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men.” (Lk. 2:14)*

Culture today views Christmas as a time for ailing stores to boost their sales. It is viewed as a time for people to get together and take time off work. The whole message of Christmas has been lost by many, even by many in the church. It is just another time to get and give presents, go to church and be with friends.

Perhaps it might do us well to go back to the original Christmas and consider afresh what really took place. Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, mankind is alienated from God. They are born that way and will remain that way unless God does something. Being alienated from God means that mankind is under God’s wrath because of their sins. This means that every person who will ever live is condemned to an everlasting place of fire, torment and separation from God. There is absolutely nothing that any man can do to change this. God is holy and He will judge each and every person in exact holiness. No one can stand before God in view of such standards, because *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* (Rom. 3:23) The reason that Christmas has lost its joy and real meaning is because mankind, and many in the church, have lost the view of the total depravity of man, and God’s judgment upon them because of that.

When we read that an angel came to Joseph, he spoke of what would happen to the Virgin Mary. He said of Mary, *“And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.”* (Matt. 1:21) Many people hear this old familiar line and just say, “Yea, I know that.” But friend, do you really realize what it means? It means that God has done the impossible in making a virgin conceive. It means that a man child is coming into the world who has no sin. It means

that God’s plan of redemption for your eternal soul is under way. It means that this Jesus is the One, and Only One who can save you from the fierce wrath of God. It means that only this Jesus can save you from your sins. It means that God can now extend good will toward you and everyone else. It means that now, peace between God and man is made possible.

Were it not for this Jesus, life would have no hope. There would be no way for anyone to earn forgiveness of their sins. Life would be nothing more than a dreadful awaiting of death and hell. Even the happiest and greatest moments of life would bring no lasting joy, because the dreadful end awaits when everything life offers is suddenly taken away. What would be the purpose in trying to accomplish anything worthwhile in life? It would lead to an attitude of “grab for all the gusto now, because the end is coming.” Is this not the philosophy of life most people live by today? Is it not because they have lost sight of the exacting holiness of God against the sins of mankind? Is it not because people have forgotten the great and glorious act that He has accomplished in sending Jesus to this earth?

When society views all religions as valid, then the announcement of Jesus is just a statement that one religion makes. But if they would realize that this very Jesus is the ONLY one who can bring them back to God, then suddenly the announcement of His birth brings wonder, amazement and great joy. When people realize the fierce control that sin has upon them ruining their lives, then the announcement of a coming Redeemer who will free them from sin’s strong grip upon them brings anticipation of a better day.

Even in the face of death, this announcement of Christmas has power and life. When you stand at the grave of a loved one, you suddenly realize what an enemy

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death is against you. But then the coming of Jesus to save us from our sins and the death penalty against us is the only thing that can bring peace in the midst of grief.

As Christmas comes again this year, don't get lost in all the externals of the culture. The externals are not bad, but they can really distract you from the real joy and meaning found in the incarnation of the Son of God into humanity. I know of no better way to do this than to set time aside to really read the Christmas story afresh and realize that all this was done for you me. Read of the eternal destiny of mankind outside of Christ in Revelation 20:11-15. Hear the final verdict of the Judge, *"Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity. I never knew you."* (Matt. 7:23) Realize that everyone marches head down to an eternity in the lake of fire forever and ever. Then realize that this is where you would be if Jesus had not come. This will make you appreciate afresh the statement, *"Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."* (Lk. 2:11)

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

**WHEN JESUS  
DIED ON THE  
CROSS, HE WAS  
THINKING OF  
YOU!**

# The Secret Things

*“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the works of this law.”*

Deuteronomy 29:29

This portion of Scripture follows a lengthy restatement of the Covenant of God with His people, Israel. In this chapter, Moses reminded the people of the works that God had wrought on their behalf in their deliverance from Pharaoh, in His provision for them in the wilderness, and in His protection on the battlefield (vv. 2-8).

In this final address, he encouraged them to “*keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do*” (v. 9), and stated the various blessings that would be theirs if they would do so. Lastly, he described, in graphic and burning words, the results of breaking the covenant and incurring the judgment of God (vv. 18-27). “*And the LORD rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day*” (v. 28).

In recognition of the limitations of humankind, Moses wrote in our text that there are certain things known only to God, which He has veiled – things which cannot be understood by the human mind – things which He simply chooses to keep to Himself. But he goes on to say that He has revealed certain things to us, and these things we must obey. Consequently, our text consists of a great principle of life: We must do what we know to do. We don’t know everything, but we must act responsibly and properly to that which He has told us, leaving the “secret things” and their consequences to God. Elsewhere, He promises that even the secret things will “*work together for good to them that love God*” (Romans 8:28) – in His sovereign plan. We must obey, doing what we know to do, and leave the results with Him. John D. Morris, Ph.D.

Taken from *Days of Praise*, Copyrighted with permission from Institute for Creation Research

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## The Law

*“Do we then make the law of none effect through faith? God forbid; nay, we establish the law.”*

Romans 3:31

Is not the command of the law, “Thou shalt, thou shalt not,” out of order in connection with the believer’s new attitude of heart and willing spirit?

Are not duty and love irreconcilable opposites? Does

not duty pass out when love enters in? And does not love go out when our relationship with God has become one based upon duty?

And if the law is written in our hearts, as the Scriptures say, is then any other commandment necessary?

Let us consider this briefly.

The new birth places a sinner in the right relationship to the requirements of God’s law.

Old persons feel that the requirements of God are a burden, for they are strange and inimical to them.

New persons, on the other hand, love the law of God and, therefore, also their conscience, which in such a remarkable way brings the will of God into their very souls. Believers look upon their conscience as a friend helping them, with vigilance and without guile, both *to know and do* the will of God.

It is this to which James refers when he speaks of the law of liberty, speaking of it as perfect.

Here he unites liberty and law. They seem to be mutually exclusive. But life unites them. For love is this very union of liberty and law. God is bound to the law of love to such a degree that He cannot act contrary to it. But He has bound Himself voluntarily.

The miracle of the new birth is that it frees us from the compulsion of the law and writes the law into our hearts, enabling us to feel that we are the free children of God.

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## Bad Tongue, Bad-Mouthing, Bad Deal!

