



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2019

God Became Man!

By Dr. Robert G. Lee

“IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:1, 2

Jesus, having glory with God before the world was, loved by the Father before the foundation of the world, was virgin born. When Mary, overshadowed by the power of the Highest went down into the mysterious land of Motherhood in Bethlehem’s barn, came back holding in her arms the Eternal Son of God!

His every muscle was a pulley divinely swung; His every nerve, divine handwriting; His every bone, divine sculpture; His every heartbeat, divine pulsation; His every breath, holy whisper! God’s thought, God’s will, God’s purpose, swathed in mortality, was He.

Christ’s virgin birth, on which rest the credibility of Scriptures and the sinlessness of Jesus, is the Alpha of our Christian Faith. Accept that, and all else rightly follows. But reject that – accept the impious conclusions of modern skepticism that Jesus was earthborn, not Heavenly-born – then with this bar sinister stained across His birth hour, Christianity is falsehood, civilization is delusion, all history is a homeless riddle, the whole story of Jesus is assailable.

Jesus, Son of Man! Jesus, Son of God! And both in one!

As man, He got tired; as God, He said, *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28)

As man, He got thirsty; as God, He gave living water.’ (John 4:10, 11)

As man, He got hungry; as God, He fed thousands with a Lad’s lunch (John 6:8-11).

As man, He was tempted in all points like as we are; as God, He was without sin, baffling His enemies with the question “Which of you convinceth me of sin?” (John 8:46)

As man, He sorrowed over separation from friends; as God, He promised never to leave them comfortless, and to come to them.” (John 14:18)

As man, He was despised of men; as God, *“all the angels of God worship Him.”* (Hebrews 1:6)

As man, He wept at Lazarus’ grave; as God, He raised Lazarus from the dead. (John 11:34-44)

And this marvelous Christ, who was *“made of the seed of David according to the flesh”* Romans 1:3, was *“made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law.”* (Galatians 4:4-5) He was made under the law which was made for sinners and not for the righteous (I Timothy 1:9).

His Incarnation brought Him under our condemnation – who had no cause in Him for condemnation. The cause of condemnation was in us who had sinned and *“come short of the glory of God”*, in us who had “turned everyone to his own way” (Isaiah 5:6), in us who like sheep had gone astray, in us who preferred darkness to light because our deeds were evil (John 3:19).

So, for us who deserved death, Christ was made under the law and died under the law, but His death was the “end” of the law for righteousness” Romans 10:4. Made under the law, He bore the penalty of the law, grievous as it was.

It is joy superlative to know that the LORD has fully

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Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland
508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529
email: haugerep@gmail.com

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

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dealt for us the Law's claim. Legal satisfaction is forever taken out of our hands by Christ. JESUS Himself dealt, in the sinner's interest, with the law, honoring its Holy claims to the uttermost under the human conditions which He so freely undertook, so that, by faith, the relationship between Jesus and sinners is real, a community of their debt on one side and CHRIST'S merit on the other side!

Sword of the Lord

He is near! (Isaiah 50:8)

What are you afraid of? Why are you despondent and dejected? Why do you go about sad and sorrowful?

He is near!

He who justifies you is near! He who defends you against the accusations of Satan! Your salvation and your righteousness! He who is your help in time of trouble! Your faithful Friend who understands you! He in whom you may confide with all your heart! He who has tender concern for you! He who always knows a way out! He who has promised to care for your body as well as your soul! He who loves you! He whose only concern is your welfare! He who is stronger than anyone! He the ALMIGHTY – He is at your side. He is beside you this very moment. (Ed. IF you are truly a child of God, He indwells you by the Holy Spirit and you are the temple of the same). **He is near!**

Away, then, with your discouragement, and be glad!

A Dawning Essence of Faith

By Antoinette Frank

The BIBLE tells us that after having traveled throughout the Galilean region teaching, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, healing the sick, Jesus returned to His home town of Nazareth. Jesus never forgot His earthly roots – where He lived and thrived in all manner of righteousness, where He was loved and nurtured by His parents, (Step-father) Joseph and Mary.

As it were, Jesus had put many miles on His sandals trekking from one town to the next bestowing God's blessings on the people He encountered. And He did not want the folks of his hometown to be left untouched by the healing, loving hand of God. So, in obedience to God the Father, He visited His hometown to herald the glorious gospel message and show the glory of God to the familiar masses, most of whom He *probably* mingled with in the market place during His young adult years.

In Nazareth He immediately began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed (Matthew 13:54). But before long, the people's astonishment flip-flopped into skepticism, and then the hometown welcoming assembly bellowed into a rowdy canaille that questioned among themselves the validity of Jesus' Ministry.

The people volleyed question after question debating Jesus' genealogy and theology, regarding the Hebraic law. Then they unaidedly decided that their hometown boy was just a babbler and not the promised Messiah as He had claimed. To them Jesus was simply a fellow Israelite whom they had watched grow up from a toddler into a man – an ordinary man, with no particular authority, no sacred commission. They sneered at Him. They refused to accept Him as an authentic Torah teacher, **“and they took offense at Him”** (v. 57).

Matthew earnestly emits the disappointing fact that Jesus did not do many miracles in Nazareth because of the people's lack of faith (v. 58). How unfortunate it must have been for the many ill citizens of Nazareth who forfeited their divine healing, because they did not believe in Jesus.

On one occasion when He was in a village called Bethany, just before He raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus asked a grieving Martha, Lazarus' sister, **“Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”** (John 11:46). Jesus desires for all people – even today – to see *“the glory of God,”* whether it is through a miraculous healing, a timely word of encouragement from a friend, an iridescent smile of a child, or a warm hug from a loved one – the blessed list of glories goes on and on. All these things have the proclivity to engender

within us a broad realization of the existence of the Omnipresent Omnipotent GOD who **“created the heavens and the earth”** (Isaiah 42:5). When we believe in Jesus, it pleases God (Ed. Who would have ALL humanity to come and know JESUS as their personal Savior – Ephesians 2:8-10) penetrating the core of His heart, which moves Him to manifest His glory in our lives.

Sadly, like many of the Nazarenes, a whole slew of twenty-first century citizens of the world are missing out on seeing the glory of God because of their lack of faith. (Keeping in mind; ‘a living faith’ is a *“gift”* from God and it is our privilege and responsibility to “exercise” the same). Here is a peek at what Paul had to say about faith: **“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”** Hebrews 11:6.

