



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2013

The Voice In The Wilderness

By Pastor Lars Stalsbroten

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is here declared to be the forerunner of Christ, the herald who bears the important tidings of the coming King.

The time of this unprecedented event is very carefully described. It is a historical fact. The secular rulers in power are mentioned first, and then the ecclesiastical rulers.

By merely mentioning such names as Caesar, Phillip, Tiberius, Pontius Pilate, Herod and his brother, Annas and Caiaphas we are brought face to face with a succession of the most appalling wicked and perverse acts in the world. One historian describes Tiberius like this: “He was talented, ambitious, cruel, licentious, infamous and inhuman.”

The State as well as the Church was in a very degenerate and deplorable condition. It was, without question, a most corrupt and evil age. It appeared as though the Prince of Darkness dictated and ruled without interference.

About 400 years had passed since a prophet from God had spoken. There had been a long and dismal intermission without a message from the living God. Malachi was the last prophet through whom the voice of God was heard.

But at the appointed hour God broke the silence. Perhaps the old saints which had been waiting for the consolation of Israel commenced to wonder and question: “Has God forgotten about His promises? Is He not going to send us a Saviour after all?”

But all of a sudden God spoke and we read: *“The word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.”* The word of God passed by the emperor, passed by the governor, passed by the tetrarch, passed the high priests, and lighted upon a man, called and prepared by God in the wilderness.

God works in a mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.

Where could the Word of God find a receptive place in a time like this? Not in Rome. We would hardly expect that. Not in Jerusalem. We might have expected it there, but no –

So it went outside everything to a wilderness which symbolically pictures the world’s spiritual and moral condition of the time. There in that wilderness the Word of God found vantage ground in a man who had been in the wilderness ten years alone with God. A man who was clothed in raiment of camel’s hair with a leather girdle about his loins; and his meat was locust and wild honey, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit of God from before he was born.

Almost 2,000 years have gone; and now we know that the most important event in the history of the world happened when the Word of God came to this one man.

After the Word of God came to him, he came with the Word to the people. It was a word of repentance and remission of sin. He should prepare the way for the Lord, so he preached about sin. Christ and Christmas means nothing to us unless we see we are sinners and in need of a Saviour.

John was sent to prepare the people for the Lord’s coming. Their hearts had to be prepared. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low.” In this figurative speech the valley represents the humble and contrite heart, while the mountains and hills stand for the proud and self-righteous.

The forerunner of Christ had in one hand the sharp axe, the law; that brought down the high and lofty, and in the other hand he had the gospel, which lifted up the poor in spirit. They could not exalt themselves, but the gospel lifted them up with its good news of forgiveness.

Morning Glory

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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.

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

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Kevin GundersonDexter, MN
Vice President:Vacant
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Through John’s preaching the mountains and hills were brought down, the valleys were lifted, the crooked places were made straight and the rough ways smooth. It was leveled so all flesh should see the salvation of God. They should see that they were all sinners and lost in the first Adam, and all could be saved through repentance and faith in the last Adam – Jesus Christ.

People from all walks of life swarmed out to hear this wilderness preacher. The crowds in the synagogue and the temple seemed to diminish quite rapidly, and the religious leaders became disturbed. They finally sent a delegation to John and asked, “Who are you? Are you Christ?” “No.” Are you Elias?” “No.” What are you then, so we can give those who sent us an answer.”

“Ah, I am just the voice of one crying in the wilderness.” What a humble answer.

Say, friends, have you ever had a wilderness experience? When you were brought face to face with God and your sin?

Martin Luther had such an experience over there in Rome when he climbed the steps of the Monastery. It was then and there God’s word of liberation came to him. He had been trying to work his way, but then it dawned upon him that “the just shall live by faith. The gospel of free grace came to him, and through him it came to the churches and the people.

The 5th of April, 1796 a farmer boy in Norway by the name of Hans Nielson Hauge had an extraordinary wilderness experience. It happened while he was walking behind his plow, humming on a familiar tune. The hymn is Number 315 in Concordia: “Jesus, for Thee and Thy blessed communion – Longing

possesses my heart and my mind.” God’s Word came to him through the verses of this hymn. When he had finished the second verse he couldn’t get any further. He was so gripped by the presence of God and the glorious communion with his Savior that his face was literally transformed. “Oh my God! Oh my God!” he said as he folded his hands against his bosom. He could not work anymore. He unhitched his horse and went up to his room. There he pleaded with God to have mercy on his people. In answer to his prayer he heard the voice of God saying: “Whom shall I send?” He whispered, “Lord, send me.” As he said this he became so concerned for lost souls that he felt he could die if he could only win one.

Before the year had ended everyone in his home was seeking the Lord, and as the years passed this word which came to him while he was plowing resounded throughout the whole land of Norway. God’s Word came to him, and he in turn came with the Word to the entire country.

What we need more than anything else today is a new wilderness experience. Many pastors today have no message because they lack a wilderness experience where they have been alone with God. We need fearless, God-called and God-sent witnesses. Dr. Ole Hallesby said when he was in this country in 1923 that the pastors were the greatest hindrance for revival in the Lutheran churches in America. Many pastors come out from seminaries as dead as if they came out of the cemeteries. The only hope for the Lutheran church in America is an old-fashioned revival starting with the pastors. How many are praying for that?

Taken from *We would see JESUS*

Editor’s Note: Just a slight correction on this timely article by Pastor Stalsbroten. Martin Luther didn’t come to the truth of Justification by Faith when he climbed the stairs in Rome. It was later when he was lecturing on the Psalms and Romans as a professor at Wittenberg. A fine biography of Luther is the work, *Here I Stand* by Roland Bainton.

Questions – Answered

By Dr. Curtis Hutson

Is it wrong to identify individuals by name when exposing error?

You say you think it is unkind, unloving and unchristian to mention names of individuals or organizations, even though they may be teaching error. And in your opinion, it does more harm than good.

Our behavior as Christians should not be governed by what we think but by the Word of God. Let me share with you several instances from the Bible where individuals were identified by name.

“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to

have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.” III John 9, 10. Here the apostle John identifies Diotrephes by name and tells what he did that was wrong.

“But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all. If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?” Gal. 2:14.

In Galatia, Paul rebuked even Peter publicly and by name. The reason for this is explained in verse 12.

“For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.”

When Peter was with the Gentiles, he ate with them and lived after the manner of the Gentiles. Then, for fear of some Jews from Jerusalem who were visiting the church, he compelled other Gentiles to live like the Jews.

Paul went on to explain in verses 15 and 16 that justification was by faith and not by keeping the law. Peter was not to change his message because the crowd changed. Later, in II Peter 3:15, even though Paul had rebuked him publicly and by name, Peter referred to Paul as “our beloved brother Paul.”

“Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works.” II Tim. 4:14. Paul identifies Alexander the coppersmith by name. Earlier in this same chapter, in verse 10, he identifies Demas by name: *“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world ...”*

Other examples could be given, but these are sufficient to show that it is not wrong to identify individuals by name when dealing with unscriptural and unwise practices and teaching.

The danger of not doing so is clearly illustrated in the case at Galatia: *“And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.”* Gal. 2:13.

Influential leaders who preach, promote and practice unscriptural philosophies will be followed by unsuspecting younger Christians by virtue of the fact that they are so influential. Peter’s influence affected even Barnabas who had been Paul’s mentor previously.

If Dr. ... had not named individuals in the ..., I would have been led to yoke up with unbelievers because of the respect I had for some preachers who were leading into such an unscriptural yoke.

Taken from *Sword of the Lord*

Editorial

RES

A TIME TO BE THANKFUL!

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable (unspeakable) gift!” (11 Corinthians 9:15)

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Psalm 105:1-2. Has it ever occurred to you that we can give thanks to our God not only by directly thanking Him but also by “mak(ing) known His deeds among the people” and “talk(ing) ...of all His wondrous works”? We all know that we can thank our Living Savior in prayer, expressing ‘our’ appreciation to Him publicly or privately. Have you been telling others about the ‘wondrous works’ HE has done in your life in order to ‘show’ thankfulness to God? CERTAINLY WE SHOULD THANK JESUS/GOD DAILY FOR PROVIDING A “FINISHED WORK” ON ‘OUR’ BEHALF AT CALVARY AND AN EMPTY BORROWED TOMB! *“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.” 11 Corinthians 8:9.*

WE ought to be grateful for the Word of God, which is entirely sufficient to equip us with the necessary knowledge concerning how to live in a way that honors the Lord. Our merciful and gracious Heavenly Father freely gives us these vital essentials of the Christian life. 11 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:89, Proverbs 30:5, Deuteronomy 32:3-4.

As ‘we’ are in what ‘we’ call the ‘Christmas Season’, stop and realize the greatest GIFTS/BLESSINGS in life are **FREE**: For example: Salvation, Freedom, Health, Family, Friends, Communion of Saints, etc. NOW that is not saying or implying that it didn’t cost Someone or some-ones a great price that we might enjoy these benefits. There is a ‘cost’ involved in maintenance.

In Luke 2:17 – 18 we read: *“Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the sayings which was told them concerning this Child. All those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”*

Yet His wondrous works and glorious deeds go further. All of us here at the Morning Glory/HLIF are thankful to the LORD for providing for our every need. For these many years, God has blessed us with the physical means by which we can carry forth His work. He has allowed us to publish Christian materials, the *Morning Glory* which is reaching into almost every state of our great

USA and into a few foreign countries and to minister one-on-one to individuals and churches. Of course, obstacles have hindered the work at times and discouragement sets in and it is apparent that Satan has intensified his attacks also. BUT God’s Word tells us clearly that those who live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. He never said the spiritual life or work would be easy.

BUT by what means has God kept this ‘ministry’ going forward all these years? HE has used HIS people to keep the work alive. He has blessed us with faithful friends as supporters who pray for us and labor with us in this portion of the Lord’s Work. He has brought us into contact with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have the same desire as we do – preach the Gospel, teach the Word and contend for the faith – to see the Lord’s work abound without compromise. It is so wonderful to know that we do not stand alone in the battle for Truth. **Thank you JESUS/GOD!** We certainly thank God for you who support ‘us’ through gifts, prayer and encouragement. TOGETHER though we seek to assist in keeping the ‘campfires burning’!

On one occasion, as David sat watching a fire burning, its bright flames slowly turned into ashes, he was reminded of how life, once bright, soon ends in death. The Holy Spirit moved him to write; *“While I was musing the fire burned (Psalm 39:3); and then he prayed aloud: Lord, make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am (39:4).* David’s words point out that the brevity of life is an issue for us all to consider (Hebrews 9:27-28), not just senior citizens.

David knew how easy it is to be caught up with daily activities, so much so that we lose sight of how brief our life on earth really is in comparison to eternity!

David continued as a sojourner; which means that you are just passing through. (See Psalm 39 & 90) SO David prayed for the Lord to teach him to number his days that he may get a heart of wisdom!

Frankly, but likely, as YOU have a ‘gathering’ at your family Christmas table; there will be at least one who will be missing (their ‘chair’ will be empty); who was with you not so terribly long ago, but now are in ETERNITY: **either saved or lost forever!** How ‘we’ need to “redeem the time” Ephesians 5:16.

IN THAT WONDERFUL *Birth Announcement* found in Luke 2:11-12, you find three personal factors of this Christmas GIFT: 1. Who the 'gift' is from, 2. To 'whom' it is given and 3. What the GIFT is!

While still living on the small Country farm on which I was born and raised my Christian Mother told me 'I thank God every-day for electricity'!

WELL, for a believer, it is always timely to 'thank the LORD'. You know when you receive a 'gift' it is very appropriate to give THANKS unto the GIVER (Personally)! Even when the recipient was UNWORTHY it is still appropriate. In fact, as soon as a person feels/thinks he is 'worthy' of the PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, that person is LOST! YES, JESUS was born to die for your sins and mine, and you and I were 'born' to live! WHAT

MERCY, GRACE, LOVE!

Luke 2:20 reads: "*Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.*"

WHEN I reach that Holy City, by the GRACE of GOD, the first Person I want to see is JESUS; for HE paid it ALL as is recorded in John 14:6 & Acts 4:12. "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." *REVELATION 4:8b – 11.*

P. S. By the GRACE of God are YOU going to be with me in Heaven celebrating the 'reality' of CHRISTMAS? *Revelation chapters 21 & 22.*

MEEKNESS AND MAJESTY

"(Jesus) began to wash the disciples' feet."

John 13:5 (Please read John 13:5-17)

Can meekness and majesty exist together in the same person? Amazingly, these wonderful virtues coexisted in the God-man, Jesus.

First, He was humble and meek. He didn't insist on luxury nor seek for the possession of material things. In fact, He didn't own or possess any property except for the clothes He wore. Compared to our day of investment portfolios, luxury homes, and Platinum Visa cards, Jesus was "dirt poor."

In terms of pursuing fame and glory, He walked away from more crowds than He called together. He was the leader, but He knelt to wash the feet of His disciples (John 13). In all things He humbly submitted to the Father's will.

