



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2016

The Marriage of the Lamb

By Dr. G. Beauchamp Vick

The Bible is a handbook on love and marriage. In fact, the Bible opens with a marriage. When God created this universe, He said, *“Let there be light”* (Gen. 1:3); and He looked upon it and saw that it was good.

He then said, *“Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear”* (vs. 9); and He saw that it was good. ...

The only thing that God ever created and said that it was not good was an old bachelor! God saw that it was not good for man to be alone (2:18), so He made a helper for him. You remember that God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and out of the wounded side of Adam He took a rib, and from that rib He made woman.

Certainly modern medical science is just now beginning to catch up with the Bible. Before the first major operation was performed, God anesthetized Adam, or caused a deep sleep to fall upon him, then He took the rib from his wounded side.

He took woman not from the head of man to rule over him nor from the heel of man to be ground down under his despotic authority. He took woman from the side of man, from underneath the arm, to be protected; from the place nearest the heart, the seat of affection, to be loved and cherished as long as life should endure.

God blessed this beautiful relationship and interdependence between man and woman, and He pronounced that first wedding ceremony of all time in the Garden of Eden with the angels as the silent witnesses. God said, *“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”* (Mark 10:9).

This beautiful interdependence of man and woman is spoken of in Longfellow’s Hiawatha when he wrote:

*As unto the bow the cord is,
So unto man is woman.
Though she bends him, yet she obeys him;
Though she draws him, yet she follows;
Useless each without the other.*

So, my friend, I say the Bible opens with a marriage.

The New Testament also opens with a marriage. The wedding feast in Cana of Galilee was attended by the Lord Jesus and His disciples. And the Lord, by His presence, added joy to that occasion.

Then, finally, the Bible closed with a marriage. That is the Marriage of the Lamb. *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come”* (Rev. 19:7). In type and figure throughout the Bible this is foreshadowed.

In the Old Testament the story of Isaac and Rebekah foretells the fact that our Heavenly Bridegroom must be anxiously waiting...

We have the wonderful story of Jacob so loving Rachel that he served for her for fourteen years. The Bible says, *“They seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her”* (Gen. 29:20).

The beautiful Song of Solomon also prefigured this grand occasion. It speaks of the wooing and the betrothal and the taking unto Himself of His bride by the Heavenly Bridegroom.

Yes my friends, over and over again in the Bible it is spoken of. In the great wedding feast in Matthew 22

Morning Glory

Volume XCVIII – Number 12
December 2016

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.

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

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

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which the king gave for his son, we see one who came in without the wedding garment, despising that provided by his host and preferring the robe of his own imaginary self-righteousness. He was taken out of the wedding feast and cast into outer darkness.

All of these, I say and others, are but prefigures of that time spoken of in Revelation, chapter 19: *“Let us be glad and rejoice ... For the marriage of the Lamb is come.”*

Certainly marriage is a happy occasion. It is an occasion which those who enter into the marriage have long anticipated. It is the occasion of their union, and a marriage always is but the outward expression of a decision already made in the hearts of those parties, those principals, involved. It is but the outward expression of that decision of the love which each bears for the other in his or her heart.

So when the sinner today is invited to come and become subject to our Heavenly Bridegroom and to accept his invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb, ... these things are but an outward expression of a decision which has been previously made in the heart. *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Rom. 10:10).

I want to emphasize that marriage is a joyous occasion, long looked forward to. The true bride has kept herself unstained, unspotted

during the time of her preparation for the marriage, looking forward to that time when she will be presented unto her bridegroom without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

When Will the Marriage of the Lamb Take Place?

Let us think for just a moment about the time of the marriage of the Lamb. It will follow the rapture of the saints. This present dispensation now seems to be reaching its climax. The long-suffering of God will then cease to be a virtue, and patience will have had her perfect work.

Then God shall call a halt to the rotteness, to the ruin and degradation, to the low moral standards, to the skepticism, to the atheism, to the infidelity and agnosticism, and to the new evangelicalism and all the compromises in so-called Christendom. When God sees that the cup of iniquity is filled to the brim, then He will call a halt.

I believe our Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus, is standing today with His hand upon the doorknob of Heaven ready to come down the pathless skies to receive from the world His own.

When He comes, when Jesus fulfills 1 Thessalonians, chapter 4, that will be the grand consummation of all the ages.

One of the deaf young ladies in our deaf department said to her teacher, "You know, the first sound that I shall ever hear will be the voice of the Son of God when He descends from Heaven **"with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air."**

Then, my friends, "*this corruptible shall put on incorruption; this mortal shall put on immortality;*"... How we long for that day!

Here in this old body of clay our eyes grow dim with the shedding of many salty tears. The footstep grows faltering, and the shoulders become stooped with the bearing of the burdens of the years. What will it be when this mortal, earthly body shall be changed, fashioned anew like unto the glorious body of our risen Saviour? Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:54, 55, 57.

My friends, I want you to notice the words of our text, **"Let us be glad and rejoice... for the marriage of**

the Lamb is come." Notice carefully this prophetic announcement of an accomplished fact, or should I say a fact prophetically announced as already accomplished?

...My friends, if there is joy in the presence of the angels of God today over one sinner that repents, how much more will Heaven resound with the praise of the angelic host when all the redeemed people of God shall be presented unto the Father as a bride without spot or wrinkle!

...I know what it is to be washed in the blood of the Lamb, and no angel does. I know what it is to be redeemed by His grace, and the angels do not know that experientially.

...I want to know and to shake hands and to commune with those saints of God who have won the incorruptible crown. Yes, I have some loved ones over there I want to see too—but not now. First I want to see Master Jesus; I want to see Him first of all."

*Oh, the soul-thrilling rapture when
I view His blessed face
And the luster of His kindly
Beaming eyes;
How my full heart will praise Him
For His mercy, love and grace
That prepared for me a mansion
In the sky.*

*Through the gates of the city in a
robe of spotless white,
He will lead me where no tears
Shall ever fall.
In the glad song of ages I shall
Mingle with delight,
But I long to meet my Saviour
first of all.*

Fanny Crosby

Excerpts taken from *The Marriage of the Lamb*,
Sword of the Lord.

FREEDOM

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

Ronald Reagan

The Unintentional Prophet

“And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation.” John 11:51

Even after seeing the miracle of Lazarus restored to life high priest Caiaphas refused to believe Jesus was the Messiah and was more firmly resolved than ever to have Him put to death. He used the excuse that Jesus might cause the Romans to destroy the Jews’ religious system. So he said, *“It is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not”* John 11:50.