When we come (which is faith in action) to Christ Jesus with a heart gravid with faith, we not only acknowledge Him as our Lord and Savior, but we also come into the full measure of His miracles. The fact is, our Lord begins to let loose a profusion of His miracle working power when we **“Live by faith”** (Romans 1:17 & I Corinthians 5:7) and in our hearts **“Set apart Christ as Lord”** (1 Peter 3:15). ...

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawns and the day star arise in your hearts” II Peter 1:19.

Excerpts taken from *Hope For Your Heart*, and was reprinted from, trailsresearch.com

Facing Reality

Face reality, your children and grandchildren are caught in a world of false gospels, pop theology and motivational “feel good” preaching.

** Today, only **18% of millennials** find ‘Christianity’ relevant to their lives

** Teens are **twice as likely** as adults to identify as an atheist

** And **One half** of professing Christian millennials believe evangelism is wrong.

Here is one area why GOD has preserved the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and *Morning Glory* for many years; to help fill in the gap/vacancy of the same in HOLDING THE FORT, for Jesus is coming soon!

Launch Out

And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward. Exodus 14:15

The time for march had come!

The **Highest** had led His people out of Egypt's bondage with a strong hand and stretched-out arm. There could be no question of His power and provision. But now they were at the Red Sea and hot on their heels were the chariot of Egypt with the chosen host of Pharaoh's army. Why had they been led out of Egypt? Just to die on these bleak shores? In the panic of the hour they were sure that they had been misled.

But God's ways are always better than our ways, and HE need not guide us in a beaten path understood by us or approved by the world. If He leads to high mountains, He will make them to be a plain. If He leads to an impassable sea, He will make a way through it even "*a path in the mighty waters*" Isaiah 43:6. God delights in proving His faithfulness to those who tremble not on the brink of apparent disaster nor turn back in the face of fearfulness.

Now that you are facing the discipline of decision at the "Red Sea" place in your life, do not doubt that God has led you thus far. Forget not His faithfulness and favor in days past. To the best of your knowledge you have trusted the Lord and obeyed Him thus far. Today is not the time to be fearful and fainthearted. The Faithful One says to you as He did to Moses long ago: "*Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*" (Exodus 14: 13, 14)

And then came the command: "***Go forward!***"

How? Just obey! The sea of impossible circumstances presents no problem to Him. He divided it in response to the faith of Moses, and He does the same for you and me as we obey Him.

NO *sea* is a perplexity nor a problem to Him. He holds the sea in the hollow of His hand. Long centuries later, the Lord Jesus stilled the storm on Galilee. The "sea" in your life and mine today is His and we are His children (Ed. Provided we know Jesus as our SAVIOR). Therefore, let us face it and go forward with Him.

God will deal with the cruel enemy that pursues. Just as in that far-off day when the Lord stood between Israel and the Egyptian, so the Lord today will stand between us and the adversary, bringing darkness and confusion to our critic and light and confidence to ourselves.

Red Seas are alike of no consequences to the **Almighty**.

He Leadeth Me by V. Raymond Edman,
Scripture Press.

Conformed to His Image

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly"

I Corinthians 15:49.

One of the most amazing promises of the Word of God is that those who "love God" and are "the called according to his purpose" are those whom "he also did predestinate (Ed. Had & has 'foreknowledge of'; as GOD doesn't *choose* some to go to Hell and some to go to Heaven) to be conformed to the image of his Son" Romans 8:28-29.

Adam and Eve were created in His image physically in the beginning, "*So God created man in his own image ... male and female created he them*" Genesis 1:27. Presumably this means they were created in the physical form that God knew He would assume when, in the fullness of time, He would become man Himself, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

That image was marred when Adam (and, in Adam, all men) sinned. Nevertheless, it can be restored spiritually when we receive Christ and "*have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him*" Colossians 3:10.

But this is not all. As our text reveals, we who have been made in God's earthy image (both physically and spiritually) will also, in due time, receive His heavenly image. This will take place when Christ returns. At that time, "***we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye ... and the dead*** (Ed. Those who are IN Christ Jesus) ***shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed***" I Corinthians 15:51-52.

In what way shall we be changed? The Lord Jesus Himself "***shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body***" Philippians 3:21. His body, after His resurrection, was still His physical body, but it was no longer subject to pain or death and was able to pass through walls and to speed rapidly from Earth to heaven. That is "*the image of the heavenly*" to which we shall be conformed some-day soon! For "***we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is***" I John 3:2. Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Days of Praise, Institute for Creation Research,
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Editorial

RES

Three Vital 'elements' in a GIFT!

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable (unspeakable) gift!"

(II Corinthians 9:15)

(In other words; this 'GIFT' is so great that 'words' are inadequate)

Traditionally, ESPECIALLY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, I/We like sharing GOD'S marvelous expression of His LOVE message – for that 'Message' became flesh and blood (bodily) just the same as you and I have from GOD, and His Name is **JESUS!**

At 'one' time there was only three Perfect PERSONS that dwelt in Heaven – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – THE TRINITY. *(Possibly 'angels', but they are "created beings.")*

This time of the year, probably is the most stressful and challenging for the religious and Christian community of the 'whole year': like how am I going to 'stretch' the dollars and get everything accomplished; like, a gourmet meal, get the living-quarters spic-and-span, clothing, gifts, etc. Most certainly 'we' need to view that there are 'three' vital elements in giving of gifts or exchanging gifts. But first, what does the recipient NEED in these days of comfort with many conveniences?

Well, our Holy GOD did not hesitate as HE knew even before the foundation of the Earth (foreknowledge) what 'sinful' humanity NEEDED the most in order to have 'Fellowship' with the Sinless, Perfect, Holy God – **Forgiveness & Salvation!** (the word 'Salvation' also means a Deliverer or deliverance). Thus, a perfect, sinless SACRIFICE; which only could be remedied by a LAMB without blemish!

1. The Giver: First of all, keep in mind/heart that a 'gift' is not merited or earned; but out of a heart of Love the giver chooses the gift and wants to express this person's heart of love.

So, this Christmas when you receive a 'gift' and you definitely want to know who it is from; so in return you can at least THANK the GIVER!

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" II Corinthians 8:9. (Notice whom it is directed to)

2. The Receiver *and she will bring forth a Son and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His*

people from their sins." ***"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord"*** Matthew 1:21, Luke 2:11. God's 'INCARNATION', in His 'beloved Son = **Jesus**. Now we don't worship an 'INFANT' born in a 'barn' (stable), nor an approx. two-year old child like the 'wise-men' of old; but an Adult: who is truly God/Man. You see, Jesus didn't stay in a cradle nor in His Mother's arms, He is just like you and me, yet without SIN. We are not to 'worship' the children, even though it is an 'Inheritance' from the Lord; but to WORSHIP the **Giver** from Whom all blessings flow!

