



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • February 2012

Quenching The Spirit

“Quench not the Spirit.” 1 Thess. 5:19

This verse, together with many other passages in the Bible, shows us that a Christian has a responsibility for the kind of life he lives. Even if we have reached the point of living an exemplary Christian life, and are effective tools in the hands of the Holy Spirit, we shall never advance to the point of being exempt from responsibility. Here in life we are never free from danger or beyond the temptation to fall into sin. It is possible for the best Christian to sink into a hollow and powerless spiritual state; it is even possible for him to lose his spiritual life altogether. *Let him that thinketh he standth take heed lest he fall.*”

At no place in the world can a Christian be absolutely safe against strong temptations; he can never be quite sure of himself. It is for this reason that God has reminded us to be on our watch and encouraged us to fight the good fight, clad in the full armor of God. While we are resisting that which is evil, we are also to be on our guard against losing the good things which we have received. In the verse before us now we are warned against quenching the Spirit. This must indicate that it is possible for us to do just that. You and I can quench the Spirit in our own lives; it is also possible for us to do likewise in the lives of others.

Just think of it! That light which led us out from darkness, created life out of death and gave us a hope of glory; that fire which cleanses, sanctifies, warms us and sheds light upon the dangerous road that we are to walk in the future – that light and that fire we can quench.

When the seriousness of such a possibility dawns upon us, this question rises in our heart: “How is it possible for us to quench the Holy Spirit?”

There are many answers to such a question. The constantly changing scene of life with its countless tempta-

tions and dangers to a Christian has more than enough of both questions and answers along this line. A Christian is nowhere safe from the evil powers. He is attacked by the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the air, by the mass of godless people in the world, and by his own sinful nature. These all combine to destroy the Christian’s life with God.

We shall try to point out some of the byways upon which a Christian may enter and which lead to a quenching of the Spirit.

Let us in the first place be aware of this, that we do not have to do anything in particular in order to quench the Holy Spirit. A fire can be extinguished without the use of a fireman’s hose. A lamp goes out when there is no more oil left. The fire dies in the stove when the fuel has been burnt up. The fire within us – God’s Spirit in our hearts – will likewise be quenched when our spiritual life no longer is nourished.

All the externals of our life may be in order; in the eyes of men we may appear to be the best of Christians. Our moral life may be in harmony with the best rules and regulations on this score. But the spiritual power within is gone; the spiritual fire in the heart has been quenched quietly and little by little – as happens to the lamp when the oil has been used up. So it was in the churches at Ephesus and Laodicea; so it was also with the five foolish virgins. These are examples of how the spiritual life may decline quietly and almost imperceptibly.

What is it, then, in our spiritual nature which must be nourished if the Spirit is not going to be quenched?

Spiritual life must have the Word of God, and requires communion with Him through prayer. The Word is meat and drink for the spiritual life. Prayer is the outreach of the inner man to God for help. It is the arm that moves the arm of God. It is the organ by which we receive the grace of God. If a Christian lays the Bible aside and forgets his

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

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

Internet Web Site: hauginnermission.com.

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

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prayer chamber, he will surely though slowly sink into that unhappy state of having the Spirit quenched in his heart. God's Spirit cannot work in us when we violate the laws of the Spirit's operation.

It was a characteristic of the early period of our Christian life that we loved to read the Word of God and to pray. In our prayer closet, with the open Bible before us, we held sweet communion with God. There we were both chastised and comforted. The joy in the Lord and the testimony of the Spirit in our heart made us courageous, and at the same time careful Christians. The fire upon the altar was fed with the right fuel. The fire is the Holy Spirit. But we are certain to lose this treasure to the same extent that we fail to open our hearts in prayer and neglect to use the Word of God.

We are thus quenching the Holy Spirit.

