



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2017

The Only Begotten

By Henry M. Morris, III, D. Min.

“Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

(Philippians 2:5-8.)

This famous passage is not often emphasized during Christmas since the season’s focus is on the social and circumstantial events surrounding the birth of our Lord Jesus. However, the Holy Spirit gave the apostle Paul a majestic record of what transpired in the courts of heaven to bring about the incarnation of the Messiah. These succinct statements provide a unique picture of who the Lord Jesus is, how the great eternal Creator became man, and what He accomplished on our behalf on the cross.

Jesus Christ Is the Creator

Whenever we pose the gospel, it is incumbent on us to make sure that we introduce Christ as the Creator – setting the stage with who Jesus is before we tell what He did. The Scriptures are abundantly clear: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of*

the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1-3, 14).

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16).

God ...has in these last days spoken for us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds. (Hebrews 1:1-2).

In the Philippians passage, Paul covers this major issue with the powerful statement that Jesus Christ did not have to “consider it robbery to be equal with God” but possessed the very “form of God.” The word choices reflect the careful connection and unity of the triune nature of God. “The “form” of God that Jesus possesses is defined by the Greek word (morphe), which emphasizes the “external appearance.” Paul also told the Colossian church that the Lord Jesus was the “fullness of the God-head bodily” (Colossians 2:9).

Jesus Christ Is Equal with the Father

When the Lord told His apostles, *“I and My Father are one”* (John 10:30), He was most certainly speaking of the equality that Paul cites in Philippians. It says that Christ *“did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.”* The unusual choice words analyzes the reality of the “equality.”

The word translated “consider” is (hegeomai), which designates a leader who has determined the best solution to a dilemma. The word is used to identify leaders (e.g., chief, governor, judge) as well as the attributes of those who lead well (with the ability to give an account, show esteem, have the rule over, think wisely).

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Jesus Christ, during the eternity prior to His incarnation, did not come to the conclusion (using all knowledge) that He was in any way inferior to God the Father. Jesus Christ was “equal to God”. Once again the word choice is absolute. Jesus the Creator is (isos), the primary word for total equality both in the sense of quantity and quality – with no “robbery” of either amount or value. Whoever and whatever the Second Person of the Godhead may be, there is absolutely no necessity to “grasp” or “steal” or “overcome” any attribute that God possesses.

Jesus Christ Emptied Himself

It is with the word (*keno*) that the transition from the Second Person of the Godhead to the Son of Man begins. *Keno* is only used five times in the New Testament and is translated with phrases like “make of none effect,” “make of no reputation,” “make void,” “be in vain,” always in the context of emphasizing a self-induced reduction or emptying of power or assets. That is, the person involved consciously “gives up” or “discards” or “nullifies” a condition or set of attributes that they owned or controlled, and they became “lessened” because of that conscious action.

That one key word verifies that Jesus the Creator consciously and with His own volition divested Himself of His “omni” attributes so that He could become fully the “bondservant” and in habit the “likeness of men.”

The succinct passage in Philippians 2 also gives us the additional clarity that this divestiture of attributes accomplished the unique transition from full glorious deity, shared by the Trinity from all eternity past (John 17:5, 24), to the “appearance” and “humility” of humanity. The Creator emptied Himself under His own power and will, “taking” the “form” (morphé, the same word used to describe His equality with God the Father) but “found” Himself as a “bondservant”.

At this point the voice of the verb changes. Previously, all the verbs describing what the Lord Jesus was doing were in the active voice. That is, the Creator is doing the action (the “emptying and the taking” to himself. Suddenly, active voice changes to passive and the Lord Jesus is acted upon. He “found” Himself in the appearance as a “man.” The book of Hebrews tells us that the Lord Jesus understood that “a body” had been “prepared for Me” by His Father (Hebrews 10:5).

All of this was done that He might “likewise (share) in the same: (Hebrews 2:14) because “*He had to be made like His brethren*” (Hebrews 2:17) so that He could be “*in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*” (Hebrews 4:15). The great eternal Creator was willing to become man that He might fulfill all the aspects of the salvation that the triune Godhead had ordained before “*the foundation of the world*” (1 Peter 1:30, Revelation 13:8).

Jesus Christ was Both Fully God and Fully Man

But it is also absolutely clear that the Son of Man retained His status as full God (John 5:43, 6:35-51, 7:28:23-58, 9:5-39, 10:7-34, 11:25-26; etc.). The Son of Man demonstrated His power and authority through the seven great miracles of creation recorded in the gospel of John. The simplest display of the Creator’s power was in turning water into wine in John 2:1-11. (Ed. New, fresh grape juice – why would the Creator make something aged and fermented?) The Scriptures abound with this teaching.

Jesus Christ Became the Unique God-Man to Provide Salvation

No celebration of the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Creator of all things (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16), would be complete or satisfactory if we did not celebrate the reason for His incarnation. That reason is summarized in this verse:

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

When you gather with your families or with your church friends – or even as you unwind with your Bible in your private devotions – please give your mind and heart

to meditate on these precious words:

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.” (1 Peter 1:18-20).

May your Christmas season be filled with the “**praise of the glory of His grace**” (Ephesians 1:6).

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* * * * *

Advance with the Bible

By Dr. Samuel Miller

*In Christ there is a life to live,
A life of joy and gladness.
He will His own the power give
To conquer sin and sadness,
Now therefore let this truth be heard:
Christ gives His power through His Word.
Advance! Advance with the Bible!*

*There is a foe for us to fight,
Satanic hosts of evil;
We dare not stand in our own might
When we must face the devil.
We wield the Spirit’s mighty sword,
Christ gives it to us by His Word,
Advance! Advance with the Bible!*

*There is a world for us to win
Sunk deep in guilt and sorrow,
Christ bore the burden of its sin
To make a glad tomorrow.
Be every soul to action stirred,
That all mankind may hear His Word.
Advance with the Bible!*

*There is a city, from afar
It beckons to us mortals,
Christ comes, the Bright, the Morning Star
To lead us through its portals.
Thou King of Kings, of Lords the Lord,
Grant us Thy glory by Thy Word.
Advance! Advance with the Bible!*

Knowing God

By Dr. C. J. Sodergren

If we search for God as an Object among other objects, we fail to find Him. If we conceive of God as enthroned somewhere in the “blue inane” or beyond the stars, modern astronomy projects Him far beyond the reach of our utmost thought. Human wisdom cannot find Him. He is not the object of thought. Knowledge of God is not intellectual knowledge. We are the objects of His **grace**. Only as penitent and believing recipients of His saving love can we have an immediate experience of what He is.