Have you endorsed this **Gift**, just like a personal check given unto you as you must personally endorse the check in order to receive the cash? *"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life"* 1 John 5:12.

3. The GIFT! It is not the wrappings that are so important; but what is within the 'wrappings' – the content!

But Jesus as a babe was wrapped in swaddling cloths; which was the same type of 'fabric/material' that was used to wrap a 'corpse'. Does anything catch GOD by surprise? NO!

Before a thrice Holy God, our very best that we can produce for HIM is filthy rags even though IF we should try to clean ourselves up with lye! Isaiah 64:6, Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:10-20, ***"For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before Me. Says the Lord GOD."*** (Jeremiah 2:22) ***"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD; Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."*** (Isaiah 1:18) To my knowledge this is the only verse in all of Scripture that GOD invites us to come with our 'finite' mind and reason 'together' with His Infinite Mind and what an exchange! Marvelous: ***"I have blotted out, like a thick cloud your transgressions,"*** Isaiah 44:22a. God says, I will forgive (If we truly repent of our sins) and bury them in the deepest sea and for you and I He indirectly says NO trespassing, NO

fishing; for He is the Eternal Justifier and Sanctifier, for those who are in & through Christ Jesus.

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God. For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.” (Isaiah 61:10)

Please read also: Malachi 3:16-18.

In God’s Marvelous GRACE, do YOU possess this ‘Pearl of Great Price’?”

Greetings from the Members & their wives of the Board & Staff of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and Morning Glory as we continue to pray that you may experience the best this Christmas Season.

BEING CAREGIVERS

There are more and more people living over the age of 65 and identified as ‘senior adults’. Perhaps one of them is living in your home or you are responsible for one. Maybe you can see the day coming when something must be done about Mom and Dad because they really won’t be able to take care of themselves any longer. If so, let’s look at some tips on caring for your ill or aging loved one.

(1) Learn why God permits suffering... (Ed. Remember God’s ways are much higher than you and I can even begin to grasp; **BUT HE** wants the best for us in our earthly journey; even though we don’t understand).

In meeting the demands of caring for someone ill or disabled, it is possible to lose sight of the fact that God knows about what is happening. The aging process is part of the consequence of Adam’s fall. It is the natural result of living in a depraved (sinful) world!

God never said that Christians would be immune from suffering, nor did He promise to deliver us from all misfortune. Rather, He gave His Word that He would sustain us.

(2) Get the facts...

The tensions that can mount when someone must be cared for are often compounded because we’re afraid of what is ahead. You need to get as much information as you can get.

A heart-to-heart talk with your family doctor will be a big help. Ask him about the illness and how it progresses. Find out what kind of behavior to expect. Listen carefully to his advice. Talk with your pastor and enlist his support, wisdom, and guidance. Knowing what to expect, will prepare you emotionally and spiritually for whatever is coming.

(3) Be Patient...

As your loved one grows older, he or she may become harder and harder to deal with. They will say harsh things, get mad easily, and can put you on a real big guilt trip, demanding more of your time than you can give. Here is a place to control yourself and not get upset. It is a place to practice patience.

(4) Seek support when needed...

No one is a superman or woman. No one can carry a heavy load week after week without paying a price. We all need relief at times. So, find a family member or friend who will step in which will allow you to get away for an hour or day for a break. Find someone who you can confide in about your feelings, pray with you, and encourage you.

(5) Be honest...

Talk with your senior adult about their needs. Talk with them about hospital stays, finances, nursing homes, funerals, power of attorney, living medical will, medical power of attorney, and wills. They may be lonely or afraid. Be a good listener!

Read God’s Word to them and study it for your own support. **God will keep His Word and Promises. HE is faithful, comforting and loving.**

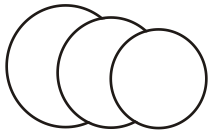
Thought. Caregivers must take a break now and then to keep going!

One Hundred and Three Devotions,
by Pastor James (Jim) Mizell

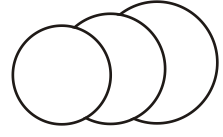
Personal Testimony!

Nor can anyone argue this away from me! For I know all the good that followed in my spirit from that hour, especially a deep, burning love to God and my neighbor. I know that I received an entirely changed mind, a sorrow for sin and a desire that other people should become partakers with me of the same grace. I know that I was given a special desire to read the Holy Scriptures, especially Jesus’ own teachings. At the same time I received new light to understand the Word and to bring together the teaching of all men of God to one focal point: that Christ has come for our salvation, that we should by His Spirit be born again, repent, and be sanctified more and more in accord with God’s attributes to serve the Triune God alone, in order that our souls may be refined and prepared for Eternal blessedness.

Part of Hans Nielsen Hauge’s personal testimony.
(Editor: Sounds like the ‘blind-man’ in John 9. Have YOU experienced the same?)



From Our Fellowship Circle



W. B. Belgrade, MN
God Bless You! I am thankful for the ministry of the HLIF/*Morning Glory*!

H. & E. C. Litchfield, MN
The leaves are changing color, we have changed from Summer to Fall, we are hearing a lot about climate change and experiencing big changes in our culture. We change clothes, change tires, change attitudes....

But the one thing that NEVER changes is GOD and His Word! Strategies, in Bible translation keep changing so that more people can be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in a prayerful effort to have a translation project in every language needing one by 2025. The language of an isolated people group, the Rapa Nui (living on Easter Island some 2,000 miles off the coast of Chile was dying. As an oral language with no systemized form of writing, there was no way to preserve the language or culture. After 24 years of painstaking work, the Rapa Nui New Testament was dedicated about a year ago. One person at the dedication said: "This Bible is a gift from God!" Lives of many people are being changed through the power of God's Word in their own language. "The Creator has given me a Book small enough to hold in my hands, large enough to study for a lifetime, and rich enough to satisfy my mind and heart forever. (Robert Morgan) It is our desire to share this wonderful Book with others..."

(Ed. How many of us, take for 'granted' the privilege of having (likely) a number of Testaments and/or Bibles in our dwelling place?)