Like Balaam forced to prophesy what he did not intend (Numbers 24:10-13), Caiaphas was made to predict the true significance of Christ’s coming death. Instead of His death being “expedient for us”—for Caiaphas and his system – it was indeed *“expedient that one man should die for the people”* (John 18:14).

This is a remarkable divine irony. Caiaphas, the chief religious representative of God to the people of Israel, should have known the Old Testament prophecies and gladly welcomed Jesus as the promised Messiah. Instead, he organized His trial and condemnation. Yet he was divinely inspired (without knowing or intending it) to point out the real mission of Christ to the Jews and the whole world – that of substitutionary sacrifice for their sins. It is also interesting that in 1992, the bones of this same Caiaphas were discovered in a tomb underneath the modern city.

So far as we know, Caiaphas died still rejecting Christ. Nevertheless, following Christ’s substitutionary death, the evidence for His glorious resurrection (eternal, not temporary like that of Lazarus) became so clear and compelling that *“a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith”* (Acts 6:7). Caiaphas did, indeed, manage to get Jesus crucified, but the result was salvation for multitudes. Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Days of Praise, Institute for Creation Research,
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* * * * *

Playing With Fire!

Dr. Hugh Pyle

The poet Longfellow was right when he said:
Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Once when I was pastor in Pensacola, Florida, the light went out during Training Union on Sunday evening. There was a power failure (that was not the first power failure in our Training Union!), and the lights were out all over the neighborhood.

They were still out when the time came for the Sunday night preaching service. Our faithful deacons had found a couple of lamps and a number of candles. The lamps were placed, one on the piano and the other back near the door at the vestibule.

Candles were placed on the window sills down the sides of the auditorium. A candle was placed on the side of my pulpit so that I could see to read the Scriptures. The crowd came despite the darkness.

As the song leader led the congregation in the great old gospel hymns, I noticed a moth flying around the candle there on my pulpit. He would fly close to the flame and then fly away again. Then he was back again, swerving in close to the flame as if he would fly right into it and then banking and veering off again. Then he would play around over the top of the flame.

I thought, ***If that fool moth doesn’t quit flirting with that fire, I’m going to have a good illustration for a sermon!*** I didn’t see the tragedy when it happened; but sure enough when I got up to preach and glanced down, there was the corpse – just one wing and part of his body exposed! The rest of him was buried under hot melted tallow! He had come too close to the flame! He played with fire and lost his life!

And when people go on in sin, sooner or later death catches up with them! **“Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?”** Proverbs 6:28. Remember, **“Be sure your sin will find you out”** Numbers 32:23. **“All have sinned,”** the Bible declares, Romans 3:23.

The Mercy Seat

Saints of the early church appear to have thought a great deal more seriously of prayer than many do now. They reaped great harvest in the field of prayer and found the mercy seat to be a mine of untold treasures.

Charles Spurgeon

Editorial

RES

WORSHIP

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

(John 4:23-24)

To my understanding, the word ‘Worship’ comes from the word ‘worth-ship’! So with that in heart and mind; I believe one vital ingredient of true ‘worship’ is admitting and owning up to our/my NEED. (Notice especially two ‘words’ in this short and clear text: TRUE, MUST)

It is something like; as a loving and caring parent, when you are fully aware of the need that your child’s shoes are tattered and worn, and you intend to graciously provide a new pair of shoes; but what a blessing/encouragement it is when your child comes and asks for the same – he sees the NEED and the source for possession! So I believe one vital element in truly ‘worshipping’ the king of Kings and Lord of Lords, before a thrice Holy GOD is NEED. Most certainly realizing you have entered into the “Holy of HOLIES” in and through the **BLOOD ATONEMENT** of the very SON of the **KING** – “**In Jesus Name**”. (Jesus was born to die, we are born to live).

Today, many ‘Worship Services’ are woven around performance, emotions, entertainment, and some liturgy – as what we call ‘The Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles Creed’, but there is a real ‘danger’ of vain repetition, etc. When I read my Bible, when mere humans like you and me came into the PRESENCE OF GOD/JESUS, they bowed, cried for mercy, took off their ‘shoes’, fell prostrate at HIS feet, etc., because they sensed they were upon ‘holy ground’. Today, many are seemingly shopping for unusual worship experiences by their ‘emotions’ – like they were ‘window-shopping’! The real ‘question/desire’ should be: What is most pleasing to GOD?

Secondly, worshippers thanked and praised the Living God because they were unworthy! You know where genuinely godly repentance is expressed; joy always follows – PSALM 19.

Thirdly, and very importantly, they ‘worshipped’ HIM listening to the WORD/INCARNATE in submission to His Word! The ‘word’ of God was/is central! You know if God and His Word aren’t enough to ‘draw’ both sinner and saint unto Himself; what can we feeble/sin-

ful people have to add? OH, I/we are definitely not against good Christian music, testimonies, etc., but keep in mind who ‘we’ are and who He is as we are standing upon ‘holy-ground’.

JESUS says: **“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”** John 4:23-24. *Imagine that – GOD is looking for and seeking us to do the same!*

In my ‘thinking’ when ‘we’ often speak of ‘worship’, we are thinking of an ‘assembly (corporate) gatherings’, right?

Now the ‘Dictionary’ states in part: Worship – “The reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object, adoration.” So a person can ‘worship’ God, individually, or together, and be physically lying down, kneeling, sitting, standing, walking or running.

“And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen!’” Nehemiah 8:5 & 6b. Sometimes the ‘assembly’ listened under submission to the Word of God for hours! *“I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”* Psalm 138:2.

As ‘we’ gather ‘together’ around and under His Word, ‘we’ are affirming His Word, Adoring His Grace, and seeking to abandon ‘self’ for God and live (tell) His Word in obedience to His Word, out of LOVE; because HE First Loved ‘Us’.

Imagine the ‘Wise-men’ (astrologers) traveling for many miles and falling down and **‘worshipping’** a ‘toddler’ approx. two years old and acknowledging HIM as the **King**, and humbly paying ‘tribute’ to HIM with ‘gifts’ of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This “Baby” Jesus is HE who shall save them from their SINS! This ONE who was wrapped in ‘swaddling clothes’ – the

same material for wrapping a ‘corpse’ in those days; for JESUS was born to die for your sins and mine! (Keep in mind and heart (practice) though we are no longer ‘worshipping’ a BABY JESUS). This is absolutely TRUE for GOD said so and HE never changes his Mind and ‘we’ are no longer worshipping Baby JESUS, but He who died for my/our sins and rose again and is coming again! ***What a SAVIOR*** as IN and TROUGH HIM we stand ‘Justified and Sanctified’ before a THRICE HOLY GOD – in love!