“Ye have known God,” says Paul in writing to the Galatians. But he adds, “or rather, have come to be known of God.” This “*rather*” turns us from the abstract cognition of humanism to the “existential knowledge” of the Christians.

We cannot find God by searching for Him with telescopes or microscopes. Nor by rational reflection. True knowledge of Him is His gift to us, appropriated by faith.

The Gospel is not the report that someone has discovered God. It is the good news that God has revealed Himself in Christ to us. The human intellect knows only in part – darkly as in a mirror.

Unless we have experimental knowledge of Him as our Saviour, He is only a projection of our own mind, an idol of our own making. But if it is the knowledge of a full surrender to Him and the humble acceptance of His lovingkindness in forgiveness and the gift of eternal life, we may look forward in the cherished hope of Christian trust to the day when we shall know even as we have been known.

Bible Banner, February, 1939

No Vision

By J. I. Kaardal

“The Word of the Lord was precious in those days, There was no open Vision”

(1 Samuel 3:1).

Where there is no Vision, the people perish (cast off restraint) AV (Proverbs 29:18).

Visions from God are given to holy men that they should bring the message to the people.

Persons that have communications with God can expect to have visions. God wants to lay upon their hearts and mind what He wants to do, and let them know

what their part in the work is to be.

In the days of Samuel the people were suffering from inroads of the heathen in their land and from ungodly priests and rulers, like the church today; where people want to be recognized as members of the church but live like the world.

But there was a woman, living with her husband at Ramah in the hill-country of Ephraim, her name was Hannah.

She saw that the kingdom of God would suffer loss if God did not send some help. She was willing to do her share, and she meditated and prayed until people noticed that she was burdened.

The high priests were adulterers, the officials received bribes and the poor received no justice. Religion had become a kind of common business to gain prestige and money.

Visions can be painful, which was evident with Hannah who was in tears because of the condition of the House of God.

She asked God to give her a son, and she promised to give him back to God for work in His Kingdom.

Hannah’s prayer in chapter two reveals that her vision was God inspired and according to the will of God.

Soberly but definitely she says that God was going to punish the ungodly, but honor His poor servants.

Visions from the Lord work like brakes upon the mind of a person, so that his imagination cannot run away with him uncontrolled...

Morning Glory, January, 1976

Editor’s Note: There are those today who claim (*supposedly*) that they have had a VISION! BUT keep definitely in mind that any VISION today that is truly from GOD will not go beyond what is already in GOD’S HOLY, INSPIRED, ETERNAL BOOK – the **BIBLE!**

Do You Care?

A preacher visited the editor of a great daily city newspaper. After an exchange of greetings, the preacher said, “*I have come to talk to you about your soul and ask you to become a Christian. The editor did not reply but walked slowly to the window and looked through tear-dimmed eyes at the milling multitude below. The preacher thought, Oh, I have offended him!* After a moment the editor turned and said, “*Thank you! With the exception of my mother, when I was a little boy, nobody has ever talked to me about becoming a Christian; I thought no one cared!*” Selected

Editorial

RES

JOY

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

(Matthew 1:21)

The name JESUS is a personal name and it means ‘The Lord’s Salvation’! *The Christian Life ought to be a life of experiencing Joy!*

Even though there are numerous obstacles, difficulties, persecution, criticism, etc., for the pilgrim travelers on the Straight and Narrow road, as life is not a ‘destination’ but a ‘journey’, this road is the only ONE that leads to Heaven!

Meanwhile, on this ‘Road’, there is also JOY and that is knowing/experiencing GOD as our Father and knowing as I confess my sins, there is ‘forgiveness’ from God. GOD is the *Justifier* of ALL who are under the Blood of His Son – JESUS! Matthew 1:21.

Then Scripturally: “What is Justification? Justification is the gracious act of God whereby He for Christ’s sake acquits a repentant and believing sinner of his sin and guilt, and looks upon him in Christ, as though he had never sinned.” ”What, then does the believer receive through justification? He receives the forgiveness of sins and is adopted a child of God.” Luther’s Small Catechism Explained. *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”* II Corinthians 5:21. Romans 3:24. *“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace”* Ephesians 1:7, Galatians 3:26, Acts 10:43. YES, what mercy, love and Grace, ‘we’ receive from the Sinless, Perfect, HOLY GOD. He has provided this for lost sinners, along with the gift of a Living Faith to believe! To ‘believe’ is to come in action!

There is JOY in knowing/experiencing GOD as our Father and knowing that HE is the Justifier.

There is JOY in knowing JESUS as our personal Savior and its because of His Shed BLOOD that our sins are forgiven – when there is repentance and confession.

There is JOY in having the HOLY SPIRIT indwelling you as you are the dwelling place – His temple/tabernacle.

There is JOY in having GOD’s Eternal Word, the Bi-

ble as our road-map that leads to Heaven – and empowerment to do the same, by power of the third Person of the Godhead.

There is JOY in having HEAVEN as our **HOME** by looking unto **JESUS**, who is the Captain/Author and Finisher of ‘our’ Living faith. *“By faith Abraham obeyed ...By faith ...for he waited for the city which foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”* Hebrews 11:8-10, v. 13-16. Phil. 3:21. **“who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body... Revelation 21:-1-8, 22:1-7, 12-20, 1 John 3:1-3.**

It is only as we know **JESUS** as our personal Savior that we can truly rejoice and walk with Him DAILY – not in our circumstances, but IN HIM. – Philippians 4:4-8.

Jesus – First

Others – Second

Yourself – Last.

Meanwhile, ‘we’ ARE God’s Ambassadors and Jesus Christ is our LORD/*Master*. Let me mention several things in regards to ‘ambassadors’: First they are to be ‘citizens’ of the ‘country’ they represent, Second they serve in a foreign country, Third they are not to alter in the slightest the ‘message’ the ‘Commander-in-chief’ gives them and Fourth they are ‘called HOME’ when their service is through! – **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** These are God promises and God ALWAYS keeps His **Promises:** Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:46-47.