Our last newsletter (*In behalf of Wycliffe Bible Translators*) told of God's miracle healing to our granddaughter Faith – a sudden ability to walk and eat. Her health, unfortunately, has taken some nosedive changes since then. She deals with daily seizures, anaphylaxis, a diagnosis of yet another disorder of the connective tissues causing immense pain, falls, and daily joint dislocations. Doctors seem at a loss as to how to help as symptoms increase and no treatment helps. Isolation for both Faith and Cammy has been tough – can't go, can't do and can't be with others.... Faith's spirit of living for her Jesus is inspirational and admirable. ... But God has His timeline, so we wait on Him. "I am still confident of this: *"I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."* Psalm 27:13-14. "God permits what He hates, to accomplish

what He loves." Joni E. Tada

There have been some major changes in our lives the last while. On August 9th, I, Elsie, was diagnosed with Bell's Palsy and four weeks later with blood clots in my lungs which hospitalized me for six days. Because of my weakened condition my asthmatic bronchitis set in. I am still struggling with fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath and coughing. ... This has been an intense growing time for me spiritually as I meditate on suffering, its purposes, the role God as my Sovereign Creator wants to have. I have no doubt that HE has a life changing purpose for me. I trust Him to that end. My prayer is a little chorus: "Change my heart, O God; make me more like you."

Editor's Note: Count your many blessings and see what GOD has done! I also carry the concern and conviction that IF 'we' don't keep the 'camp-fires' (Churches, Congregations) burning at 'home'; foreign missions will fade out also!

A Thorn in the Flesh

"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure." (II Corinthians 12:7)

What a difficult time God has to keep us in our proper place! We easily become puffed up, but how difficult it is to keep humble! Even a blessing from God, a glorious experience, a special manifestation of grace may cause us to feel superior. And the fact that we can become proud of a gift of grace is the clearest evidence of how corrupt our nature is.

Nevertheless God does not abandon us, but deals with us in His mercy and wisdom. Sometimes He even deals severely with us. Even Satan must serve Him in making us humble. He places a thorn in our flesh, causing us to experience how weak and frail we are; and in spite of our prayers for deliverance He permits the affliction to remain; for through it He will bestow upon us the true blessing; His grace. Yea, He will show us that His grace is sufficient, and that it is only when we are weak that we are strong.

Therefore, do not become discouraged if the thorn causes you pain. The pain is necessary in order to keep you humble.

Rest a While, by Fredrik Wisloff

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

A Progressive” *Christian* Seminary Begins Praying to Plants for Forgiveness!

A Seminary in New York took a definite turn toward having a reprobate- mind/convictions and towards ‘Paganism’ despite claiming to be Christian with a new program where students can ask forgiveness from plants!

Union Theological Seminary announced that on Tuesday (9/19/19), that at their ‘chapel’ service they announced and confessed to plants their “climate sins” to a bunch of potted plants.

Together they prayed for (their sins) joy, regret, hope, sorrow and grief – stating that it was ‘A Beautiful Ritual’.

THIS is fulfilling what God has foretold would happen in “Perilous Times” like we have today when a person(s) worships ‘creation’ instead of the CREATOR! Let us listen to what GOD says in Romans 1: 21-22 & 25: ***“Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools. Who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*** (Please read the entire first chapter of Romans 1).

A ‘reprobate’ mind is one who is thoroughly mixed up/confused and unable to correctly discern rightly ‘right & wrong’. *Tragically SAD!*

In SARCASTIC response – Singer & Songwriter Bob Bennet penned a penitent hymn, beginning with,

I confess my unbelief
To my leafy brethren
I’ve given you such grief
While you give me oxygen
Like a prodigal come home
An errant journey I was on
Now no more to roam
I’ll no longer mow my lawn.

Selected

Study Confirms Genes Don’t Determine Homosexuality

A study conducted by scientists from Harvard and MIT once again refutes the “born that way” reason for homosexuality. This massive study of nearly half a mil-

lion people sought to determine if genetic factors contribute to same-sex behavior.

The research was recently published in *Science*, and is the largest study ever conducted on this subject. While previous studies have not been as large, these prior studies have also concluded that there is no genetic cause of same-sex attraction...

David Curtis, honorary professor of the Genetics Institute at the University College London, said, “This study clearly shows that there is no such thing as a ‘gay-gene.’ There is no genetic variant in the population which has any substantial effect on sexual orientation.”

LIBERTY COUNSEL

Liberals Sign Petition Protecting Unborn Eagles, Refuse Petition Protecting Unborn Babies

Will Witt of PragetU presented his petitions to people in Echo Park in Los Angeles recently and filmed their reactions, the Daily Wire reports.

Will found a number of people who were enthusiastic about his petition to protect eagle eggs.

“We have a petition to stop the killing of eagles, like eagle eggs”; people disturb them or they destroy them. He said in the video, “these eagles haven’t been born yet; they have rights ya know? We don’t think they should be harmed and we think that there should be harder penalties for those kinds of thing. Would you guys agree?”

Many did.

“Yes, of course,” two young women responded. A third told him, “Don’t kill eagles...Eagles are people too!”

“Best of luck, I hope you save the eagles,” another person said.

Then Witt introduced his second petition, which called for protection for unborn human babies.

“We have one other petition about stopping the killing of humans too – like, babies,” he said to the same people who signed his first petition.

“Wait no,” one of the young women responded, “I don’t agree with that. I’m, like, pro-abortion; sorry.”

Another initially misunderstood the petition, saying, “Uh, I hate the killing of babies!” However, when she realized the petition was about abortion, she said she supports abortion.

“We want to protect their rights too, even though they’re unborn,” Witt said.

But another responded, “Oh, no I don’t agree. I fully support abortion.”

“Why do you not support the killing of unborn eagles but the killing of unborn children?” Witt asked.

“Uh, I think it’s the woman’s decision,” one woman told him. “A human woman should have more rights probably than a bald eagle.” The situation that Witt posed is not hypothetical. Bald eagle eggs have more protections under U.S. law than unborn babies. It is illegal to destroy a bald eagle egg under the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the maximum fine is \$250,000.

And it’s not just endangered unborn animals that are being protected. Earlier this year a pro-abortion Democrat from New Jersey introduced a bill to protect unborn cows from being slaughtered, arguing that it causes additional stress for their mothers.

State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, who recently was honored by the Planned Parenthood abortion chain said of his bill, “It’s the right thing to do to protect our animals and unborn animals.”

Meanwhile, nearly one million unborn human babies are aborted in America annually. In some states. they may be aborted for any reason up to birth, including because of sex selection.

Lifenews.com

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;

His Truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps;

They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps.

I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;

His day is marching on.

I have read a fiery Gospel writ in burnished rows of steel,

“As ye deal with My contenders so with you My grace

shall deal”,

Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with His heel

Since God is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;

He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat.

Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him, be jubilant, my feet!

Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea

With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;

As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free

While God is marching on.

Julia Ward Howe, 1861

Cleanse Ourselves

“Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (II Corinthians 7:1)

FEAR belongs to the Christian life! When fear dies, the soul dies. “Blessed is he who is frightened” says Luther. A Christian is called “God-fearing”. Without the fear of God, there is no Christianity.

And, above all, without fear there will be no sanctification. “*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*” Philippians 2:12. “*Conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exiles.*” (I Peter 1:17) “*Make holiness perfect in the fear of God.*” (II Corinthians 7:1)

Luther’s explanation of all the Ten Commandments begins thus: We should fear and love God. The long way of sanctification also begins thus: You should fear and love God.

We are not to have *slavish fear*. Such fear drives out love. But we should have **childlike fear** – a child’s reverence and respect for its father, the fear which dreads to grieve the one whom we love.

Therefore “**let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**”

Rest a While, by Fredrik Wisloff,
Nordstrand Books, Oslo

A Preacher Without a Bible!

Vance Havner

I started out in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. I didn't know very much. I haven't learned a lot since, but I knew precious little in those days. However, I believed the Bible. I just took it and read it as it came. I started in Genesis and was having a great time, taking promises right and left, just like a boy picking apples off a tree in the orchard.

One day I was met by one of these Bible scholars and was told that those promises were not for me; they were for the Jew. Well, that discouraged me a bit, but I said to myself, I believe I will give it another try.

So, I moved over into the New Testament and started down through Matthew, claiming promises right and left. Again, I was interrupted and duly notified that those were all for the kingdom age, not for me. I had never heard of the 'kingdom age' before, but since those things were not for me, I didn't want to take them.

So I moved over into the Acts of the Apostles and was daring to claim some, not all, of the blessings that flowed from Pentecost. Once again I was interrupted and told that it was a transitional period, that we were not to press those promises too literally.

Well, that left me, by and by, with nothing but the Epistles and Revelation, and most of the Revelation was for the future.

By the time I had made allowance between groups and marginal references and tried to look at the Bible through the spectacles of a dozen disagreeing expositors, bless your heart, I was afraid to put down my foot on any verse for fear some scholar would come along like a policeman and order me off private property and tell me "This verse is not for you.. Get going, brother, somewhere else."

Finally I said, "Lord, I have heard of a man without a country. If this thing keeps up, I'm going to be a preacher without a Bible. If You will give me a verse I can stand on, I will have to have it in a hurry because they are just about to take my Bible away from me."

Then I got down to that verse, **"Let God be true, but every man a liar"** (Romans 3:4), and I have been standing on that one ever since! Brother, I tell you, I believe it is all for me, and I enjoy it!

We need just that childlike enjoyment of the *Word of God*. Today we have gotten to the place where people are taking the BIBLE apart and then trying to put it back together – analyzing it, dissecting it – not enjoying it. There needs to be a childlike enjoyment of God's Word and a sweetheart love for JESUS.

Your New Normal

Ted Camp

A pastor who was trained in trauma and grief counseling commented, "The greatest challenge for hurting people is often not the immediate heartache of the loss, instead, the biggest problem is adjusting to a different kind of life that follows. What was once normal may never be normal again. So, the challenge is to assist and help the person to adjust to a new normal."

The new normal brings drastic changes in health, family and finances and requires adjustment to unexpected events. What one was may never be again. Things done cannot be undone. Life may never be the same again.

You may think, *If only I had... Well, if you had, it probably would not have made a difference. You ask, "Why did this happen?" Well, even if you knew why, it still happened. Job learned to stop looking at "why" and looked to "Who."* He finally said, **"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him."** (Job 13:15)

Like Job, stop trying and start trusting. If you continue to remain in the past and review it, you might do so all your life. If you continually rehearse and nurse it, it will slowly control and consume you.

Don't rehearse it and nurse it; reverse it. Get up, get on and get over it. Name one person who has not had problems. Why should you be an exception? Others have overcome; so, can you. It is not what happens to you but what happens *in* you that makes the difference.

Greatness is not determined by what it takes to start you but by what it takes to stop you. A failure is not someone who is unsuccessful but someone who quit. I have never seen a happy *quitter*. *"Don't faint; be faithful and you will reap."* (Gal. 5:9)

The Lord also gives seven promises to all seven churches and to Christians who face opposition and obstacles (Rev. 2&3). Do not be overcome, be an overcomer. Learn that afterwards you will slowly become stronger, sweeter and more sensitive. (I Peter 5:10)

Accept the fact that what was once normal is no longer normal. The new normal has no overnight solutions. The healing process requires both pain and patience. Look at obstacles as opposition that must be overcome. You can do it: others have done it.

No matter what happens, the Lord will never leave or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). He promises to strengthen you for all things (Phil. 4:13). You cannot change the past, but you can change the future.

1. Put off your old normal life.
2. Put on your new normal life (Col. 3:7 – 15).

It's time to start a new beginning with the Lord's help. — The Sword of the Lord.

The Hireling

By Phillip Keller

(Ed. Part of Phillip's personal testimony)

The same situation prevailed in Jesus' (earthly) time. Those who posed as the protectors and leaders of the people the priests, Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees, were but rank opportunist who plundered and abused the people. The rake-off in the temple trade alone in Jerusalem exceeded \$35,000,000 a year. Most of it went to line the pockets and oil the palms of the oppressor. Little wonder Christ went storming through the temple to clear it of its counterfeit activities shouting "***You will not make my Father's house, a place of plunder ... a den of thieves!***"

His confrontation was always with the ecclesiastical hierarchy of His times. They were not true shepherds. They did not love their charges. They did not care deeply for those in their care. They never wept over the plight of their people who were sheep gone astray. They were hirelings. They were there to grab what they could get for themselves.

Is it any wonder our Lord thundered out His great imprecations against them? Here, He the great Good Shepherd, saw His people abused and betrayed by those who had no interest in them whatever.

And the same applies to all church history since His day. God's people have always been parasitized by imposters. Men have worked with the flock only for what they could get out of it; not for what they could contribute to the well-being of their people.

It was this sort of thing that nearly ruined me as a young man. There was within my spirit a strange, powerful deep desire to know (Ed. Prevenient Grace) God. I literally thirsted and hungered for spiritual sustenance I longed to be fed truth that would satisfy my innermost craving.

Sunday after Sunday my wife and I would attend whatever churches we could. Some of them were small and struggling. Others were large and pretentious. Some of the preachers were proper and orthodox, but seldom shepherds. Again, and again I came hoping to be fed, but there was nothing.

