



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2012

## The Excellency of Christ

Jonathan Edwards

**T**here is an admirable conjunction of diverse excellencies in Jesus Christ. He is the lion and the lamb. The lion excels in strength and in majesty of his voice. The lamb excels in meekness and patience.

There do meet in Jesus Christ infinite highness and infinite condescension. Christ, as he is God, is infinitely great and high above all. He is higher than the kings of the earth; for he is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is higher than the heavens. All kings and princes are as worms of the dust before him. All nations are as a drop of the bucket, and the light dust of the balance; yea, and angels themselves are as nothing before him. He rules over the whole universe, and doth whatsoever pleaseth him: his knowledge is without bound: his wisdom is perfect, and what none can circumvent: his power is infinite, and none can resist him: his riches are immense and inexhaustible: his majesty is infinitely awful.

Yet he is of infinite condescension. None are so low or inferior but Christ's condescension is sufficient to take a gracious notice of them. He condescends, not only to princes and great men, but to the poor of the world. He takes a gracious notice of little children. In him we find infinite justice and infinite grace. He is the judge of the world and will not at all acquit the wicked, or by any means clear the guilty. Yet he is infinitely gracious and merciful. He has grace for every sinner and even for the chief of sinners. In the person of Christ do meet together infinite glory and the lowest humility. There is equal honor due to him with the Father. Yet what a wonderful spirit of humility appeared in him contentedly living in the family of Joseph the carpenter and Mary, his mother, and

afterwards choosing outward meanness and poverty and contempt rather than earthly greatness; in his washing his disciples' feet, in his cheerfully sustaining the form of a servant and submitting to such an immense humiliation at death! He was a lion in majesty and a lamb in meekness. In the person of Christ are conjoined absolute sovereignty and perfect resignation. Though he sweat, as it were, clots of blood, yet he said, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." Though he be a consuming fire to sin, yet he is the life and light of sinners.

His infinite condescension marvelously appeared in the manner of his birth. The blessed Virgin was shut out by those who thought themselves her betters and would not give place to her. Lying in a manger, he appeared eminently as a lamb, he who was born to conquer and triumph over Satan, that roaring lion. He never so appeared as a lamb as when he was slain, and yet, in that act, he did in an especial manner appear as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. His humiliation was never so great as in his last sufferings. Never was he subject to so much ignominy as then. Never did he suffer so much pain in his body or so much sorrow in his soul. This act of his is celebrated by angels and hosts of heaven. "And behold I heard the voice of many angels around the throne; and the number of them was ten thousand and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory, and blessing.'" He will sit upon the great white throne. The devils tremble at the thoughts of that appearance. But to his saints, he will clothe himself wholly with sweetness and endearment. The church will then be admitted to him

# Morning Glory

Volume XCIV – Number 12  
December 2012

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

**Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland**  
**508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529**  
email: haugerep@cableone.net

**Send Announcements, Contributions, and Subscription Renewals to:**  
Barbara Stueland, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529

Internet Web Site: [hauginnermission.com](http://hauginnermission.com).

PUBLICATION OFFICE:  
HAGA PUBLISHING, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856

#### OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Kevin Gunderson .....Dexter, MN  
Vice President: Clifford Nelson.....Cannon Falls, MN  
Secretary: Jim Haga .....Shoreview, MN  
Treasurer: Paul Peterson.....Kenyon, MN  
Charles Hinderaker.....Austin, MN  
Duane Nessa .....Garden City, IA  
Matt Peterson .....Kenyon, MN  
Rodney Stueland.....Dilworth, MN  
Joel Zeltinger.....Bismarck, ND

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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

#### Table of Contents

The Excellency of Christ .....1-2  
Teach us to Pray.....2  
Tradition • The Best Way to See the Christ Child.....3  
Editorial .....4-5  
Start with Thanksgiving .....5  
From Our Fellowship Circle .....6  
The Fear of the Lord • A Lost Soul.....7  
Work • America’s Founding Fathers are “On Record” .....8  
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable.....9-10  
Our Best Defense • Get in the Game.....10  
Triumph Over Temptation.....11  
The Poor • Faithful in Little .....12  
The Love of God • Tragic Ignorance .....13  
Unsolicited Advice.....14  
The Second Picture .....15  
UpDate.....16

as his bride: that shall be her wedding day: the saints shall all be sweetly invited to come with him to inherit his kingdom, and reign in it with him to all eternity.

Taken from “*Behold The Christ*”  
Roland Bainton

#### Teach Us To Pray

The request is not how to pray, though He does teach us how. Neither is it what to pray, though He teaches us what. We know how to pray and what to pray better than we pray. “Lord, teach us to PRAY.”

We are tempted to let other good things displace prayer, and spend hours, days, and weeks for other things but only minutes for prayer. Knowing how and what is not sufficient. We must take time to do it, for God works in answer to prayer, and God at work is our greatest need.

A. C. Dixon

#### Divine P’s

Our Father ...Divine Person  
Thy will be done ...Divine Purpose  
Daily bread ...Divine Provision  
Forgive us ...Divine Pardon  
Deliver us ...Divine Protection

Selected

# Tradition

The Christmas tree is traditional; so is Santa Claus. We've always had him around at Christmas; he's really a tradition! (Ed. A fake, Santa Claus).

But just what does Santa Claus have to do with Christmas, anyway? And how did he get into the picture?

Well, my child, the figure of Santa Clause is actually a symbol of the holy Christian spirit of giving, in spite of what some people say about him. He represents a man named Nicholas who according to tradition, lived many, many years ago in Asia Minor. Nicholas' father was a very rich merchant who for years had no children. He and his wife prayed and promised God that if He would send them a child, they would train him to love and serve God. God answered their prayer and sent the boy, whom they named Nicholas. He was carefully and lovingly nurtured and well educated in the Christian faith.

His parents died, however, when he was quite young, and left him a great deal of money. The spirit of the Lord prompted Nicholas to give away all he had, with the exception of three small bags of gold, which at that time would have kept him nicely for the rest of his life.