Yet, with such beautiful humility, there was also an awesome majesty about Jesus. One word or look from Jesus could quiet a crowd, calm a storm, or make a disciple weep. Thousands followed Him as He lived and taught with unequalled power and authority. Although He died bearing our sin and shame, He rose from the grave in glory. One day He will return in majesty as King of kings and Lord of lords, vanquishing His foes and judging the nations.

How are we to respond? Worship Him. Honor Him. Love Him. Obey Him. For He alone is worthy of all our devotion and all our praise. – Dave Egner

*Meekness and majesty – perfect description
Of Jesus our wonderful Lord;
Humbling Himself to obtain our redemption,
Our Savior forever adored. – Hess*

**The high and holy One became
the meek and lowly one.**

Taken from *Our Daily Bread*, Copyright 2012,
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* * * * *

INSIGHT

No Old Testament prophet had as much to say about the Messiah Christ as Isaiah. Here, in addition to prophesying the nature of Christ's birth, Isaiah gives us the very nature of Christ by giving us a name for Him – Immanuel. In ancient Israel, names were not chosen or assigned randomly, they were filled with meaning. That fact is clearly evident here. The name Immanuel means "God with us," and that name of Christ was recaptured in the events leading up to Jesus' birth in Matthew 1:23. By giving Jesus the title Immanuel, God was also giving us a definition of His identity. Distinct from the millions of babies born throughout the centuries, this baby was more – He was God in human flesh. – Bill Crowder

Editor's Note: "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." JESUS is His personal name; many people talk about GOD, but relatively few talk about Jesus.

In comparison, that is because it becomes much more personal! "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold." Proverbs 22:1. *Revelation 3:12.*

**You don't have to go to Africa to try and
convert the heathen. We have plenty right
here.**

Angels and the Christmas Story:

Part One

Who Are Angels?

If you were to ask me that question in the context of everyday life, my knee-jerk response would probably be, “They are my favorite baseball team, and they play in Anaheim, California. And, by the way, they won the 2002 World Series over the San Francisco Giants.” Unfortunately, much of the current cultural thinking about who angels are and what they do is no more biblically accurate than that. From paintings to poems to movies to television shows, it seems that angels need a new press agent. They just aren’t being well represented. Of course, it helps to remember that their best and most accurate representation comes to us in the pages of the Bible.

Angels are seen throughout the Scriptures and are called by a variety of names, including cherubim, seraphim, and living creatures. Sometimes they are described as men, often in shining garments. They are seen guarding Eden, waging war rescuing Peter from prison, worshiping in the presence of God, and tragically, in the case of some angels, rebelling against God. They carry names like Michael (“who is like God” or, Gabriel (“warrior of God”), and Lucifer (“light-bearer,” before he became Satan – the Adversary). They are the often mysterious, sometimes mercurial servants of God that are at the center of many of His dealings with men and women in the Bible.

While angels unquestionably do more than simply carry messages, it’s impossible to underestimate their critical role as messengers bringing announcements from heaven to earth. This may be why the New Testament word for “preaching the gospel” (announcing God’s message to people) is *euangelizo*, which comes from the same word as “angel.” The gospel (good news) was first delivered to the world by angelic messengers during the events surrounding the birth of the Savior.

It’s impossible to underestimate the angels’ critical role as messengers bringing announcements from heaven to earth.

The first angel we encounter in the Christmas story is Gabriel, an archangel – apparently the highest ranking in the command structure of the angelic realm. Gabriel visited planet Earth to inform the principal players, and, ultimately, the world that *the “fullness of the time”* had come – that long-awaited moment in history when the promised Messiah would arrive (Gal. 4:4). ...

Excerpt taken from *Our Daily Bread, Christmas Edition*.

Editor’s Note: Very ‘carefully’ please keep in mind/heart that **angels are NEVER to be WORSHIPED!** Good

‘angels’ are eternal beings (so are the fallen, bad angels, eternal) and the ‘good’ angels are in a sense ‘messengers/servants’ of GOD!

A PROMISED GIFT

“For unto us (you) a Child is born, unto us (you) a Son is given”

Isaiah 9:6 – Please read Isaiah 7:14-16)

I read several years ago about a woman who hurriedly purchased 50 Christmas cards without looking at the message inside. She quickly signed and addressed all but one, and then dropped them in a mailbox. Just imagine her dismay when later she glanced inside the one unmailed card and read these words:

This card is just to say

A little gift is on the way.

No doubt there were 49 people wondering what happened to their presents.

How different was God’s promise to us! Many years before the Savior was born, the Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah, saying, “*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel*” (Isa. 7:14). And in verse 6 of chapter 9 we read, “*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.*” Did God keep His word? Indeed He did! Galatians 4:4 states, “*When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son.*”

As we commemorate the birth of Christ, let’s thank God that He meant what He said. He not only promised, but He also gave. “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*” (2 Cor. 9:15). Richard DeHaan

*On Christmas morning long ago
Into this world of sin and woe
The blessed Savior came;
God’s wondrous gift of love was He,
God’s gift to lost humanity –
O glory to His name!*

—Stapl

**No gift is more needed by a dying world
than a living Savior.**

Taken from ‘Our Daily Bread (Christmas Edition), Radio Bible Class, 2002 Copyright, RBC Ministries

Editor’s Note: EVEN though **JESUS WAS BORN TO DIE** for the sins of the whole world, Salvation/Deliverance is an individual/personal matter! Those who go into eternity LOST will go there with their SINS PAID for, **but** did not ‘possess’ God’s Savior/Deliverer on a personal/individual basis! ***The GIFT– on the GIVER’S basis – ACTS 4:12, JOHN 14:6.*** No ONE cometh unto the FATHER but through JESUS! **1 John 5:11-12, John 3:18, 36.**

STILL WATERS

(Continued from last issue of the Morning Glory)

“He leadeth me beside still waters.” In the Orient the shepherd always leads his sheep. Our Shepherd is so abundantly able to lead, for He knows our need. Our need is interpreted by His own experience. He was here on earth as a Man. He was tempted in all points like as we are. He may not lead us to the waters immediately; that is, as soon as we are conscious of thirst, but the One Who said on the Cross,

“I thirst,” will certainly see to it that the thirst of His sheep is quenched. The trouble with some sheep is that they do not follow His leading, hence trouble comes. *“For this cause many are weak and sickly among you.”*

“Beside still waters” might better be expressed “unto still waters.” It is not a picture of a shepherd leading his sheep along a quietly flowing stream, but of leading them to a fountain or a well where they may drink. These drinking places abound in Palestine (Israel). At one of them Jacob met Rachel. At one of them Eleazar met Rebecca. At one of them Moses met the daughters of Midian.

We come to drink at a spiritual fountain. Man[kind] does have heart thirsts. The human heart thirsts for love, and we read of the love of the Spirit. The human heart thirsts for fellowship, and we read of the communion and fellowship of the Holy Ghost. Indeed, our heart thirst can be satisfied through Him.