Frustrated and angry I would storm home, and vow never to enter a church again. "I'm like a sheep going to the feed-trough hoping to find hay or grain, and there is only dust and chaff!" I would storm to my gentle wife. In her wisdom, kindness, and patience she would prevail on me to keep going, for sooner or later she was sure a few straws would be found here and there.

Why was this? Because some of these men came to know me personally, but even after they had entered into our lives, their casual indifference and lack of genuine

concern astonished me.

In one community I attended services diligently for nearly four years. At the end of that time I had been taught virtually nothing. I was a stranger in a far country, away from my home land, but no shepherd seemed to care for my soul.

At that period in my life I was under tremendous attack from the enemy of my soul. Almost daily I was exposed to onslaughts against the great truths of God's revelation in His Word. Subtle suggestions and crafty cynicism were working havoc in my convictions. The wolves were at work on me, but there was no shepherd around who really seemed to be concerned about this wandering sheep.

Alone and unattended I fled for safety. I knew not really where to run. Like a sheep blinded with fear and seized with panic I simply turned to run in my own stupid way. And the result was that I went far astray. I ended up far from my Good Shepherd. The hirelings had literally let me fend for myself.

The net result can be expressed in the words of the grand old prophet Ezekiel: "***For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day***" Ezekiel 34:11-12.

Only the tender compassion of Christ, only the understanding of the true Shepherd of my soul, only the gentle overtures of the gracious Spirit of God could ever retrieve this wild and wayward one from the cloudy and dark days of his despair. Because of His patience and perseverance He pursued me along my wayward path, because He gathered me up again and drew me back once more in selfless love, was I saved. And for this I shall be eternally grateful to my God.

But what desperate despair I could have been spared if only someone had cared for my soul at that stage of my life. Those to whom I looked for help were only hirelings. They would not stand up to the enemy. They would not engage the wolves that were raiding my life and lives of others. They would not risk a confrontation. They simply turned tail and left us to be torn and scattered.

The same is still true. There are ministers, teachers, scholars, writers, and leaders who pose as champions of Christianity. But when the enemy comes in they are shown in their true colors. They back away rather than risk a confrontation. They settle for withdrawal rather than beard the lion or bear, or assail the wolf.

They turn and flee in the face of violent attack. Oth-

ers remain silent while their people are deceived, harried, and driven to despair. ONLY the Good Shepherd cares enough for His own to lay down His life for them.

It must be He who living His life through and in His true under shepherds, enables them also to lay down their lives for the sheep. They must be prepared and willing to be expendable for the sake of others. These are not hirelings, they are His slaves of love. Paul calls himself "a bondservant of Jesus Christ."

Men or women who enter God's service should regard this as an enormous responsibility not only before God but also to those whom they serve. It is something which is not undertaken lightly or casually for personal gain, but with an eye to eternal consequences.

In any enterprise where we are coworkers with Christ, there is incumbent upon us the obligation to realize that this is not a hit-or-miss affair. His view of His work in the world is a sincere and serious one. And He expects that those who enter His enterprises will take a similar attitude...

It is only the under shepherd, whose first and foremost devotion and consecration is to CHRIST, who can stand up to the strains and stresses of shepherding. If one's devotion is only to people, deep, disappointing disillusionments are bound to come. But for the one whose service is centered in Christ there comes the strength and serenity to meet all the storms.

*We love Him because He first loved us.
We love others because He first loved us.
We love at all because He first loved us.*

**This is what it means to be a love slave
and not a hireling.**

Found in the book *A Shepherd Looks at THE GOOD SHEPHERD and His Sheep*, Copyright © 1978 by W. Phillip Keller.

Editor's Note: When the situation was that bad, 41 years ago; how about TODAY?

WILL WE ESCAPE DEATH?

Every individual knows that someday everyone must DIE, must give an account of our lives to GOD! AS "***It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment***" Hebrews 9:27. We are reminded that God keeps the records of every life. John tells us: "*And I saw the dead (those not saved) small and great, stand before God, and the books (one for every life who ever lived) were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of Life; and the dead were judged out*

of those things which were written in the books according to their works ... and whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:12, 15)

God did not prepare Hell for man, but for the "Devil and his angels." "*The Lord ...is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*" II Peter 3:9. Jesus said: "*It is not the will of your Father who is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.*" (Matthew 18:15) God desires the salvation of every person. Listen to what God says: "***God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have everlasting life.***" (John 3:16)

Since no man wants to be lost and spend eternity in Hell (I have never talked with anyone who wanted to go to Hell), since God wants every person to come to repentance of sin and receive by faith Jesus as personal Saviour and Lord, then it is up to each of us to accept it. There is no other name under heaven given among men, by whom we can be saved but Jesus. The wise person will trust Christ today. The Bible says "Now is the accepted time." (II Corinthians 6:2)

The picture of a lost person dying without a Saviour is too terrible and horrible to describe. But for the saved person death is but saying 'GOODNIGHT' here and 'GOOD MORNING' in the Father's house that Jesus has prepared for us (John 14). There is a poem that we might want to ponder:

*"Think of stepping on shore and finding it
Heaven,
Think of taking hold of a hand and finding it
God's hand,
Think of breathing new air and finding it celestial
air,
Think of feeling invigorated and finding it immor-
tality,
Think of waking up and finding you at HOME!"*

*One Hundred and Three Devotions
by Pastor James (Jim) Mizell*

DID YOU KNOW?

That some birds can make more than one sound at a time?

Creatures like bats, bees, and butterflies have innate abilities human engineers can't match.

Bats' precise sonar capabilities, the honey bees' elaborate waggle-dance communication, and the Monarch butterfly's two thousand miles navigational abilities demand the Creator's genius.

The Attributes of God

This is the sixth and final edition in a series of articles about the character and nature of God. I trust that it has been a blessing to you as you discover – perhaps afresh – the God who rules over us. He is truly beyond our full comprehension, but not beyond our love and obedience.

The last attribute that we will examine is Love. Probably the most known Bible verse is John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”* We tend to think of God’s Love as romantic love between husband and wife, especially when I Cor. 13 is read at the wedding. Or perhaps we tend to think of love as the binding friendship between two people. There are other Greek words to describe these kinds of love, but the agape Love of God is different from these. What is God’s Love like as described in John 3:16?