First of all: ‘Faith’ is an action ‘word’, a crucial action – to come to JESUS as a lost/condemned Sinner, seeking His mercy, forgiveness and Salvation through the *gift* of a ‘living faith’.

So ‘faith’ is definitely not only a ‘noun’ but an action of reality. A ‘living-faith’ has a definite degree of EXPECTANCY as a ‘living-faith’ is a GIFT from **GOD** – it is yours and mine to *exercise* the same. Faith is not about everything turning out OK, faith is about being OK no matter how things turn out – Acts 26:18. As ‘faith’ is a living/active element in a Christian’s life – It’s been said that you can know a man (woman) by

his enemies! **Hebrews chapter eleven.**

The 'saved' in the Old Testament era were 'saved' by believing in the 'future-tense' of the promised Messiah, and 'we' are 'saved' by believing in the promised Messiah – past tense, present tense and future tense. **THIS IS ALL A GIFT (GRACE/Unmerited favor) FROM GOD!**

NOW, how 'Rahab' heard/read the Word of God, most certainly I have no idea; except through the 'spies' – nor the 'widow' in 1 Kings chapter 4; (except through the person 'Elisha' – nor the 'wise-men' as they fell down and worshiped an approximately. two year old King as the very SON of GOD. In the New Testament as there is no SALVATION except in and through the Eternal Word of GOD (the Bible) – but they 'believed' GOD and took HIM (compliance/action) at His **Word!**

Physical 'slavery' has been around the 'world' for many centuries and 'sin' has enslaved 'humanity'

since Adam and Eve sinned! We don't learn to sin, as we are born SINNERS and as a symbol, a Fruit tree bears 'fruit'; not vegetables – so we sin because it is our very core to sin – the old nature which we are born-with! Actually we are 'sinners' while in our 'Mothers womb'. It is not the miracle of 'conception', but the sinful old nature. For example: please prayerfully read Romans 4:20-5:2. Especially verse 4:22 – "And therefore 'It was accounted to him for righteousness'". (A 'Living faith' exercised).

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21; also "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteous, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33.

WE, as Editor, Staff and Members of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Board/Morning Glory and 'our' Spouses want to wish YOU a truly blessed Advent and Christmas Season and Joyous New Year!

Dear Mission Friends,

"Come over ...and help us!"

Reading through Psalm 25 today I was reminded of the Scripture song that we sang some years ago: ***"Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul; unto Thee. O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in Thee; Let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me."*** Is that your song and prayer today? Then verses 4 and 5 express the prayer of one who truly has surrendered their heart and soul to the Lord, and is walking daily in fellowship with Him: ***"Make me know Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day."***

It is obvious to those who know the Lord and His Word that we are living in challenging times. The sign in nature — the floods, hurricanes, heat and drought, the fires and earthquakes all over the world – points to the nearness of Christ's return. The signs in society – hatred, killing, wars, divisiveness and anarchy – also remind us of a society in rebellion against God. Certainly the sign of Israel being restored as a nation, in fulfillment of God's sure promise to them, also points to the return of Christ. Finally, the signs of apostasy in the outward church should cause us to lift up our heads, for our redemption is drawing near.

It is especially in days like these that our daily prayer should be like the verses above. There is no need for us to be afraid of the turmoil in the world today. Our

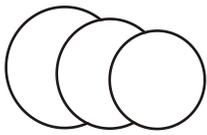
times are in the Lord's hand (Ps. 31:15). Regardless of all the signs in our world, the child of God has the blessed assurance that we are "safe in the arms of Jesus". We can say with the apostle Paul, *"For me to live is Christ. And to die is gain."* (Phil. 1:21). The eternal future is as bright as the promises of God!

So how should we then live today? Make David's prayer above YOUR prayer today, and each day. Remember, for the child of God, each day we are one day nearer Home! And unto that day, let us heed the reminder in Scripture; "making the most of your time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:16).

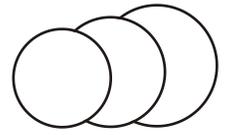
Excerpt from *The Kenyan Call*, Editor: Pastor Don Greven.

Editor's Note: I understand this actually took place in the heart and life of Martin Luther. The account goes that Martin Luther was asked what he would do 'today' IF the LORD told him HE is coming tomorrow? That is IF the LORD told him to 'plant trees today'! His answer was clear and simple: IF the LORD told me to 'plant trees today', I would plant trees!

In other 'words', OBEDIENCE out of LOVE for his Savior – JESUS! How about YOU?



From Our Fellowship Circle



W. B. Belgrade, MN
 “Christianity is so entangled with the world that millions never guessed how radically they have missed the New Testament pattern. Compromise is everywhere.” A. W. Tozer
 Continue standing strong against compromise!

R. & C. H. Inver Grove Heights, MN
 Enclosed please find a donation to *Morning Glory*.
 We appreciate your truthful publication – based on God’s Word – the Bible.
 God Bless You!

Pastor R. J. Bigfork, MN
 Please place ... on your mailing list of the *Morning Glory*.

* * * * *

Look Who’s Judging Now

Why is it that people who don’t believe the Bible to be the final authority on morality – some of those in Hollywood, for example – feel they need to point out to people who do believe it how their theology is wrong?

There sure is a lot of judging going on in New York and Hollywood right now. Places that pride themselves of non-judgmentalism...

I have often said that the favorite Bible verse of those who don’t believe the Bible is Matthew 7:1 where Jesus says, **“Judge not, that you be not judged.”** As with most verses in the Scripture, it’s helpful to read the *“before and after”* so that the meaning is in proper context. (Ed. Not only let the Holy Spirit enlighten you, but use Scripture to interpret Scripture)

Read in context, it is clear in this verse that Jesus is warning against self-righteousness and hypocrisy. He is not preaching sexual freedom. But in popular culture, what happens to this idea of not judging is the popular culture a Christian points out that a certain behavior is immoral or sinful according to the Bible, then that person or group of people is immediately attacked by those who don’t believe the Bible and called “self-righteous” or “religious fanatics.”

