

# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

*Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • February 2015*

## My Journey Away from Contemporary Worship Music

By Dan Cogan

I have been what many would call a “worship leader” for close to two decades. When I first became involved in “worship ministry” in an Assemblies of God youth group we sang such songs as The Name of the Lord Is a Strong Tower, As the Deer, Lord I Lift Your Name on High, and others of the era of the 1980s and 90s. Ours was considered a stylistically progressive church since we used almost exclusively contemporary songs.

This meant that if I were to visit a “traditional” church, not only would I be unfamiliar with the hymns, I would also likely cringe when they sang them and in my heart ridicule them (the people rather than the songs) as being old-fashioned.

It was during these formative years in my experience as a worship leader that I began to introduce even more contemporary songs to our youth group. It was then that I discovered artists like Delirious, Darrel Evans, Matt Redman, and Vineyard Music with their songs Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble, Trading My Sorrows, Heart of Worship, and Hungry.

As a young musician who desired to honor Christ, I found these songs to be particularly compelling. I felt different when we sang them. The way Nirvana gave voice to the angst of Generation X, bands like Delirious were giving voice to a generation of young Christians who didn’t feel they could relate to the songs of their parents and grandparents.

Over the years when I would occasionally hear a hymn, the language was always strikingly foreign, with

Ebenzers and bulwarks, diadems and fetters. Which only served to confirm my bias that hymns were simply out-of-date. They had served their purpose. They had run their course.

The problem with my youthful logic only began to dawn on me about seven years ago. I had come to recognize that these ancient hymns accomplished something that the new songs weren’t. While contemporary worship seemed to take the listener on an exciting and emotional rollercoaster, the old hymns engaged the mind with deep and glorious truths that, when sincerely pondered, caused a regenerated heart to humbly bow before its King.

When I accepted my first post as a paid member of a church staff in 2007, I began the practice of singing one hymn each week. There were times where my peers would teasingly ask what an “Ebenezer” was? What I found was that when I gave them a basic definition of these seemingly obsolete words we were singing, their response was usually something akin to, “Oh? Cool. I never knew that!” I think when they asked, they half expected me to say, “I don’t know! Weird word, huh?” Instead they were being challenged to learn, not merely a new word, but how to ponder the things of God deeply when we sing His praises.

Nowadays, I still choose songs for our congregation to sing that were written recently, but they are becoming increasingly the minority. And the criteria for selecting them is becoming more and more thorough. Hymns have begun to take precedent in my song selection for two reasons.

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*First, hymns have been sung by the giants of the faith who have gone on before us over the last two millennia. When we sing A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, we join with Martin Luther who wrote it, and with Calvin and Spurgeon and Edwards who invariably sang and cherished it. When we sing It Is Well With My Soul we are encouraged by the faith of Horatio Spafford who wrote the hymn in the wake of the tragic death of his four daughters. And while many contemporary songs have certainly been written by wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ who have surely endured trials, the fact that we can join with generations past and be reminded that the Church is vastly larger than our local congregation, farther reaching than our town or state or country, and much, *much* older than the oldest saint living today, is something we should not take lightly. Indeed, this should birth in us a desire to sing the songs that our Family has sung together for two-thousand years (and beyond when we discuss singing the Psalms).*

*Second, the content of hymns is almost always vastly more theologically rich. When I say rich, I don’t necessarily mean every hymn recounts the Gospel in its entirety, or that all hymns clearly teach the atonement. Rather, the theology in the hymns is typically more *sound* or *healthy* than much of contemporary worship music. As I said earlier, contemporary songs engage our emotions more often, where the hymns engage our hearts by way of the mind.*

By the way of example, one of the top ten contemporary songs being sung in American evangelical churches right now

is called One Thing Remains. While there is nothing in the song particularly bad (in fact, much of it is pretty good), it seems to me that the purpose of the song is to work the listeners into an emotional state. The chorus is:

“Your love never fails / It never gives up / Your love never fails / It never gives up / Never runs out on me / Your love never fails / It never gives up / Never runs out on me / Your love / Your love / Your love.”

With the repetition of a simple lyric like that, it isn’t a stretch to say that the composer’s goal was not to engage the listener’s mind.

Whereas Augustus Toplady’s hymn **Rock of Ages** is doctrinally sound, it also is a very moving song of *our* dependence upon Christ our Rock”

“Rock of Ages cleft for me / Let me hide myself in Thee / Let the water and the blood / From Thy wounded side which flowed / Be of sin the double cure / Save from wrath and make me pure.”

So I make this plea to my fellow ministers, do not neglect these milestones from ages past. In fact, I would make the case for the abandonment of *most* contemporary songs. If you choose a song for congregational worship based on its content (say you have chosen a contemporary song because of its focus on the Cross), do the hard work of finding a hymn that more than likely addresses the same topic or doctrine in a much deeper way. If on the other hand you have chosen a song because of the way it feels or the emotion it evokes, ask yourself whether you are depending upon the Holy Spirit or your own skills to engage our brothers and sisters in singing to our King.

Selected

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## The Savior of the World

*“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.”* 1 John 4:14

This unique title of the Lord Jesus Christ assures us that when the Father sent His Son away from the glories of heaven down to a world lost in sin, it was not just to be the Messiah of the Jews, or to assume David’s throne as King of Israel, or to punish the wicked Gentile nations.

*“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved”* (John 3:17).

In fact, this special title is used only one other time in the Bible, and it was used by Samaritans rather than Jews

when they came to know Jesus as He ministered among them for two days. These people were mostly of Gentile background with a mixture of Israeli blood who had become adherents of a quasi-Jewish religion that was also part pagan.

But they were actually looking for a Savior, and their testimony after meeting Jesus was: *“Now we believe ..... and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world”* (John 4:42). They perceived that He had come to bring salvation to lost sinners in every nation, not just to Israel or Samaria. As He said later, *“I came not to judge the world, but to save the world”* (John 12:47).

And so He commanded His disciples *“that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations”* (Luke 24:47). He became to the Father *“the propitiation ... for the sins of the whole world”* (1 John 2:2) when He offered up His life as sacrifice for sins, then died and rose again. We who have believed on Him as our personal Savior are now to be His witnesses *“in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”* (Acts 1:8).