F. E. Marsh

The tongue can be a blessing, but if it is not under control, it will be a bane.

- 1) A deceitful tongue (Rom. 3:13). A deceitful tongue is a lying one.
- 2) An empty tongue (1 John 3:18). Talk is not help.
- 3) An unbridled tongue (Jas. 1:26). Uncontrolled, the tongue is a curse.
- 4) A froward tongue (Prov. 10:31). Boasting is the essence of pride.
- 5) A lying tongue (Prov. 6:17; 12:19; 21:6; 26:28.) A liar is in league with the Devil and will be shut out of Heaven.
- 6) A flattering tongue (Prov. 28:23). Flattery injects conceit and leads astray.
- 7) A backbiting tongue (Prov. 25:23). A backbiter not only bites others, but in the end he bites himself.

Selected

# Don't Go in the Wrong Door

By W. Hershel Ford

I would hate to stand where the sinner stands today and have to think that there is nothing to look forward to but death and Hell. Yet that is all there is to a sinner's future.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne was a great preacher of Scotland. He died as a young man, but his name had become a household word in thousands of Scottish homes. He preached one night on the text, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9).

In the congregation, there was a lost man to whom he had often preached and to whom he had spoken personally about his soul. That night, the Holy Spirit shook that man in convicting power. He saw himself as a lost soul on the way to Hell. He looked to Christ and was saved. He said to the preacher, "I got in tonight. I know I am saved. The trouble before was that I was trying to go in the wrong door."

"What do you mean?" asked the preacher.

The man said, "I have been trying to get in at the saint's door. I thought that I had to live a perfect life to be saved, and I knew that I couldn't do it. You made it clear tonight that I must go in the sinner's door. I know Jesus is that Door. So I have entered in, and, thank God, a sinner has been saved."

Oh, the world is filled with people who are trying to enter through the wrong door! They are condemned now and will be condemned forever. Why? Because they are not in Christ Jesus. Selected.

\* \* \* \* \*

# When a Lost Person Comes to Christ

By C. E. Matthews

The transaction that takes place when a lost soul accepts Christ and is saved involves more than the finite mind can even imagine, much less understand. Many things occur when salvation takes place. A soul is redeemed; a pardon for the sinner is granted; a new name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, Hell has lost another of its victims. A bondsman to sin has been emancipated. The family of God has been increased by one, and this brings rejoicing in Heaven in the presence of the angels of God.

If we could ask great preachers, spiritual giants of other generations, the question, "What is the greatest thing one person can do for another on this earth?" The answer

would be the same from all. "The greatest thing any person can do on earth is to bring a lost soul to Jesus Christ as Saviour." Selected

\* \* \* \* \*

# Grace, Liberty, Commandment, Obedience

By F. M. Pack

Grace loves, forgives, redeems, saves, sanctifies and transforms; but grace also warns, pleads, denounces and prohibits sin. Grace never permits or licenses us to sin; rather, it is the only means of overcoming sin in our lives.

Alexander Maclaren, the great Scotch preacher, wrote: "Liberty is not exemption from commandment, but harmony with commandment. Whoever finds that what is his duty is his delight is enfranchised. We are at liberty when we walk within the limits of the Gospel; and they who delight to do the law are free in obedience; free from the tyranny of their own lust, passions and inclinations; free from domination of men and opinion and common customs and personal habits."

Taken from *Sword of the Lord*

\* \* \* \* \*

# When Sent by God, Failure Is Never Final!

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

Sometimes it looks as if God's servants fail.

When Herod beheaded John the Baptist, it looked as if John's mission was a failure. But was it?

The voice that rang through the valley of the Jordan rings through the whole world today.

We can hear its echo upon the mountains and in the valleys yet; *He must increase, but I must decrease.* John the Baptist held up Christ and introduced Him to the world, and Herod had no power to behead him until his life's work had been accomplished.

Stephen preached only one sermon that we know of, and that was before the Sanhedrin. But that sermon has been preached again and again all over the world. Out of his death probably came Paul, the greatest preacher the world has seen since Christ left this earth.

If a man is sent by Jehovah, there is no such thing as failure. D. L. Moody



# Editorial

RES

## *DOUBLE DECEPTION PLUS*

*“But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of knowing from whom you have learned them.” (II Timothy 3:13-14)*

Our ‘text’ for this mediation, from God is especially so for us considering that likely we are living close to what we call the ‘midnight hour’ and/or the ‘day’ is far spent; therefore we need to ‘redeem the time’ for night cometh when no man can work.

Deception is a very subtle enemy of our eternal soul that *we are!* Can you imagine the **horror** of missing HEAVEN for ALL ETERNITY by only eighteen inches? Now *if you* don’t really care where you will spend ETERNITY; don’t read any further of this ‘editorial’.

One definition of the word deceive is: “to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid.” Deception is “the act of deceiving, the fact or condition of being deceived.” Generally, ‘deception’ is exercised/practiced by the telling of a lie in order to escape guilt or to gain an end.

NOW please prayerfully read the entire third chapter of II Timothy; because your heart and my heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. I don’t say this; but GOD DID - **Jeremiah 17:9** then notice verse **10**. Now is this TRUTH telling only about some people, most people OR **all people?** (The latter is the Truth!). So we need to sit up and take notice *if you care* where you are going to spend Eternity! You know the institution of the Lord’s Supper (Sacrament) when JESUS said one of the disciples was going to betray HIM, the apostles didn’t immediately point their finger at Judas but asked the heart searching question: “Lord, Is It I?”

Scripture is very clear that we are to examine ourselves in the ‘light’ of the Bible. How we need to self-examine to check if we are abiding, continuing, residing **in Christ** OR *if* it is just ‘head knowledge’ and not ‘heart’ experience.

For example: remember that the Spirit of the Lord had left Samson and he knew it not! *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you are disqualified.”* II Corinthians 13:5. Here’s where we notice the distinct line of demarcation which separates the righteous person from the hypocrite and the self-deceived person.

Hypocrites fear self-examination and avoid it at almost any cost. Frequently they acquire much practice in comforting themselves and defending themselves against the restless thoughts which the Spirit of God puts into their conscience.