And who isn’t against self-righteousness? It’s one of the most off-putting personality traits someone can have. People who practice self-righteousness or display a “holier than thou” attitude usually don’t have many friends. But it is ironic that people who **do not** believe the Bible to be the final authority on morality feel the need to point out to people who do how their theology is wrong. ...

If you think about it, it’s really not judging that people have a problem with – it’s judging *negatively*. For example, no one gets upset when someone says something complimentary about another’s behavior, even though by doing so they have passed judgment. But it’s a judgment of affirmation. No, it’s only when they say something of disapproval that the offended party then comes back with **“Quit judging me!”**

The truth is that the Bible, including the teachings of Jesus, is full of judgment. It tells us what is good and what is evil. It tells us what is right and what is wrong. It tells us what is moral and what is immoral. It tells us what to practice and what to shun. If you don’t want to be accountable for your life and your behavior, it’s best to avoid the Bible – and many do so for that very reason.

Every day the goal of Christians should be to obey and live out what the Bible teaches, both inwardly and outwardly. Sometimes we will fail because, as long as we are here on earth, we have to contend with the war between the spirit and the flesh. It is unnatural to deny the flesh, so by the grace of God we have to discipline ourselves to submit to God’s will...

Micah 6:8 says: **“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”...**

Excerpts, Tim Wildman is president of the American Family Association in Tupelo, MS

* * * * *

Would you like to have a ‘Hauge Bible Conference’ in your Congregation OR Community

Or a Series of Evangelistic Meetings? Perhaps in a tent at a neutral location.

IF so, let ‘us’ know as in God’s GRACE ‘we’ are here to assist YOU in extending God’s Vineyard!

How about purchasing (for a Donation) from the Hauge Book Store?

These live on for a long time because they are based on God’s Eternal Word!

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

San Francisco 49ers Hires NFL's First Lesbian Assistant Coach

Katie Sowers is the NFL's second female assistant coach in its history and the league's first lesbian.

Sowers began as a scouting intern for the Atlanta Falcons in 2016 and then went to work for the San Francisco 49ers as an intern, which led to her hiring as a coach. Sowers is slated to work with the team's receivers, but according to head coach, Kyle Shanahan, "We're still figuring out exact titles and stuff."

Lifesitenews.com

Canada May Pay Doctors More to Euthanize Their Patients

Euthanasia advocates in Canada are pushing for higher pay for doctors who euthanize their patients.

Maclean's Magazine published an article a few (some) weeks ago making the case for higher pay for euthanasia doctors.

Euthanasia now is legal ... in Canada. At least 1,324 patients have been killed legally by euthanasia in less than a year after the country legalized the killing...

The legalizing killing of human beings, whether through abortion or euthanasia, often is closely connected to money. Even in the United States where doctor-prescribed suicide is legal in several states, patients and doctors are seeing how financial pressures influence the taking of human lives.

Dr. Brian Allister, a physician and professor at the University of Nevada Medical School, said insurance companies denied two of his patients life-saving medical treatment coverage and offered to pay for them to commit suicide instead. The patient lived in California and Oregon where doctor-prescribed suicide is legal.

Quite frankly I was stunned," Callister said. "It's a lot cheaper to grab a couple drugs that kill you, than it is to provide you life-sustaining therapy. It's as simple as that."

Lifeneews.com

Dr. Smith's Daily Insights on TWITTER

Political correctness and Scriptural absolutes are at odds and cannot abide with each other. We can choose either one, but we can't be both.

The warped mindset of today's goofy political correctness does not have a residence on the 'straight and narrow' way.

The mindset and mantra of political correctness have their origins in the mosquito-, snake-and gator-infested swamps of the left-wing, liberal camp.

Dr. Shelton L. Smith

Trump Pledges Fealty To Religious Freedom, Traditional Values

WASHINGTON (October 13, 2017) – President Donald Trump assured a high-profile gathering of Christian conservatives on Friday that his Administration will defend religious organizations, promising a return to traditional American values.

"How times have changed, but you know what, now they are changing back again, just remember that," just remember that," Trump told the cheering crowd.

Trump, the first sitting president to address the Values Voter Summit, ticked off the promises he's fulfilled to evangelical Christians and other conservatives, pledging to turn back the clock in what he described as a nation that has drifted away from its religious roots.

He bemoaned the use of the phrase "Happy Holidays" as a secular seasonal greeting and vowed to return "*Merry Christmas*" to the national discourse.

He noted, as Christian conservatives often do, that there are four references to the "Creator" in the Declaration of Independence, saying that "religious liberty is enshrined in the nation's founding documents. ...

Associated Press

Answering Machine

My husband, Joe, is a police officer in a small town. He receives many phone calls at home about his work and decided to get an answering machine to screen them, especially the threatening or harassing ones!

This is the greeting he prepared: "***You have reached the home of a police officer. You have the right to remain silent. If you wish to give up this right, leave your message after the beep. Anything you say can, and probably will, be held against you. The phone calls became much friendlier.*** Selected

The Legacy of Luther

“The things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.”

(Philippians 4:9)

This is the eleventh and final article in a series about the conversion of Martin Luther. The year 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and we want to emphasize how Luther was converted, for you will see elements in Luther’s conversion that are lacking in most Christian circles today.

Luther is most noted for his emphasis on three great truths of the Reformation – Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone. These are the bedrock of Biblical faith and without these you will not have true salvation nor a Christian church. We must make sure that we hold to these truths and never compromise them.

Because Luther went through such a struggle to find peace with God through his good works and, because he wrote much about salvation being based upon faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ – totally apart from good works, somehow the notion exists that good works never enter into the life of a Christian. This is not what Luther taught nor is it what he himself practiced:

“Faith, however, is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1); it kills the old Adam and makes altogether different men, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Ghost. Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith; and so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises; it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them. He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works, and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words, about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures; and this is the work of the Holy

Ghost in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace; and thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light fires. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. Pray God to work faith in you; else you will remain forever without faith, whatever you think or do.”¹

It would do each one of us well to examine our life and our faith to see if it is genuine and living, because, even according to Luther himself, a true, living faith will produce a life of good works – it is impossible not to. This is exactly what we see in Luther’s life after his conversion.