There is also another way in which we may be certain to quench the Holy Spirit. *That is by excusing sin in our lives.*

The Spirit makes sin exceedingly sinful for us. When it ceases to do so we will be at peace with the old nature in us rather than at war with it. Then there is grave danger that the Holy Spirit will lose the hold He gained on us when we were converted. Here it is not only a question of the sin which is in the open and is seen by all men, but it is also the sin that no man can see. This is the selfish mind, the evil thought, the "I," "me" and "mine" which we are so fond of, it is the spirit of miserliness which seeks only its own; it is to speak evil of our fellow men and use their sins as a whitewash for our own; it is the spirit which

urges us to become great rather than to be of service; it is quarreling and strife in the home and sharp words from an unkind heart.

Our old nature is fertile soil for all this evil, and we often see these sins grow to frightful proportions even in the lives of Christians. Is it strange that one has to ask, "How can it be that Christians live like that?"

Was it not over sins like these that we were given such wonderful power during the early period of our Christian life? Was not this one of the contributing factors to our great joy then? And to think that we should again turn to these same sins now and permit them to rule in our lives!

**Christian friends, what can be the reason?
You have been excusing sin in your life.**

God's Spirit has not been permitted to prove to us that sin in our lives is really sin. Little by little we have been easing up on the demands of God upon us, and we take the edge off the Spirit's reproof by our refusal to take sin seriously. Our own will silences the voice of the Holy Spirit. We have begun to slide down hill, and we are not able to stop; the Holy Spirit is not permitted to direct us.

We are quenching the Spirit in our lives.

Right on this point it seems that Satan has a large field of activity in our day. This is so not only in the life of the individual Christian, but also in the larger society of Christians.

As compensation for our defeat in this area we seek to hide our spiritual poverty in one of two ways. We may harden our hearts into a cold formalism which consists in mere talk about sin. *We have been* sinners, and *we are* sinners; we shall likely *continue* to be sinners for as long a time as we are on earth. The words sound so meek and humble and full of wisdom, but it is only talk; the words become a cloak for an emaciated spirituality. In spite of all talk to the contrary, we have permitted sin to rule in our hearts.

It is also possible to go in the opposite direction. We may say that we are not so sinful after all.

The evil in our hearts is not sin, but a temptation to sin; and temptation is not sin. In this way we may try to sneak out of all responsibility and away from the goading conscience. The situation becomes worse with each passing day. To effect a remedy we seek, usually in company with others who are like us, to whip our emotions into a high degree of intensity; this we like to think of as being filled with the Holy Spirit.

But our everyday life speaks loudly to the opposite effect. We have a Sunday Christianity that reaches up into the clouds, but a week-day religion that is lower than the

earth. Life neutralizes our profession because the Spirit has begun to lose His hold upon the inner man.

Christian friends! When we are trying to find some of the reasons for the quenching of the Spirit in our lives, we must not fall for the temptation of looking only at others. Let us take a look at ourselves in the presence of God. This is fitting for all of us. If we should find that the judgment of God does not strike us, we have the greater reason to be thankful. But if it should be that we are affected by God's judgment, the Lord's admonition to us is this: "Repent, and do the first works." He who wishes to help others must first receive help himself.

There is also another side of this question to which we do well to pay attention. We who are Christians may quench the Spirit when the Word of God is being preached. We may listen to the sermon with a purpose of criticizing it rather than to pray for the preacher; we are not giving free course to the Word then. If we become distant and cold when an awakening comes, we are also quenching the Spirit. We may have prayed for an awakening, but we have had our own ideas of how it ought to come; when it does not come exactly as we have thought that it should, we become aloof. The Spirit is quenched very effectively that way.

It is one of the spiritual laws in the Kingdom of God that all who have the Spirit of God should be obedient to that Spirit. He who resists that Spirit becomes an obstacle to his fellowmen rather than a servant of the Spirit. Many Christians have permitted themselves to be used thus to hinder the work of the Holy Spirit, perhaps without realizing full what they were doing.

"And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning." John 15:27.