The ‘righteous’ (in Christ) somewhat fear also self-examination; but they desire nonetheless the ‘Truth’ and thus seek it. They want everything in the brilliant light of the Holy Scriptures. They desire to know the truth about themselves, even though it results in the passing of judgment upon their Christian life. They fear lest they have made a ‘compact’ with some sin. They do not want to defend or excuse some sin in their life. They have learned to have a holy lack of confidence in themselves – therefore they ask the Lord to try them! **“Search me, O God and know my heart! ...And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting!”**

*“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! Philippians 3:2. “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you before hand” Matthew 24:11, 24-25, Please read also vv. 12 & 13. NOTICE: Colossians 2:8, 1 Timothy 1:19, 11 Peter 3:17, Matthew 7:15, 11 Corinthians 11:13, Titus 1:16, Matthew 7:22-23 & Isaiah 56:10-11.*

*“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. Isaiah 8:20.*

*“Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds” II John 8-11.*

Martin Luther had three grave ‘concerns’ when it came to “Apostasy” (falling away/thus being deceived) and that is that we would believe others will be deceived,

others are being deceived; but that I will not be deceived! Thus he shares that (semi-quote) 'he who does not fear himself, has the greatest reason to fear of ALL.'

**Lord, is it I?**

By the **GRACE of GOD** the Morning Glory & Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is contending for the faith & makes no apologies for the old time Christianity!

**YES**, 'we' stand in **NEED** of your Prayer Support, Encouragement & Financial Means! - but **"THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!"** II Corinthians 9:15

*From the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation Board, families and workers;*

**YOU enjoy the rich blessings that God bestows upon YOU, and have a Blessed Christmas and a truly Wonderful New Year and make YOU a blessing!**

## WHY SING HYMNS?

*(Interesting!!)*

Our Youth Are Growing up never Learning the Hymns!

The definite 'trend' today is to replace traditional hymns with contemporary praise choruses. But 'actually' is this trend good? All ages (youth) today need the strong focus on doctrine that the hymns and choruses provide. Hymns present a clear expression of the knowledge of God, and they teach Biblical truths as Scripture admonishes:

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.**"* Colossians 3:16.

Therefore, most contemporary praise choruses lack this emphasis. For example, a Muslim can sing many of the contemporary praise choruses today and never utter a contradiction of his faith because these praise choruses tend to focus on our affections for God rather than on Scriptural doctrinal truth. On the other hand, a Muslim cannot sing a Christian hymn without professing doctrine that contradicts his Islamic faith. Many of the contemporary praise choruses often omit the identity of the God to Whom we sing, as they are so vague they could be sung to any false god. Good Gospel choruses are an appropriate role in our worship, but they should not take the place of hymns so rich in doctrine.

Not only is it unwise to discard 'our' traditional hymns, but dangerous in that it gives us a doctrinal distinction and identification about 'our' God. This does not make 'us'; but it does make us distinctively different in our 'worship' of our living God.

"Our" first and major concern (conviction) should not be what is most pleasing to my emotions and flesh, but what Hymns, Gospel songs and Choruses are the most pleasing to our Living God!

Singing traditional Hymns, that are doctrinal sound, is one way of helping to protect our younger generations from 'drifting away', as is the indictment in Hosea 4:1:

*"...There is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."* **Hosea 4:1**

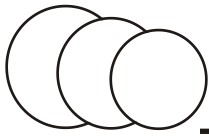
\* \* \* \* \*

***"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"***

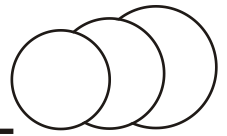
Isaiah 7:14

Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend. Let us adore and admire Him. His miraculous conception was a thing unheard of before and unparalleled since. "The Lord hath created a new thing in the earth. A woman shall compass a man" (Jeremiah 31:22). The first promise ran thus: *"The seed of the woman,"* not the offspring of the man. Our Savior, although truly man, was, as to His human nature, the Holy One of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin without the taint of original sin which pertains to all those who are born of the flesh. Every believer is a portrait of Christ. Let us joyfully remember our dear Redeemer's glorious birth. When did angels indulge in midnight songs, or did God ever hang a new star in the sky before? To whose cradle did rich and poor make so willing a pilgrimage and offer such hearty and unsought obligations? Earth may rejoice and men may cease their labor to celebrate "the great birthday" of Jesus. The golden name, Immanuel, is inexpressibly delightful. God with us in our nature, our sorrow, our lifework, our grave; and now we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and second advent splendor. The babe of Bethlehem appears to be manifestly with us in weakness. Oh, for true spiritual fellowship with Immanuel all this day!

Taken from *Morning by Morning* by C. H. Spurgeon, Copyright by Whitaker House, 1984



# From Our Fellowship Circle



**R. F. Bottineau, N. D.**

Greetings in that Precious Name of JESUS!

Somewhat recently the great grandson of Pastor R. P. Haakonson was at our place and I gave him a copy of the *Morning Glory* so he could read it for himself and then pass it on for his loved ones to read.

How I would like it so very much if you would send a copy of the devotional book "Altar Steps" by Pastor R. P. Haakonson, plus a subscription to the *Morning Glory*. Enclosed please find a check for the amount of \$..... to help with the expenses of your fine publication and the book.

You certainly do continue to print a wonderful magazine and we have been receiving it for many years.

My husband used to be very involved in the NW Innermission and the Conference they held each fall. But he is not able to do very much traveling now.

Sorry we are slow at writing and contributing to your work.

The Lord continue to Bless this 'ministry' we pray.  
In Him,

**Anonymous**

I am so thankful that I was privileged to take in a day of your recent Hauge Bible Conference at Ny Stavanger in Buxton, ND.

Oh, the messages – singing I haven't heard such since leaving ...years ago! I haven't words enough to thank everyone!

I so look forward each month in receiving the *Morning Glory*. *Morning Glory* and you are in my prayers and thanks again also for your prayers and concerns.

**Anonymous**

Enjoy the paper! All except 'Believable .....Yet Unbelievable - that is below what I care to hear about.

**Mrs. LV. K. Kandiyohi, MN**

This check is given in Memory of my husband, Herbert Kallevig; He was along on with the Lord's Work through the Innermission years ago. Our parents were too.