Therefore “... *since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly (child-like ‘fear’) For our God is a consuming fire.*” Hebrews 12:28-29.

IF ‘absence’ makes the heart grow fonder, then the

‘church’ He says: “Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10:24-25. (Practically all the time when God speaks about His “church”; it is the ones under the Blood of Jesus’ who are assembling – communion of saints)

AS the secular, religious and spiritual boisterous storm ‘clouds’ intensify all around ‘us’; “I, Jesus, have send My angel (messenger) to testify to you these things in the churches, I am the root and the Off-spring of David, the Bright and Morning Star” Revelation 22:16.

CANDLES

“Thou wilt light my candle.” Psalm 18:26

The people of Israel knew of no candles. Their candles were lamps. But the idea is the same. It was a ***light***.

A lighted lamp was the sign of an inhabited home. It indicated the continued preservation of a family. The text above means that God would not permit the royal dynasty of David to come to an end.

When Job speaks of a lamp put out it implies that the household and family of the godless would become extinct. The seven-branched lamp-stand (“candlestick”) in the holy Place symbolized the presence of the Lord in His ***“House.”***

A burning lamp was also a sign of good luck. Hence a lamp was always kept lighted in a home. It was the duty of the wife to see that it did not go out. To insure sleep it was covered with a tilted “bushel” or shoved under the bed, but replenished with oil two or three times during the night to keep it burning. The ideal housewife in Prov. 31:18 does not permit her lamp to go out by night because of this traditional notion. Consequently the foolish virgins of Matt. 25 who neglected to provide themselves with oil for their lamps were refused admission to the house of the bride as an unlighted lamp was sign of bad luck.

The significance of the language is therefore plain when we read that “a lamp shall shine no more in thee” – in Babylon – but in the heavenly Jerusalem ***“they need no light of lamp ... For the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign for ever and ever”*** Revelation 22:5. Selected.

Editor’s Note: QUESTION???. Is there such a thing for a ‘child of God’ as ‘luck’; either in his vocabulary or life?? (Food for thought!!)

* * * * *

Just Keep on Going!

Dr. John Hamblin

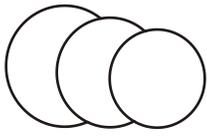
“IF thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small” Proverbs 24:10.

It takes perseverance to serve the Lord — the attitude of “I’m not giving up; I’m not turning back; I’m not lying down; I’m not going to blow retreat and raise the white flag of surrender. I’m not going to quit!”

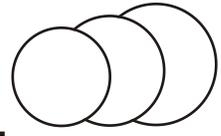
Not everybody is going to be behind you. Not everybody is going to say, ***“Way to go!”*** Not everybody is going to be cheering for you or asking you to sign his Bible. You will find that your biggest fan today can, in less than twenty-four hours, be your biggest foe tomorrow. It takes perseverance.

A young preacher came to me recently and said, *“People are saying things about me!”*

Christians think about the silliest things, and they quit over the most infantile things. How can the believer, seeing Paul standing heavily chained before King Agrippa, want to give up because someone didn’t speak to him at church, because the pastor didn’t visit his home when he had an ingrown toenail, because he didn’t see his name in the church bulletin or it was mis-spelled?



From Our Fellowship Circle



J. & J. Z.

Bismarck, ND

We're looking forward to seeing you soon at the Hauge Bible Conference at Detroit, Lakes, MN, Lord willing, and will be able to attend. (Ed. Which they did. What wonderful, clear, Bible-centered messages and warm Christian fellowship we had – PTL)

H. Lutheran Church

Strandquist, MN

It is with great joy that our Congregation decided to send this check. Praise the Lord! Pray that it will help.

H. H.

Forest City, IA

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus. I am enclosing a gift in living memory of my Brother Reuben who passed to Glory on September 13, 2016.

God bless the great work you all are doing through the vessel of the *Morning Glory*.

D. & C. H.

Roland, IA

Just a quick note of thanks for all your work in sending us the *Morning Glory*. Its Scriptural articles and Christian perspectives in the News are what we need in today's world.

Also enclosing a gift of appreciation for you (M.G.) in the Lord's Work. ...

J. & A. M.

Audubon, MN

Thank you for the *Morning Glory*. Any kind of communication or fellowship with fellow believers is to be cherished.

Thank you also for the recent Hauge Conference at Faith Lutheran in Detroit Lakes, MN. I would encourage every church to hold a conference such as that through the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation at least once every few years. The Word of God is studied, the Hymns of faith are sung, and the only True Religion of the Lord Jesus Christ calls to those called by His Name to come out of the 'World's Darkness and into the Light of Salvation.

P. J.

Willmar, MN

Thank you for the *Morning Glory* and keep it going!

I am 82 years old and I read it and pass it on – thanks again.

Big Prayers, You Say?

Dr. John R. Rice

Look through the Bible: Did God ever rebuke one who came with a great request?

Was He not pleased with the centurion who could simply say, "*Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed*" (Matthew 8:8)?

Was He not pleased at the insistence of the Syrophenician woman who would not take no for an answer?

Did He not encourage us to be like the widow before the unjust judge who could not be shut up but would have her justice?

Was not God pleased at the persistence of Jacob who wrestled with the angel and, with his thigh out of joint, could not be persuaded to let go until he got the blessing?

Preachers tend to tell us to go slow, not to ask for too big a thing, not to ask anything selfish nor for more than bare necessities. But God never says anything like that, never puts on the brakes.

A dear layman in Dallas, Texas came for a time of prayer with me. We prayed for daily radio broadcasts costing hundreds of dollars, for a heavy printing bill, for a blessed tent revival that was about to start, for the money for a large brick tabernacle 90 by 146 feet we were building.

After we had agreed on all these things for which we would ask God's help, he prayed and then rather apologetically said, "Lord, if You will please give us these thing this time, we will try never to ask for so much any-more"!

But if men feel that God is embarrassed by much asking, they are wrong. Preachers would have us limit our requests to bare necessities; but God says, "*I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it*" (Ps. 81:10).

Sword of the Lord.

Editor's Note: "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" Ephesians 3:20-21.

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:13-14. Lord willing, that GOD may be glorified in the Son!