When we read of God’s Love we see that **God’s Love is a love that works to the unlovable.** God loved the world, which means people caught in all manner of depravity – Murders, drugs, immoralities, gross perversions and on and on. Natural love looks upon that which is loveable – a pretty appearance, a witty personality or those in dire need. God’s Love looks at those who have broken His Law – guilty sinners who deserve His wrath. *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8)

The Love of God is Universal – the World. His Love is not confined to a select group of people, but the entire human race. No one is beyond the Love of God, no one is excluded. This means that regardless of who you are or what you have done, God extends His Love to you and wants you to be His own.

The Love of God is a Love that Gives. God Gave His only Son. The true measure of love is how much it gives, not how much it receives. God gave the ultimate He could give – His only begotten Son. In essence, God gave Himself since the Father and the Son are one. (John 10:30) Jesus gave all that He could give – His very life unto a horrid death by slow torture. What more could anyone give other than their very lives? Jesus said, *“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”* (John 15:13) But Jesus even went beyond this in that He gave His life not for His friends, but for His enemies! *“For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”* (Romans 5:10)

The Love of God is a love that will go to any measure. God’s Son would die. How do you think that God felt when His own Son was dying on the cross? How do you think He felt when Jesus pleaded for God to find another way, yet still said, “Not My will but Thine?” God’s Love had no other way – He was not willing to spare Jesus and let the world go lost. How do you think God felt when He thundered His wrath and fury upon Him for something He didn’t even do? It was our sins that Jesus had to die for, and it was His Love for each one of us that drove Him to the cross. If you want to see the Love of God – Look to Calvary! We can look at a pretty sunset or a precious little baby and see some reflection of God’s Love in this. But the greatest demonstration of God’s Love for us is Jesus on the cross. There was a point in time when my sin came upon Jesus and He bore it in my place. That is why He is MY PERSONAL SAVIOR because He has died specifically for all my sins. What He has done for me, He has done for you as well.

The Love of God is a Love of Action. God’s Love is not just a string of sentimental words or a box of chocolate, it is a Love of Action that works to correct the wrong. When mankind fell into sin and thus is under God’s condemnation, God’s Love moved Him to take action to fix the problem. In order to fix the problem, God had to Himself become a man and bear the wrath of God that was due us because of our sin. That’s quite a price to pay. God cannot simply overlook sin and just dismiss it by saying, “Oh, that’s alright.” His holiness demands that every sin be atoned for and that’s exactly what His Love has done. This shows us that God’s Love is a love that will go to any length to fix the problem.

The end result of God’s Love is that it benefits others. God’s Love shown to the human race now means that whoever has faith in Jesus doesn’t have to perish, but can instead have eternal life. Jesus took our sin and guilt and gives us His righteousness instead. *“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (II Corinthians 5:21) I would say that’s a pretty good trade from our perspective!

As we finish these attributes of God, they should move us to revere and love and obey God above all else. These attributes of God are beyond our human comprehension to understand them in their fulness. *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.”* (Ps. 139:6) But what we can’t understand with our minds, we can trust by faith as Scripture reveals to us a God who is as high above us as the heavens are above the earth, and yet has condescended to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Praise His Glorious Name!

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

Changes Below the Surface

By David F. Wells

In 1993 a very interesting study was done which revisited George Gallup's figure of 32% of adult Americans who claim to be reborn. What this study did was to add just a few modest tokens of commitment as additional tests. In addition to asking, 'Are you born again,' they also asked, 'Do you go to church with some regularity, do you pray with some regularity, and do you have some minimal structure of formal Christian belief?' When those tests were added, the figure of 32% dropped to 8%. And if we were to probe just a little bit more, and if we were to ask: first, 'Are you regenerate,' second 'Do you have a sufficiently cogent worldview to make a difference in society?'; and third, 'Do you have a sufficiently formed Christian character to want to do so?', based on some ongoing research I have seen, my guess is that the figure may be more than 1% or 2%. What this means, my brothers and sisters (in & through JESUS) is that we may have been living in a fool's paradise. When Gallup produced his figures in the 1970s, and has repeated them every year ever since, it seemed like evangelicals were on roll with such wide popular support and with churches that were growing. It looked as though we were on the verge of sweeping all of our religious and cultural opponents before us. That was why these figures stirred such alarm in the secular media, why they created some heartburn in the mainline Protestant denominations, and why they produced just a little power-mongering amongst evangelicals. But it has turned out to be an optical illusion. The reality that we have to face today is that we have produced a plague of *nominal evangelicalism* which is as trite and as superficial as anything we have seen in Catholic Europe.

Now, why is this? Well, I would like to suggest that it begins with the crumbling of our theological character. (Editor: I recall very vividly of being told of a talented gentleman that IF he were the 'Devil,' he would start at the Seminary. He became President of a Lutheran Seminary; and today it is a "liberal" Lutheran Seminary). I have spoken of this in my book *No Place for Truth*, in terms of the '*disappearance of theology*.' It is not that theological beliefs are denied, but that they have little cash value. They don't matter. I liken the situation of that as child who is in a home but who is ignored. It is not that the child has been abducted; the child is there. The child is in the home, but has no legitimate place in the family. And, again, research which I have conducted strongly points to the fact that where this kind of theological character is crumbling, there the centrality of God is disappearing. God now comes to rest lightly and inconsequentially upon the Church. This, however, is just our own private, evangelical version of what we see more generally in the culture. In the broader culture we learn that 91% of people say that God is very im-

portant to them, but 66% go on to say that they do not believe in moral absolute, and 67% do not believe in absolute truth. So God rests inconsequentially upon their lives.

An evangelical faith that is not passionate about truth and righteousness is faith which is a lost cause. All that it will then be living for is simply its own organizational preservation. Last century William James saw this same sort of mindset at work. "The entire modern edification of survival" he said, "with the denial of any semblance of excellence in what survived, except the capacity for more survival still, is surely the strangest intellectual stopping place ever." Stanley Fish, the radical deconstructionist, in his latest book says that since there is no such thing as truth, all we have left is power, politics, and persuasion. Given his premise, he is right and I can tell you that if we do not recover our theological character and our sense of truth, in the same way all that we are going to have left is power, politics, and persuasion. Those will be the only means we will be left for survival. If this is an accurate analysis, where are we going to start in finding some new directions?

The Lost Word

First, we must recover the lost WORD of GOD. The problem is not, of course that the BIBLE itself has disappeared. There are, in fact, enough Bibles in America to put one in every home. No, the problem is that we are not *hearing*. It does not rest consequentially upon us. It does not cut. And it is surely one of the great ironies of our time that in the 1970s and 80s so much effort was put into defining inspiration and looking at what were the best words to express and protect it. And while all of that work was going on, unnoticed by us, the Church was quietly unhitching itself from the truth of Scripture in practice. Biblical inspiration was affirmed but its consequences were not worked out for our preaching our techniques for growing the Church, our techniques for healing our own fractured selves. These all happened largely without the use of Scripture. It is as if we think that while the Bible is inspired, it is nevertheless inadequate to the tasks of sustaining and nourishing ...the Church. It is almost as if God, when He inspired the Word could not see what was coming in ...The result of this divine myopia is that He has left us with something that is inadequate to the great challenges that we face today.