**Our hearts let new-created be,
Our walk make pure and holy,
Help us offense and sin to flee,
And ever serve God solely,
So that our faith in Christ, our Lord,
May prove itself in deed and word
Before the world about us.**

Taken from the book: "*Spirit and Power*"
by Ludvig Hope

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**GRACE that was manifested at Calvary,
bears and forbears, gives and forgives!**

Four Steps to a Motivated Ministry

II Corinthians 4:1-18

Running the Akron marathon in 2007 was a tremendous experience. For the first 21 miles, I was running well and feeling good. As I continued checking my watch and the mileage signs, I saw that I was still on my goal pace at mile 23. I then experienced every runner's nightmare – I hit "the wall." My energy, excitement and enthusiasm disappeared. I wanted to quit! In other words, I became "faint." *Faint* is defined thus: "to be utterly spiritless, to be wearied out, or exhausted." The phrase *hitting the wall* is a running term that describes what the body feels like when all energy supplies have been drained. At this point, the body starts to feed off muscles and other tissues in order to keep running. It feels like one has run to a brick wall.

Paul hit a number of walls in his ministry. One would think the greatest missionary of all time never would have experienced anything like this. Surely, God would have ensured that Paul had everything he wanted or needed. Of all the people God would have protected, cared for and ministered unto, it would have been Paul. God would not let His chosen man hit spiritual walls, would He? According to the passages we read, Paul definitely knew something about these "walls" (vv. 8-11). He would not have said, "*Be not weary in well doing*" if he had not experienced weariness himself, repeating the same words to the Thessalonian saints (2 Thess. 3:13). Yet Paul never stopped. How can we, like the apostle, keep up the energy and "*faint not*"? Second Corinthians 4 provides four steps to a motivated ministry. They are the same for you as they were for Paul. We will examine these steps in the following devotionals.

By the Scripture Being Exposed

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

We live in an age in which the truth is relative, even in what were once good churches. Compromise, contemporary "worship" and the "cult of casualness" have taken over the church. Yet we must, like Paul, take a stand and keep these tendencies from entering into our churches. How is this done? Many feel it is accomplished by pounding the pulpit every Sunday while preaching to the choir. Unfortunately, that will only go so far! Error is not exposed, truth revealed and sin renounced by strong preaching alone. Believers must take action (2 Tim. 2:15-16).

The first step is an old answer with the same message. Read the Word! Listen diligently to the Word! Handling the Word of God is such a serious matter that the apostle

John gives us a grim warning concerning that very matter (Rev. 22:18-19). Faithfully reading, studying and heeding God's Word is not an easy task. It takes time. It takes concentration. It takes an intimate desire for God. Satan will use any device to keep you from the Word, whether an untimely phone call, an interruption by a child or a list of "things to do." It is essential that we set time apart each day to read His Book.

It is important that you read and study for yourself; but it is also important that you invest time listening to God's Word. As you listen, claim one verse to take with you for the week. The next week pick another one; soon you will have an arsenal by which to live. "*Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee*" (Ps. 119:11). Hide the Word in your heart, and exposit the Word to the world. Giving forth the Word allows you to have more room in your heart to receive the Word.

TCS

Taken from "*Feature*", Copyright 2009, Permission Granted (*To be continued in the March issue of the Morning Glory*)

* * * * *

"But first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." II Cor. 8:5.

If you wanted to give Jesus something, but did not want to give Him yourself, do you think He would be glad to receive your gift? **No**, "the gift without the giver is bare." So then we must be sure to give ourselves to the Lord, first, before we offer Him our other gifts.

An old Indian had come to know Christ as his Saviour and he was, of course, very happy and grateful to God. He had a nice pair of shoes which he wanted to give to the Lord, but the missionary would not take them. Then the Indian took the best he had, namely a good rifle, and put it into the hand of the missionary. The missionary gave it back to him and said, "No, Indian, that is not what Jesus would want."

"Well, then, me give Jesus poor Indian, too."

That is just it: we must give Jesus ourselves first; then the other gift. There are too many who try to give other gifts first, but will not let Him have themselves – that is, their own hearts and wills.

Dear Lord, we present ourselves to Thee as sinful as we be. We thank Thee for the invitation to come and believe the Gospel. May all that we have be given over to Thee, blessed Jesus. We ask it in Thy name. Amen.

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidst me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Taken from "*Altar Steps*" by Pastor R. P. Haakonson

I Want It! I Want It! I Want It!