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

NCAA Is “Being Used” by LGBT’s Sexual Revolution, Benham Brothers Say

The Benham brothers say that the National Collegiate Athletic Association is being used by LGBT activists and champions of the sexual revolution to facilitate a moral revolution in America.

After the NCAA announced...that it pulled seven championship events scheduled for this year and next from North Carolina over its opposition to the state’s bathroom law that requires transgender individuals to use restrooms and changing areas designated for their birth sex, residents Jason and David Benham spoke with the Christian Post over the phone to give their response to that decision.

The Benham brothers, popular Christian conservative real estate entrepreneurs who had their HGTV show cancelled because of their opposition to gay marriage, said the negative reaction the state has received to H.B. 2 from major national organizations and entertainers like the NCAA and Bruce Springsteen is all part of the far left’s three-step process to overtake America with a “radical revolution.”

...David told CP: “The radical revolution to overtake America follows a three-step plan – frame the issue, facilitate support, fracture dissent.”

As the NCAA and other organizations continue to take action against North Carolina to protest the state’s law, David explained that it’s all part of the “facilitate support” phase of the sexual undertaking of America...

Samuel Smith for ChristianPost.com

North Carolina’s Lieutenant Governor’s Epic Response to the NCAA

North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest gave an epic response to the NCAA’s decision to pull several championship sporting events from his state as a result of a law that prohibits opposite-sex use of private facilities like bathrooms...

...The NCAA yanked seven championship tournament events across several sports, including several 2017 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament games slated for Greensboro next spring, from the state...

Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest offered an epic response:

“The NCAA’s action sends a message to every fe-

male athlete and female fan attending their events that their privacy and security in a bathroom, shower or locker room isn’t worth the price of a ticket to a ball game.

“We have seen the NCAA’s attitude toward women before when they stood by and did nothing during the rapes at Baylor. For years, we’ve seen the NBA turn a blind eye toward women victims of domestic abuse at the hands of their star players.

“Why should we be surprised now at the NCAA continuing this pattern of discrimination and degradation of women? The line has now been drawn in the sand, first by Hollywood, now by the NBA and NCAA: either accept their ‘progressive sexual agenda’ or pay the price.

“North Carolina will not play that game. We value our women too much to put a price tag on their hands.”

Bob Eschliman

Bestseller Children’s Book Is Evolution Propaganda

Christiannews.net (September 5, 2016) reports that “an evolution propagandizing an illustrated children’s book is drawing praise from the secular community and currently ranks as a best seller on Amazon.com.

“*Annabelle & Aiden: The Story of Life* is a 26-page children’s book that was published last month. Advertised as an ‘inspirational story-book’ that will help kids ‘gain a basic understanding of evolution,’ the book walks readers through the history of life according to Charles Darwin.”

Using talking animals, the book presents evolution to children in an entertaining way. “Featuring a ‘wise owl’ who describes evolution to two young girls named Annabelle and Aiden, the book proselytizes evolution using rhyming text and whimsical illustrations ...”

Instead of a common creator, the book teaches a common ancestor from a mysterious glob of matter. “Every animal, every single form of life, all share a common ancestor,’ one page in the book says. ‘If you go back far enough, people, like most mammals, evolved from fish,’ another page claims.”

Dr. Ron Baity, RETURN AMERICA

Putin Signs Law Banning Evangelism Outside Churches

Vladimir Putin, under guise of fighting terrorism, has signed into law a measure punishing any kind of religious evangelization outside of churches, which some have called one of the most restrictive moves in “post-Soviet history.” The new law blocks the sharing of faith in any place that is not a government-sanctioned house of worship.

Under the law, foreign missionaries will not be allowed to speak at churches unless they have a work permit from Russian authorities. Any kind of discussion about God with nonbelievers will be considered missionary activity and punishable by law. Religious activities even in private homes will not be allowed. People are forbidden to invite anyone to church via email.

Anyone from age 14 found preaching outside a church will be prosecuted, and every citizen is required to report religious activity to the authorities or face punishment him or herself. *Charisma News* reports that thousands of churches in Russia are coming together to fast and pray against this new law.

Christianpost.com, 7/12/16

Vine and Branches Editor’s Note: This new law in Russia is what leftist politicians are seeking to bring about in America. Restrictions forbidding anyone from speaking about God or Jesus in public, regulations that require Christians to violate their conscience regarding homosexuality, same-sex marriage, and a host of other moral issues are but the beginning of attempts to curtail churches from trying to influence culture or government policies in this country. **WAKE UP, AMERICA!**

The Vine and the Branches

ADVENT

By Dr. C. J. Sodergren

“*Coming!*” This is the great word of the Christian hope. The Bridegroom is The Comer to the Bride. This is the one vision of her radiant eyes. Whether it be His first coming, or His coming now in the Word – written, proclaimed, or sealed to the individual believer... Or His final coming in great glory, this is “the favorite song” of her heart.

YES, **He** came as a Saviour in the fullness of time. He is here now, invisible but present in the visible means

of grace. He is with us always in every hour and in every experience (Editor: for the true follower/believer in JESUS!). When the nights are long and lonely; when the days are “just one day after another” of monotonous round, cheerful, tolerable, or depressing; when moderate health attends our way, or illness pays its unexpected call; when we “get along after a fashion” or are unable to meet added expenses, He is near to see us through.

We see Him in the beauty of nature in the miracle of a baby’s eyes, in the marvel of reason and sanity, in a symphony of music, in the crystals of the snow or the petals of a flower, the song of a bird, the effulgence of the sun, or the quiet radiance of the stars at night.

We know Him, too, in the spirit of devout fellow Christians. Especially those of the humble sort – the laborer with the dinner pail, the mother of many children, the praying son and daughter, the consecrated “old maid,” the Bible-reading “forgotten man.” In all these He finds a manger, a Bethany, a throne.

BUT some day – the day that is “just right,” the day that His infinite wisdom decrees — He is coming to “*those who love His appearing.*” We do not know how or when, but we are satisfied to wait. The sun may be shining or the lights may be burning low. It matters not. We shall be ready and our hearts shall be glad to welcome Him. Meanwhile we trust humbly in the promise of a Friend who loves his own unto the end. “*When I have prepared a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.*”

*O trim your lamps, ye virgins wise!
A clarion call rings through the skies;
“The Bridegroom comes! From sleep arise!”
Even so come Lord Jesus.*

*Creation groans and pines for Thee,
To make things new, to set her free.
Long has she pleaded yearningly;
Even so come Lord Jesus.*

*Come, glory-crowned, in regal might,
Thy Bride awaits Thee with delight!
Her every heart-throb bides the sight!
Even so come, Lord Jesus.*

(Anna Hoppe)

The Bible Banner, December, 1938

Age of Doctrinal Strife and Religious Wars — 1550 – 1650

(At times it is good for us to reflect where we have come from and where we are going, Editor)!