These waters are still waters, or waters of quietness. They are so called because the Holy Spirit loves peace and brings quietness and rest to the human heart.

Water is symbolical of the Holy Spirit, as we have seen. Paul says, *“We have been all made to drink into one Spirit;”* that is, at the one spiritual fountain. This drinking is referred to in Ephesians 5:18, *“Be not drunk with wine ... But be filled with the Spirit.”* In other words, we are not to drink wine; we are to drink water. The Holy Spirit will do for us spiritually all that water does for us physically. Water cleanses; the Spirit Who indwells us is holy. The thought here is of drinking, however, by which fullness and satisfaction come to us. We are to be filled with the Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit will mean that we are filled with life. Water fertilizes. It makes the desert to blossom like a rose. It brings life in waste places. It is the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus that make us free from the law of sin and death. How God’s sheep need fullness of life! What is it that enables the oak to spread its branches and stand against the storm? Life! What is it that enables the oak to throw off its old dead leaves in the springtime? Life! What is it that enables the fruit tree to bear refreshing fruit to bless men? Life! What is it that

enables flowers to bloom and beautify the earth, and perfume the air, and give delight to men? Life! What is it that enables the bird to wing its way above the storm into the clear sunlight of heaven and to sing its sweet song? Life! The Spirit is the Spirit of Life. Through Him we are able to stand against the storms that rage through the earth. Through Him we are able to cast off the evil habits of an old sinful nature. Through Him we produce the fruit of the Spirit that refreshes both God and men. Through Him we are able to manifest the “beauty of Jesus” to others and live lives that are fragrant to God. Through Him we are able to sing and make melody in our hearts unto the Lord above the storm.

In closing we emphasize the personal pronoun **ME**. This is a personal matter. The Psalm means you – God’s well-loved sheep.

The “maketh” of compassionate constraint, and the “leadeth” of gentle guidance refer to you. How we do nod that “maketh” and that “leadeth”!

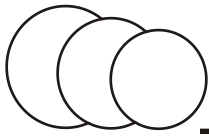
A baby is just learning to walk. He toddles across the room. Mother is standing by, and stretches out a hand to help the baby to learn to walk, but the boy turns his head, ignores her hand, toddles on, totters, falls and gets hurt. Meanwhile the mother smiles at the toddling boy who has refused her hand and says, “He thinks he can do without me.” We are like that so many times. We think we can do it without Him, but His word is, *“Apart from Me ye can do nothing.”* We cannot grow and thrive and walk in a way that is well pleasing to God unless ***“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.”***

*“Yes, the Lord is my Shepherd, and I am His sheep
Oh, the thought fills my soul with delight,
For we pasture together by still waters deep,
And we shelter together at night.”*

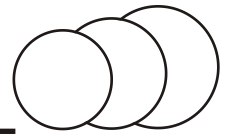
Taken from *The Psalm of Psalms*, by R. L. Moyer, D.D.; Submitted by Paul Peterson, Kenyon, MN.

Bearing the Shame!

The Saviour was spoken against (Luke 2:34), His followers were spoken against (Acts 28:22). Christians will be spoken against (Matt. 5:11). The Saviour, The sect, The saints – were never meant to be popular.



From Our Fellowship Circle



R.N.

Flaxton, ND

I wrote the check out to *Morning Glory*, but it can used where most needed.

They closed our Post Office so I am no longer receiving my mail at ...; so here is my address change..

Thank you so much for that good article by Dr. Sheldon Smith and interesting also as the Pastor at ... Knows him very well!

I thought that I should let you know that I have had or have So I covet your prayers for me that God's will be done: however at this time things are going well as I am feeling good and strong.

Yours to do His Blessed Will

R. P.

Waukeshau, WI

I enjoy many of your articles although I am not a Lutheran. I am a born again person and thank my Savior for that!

B. C.

Duluth, MN

Thank You for accepting this monetary gift.

My hope and prayer is that a continuing number of people will come to believe in the Christ for their Salvation. Eternal Life is so GRAND and it is really rewarding to have received this gift of a living faith.

Thank you for your Newsletter and may God bless you all.

Editor's Note: ALL and any 'gift' is truly appreciated (large or small) and 'we' thank you and God for the same!

L. H.

Piedmont, SD

Keep up the good work, as I so appreciate the clear un-compromising stand taken in and through the *Morning Glory*.

Our country is being 'swamped' with evil; but here and there a faithful remnant are found who yet stand for the LORD and for what's right.

...and I and Family are doing quite well and today is our 52nd Wedding Anniversary.

Editor's Note: PRAISE GOD for any and ALL who are found faithful (man & woman) unto each other until death do they part, which is definitely God's clear intent.

Billy, Come!

By Townley (Toby) Knutson, Fargo, ND

3 years of age; Billy, come, Daddy and Mommy want to read to you from the Bible.

6 years of age: Billy, come, it is time to read from the Bible. "I want to ride my bike around the block again."

10 years of age: Billy, come, it is time for devotions. "I'm playing with my Nintendo."

15 years of age: Billy, come, shut off your music and come for devotions. "My favorite rock group is on."

18 years of age: Bill, come, we are waiting for you to come for devotions. "I'm on the phone!"

21 years of age: Bill, come, in our devotions we are going to read about Jesus' return. "I have a test tomorrow."

25 years of age: Bill, come, tell us about how you are reading your Bible with your wife and children. "I'm tired after work."

35 years of age: Bill, come, supper is at 6:00 o'clock tonight. Bring your family and we will have devotions together. "I'm not so sure if the Bible is true."

50 years of age; Bill, come, your father is very sick and would like to have you read to him from the Bible. "No, I don't do that."

65 years of age: Bill, come, your father died last night. Will you please read to me about the promises of God about eternal life? "The kids are coming over tonight."

85 years of age: Bill, come to the assisted living chapel for Bible study. "I'm going to read the paper."

86 years of age: Come to the Funeral Home. Bill did not come for breakfast this morning.

Matthew 11:28-30.

HOW MANY?

Of you (personally) believe that GOD has kept this 'ministry' alive?

For this 'present' day; and will keep it 'alive' ?

That means that you must be personally INVOLVED.

How?

1. You are personally praying for the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.
2. Your financial support (as the LORD LEADS).
3. Encouragement and involvement.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable!

Mainline Churches Seek Protection From What They Wanted

Pension boards of some old-line Protestant denominations are now seeking protection from the very healthcare law their own denominational lobby offices worked to pass. The move comes following revelations that some church employees may lose healthcare coverage due to provisions in Obamacare passed amidst “confusion and political drama.”