One day he overheard the weeping of a neighbor's daughter, and he heard the father say to the girl that he was too poor to give her a dowry for her marriage. (In those days a girl could not marry unless she had a dowry, or a gift of money, to bring to her husband; if she could not do this, her father had to sell her as a slave.) There were three daughters in this family, and they all wept when they were told they could not have a dowry. The girl who was at the marriageable age wept loudest of all; she was the one Nicholas heard, and he couldn't bear it. He had all three bags of his gold at this time; he crept behind a bush under the window of the neighbor's home, and tossed one of his three bags of gold through the window. He did not want them to know who did it, for he remembered the words of Jesus: "When thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret in secret himself shall reward thee openly."

So the daughter was happily married. ...

Taken from *'Christmas Is Always'*  
by Dale Evans Rogers; Copyrighted

*Editor:* According to 'tradition' this story continues the same for all three daughters when they became of 'marriage' age and thus the 'father' became very requisite in whom this 'gratis' gift was coming from.

So the father had a 'watchman' stationed to 'catch' the "angel of charity". And the story goes on...

The word 'Santa Claus' is the Dutch name for St. Nicholas, and we adopted "Santa Claus" when the early Dutch settlers came to New Amsterdam (New York), etc.

IN a way this reminds me of Gal. 1:3-12, Scripture also speaks of another gospel, spirit, .....

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Best Way to See the Christ Child

LISTENING TO THE WORD – Matthew 5:3

By Norm C. Nelson

Herman Gockel writes, "Christmas, 1906, was going to be a cheerless day for the Erickson family.

Mr. Erickson was in poor health and out of work and had reached the point where he didn't care if Christmas ever came or not. He was depressed and irritable and made poor company for his wife, Anna, and his five-year-old daughter, Greta, as they sat around their coal stove on a cold December evening.

"Little Greta was seated on the floor, busily at work with her scissors, cardboard and paste, constructing a crude little 'manger set,' which she had spread on the floor in front of the stove. 'How do you like, it, Daddy?' she asked. 'Oh, fine,' said her father, 'And how do you like the manger?' she continued. 'I can't see it from here,' her father replied. Looking up into her father's face, Greta said, 'Daddy, if you want to see the Christ child, you'll have to get down on your knees.'"

I like that! If we want to see Christ, we have to get on our "knees" spiritually. Our Lord said "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." During this season, we travel in spirit to Bethlehem's manger. Let's make sure that we approach Christ every day in true humility. If we bring Him our weakness, He will give us strength. If we bring Him our sorrows, He will give us joy. Above all, if we bring Him our sins, He will give us pardon and forgiveness.

Remember, "if you want to see the Christ child, you'll have to get down on your knees"!

Taken from *'Morning Glory'*, a Ministry of the  
'Morning Chapel Hour', 1997.

# Editorial

## RES TIME

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)*

The above Bible verse is directed first towards the children of Israel (Jews), and secondly to the children of God.

Some of the same promises specifically directed to ‘Israel’ are also intended for you and me, who are ‘Gentile’ believers! You see, the Promiser is ALWAYS faithful and trustworthy to His promises!

Not so long ago I had a minor unusual experience. At the time of this writing I am privileged to also be employed part time in what we often call the secular world.

Well, as the hours of employment are coming to the close of the day, naturally I depended upon my wristwatch for the time of the day. Well, when I punched out on the computer, I then realized that, for whatever reason, my wristwatch had malfunctioned. Just as I was surprised at my timing malfunction, many folk are going to be surprised at God’s exact timing.

Amazing Grace, GOD ALWAYS wanting the best for you and me; broke down eternity into what we call time, and this for our benefit! God has informed us that there are literally 24 hours in a day, seven days in a week and six days for labor and a day of rest Sabbath (Sunday – New Testament). We have a God of orderliness and it started with creation as God Himself rested on the seventh day! From a human stand point, even more marvelous than this is the absolute TRUTH that HE gave us: The BIBLE (God’s Grace). The Bible is really only for needy people as HE wants the very best for us, even when the Truth hurts! “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom” Psalm 90:12.

Another marvel is this: “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living (soul) being;” Genesis 2:7. So each one of us not only have an ‘eternal soul’, but are a living soul that will one day spend all eternity either in His presence (Heaven) OR eternally absent from His presence in Hell. Yes, the span of life in this world is in the palm of His Hand and HE wants the very best for you and I in this world and in the world to come (eternity).

Another ‘marvel’ is that God has a place, plan and purpose for each one of us even while we were in our Mother’s womb or even before. See Jeremiah 1:5-10.

“The steps of a good man (not self-righteous man) are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way” Psalm 37:23, also 40:2 and Proverbs 16:9. With the call of God; HE enables us with His mercy, Grace and power to ‘walk’ favorably in the Light of His Word. (Our old-nature (self-life/flesh) is negative (rebellion) towards the will of God). The Scripture describes natural man as having NO LIGHT IN THEMSELVES. (See Ps. 1:1, Ephesians 2:1-10, Is. 9:2, 28:29)

Time will again be addressed in this editorial, but isn’t it interesting that “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold” Proverbs 22:1. The story is told that many years ago that one of the great ‘Caesars’, riding on his stately white horse for military inspection, came upon one of his soldiers who was under the influence of alcohol who claimed his name was ‘Caesar’ also! Caesar the great commanded to the effect: “Either change your name OR life style OR I will have you killed!” Beware of what happens when you, I, a church or the nation get taken away with P r (I) d e. (See Genesis 3, 11:1-9, Isaiah 14, Obadiah 3-4)

Sometimes you hear folk say they deserve more time and they want what they have coming. Personally, most certainly not me! Martin Luther shared that if we got what we deserve, we would be like a blade of grass; and I don’t believe we would be that fortunate!

Pay close attention to God’s Grace manifested through His Holy Word that ““He who believes in Him (Jesus) 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 and 36.

WHAT LOVE, GRACE and MERCY from the sinless Holy and Just ONE: John 3:16, Titus 3:4-8. Every tick of the clock and heart beat are gifts from Him – James 1:17.

Now during the Advent and Christmas Season; we pause and marvel at (likely more so) the Incarnation of God in the person of JESUS, who is true God and true man. At Christmas time there are many times gifts laden under a Christmas Tree. BUT the greatest GIFT ever was born in

a 'barn' and laid in a manger. Imagine the King of kings, Lord of lords being born in such circumstances! At this particular time in history it was not unusual for children of poor people to be born in such surroundings.