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

*Days of Praise*, Institute for Creation Research,  
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## *Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish’s belly.* Jonah 2:1

When Jonah was in the belly of the great fish, his tongue overflowed with the thoughts of his heart. And what was in his heart? There are echoes of psalms in his prayer – he mentions fleeing from God’s presence, crying for help from the depths of Sheol, being cast into the depths of the seas. He ends his prayer in psalmist fashion as well, *“I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving”* (Ps. 116:17). The result? *“The Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land”* (Jon. 2:10). Let me like Jonah know my Bible well enough to speak truth to my own soul when I am overwhelmed with darkness or the disciplining hand of God’s waves and billows.

– Marilyn MacMullen

*Holy Bible, book divine, precious treasure, thou art mine;  
Mine to comfort in distress, suffering in this wilderness.*

J. Burton Sr.

## Call Him Jesus

**And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins** Matthew 1:21.

The Child which is born shall be called Jesus. His name embraces His entire nature and His life's purpose. He is the Savior who has come to save His people from their sins.

Had there been no sin on earth, there would have been no Christmas. Had there been no sinners, there would have been no need of a Savior. For this very reason the Christmas Gospel is a message for sinners. And only those who acknowledge their sins can understand the true meaning of Christmas.

The name "Jesus" is the hope of the world; it is the radiant dawn over a generation living in the night of sin; it is salvation and victory for the sinner; it is release for him who is in captivity; it is hope, it is a future, it is eternity. Without Jesus the world is hopeless darkness. With Jesus something of heaven comes to earth.

*Rest A While*, by Fredrik Wisloff

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## The Pilgrims' First Thanksgiving

By Dr. John A. Dekker, Baltimore, Maryland

Though the duty of give thanks to God has been incumbent on the family of man since the beginning of history, the observance of Thanksgiving in America dates back to the time of our Pilgrim Fathers who, in the fall of 1622, discovered the secret of success and gathered to thank the Lord for His blessings.

Each year at this time we would do well to remind one another of the trials and experiences of the 102 Christian Separatists who in 1620 set sail for the New World on the Mayflower, hoping to build their homes, educate their children, and worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their consciences.

The story of the Christian settlers at Plymouth is one of the most important chapters in the history of America. That they observed Thanksgiving is a matter of record; but few people know of their sufferings and what caused their fortunes to change, for which they thanked God.

Soon after the Pilgrims landed in December 1620, it was agreed that they would work as a communal group for seven years. Private property was abolished, and all products were to be gathered into common storage, to which each would contribute according to his ability and from which everyone would receive according to his need.

Under this socialist system, our fathers almost starved to death. So-called economic equality discouraged work

and bred discontent. The Pilgrim's experience in this "common course and condition," as Governor Bradford termed it, clearly proved "the vanity of that conceit of Plato ... that the taking away of property and bringing ... all into a commonwealth would make them happy and flourishing, as if they were wiser than God."

In his "*History of the Plymouth Plantation*, Governor William Bradford tells what was done to correct the situation. It was decided that instead of having each man be responsible for his neighbors' well-being, every family would work on their own parcel of land; and when the Pilgrims abandoned the "equality" of socialism for the inequality of freedom, their economic problems vanished.

Here, in the words of Governor Bradford, is how the Pilgrims won their war on poverty:

At length, after much debate of things, the governor gave way that they should set corn every man for his own particular, and in that regard trust to themselves... This had very good success; for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been ... The women went willingly into the field... and by the time harvest was come, instead of famine, now God gave them plenty; and the face of ting was changed to the rejoicing of the hearts of many, for which they blessed God.

No wonder the Pilgrims were thankful to God that first Thanksgiving Day. They had discovered the secret of success in free enterprise and personal application. In the words of Bradford, "And the effect of their particular (private) planting was well seen, for all had, one way and another, pretty well to bring the year about ... so as any general want or famine hath not been amongst them since to this day."

This Thanksgiving (Editor: February and on), let us give thanks to God for the knowledge of history and the witness of our fathers, who discovered that socialism brings poverty and that paternalism destroys freedom and character. Let us thank God for the "good land" which He has given us—a land in which we eat "*bread without scarceness*" (Deut. 8:7-9).

Let us resolve to reject socialism and every other ism that embraces this Marxist concept. Let us heed Moses' warning: Beware, lest "thou forget the LORD thy God... And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth" (vv. 14, 17).

Sword of the Lord

*Editor's Note:* TIMELY! **Thanksgiving and thanks-living** are ALWAYS timely to give **thanks** unto HIM who changes not (nor His Promises); who is the Giver of every good and perfect 'gift'!

# Editorial

## RES *THAT LAST DAY!*

(Part Two from last issue of MG)

*As Usual prayerfully read **Luke 16:19-31***

First, have YOU been prayerfully ‘pondering’ on Luke 16:19-31 and the content of the last *Editorial*? It is not so ‘important’ what I say; **BUT** what does **GOD** say? Martin Luther states ‘**Unless (we) are willing to deal with SIN, the Bible is a closed BOOK**’! How true that the ‘citizens’ of Heaven will be filled with only **forgiven sinners that JESUS** bled and died for – NO hypocrites in Heaven whatsoever!

In the last issue of the *Morning Glory*, I stated there are seven reasons why this text is more than a ‘parable’. Remember, specifically mentioning 7 specific reasons: ‘persons’, a certain rich man, Lazarus, see, feel, remember, pray and specifically five brothers.

Sometimes a person will hear the statement: ‘Life isn’t fair’. That is true as long as we live in this ‘sinful world’ and furthermore **GOD** never really promised it would be ‘fair’ after Adam and Eve “disobeyed” **GOD** and **SINNED!**

For a faithful Christian especially, God never promised that it would be an easy “road” physically and/or spiritually, but a blessed Journey and a wonderful ending – **HEAVEN**. But please keep in mind and heart that the ‘rough’ parts in a Christian’s journey are not *necessary* sent by **GOD** but permitted by **GOD** for ‘our’ benefit and hopefully to the glory of God! Yes, so that ‘our’ roots (through pruning, chastening) might grow deeper into His **GRACE/WORD** and that ‘our’ lives might be more ‘fruitful’ to His honor and glory. **AFFLICTIONS** that God ‘permits’ to come ‘our’ way; are not intended to ‘drive us’ but ‘draw us’ and the ‘tool’ of affliction is held in nail pierced hands! As clay in the Potter’s hands’, ‘we’ can either become ‘hardened clay’ or ‘mellow clay’. For example: Psalm 119:65 – 72.