The United Methodist General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBPHB) has released a statement calling for congressional action...

The United Methodist Church’s General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness, the Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations, and other oldline Protestant offices lobbied Congress to pass the original Obamacare legislation.

Institute for Religion and Democracy

American Family Association Condemns Judge for Changing Child’s Name From Messiah to Martin

The American Family Association had condemned a Tennessee judge for changing a baby’s name from Messiah to Martin, arguing the judiciary should not be able to dictate what name parents give their child.

Tim Wildmon, president of the American Family association (AFA), a nonprofit that promotes traditional family values, said in a recent interview that although his organization agrees “with the judge’s sentiments, ‘that the only true Messiah is Jesus Christ,’” it does not believe “that a judge should be able to rule on what parents name their child.”

Katherine Weber for ChristianPost.com

Reactions To First Gay Bishop

Bishop Jim Gonia, Rocky Mountain Synod: “When the final vote was taken amid the Scripture readings and prayer that accompanied each round, there was no doubt in my mind that the Assembly as a whole was making its choice based on the leading of the Spirit who was helping to identify the right person for this role in this part of the church at this time... I will continue to give thanks to the Spirit for leading our brothers and sisters in Southwest California to choose the right person for this chapter of

their life and for the sake of our shared witness in the world.” Selected

Editor’s Note: I have a ‘question’ and that is what “Spirit”? It certainly is not the Holy Spirit, AS the Holy Spirit **does not lead** contrary to the Holy Scriptures, the BIBLE.

Episcopal Bishop condemns Apostle Paul

Speaking at All Saints Church, Curacao, Venezuela, May 13, Bishop Katharine Jeffers Schori denounced the Apostle Paul for casting out a demon from a young girl (Acts 16:16-34) when, in fact, it was the Spirit of God. “But Paul is annoyed, perhaps for being put in his place, and he responds by depriving her of her gift of spiritual awareness. Paul can’t abide with something he won’t see as beautiful or holy, so he tries to destroy it.”

In the same sermon Schori said that we are not saved through the atoning blood of Christ but by accepting all the diversity around us. She condemned those who disagreed with her interpretation.

The Vine and Branches, Midsummer, 2013

Syria And Iran Will Seek Seats On The U.N. Human Rights Council

According to a Fox News report, Syria and Iran will seek seats on the United Nations’ Human Rights Council this coming November (2013). Never mind that they are among the worst violators of human rights in the world. The present Syrian government is responsible for over 100,000 deaths of their own people in the past three years. The two countries will be joining other similar human rights violators on the Council, such as Cuba, Venezuela, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam. There are 14 seats to be filled by the U.N. General Assembly for the 2014-2016 period. Of course the first country they will cite for human rights violations will be Israel.

The Vine and Branches, Midsummer, 2013

Editor’s Note: It **seems** according to Scripture that we are fast approaching what ‘we’ call ‘the Midnight Hour.’ It also **seems** that the Antichrist and the False Prophet are almost ready to cross the ‘threshold’! Reader: Please watch what is happening Religiously, Secularly and Economically!

The Bible and Our Founding Fathers

Our Founding Fathers were strongly influenced by the **BIBLE** to believe in the inalienable rights of the individual. This same sense of individual freedom and justice permeates the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence. The architects of the Constitution of the New England Confederation, drafted in 1643, wrote: ***“Whereas, we all come into these parts of America with one and the same aim, namely to advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel in purity with peace.”*** John Quincy Adams, in a July 4, 1821, speech, said: ***“From the day of the Declaration....they (the American people) were bound by the laws of God which they all acknowledged as the rules of their conduct.”***

Selected

* * * * *

READ PSALMS 46 – 51

Who would have believed that David – the man after the heart of God, who wrote: *“Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, ... But his delight is in the Law of the LORD; and in His Law he meditates day and night (Psalm 1:1-2) – would one day need to write so deep in a cry of sorrow and repentance as: *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....acknowledge my transgressions (51:1-3).**

The cause for his cry for mercy happened in the midst of David’s success when he could relax at home and let others fight his wars. It was then that he selfishly gave way to lust and committed adultery with Bathsheba. She was the beautiful wife of his neighbor, Uriah the Hittite, one of his most loyal soldiers. Through a military maneuver initiated by David, Uriah was killed, allowing David to legally marry Bathsheba. It appeared to be a happy ending for David and Bathsheba until their infant son became ill and Nathan, the fearless prophet of God, appeared to denounce the king’s selfish, wicked sins and to prophesy the child’s death (II Samuel 12:14).

If any of the surrounding heathen kings had done what David did, no further thought would have been given to the matter, since kings ruled supreme and answered to no one. But David was chosen to rule the people of God under His Law and the Law did not permit a blood sacrifice for adultery or murder. Instead, the guilty party was sentenced to death (Leviticus 20:10). David deserved to die and he knew it. He cast himself on the mercy of God, not claiming clemency as an important king, but as a broken-hearted sinner, pleading: *“Blot out my transgressions”* (Psalm 51:1). He had also planned the death of Uriah, so

he also prayed: *Deliver me from blood-guiltiness (51:14).*

We wish that this horrible blight upon David’s life would not have happened; yet, it reveals to every sinner who truly repents that he can experience the mercy and forgiving love of God. But, it also teaches the inescapable consequences of sin. As a result of these sins, David reaped untold sorrow during the remaining twenty years of his reign, just as the prophet Nathan had foretold: *The sword shall never depart from your house; because you have despised Me.....Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house (II Samuel 12:9-11).* No child of God can look upon sin as an unimportant mistake – “I’ll just confess it and God will forgive it.” To willfully sin is to despise the commandment of the LORD (12:9) and His authority; it is choosing to cooperate with Satan, the enemy of God.

The first step in repentance is the recognition of the awfulness of sin, *for godly sorrow works repentance (II Corinthians 7:10).* Repentance leads in confession, as David prayed: *I acknowledge my transgressions; my sin is ever before me (Psalms 51:3).* Since the source of all sin is selfishness (*Ed. pride*), David continued: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me (51:10-11).* To be cast away from the presence of God is to be cast out of His covenant (Genesis 4:14, 11, Genesis 13:23).

David’s repentance was essential to fulfill the next portion of his prayer; *Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation;* and with his restoration came a renewed desire: **Then will I teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You (Psalm 51:12-13).**

Taken from *Bible Pathway* by John A. Hash, Litt.D.

Strong In Battle

(Continued from last issue of the Morning Glory)

The other enemy with which the Christian must reckon is the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. The enemy is not only here on earth and visible to us; he is about us in the air, invisible.