Luther went into hiding as there were those who wanted to kill him. During this time, he translated the New Testament into German, with the finished Old Testament coming later. This is a daunting task for even a group of scholars, let alone by one man all alone. Yet Luther’s bible is still renowned for its great accuracy. He emphasized that pastors and teachers be trained in the original languages and use them as the basis for their teaching.

Luther wrote a commentary on portions of the Scriptures and other aspects of the Christian life, which today are chronicled as “Luther’s Works.” These fill volumes of books. Luther also composed the small and large catechisms, wrote portions of the Lutheran Confessions, and other works, most notably “The Bondage of the Will.” He also traveled and preached at various churches. His teachings spread like wildfire, not only in his native Germany, but throughout Europe. Students came from all over the world to attend his lectures and receive personal instruction from the greatest theologian of their time.

Luther was not only a theologian, he was a musician as well. “Luther wrote 37 hymns, some of which he composed the music as well. He and his associates restored congregational singing to the church service. They also invented the “hymnbook.” Every time you come into church and use the hymnbook and join in singing a hymn, you have Martin Luther to credit as you give thanks to God.”² Probably his most famous hymn was “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” which was based on Psalm 46:1. Luther wrote both the words and the music

1 Taken from *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* by Martin Luther. © 1954 by Zondervan Publishing House, p. xvii.

2 Taken from the Introduction of *12 Reformation Hymns by Martin Luther* by Gordon Waterman, Minneapolis, MN, Ambassador Publications, 2017.

for this arrangement, and it was the battle cry of the Reformation.

Even Luther's private life is a testimony and legacy for us to follow today. "Luther was generous and hospitable – always giving freely to those in need. 'God divided the hand into fingers so that money would slip through.' ...The Luther's lived a hectic life even by today's standards. In addition to their own six children, Martin and Katie helped raise half a dozen of Luther's nieces and nephews. They adopted four children whose mother died in a plague. Their house was always full to overflowing with animals and children and people of all descriptions. There were tutors and student boarders, as well as honored guests who came to visit the famous Dr. Luther. Katie eventually brought in some of her own family to help her with the housework."³

Luther frequently had people over for supper, and their casual discussions afterwards have been chronicled as "Table Talk." (If you read this, please realize that these are off the cuff comments by Luther.)

How one man could do all of this in a life time – without the aid of modern computers – is hard to comprehend. Yet this is exactly what Luther was able to do from 1517 (the date he nailed the 95 thesis to the church door) to 1546 (the date of his death). That is just 29 years!

Luther was not a perfect man without his faults. He wrote an extended article called "The Jews and Their Lies" where he blasted the Jewish people and said that they should be treated shamefully. This teaching by Luther was one of the basis that gave the German Nazi's reason for exterminating the Jews.

But in retrospect, Luther's life and devotion and work is a great legacy for us to follow. He had a life-changing conversion to Christ and a life dedicated and consecrated to serving the One who saved him.

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

Melissa's Story

Melissa came to the Perry Center from the women's correctional facility eight months pregnant. She was hoping for a "do-over" as she was running out of hope and opportunities.

As a convicted felon, the dream of finding housing and a job seemed almost impossible. Even still, Melissa

was determined and began to follow through on tasks that she was given that would lead to her achieving her goal. She also had a tender, teachable spirit and quickly became a leader at the Perry Center. The other girls looked up to her and she was the "big sister" that several needed. Melissa attended church and Bible study and appeared to genuinely be interested in spiritual things. After the arrival of her baby girl, she proved to be an exceptional mother. Addiction had robbed her of the chance to raise her other girls, but living a sober life allowed her to be the mom God created her to be.

Five weeks after the arrival of her daughter, Melissa got the first job she applied for and housing called — they had an apartment for her! Within three days she had both a job and a place to live. ***Only God could have made a way for this*** as most people are waiting for housing for a year or more; and as a convicted felon, it would take even longer. The only real problem was that *we weren't ready for her to leave!* She became so dear to us that, although we rejoiced with her, we were sad to see her go. Melissa connected with our staff and built some deep relationships. After a Facebook request, many people responded in love and helped furnish her new place. A group from Salem Evangelical Free Church that comes in bi-weekly to have supper with the women helped her move. Atonement Lutheran gave her a new crib. ***We have seen the body of Christ come together in countless ways and it blesses everyone involved.***

We will continue to support and assist Melissa in her journey and would appreciate your prayers for her as she continues to navigate life. Melissa also has the goal of being reunited with her other daughters in the near future and we know that **with God, all things are possible!**

The Perry Center

ONLY!

We only have one trip through this world!
Is my life making any difference in anyone's life?

Spend your time counting your blessings – not airing your complaints!

If you want to feel miserable – just think about yourself!

3 Taken from *A Marriage Made in Heaven* by Christin Ditchfield. Power for Living, January 28, 2001.

Spiritual Drowsiness And Carnal Security

(Continued from the November issue
of the Morning Glory)

(Martin) Luther says: ***“He who fears not himself has the greatest reason to fear.”*** Not to fear oneself; not to suspect oneself; to live in secret sin, not regarding it as perilous; to be content with one’s own piety – these are some of the signs of hidden spiritual death, the prelude to eternal misery. It is precisely an excellent mark of live Christians that they have the spirit of fear. They fear even when there is no danger. They suspect themselves. They are afraid of deceiving themselves. They are dissatisfied with themselves. Realizing that they are drowsy and forgetful Christians, they are fearful on that account.

This spirit of fear is genuine watchfulness. It causes the sheep to keep close to the Shepherd; the chickens to hide under the wings of the hen; the Christians to clothe themselves daily in the garment of Christ’s righteousness. Thus only are they protected from the world, always garbed and ready to stand before the ***Son of Man***. What says the apostle? *“Many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves we should not be judged. But we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world”* (1 Corinthians 11:30-32). What says the Lord Jesus? ***“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame”*** (Revelation 16:15). ***“”And what I say unto you I say unto all – Watch”*** (Mark 13:37).

AM I DEBTOR TO MY BROTHER’S SOUL?

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself
(Mark 12:31).