If we do not recover the sufficiency of the Word of God in our time, if we do not relearn what it means to be sustained by it, nourished by it, disciplined by it, and unless our preachers find the courage again to preach its truth, to allow their sermons to be defined by its truth, we will lose our right to call ourselves Protestants, we will lose our capacity to be the people of God, and we will set ourselves on a path that leads right into the old discredited liberal Protestants. We have to recover a vivid other worldliness by making ourselves once again captives to the truth of GOD regard-

less of the cultural consequences.

Excerpts taken from *The Bleeding of the Evangelical Church*, © The Banner of Truth Trust, 1995

HANS NIELSEN HAUGE

(Religious Experiences) – (Continued from the last issue of the *Morning Glory*)

Once as I was reading to several others I began to weep excessively, to pray and call upon God. At that moment I experienced a renewal of my spirit and felt a fresh obedience of heart to God's Spirit and Word. I also received the power to speak to other people more earnestly about God's saving grace. I told them that this grace is revealed by the Word and that the Spirit of God is present in the Word to chasten and cleanse us from all sin and to teach us to be diligent in all good works.

Since then my feelings have at times known their former glow and have even burst into flame as before. We all experience from time to time that our spiritual fire burns low, partly due to the distractions of the world and partly due to the sensuality and sinful desires of our nature, which fight against the Spirit (Galatians 5). I must confess that I am a poor sinner lacking much and that I am unworthy of the great grace God has shown me. I am far from having anything to glory of in myself when my conscience is reminded of, and chastened by, this acknowledgment of the TRUTH.

On the other hand, I cannot deny that God has faithfully led me on my way through life, this being especially the case the past twenty-one years. Therefore, I pray to God with a sincere heart that He will preserve me in His truth to the end of my life.

It is true I have learned more and more to respect knowledge and learning in every field. But I abhor the teachings of those who have become wise in their own estimation, despising the Word of God, especially those wretched people who seek to pervert the right way of the Lord, and who not only transgress but also corrupt the Lord's commandments. I pity those who are so puffed up in their own conceit that they despise the foolishness of the message of the CROSS. (I Corinthians 1:18)

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, nothing shall ever draw me away from the truth of the Holy Scriptures. After many trials, I have found that scripture alone is able to give true peace, blessed joy, power to conquer sin, comfort in death, and a constant hope of Eternal Life. In this life it furnishes the mind with all Christian virtue.

I feel a renewed desire to study the Holy Scriptures increasingly, especially the Gospels. I find the teachings of Christ are like a bright sun shining into my soul. The more I meditate upon them, the more fully I grasp the depths of

meaning in these pertinent words. I believe that anyone who rightly heeds this doctrine with a believing heart will discover and understand that it is from God; that whoever drinks from this well, from his life there will flow streams of living water.

God grant me, with all others who seek Him, this grace to the end that we may be and remain His chosen children, believing on Him, loving Him and walking according to His gracious will. Then in His own time He will call us home for this pilgrimage to His eternal rest. Amen.

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The Law for Today

“And what nation is thee so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?” (Deuteronomy 4:8)

God has never dealt with any nation as closely and fully as He has with Israel, but He nevertheless is directly concerned with every nation as a national entity. He has actually established each nation Himself (Deuteronomy 32:8), even determining the geographical boundaries of each and the time when each would rise and fall (Acts 17:26).

Every nation has a purpose in history, but Israel had the highest calling of all. God personally gave them (through Moses) the finest governmental and legal system any nation ever had (Deuteronomy 4:5-8), and modern governments would therefore do well to emulate these in so far as possible. In fact, it is amazing that this Mosaic legal code has since served effectively as the basic legal code for all the greatest nations in modern history. This, in itself, is clear testimony to its divine origin and is therefore justification for retaining and implementing it wherever possible, even today.

Sadly, however, modern political and judicial practices are departing further and further from the divine standard. The philosophies of evolution and relativism dominate our schools of law today, and the concept of absolute principles of righteousness and justice, rooted in the nature of God as Creator and in His revelation, are largely being replaced by legislation based on evolving social policies and preferences. Even the Ten Commandments are banned from our schools, despite the fact that they are engraved in the Supreme Court building itself.

It is sobering to consider that God did not even spare His beloved nation Israel when His people departed from the law. Nor will He spare America if our growing-rebellion against His Word goes on much longer.

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UpDate

Can You and I Afford Not To? Matthew 6:33

Where does Jesus come on your Christmas list of GIVING?

MANY years ago I was privileged to be a hired-man for a dairy farmer and both the Husband and Wife clearly loved JESUS; not only in talk but walk as well! The LORD had entrusted to them a daughter who was very young when I was employed there.

One day, she had taken a coin from my room and when these godly Parents found out, they made their daughter return the coin with asking forgiveness!

This seemed so innocent to this seemingly young Inheritance from the Lord.

But you know there are a number of ways in the form of stealing/robbery – naturally out-right taking that which isn't rightly yours is a crime and a sin. Also withholding that which belongs to another person when you have the means of fulfilling that need, especially when we withhold from God what is due Him. He calls it 'robbing' – as seen in Malachi and Haggai.

GOD is a Good book-keeper and definitely a Financial Advisor; as ALL that we have in this earthly journey is entrusted to us as stewards!

SO, "Can You and I Afford Not To!", obey out of LOVE to HIM?

We definitely would like to hear from those of you who are being blest through this ministry in Specific Prayer Support and Finances! Together lets reach-out unto others and be blest and a blessing unto others!

Offerings received in October were \$1,016.00.

Our monthly operating expenses are about \$3,500.

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Mary Christmas!

All the Board Members of the Hauge Innermission would like to wish you a Mary Christmas. By that we mean the real Christmas with the Virgin Mary conceiving a Child by the Holy Spirit. This Child is the very Son of God, true God and true Man. As Luther described His mission, "... [He has] bought me and freed me from all my sins, from death and the power of the devil." (Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed)

Even though society sees this as a time for buying and giving and even some in the Church view it as just another holiday, the true believer can worship the Lord for His gracious gift to us. *"For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* (Lk. 2:11)