By Dr. Mike Myrick, Imperial, California

In 1 Samuel, chapters 8-12, God's people said, "*Give us a king. We want to be just like everyone around us. Give us what we want.*"

What we want and what we need are often two separate things. But I want to want what I ought to have. Three specific things come to mind.

I Want a Renewal of God's Power

Like some Christians today, the children of Israel wanted to be like those around them, and their want was about to get them into trouble with God. Up to this point, Israel had been governed by a theocracy. God ruled.

God was Israel's king, and He had a different plan for His people, but they were unhappy about it. He was now going to give them what they wanted – an earthly king. When will we learn that we "*cannot serve God and mammon*" Matt. 6:24?

We need to stop wanting to keep up with the Joneses. We need to quit trying to be like everyone else, because God's people should not be like everybody else. We are and should remain a different people.

The people came together and went against the will of God, and instead of mourning, they "*rejoiced greatly*" because they got what they wanted. They got what they wanted, but they lost the power of God.

I want the power back!

I Want a Resurgence of God's Purpose!

Too many churches today think their purpose is to put on a good show for the people, and the people think church time is entertainment time.

If there is preaching against sin, some of the people leave in a huff and refuse to come back.

Today, we too want what others have. We want to be like a worldly crowd. But if we continue to follow those wants, we will lose our way because safety is found inside God's will.

I Want a Return to God's Precepts!

The precepts of God, the very commands and instructions that He gives, should always guide our thinking and our actions.

We need to understand that the precepts of God are not optional advice. Why is it that so many of God's people have come to the place that only when something is absolutely proven to them do they think about obeying?

The Bible commands us to do what is right, but too of-

ten we act as if we serve a God who really doesn't care whether or not we obey His precepts. God's commandments, His precepts, give us exactly that for which everyone is looking – grace, mercy, peace. Happiness is found when we keep His precepts.

We will treat people like God wants them to be treated and not the way the world treats people when we do things according to the way God has prescribed.

Too many Christians whine, "I want it! I want it! I want it! Like a four-year-old throwing a tantrum because he doesn't get what he wants, they kick and scream to get their selfish ways. We need to turn that around and want the things that God desperately wants us to have.

Consider Wanting What He Wants!

First Samuel 12:24 says, "*Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*"

When I consider this verse, I consider that God kept my heart until a Christian took the Bible and showed me the way of salvation.

I consider that God worked with – "*Precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little*" Isa. 28:10 – to get me to the place where, when He called me into the ministry, I was ready and willing to preach.

I want it – the power of God back in our lives! I want it – a resurgence of God's purpose in our lives! I want it – an outpouring of Christians' following God's precepts!

I want it! I want it! I want it!

Taken from "*Sword of the Lord*"

The Book of Books

*Within this ample volume lies
The mystery of mysteries.*

*Happiest they of human race
To whom their God has given grace*

*To read, to fear, to hope, to pray,
To lift the latch, to force the way;*

*But better had they ne'er been born
Than read to doubt or read to scorn.*

Sir Walter Scott

Editorial

RES *CARNALITY!*

“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be, so then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Romans 8:6-8)

Why? Is it that ‘Christians’ want to try to prove that JESUS could be wrong when HE says: ‘*You can not serve two masters*’: ‘*you are either for ME OR against ME.*’ Being a ‘*fence straddler*’ will not only hurt the cause of the Kingdom of God but will jeopardize your assurance of Salvation and will end up in a *hopeless Eternity!* Yes, a ‘lukewarm’ Christian is the BEST advertisement for Hell there is!

Is ‘carnality & worldliness’ Siamese twins OR are they one and the same? As you answer this question; please keep Eternity in view. God so **loves** ‘us’ that HE warns us with absolute clarity.

The dictionary speaks of ‘**carnality**’ as not spiritual, merely human; temporal; worldly. Pertaining to the flesh or body, its passions and appetites; sensual, sexual. Also the dictionary speaks of ‘**enmity**’ as positive, active, and typically mutual hatred or ill will.