We miss him but know he's in Heaven and no more suffering.

I enjoy the *Morning Glory* – solid teaching.

**D. B. Casa Grande, AZ**

It has been a long time since I have sent you anything. I do pray that you may continue to boldly proclaim Jesus.

Use this gift wherever it is needed.

**S. J. A Minnetonka, MN**

I enjoyed your article on Hans Nielsen Hauge this past summer.

A year ago I researched him and gave a report to a family reunion. It was expressed at another reunion this past summer also.

An ancestor of my family, John Haugvald of Norway, was a leader of the Hauge Laymen's Movement in the Stavanger District. My ancestors of another generation settled in Green Lake Township in Minnesota and built a church there, and chose as their Pastor a Hauge Synod man.

My Grandfather and his brother both graduated from the Red Wing Seminary, a Hauge Synod School.

Your *Morning Glory* magazine is a wonderful publication. Thank you.

*The person who will  
not forgive others  
burns the bridge over  
which he himself  
must cross.*

# What About This RAPTURE Business?

By Pastor Tony Scheving

Two cars were sitting next to each other in the parking lot of a seminary near Milwaukee. The bumper sticker on one car said "Jesus is Coming." The bumper sticker on the other car said, "Escape to Wisconsin." This past spring a preacher by the name of Harold Camping falsely predicted that the world would end on May 21<sup>st</sup>. When it didn't happen, he promised it would end on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Sadly, he predicted the same thing about May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1988 and September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994. Each time he falsely prophesied, he mentioned that the rapture would take place, followed by months of chaos and plagues on the earth with millions dying. Harold Camping is unfortunately confused about a Bible doctrine. Just what is the 'rapture'?

While speaking of the second coming Christ, the Bible says, "*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord*" (I Thess 4:16-17). These verses, along with others in the Bible, speak of a generation of people that will see Jesus come back to this earth, and how true Christians will be snatched up into heaven in an instant when He comes. There will be a heavenly homecoming. Jesus said in Luke 17:35-36, "*Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*"

A preacher from over a century ago made the following statement: "The first century church thought more about the second coming of Christ than they did His death. The early Christians weren't looking for a cleft in the ground (grave) but a cleft in the sky called glory. They were looking for the 'upper taker' more than the under-taker." Someone said, "Fear always looks backward, sorrow always looks down, but hope always looks up."

The Bible speaks of "*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ*" (Titus 2:13). Furthermore, the Bible says, "*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*" (I Cor 15:52).

Many would mock at such a supernatural and spectacular event, but the same God who spoke the universe into existence, and raised His Son from the dead can easily snatch away those who are true believers in Christ from

off the earth in a moment's notice. While some may think they're too sophisticated to believe such a thing, Christian doctors, lawyers, engineers and college professors with PhDs all over the world believe it whole-heartedly. It's not a matter of prideful intellectualism, but humble faith!

The second coming of Christ could be at any moment. There are no Bible prophecies yet to be fulfilled for this event to take place. Jesus said in Matthew 24:38-39,44, "*For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered in to the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*" The Bible speaks of many indications of the second coming of Christ when it mentions an increase in earthquakes and natural disasters, pestilence, economic problems, a one-world mentality, the increase of technology, fast modes of transportation, spiritual coldness and other things. But can we know the date the rapture will take place and Jesus will return?

Jesus Himself said in Matthew 21:36,42, "*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*" Jesus makes it clear that no one knows the date when He will return, including Harold Camping. Down through the years there have been a number who have predicted the end of the world. William Miller, the unofficial founder of the Seventh Day Adventists, predicted the world would end in October 1844, and then again in 1845. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, also prophesied a deadline for the end of the world, which never happened. The Jehovah's Witnesses followed with several false predictions. Pat Robertson predicted it would happen in 1982. Hal Lindsey said it would happen in 1984. Ed Whisenant followed with his book, "88 Reasons the Rapture Will Be in 1988." But God has never rewarded the 'date setters' because only He knows when it will take place. The Bible says, "*The secret things belong unto the LORD our God*" (Deut 29:29).

So what harm can come from setting dates for the second coming of Christ? Sadly, it puts a question mark over those who believe in the doctrine and a shadow over the Bible. When Harold Camping falsely predicted the end of the world this past spring, the American Atheists Association held 'Rapture parties' in many major cities like Oakland, Houston and Ft. Lauderdale. They even put up their own billboards which stated, "The Rapture... You Know It's Nonsense!" The Bible says, "*Because by this deed thou has given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme*" (2 Samuel 12:14). It sounds like the story of the little boy who 'cried wolf' so many times, that no one be-



lieved him when the true emergency arose. Consequently, the Bible states, “*That there shall come in the last days scoffers, waling after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation*” (2 Peter 3:3-4).

So, let’s look at the facts. First of all, Jesus did come the first time to this earth, and there were 333 prophecies written earlier which said He would. He fulfilled all those predictions. Secondly, there are over 1800 prophecies that tell us that Christ is coming back again the second time. So, if we go with the Bible’s past track record, we are definitely on a collision course with destiny... Jesus is coming back again and no one can afford to be caught unprepared. Jesus Himself said, “*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh*” (Matthew 24:44). He added in Matthew 16:27, “*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels.*”

The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is to never forget the presence of Christ. The Bible says, “*Hope to the end of the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 1:13). 2 Thessalonians 3:5 says, *The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.* “The Bibles says, “*Wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come*” (1 Thess 1:10). Do you believe in the rapture and the second coming of Christ: Do you believe it without shame or apology? The very last thing Jesus tells us in the Bible is “*Surely I come quickly*” followed by the last prayer in the Bible which is, “*Amen, even so, come Lord Jesus*” (Rev 22:20). Now that you’ve read the end of the ‘last chapter of the book’, I hope you’re on the winning side.

Taken from *Faith for Life*

*Editor’s Note:* ‘My’ personal convictions based upon the Word of God (Bible) is that the RAPTURE (taking away) - in a “twinkling of an eye” will take place before “The Great Tribulation”; but in ‘case’ I am wrong: prepare for the worst and look for the better! In any ‘case’, the bottom line is to be *prepared, occupying*, and be **READY at all times!** The basic reason in being ready for the Lord’s coming, is not for speculation; but to encourage ‘us’ in *godly living*.