The Devil was chased out through the front door, as it were, in the wonderful Reformation revival; but, as after any revival he tried hard to re-enter the back door. When the blessed Reformation revival had seemingly swept all before it and sort of spent its main reviving power at the time of the death of Luther, the devil tried ever so hard to enter by two back doors to again occupy *“the house that had been swept and garnished.”* The first back door he seemed really to enter was to smuggle in misunderstandings and frightful trouble among the Protestant Christians themselves. Unbrotherliness, suspicion and intolerance reached such frightful depths that one might think it would have been better if they all had remained in the Roman church. What the devil did not succeed in destroying through endless doctrinal strife, he attempted to do through another back door with sly Jesuit propaganda. Next came fearful religious wars and the most dreadful persecutions, ... The Gospel ship seemed to be completely lost in one way or another ... It emerged gloriously in the blessed Pietistic revival. But it is very sad to reflect on how much Satan gained in so many countries by that frightful so-called Catholic Counter-Reformation.

As these awful struggles at first began in Luther’s heart and life, ... we shall begin our brief synopsis with Luther himself. ...

Life of Luther – Synopsis

It has been said that Luther launched the Reformation ship, but the great Swedish king, Gustavus Adolphus, rescued the Reformation ship as it was on the point of going under in the fiercest storm. A very rapid review of the main events as linked up with some of the main dates should be helpful to get a birds-eye view of great events in church history from the time of Luther... at which time the Evangelical Lutheran Reformation was definitely rescued – its legal status obtained and religious liberty declared. Through all these difficult and struggling years the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, led His dear people along.

Nov. 10, 1483 Luther was born at Eisleben, Saxony. A life of spirit and power that was destined to shake the whole world here had its beginning. ...

In 1507, Luther was ordained to the priesthood, but he had no peace with God. ...

In 1510-11 Luther made his famous journey to Rome, perhaps the most important journey since Paul

had journeyed to Damascus; for on his return journey the Holy Spirit revealed salvation full and free to him through **Romans 1:17**. So he could praise God for salvation and joyfully confess: *“Now I feel I am born again and the gates of Paradise are swung wide open.”*

Oct. 18, 1512, Luther at Wittenberg was made doctor of theology and out from a living experience he began to expound and explain the Word of God so that everybody could understand... The new and living way of salvation was made plain to simple folk.

Oct. 31, 1517, Luther, surrounded by the most awful soul-destroying abuse of the selling of indulgences, could keep quiet no longer, but posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg attacking the abuses of the Roman Church. Thereby the great Reformation movement broke into the open and was definitely launched.

June 27 - July 16, 1519, the most important disputation in the entire church history took place between Dr. Eck and Luther. Eck stood on tradition and the church. Luther stood on the Bible and the living Truth. Before this date Luther had been on the verge of being silenced. This disputation split the religious world in two. All compromises between dead churchianity and the living truth were now brushed aside.

Dec. 12, 1520, Luther burned the papal bull of condemnation. In such an outstanding way he definitely refused submission to the pope, burnt all bridges behind and got the Reformation movement more into the open ...

April 18, 1521 Luther made his ever-memorable confession before the illustrious Diet at Worms where he refused to yield, refused to retract, but took his firm stand on the imperishable and ever-living Word of God. *“Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”*

In 1521-1522, Luther began his ever-famous translation of the Bible. The New Testament was made ready and printed in September, 1522. From that date the great Lighthouse of God’s Word was and the wonderful beams of light penetrated the darkness throughout the world...

June 25, 1530, the Augsburg Confession of Faith, as written by Melancthon and approved by Luther, was read before the emperor and the Catholics, as well as the Lutheran church leaders at the Diet of Augsburg. It contained 28 short articles, 21 setting forth in clear language the Bible doctrines and the last seven protesting abuses that had crept into the church. The Catholic majority rejected them all, but they have been made the confessional guiding-line for all Lutheran churches ever since, together with the Small Catechism and the original Creed. ...

In 1534, Luther's translation of the whole Bible was ready and printed by Hans Lufft at Wittenberg. 100,000 copies were sold in the next 30 years. It was the great powerhouse as well as the lighthouse for the Reformation movement. The Holy Spirit could now work through His own text-book, and the holy oil of the Word of God could infill and possess His people, and keep them alive and keep the fire on the altar burning.

Innermission Church History, By P. Ljostveit,
Published by Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation,
1948

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CREATION with the APPEARANCE of AGE

By John D. Morris, Ph. D.

Some Christian old-earth advocates hold that if God created fully functioning organisms and physical systems, then He lied. They would have looked deceptively mature when they had in fact just appeared. This, they feel, is ample reason to deny creation and a literal interpretation of Scripture, for God cannot lie.

But how else could He have done it? Would they prefer God to have created Adam as a newborn baby, or an embryo? Even an embryo would appear to have had ancestors, therefore would have an "appearance of age." Indeed, creation with no apparent history is impossible.

When Adam was created, he no doubt looked like a mature adult, fully able to walk, talk, and care for the garden. When God created fruit trees, they were already bearing fruit. In each case, what He created was functionally complete right from the start. Stars, created on Day Four, had to be seen on Day Six in order to be useful in telling time; therefore, their light had to be visible on earth. God's evaluation that the completed creation was "*very good*" (Genesis 1:31) necessitated that it be functionally complete, operating in harmony, with each part fulfilling the purpose for which it was created.

If a hypothetical observer from a different universe, with no knowledge of Adam's creation, traveled to earth on Day Seven and tried to determine Adam's age (or the age of a rock or the age of a star), how could it be done? He would rely on today's human growth rates (or rates of radioactive decay, or the speed of light), calculate how long it would take for this state of maturity to develop, and come to a *wrong* conclusion.

This is because the world today is not as it was at creation. God's creative powers are at rest now and He is maintaining the creation using the present laws of nature.

The original created world, perfect and non-decaying at first, was subsequently cursed and made subject to decay and death (Genesis 3:17, Romans 8:20). Furthermore, even *that* world was destroyed by the Flood of Noah's day, so that the world we observe is a relic of destructive processes, not creative processes. Any effort to apply present processes and process rates to creation will not succeed.