Hudson Taylor states: “The believer does not need to wait until he sees the reason of God’s afflictive dealings with him ere he is satisfied. He knows that if God’s dealings are those of a loving Father, who only permits that which for the time being is grievous in order to accomplish results that can not be achieved in any less painful way. Our Heavenly Father delights to trust a trust worthy child with a trial in which he can bring glory to God, and through which he will receive permanent enlargement of heart and blessing for himself and others.”

**INTERESTING** the name Lazarus means “God has helped”; also very interesting that Lazarus is a ‘beggar’, which in reality every ‘believer’ is the same, especially ‘spiritually’. A ‘beggar’ is dependent upon the *mercy of Another!* Martin Luther shares that “if ‘we’ received what ‘we’ deserve, ‘we’ would be like a blade of grass”!

By the ‘grace’ of God let ‘us’ dig a little deeper into this portion of the ‘Eternal Word of God’ and notice in verse 21 that Lazarus was not only a ‘beggar’; but his physical substance was dependent upon the ‘crumbs’ which fell from the ‘rich mans’ table’. **UNWORTHY!** And he was full of ‘sores’. So are ‘we’ spiritually, IF YOU doubt that, please read **Isaiah 1:6, 53:6, 64:6, Romans 3:10-20, TITUS 3:5-7 & Isaiah 61:10**. (Personally I also believe that ‘singularly’ the ingredient (glue) to keep a ‘Marriage together’ in harmony is practicing **FORGIVENESS!**)

**NO QUESTION** that where **SIN** is not dealt with: **SIN** will move **IN!** Which also indicates that both personally and from the ‘sacred desk’ (Pulpit); where God’s **LAW** is not preached sternly in **LOVE**; **SIN** will creep **IN**. Isaiah 8:20. (God’s Law (Mirror) brings about ‘godly repentance’ (soap) and the Gospel (**JESUS**) – Water).

Verse twenty-two definitely tells ‘us’ that **DEATH** levels ‘us’ all at the same level; even for those who are ‘spiritually alive’ when the ‘rapture’ takes place: death will be *instantaneously* with the ‘taking away’! So prepare: AMOS 4:12 & Hebrews 9:27: Unsaved – Revelation 20:11-15, Christians – Romans 14:10, 11 Corinthians 5:10. (Notice the *doctors* for Lazarus). Significant the ‘ministry’ of ‘angels’ in this actual account!

**WONDERFUL** a ‘born-again’ person does not have to face ‘death’ alone, as we see in **Psalm 116:15, 73:23-24, Proverbs 4:18, II Timothy 4:6-8**. Those of a true heart (undivided) can say “*The LORD is my shepherd*” will experience “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death*”; where as a ‘valley’ always leads to somewhere and there is ‘light’ in the valley in order to have a ‘shadow’. **Today thou shalt be with ME in Paradise!**

Wrongly it has been said ‘some are so heavenly

minded that they are no earthly good'. The opposite is TRUE; for the more 'heavenly-minded' you become, the more 'earthly' good YOU will do. WE should be 'biblically' *home-sick* for Heaven. (Philippians 1:21, II Corinthians 5:1-9, II Peter 3:13-15). In reality though, when a Christian has died (physically) Matthew 6:33, Romans 10:9-10: You have not 'lost' a loved one; provided YOU are a 'believer yourself' – they have just arrived at HOME safe and secure!

The story (reality) is told of an 'elderly' believer that went to her Pastor in preparations of her Funeral. After the basic details were accomplished; just before leaving, she told the Pastor that there is one thing more. When my body is lying in the Casket, I want a 'fork' in my hand. Why? Well when I am privileged to be a guest at some one's place; when they say 'keep your fork' I know the best is yet to come! (Scripturally, of course, a person's soul/spirit departs the 'moment' that person DIES!)

NOW please 'read' chapters 21 and 22 of Revelation. In a sense the Book of Revelation is God's Picture Book as He sees, not as you and I necessarily see (for 'our' benefit); but there is a special 'blessing' in just reading the Book or Revelation: GOD promises that AND it is God's **WORD** regardless!

Anyway let 'us' look at the very first verses of Revelation 21:

**V. 1** NEW Jerusalem (*Heaven/Home?*) – *NEW Heaven/Earth. For a child of God (forgiven sinner) Heaven is spelled H O M E!* No more 'sea' – Separation. NOT a chance of a single SIN to enter beyond the "Pearly Gates", as Heaven is sinless and perfectly pure!

**V. 2** As a bride adorned for her husband. Isaiah 61:10, II Corinthians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 1:30-31. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. (as we know a 'bride' plans extravagance (according to her budget)), prepares herself with greatest of cares, dresses

elegantly, etc.). **JESUS definitely believes in a literal HEAVEN:** For example, He mentions it twice in John 14:1-6.

**V. 3** Tabernacle of God – **literally 'dwelling place'. Here for the 'forgiven sinner' whom GOD justifies: 'our' bodies are the 'dwelling place' (tabernacle/temple) of the Holy Spirit. Heaven is so great that GOD uses the process of negatives in order to give 'us' an Idea** what awaits a child of the KING.

**V. 4** God will wipe away EVERY tear – NO MORE tears, death, sorrow, crying, etc. NO earthly 'baggage' is welcome (not permitted) to reside in HEAVEN.

**V. 5** Throne – Ruler, Authority and **HE is True and Faithful! – trustworthy!**

INTERESTING during the 'seasons' of 'refreshing' (Revival) from GOD; HEAVEN *seems* nearer!

A Pastor came to the bedside of a dying saint, who was close to the Pearly Gate; The Pastor said I will not weary you long, but will read the sweetest verses in the BIBLE. He read John 14:1-2 and then knelt to pray. The dying saint said just above a whisper 'read on'; so he read *verse three* and the gentleman said "That's it, not the Mansion, but **JESUS!** **1 John 3:1-2, Revelation 22:20-21.**

IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL WHEN 'WE' SEE JESUS!

*"Not only that, but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body"* Romans 8:23

*"Thrice blessed day, when Jesus comes to take His redeemed children home;*

*Ye saints of God, arise and sing, Hosannas to your Saviour King."*

J. Burtis White

## For Thou will light my candle: The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness

Psalms 18:28.

The spiritual flame which God has kindled in the hearts of His children is like a night-lamp: if the light goes out, everything becomes dark. And how long the night then seems!