CAN you possibly love your neighbor if you see him going to perdition without warning him by a single word? It is our sacred duty to seek our neighbor’s salvation, next to our own; to “love” our neighbor as we love ourselves; to be sincere in our love. We cannot silently witness the destruction of our brethren. We shall try to arouse them to a sense of their danger, and make use of all means to attain this end. We are familiar with the profound truths, that every unconverted soul is on the way to eternal death; that that same soul may, by conversion, become an heir to the glories of heaven; that the lowliest Christian may be an instrumentality for the salvation of that endangered soul.

We know the Lord’s will in this matter. *“He that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad”* (Matthew 12:30). The apostle says: *“He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”* (James 5:20). We are familiar with the

royal mandate: *“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”* We know the commandment, but how do we obey it? It is a sad commentary upon human nature, that even sincere Christians overlook this prone Christian duty. We are daily surrounded by souls, who in their ignorance, are under the damnation of the Law. “They know not what they do.” We understand their plight, however. We have in terror fled from “the wrath to come.” And yet we have no word of warning or admonition to utter to these people. How does this reticence argue for our love to our neighbor? Is there any rime or reason in this attitude of silence? Are we alive or are we spiritually dead or moribund?

A Faithful Guide to Peace with God, by C. O. Rosenius,
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Two-Winged Sun

(Please prayerfully read Isaiah 38:1-8)

(The Lord says:) I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. Isaiah 38:5.

For five years, an ancient clay seal remained in a closet in Jerusalem’s Institute of Archaeology. After the seal was dug up at the foot of the southern part of Jerusalem’s old city wall, initial examination failed to establish the significance of the nearly 3,000 year-old object. But then a researcher carefully scrutinized the letters on the seal, resulting in a major discovery. The inscription, written in ancient Hebrew, reads: “Belonging to Hezekiah (son of) Ahaz king of Judah.”

At the center of the seal is a two-winged sun surrounded by two images symbolizing life. The archaeologists who discovered the seal believe that King Hezekiah began using this seal as a symbol of God’s protection after the Lord healed him from a life-threatening illness (Isa. 38-1-8). Hezekiah had been with the Lord to heal him. And God heard his prayer. He also gave Hezekiah a sign that He would indeed do what He had promised, saying, ***“I will cause the sun’s shadow to move ten steps backward”*** (v. 8 NLT).

The facts related to this archeological artifact give us an encouraging reminder that the people in the Bible were learning, as we are, to call on the Lord who hears us when we cry out to him for help. And even when His answers are not what we want or expect, we can rest assured that He is compassionate and He is powerful. The One who orders the movement of the sun can certainly move in our hearts.

Dear God, You are great and powerful, yet You care for me. Help me to believe in Your power and love, and to seek Your help always.

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A couple of Christmases for Hans Nielsen Hauge

At Christmas, 1797 while holding a meeting, Hauge was ordered arrested by the prison minister, U. G. Feiermann, and thrown into the Fredrikstad prison. Rumors were that Hauge was a false prophet, that he prayed to images, that he was a thief, and a drunkard and that he committed adultery. So he was thrown into the “bur”, the inner prison. Here he prayed and sang hymns. The prisoners listened, and souls were won for Christ. Hauge was found guilty, of course, in violating the old Conventicle Act of 1741 that forbade lay preaching. He was soon allowed to go home again, but he was ordered, like the Apostles of old, never to preach Christ again.

During 1798 Hauge made several long journeys. He was arrested in Oslo and ordered home again. Soon he was arrested again. He was violently assaulted three times, once by a minister, another time by a teacher, and then by a lawyer. But Hauge patted his persecutor on the shoulder, asked him to cool his temper and told him that eternity was ahead, that they should meet in heaven and that they must love each other on earth. He said, “It is good to be equipped with the love of God when enemies despitefully use you and persecute you.” (Ed. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12)...

1799 was a year of persecution. On his way to Bergen for the second time, as he reached the parish of Rollag, Nummendahl, Hauge felt the presence of the devil “who three times tempted him to go some other way.” Finally Hauge cried out: “Forward will I, and forward shall I!” Then the devil left. A wonderful revival in the parish was the outcome. As Hauge preached, *“If you ever shall be saved you must get converted,”*...

In Trondheim the devil had a strong fortification. Here is a little cross-section of what was written in the newspapers against Hauge and the lay evangelists he was sending out:

“They are stubborn scamps who run all around and disturb the minds of the people. Many have already lost their reason, farmers have left their farms and servants have run away from their master, ...These fanatics should read 1 Peter 4:15 (*“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matter”*) then verse 16, which puts them in the class with those who disturb the peace.”

The ministers now stirred up the authorities here

and there and put the lay evangelists in prison. In Oslo six laymen were imprisoned at once for being “vagabonds and having the desire to preach.”...“They would rather suffer with the people of God than to enjoy sin for a season.”...

Around Christmas, 1799, all the hatred of the devil was let loose on God’s messengers. Nils Iversen Riis was first arrested at Trondheim when he was only 19. Later, because he dared to testify right after church in Melhus parish, Old Pastor Stenbuch ordered Nils to be tied to the buggy. Then he drove as fast as he could from Flaa Church to the parsonage. This treatment of the poor young witness for Christ seriously impaired his health. Hauge and his friend Lars Hemstad were put in prison in Trondheim for a whole month.

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

A Testimony From Over the Edge of My Grave

By Daniel K. Campbell

Some years ago a Christian man died, and the late Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse had the funeral service in Philadelphia. The attendance was large and included many business executives who had been associates of the dead man. A year earlier the deceased had written a letter with the caption, “A Testimony from Edge of My Grave” and put in his papers, asking that it be read at his funeral. Dr. Barnhouse opened the letter and began to read: “This is my funeral service, but I want it to be a time of testimony. Mac, I suppose you’re in the audience looking at the casket. My, how many times I’ve played golf with you to seek to bring the Gospel to your heart and you wouldn’t hear! George, why have you continued to reject Jesus Christ when He died for you and offers eternal life now?”

By this time, different ones in the audience were squirming, afraid they would be addressed next. We should not wait till we die, but should speak up for Christ now, or at least write a letter of testimony to a friend we’ve been praying for!