In Daniel 10 we are told that Daniel was in mourning for three whole weeks. From other expressions in the book we are led to understand that he prayed a good deal during this time. There was a special burden upon his heart concerning which he had to speak with the Lord; verses 12 and 13 leads us to believe that. There it is written: *Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel; for from the first day that thou didst set thy heart to understand, and to humble thyself before thy God, thy words were heard: and*

I am come for thy words' sake. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days; but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me."

Daniel's prayer was heard in heaven from the first day that he called upon the Lord, but it took twenty-one days for the answer to reach him; the powers of the air prevented the messenger from getting through to Daniel. We are told that this power was the prince of Persia. If help was to reach Daniel, God's messenger had to be given assistance in breaking through the spiritual hosts that opposed him. So Michael, one of the chief princes – the guardian of Israel, was sent to assist the messenger so that he could reach Daniel. After this the messenger was to have a new encounter with the prince of Persia, and was also to meet the prince of Greece; again he was to be assisted by Michael.

If we turn to the Book of Revelation we shall find that the same powers are fighting each other. *And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels; and they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him."* (Rev. 12:7-9).

These remarkable powers in the air seem to have two methods of carrying out their warfare. The first is to prevent help from God to reach us. It is a kind of spiritual blockade that is applied against the Christians in order to starve them into submission. The other method is one of direct attack.

Why Is a River Never Straight?

Did you ever see a river that was as straight as an arrow? Probably not. They generally wind back and forth from the time they gush out of a mountain spring or seep out of a lake until they find repose in the bosom of the great deep.

And why is it that the river is never straight?

Let a master of the epigram answer and at the same time drive home a wholesome truth: "A river becomes crooked by following the line of least resistance. So does a man!"

The Log of the Good Ship Grace

Daniel and John show us this battle as it is fought between the hosts of God on the one side and the hosts of wickedness in the air on the other. Paul shows us these same evil powers at war against God's people.

Such clear passages should convince us that the doctrine concerning the evil powers which oppose God's people is not empty talk. Furthermore, we ought to remember that Satan is not only fighting against individual Christians, nor even against the whole Christian Church; he is seeking to conquer the nations and to make them subservient to himself. It is Satan himself who is chief of the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the air. ...

Our great comfort and hope for the future is that this evil power shall one day be broken. Satan shall not only fall from heaven; he is to fall out of every man's heart and out of the world; he is to go down into the bottomless pit, down into the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, down into the place prepared for the devil and his angels. There he shall be imprisoned through all eternity. This comfort gives every Christian courage to continue the battle. ...

*Onward then ye people,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor
Unto Christ the King;
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing.*

Taken from the book *Spirit and Power*
by Ludvig Hope, Copyright HLIF

Editor's Note: IF any of 'our' readers of the Morning Glory should question the 'reality' of this article, then first of all I challenge YOU to "oppose" Satan, and secondly IF that battle is not real, YOU are in Satan's clutches!

Here at the 'core' of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory the 'spiritual battle' is very real and we stand in need of you who are brethren to pray for us, and IF financial donations don't increase it will not be long before this 'ministry' will likely close! It is that 'serious' and 'important' that YOU pray for this 'ministry' and obey His leading!

Thank you so much for letting me bear part of my heart's concern and burden. May 'our' living SAVIOR richly bless YOU so that you can be an even richer blessing unto OTHERS.

The Mountain Shall Be Made A Plain

Fundamental, God-honoring believers and ministries face formidable obstacles today – mountains when compared to their native lack of strength or ability to overcome the barriers they face. Back in the prophet Zechariah's day, the Jewish remnant who returned from the Babylonian captivity had a difficult job to do – they needed to rebuild the temple so God's people could once again worship and serve their God aright. But just as they set out to obey God's revealed will, Satan placed hindrances in their way and did whatever he could to oppose, discourage and sidetrack the despised, yet faithful, remnant. But God did not leave them to their own devices, for He gave a vision to the prophet Zechariah in which He promised to provide His people with the divine grace needed to face every foe: "*Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel (the remnant's commander) thou shalt become a plain*" (Zech. 4:7). The vision of Zechariah (Zech. 4) reveals the way in which God enabled His people to do a mighty work in a difficult day. And, by the way, those same principles apply to the servant of the Lord in the Church Age as well.

What are some of the "mountains" that true servants of God face today? First, they face opposition from even those who claim to be Christians. You can be assured that the believer who takes a forthright stand against compromise and apostasy will be opposed by the "Christian" majority who pursue "unity in diversity" at the expense of purity in doctrine and practice, who espouse accommodation of error to the total neglect of Biblical separation from the same and who value liberal-mindedness as a virtue while decrying the fundamentalist Christian who claims to have the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Well, the Fundamentalist does have the whole truth, for the inspired, inerrant Word of God is the source of "*all truth*" (Jn. 16:12-15; Eph. 2:19-3:5). The Bible defines the one way of salvation through Jesus Christ and describes how believers are to walk and minister in the only way that is acceptable and pleasing to Him.

Another "mountain" is the reality that we simply do not have the abilities, the resources or the organizational machinery to impact the world, let alone our own communities, for Christ. We, like the Jews in Zechariah's day who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple, lack so much in and of ourselves! The influential, powerful religious movements of our day seem to have the numbers, finances and plans to captivate the multitudes, but such is never true for the fundamentalist remnant. However, as we shall see, it is the faithful remnant whom God delights

to use for His glory and to do His work in the world today.

Let us consider Zechariah 4 to see what was aforesaid "*written for our learning*" (Rom. 15:4). God showed the prophet a golden candlestick with a bowl above and seven pipes supplying oil to the seven lamps beneath. The light from the candlestick was undoubtedly radiant due to the abundant oil serving as fuel (vv. 1-3). A Godly testimony will shine brightly and boldly, reflecting the true Light in this dark, sin-cursed world (Jn. 1:1-12). We must never lose sight of our purpose: to be *light in the Lord: (to) walk as children of light ... and (to) have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness*" (Eph. 5:8-11).

The Lord singled out Zerubbabel, the one chosen to lead the returned remnant in the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, as the primary person needing to understand the substance of Zechariah's vision. Zerubbabel still needed a full measure of God's strength and provision to accomplish his task. What was to be his source of strength? "*Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts*" (v. 6). What a tremendous truth! Whatever the Lord calls us to do, the mighty power of His indwelling Holy Spirit will help us to accomplish that task. No obstacle can deter the believer thus endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit – the "*mountain ... Shall become a plain*" (v. 7). God's enabling grace will be our strength and comfort when others mock or sneer. We must stand upon this blessed truth as we simply endeavor to be faithful to the work to which God had called us. Be a bright, shining testimony for the Lord and remember that His Spirit will empower us to do His will.