Signs are an indication of a coming event! ‘Many signs if not **all signs** have been met at least ONCE indicating that the **Trumpet Sound** (Rapture) could be close at hand.

Interesting that the Vatican on Monday (10/24/11) called for establishment of a ‘global public authority’ and a ‘central world bank’.

Please prayerfully read **Revelation 17 & 18** and see the possibility of the apostate church (any & all who minimize & or deny the **vital BLOOD ATONEMENT of Christ** for ‘our’ sins) and Islam (Muslims) wanting to take over the ‘world’. Remember now! I am not ‘saying’ that this is an exact, correct interpretation of what’s going to happen; BUT it gives you ‘*food for thought*’!

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## Labor — The Gift of God

“*And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.*” Ecclesiastes 3:13

Some people may have the feeling that having to work for a living is an imposition of a corrupt society.

Since they were brought into this world through no choice of their own, therefore the world owes them a living, they think. Is working punishment because of our sins?

Well, God did “curse” the ground because of sin, but in an important sense it was for man’s own good. “Cursed is the ground,” He told Adam, “for thy sake” (Genesis 3:17). It would require “the sweat of thy face: (v. 19) because man could eat his bread, and even then it would be “in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life” (v. 17).

But the work itself would not be a punishment, for even before he sinned, God had given Adam the responsibility in his Edenic garden “to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15). Furthermore, we shall have work to do in the new earth in the ages to come, for we are told that “his servants shall serve him” there (Revelation 22:3), even though there will be no remnant of sinfulness there at all.

Even in this life, work is a blessing when we see it as “the gift of God.” If we see it only as drudgery and hardship, then it can indeed be “in sorrow.” But the Lord Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

If having to work for a living will encourage us to come to Christ for salvation and peace of soul, then it is truly “for thy sake” that God’s curse was pronounced on the ground. The key to joy in labor, instead of sorrow, is noted by the apostle Paul. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men ...for ye serve the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:23-24).

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Taken from *Days of Praise*  
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# Seed

*And the seed should spring up and grow; he knoweth not how. The earth beareth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.*

IF we have by faith accepted Christ into our hearts, we have within ourselves the strongest power there is in life. This power operates within us constantly, day and night. There is continual activity in life's hidden workshop.

Always in accordance with a definite plan. If you have sown oats, then fully matured oats is the working model that is employed: first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

The strongest power that has ever been at work in our world is Jesus Christ. Now, I have received this Person, with all His liberating power, into the very center of my life. Beginning at this center and working out, He is to dispel sin from my whole being, from my soul and from my body.

The seed grows without our knowing how.

A profound mystery! Many children of God sit looking back upon their life with God; at such and such a time in the past you were more zealous, more spiritual, more useful to God, more circumspect with regard to sin, more strict with yourself. You see no growth! You have rather gone the other way.

My grieving friend, look at the shade trees. At this time of the year they stand there without a single leaf. Have they stopped growing? No, they have only shed last year's foliage.

It is hard when you and I must shed the old leaves. But the life is not in the leaves. The life is in Christ. His power, moreover, can work the more unhindered within us the more we feel our own impotence, the more dependent upon Him we become.

Remember how often His power has brought roses out of thorns!

Taken from *God's Word for Today* by O. Hallesby  
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**"I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12**

It is difficult to think that One Light can light the whole world. But such a light is Jesus. Where sin reigns He will take away the darkness and give light. When we

follow Jesus we are no longer walking in darkness, but we are walking in His Light. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" in order that we may have this Light.

It was Christmas time and the children were busy looking over the many gifts that the season had brought into the home.

"See the beautiful tree," exclaimed one. "And the lovely star at the top," cried another one. There was a great deal of noise made as they all discussed the various things that interested them. In the corner of the room sat a little girl by herself. She had said nothing, but she listened eagerly to all the talk. Her mother came and sat down beside her.

"Mother, is it pretty?" she asked as she put her arms around her mother's neck. The little girl was blind and could not see the pretty things in the room, so her mother described them to her.

Those who do not have Jesus are as blind as that little girl. Is your soul dark with sin? Let the Saviour wash it white as snow with His precious blood, and you will have light.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for coming all the way from glory to be the Light of the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

Taken from the 'family' devotional book *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson

*Editorial Comment:* You may have this special 'family' devotional book by ordering it from the HLIF with a donation of five dollars, plus one dollar for shipping.

**JESUS SAVES ONLY Hell bound, deserving sinners!**

**IF YOU are not on the WAY to Heaven, YOU are on the way to Hell!**

# True Repentance

“Repent ye, and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:15

MOST people think that to ask an unconverted person to repent is as easy as slipping on a pair of hose. But let us for a moment think of how the Scriptures describe the unconverted.

“Every one that committeth sin is the *bondservant* of sin.” Such persons are not “subject to the law of God.” They are “born of the flesh, and are therefore flesh.” And “the mind of the flesh is enmity against God.” They are “dead through trespasses and sins.”

How can any one then ask such a person to repent? Is not that as unreasonable as asking the lame to rise or the blind to see? Or as speaking to the dead?

Moreover, there is a great deal of evangelistic preaching in our day which is un-Biblical on this point. The unconverted are addressed as though they could convert themselves, yes, as though they desired to be converted.

My unconverted friend, permit me to tell you the terrible truth and you *cannot* covert yourself. You are a bondservant of sin. You are bound with shackles from which you cannot free yourself.

I have more to say to you. You do not desire to be converted either. You no doubt try to make yourself believe that eventually you will, but not just at this time. If you are honest, you will tell yourself that such talk on your part is pure falsehood.

But how then can Jesus say, “Repent”? Well, we are afforded here our first glimpse into the mystery of conversion as well as into the *gospel* of conversion.

We can repent when God speaks to us. When He has done this, something has happened to us. God has *spoken* to us.

Repentance consists in this; that a sinner chooses to *listen* to God when He speaks. Then the Word of God transforms this person into a new person.

Hearken to this, you who are still unconverted. Your only possibility of being converted is to give heed now while God calls you!