It is rightly claimed by old-universe advocates that Romans 1:20 reveals truth about creation and God's character must be "clearly seen: from the study of the creation. Any scientist, using valid theory and careful analysis, must be able to determine the age and origin of any object, they say. Since secular scientists have concluded the universe began with a Big Bang, that must be the way it happened. God could not have created with the appearance of a Big Bang if He didn't use that method, they say, so that must be the way He did it.

But this position denies the clear scriptural teachings regarding creation, the Fall, and the Flood. Furthermore, it denies the very possibility of creation, for creation without the appearance of "age" is impossible.

God, in His sovereignty, knew that fallen man, living in the post-Flood world, might wrongly conclude the age and origin of things. For just that reason, He gave us a clear record of what He had done and when He had done it. Furthermore, when we look at the evidence in light of what He has told us, the universe doesn't even look old. The real evidence is fully compatible with an origin only thousands of years ago.

On the other hand, if fallen scientists extrapolating present process *are* right that the universe is old, then God *has* lied to us, for He clearly said He created all things in six days, not too long ago.

ACTS & FACTS, Institute for Creation Research,
December, 2010, © copyrighted, Permission Granted

How can a person commit idolatry with the outward church service? And what moves a person to do it?

Answer

When an unrepentant soul blindly trusts in church attendance, absolution, communion, almsgiving, prayer and singing, etc. The unconverted sinner feels he must have some support to lean on. So instead of turning to Jesus in conversion, he turns so much more to absolution (example: Lord's Supper), the altar and the outward service of the church. In these he finds comfort for his unconverted soul and makes them his idols – First Commandment.

“And the Word Became Flesh”

By H. G. Randolph

“O Lord God, Heavenly Father, we give Thee thanks, that of Thy great goodness and mercy, Thou didst suffer Thine Only begotten Son to become Incarnate, and to redeem us from sin and everlasting death; and we beseech Thee, enlighten our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may evermore yield Thee unfeigned thanks for this Thy grace, and may comfort ourselves with the same in all time of tribulation and temptation through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord. Amen.”

This ancient collect of the Church expresses a deep appreciation of the incarnation. It seems that to the saints of old the incarnation was a blessed and precious truth in a greater measure, perhaps, than to the average Christian today. At any rate, it is well that we with grateful hearts meditate on this truth and permit the Holy Spirit anew to reveal to us the wealth of blessing and grace offered us in the words, “and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.”

His Pre-Incarnate Glory

When we think of Christ’s incarnation we should always do so in the light of the glory which He had with the Father from eternity. We can state it best by giving Jesus’ own description of it in His high priestly prayer, John 17:5, *“And now, Father, glorify thou Me with thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”*

In His incarnation our Lord, of His own free will, chose to lay aside the manifestation of His majestic glory. It is true that there were times when it shone forth, as, for example, in His miracles. When He changed the water into wine at Cana the disciples saw in that miracle His glory and believed on Him. John testifies of it in this way, *“This beginning of His signs did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed on Him.”* Also on the Mount of Transfiguration the glory of Christ as the Son of God broke forth in its full and undiminished splendor. The description of Jesus in the Transfiguration, as recorded in the gospels, tallies exactly with the picture given of the ascended and the exalted Christ in the Book of Revelation. The Apostle Peter, in speaking of Christ’s coming in glory, points to the Transfiguration as a sample and proof of His return. In his description of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration he says, *“But we were eye witnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when there was borne such a voice to Him by the Majestic Glory, This is My beloved*

Son in whom I am well pleased” 2 Peter 1:16b, 17.

From this it is plain that the incarnation was not a hindrance to the full manifestation of His glory and an undiminished use of His divine power. But He chose in willing self-renunciation to lay aside the insignia of His majesty and glory, as well as the full use of His power. Only when His heavenly Father so willed it did He exercise His divine prerogatives which were always His.

Accordingly, we find that He was among us “in the likeness of men,” as Paul puts it, and not in the likeness of God, that is, in the full manifestation of His divine glory.

Dwelling among us in the flesh He lived a truly human life. For example, He learned to know the Father’s will, not by the exercise of His divine omniscience, but by finding it in communion with His heavenly Father in the Word and in prayer and in perfect obedience, exactly in the same manner as a believer now learns to know God’s will. He declares that He did the works which the Father had showed Him, and spoke the words which He had heard from Him.

The Purpose of the Incarnation

Christ became flesh and emptied Himself in order that *“through death He might bring to nought him that had the power of death, that is, the devil”* Hebrews 2:14. He subjected Himself to these limitations we have spoken of in order to accomplish our redemption “Wherefore it behooved Him in all things to be made like unto His brethren, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” Hebrews 2:17. He became flesh in order that by His death He might bring us to God. For *“Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.* In order to do that, He was even willing to empty Himself of His divine glory and power and become a servant and be among us in the likeness of men. Even more, He chose to learn obedience and to be obedient even unto death that He might be made perfect as our Great High Priest.

When the Bible speaks of Christ being made perfect there is no implication of moral or ethical imperfection or lack in Him. The word means “complete” or “full-fledged.” By His obedience in life and even unto death He became a truly perfect and complete High Priest for us. This does not imply that He was perfected as man, for He was truly man, or as God, for He was very God. Notice it was as High Priest He was made perfect in His self-effacing obedience. The fact simply stated is this: Christ could never have been our High Priest had He not lived a fully obedient life and in com-

plete surrender of Himself laid down His life a ransom for sinners. He would have truly been the God-man, but not our High Priest. To become our High Priest He had to be obedient all the way unto death. It is for this reason that Christ chose to become flesh and to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. And not only to become flesh, but to empty Himself and humble Himself, becoming obedient unto death.

Therefore, when we at this season think of Christ's coming in the flesh, let us with grateful hearts remember His self-renunciation. Let us view Him in His perfect obedience. Let our hearts dwell in grateful adoration and in humble faith on the purpose of His incarnation: to lay down His life a ransom for many.

The Bible Banner, December, 1938

The Beauty of Holiness

*Give to the LORD the glory of His name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.* Psalm 29:2

What do you expect when you go to church on Sunday mornings? Do you view Sunday morning church as a type of performance? Many people do. They listen to the choir as if they were at a concert, ready to critique the choir's performance. They sing hymns, but never once while singing do they ever think of praising God. Instead, they sing hymns by rote, with their minds turned off.