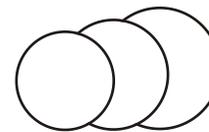
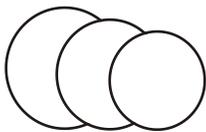
But David declares: *"Thou will light my candle; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness."*

A night-lamp has shortened the night for many a sick

and struggling person. The darker the night, the more brightly the lamp shone. Thus the lamp was as comfort to the suffering, until morning dawned with light from on high.

Dear friend, take care lest your lamp go out. Trim the wick, and make sure that you have a constant supply of oil. Then God will keep your lamp burning until He enlightens your darkness.

Devotional book, *Rest A While,*  
by Fredrik Wislof



# From Our Fellowship Circle

**J. N.** **Elk Mound, WI**  
 “Thank you” to all who make “*The Morning Glory*,” what it is. A publication to make JESUS known and to bring glory to God Alone.

**I. C.** **Mohall, ND**  
 Keep up the Good Work – Wonderful Message of Salvation!

**V. S.** **San Benito, TX**  
 Enjoy your publication very much and please find enclosed \$... in support of the same.  
 Hope all is well with you folks.  
 We are getting the Arctic blast here too! Will be glad when the weather gets back to its usual routine.

**H. H.** **Forest City, IA**  
 What a joy to read a wonderful paper as the *Morning Glory*. Truly I want the best for all! What a great, great GOD we serve. Glory to the Lord in Heaven!  
 Enclosed is a gift for your great work.

**K, K, & D.** **Grand Marais, MN**  
 Thank you for the wonderful *Morning Glory* – it speaks the truth which I really appreciate.

**V. O.** **Viroqua, WI**  
 We have been truly blest in receiving the *Morning Glory* and I am enclosing a check for the continued ministry of the same.  
 We are doing pretty well with Jesus by our side. ...  
 Our prayers are with you – I know you must be busy with the paper.  
 I thought we would have snow last night – but so far have not had any. That’s a blessing too for this time of the year. I wouldn’t want to go out in ice!

*And He answereth them and saith, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him unto Me!”*

Mark 9:19.

WE feel that it is a shame and a disgrace that Jesus so often must complain about our unbelief. If we had more confidence in Him, then He could have helped many unhappy people through us. But because of our unbelief many of those that God wanted us to help must go un-helped. And yet, in the midst of all that, even when there settles down to our shame and chastening, we have one great comfort: What we cannot do, He can. And He invites us to bring everything to Him.

Mother and father and whoever you are, toiling at many tasks, with disobedient and godless children too, you who think, are anxious, weep, and pray, and you who accuse yourself because things are as they are: Come, and give ear to these words of Jesus: “**Bring him unto Me!**” (Editor: Psalm 62:8). When the Savior asks us to bring to Him the problems we cannot master, should we not do so? Go! And lay-down before Him everything that is too hard for you.

But remember not to take back with you the burden that you brought to Him. Many do that. But you must not do that. The burden is to be left with Him. God desires not only that we pray: He also wants us to remember what He has promised, and rely on what He has said. Then we get rid of our burden, and we show Him the confidence of which He is worthy. Then we give our Savior the opportunity to be for us what He would like to be.

They that trust in Him shall never be put to shame.

*O Word of God incarnate,  
 O Wisdom from on high,  
 O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
 O Light of our dark sky;*

*We praise Thee for the radiance  
 That from the hallowed page,  
 A lamp unto our footsteps,  
 Shines on from age to age.*

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

# I Believe In A Sacred Book: The Bible

By Dr. Tom Malone

I never believed anything more in all of my life than the fact that I believe the Bible that I am reading from and preaching from is the Word of God. I believe in a sacred Book. ***“All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”*** (II Tim. 3:16).

The Book that lies before me, this King James Bible, is the infallible, inerrant, indestructible, indivisible Word of Almighty God.

Whether or not one believes the Bible makes a difference, it sets a guideline for our lives. Whatever it says is so. I may not agree with some person on what it says, but one thing we agree on is that whatever it says is true because this is the Word of God. We believe in the sacred Book – the Bible.

I believe the Bible is a perfect Book. *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul*” (Ps. 19:7). Each Christian is a testimony that the Bible is a perfect Book. “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.” Every time a soul is saved, God is saying, “My perfect Word did it all!” The Word of God is a perfect Book.

I saw *Look* magazine’s lengthy article on “Is the Bible a Myth? The Bible – 50,000 Errors?”

How that stirred my soul. I wrote the editors of *Look* magazine. I sent them every kind of letter – from a postcard to a registered, airmail letter. But I could never get an answer. Finally, I did receive a halfhearted acknowledgment. Not one person would dare accept the challenge of a Baptist preacher that the Bible was a perfect Book! Do you know why? We have irrefutable proof that God’s Word is without a flaw and without an error.

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.”

The Bible is eternal. No other book has in the annals of human history suffered the fierce, satanic attack that the Bible has suffered. The scholarly man has sought to extinguish it. The fool in his folly has bombarded it with his little pebbles of thought.

But the Bible still stands because it is an eternal Book. That is what Jesus meant when He said, *“heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Matt. 24:35). When mountains have crumbled to dust and the stars from heaven have fallen, this Bible will still be. I believe the Bible is eternal.

I believe that it is indestructible, for Jesus said in John 10:35, *“the scripture cannot be broken.”* You cannot break this truth. This is divine truth, the unbreakable

sword of God Almighty. There are so many evidences of it in the Bible itself.

We believe in a sacred Book that is indestructible and is life-giving. It gave life to me. In John 6, when the multitudes turned away, Jesus said to the disciples, *“The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life”* (vs. 63).

There is life in this Book. So many times when I hold it to my heart, I can almost feel it breathing. God says it is a living Book.

No book written by human hands gives such peace as does this Book. *“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”* When you hide this perfect, this eternal, this indestructible, this unbreakable, this life-giving Book in your heart, it means you have a peace that passes understanding.

When Sir Walter Scott lay dying, he said to his nephew by his bedside, “Bring me the Book!”

Since Sir Walter Scott had many books, his nephew said, “Uncle Walter, what book?”

Sir Scott replied, ***“There is but one Book – the Bible!”***

*“I believed, therefore have I spoken”*, declared the psalmist (116:10). I too believe in this sacred Book.

Sword of the Lord

*Editor’s Note:* AMEN! Now actually there are a number of good and reliable translations of the BIBLE; but be careful which one you use!