“Enmity” is a rampant disregard for God’s Law and furthermore ‘carnality’ is equated with death, eternal death (eternal separation from God).

Likely you are aware of the fact that some Christians when you hit the nail on the head, they will begin to cry ‘legalism’, because they like the life style that they are participating in.

NOW because you and I care where we will spend all eternity, let’s take a closer look at ‘our’ text, which will give ‘us’ a clear distinction between ‘carnal mind’ and ‘spiritual mind’. These living for the flesh (old nature/flesh) = spell flesh backwards and leave off the ‘h’ and it spells self **can not please God.**

A fairly good number of years ago I was told by the doctor(s) that I had an serious heart disease and naturally I didn’t want to hear what they said (and a number of times since) and I doubt that the ‘doctors’ enjoyed telling me what I needed to hear; but they did. But the truth is **true** and it is only wise to ‘listen’ and do (obey) what we are told.

Look at the definition again of ‘carnality’ and it states ‘worldly.’ To me *worldliness*: for examples are: consuming alcoholic beverages, dancing, attending this world’s theaters/movies, scant clothing (both female & male), immodesty, pornography, promiscuous sexual

activity, drugs, some times apparel (or lack of), **etc.** and we better *listen* and *obey* what the **Bible states.** God states that those who do ‘obey’ are wise and the others as ‘foolish.’

Basically this: Our country is on a downward spiral of immorality like none we have ever seen before. And ‘who’ is basically causing/influencing at least in part this: *we Christians!* God wants ‘we Christians’ to be a ‘conscience/standard’ unto this ‘world’ not a part of it.

Romans 12:1-2.

Keep in ‘mind’ the world says you can not go by outward appearance for God looks upon the ‘heart’ (which He does); but Jesus says what is in the ‘heart’ comes out or is manifested. This is very ‘serious’! ‘Our’ eternal destiny is in view. REMEMBER the ‘heart’ inwardly can be obsessed as much or more (hidden to the human eye) with ‘worldliness, but not displayed. **Hebrews 4:12-16, James 2:10, Romans 3:10-20.**

However, other folk cannot see our faith, and therefore we must keep in mind that we who know Jesus as our personal Savior are ‘ambassadors’ for/in Him both in our daily walk and talk. True saving faith inevitably will manifest itself in works/fruit of righteousness. Therefore the righteousness of Christ, who kept the Law perfectly in our behalf, is imputed to the believers by faith (Romans 4:3-5); but being we have a new nature given to ‘us’ from God will also produce living a godly life (His nature in & through ‘us’), by the Grace and Power of God.

Most certainly GRACE is not a ‘pillow’ to SIN UPON; but many people (including some Christians) are trying to prove Jesus wrong when He states: “*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*” Matthew 6:24. Jesus states that *if we love Him* we will keep/obey His Commandments! Not in order to ‘become’ but because ‘we are’ in a right relationship with Him.

Tragically it seems that we are being gradually desensitized towards SIN; which is very offensive to our Holy God to Whom one ‘day’ we must give an account!

Martin Luther clearly shares that ‘we should (godly) fear and love HIM!

We must not water down *the Scriptural Truths* that have just been shared. Isn’t it ‘marvelous’ that God knows our hearts (intents/desires) AS AN OPEN BOOK – **Hebrews 4:12-13**. To the ‘*carnal Christian?*’ this is terrifying & convicting and to the one who is walking in obedience in the Light of God’s Word (Bible); it is not only ‘convicting, but comforting!

Speaking of Christ’s return (Rapture), 1 John 3:3 tells ‘us’ “*everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself.*” ‘We’ are anchored in the ‘blessed hope’ which is

not a wish-list kind of hope; but a solid expectation that motivates us to keep our hearts from sinful distractions. *YES, being ready for Christ’s return will make a difference in the way we live!*

In closing this editorial I have an important question for you ‘our’ appreciated ‘reader’: **How long** can a ‘*carnal Christian*’ continue to be ‘*carnal*’ and still be a Christian???