Imagine the discouragement the remnant must have felt when scorned by the enemy. This resistance even caused them to delay the work for a number of years. No doubt they were reminded time and again of how their efforts were seemingly insignificant. But the word of the Lord again clearly revealed that what God had begun by the hand of Zerubbabel, He would also bring to completion by the authority of "*the LORD of hosts*" (vv. 8-9). Yes, many of Zerubbabel's enemies despised what they considered to be a "small thing" (v. 10), but once the joy was completed, all would certainly recognize that this was truly a work of the Almighty God. Faithfulness is the Lord's criteria for success.

The plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel was to one day verify the straight and true perfection of the building. "*The eyes of the LORD*" (v. 10 cf. 3:9) are continually upon His work. Surely this speaks of the importance of seeing any true labor from God's perspective, no matter how small and insignificant it may appear in the world's eyes. God is the One "*with whom we have to do*" (Heb. 4:12-13). What He determines to be right and acceptable is the only standard that matters. Forget what the scorner

sees as deficient and of no real consequence – his opinion is irrelevant. God is the One we are to strive to please.

Finally, the “two olive branches” refer to Joshua and Zerubbabel, the two olive-oil-rich, Spirit-filled instruments God used to perform His work (vv. 11-14). How greatly we, too, need to rely upon the indwelling Holy Spirit to enable us to do His will today. And remember, faithful service may not impress the “movers and shakers” in mainstream Christianity today but God’s opinion is the only one that matters. Whatever mountain the devil places in our way to hinder our work for the Lord will be leveled by His almighty power. DWC

Taken from *Foundation* by Fundamental Evangelistic Association, phone – 805- 528-3534. Copyright, Permission Granted.

Editor’s Note: “So Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your unbelief, for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to here,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’” Matthew 17:20, also Luke 17:6 – look it up!

By the GRACE of GOD, the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/*Morning Glory* seeks to make no apology for the ‘old time Christianity’ and *seeks to practice the same.*

* * * * *

The Barber and the Pastor

A barber and a pastor were walking through the city slums. The barber, an atheist, remarked, “This is why I cannot believe in a God of love. If He is as kind as they say, why does He permit all this poverty, disease and squalor? How can He allow these poor people to be addicted to drugs and other character-destroying habits?

The pastor was silent until they met a man who was especially unkempt and filthy. His hair hung down his neck, and a half-inch of stubble covered his face. Then the preacher gave his response: “You can’t be a very good barber, or you wouldn’t permit a man like that to continue living in this neighborhood without a haircut and a shave.”

The atheist answered indignantly, “Why blame me for that man’s condition? I can’t help it if he’s like that. He’s never given me a chance! If he would only come to my shop, I could fix him up and make him look like a gentleman!”

Giving the barber a penetrating look, the preacher said, “Then don’t blame God for allowing these people to continue in their evil way when He is constantly inviting

them to come and be saved. The reason they are slaves to sin and evil habits is that they refuse to accept the One who died to save and deliver them.” The barber saw the point. Selected.

* * * * *

Getting in Touch With God!

Someone said, and truly, that “Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.”

In a day when the nations are sorely perplexed, troubled and bewildered – religiously; economically, politically, and socially; with confusion, fear and uncertainty making men jittery, our churches need definite guidance from God that only prayer can bring.

The need of praying men is frankly admitted on every hand, but how do we meet this extraordinary need in a day when most of us are satisfied with ordinary spiritual attainments?

Never in the history of Christianity did the churches of Jesus Christ need to fight for their existence as now. Surely we need an army of prayer warriors!

Today, when we live in a world of rush and hustle with the flesh and its laziness and the Devil’s arrogant blusterings and doubting pitted against us, many a Christian runs up the white flag of capitulation and says, “What’s the use?” and settles back into being an ordinary Christian – weak, fleshly and powerless – because of prayerlessness.

And this is also true of many a church, with the result that it completely lacks the almightiness of God. Our churches must inevitably learn that they cannot substitute organizing for agonizing and expect God to use them mightily.

It was Dr. A. C. Dixon who said, “When we depend upon organization, we get what organization can do’ when we depend upon education, we get what education can do; when we depend upon man, we get what man can do; but when we depend upon prayer, we get what God can do.”

David M. Dawson

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

Proverbs 15:3

No One Means No One!

As I was studying the Bible, I noticed several times it mentions “all”; and I realized that “all” simply means “all” without exception.

Then the Bible states “no man.” This also simply means “no one,” again without exception. “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (John 14:6). With this thought, I compiled the following scriptural verses that simply mean “**no one**” without exception.

No one is born without sin! No one – Rom. 5:12!
No one has a good excuse to God! No one – Rom. 2:1!
No one is justified by the law! No one – Gal. 3:11!
No one is saved without the Gospel! No one – Rom. 1:16!
No one can grow without the Word! No one – I Pet. 2:2!
No one can serve two masters! No one – Matt. 6:24!
No one can tame the tongue! No one – Jas. 3:8!
No one can eradicate the flesh! No one – Rom. 7:17!
No one goes to Heaven without Christ! No one – John 14:6!
No one can exist without God! No one – Col. 1:17!
No one escapes judgment! No one – Heb. 9:27!
No one is too bad to be saved! No one – I Tim. 1:15!
No one should neglect salvation! No one – Heb. 2:3!
No one knows when Jesus will return! No one – Luke 10:20; Rev. 21:4-5!
No one is exempted, excused, or excluded! No one – Rom. 14:12!

Why do you think you will be an exception? “**No one**” also includes you! Remember, the Scriptures are the **only absolute assurance and authority**.

Dr. Ted Camp

WORRY WART

Worry! Fret! Stew! Satan is pleased when that is the order of the day for us.

Faith and worry cannot be reconciled. Worry is a great hindrance to spiritual progress. God does not will that His own should be irritable, be embittered, be robbed of sleep; and have the peace of home destroyed by worry.

All the promises in His Word are given as insurance against such. No child of God who sincerely trusts the Lord for his welfare could constantly worry.

The first time you evaluate a situation and realize that it is beyond you, commit it to God and stop worrying.

Satan would have you turn your mind into a merry-go-round. He is the instigator of the worry which displeases our Lord.

If we are children of God, let us quit this bad business of worrying. Why worry when you can pray?

“*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*” John 14:27.

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged;

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Joseph Scriven

Marjorie Parks in *Bread From My Oven*.

Editor’s Note: Every so often when you or I worry, we think ‘we’ are in control. *Worry for ‘a child of God’ is SIN!* Deal with this “sin” as any other ‘sin’ according to the WORD OF GOD! Call ‘worry’ SIN because it is!