*My people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord.*

*Thy presence, Lord, can cheer my heart,*

*Though every earthly comfort die;*

*Thy smile can bid any pains depart,*

*And raise my sacred pleasure high.*

*O satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.* Ps. 90:14.

***“But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”***  
II Timothy 1:10.

***“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven”*** Psalm 119:89.

***“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar”*** Proverbs 30:5-6.

***“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever”*** 1 Peter 1:23.

# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

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## What's Next??

Capping months of emotional debate that brought tens of thousands of emails, the board overseeing high school athletics in Minnesota overwhelmingly said yes Thursday [December 4] to opening up girls' sports to transgender student-athletes.

The decision by the Minnesota State High School League will take effect in the 2015-16 school year, making the state the 33rd to adopt a formal transgender student policy. ... Religious-affiliated private schools will be exempt from complying with the league's new language.

*StarTribune*, December 5, 2014

*Editor's Note: Sad, **Horrible**, **Tragic!*** This also includes showering after the game!

## In God We Trust

"In God We Trust" has appeared on most of U.S.A. Coins since 1864, and on paper currency since 1957.

It was adopted as our official National Motto in 1956.

## Solitary

Solitary meditation is a lost art. Americans cannot endure their own company. What could be worse for the average American than a rainy afternoon with TV out of order? Vance Havner

*Editor's Note: Or 'Cell-Phones?*

## Colorado Springs School District Allows Security Staff to Carry Firearms

Colorado Springs' largest school district, with nine middle schools and four high schools, will allow its security staff to carry firearms beginning later this year (2014)...

"They'll be able to respond immediately to armed threats and be a deterrent to anyone planning an attack," Robert Curran, Sr., assistant superintendent (said).

Greg Campbell on barbwire.com

*Editor's Comments:* Can you imagine? Common sense is finally employed! When schools, churches, etc., are "gun free," they become easy targets for the malcontents who intend to do them damage. People who are unarmed do not have a chance against a murderer with a gun or knife.

*Sword of the Lord*

*Morning Glory Editor's Note:* The Second Amendment to the Constitution to the USA.

## New Jersey Teen Heads to Court to Defend Her Right to Say "Under God" in Pledge of Allegiance

A New Jersey high school student and her family have entered the ongoing legal battle over a lawsuit by an atheist group seeking to remove "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance.

Samantha Jones, a senior at Highland Regional High School in Blackwood and her family filed an official response to a lawsuit by the American Humanist Association.

"If anyone wants to remain silent, that is their right. But it is not their right to silence me," said Jones in a statement.

"When I stand up, put my hand over my heart, and say the Pledge of Allegiance I am recognizing that my rights come from God, not from the government."

Jones is being represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, an organization that has offered legal defense of the "under God" phrase in past lawsuits...

Inserted into the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954, the phrase "under God" has been the subject of multiple lawsuits over the past several years.

This is not the first state-level challenge the AHA has recently made against the "under God" phrase.

In May, the Massachusetts highest court ruled against an AHA lawsuit brought against the pledge phrase, in a decision known as Doe v. Action – Boxborough Regional School District.

Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court concluded that "the recitation of the pledge, which is entirely voluntary, violates neither the Constitution nor the statute (which prohibits discrimination in Massachusetts public school education)" ...

Jones' legal response comes as the AHA recently launched its "Don't Say the Pledge" campaign meant to encourage students to refuse to say the Pledge of Allegiance as long as it contains the phrase "under God."

Michael Gryboski for ChristianPost.com

## Mother in Coma Heard Everything, Was Scared They'd Turn -Off Her Life Support

Kate Allat suffered a stroke at the age of 39, and the mother spent 10 days in a coma afterward. Now that she is past that frightful ordeal, Allat reveals in a new interview

that she heard everything going on around her in her hospital room and she was fearful her life support would be turned off.

Allat indicates that her mind was functioning normally during her coma but everyone around her thought she was brain-dead as she lay in her hospital bed paralyzed and unable to speak or breathe on her own. She listened in fright as medical staff discussed switching off her life support with her family.

It took two weeks before she was able to communicate with anyone, according to news reports.

LifeNews has focused on these kinds of cases before, where patients heard everything going on around them despite their comatose state. It's another reason to oppose euthanasia and another reason why doctors and families should take their time before determining someone is "too far gone."

"They thought I was in a vegetative state. I couldn't move a muscle. There was no signal I was in there," she said.

"I was on life support, and they might have turned it off. I couldn't breathe for myself, but I could hear conversations that I didn't want to hear."

...Kate...made a full recovery, and she is urging people to remain aware of the syndrome and strokes.

Steven Ertelt for LifeNews.com

## Catholic Pope Nods Approval to Evolution, Big Bang!

As reported in USA Today (October 29, 2014), the Roman Catholic Church has taken a liberal, non-biblical, unscientific position on the issue of origins. Under the headline of "Pope Says Evolution and Big Bang Are Real," the article says, "Pope Francis waded into the controversial debate over the origins of human life, saying the Big Bang theory did not contradict the role of a divine creator, but even required it.

"The pope addressed the plenary assembly of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, which gathered at the Vatican to discuss 'Evolving Concepts of Nature.'

"Francis said the beginning of the world was not 'a work of chaos' but created from a principle of love. He said sometimes competing beliefs in creation and evolution could co-exist. 'God is not a divine being or a magician, but the creator who brought everything to life,' he said. 'Evolution in nature is not inconsistent with the notion of creation, because evolution requires the creation of beings that evolve.'"

...Here is just one more reason why Catholicism does not adequately reflect the tenets of Bible Christianity. It is a false system perpetrated by false teachers with many false

doctrines.

***"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring up themselves swift destruction."***

SWORD PRESS SERVICE

## SIGNS!!!!

Signs are an indication of a 'coming-event'!

To the best of 'my' knowledge ALL 'signs' of the likely soon RAPTURE (taking away) according to Scripture have been met at least once!

AT this 'time' I want to bring to your attention "'For nation will rise against nation'" (Matthew 24:7a); it ALSO means **Race against Race.**

## Taliban Storm Pakistani School, Kill 126

Taliban gunmen stormed a military-run School in northwestern Pakistani City of Peshawar on Tuesday (12/16/2014) people, officials said, in the worst attack to hit the country in years, the overwhelming major of the victims, students, which school has students in grades 1 – 10.