1 Samuel 16:14a, 11 Timothy 3:5 & Romans 8:13.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1.

And to the Republic for Witch It Stands

What do you get when you combine pagans, two witches and the Air Force Academy? Eighty thousand taxpayer dollars. That’s how much the government is spending in its pursuit of political correctness in the military. After a year’s worth of work, the U. S. Air Force finished construction on an out-door worship center for “wiccans, druids and earth-worshippers” – despite not having a single one on its cadet roster.

The USAF agreed to the project to accommodate “a civilian” and an “Air Force reservist” who demanded equal treatment for their faith. “We think we are setting a standard,” Chaplain Major Darren Duncan says.

What he doesn’t realize is that the standard has already been set – by an administration intent on sidelining Christianity. While the law may protect the freedom to practice religion, it doesn’t guarantee the public accommodation for it. Despite what the secular movement believes, our government is under no obligation to spend taxpayer dollars elevating fringe groups.

Family Research Council has been a fierce advocate of religious freedom for all Americans. But this isn’t about freedom. It’s about financing. And even in an era of religious pluralism, the government wasn’t meant to be the great equalizer on matters of faith.

Unfortunately, this is just another example of the White House’s double standard on religion. (The week of November 21), the Pentagon ordered an Army base to remove a cross at its chapel in Afghanistan because it represented a permanent display of religion (which the army forbids). But if erecting a cross shows religious bias, how does underwriting a wiccan worship center not? The state may not exist to promote Christianity but its role isn’t to marginalize it either.

Tony Perkins, Family Research Council

“What shall I do then with Jesus which is called the Christ?” Matt. 27:22

Pilate did not know what he should do with Jesus the day that Jesus stood before him. He should have crowned Him King, the Christ, in his heart, but he did not. Poor Pilate, what a terrible mistake he made! There are others, beside Pilate, who will not accept Jesus. I hope you are not one of these.

There is a story of a mother who, with her son, was on a ship bound for California, where she was to join her husband. The ship was on fire, and all the people were rushed into life boats. When the last boat pulled away from the ship, someone noticed that the mother was standing on the deck. She was still holding her son in her arms. They had been overlooked in the rush. The boat was too full, now, to take them on board. What should be done?

Finally it was decided to take one of them into the boat – both could not be taken. So the mother kissed her son goodbye and said to him as she let him down into the boat, “Tell your father that I died for you.”

This is the greeting that God has handed down to us: Jesus has died for us. We want Him as our Saviour, don’t we?

Dear Lord Jesus, be our Saviour now and always. We will not turn Thee away because we need Thee as our Deliverer from sin. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Jesus is standing in Pilate’s hall

Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all;

Hearken! What meaneth the sudden call!

What will you do with Jesus?

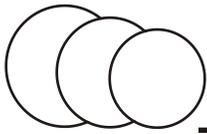
What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be;

Some day your heart will be asking,

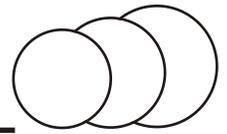
What will He do with me?

Verse by permission, Tabernacle Publ. Co.

Taken from the fine devotional book “*Altar Steps*” by R. P. Haakonson. *Editor’s Note:* Can be yours for a donation of five dollars and one dollar shipping from HLIF



From Our Fellowship Circle



A. & K. T. **Livingston, NJ**
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Please continue sending it to us and our granddaughter at ... Also please continue sending it to...

We are enclosing a gift from us all for the amount of \$...
May God continue to use the *Morning Glory* for His glory!

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I would like to order the newspaper "*Morning Glory*" under the banner of Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.

Please advice me in regards to the cost of the same as it is an inspiring publication.

Editor's Note: The *Morning Glory* subscription price is on a free will donation and the USA Federal regulation is at least one dollar per year; but naturally the *cost is much more* for publishing and mailing. We trust the LORD to lay upon your heart what HE wants you to give monthly, etc. for this ministry. 'We' try to leave it in His Hands as it is a part of His Kingdom's Work! **Thank You** as you let the Lord lead. Any and all 'gifts' are greatly appreciated!

V. & J. V. **Hetland, S. D.**
Thank you for your paper. We are in our eighties and have a back ground in the Hauge Synod.