But God doesn't want us to sit back as passive observers. He wants us to actively participate in worshipping him.

Søren Kjerkegaard, the Danish philosopher thought that most people conceive of church as a drama wherein they are merely spectators. In this drama, the minister is the principal actor. God prompts the minister by whispering His lines in the minister's ear (should the minister chance to forget them), and the congregation members are the critics who pass their judgment on the performance.

The truth of the matter, says Kjerkegaard, is that church is a drama of sorts. But if we view worship as God designed it, the congregation members should be the actors, the minister, the prompter, and God Himself the critic. Why? Because worship is our response to the revelation of God. When we recognize God's true nature, we want to worship Him in direct proportion to the clarity of our vision of Him.

So many people don't experience the true joy of wor-

ship. But God doesn't want us to miss it. This Sunday, remember to actively worship God as a participant not as a mere spectator. When the choir sings and the minister preaches, lift their words in praise to God. "*Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name.*"

***"If absence makes the heart grow fonder,
Some people ought to love their churches greatly."***

Anonymous

New Every Morning, By D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, Copyright © 2016 D. James Kennedy Ministries

Christ of Christmas

Thank God there are still many Christian homes among the many heathen homes in our Country. In those Christian homes are decorations, the tree, the devotions, the gifts are hallowed by Christ and hallow His name. In those homes He is the invited and welcome Guest. His presence makes the faces of that family circle radiant. His Word is the light of that household. His peace is the benediction which rests upon them all.

Who is this Visitor and Friend? It is God manifest in the flesh. It is He who bears the names Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. When He "came upon the midnight clear" – like the angel carols attending His birth – He passed by the great centers and chose a tiny town of doubtful reputation. Turning from the high born and mighty, He singled out a humble maiden and the family of a devout carpenter. And the place of His arrival was not a royal palace. It was a stall in a stable. This was the doorstep of the world on which was laid its Creator in the form of a Babe.

Christianity after two thousand years is not what the world would call a big success, but that event is not forgotten and will never be forgotten. To thousands in our own country Jesus is "***The Forgotten Man.***" Yes, even to governments and administrations. But the light of that dawning does not fade and is not disappearing.

The Babe born that night in Bethlehem was later crucified; the message He brought has often been obscured in the church; the vision He revealed to faith has frequently grown dim; the hope He revived in a darling world has been eclipsed again and again. But the Spirit of Christ still survives in His Church among His friends, and is waiting for the day when its name can be written into our common life as a nation and the nations of the earth.

Selected

PACIFISM

By Dr. C. J. Sodergren

“On earth peace.” Luke 2:14

The Christian pacifist is not a “passivist.” He knows that we can no more put an end to war by starting a universal sit-down strike against it than we can by launching a world war.

His strategy indeed is *negative*. Finding in war the complete repudiation of all the values which make life worth living, he feels morally compelled to renounce any participation in it. He votes No and accepts the consequences of that No, even though the price of his conscientious objection be hatred, persecution, imprisonment and *possible* death. The early Christians refused to serve in the armies of Rome and bore patiently the stigma of treason to the Empire. They were pacifist because they were convinced that mass murder is as much a sin against God and men as individual murder. The Spirit of Christ in them abhorred the shedding of blood as the foulest of crimes.

If the membership of the Church of our own day had been truly loyal to the teachings of the Gospel of “peace on earth,” the horrible nightmare. . . . If the Christians of the present generation were consistent confessors” and universally willing to pay the price of martyrdom, the shambles of . . . would not be written into current history with the blood of men and women, children and infant. Our brave and noble modern warfare would be unthinkable.

But the strategy of the Christian pacifist is also **positive**. He is aggressive in his efforts to sweep war back to the hell which spawns it. Not merely by writing and speaking against it as a true “protestant.” This is commendable and necessary, if for no other reason than to have, in so far, a conscience void of offense. But he also labors to infuse into old and young a faith and a love which makes for peace in all the relations of the human family. He knows that if this is accomplished, and to the extent that it is realized, war will automatically become a thing of the past.

It is evident to him that as long as men in high and low station are tigers and wolves, war is inevitable. He sees more clearly than ever that if selfishness is the ruling motive and the law of the jungle is to determine the policies and conduct of a pagan civilization, men will continue to beat their plowshares into swords. He is also aware that if the Church fails to produce a generation of peace-makers in their private lives, their social contact their industrial relations and business operations, every effort to usher in peace is unavailing. It must be “peace on earth among men in whom He (God) is well pleased.”

There was one man on earth in whom He was “well

pleased,” the man CHRIST JESUS. “*Without Me ye can do nothing*” is the either-or. Only in measure that we become like Him, the conditions of peace are present. This is accomplished, not by endeavoring to approximate an ideal or imitate an example, but by receiving Him into our hearts and being filled with His Spirit. “**He is our peace.**” He is our one and only hope. And we can do all thing through Christ who strengtheneth us. “*As my Father sent me, so I send you*” – to do the “impossible.”

We have the Word and the Sacraments by which He communicates to us His life. In these the inexhaustible resources of His love and His power to perform what is His revealed will, are at our disposal. Right relations with God by vital union with Christ, the divine incarnation of grace and truth, aligns us with the omnipotent power of Him who says: “*I know the thoughts which I think toward you, saith Jehovah, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope in your later end*” Jeremiah 29:11.

The song of the angels came from a realm beyond history. When men enter into that realm, they will share in the universal peace of that realm on earth in the kingdom of Christ. The peace of God which passeth all understanding will keep their hearts and their thoughts in Christ Jesus. Any other pacifism flees before the trampling hoofs of the apocalyptic steeds.

The Bible Banner, December, 1938

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God’s Peace

There is no blessing that brings more positive benefits to the life than the enjoyment of God’s peace. While all Christians have experienced peace with God by virtue of exercising saving faith in Christ (Rom 5:1), many of God’s children know little of “*the peace of God, which passeth all understanding*: because their lives are not dominated by believing prevailing prayer, which God’s Word so closely connects with the enjoyment of His peace (Phil. 4:6, 7).

It is impossible to enjoy God’s peace and not face war. The peace is experienced in the midst of war and as a reward for victory in the war, but it can never be experienced without war.

The reason is obvious. The peace of God is a result of adjustment to God’s will and the experience of the fullness of the Spirit to perform that will. Such an experience, or even an attempt to enjoy such an experience, is a danger signal to Satan and immediately rouses his fierce attacks and subtle temptations.