ALSO app. the same number of people were injured.

## Sunbeam

For 75 years, Sunbeam (Around Advent – Christmas) has put their faith into action by labeling their bread packages with an iconic image of Little Miss Sunbeam kneeling with folded hands and praying Jesus' word in Matthew 4:4, ***Not by bread alone.***"

\* \* \* \* \*

## SIN

Charles A. Jeffries

Sin is deceitful. It promises pleasure; it gives pain. It offers life and gives death. It opens out as bright as the morning; it closes as dark as night.

It is a beast of prey. Under a velvet paw it conceals a claw with which it wounds and lacerates those who would stroke it.

In every sin there is the seed of another sin. It is self-propagating. It roots itself in the soul of the sinner until it has used up every bit of good oil in the soul.

It corrupts his nature, perverts his tastes, weakens his will, and scars his conscience.

And with each evil deed, inclinations towards evil become stronger and stronger, until he "cannot cease from sin," and the sinner is consumed by his own lusts.

Sin is a very promising employer – and a terrible pay-master. Selected.

## *No Royal Road to God*

Mrs. Jonathan Goforth

Some months after our arrival in China, an experienced missionary came to my husband with the following advice:

“Do not attempt to speak of Jesus the first time of preaching to a heathen audience. The Chinese have a prejudice against the name of Jesus. Confine your efforts to demolishing the false gods; then if you have a second opportunity, you may bring in Jesus.”

Later when telling me of the advice that had been given him, my husband exclaimed with hot emphasis: “**Never! Never! Never!** The Gospel which saved the down-and-outs in the slums of Toronto is the same Gospel that must save a Chinese sinner.”

Years later more than one missionary came to my husband asking, “What is the secret of your power to get men out of such depths of sin?”

The reply was, “***I simply believe and teach God’s Word.***”

Some have replied, “But you cannot preach to a proud Confucian scholar the same as to the common crowd.”

Then Dr. Goforth would answer: “There is no royal road to God. Rich or poor, Chinese or Canadians, educated or ignorant, all are sinners and must needs come to the same Saviour by the same road.”

Selected

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***For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end.*** Hebrews 3:14

EVERY Christian knows of a time when life lay before him sinful and defiled. We could undo nothing. What had been done, had been done, and we could do nothing about it. But just as all our own resources were used up, when the last hope had died, an invisible hand came and turned our eyes away from ourselves, and to Him who saves sinners. As a bird sings on a fair spring morning, so we sang then about salvation full and free. Then was given us the beginning of our confidence, that which our text exhorts us to hold fast firm unto the end.

But life has taught us that this is more easily said than done. To keep ourselves quite independent of ourselves both in what we are and in what we are not, and to have everything in Jesus alone, that is the high art of Christianity, an art that no one learns except by the grace of God. Our evil nature and our human understanding continually

draw us back to ourselves, and before we know it we are expecting more from our own Christianity than from Christ. Then we look at ourselves when we should be looking at Him, with resulting doubt, anxiety, and lost peace. When we feel glad, good, and spiritual we think that all is well; but when our heart feels cold and evil, we doubt.

But this is not being firm in the beginning of our confidence. This is believing in yourself instead of in Christ. He alone is entirely sufficient for our salvation—always.

*Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law’s demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin would not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.*

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

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*“The instability of our laws is really an immense evil. I think it would be well to provide in our constitutions that there shall always be a twelve-month [interval] between the [introduction] of a bill & passing it; that it should then be offered to its passage without changing a word: and that if circumstances should be thought to require a speedier passage, it should take two thirds of both houses instead of a bare majority.”*

Thomas Jefferson, Letter to James Madison, 1787

\* \* \* \* \*

**Wisdom is better than jewels ... I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me ... My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver** Proverbs 8:11, 17, 19 (ESV)

God’s treasures are better than jewels, better than pure gold and choice silver. Sadly there are many people today adorned with jewelry and not with wisdom. Wisdom is not in anything you can put around your neck or on your wrist or fingers. It only is found with the Lord. His Word is full of His wisdom, and God’s Son, the Lord Jesus, is Wisdom. In Him “*are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*” (Col. 2:3). Love the Lord and His Word, and let His wisdom adorn your life. —Carl Knott

## The Reverend Franklin Graham Calls Islam “A religion of War”!

By Onan Coca

The Reverend Franklin Graham now leads the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and has become an outspoken defender of the weak and criticizer of the powerful. He recently spoke with the London-based magazine ‘Christian Today’ when he made some controversial statements (that we happen to agree with).

He said that Islam has not changed in over 1500 years and has **“not been hijacked by radicals”** but is indeed **“a religion of war.”** He made the comments after being reminded of some similarly controversial things he said in 2001 after the 9/11 attacks.

He said that his opinion of Islam has not changed and that the religion itself had never changed.

**“This is Islam. It has not been hijacked by radicals. This is the faith, this is the religion. It is what it is. It speaks for itself... It is the same. It is a religion of war.”**

While he may believe Islam to be inherently dangerous he also believes that it is the duty of every Christian to show love to the Muslim people and share with them the truth of the Gospel.

*“I think it is very important that we do all that we can to try to share God’s love with Muslims because they have no hope outside of dying in Jihad. I want them to know, you do not have to die for God. God died for us. He sent His Son to die for us. We do not have to kill ourselves to please God. I want them to know that they can have eternal life.”*

Last month, the Reverend Graham upset some liberal American “Christians” when he spoke in opposition to allowing a Muslim prayer and worship service in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. At the time the Reverend Graham said, **“It’s sad to see a church open its doors to the worship of anything other than the One True God of the Bible who sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth to save us from our sins.”**

When pressed to address his problem with allowing Muslims to worship in our nation’s National Cathedral, Graham said:

***The God of Islam is not the same God of the Judeo-Christian faith. The God that we worship in Christianity is God that has a Son. To Islam, that is blasphemy, to say that God has a son.***

***Therefore, they do not worship the God that we worship.”***

*“As followers of Jesus Christ, we ought to forge our identity in Him. I want to take my life and the*

*time I have on this Earth to try to tell others about Jesus, that Jesus Christ is God’s son who took our sins to the Cross and shed His blood for our sins. If we are willing to put faith and trust in Him, God will forgive our sins, heal our hurts and give us eternal life.”*

I am so thankful that Reverend Graham has chosen to speak forcefully and honestly about Islam. American Christians need to hear these truths from our religious (and political) leaders. Liberals are working hard to force some kind of moral equivalency and pretend that Christianity, Judaism and Islam are all cut from the same cloth...