M. T. **Apple Valley, MN**
A Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year in the Lord.

One wonders what is in store for us in the next year? Our blessed Hope and Trust can only be in Christ.

Editor's Note: How true as HE is the sure Foundation and Defender and from Him is given every perfect & good 'gift' from whom there is no shadow of changing.

Isn't it '*interesting*' that for a 'believer' in essence 'Christmas' is every 'day' of the whole year; because IF HE had not been born/Incarnation: He couldn't have died for 'my' sins and there would be NO **forgiveness** of my/our sin **through His Shed BLOOD!**

V. U. **Story City, IA**
Marj always enjoyed reading the *Morning Glory*. Please accept this gift in her memory.

I appreciate receiving the *Morning Glory* as well. It is an excellent publication.

Thank you for your ministry.

A. T. **Seattle, WA**
We thank the Lord for the work that you do, as all must hear "You must be born again," as so many are being told that if they have been baptized, go to church, etc. you are OK!

Thank you for the Good News in the *Morning Glory*.

J. R. **Lake City, IA**
This is a token for a great magazine. Thank you. I read it from front to back and often want to keep it – but pass it on to friends eventually.

Thanks again and have a Blessed Christmas and a blest New Year in Christ.

K. & V. M. **Eureka, KS**
Please send me a copy of the issue of the *Morning Glory* that had the article about President Obama in it. I wanted to keep it and somehow it got away.

When it comes to possibility of a President of our great USA, I like ... as a candidate.

Thank you very much and I am enclosing a check ...

Graduation to Heaven because of the Grace of God.

Pastor Ray S. Persson went Home to be with JESUS on December 2, 2011.

"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but beleveth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Romans 4:4, 5.

A. & D. H. **Twin Valley, MN**
Good Morning to all with the *Morning Glory* and with the precious promise found in Jeremiah 29:11-14.

We have received the 3 books we ordered and find them very, good! Thank you so much for these!

I'm enclosing a donation as we'd like to have you send the *Morning Glory* to ...

Our friend ... was reading our *Morning Glory* and wanted to know how he and his mother could receive it, so we are having you send them the same. Start this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year also – and may it all be to the honor and Glory of God!

NOT I, BUT JESUS

In the Morning

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me. Gal. 2:20

“It is no longer I that live.” That is the position of a Christian. My own ego has been given to death. Not only is it true that Christ has died for me; I have also died with Christ.

The old Adam with his inclinations and desires has been crucified. Every time the old desires awaken, they must be put to death. The ego has no rights anymore. It still claims to be considered, it wants to be cared for and to have its own way, but its claims have no rights. The ego is to be trampled on and put to death. “*I die daily,*” Paul says. (1 Cor. 15:31).

This is the suffering that accompanies all sanctification. No one who wishes to live in Christ can be without it.

But this is also the blessedness of the Christian life. There is no flood of real joy from the satisfaction of the flesh. If you want to be happy, your ego has to die. God never wants to hurt you; all your pain comes from your own will.

The more you follow the claim of your ego, the more empty and painful will your life become. The more your ego is put to death, the happier you will be.

“It is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me.”

As a Christian you have got a new ego, — that is Christ. He decides for you what to do, and He directs you and lives in you. The life of Christ is your life. His peace and joy are yours.

“Christ liveth in me.”

At noon

A North-Indian missionary tells that one day he was deeply discouraged. The uncleanness of his heart caused the work which he was conducting to be unsuccessful.

As he stood on the road considering his unworthiness and sin, he was aware of some muddy water at his feet.

‘That muddy water resembles my heart,’ he said to himself. My soul is unclean and dirty.’

Lifting up his eyes, the missionary looked out over the white Himalaya mountains. The snow was glistening wonderfully in the sunshine.

‘But my soul ought to be just as white and clean as that snow,’ he thought.

Then suddenly an idea struck him:

‘And so this muddy pool may be clean. When the sun shines, the dirty water will evaporate. I will rise again up to the clouds and be carried far away over the mountains.

There it will fall as white snow.’