Wait a moment: the Lamb of God to be born in a 'stable'; which could have been filthy, dirty and not a pleasant smell, in order to be the perfect sacrifice to clean up (cleans) our stinky, dirty, rotten filthy hearts and give us a heart transplant, which means a NEW one spiritually! For example: Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:10-20 and Isaiah 1:18, II Corinthians 5:17, Isaiah 61:10. Most certainly the Christmas wrappings were not so attractive; but the content of the GIFT so 'marvelous' – Amazing Grace!

Another 'marvel' is that JESUS was named at (conception and before). "“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name, Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”" Matthew 1:21.

Notice God's timing: "“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" Galatians 4:4-5.

Believers are first called in the Testament 'Christian' in

the book of ACTS 11:26. Be very sure (by the Grace of God) that you are genuinely a Christian – please don't pretend; because that 'name' means something. Indeed JESUS becomes not only vital, but very precious to a child of God, adopted in the family of God. James 5:7, Isaiah 28:16, 1 Peter 1:7, 2:7, 3:4.

God tells us in His Love Book (the Bible) to redeem the time as the days are evil; you are salt and light in this sinful world! YES, time is fleeting and we need to make good use of the time so that opportunities/privileges, do not turn into regrets! Let the Holy Spirit lead as there is a 'rest' for the child of God, two fold- both spiritually and physically. (See Hebrews 4:11-16) HE knows the intents of our hearts. He tells us to Occupy 'til I come! "“We love Him because He first loved us”" 1 John 4:19.

Wishing/praying that YOU and yours may experience a very blessed and rich Advent and Christmas Season from me the Editor; my wife Barb and the Hauge Lutheran Board Members and their wives . (Maybe this will be the best Christmas for YOU, so far, on this side (time) of ETERNITY!!!

P. S. For those of us who know JESUS personally; with each new day of Grace – we are one day closer to Home (Heaven).

## Start With Thanksgiving!

LISTENING TO THE WORD – 1 THESS.5:18

By Wilbur E. Nelson

Would you like to make this day special? William Barclay shares ways to transform this day and every day.

Barclay tells about a man who stayed with a friend in a highland cottage up in the hills. His host was not a wealthy man; he was a shepherd whose work took him out for long days and nights into the hills.

Every morning the shepherd used to slip out of the cottage and his guest wondered where he went. One morning, the guest asked him and he shepherd said, "I go out every morning and I stand on the hillside and I take off my cap and thank God for the beauty of this world." We, too, would do well to remember to give thanks to God for allowing us to live in a world like this.

Then, too, we ought to give thanks for ourselves. One of the unfortunate things about life is that we often do not appreciate something until we lose it. Health is like that. We should thank God for the measure of health we have –

physical and mental. Let us thank God that He has made us as we are.

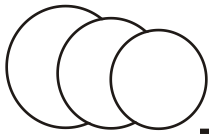
And, surely, we should thank God for Jesus. God gave His only Son. No one could give us a bigger or more wonderful Gift than that. Jesus came and died for our sins and rose again for our justification. And, if He is your Saviour, He will, one day, receive you to Himself forever. Yes, if we have eyesight or not, if we have physical health or not – in Jesus we all may have eternal life and spiritual vision and health!

Taken from '*Morning Glory*', November – December, 1997 (Morning Chapel Hour)

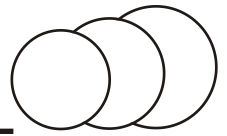
*Editor's Note:* We are born to live. JESUS was born to die for my (yours, everybody's) SINS! "“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich”" Romans 8:9.

***Is Prayer Your Steering Wheel  
or your Spare Tire?***

Corrie Ten Boom



# From our Fellowship Circle



**B. N.** **Mc Callsburg, IA**  
 I would like you to send the Morning Glory to me for awhile. I read some of the articles while I was getting my hair done. She (the Beautician) told me it was a voluntary cost. I am mailing a check to you to get started.

**M. H.** **Eagan, MN**  
 I would like to subscribe to the Morning Glory. I do not the yearly subscription cost, but enclosed is a check for \$.... If it is not enough, please let me know - in case it is too much, please contribute the remaining to your ongoing work.

God's blessings on you and your faithful ministry.

**A. & J. L.** **Souris, ND**  
 Please accept this donation of \$....  
 God Bless

**R. S.** **Ferryville, WI**  
 Thank you for sending me and my Family the Morning Glory!

**A. G.** **Karlstad, MN**  
 In everything give thanks through 'our' Lord, Jesus Christ!

Am sending a gift in appreciation of the Morning Glory. Praise the Lord for the Word that goes out to the world.

I am now living in an apt. in Karlstad. The last months have been difficult but thank the Lord – It is looking up! ... is such a blessing – so kind and thoughtful – stops by almost every day after work. Other Family member have helped a lot also, but are further away.

Some time I would like to tell you about my experience in the hospital.

Enclosed is \$... for the Morning Glory.

*Editor's Note:* What a privilege & opportunity to share with hundreds of folk what Jesus means to you and what HE is doing in and through your life; briefly in 'Our Fellowship Circle' – Why not?

Welcome!

*Wherefore also He is able to save completely them that draw near unto God through Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them* Heb. 7:25.

IT is through Jesus Christ that a sinner can appear before God, because in Him we are looked upon as though we had never sinned. But just as surely as we can go into the holy place and receive mercy and grace because of the atonement of Jesus, just so surely does Jesus appear before God and make intercession for us. And the Word here says that this intercession contains our complete salvation.

**Not** that there is anything lacking in Christ's work of atonement, but his intercession helps us to be victorious in our struggle to reach the goal of our faith. He who knows us through and through and on that account understands best what we need, He always prays the right prayer for us. And He who can show the emblem of victory that He won in the fight, He offers the prayer that is always answered. And that prayer is for us.

It is comforting to know that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us. You who often are fearful and think that your prayer is weak and withered, listen! Take a firm grip on this comfort that the Savior prays for you, that He is praying for you today. How securely and confidently we then can go out to our conflict and our work, in the full assurance that what happens to us today, too, is an answer from our heavenly Father to the prayers of Jesus for us.