Eagle Rising, December 13, 2014

ALSO: “We should be afraid of Sharia Law in America, and Muslims here who want to practice Sharia should go back to where they came from, to those nations that recognize Sharia law; we have our own laws here.”

*Editor’s Note:* AMEN! Praise the LORD for those who are ‘willing’ to speak the truth in Christian LOVE!

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### The Lion and the Gazelle

There’s an ancient proverb in some countries in Africa that says, “Every morning in Africa a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn’t matter whether you’re a lion or a gazelle; when the sun comes up, you’d better be running.”

When we awaken each morning, we must realize that **“the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”** (1 Peter 5:8).

In Psalm 5, we read that David came to God early in the morning and asked for His protection and help.

We also need to pay attention to the vital importance of prayer.

Christianvoices.net

The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.

Noah Webster

# How Did We Get Into This Mess?

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This is the third of a three-part message about current trends in Christianity. If you missed either of the first two, contact the Editor for a copy of the December, 2014 or the January, 2015 issue. In pointing out these trends, the solution is to reverse them back to the Biblical Standard.

## **The Problem: Eternal Security**

The doctrine of Eternal Security says that once you are saved, you are always saved. You cannot lose your salvation. It is impossible for you to do this because the same God who brought you to Christ in the first place is the same God who will preserve you to the end. To deny this is to deny the power and election of God and the promise of the Scriptures.

This teaching is held by a lot of preachers and ministries today. A one-time act of faith is all that is necessary. I heard a popular preacher say, "As soon as you have accepted Christ as your Savior, you are as good as in heaven. It is guaranteed."

Thus the prevailing attitude today is that you can live any way that you want and still be saved. "I am not saved by my personal holiness – but by the sheer mercy of God. After all, Moses murdered a man, David had a man murdered and Solomon had more women than he knew what to do with, and all these were saved and held up as godly people in the Bible." Therefore people feel that they are free to live any way they choose since it can't affect their salvation. They might make poor choices and lose their fellowship with God, but in the end, they will come around and still be saved. God will see to it.

If a confessing Christian goes off into open and coarse sin, then it is stated that they were never really a Christian in the first place. If this is the case, then what would they do differently the second time to get them saved that didn't get them saved the first time? When they asked Jesus to forgive them and be their Savior, did He say No?

The other side of the coin is: Even if you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, if you continue to live in sin with no repentance, you will lose your salvation and go lost and will not inherit the Kingdom of God. "*For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.*" (Heb. 10:26-27) Those who hold to eternal security say that this is addressed to people who were not real Christians in the first place, those who "Confessed" Christ but never "Possessed" Christ. Yet the audience – those addressed as "we" – are addressed in verse 19 as "brethren", and as having access to the very

holy place by the blood of Jesus. This can only mean true believers. In using the pronoun "we," the author of Hebrews is even including himself. Do they think he really wasn't a true Christian?

Hebrews 10:26 is stating that if we continue sinning with no repentance – we no longer have forgiveness and only have to look forward to the fierce judgment of God. It isn't stating that if we commit one sin, but rather if we go on sinning willfully. This would mean that we know something is wrong and yet willfully continue in it with no change of our thinking about it, which is repentance. When we read admonitions like this in Scripture, it shows us that we can enter into a style of life that will lead us away from the Lord and – if we persist to the end – will lead us away from the Lord forever. It isn't that the Lord Jesus has left us, since He has promised never to leave us or forsake us (see Heb. 13:5). Rather, it is we who leave and forsake the Lord.

To state that it is impossible for the true believer to fall away from the Lord is to ignore many admonitions in Scripture which warn the believer of this happening. Are these admonitions placed there by the Lord to no avail? Why would they be there if it were impossible to fall away? When David was in the throes of God's judgment against him for his adultery with Bathsheba and the consequent murder of her husband Uriah, he prayed, "*Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me.*" (Ps. 51:11) If we are removed from the presence of the Lord and have the Holy Spirit removed from us, we are lost.

## **The Answer: A Daily Life of Repentance and Faith**

Does this mean that we must live our lives in the constant fear that we are going to go lost, even after we have trusted Jesus? No, because the Lord will work to keep you in salvation. "*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.*" (Jude 24) The way that He does this is by leading us day by day in repentance of sin and faith in Jesus. Salvation is not just a one-time decision (though it does start with a decision); rather, it is an abiding life that lives and walks with Jesus all the time.

One of the key Scriptures that proponents of eternal security use is John 10:27-29, "*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*" This is a promise

of heaven for the believer, but notice how Jesus describes His sheep: They hear My voice, I know them and they follow Me. Each one of the verbs in verse 27 (Hear, Know and Follow) are stating a continual action in the Greek text, not merely a one-time action. Thus Jesus is not describing someone who made a one-time decision and is living any way they choose, but rather someone who is continually listening to Jesus' voice and continually following Him. It is someone who is living in daily fellowship and communion with Jesus; one who repents of sin when the voice of Jesus points it out and one who continually believes, trusts and follows the Master all their lives. This is the one who Jesus knows (continually as well) and the one whom Jesus promises eternal life to. This is called conditional security. As you live this way, you will be saved and it is a sure thing.

Luther had it right when he stated in the first of his 95 theses: "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ ...willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance." Luther also states in the Catechism in answer to the question – **What does the baptizing with water signify?** It signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil lusts, should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and be put to death; and that the new man should daily come forth and rise, to live before God in righteousness and holiness forever." (Question 355 in Luther's Small Catechism Explained)

The very Biblical definition of "Perseverance of the Saints" is NOT Eternal Security! "*Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.*" (Rev. 14:12) Those who are preserved keep God's commandments and keep their faith in Jesus. This is describing the life of true believers who are living daily with the Lord.

The view of Eternal Security robs many people of a living walk with the Lord. They look to a one-time decision for their salvation and neglect looking TODAY to the Lord – Not only to find forgiveness, but also communion, fellowship, help, direction and a host of other blessings.