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# FOCUS ON ISRAEL

By David Barnhart

## *Things Are Not Looking Good For Israel*

Israel is facing increased isolation from a majority of nations through the world, following efforts in the Untied Nations by the Palestinian Authority to gain the recognition of a Palestinian state. The proposal to establish a Palestinian state has set the stage for protests in Arab streets, as well as a confrontation between the Israelis and the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Ultimately, the goal is not a Palestinian state but the destruction of Israel.

Turkey and Israel enjoyed good relations for many years. Turkey was the first Muslim nation to recognize the Jewish state in 1949. Sadly, Turkey expelled Israel's ambassador this past September after Israel refused to apologize for an incident last year in which nine Turks were killed by Israeli forces, when a Turkish ship attempted to break an embargo imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip. Over the past two years, the government of Turkey has grown increasingly hostile to Israel as moderate Muslims were replaced in national elections by radical Muslims. It is unlikely this attitude towards Israel will change anytime in the near future.

This past September, the Israeli embassy in Cairo was attacked and damaged while the Egyptian government did little to stop it. “Egypt is not going toward democracy but toward Islamization,” said Eli Shaked, a former Israeli Ambassador to Cairo who reflected the government's view. “It is the same in Turkey and in Gaza. It is just like what happened in Iran in 1979.” Add to these events the uprising in the region, as well as threats from Iran, Israel is facing a serious threat to her very survival.

There is not a city in Israel that cannot be hit by rockets and missiles. It is estimated that some 50,000 rockets and missiles are now aimed at Israeli cities by Hamas and Hezbollah. Even so Israel's arsenals are far superior to all who stand against her.

The next war between Israel and her enemies will likely be disastrous for all sides. The weapons are too numerous and powerful for anything less. In order to preserve her existence, Israel will have to respond with great force in the midst of highly populated areas. Israeli officials warned that a multi-front attack may be coming this winter, and that the attack likely will be greater than any known before.

Excerpt taken from *The Vine and Branches*

# Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

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## **The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Follows the ELCA over the Cliff by Endorsing the Ordination and Marriage of Homosexuals**

At their National Convention in Saskatoon this past July, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) approved a resolution by a vote of 205 - 114 that permits the admission of practicing homosexuals onto their clergy roster. The ELCIC also passed a resolution recognizing same-sex marriages by a vote of 192 - 132. This resolution now allows ELCIC clergy to preside at or bless same-sex marriages "according to the dictates of their consciences and according to the laws of the province where they serve."

During the debate, one delegate stated: "Nowhere in the Bible do I see anything in support of same-sex relationships. One day we will stand before God and we will be judged not by the UN Declaration of Rights or the Canadian charter, but by God's holy laws."

Selected

## **"Roll Out The Barrel." The New Evangelism in the ELCA**

A new program being funded by the Eastern North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota synods of the ELCA, dubbed "Project F-M," (Fargo-Moorhead) centers on gatherings in the basement of a Moorhead bar, where people can enjoy an alcoholic beverage while discussing theology. Advertisements for the program announce, "Meetings are free. Drinks are extra."

It should not go unnoticed that both Fargo and Moorhead are filled with thousands of college students. Moorhead is home to the ELCA's own Concordia College.

Adam Copeland, the mission developer hired to run the project stated: "The ELCA understands that being creative is important to keeping the church vibrant."

"We have no future if we don't have the next generation coming aboard...If we really care about the next generation, we need ventures like Project F-M that open up new territory," said Bishop Larry Wohlrabe of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. The bishop added, "*This is not your grandpa's new mission development.*"

The Vine and Branches

## **Christians, Jews and Muslims to Share Pulpits**

Churches across the States will be opening up their pulpits to clergy from the Jewish and Muslim faiths.

A few synagogues and mosques have also signed up to the Faith Shared project being hosted by the Interfaith Alliance and Human Rights First on June 26 (Editor: 2011).

For one day only, clergy will take to the different pulpits to read from their own scriptures ..C. Welton Gaddy, president of the Interfaith Alliance, encouraged churches to get involved in order to make a statement about pluralism and religious freedom .

...He said the event would also help to counter the perception abroad that Americans are hostile to Islam.

Alison Matheson for ChristianPost.com

*Editor's Note:* We must do what we can to reach Muslims for Christ; as they have an 'eternal soul' also; BUT we must protect our USA at the same time.

## **Homosexual Lifestyle and Same-Sex Marriage**

Approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Episcopal Church in USA, Metropolitan Community Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The United Church of Canada, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, Washington DC, The liberal media, The liberal culture, Liberal politicians, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Netherlands and Spain.

## **New President of the National Council of Churches in America**

Kathryn Lohre, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was recently elected as the next president of the National Council of Churches (NCC). Lohre, a graduate of St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN), holds a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School. Lohre recently was named as the director of ecumenical and inter-religious relations for the ELCA.

Currently Lohre serves as assistant director of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, a position she has



held since 2005. The Pluralism Project promotes cooperation and understanding among the various world's religions, and is headed by one of the leading liberal feminists in America, Diana Eck. Lohre also serves on the World Council of Churches' (WCC), central committee.

Selected

## Obamacare Ruled Unconstitutional

The 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on August 12 that the mandate in the Obamacare law which requires all U.S. citizens to pursue health insurance is unconstitutional. The three-judge panel ruled 2-1 in response to a lawsuit brought by twenty-six states. Next stop – the U.S. Supreme Court!

Sword Press Service

## Rape no Excuse for Abortion

On 11/8/11 the Voters in the state of Mississippi will have voted for or against the Proposed Personhood Amendment to their state constitution. If approved by the 'voters' the Constitutional Amendment would ban abortion except to save the life of the Mother, and it would ban cloning.

Selected

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## Bitter & SWEET

AS WE ALL KNOW everything in life is not always according to 'our' desires; BUT when we know 'our' Creator & Preserver as our SAVIOR, than we know (if we let go & let Him do the mixing, past, present & future together) ALL things work for our good and we will little by little be *more conformed into HIS image!* (Romans 8:28 - 29).

Recently my wife and I were planning on taking a vacation of app. eight days; seeing nature in action, relaxing and visiting with a few of the folk we are especially fond of. WELL if you are flexible when bent, it doesn't hurt so much!

Well we actually accomplished some of our plans; but spent a considerable amount of time getting into the very good medical clinic at Mayo in Rochester, MN.