*He is faithful that promised, He will do it.  
 He ever lives above  
 For me to intercede;  
 His all redeeming love,  
 His precious blood to plead;  
 His blood atoned for all our race,  
 And sprinkles now the throne of grace.*

Taken from 'Thy Kingdom Come' by Ludvig Hope, Augsburg Publishing House, Copyright 1939, Permission Granted

*Editor's Note:* Keep in mind the struggle/battle though: Romans 7

## The Fear of the Lord

**“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him and he will shew them his covenant.”**

**Ps. 25:14**

The Lord has many secrets that he reveals only to those who know Him; to those who obey His commands; to those who are willing to go all the way with Him.

Ole and Hans were very good friends. One day Ole showed Hans the new dresser he had received as a gift from his parents. He opened all the drawers but one for Hans' inspection. That one drawer contained a secret which was known only to Ole and his mother. Hans begged to see what was in the drawer; he persisted until Ole opened it. Hans was surprised when he saw only a bowl of cubed sugar. He could not see that a bowl of sugar was a very great secret! Ole, then, explained to Hans that he wanted to give some money to missions and had made a bargain with his mother.

Ole's mother let him have a little coffee to drink each morning and afternoon, and with the coffee a cube of sugar. She promised him fifty cents for a full bowl of sugar, if he would save it instead of eating it. He told Hans that he had already filled three bowls of sugar and this one was his fourth.

In later life, Hans said, “I have heard many sermons in behalf of missions, but none that has gripped me as did Ole's sermon.”

No one will ever know in this life how many souls were won to Christ through the secret that Ole had in his dresser drawer. Have you a secret with your Lord? A secret that will bring a blessing to others?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to know Thee and serve Thee so that many souls may come to Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Taken from the devotional book *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson, Copyright HLIF.

*Editor's Note:* Unless by the grace of God 'we' keep the home camp fires burning, **all missions** will eventually fade away; but to keep them alive is part of the ministry of the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A Lost Soul

Even so there shall be joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth (Luke 15:7)

GOD loses human souls every day.

He Himself says that one single soul is worth more than the whole world.

This is hard for us to grasp. We do not look upon souls in that way, at least not unless they are very close to us – such as our children, our spouse, our parents, our brothers or sisters.

God, however, feels that way about every soul. To Him each one is worth more than the whole world. This means that nothing can compensate for the loss of a soul.

Hear this, you who have wandered away from God.

He misses you.

As long as you are away, there is one missing from the flock. Therefore He seeks you. He tells us today how happy He will be when He finds you again. Indeed, He says all heaven will be glad. You have some one there waiting for you. No doubt you remember your father's last words to you. You will never forget your mother's tear-filled look before she closed her eyes in death.

You fathers and mothers whose children are out in the wilderness of sin, you who weep so often and sigh so deeply as you see the wildness of their ways: do not forget that Jesus is seeking them. He tells you today that He searches for His lost sheep *until He finds them*.

Friend of Jesus, do you help Jesus seek after the souls that have gone away from Him?

There are some souls that He will not find unless you come along and seek them.

Are you living your life in your home and doing your daily work with the purpose in mind of winning souls for Jesus?

God bless you! They who seek shall find.

Taken from *God's Word for Today* by O. Hallesby, Copyright – Augsburg Fortress, Permission Granted.

## God Speaking

*If you want to hear God speak audibly - read the Holy Scriptures (Bible) out loud!!!*

## Work

*And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)*

THIS is one of the many passages of the Bible about our daily life and our daily work.

The Scriptures tell us that our daily work is a service unto God, yes, a means by which others may be saved – even those who are hard to win.

In Luther's day to marry and establish a Christian home was not considered holy, but to remain unmarried and enter a cloister, on the other hand, was holy. To be a *mother* was not holy, but to be a *nun* was. To do one's daily work was not holy, but to make pilgrimages and give gifts to monasteries and churches was.

In this connection, too, Luther brought to light once again the Biblical view: God looks on the *attitude of our hearts*. In the daily life of the faithful Christian there are therefore no acts which in themselves are holy and others which in themselves are unholy. No, all our deeds are well-pleasing to God if they are done in the right attitude of heart; to the glory of God in Jesus' name, in love toward God in zeal for the welfare of others.

Luther says therefore that it is just as well-pleasing to God that we sweep the floor as it is that we preach the Gospel, provided that both are done in the right attitude of heart. Whether we are to sweep or to preach is simply a question of the gift of grace that God has given us.

Do your ordinary daily work therefore, and rejoice that through it you are rendering a spiritual service every day. Bo so doing you shall also win souls for God, even the hardest. You shall win those who, the Scriptures tell us, cannot be won by words.

Taken from 'God's Word for Today' by O. Hallesby, Copyright – Augsburg Fortress, Permission Granted.

*Editor's Note: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:16.*

---

### America's Founding Fathers are "On Record"

While the neophytes of today's contemporary philosophies are "on record" clamoring loudly that America is not a Christian nation, we understand that they want it that way. We know that they have rewritten the history books to accommodate their bias. We see them openly making

their pitch, but we want them to know we are not buying it.

In contradistinction, let's consider a few insightful comments from five of our nation's founders.

#### George Washington, Our First President

To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the most distinguished character of Christian. – May 2, 1778, at Valley Forge

What students would learn in American schools above all is the religion of Jesus Christ. – May 12, 1779, Speech to the Delaware Indian Chiefs

#### John Adams, Our First Vice President and Second President

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. —October 11, 1798, Address to the military

#### Thomas Jefferson, Our Third President and Author of the Declaration of Independence

God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? – 1781, Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XV111

#### Patrick Henry of the Famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" Speech

This is all the inheritance I can give my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed. – Last Will and Testament

#### Alexander Hamilton, the First Secretary of the U.S. Treasury

I have carefully examined the evidences of the Christian religion, and if I was sitting as a juror upon its authenticity I would unhesitatingly give my verdict in its favor. I can prove its truth as clearly as any proposition ever submitted to the mind of man. – 1802, upon Co-founding the Christian Constitutional Society

I have a tender reliance on the mercy of Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy – pray for me. – July 12, 1804, on his deathbed

It is safe for us to assume that these guys, eyewitnesses all, know just a tad more about our country than these thirty- and forty-year-old wet-behind-the-ears liberals who are pushing to get their communistic views enshrined in our national life.