It is therefore quite apparent that the Christian who is afraid to face war against the Devil will never know much of God’s peace. — Merrill Unger

The Nations Against Jerusalem

“And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” Zechariah 12:9.

By Pastor Paul Larson, Faith Lutheran Church,
Detroit Lakes, MN

We are living in exciting days! Many of the things that Jesus told us to look for as indicators of His return are happening all around us. One of the things that will happen in the last days is that certain countries are going to band together and come against Israel. (See Ezekiel 38 & 39). Among these nations will be Russia and Iran along with some of their allies. There was one piece of this scene that was puzzling because Turkey was to be allied with them. As most of us know Turkey is part of NATO and our friend. At least that’s the way it was!

Stunning news is now coming out indicating that Turkey wants to join forces with Russia and Iran. So far they are still a part of NATO. However, when they leave NATO and join up with Russia that last piece of that puzzle will be in place. Do you wonder if we are in the last days? Keep your eye on Turkey.

If they make a move to go with Russia and Iran it would mean all the nations the Bible tells us about would be in place and ready to attack Israel.

What should we do as we watch this unfold? Do exactly what Jesus told us to do, **“when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”**

Take heart my fellow believers, Jesus is coming soon! Don’t be discouraged but rather be faithful and keep trusting in Him. Everything is happening just as He said it would and that means His return will also happen just as He said it would, the trumpet will sound and we will go to meet Him in the air. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.**

Be Found Faithful unto HIM!

From “Truth Unto Godliness”

Shall not a believing Christian live according to the (God’s) Law?

Answer: Certainly! A believing Christ is free from the curse and bondage of the Law but not from its obedience; for the love of Christ constrains him to live according to the Law, and when he fails and sins because of his weaknesses, he is not condemned, because he is in Christ. **“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit”**
Romans 8:1. Selected

UpDate

Giving and Receiving

AS you are already aware, during this Advent and Christmas Season, there is a lot of giving and exchanging of gifts, which is great; but also please keep in mind/heart that the prime enemy is a cheater, stealer, demander, etc. and his name is Satan! He functions somewhat similar to Santa Claus, only Santa is an imitation. Lucifer and the fallen angels – that follow his bidding – are out to steal, destroy and kill as the ‘father of LIES’ – as the deceiver of the whole world! TOMORROW is a word that Satan (& the fallen and the evil angels) likes to whisper in a person’s ear! Satan tried in his limited knowledge and power to destroy even the lineage and birth of the Baby, who was *God’s Incarnation*. With that in mind/heart, don’t forget that JESUS challenges us that where are ‘treasure is, there our hearts will be also’!

At this point and place in time, WE most certainly what to express our THANK YOU’S for your response to our financial crisis (S.O.S) – Thank you and may the ONE whose ‘BirthDay’ (Incarnation) we are commemorating richly bless in your response to His leading! (Need is the essence of prayer; but it has been wonderful experiencing YOU as a vessel). Keep in mind that JESUS was willing to make Heaven poor that you and I might become ‘rich’ in His marvelous provision – of SALVATION by **GRACE**. **What a GIFT!** *The Pearl of great Price!*

Although as we are still struggling, it would be such a rich blessing not only to continue in the black – financially; for our conscientious careful dispersed need, but to have some extra funds in our treasury so that we (together) could *possibly enlarge* this ministry in ‘occupying Till JESUS comes’ again! God states that for a cheerful Giver, it is more blessed to give then receive! Could YOU invest more at this time financially in this portion of God’s kingdom Work among men? Do you *think* that you can out-give GOD? Just be obedient out of love and see how HE provides! Luke 6:38.

October’s Income for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* is \$11,548.00.

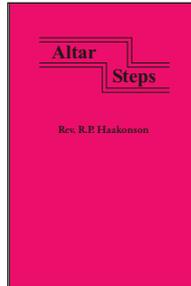
At the present rate the monthly cost of the ministry of the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermision Federation runs about \$3,500.

The Hauge Library

We have the following publications available for you. They can be ordered using the envelope in the center.

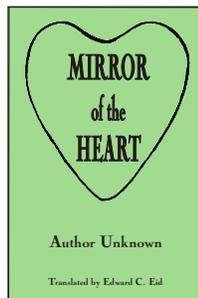
Altar Steps

This daily devotional was written by Pastor R.P. Haakonson and was published in 1947. It is suitable for families with children. It has illustrations from daily life, and a strong salvation emphasis. Suggested offering: \$8.00 plus \$2.00 for postage.



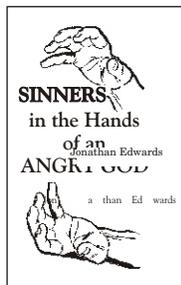
Mirror of the Heart

This book was published in 1900 by an unknown author. It contains some very earnest meditations and fervent prayers. It also contains ten very graphic pictures of the human heart. Inside the heart, the devil is visualized and also seven animals representing some of the most prevalent sins found in the heart of the impenitent sinner. These pictures show how these animals as sins are driven out of the heart when the sinner is converted to God, but how they re-enter the heart when a person falls away from grace. One picture visualizes the fearful death of the ungodly, and another shows the blessed death of the righteous. Suggested Offering: \$3.00 plus \$1.00 for postage.



Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Jonathan Edwards preached this remarkable sermon at Enfield, Conn. on July 8, 1741. It was at night while he was reading it to a large congregation, that the lights became dim and he read with difficulty, and the influence was so great on the congregation that strong men and women cried and screamed for mercy and even grabbed their seats for fear they would slide into hell that very moment. Suggested Offering: \$1.00 plus 50¢ for postage.



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Volume XCVIII • Number 12 • December, 2016
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Evangelistic Meetings?

Why is there little interest in Evangelistic Meetings today? There are a number of gifted evangelists available right now, but very few churches have an interest in holding such meetings. They used to be part of the normal life of the evangelical Lutheran church, but for most churches, they are a thing of the past. It was not uncommon in years past to have tent meetings that went for 2 weeks. There used to be prominent Lutheran evangelistic organizations, but today they are all but gone.

Is it because pastors and people believe that baptism and confirmation saves a person? Is it because they feel that the baptized don't need to be evangelized? Is it because there has been a change in belief of what a true, living faith is in a person's life today?

Another area that has led to the demise of evangelistic meetings is the belief that there is no eternal hell and that God is too loving to condemn anyone to such a state. Yet Jesus will one day declare, "*Depart from Me, you accursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*" (Matt. 25:41)

Will you prayerfully consider hosting Evangelistic Meetings?