The words of a song I know summarize it very well: "Because I'm persuaded, He's able to keep me, Until He returns on that Day." (*We'll Sit at the Feet of the Lamb* by Erv Musta)

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

*A life lived with Jesus now will lead  
to a life lived with Jesus forever*

***The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom:  
but the forward tongue shall be cut out. The  
lips of the righteous know what is acceptable.***

Proverbs 10:31-32a

Is it true? Is it kind? Does it need to be repeated? We would do well to remember these injunctions before we pass on some bit of information or news about others. Oh the damage that has been done to the cause of Christ by those who are more intrigued by the lives of others than their own. Do we want our speech to build up or to tear down? To be like choice silver or of little worth? To pass along empty words or to give our listeners something to remember? Edifying speech is of great worth. — G. Frear

*Let every tongue Thy goodness speak, Thou sovereign  
Lord of all;*

*Thy strengthening hands uphold the weak, and raise  
the poor that fall.*

Isaac Watts

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Revival Starts with Prayer**

Immediately after he was sworn in April 30, 1789, at Federal Hall in New York City, President Washington, accompanied by Congress, proceeded to St. Paul's Chapel where, as one of his first official acts, he offered a prayer of dedication to God on America's behalf.

***The U. S. Capitol was actually turned into a church, once a week, for decades by the very man who coined the expression "a wall of separation between church and state."***

President Thomas Jefferson signed a law allowing the Capitol to be used for the weekly church services, which he attended. Jefferson saw no contradiction. In his letter to the Danbury Baptists in 1802, Jefferson said the "wall of separation" was to protect the church from the state, and, contrary to the modern interpretation, not to protect the state from the church.

Selected

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### **The Supreme Court**

*Above the head of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments, with the great American eagle protecting them. Moses is included among the great lawgivers in Herman A. MacNeil's marble sculpture group on the east front.*

## Five Commands

*“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:13*

In our text and the succeeding two verses, five commands are given to the believer striving to live a godly life. Let us look briefly at each one.

Gird up the loins of your mind: Using the long, flowing robes worn by most people in Greek societies as a word picture, Peter commands us to gird up our minds just as such a robe needed to be gathered up in preparation for strenuous activity. We need to discipline our minds for action.

Be sober: A drunken person has a disoriented mind, lacks self-control, and is not alert to his surroundings. We are commanded to maintain a calm and thoughtful state of mind, in full control of all our actions.

Hope to the end, or “patiently fix your hope:” We must recognize that He is in control and patiently wait for Him. The focus of our expectation is His grace, which we presently experience but which will be fully granted us at His return.

Not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance (V. 14): This phrase is translated “*be not conformed*” in Romans 12:2 and commands us not to adopt the world’s lifestyle and thought patterns, especially our “*former lusts,*” which enslaved us before our conversion.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy (V. 15): God is first and foremost a holy God, and we are called to “*fashion*” ourselves after Him. Complete holiness is out of our reach this side of glory, but it should be our goal.

All five are commands indeed, but commands three and five are in an emphatic position in the Greek, and these two hold the key to success in the others. Only by patiently fixing our hope on Him and His grace can we successfully strive for His holiness.

John D. Morris, Ph.D.

*Days of Praise*, by Institute for Creation Research,  
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*“Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, MY LORD and my God.” John 20:27-28*

When Thomas saw the scars of mortal wounds in a resurrected man he immediately realized he was looking upon Deity! We, all too often and too easily, use the term Lord without taking a moment to contemplate as to who He really is and the conduct that title demands.

Drew Craig

*Our risen Lord again we greet, radiant from death, and sin laid low;*

*And, tho’ with scars on hands and feet, the victor’s wreath upon His brow.*

John H. McNaughton

*Editor’s Note:* What a day that will be, when my JESUS we shall see! HIM whom ‘we’ have not yet seen – yet out of LOVE ‘we’ LOVE HIM, as ‘we’ walk by faith and not sight; because HE first LOVED us!

What a day that will be, when my JESUS we shall see! **AWESOME!** Sometimes the word ‘awesome’ is used very, very lightly; **BUT** what an ‘awesome’ day that will be, when YOU and I (individually) stand before HIM (Jesus/God) and give an account to ‘our’ Savior OR Judge **also!** “**And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,**” Hebrews 9:27.

\* \* \* \* \*

***God hath spoken in his holiness.***

Psalms 60:6a

***But thou art holy.***

Psalms 22:3a

God is holy. He reveals holy wisdom, acts with holy power, and speaks with holy words. Yet at Calvary He spoke in holy silence. As our sins were laid on His Son, God demonstrated His holiness by judging sin and remaining silent to the Lord’s anguished cry. At the same time He displayed holy grace, holy mercy, and holy love towards sinners. On the cross our Jesus testified to God’s holiness by replying to His silence, “*But thou art holy*” (Ps. 22:3). Today may we lift our hearts and worship our God in the beauty of holiness. George Ferrier

*Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.*

R. Heber

## UpDate

BETWEEN!

*Anytime & always it is **important** to express LOVE **'between'** one-another: physically, spiritually and tangibly 'Between' those who love one-another! To express LOVE; once in a *'blue-moon'* is not adequate nor sufficient where there is 'true-love'. AS you know true love is not *mushy nor does it make parades*; but is manifested by loyalty, devotion, commitment, etc. as an 'expression' thereof! (During this month of February (Valentines) is a very good time of expressing the same and ON-going!*

This induction brings me to the point of this particular "UpDate"; AND that is IF this 'ministry' is a blessing to YOU, it would be so 'kind of you' to cheerfully give a tax-deductible donation to help keep it on-going. IF this 'ministry' is not a blessing to YOU, pray 'specifically' for the same, please DO!

**God manifested His LOVE for you and I in a miraculous way – John 3:16 & II Corinthians 8:9: AND it is on-going!**

How can "we" – out of LOVE – 'manifest' 'our' love for HIM? By upholding 'cheerfully' this 'ministry with specific prayer support, encouragement and financial giving this month of February and ON-GOING beyond that.

Will YOU please? HIS 'cause', HIS Kingdom's Work – May HE be glorified!

"WE" need to 'hold the Fort' for HE is coming: Be thou 'faithful' unto death ...

THANK YOU for what You are doing and are going to do! AS a result may 'our' Living Savior richly Bless You in order that YOU may become an even greater blessing UNTO OTHERS!

**United 'we' win, divided 'we' fall!**

***Only one life will soon be past,  
Only what's done WITH Christ will last!***

Income for the month of December for the *Morning Glory* is app. \$4,315.00

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**"My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!"**

Thomas Jefferson