Source for quotes; *Liberty Counsel*



# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

---

## “Someone Stole My God And Put A Bible In Its Place!”

“Someone stole my God and put a Bible in its place!” This convoluted title was given to an article posted on a blog of the Evangelical Lutheran Church ([www.livingluthern.com](http://www.livingluthern.com)). The article, written by ELCA pastor Tim Brown, claimed those who believe in biblical inerrancy have turned the Bible into God and are worshipping it. Pastor Brown’s article was written in response to a comment someone sent to him concerning a previous article he had written on the same subject. The respondent said, “...the Scriptures themselves are the only hope we have.” Brown replied: “I’m a Christian, a person of faith, and I have to say that my hope is not in the Scriptures.”

Brown quotes 2 Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is God breathed.” Then he comments, “the writer of 2 Timothy didn’t have a Bible. They only had the Torah, the Psalms and some wisdom writings.” Brown obviously neither wants to admit that Paul is the author of 2 Timothy nor that Peter refers to Paul’s writings as “Scripture” (2 Peter 3:14 - 16).

Brown concludes: “I take Scripture seriously, not literally. For me it is not some fable nor is it a golden book that fell from the sky. It holds the most intriguing story I’ve ever heard in which I put my hope — but it’s not the story itself and is certainly not the hope.” Brown claims his hope is based entirely on “a story” contained in the Bible, but still he insists that the Bible cannot be trusted.

*Editor’s Note:* Everything we know of Christ — His life, death and resurrection — are based on the Bible’s teachings. The ELCA has duped so many people over the years by their failed attempts to separate God from His Word. One wonders if Brown ever considered why the Scriptures are called “The Word of God.” Jesus said, “Sanctify them in the truth, Your word is truth” (John 17:17). Worshiping the Bible is an accusation that has long been hurled against those who believe the Bible is “the inerrant and infallible Word of God.” Like so many in our culture today, when people can’t put up a sound argument, they resort to name calling and false accusations. This is exhibit “A.”

Taken from *‘The Vine and Branches.’*

## Child Evangelism Fellowship Wins Legal Victory in Minneapolis

Minneapolis Special District No. 1 must reinstate the

Good News Club, sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship, in its after-school program, ruled the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit (on August 30).

The federal appeals court determined that the school district engaged in viewpoint discrimination when it ousted CEF for offering “enrichment programming from a religious perspective.” ...

...According to the court, “there is no logical difference in kind between the invocation of Christianity by the Club and the invocation of teamwork, loyalty or patriotism by other associations to provide the foundations for their lessons.”

Minneapolis Special School District No. 1 removed the GNC from its after-school program in 2009 based on the concerns of a newly-hired site coordinator who overheard a prayer and reference to Jesus Christ during a GNC meeting.

Christian Newswire

## First Civil Union Between Three Partners in Brazil

Controversy has been sparked as the first civil union between three separate partners was registered in Tupa, ...Sao Paulo state, Brazil (in mid August). The three-person union ... shocked religious groups, ...

And sparked further concerns that the traditional family unit is being further eroded...

Notary officer, Claudia do Nascimento Domingues, has explained that the three partners lived together and wanted to publicly declare their status in order to guarantee their rights.

ChristianPost.com

## Son of Hamas to make a Film about the Prophet Mohammad and Islam

Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of the infamous spiritual leader of Hamas in Palestine, recently made a trip (some months ago) to Israel, during which he addressed members of the Israeli Knesset. While in Israel, he announced his plans to make a film exposing Islam and the Prophet Mohammad. Yousef converted to Christianity several years ago after serving as a double agent for Israel. His story is revealed in his book, published in 2010: *Son of Hamas*.

Yousef said, “Islam is a religion of war and most Muslims don’t understand the true nature of Islam. This is the

time and I would like to announce it today here from Jerusalem and next to the Temple Mount.”

Selected

## Abortion Is a “War on Women”

“It’s a girl” has become a three-word death sentence to hundreds of millions of unborn babies across the globe...

The worst offenders are India and China — countries where ancient cultural traditions, dictating a preference for male offspring, join with pro-abortion government policies. It’s a deadly combination that allows for the deliberate extermination of girls...

Abortion for the purposes of sex selection is a horrific testimony of where the so-called “pro-choice” mentality of the abortion industry inevitably leads. When pregnancy becomes a “choice” rather than a child, there’s no limitation to why a woman can decide to end her unborn baby’s life.

LifeNews.com

---

## Our Best Defense

*We may plan a new world Charter  
And its pros and cons debate,  
How to build a higher order  
And a better world create;*

*But they build in vain who trust in  
Starry palaces and domes,  
For no nation’s worse or better  
Than the fiber of its homes.*

*Did not once an ancient statesman  
Say with fluent tongue and pen  
That the nation’s best defended  
“That can boast a wall of men”?*

*So our nation’s strongest fortress  
In this most important hour  
Is the virtue of its people  
And its character, its power.*

*Yes, the strength of any nation  
On its family life depends,  
And no program can replace it,  
For its failure make amends.*

*Would we build a real Gibraltar,  
For the past make recompense,  
We must know the family altar  
Is our nation’s best defense.*

—Author Unknown

---

## Get in the Game!

Every baseball team could use a man who plays all positions perfectly, who never strikes out and never makes an error — but there is no way to get him to lay down his hot dog and come out of the grandstands. Seldom is there a shortage of critics in the grandstands who are always able to say, after an error is made, just how the play should have been made. It is much easier to talk a perfect game than to play one.

The Christian life is a race, and we are to run it and not just sit in the grandstands looking on. Many are satisfied to look on rather than to play. Practicing Christianity has obligations for which every Christian is personally responsible, and only those who accept these responsibilities really know the joy of the Christian life. Selected

## Personal

In my opinion, my wife and I (and family) have gone through a major medical period and I/we want to express ‘our’ (which is inadequate) expression of ‘grateful thanks’ to the person who gave ‘us’ a very generous gift (anonymously) – thanks for the many of you being that wonderful ‘vessel(s)’ that ‘our’ God worked through – by PRAYER, encouragement and surrounded by love. May ‘our’ God, who is rich in mercy/Grace, etc. richly bless you and make you an even greater blessing to His Glory!