Daniel – Decoder of Dreams, submitted by Pastor
Warren “Chip” Roy

Paul's Prayer Letter

"Finally; brethren, pray for us."
2 Thessalonians 3:1

They say that when a preacher says "finally, it guarantees nothing. We certainly find that each time the apostle Paul used the word "finally" he still had plenty to say. "Finally" was not the last thing he wanted to say, it was the most important thing, the bottom line and purpose of the letter.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to address their problems, appeal for prayer and assure them of God's promises. His appeal for prayer was the most important issue.

By his appeal Paul demonstrated several reasons why missionaries still send their prayer letters.

His appeal was a confession of his greatest need. I am sure Paul as a pioneer and itinerant missionary had many needs. Even though workers were needed, he did not appeal for friends to come and join him. Undoubtedly he had many financial needs, but he did not appeal for funds for his work. What he needed most were the fervent prayers of the church. Wesley Duewel of OMS International said, "The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer." Often those who pray for the work end up going to the work or supporting it.

His appeal was a demonstration of co-operation in the body of Christ. In 2 Thessalonians 1:11 Paul assured these new believers that he was praying for them. It must have encouraged them that the great apostle was mentioning them in his prayers. Having assured them of his prayers, he now appeals for their prayers for him. Did they wonder why such a mighty and gifted apostle would need their prayers? "***The devil trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.***" It is most encouraging when we pray for each other.

Paul's appeal exhibited his confidence in the power of prayer. Better still, his confidence that God answers prayer. The Bible is replete with how God answers prayer. That is why Paul asked them to pray that the word of God might run freely and the workers might be protected.

"Pray, go or disobey." J. Piper

A Word for Your Way, By Victor Maxwell; © Copyright Victor Maxwell, October 2014.

Personal Testimonies

We have a number of personal testimonies by friends still living. They glorify God. They encourage the believers. They are of help to seeking souls. They prove that the

Bible is a living Book. For not only are these things so written, but whatever is written has been personally experienced and proves that God's Word is a living Truth.

Torres S. Sandeno

"I was born in Grundy County, Illinois, near the village of Dwight, on April 27, 1876. As a young boy I began to drift away from God, because I neglected His Word. I was converted in revival in February, 1905. The instrument God used was an old layman, H.P. Ruud from North Dakota. I was happily saved by clinging to the precious Word in 1 John 1:9: "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"

"But when I should start to live as a Christian and met such words as: "*Be ye holy for I am holy*"; and "*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,*" I passed into an agony, for I saw how I fell short in every way. In an almost despairing condition, I wrote to Pastor J. J. Breidablik. He helped me wonderfully, as he himself had gone through a similar experience. He told me to put my name into the six places in Isa. 53:4-5, where it says 'us' or 'we'. ...He also pointed me to other blessed promises. But yet it took more than a year before God spoke real peace to my soul again, and that was through Luke 19:10. "***The Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.***" These blessed words became to me words of deliverance and liberty...

Pastor M. A. Hall

"I thank God for my parents. I cannot recall a day when Father and Mother did not pray for us, and show their concern for our salvation. Our home was a Christian home, where God's people were always welcome. We also had special devotional meetings in our home, and at larger church meetings our house was filled with guests. The godly conversation we often heard made a profound impression on me, and I dare say, on the rest of the children.

"I was not very old before I was conscious of the need of a personal salvation. Our parents did not preach to us so very much, but the impression was nevertheless made of the great need of the soul. It was at my confirmation that I became definitely convicted of sin and I purposed to live for my Lord; but because of unwillingness to surrender my will completely to Him, I lost out after a few months of futile struggles. God was, however, mindful of me, and after about three unhappy years after my confirmation, and shortly after I arrived at the Hauge seminary at Red Wing, Minn., God in His mercy found me."

The Hauge Movement in America, Published by The Hauge Innermission Federation 1941.

“Blessed Is The Nation Whose God Is The LORD...” Psalm 33:12

American Flag Etiquette

How to Fold the Flag

Fold the flag in half widthwise twice. Fold up a triangle, starting at the striped end, and repeat until only the end of the union (the blue section) is exposed. Then fold down the square into a triangle and tuck inside the folds.

How to Display the Flag

When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east/west street or to the east in a north/south street.

The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the flag’s own right (left as you look at them), and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.

When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union (blue section) is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, should be on the marching right. If there is a line of other flags, the flag of the United States of America should be in front of the center of that line.

When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, on or off a podium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in front of the audience, and in the position of honor to the speaker’s right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the speaker (to the right of the audience).

How to Retire a Flag in Poor Condition

The flag of the United States of America, when it is in such condition that is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

(Excerpt from Section 8k, United States Flag Code).

*Editor’s Note: **FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE! It ‘always’ costs someone or ones a great price so that you and I may experience FREEDOM:** Sacrificial Death or other ‘Great’ price(s) – that You and I might be FREE!*

IF, IF, YOU truly want to be free, you **NEED** to

know the **ONE** *who was Born to Die for your sins and mine – under His shed BLOOD; whose Name is JESUS* as your personal Savior and walk in fellowship with HIM daily, until “faith” becomes “sight”! **John 8:31-36, 6:41-66.** *This is a freedom to serve, out of LOVE/ obedience, not to destroy in either case; unless secular laws are contrary to the BIBLE!*

Symbolically, as you honor the flag of this great USA, keep in mind – only through the Blood (red) of Jesus do you become (white) – justified before our Holy God and thus in the royal family of God (blue)!

* * * * *

Evangelism And Nurturing Fellow Believers Is God’s Business!

“I AM DOING A GREAT WORK, SO THAT I CANNOT COME DOWN.” Nehemiah 6:3.

Do not say ‘God’s Work is a Small Work’ OR knowing this: *The Lord’s business is great work/business!* NEVER apologize for God’s Work here on the planet Earth, *even though* some of ‘us’ have possibly apologized in the past for the same; BUT press on as Souls are at stake – yours, mine and others among the saved and the lost: For God’s Kingdom Work is a Great Work! Even IF we are alone, or with two or three, or with even hundreds of precious Souls in the ‘body’ of Christ/believers, God’s Work is Still Great! Shame on ‘us’ when we apologize for being a child/heir of the **King** of kings and **Lord** of lords! One day every knee shall bow and confess/admit that HE is the ONE that HE says HE is! HE is Holy, Just, Righteous, Almighty Judge, Love, Mercy, Grace, etc.