BUT one basic reason I am writing this article at this time is the *wonderful Christian Hospitality* we experienced in the waiting period of time. It was such a wonderful, blessed time being privileged to stay with friends who made us feel so at home. For us the blessings were rich and abundant! Which brings me to the important Biblical **practice** (at large) of Christian Hospitality today?? Oh what 'blessings' Heaven awaits to pour out upon **us** IF we practiced the same and 'some' blessings we never will experience because of the SIN of **omission!** **GOD** created 'us' in need of *Christian Fellowship* in the home, church, etc. For example: **Hebrews 13:1.**

GOD entrusted to "US" – with sensing HIS PRESENCE a very warm and blessed time at the Hauge Bible Conference held at Ny Stavanger Lutheran Church of Buxton, ND. "*BEHOLD, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity*" (Harmony)! And "*When Paul saw them (believers), he thanked God and took courage.*" *Psalm 133:1 & Acts 28:15b.* Also "'Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.'" Luke 6:38. Truly our 'cups' were filled to almost overflowing! **Thanks and Praise belongs to the LORD!** (Thank you for your Prayer Support! Greatly appreciated!

A hearty *THANK YOU* to the Friends at Ny Stavanger Lutheran Congregation and friends and a special "Thanks" to the Ladies of the same who truly practiced *hospitality first class!*

The fellowship was great (Royal Blood Related), testimonies, prayer time, singing, preaching! Basically the 'only' thing that was missing – was YOU! Isn't it fantastic that the Lord of lords, and Kings of kings has promised (and certainly HIS Presence was sensed); where two or three are gathered in HIS NAME! **AMAZING GRACE!**

BUT how do we get many more folk to come under the 'hearing of His Word'? "**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" Romans 10:1, Proverbs 27:17, 28:9 & Hebrews 10:25. Oh how many of you who could have been with us *missed out* on many rich blessings from the Lord!

Many 'Christians' *KNOW* what they ought to be practicing/doing. Now it sounds like I am 'scolding', but I am seeking to share this concern for your benefit. James 4:17 & 1 John 2:1 & 2. Christian fellowship is a mutual benefit; not only what you and I receive, but by the grace of God input as well. The Giver of life said 'we' need it and HE is never wrong! It's for our benefit. **IF you 'think' you don't NEED Christian Fellowship** – it's a clear indication that you do.

I believe that one of the greatest NEEDS in our beloved USA is a real hunger among the children of God for the WORD of GOD! "*Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*" 1 Peter 2:1-3. **TRAGIC** some 'believers' are 'bored' with the WORD OF GOD! "**Behold, the days are coming; says the Lord God, 'That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it.'**" Amos 8:11-12.

# SOUND THE WARNING

By Gene Vukonich

On September 1, 1894, John Craig galloped up main street shouting, “We can’t save the town; don’t lose a moment, but fly.” By 3:45 p.m. everyone in Hinckley, Minnesota could hear a deep rumbling sound. A searing wind blew dense black smoke and cinders through the dusty streets. People were running outside, yelling, and looking for their spouses and children.

A number of people managed to get on the train leaving Hinckley, but many were left behind. The fire was 15 minutes behind them and pursuing them relentlessly. Traveling north, burning bridges and blazing ties threatened to heat the rails to the point that they would warp and spread. The train slid into the depot at Sandstone with whistles of both engines shrieking to attract the attention of the townspeople.

The people at the depot stared dumbfounded at the sight of the blackened coaches and sooty refugees from Hinckley. Box car doors slid open, revealing more frightened passengers, some coughing and gasping for air, calling to the bystanders for water and urging them to get their families and climb on board to save themselves. Almost without exception, the onlookers wandered away in stunned disbelief. Few got on the train.

While gaping at the desperate refugees, the astonished villagers at Sandstone were not ready to throw down whatever they were doing. They could not yet comprehend what was coming at them. It just didn’t fit. Ten minutes later, the firestorm hit Sandstone and wiped out the town in mere minutes.

In Askov, Minnesota, it was the same. One Askov survivor wrote: “The train stopped briefly, and we were urged to get on board, but strangely we all refused like one man, for what reason I still fail to understand, and the train left.”

This abbreviated account from Daniel Brown’s *Under a Flaming Sky* reminds me of 2 Peter 3:9-10, “*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*”

Christian, could it be our task on earth to mingle with the undecided at the depot and help them realize the imminent danger ahead without Christ? We know the end of the story. Doesn’t that qualify us to tell it to those who don’t?

*Editor’s Note:* This challenging ‘article’ reminds us all who know Jesus as our personal Savior that ‘we’ are lights in a sin darkened world! *IF* a house were on fire with ‘folks’ inside not aware of the encompassing flames; how quietly would YOU knock on the door? Would you ‘whisper,’ only concerned that you might awaken folk that were/are sleeping so

soundly, thinking they might become disturbed or offended?

ONE way of compelling them to come in, is to prayerfully arrange for a series of Bible centered evangelistic meetings; to set an ‘alarm’ to the ‘church/community’ and urging folk to come under the hearing of God’s Word!

‘We’ are here to assist you in arranging for the same in Gospel Services, Gospel Tent Meetings, etc. *If ‘we’* can be of help to you; please let us know! **JOHN 3:16, 18 & 36.**

Back to this ‘article’ account; according to reports, 418 people perished in the great fire of September 1, 1894 that swept not only Hinckley but five other towns as well.

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## GOD GAVE HIMSELF

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

It is singularly appropriate that we look at this greatest of all on Christmas Day, for it records the greatest of all gifts. The theme of giving is very prominent in the Bible, with such words as “give,” “gift,” “gave,” etc., occurring more than 2,100 times. The first is Genesis 1:16-17 when God created the sun, moon, and stars “to give light upon the earth,” and the last is Revelation 22:12 when Christ will return with His rewards to “give every man according as his work shall be.” “He ...gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons,” as well as “life, and breath, and all things” (Acts 14:17; 17:25).

But the greatest gift clearly was when God gave Himself for a lost and undeserving world. It was the greatest gift because it met the greatest need, revealed the greatest love, and had the greatest scope and purpose of any gift that could ever be conceived in the heart of an omniscient Creator.