Thank you and may God richly bless you!

Thanks again!

# Triumph Over Temptation!

*“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”*

1 Cor. 10:13

If we would emerge victoriously from a conflict with the enemy, we must know our weapons and how to use them against the tempter and his temptations. In His mercy, God has provided us with effective ways of escape. Praise His name, we are not left defenseless! Victory, it would seem, comes to us in various ways.

## I. Watchfulness

Watchfulness is essential to victory. “Watch ... lest ye enter into temptation” (Mark 14:38). We often fail because we do not watch the beginnings of evil. One writer has it, “Our greatest security against sin lies in being shocked at it.”

A good deal of our temptation comes as a surprise. Surprise attack is one of the principal methods the tempter employs, and because we are so often not on guard, Satan breaks through.

How we need to have our eyes constantly anointed in order to detect his faintest approach!

## II. Prayerlessness

Prayerfulness is likewise a safe-guard. “Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.” A praying believer is a great hindrance to the Devil and his works. If we are constantly before God, that temptation may not overwhelm us and it will be difficult for Satan to take us unawares.

## III. Resistance

Here is another avenue of victory. James reminds us that if we truly resist the Devil, he will flee from us (4:7). Resist we must, at the very gate, on his first knocking." But how can we successfully resist our subtle foe?

Memory has helped many a man to fight hard battles. Thoughts of home and God has compelled tempted souls to cry, “How can I be guilty of this wickedness and sin against God?”

The story is told of a transformed criminal who always carried in his pocket the photograph of the godly lady who led him to Christ. When sorely tempted, he would draw out the picture and say to himself, “No, I cannot do it. He would be grieved.”

Our higher incentive is the thought of Christ’s near-

ness.

## IV. Conscience

Then there is conscience, which, when under divine control, is ever a deterrent force. Conscience would not suffer Joseph to take advantage of Potiphar’s wife. Moral courage is ever greater than mere physical valor.

Exhausting struggles are secretly fought and won. Our neighbors may never learn of our secret conflicts, which shine more glorious than those of any battlefield. The world has no knowledge of our battles and victories. God, however, chronicles them in His book of honors.

## V. Counterattraction

This is another way of victory. David sought to hide God’s Word in his heart that he might not sin against the Lord. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Ps. 119:11).

A mind steeped in God’s Word and a life filled with God’s Spirit offer a most effective counteraction to temptation, as our Lord’s experience in the wilderness clearly proves.

## VI. The Blood of the Lamb

Here is the mightiest weapon we have to wield against our archenemy as he seeks our overthrow. The more Spirit-filled (Ed. - controlled) and blood-covered we are, the greater the Satan antagonism. The Devil is out to contest every inch of ground we yield to our conquering Lord.

Are you being tempted this very hour? Then plead the efficacious blood. Appropriate the victory of the cross.

Be careful, however, to watch the tactics of Satan. Before we fall, he whispers that one slip will not matter; to taste forbidden fruit just once is a mere trifle. But this is tragic reasoning, for once we fall, something is lost that we can never regain.

Then, after we have fallen, Satan whispers that we may as well go the whole road. By creating despair, he tells us that it is hopeless to try to resist. But in this he errs, for by the blood of the Lamb we can become more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37).

As we hurl his lie back at his face, we tell such a false accuser that defeat can be transformed into a glorious victory, that his fierce temptations can be made stepping-stones to a higher, nobler life. Robert Browning declares:

*Why comes temptation, but for Man to meet  
And master and make crouch  
Beneath his feet,  
And so he pedestaled in triumph?*

Taken from *Sword of the Lord*

## The Poor

**If there be with thee a poor man, one of thy brethren, within any of thy gates in the land which Jehovah thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thy heart, nor shut thy hand from thy poor brother. Deut. 15:7.**

MANY are poor because they will not work. They boast of living in poverty and laziness, and consider it quite a matter of course that others are to give them food. To such people God's Word says: "If any will not work, neither let him eat." If no help were given to laziness, our living conditions would be better than they are. They who sew pillows under the arms of the lazy are not doing works of love, and are not walking the ways of God.

But among the poor there are also many who labor and toil hard but still are unable to earn enough for themselves and their dependents. If we close our hearts and hands against such people, we will fall under the heavy judgment of God.

Perhaps it is not right to say that it is God who lets such people dwell among us. But it says in God's Book: "*The rich and the poor meet together, Jehovah is the maker of them all.*"

When the poor man knocks at our door and is helped, he is glad. And he who gives is not only glad but also blessed of God.

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto Jehovah, and his good deed will He pay him again."

Let us try to believe this Word, too, and then we will have more success in lending to the Lord by helping the poor. He who is merciful toward us every day and gives us grace for grace, He desires that we help those who are in need.

Think of this, if you should meet a poor man today.

*Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;*

*Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;*

*Ponder anew*

*What the Almighty can do*

*If with His love He befriend thee.*

Taken from *Thy Kingdom Come*, by Ludvig Hope, Augsburg Publishing House, Copyright 1939 – Permission Granted.

*Editor's Note:* In my understanding of God's Word, this directive is especially towards those who are of the 'household of faith' – Galatians 6:10. Keep in mind that our 'forefathers' did not intend that it was up to the Gov-

ernment to take and divide to those whom it chooses; BUT it is we the people/church who are to consider what can I/we do for the betterment of my community, state, Country.

\* \* \* \* \*

**He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much (Luke 16:10).**

SOME Christians get very far.

When we learn to know them, we discover that it is neither their ability nor their knowledge, nor favorable circumstances which have won for them the high respect in which they are held. No, it is their person itself which wins such remarkable respect and confidence from those with whom they associate.

If we had occasion to inquire further, we would soon discover the secret of these people. They are *faithful in little things*.

They have learned to know that unfaithfulness is the hidden leak through which blessing and grace quietly ebb out of the heart. And therefore they have taken up the battle against unfaithfulness in *prayer* and in meditation upon the *Word*. How these people guard their *quiet hours* from all disturbance!

In their warfare against sin they are equally anxious lest they be unfaithful. They are afraid lest they dress up their sins in some attractive manner, or explain away their disobedience. They strive against fine and unnoticed sins just as energetically as against the obvious ones.