The Trail of a Right Choice

“*But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” (Joshua 24:15)

A young man, James Taylor, had lived a worldly life and was a leader in opposing a revival that had swept his neighborhood.

The morning of his wedding day he awoke with the words of Joshua 24:15 on his mind. In earlier years he had memorized that verse.

Unlike our modern customs, he put in a full day’s work before his wedding that evening. As he went about his labors, the Holy Spirit convicted his heart, and he accepted Jesus as his Saviour. Then he said, “Yes, we will serve the Lord!”

At first his bride was dismayed by this decision but soon became a believer, and a Christian home was established.

You say, “What’s so unusual about that story?”

Well, that young man was the great-grandfather of J. Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission. Nor has the influence of that first decision been without present-day consequences. The general director of that organization is the great-grandson of the founder.

Though saving faith cannot be transmitted from parents to children, God does use the holy influence of fathers and mothers upon their offspring and upon successive generations.

What if James Taylor hadn’t yielded to Christ? What if his decision had been different? It is possible that a company of dedicated missionaries would not have served in the Orient under an organization whose founding was a direct result of that man’s conversion.

The trail of a right choice in your home may lead to great blessings many years down the road. P. R. V.

Selected

Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Matt. 5:10

WHEN a Christian is scoffed at and persecuted he must always ask himself whether the reason for this is that he is unfaithful and slovenly, or if this is visited on him because he lives godly and righteously. Alas, it often becomes evident that Christians think they are suffering for Christ's sake, while the truth is that they are suffering because of their own slovenly life.

It is humiliating to receive righteous blows from unrighteous hands, but it is glorious when lying, gossip, ridicule, and persecution are heaped on us because we live as true Christians. In such times the angels of God come down to us with such happiness as only heaven owns and can give. If we had less regard for men, if we flattered people less, if truth and righteousness in word and deed had more free course in our lives, we should surely get more both of persecution and of blessedness, of ridicule and of comfort. Because the spirit of our time so quickly grinds off the sharp point and the keen edge of our righteousness, it is also given us to pass through the world easily, without blows, but also without experiencing God's help.

It is a great thing to escape blows because of our poor Christianity, but it is greater to be scoffed at because we resemble our Savior. That Christian is indeed fortunate who has the will and the power to live so holily that he eggs on worldly people to opposition and scoffing. It is God's will that we live thus. Then the kingdom of heaven is ours.

*Perfect truth will never waver,
Wars with evil day and night,
Changes not for fear or favor,
Only cares to win the fight.*

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

* * * * *

And this life eternal, that they should know Thee the only true God, and Him whom Thou did send, even Jesus Christ. John 17:3

THE word about eternal life is the morning star that sheds its light on the graves of earth. If this star should be extinguished and if we were assured that death was the end of everything, human life would become a big, wild absurdity. That would not only extinguish our hope, but all suffering would increase, and strength to bear the burdens that life lays on us would dwindle away.

But now matters do not stand thus. We have hope of eternal life. That gives a person strength to bear all that

life lays on him, even the heaviest burdens, and it makes of death an entrance to life.

You discouraged person, busy walking in circles around yourself, lift your eye to the land that Jesus has told us about, the land where the sun never sets, where graves are never found, and where all the suffering that earth gave you is exchanged for eternal peace! Try with your heart to grasp the thought that such a future awaits you, too, if you believe in Jesus. Then you have found the key to life's puzzle.

Use this key! Then it will be great to be a man. The fight that used to take the heart out of you, will then teach you the melody and the song about Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. He who stood on His grave on Easter morning gives life eternal to all who believe on His name.

*My Jesus, as Thou wilt!
All shall be well for me:
Each changing future scene
I gladly trust with Thee.
Thus to my home above
I travel calmly on,
And sing, in life or death,
My Lord, Thy will be done!*

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

* * * * *

A word to you who are a Christian.

Do you remember the time when Jesus raised you up from sin and gave you life and peace? You were fearless and glad then. You testified for Christ both public and privately. Your prayer chamber was a festive hall, and the Word was as honey to your soul. How is it now? Are you still cheerful and happy? Do you still praise God? Or have you been bound and broken by the spirit of infirmity?

If you are one of the unfortunate people who have lost their peace and joy in the Lord, you can still have the joy of salvation restored to you. You can walk erect as a son of God through both life and death. Christ's hand of grace can convey the power of victory into your life to make you courageous and strong.

Let Him into your life anew!

Ludvig Hope

"The LORD ...is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail, yet the unrighteous know no shame." Zephaniah 3:5

UPDATE

WATCHMEN!

“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that are Jehovah’s remembrances, take ye no rest.” Isaiah 62:6.

“For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle” 1 Corinthians 14:8.

The LORD never promised any of His children /soldiers an easy journey in this life; but regardless of the cost it is worthwhile to be found ‘faithful’ unto HIM until the end of this physical life! AND so it is in seeking to be a ‘watchman’ upon the wall – meditate on the Book of NEHEMIAH for a while!

The ‘watchmen’ that we now hear about are few and often ‘lonely’ but are given the great task of bearing the people to God in prayer and forewarning.

Among ‘Lutherans’ today, watchmen are becoming so few and, sad to say, many ‘Lutherans’ love to have it so; because they do not want to be disturbed and challenged to become involved. COMPLACENCY AND COMPROMISE are in the forefront much today. ***BUT “Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD deceitfully (lax, slackness)” and “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;”*** Jeremiah 48:10 Romans 12:11.

“WE” thank GOD for those of you who are ‘fellow-soldiers’ and of a kindred spirit who are standing with ‘us’ (shoulder to shoulder in prayer/finances/encouragement) in the ‘spiritual battle’ and realize the seriousness of ‘our’ day. By the GRACE of God we seek to fill some in the ‘gap’ that is ever widening and so we need more ‘faithful’ recruits! Will you be a volunteer and be ‘one’ of them?

By God’s GRACE ‘we’ of the *Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation* do not make any apologies for the old time Christianity and seeking to practice the same! PLEASE continue to join ‘us’ OR ‘join’ ‘us’ in proclaiming the liberating TRUTH OF GOD’S INFALLIBLE **WORD**. May our living Savior be glorified through us doing the same!

ALSO, please pray for ALL the HLIF Board Members and their spouses and those involved as a staff – Thank You and may the LORD richly bless you in order that you may become an even richer blessing unto others! REMEMBER ‘soldiers,’ the Commander-in- Chief’s order is ‘onward & forward’.

Please respond ‘favorably’ as the LORD lays upon your ‘heart’.

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ON behalf of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation Board Members (& Spouses) and all persons directly involved in this ‘ministry,’ we want to express ‘our’ best wishes for YOU in experiencing a Happy & Blessed Christmas Season and a truly rich New Year in/through the LORD!