The establishment, advancement of the Almighty God is “*A Great Work*” and His work kept Nehemiah at his job of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, “*I am doing a great work so that I cannot come down.*”

It is only through Grace Alone, Faith Alone and the Word Alone, that ‘we’ are saved and then ‘we’ are saved to serve. OH what a ‘privilege and responsibility’ to serve the King on earth to His honor and glory – Praise the Lord! Regardless of what member of the Body of Christ you and I may be, let us seek to be faithful unto the KING in LOVE in serving Him! AWESOME!

Please get a definite definition of the word AWESOME, because this privilege/responsibility is:

AWESOME!

Editor

The Blood Of Jesus Christ Cleanses From All Sin

By Roger L. Decker

The Holy Spirit, the Third Member of the Godhead, moves inside a vessel that has been cleaned up, and He gives victory over sin and helps you to walk free from sin every day. I love it that way. Away with old dead, drab religion! How can they get up before people and encourage them by telling them they have to live in sin all the time? God has something better than that for people.

First John 1:7 reads, *“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”* How much sin is left when you have been cleansed from all sin? If God forgives all your sins and cleanses you from all sin, then there is no more sin. All does not mean *almost all*; it means completely.

When the Word of God says all sin is gone, all of it is gone. There is no inherited sin on the inside. There is nothing sinful inside your vessel after it has been cleaned up at the particular moment. Then what happens? You walk in the light as He is in the light. The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses you from all unrighteousness. What was John talking about? You need to stay under the blood of Jesus Christ, like the blood that was put on the doorposts in the Old Testament. When the death angel came, those who had the blood over the doorposts did not die. Today we stay under the blood of Jesus Christ.

People need to stop running around from church to church like nomads. They need to stay under the blood. They need to stay where Jesus Christ is, where they have victory in their souls. Salvation is in the blood of Jesus Christ; it is not in church joining. Church joining is merely a decent way to be married and buried but also it is a decent way to stay in sin and end up in hell. When one belongs to a church and then dies, often a preacher gets up, as most sectarian preachers do, and tries to preach the deceased one into Heaven, so to speak. The family may say, *“He’s not talking about the same guy that I know; he was a drunk.”*

Friend, if you want to see the inside of Heaven, you must live a holy life here all the way to eternity. You are not saved by good works. If you have not humbled yourself before God, you need to. All you have to do is get down before God, confess and forsake all sin, and truly mean what you are praying and something is going to happen in your life. You are going to get up from an altar of prayer a new creature. (II Corinthians 5:17). When I got up from that altar after I got saved, I knew that I was saved. When the power of God comes into your life, do

not underestimate it. When the power of God came into my life, new things began to take place.

Gospel Trumpeter

In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

WHAT will become of me when I die? A Christian, too, can ask that question in the dark hours of life.

Jesus has told us what becomes of a Christian when he dies. He goes to the Father of Jesus Christ, to heaven, to God. When *“the earthly house of our tabernacle is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.”* *“We are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord.”*

It looks as though it is very difficult for us Christians of today to keep a firm hold on the Word about the heaven that awaits us, and to gasp it with a living faith. We surely believe it after a fashion but it is so loose, gray, and unreal. If we accept it as a truth that cannot be shaken, that when we leave this world we are going to a real home, a place where we shall live a fully conscious life, without sin, sorrow, and death, then we shall surely be less earth-bound and we shall long more for heaven. Then we shall also understand more of what these words contain:

“We are willing rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

God grant us Christians a more living faith in heaven!

“The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but Jehovah will be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.”

***Blessed are the heirs of heaven,
The dead, who die in Christ forgiven,
They from their labors have release;
Saith the Spirit: they are resting,
No sting of death in them molesting,
For they have found the home of peace;
In peace they sweetly rest,
Forever they are blest,
Hallelujah!
Before God’s throne to His dear Son
Do follow them their works well done.***

Thy Kingdom Come, by Ludvig Hope, Augsburg Publishing House, Copyright-1939; Permission Granted.

UpDate

Isn't it a wonderful blessing and privilege to be able to give 'love-gifts' at this Christmas Season? We give to family members, friends, etc. according to our financial status and thus express our LOVE in a tangible way.

As you and I will notice, it is not so much the 'wrappings' that are so important; but Who the gift is from, Who it is for, and most certainly the 'Gift' itself. It is a 'Personal' gift, like a personal check written to you; but in order for it to be for your benefit you have to endorse it!

Sadly, there are not many who find room for the "Lamb of God," who was born in a barn because there was 'no room' for Him in the Inn! BUT what better place is it for a "LAMB" to be born than a manger in a barn – for you and me (personally) – in order to clean-up 'our' filthy sinful 'hearts'?

AS personal as it can be, JESUS challenges us: ***“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures of earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*** Matthew 6:19-21.

A word to the wise in regard to this 'ministry' that the Lord has given to "Us": Please note the letter from the Hauge board in the November issue of the *Morning Glory*. Thank you and may JESUS and the HOLY SPIRIT be permitted to direct YOU in what you should invest in this His work here on Earth! **GOD always keeps His PROMISES!**

October's income for the *Morning Glory* was approx. \$2,030.00.

It takes about \$3,600 per month to keep the *Morning Glory* and the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation in the black financially. (Hauge Bible Conferences expenses are not included in the approx. \$3,600).

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Information

FIRST OF ALL: the LORD gave 'us' a marvelous Hauge Fall Bible Conference at Garden City, Iowa.

The 'messages' were great and on a 'couple' of evening services the presence of the Holy Spirit was so real, that you could *almost* hear a pin-drop! The Christian Fellowship was indeed 'warm' and the hospitality was great! Thank you for praying and NOW give credit where credit is due: **Praise GOD from whom all blessing fall!**

At 'our' Annual Meeting of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation the three Board Members whose elected term had expired were re-nominated and elected; which are: Wayne Almlie, Kevin Gunderson and Pastor Jim Haga. These are elected to serve for three years.

During an official Hauge Board meeting the same 'Officers' were re-elected except Mr. John Monsen, who was elected as 'Vice-president' – these are elected for a one year term.

Please pray that the gentle Holy Spirit may be permitted to guide, lead, protect and bless these people.