In such a literal sense are they faithful in *little things* that they do the little and unnoticed things that other people prefer not to do. There is no work that they consider themselves too good to do. Nor do they sacrifice only on important occasions. On the contrary, they avail themselves of the thousands of lesser occasions in their daily life to say "no" to themselves and to render service to others.

Their life is occupied with those daily *little* acts of kindness which are of most value to those with whom they associate and which require most of those who perform them.

They are not sinless. But their faithfulness comes to light also when they err. How they humble themselves both before God and others when they have done wrong! Wherefore their lost peace and power are quickly restored to them.

Taken from *God's Word for Today* by O. Hallesby Copyright 1994 by Augsburg Fortress, Permission Granted.

# The Love of God

**“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN  
SON...” John 3:16**

To give is the nature of love. If you love, you give. The one you give to may not be worthy of the gift, but you give it anyway. Just so, we as sinners were not worthy of God’s Gift to us, but He gave Him anyway.

A little boy who attended Sunday school was accidentally shot by his playmate. His father, who was a heavy drinker, did not realize that his son had been seriously wounded until the next morning, after he had become sober. Then He refused to believe that his son was seriously wounded.

“I know my little man will get well again,” he repeatedly said.

“No,” his little boy answered, “I will not get well. But, Papa, when I am gone, remember I loved you even when you were drunk.”

That is the way love would say it. As the little boy loved his father who was a drunkard, so we should love all sinners, for so the heavenly Father has loved us, and He keeps on loving us still.

Dear Lord Jesus, dwell in our hearts so that we will love those who do not know Thee. Help us to hate all sin. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*For God so loved the world,  
He gave His only Son,  
To die on Calvary’s tree,  
From sin to set me free;  
Some day He’s coming back,  
What glory that will be  
Wonderful His love to me.*

Verse by permission, Al Smith

Taken from the devotional book *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson, HLIF Copyright.

*Editor’s Note:* For a donation of five dollars plus \$1.00 shipping this family (year long) devotional book can be yours.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Tragic Ignorance

“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, “If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes.” Luke

19:41-42.

The Lord had finally acknowledged to the Jewish leaders that He was their promised Messiah, riding into the city on a donkey’s colt in fulfillment of prophecy ( Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-7), but they refused to accept Him and prepared to crucify Him. Therefore, Jesus wept over the city, for He knew it would soon be destroyed “because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation” Luke 19:44.

There are many other cases of such tragic ignorance in the Bible. For example, Samson .....wist not that the LORD was departed from him: (Judges 16:20) and it cost him his great strength and finally his life.

The ungodly sinners in the days of Noah “knew not until the flood came, and took them all away” (Matthew 24:39). Of the northern kingdom of Israel, it was said: “Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not” (Hosea 7:9). These “strangers” were the pagan Canaanites who had turned the people away from the true God.

Is not this also a real danger facing many church and para-church organizations of the end times, typified by the church of Laodicea? The Lord says to such churches, “I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:16-17).

May God deliver each of us from tragic ignorance of our need before Him. We should pray with the psalmist, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Taken from *Days of Praise*  
Permission Granted, Copyright, 2012  
Institute for Creation Research

**WHAT ARE YOU  
GRATEFUL FOR  
TODAY??**

# UNSOLICITED ADVICE

By Fred Willis

Someone said: "Unsolicited advice is seldom heeded and often scorned," but the Bible says, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning" (Prov. 1:5).

If you were on a ship out on the ocean, would you rather be foundering or floundering? A question similar to this was recently asked in a graduate school class at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. After a moment of silence, my daughter spoke up and said that she would rather be floundering. The teacher asked for the reason behind her answer.

My daughter said that a foundering ship is sinking, whereas a floundering ship is only struggling awkwardly. The teacher replied that the answer was correct and that out of all the times she had asked this question to her classes, it was the first right answer that she had ever received.

She was curious and asked my daughter how she knew the answer to the question. My daughter said that she grew up on an island (Hilton Head, South Carolina) and was around boats all the time.

***Until the race is run,  
until the journey done,***

***Until the crown is won,  
teach me Thy way.***

***— B. Mansell Ramsey***

I'm not sure that being around boats would be reason enough to know the answer, but my wife and I were proud that she answered properly. As I thought about these two words, I began to relate them to people. Quite frankly, I don't want to be foundering or floundering.

We live to sing, "On Christ the solid rock I stand," but I wonder how many of us really are on the Rock.

A verse from another song says, "I was sinking (foundering) deep in sin far from the peaceful shore ... sinking to rise no more." Have you ever felt like this?

The complexity and distractions of this present world are staggering compared to only fifty or sixty years ago. Many people are floundering (struggling) through this world because they do not know where to turn. They have tried alcohol, drugs, religion and other things, but to no avail. There is only one thing that will hold us steady in these troublesome days, and that is a close walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is sobering and exciting at the same time to see the prophetic words of our Lord and those written in many other passages being so rapidly fulfilled before our very eyes. In Matthew 24:7, our Lord predicted that nation would rise against nation. Have we ever seen this happen to the degree we see it today?

The world's leading nations, including America, are so perplexed (floundering) that they do not know which way to turn. The time for the Antichrist ripens with each world crisis.

As we approach our next national election (Ed. Past), many people are looking for a political Messiah to pull us out of the economic mess that we are in and save us from foreign aggression. It is scriptural for us to have rulers over our nation, but if you are looking for peace of mind from a politician, you are on sinking sand. It is God alone who will turn our nation back to where it needs to be, but we must first repent and turn to Him.

The spiritual Christian can remain calm and steady, as opposed to floundering, even in the worst storm that Satan can throw at us. As Peter walked on the water to Jesus, he began to founder (sink) because he took his eyes off Jesus and started looking at the "boisterous" (stormy) wind conditions that surrounded him.

We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and not be overly concerned with this passing world. If you feel that your life is floundering or foundering, why don't you turn to Jesus right now? He wants to steady your life.

Taken from *Sword of the Lord*.



## The Second Picture

The picture of the inner life of a sinner who repents and begins to forsake sin.