That was not the end of His giving, of course. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). “Trust ...in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17).

This great gift of God is abundantly sufficient to provide salvation and everlasting life for the whole world. But a gift only becomes a gift when it is accepted, and the greatest of all tragedies is that this greatest of all gifts has been spurned and even ridiculed, or – worst of all – simply ignored by multitudes who need it so much. When they brazenly refuse God’s free gift of everlasting life, they can only perish in everlasting death. God did all He could do when He gave His Son; for when He gave His Son, He gave Himself. HMM

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## Erring in Vision

By M. H. Reynolds, Jr.

God is unmistakably forthright when He deals with error among His own. The priests and the prophets in Isaiah's day had a serious problem; they could not see straight, for they were *'erring in vision'* (Isa. 28:7). These were the same kind of leaders Jesus Christ described in Matthew 15:14 as *"blind leaders of the blind."* The very religious leaders in Isaiah's day who should have been giving the people the truth and leading them in the paths of righteousness were instead, both by word and example, causing them to *"stumble in judgment."* Such blindness resulted in a false unity that brought these leaders together around tables with those whose filthiness would have been repulsive to anyone but a drunkard (Isa. 28:8). Likewise, even today, the errant saint will inevitably find himself in some awkward situations and fellowships. Clear spiritual vision will produce discernment that enables the believer to beware of such peril.

Today, many preachers are *'erring in vision.'* They are following and exalting the world rather than the Word. Yet the almost unbelievable increase of false teaching and false teachers in our day only serves to intensify the need for 20/20 spiritual vision. Perfect spiritual vision is available to every believer who is willing to view everything through the pure light of God's Word rather than through the wisdom of men. Those who walk in God's way will not be popular with the world, and the path may seem difficult at times. But the table that God sets before His faithful followers is pure and undefiled – it is a 'clean place' where those with clear vision can discern between right and wrong and can have genuine fellowship with others who do the same.

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**He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David**  
**Luke 1:32.**

IT is a strange greatness that begins in a manger and ends on a cross, and that during the whole time between these two poles, knows nothing but poverty, contempt, and persecution. And still it is on this road that our Savior not only was great, but also became great. The way of suffering is the king's highway. That He came down to a helpless and lost race, and at last gave His life to save that race, that makes him great to us, too. That which finally more than anything else coaxes a proud sinner to give himself to Jesus voluntarily, is that He gave all for us.

In one sense it is easily learned that for us, too, it is necessary to step down to get on the road that goes upward. But to do this, which we know is right, is not

learned so easily, because it means passing through death to life. For us the first step upward is to give ourselves wholly to him who gave Himself wholly for us; and from this point the road goes upward, away from sin, death, and the kingdom of Satan. It is also from this point that we must step down to helpless men, if we are to bring them to Him who can help all into the presence of God. Every new day opens a way for us to this serving love. *With* Jesus and *for* Jesus, there the road goes upward, there we become truly great.

God, give us the will and the power to go through life together with Him!

O ye who sorrow, sinking  
Beneath your grief and pain,  
Rejoice in His appearing,  
Who shall your souls sustain:  
He comes, He comes with gladness!  
How great is His good will!  
He comes, all grief and anguish  
Shall at His Word be still.

Taken from *Thy Kingdom Come* by Ludvig Hope

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**"He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." Isa. 53:7.**

Sheep are patient animals even when they have to suffer. That is why our Saviour was compared to a lamb. He did not protest against suffering when He died on the Cross, but bore pain and anguish patiently, without murmuring.

One summer day some travelers stood outside of a church in Germany, while one went to get the key to the church. Just then they noticed a lamb made of stone on the wall of the church. They asked an old woman who was passing by what the stone lamb meant. She said, "Many years ago a man was working where you see the lamb. The rope suddenly broke and the man came tumbling down. Just then a lamb was eating grass, and the man fell with his full weight on the lamb. It was killed, but the man was unhurt. He was so grateful that he made a lamb out of stone and placed it upon the wall as a memorial."

Jesus was bruised for our sins. Live for Him today and show your gratitude for His sacrifice.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy sacrifice for our sins. Give us grateful hearts with which to praise Thee as we ought. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Patient still and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer;  
Our sins by Thee were taken, Or hope had us forsaken;  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!*

Taken from *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson



## UpDate

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

The *Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation* is a faith based ministry. We are a Biblical pietistic, evangelistic Lutheran Free Movement that reaches into several foreign countries besides ‘many’ of our States within our beloved USA. Thus we are a missionary work that ministers to God’s servants in many different locations with the wonderful inspired, inerrant, infallible Message of the Bible (God breathed). **II Timothy 3:16 - 17**. We are sounding the trumpet for revival and soul winning on one hand and sounding an alarm for God’s people to take a stand on the other.

For over eighty some years the *Morning Glory* has held the banner high! We have the burden to help preachers, lay people and local churches in numerous areas.

The Lord graciously has given us a place and empowered us for the tasks before us.

We are dependent upon *individuals* and local congregations to stand with us and help us. **“The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself”** Proverbs 11:25.

ON your “Christmas List” where do we stand in regards to prayer, intercession and giving?

October Income for the *Morning Glory* is app. \$3,512.00 (Which includes the offering from the Hauge Bible Conference held at Ny Stavanger Lutheran in Buxton, ND).

Each month’s expense per issue (monthly) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,300 – plus definitely more!

P. S. How about chipping in some EXTRA, now at the end of the year, 2011?

*May the LORD richly bless you and make you a blessing!* **Thank You!**

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## Why Not??

As you are conscientiously working on your “Christmas List” of giving; why not give a ‘lasting gift’ that will have an effect on *Eternity*? Why not prayerfully consider putting some names and addresses of loved ones, friends, neighbors, fellow church members, etc. on the *Morning Glory* list?

OH how encouraging and lasting it would be to receive several hundred new names added to the *Morning Glory* subscription mailing list; AND this is definitely within ‘reach’ *IF* each of you who are in agreement with this Lutheran Newsletter conscientiously pray and follow through in obedience! Naturally include a contribution as the Lord lays on your heart what to give.

By the Grace of God; just think what a blessing this could be for the coming year and years as the Lord tarries!