The angel with the sword, representing the offered grace of God and of Jesus Christ, holds up before the sinner's mind the reward and the consequences of sin: namely, death and judgment. By the Word of God the sinner is convicted, *"that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God"* (I Cor. 6:9-10). *"Tribulation and anguish will come upon every soul that doeth evil"* (Romans 2:9).

Terrified in conscience, the sinner will examine himself. Looking into his heart he finds nothing but sin and abomination. By the help of the higher light which now shines into his heart, he recognizes how hideous and ruinous sin is; he desires to be free from it. But he feels the power of sin, and he knows his own weakness and inclination to sin. Plainly he cries from the depth of his heart: *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* (Rom. 7:24). "God's grace in Christ," comes the answer. The Holy Spirit, who again has visited the broken and contrite heart, will now illumine it with divine light and give grace and power.

When the light of the Holy Spirit and the beams of grace are diffused in the heart, the devil must flee with his demon

followers. The loathsome figures, the repulsive animals, the seductive imaginations must depart. As soon as day dawns, the night vanishes. Grace is light; sin is darkness. When we begin to hate sin, Satan must leave. He rules only through sin and darkness. It is only by sin he can enter the heart. If we persist in wickedness, we open wide the gates and the doors for him. The love of God and the hatred of evil close the entrance and drive him away.

O sinners! Love the light, hate the sin, resist the evil, and Satan will leave you. Close your eyes to the world and to all temptation to evil. Open your hearts for the light of the Holy Spirit; welcome every ray of light from above. It will drive out sin and darkness, Satan and hell. Search out sin and darkness, Satan and hell. Search your hearts diligently and renounce every secret sin that may be hidden therein.

God with His grace is waiting for the door to open. He will enter as soon as you open your heart, and He will enlighten you and make everything within you alive.

By the help of God's light, you will be made able to recognize the evil creatures and the shadows of sin in their hideousness. God's grace, which is powerful in the weak, will deliver you from them.

## PRAYER

My God! Thou art the source of all light and all life. Thou alone with Thy Spirit can show me the abomination and perniciousness of my sins. Let the light of life enlighten my dark soul that I may see and live. Thou hast "no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live." Then show me the sin that blinds and destroys me, and holds me in Satan's bondage. Grant me Thy grace which Thou hast promised so graciously in Christ to all sinners. Let Thy grace penetrate my heart; wound and afflict it with pain and grief so that sin, death, and the devil must leave and give room for Thee.

Grant me the Holy Spirit that He may fill me with love to Thee and awaken a desire to keep Thy Commandments, that I may not let sin rule in my members, nor let Satan blind me and deceive me. Let me distinctly and consciously acknowledge that in sin there is no happiness, but that he who sins is the servant of sin and a child of darkness and hell. Help me never to forget what Thy Word declares that *"the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous."*

A righteous judgment, an eternal death, and an eternal condemnation await all who do evil. Help me to acknowledge my sins with heart-felt contrition and sorrow, and honestly confess every sin. Give me grace to turn away from every association and shadow of sin, and turn to Thee. Cleanse me and free me from the power of darkness that I may be receptive to Thy grace, Thy light, and Thy fellowship, and be pleasing to Thee. AMEN.

Taken from "Mirror of the Heart."

## UpDate

I am convinced that the last days of history are fast approaching. I am referring to what is commonly called The Tribulation Period; more accurately, the 70th Week of the prophet Daniel. Satan has begun to turn up the heat. He knows he is running out of time in which to fulfill his evil plan for Planet Earth.

Sometimes when ancient kings were traveling to a distant part of their kingdom, they had thousands of subjects out in front of them to make the pathway straight.

Even today, our President hops into a helicopter to speed his trip, avoid the traffic, and make himself more comfortable. If his journey is too long for the helicopter, he will enjoy the stellar comfort of Air Force One.

But John the Baptist, in heralding the Messiah's coming, was not speaking of the inconvenience of physical obstacles. No, no, a thousand times no! His message was spiritual. He was speaking of the valleys of sin, the hills of wickedness, the crooked places of iniquity, and the rough places of disobedience. These grievous obstacles were to be corrected for the King's coming. This was John's definition of repentance. John ... Was trying to prepare his nation for the Messiah's coming.

Perhaps no more profound and important sentence has ever been uttered by man. Therefore, please join me in reflecting on those thirteen words.

John proclaimed, "BEHOLD..." – There was nothing superficial here. This was not a call to a hasty glance. The idea was for the crowd to examine Jesus carefully. Check His credentials fully. Look into His genealogy completely. Miss nothing in the vetting process. No spot or blemish will be found.

John proclaimed, "Behold THE LAMB..." During the almost 1,500 years from Moses until Christ, the Jews were required under the law to literally sacrifice hundreds of thousands of lambs for a variety of spiritual purposes...

John proclaimed, "Behold the Lamb Of GOD..." All of the lambs sacrificed through the centuries were men's lambs. It was the best of their flocks; ... But the Lamb John identified was God's Lamb - God's provision for man's sin. Which provision for our sin will we rely upon when standing before a holy God to give an account of our lives - our provisions, or His?

John proclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God, WHICH TAKETH AWAY ...SIN." ...

Excerpts taken from 'Straight from the Heart' (Ed. -Letter) of Marv Rosenthal, President, - Zion's Hope

Periodicals Postage Paid at  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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

Volume XCIV • Number 12 • December, 2012  
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

*Editor's Note:* Being 'we' (Barbara) has been going through a major 'health affliction'; those of YOU who are financial 'donators', your receipts will be a little slower in coming for now – but we consciously are seeking to catch up. Hopefully by the time this information reaches you (the reader), there will be 100% recovery (long before), Lord willing, as 'we' know HE is the great Physician (both Spiritually & physically). Appreciate your patience & understanding!

The Spiritual struggles (also financial concerns) continue to be realistic — a word to the spiritually wise should be sufficient. WE continue to realize the need for you to uphold 'us' (This Ministry) in specific PRAYER, finances, and encouragement. Lord willing 'we' trust you will do the same as the Lord leads – it's His Work/ministry! Thank you and may you truly experience a very blessed 'Advent Season' and on.

October income for Morning Glory is unknown at the time of printing.

The actual cost of publishing and mailing each issue (monthly) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,000. There are definite other expenses besides.