A gleam of joy lit up the face of the missionary.

‘My soul may also become as clean as that, but in order that this may happen, I must die, and my self-life must evaporate. Then the sun of God’s grace will carry me up to higher ground, and make me as white as snow. God grant me the will to put my ego to death.’

The poem of the day

*Utterly abandoned to the Holy Ghost!
Oh! The sinking, sinking, until self is lost!
Until the emptied vessel lies broken at His Feet;
Waiting till His filling shall make the work complete.*

*Utterly abandoned to the will of God’
Seeking for no other path than my Master trod;
Leaving ease and pleasure, making him my choice,
Waiting for His guidance, listening for His Voice.*

*Utterly abandoned! No will of my own;
For time and for eternity, His, and His alone;
All my plans and purposes lost in His sweet will,
Having nothing, yet in Him all thing possessing still.*

*Utterly abandoned! ‘tis so sweet to be
Captive in His bonds of love, yet so wondrous free;
Free from sin’s entanglements, free from doubt and fear,
Free from every worry, burden, grief or care.*

In the evening

Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ. Phil. 3:7-8.

In order to gain Christ, you have to count all things to be loss. The more you lose the things which are gain to you, the greater richness you will get in Christ. Compared with the righteousness of Christ all earthly values will fade.

Do not get discouraged feeling your poverty. That is the way you are obliged to go. Thereby you will obtain the richness in God.

Everything that is yours, is but refuse. Well, but everything coming from Him, is gain.

Then you are rich and happy anyway.

Lie down quietly to sleep in the Name of Jesus. Even if you feel poor, you are rich and blessed in Him.

Taken from “*On Our Father’s Knee*” (Devotions for Times of Illness) by Fredrik Wisloff
Augsburg Publishing House

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Christian Baker Faces Boycott for Refusal to Make Cake for Lesbians

Pro-gay activists have launched a boycott of an Iowa baker who declined to create a wedding cake for a lesbian couple based on her religious beliefs.

Victoria Childress, the owner of Victoria's Cake Cottage in Des Moines, has been accused of being anti-gay, homophobic and a bigot after she refused to make a cake for Trina Vodraska and Janelle Sievers.

Childress told *Fox News and Commentary* that she made five cakes for the couple to taste – unaware that they were lesbians.

"She introduced herself, and I asked, 'Is this your sister?'" Childress said, "She said, 'No. This is my partner.'"

At that point, Childress told the couple that she would not be willing to make their wedding cake. "I was straightforward with them and explained that I'm a Christian and that I have very strong convictions," she said. "I chose to be honest about it. They said they appreciated it and left. That was all that was said."

But that wasn't the end of the story. Soon Childress began receiving hateful e-mails, and then the local media called ...

Childress said her decision had nothing to do with discrimination or the lesbian couple.

"It doesn't have anything to do with them – it was about my convictions," she stressed. "they can get their cake anywhere."

Childress said money is not the issue. "I'm being attacked because of my beliefs – my convictions to their lifestyle," she said ...

Childress said she was simply stating her belief.

"I was not rude," she said. "I was not condescending. It was matter-of-fact. I told them, 'I'm sorry, I just can't do that.'"

BAPTIST PRESS

New York City Mayor Bloomberg "Government's Highest Duty" Is to Push "Healthy" Foods

During a United Nations General Assembly summit on non-communicable diseases, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, "There are powers only governments can exercise, policies only governments can mandate and enforce and results only governments can

achieve. To halt the worldwide epidemic of non-communicable diseases, governments at all levels must make healthy solutions that default social option. That is ultimately government's highest duty."

Eric Scheiner

Supreme Court Battle Over Obamacare Set for 2012

The U. S. Supreme Court appears to be the location for the final battle next summer over the legality of Obamacare, the government run healthcare scheme that pro-life groups opposed because it allows abortion funding and prompts rationing concerns...

The Supreme Court, according to a Washington Post report, would likely receive the case sometime next summer – during the intensity of the presidential election, which will likely focus in part on the much-maligned Obamacare law that a majority of Americans continue to oppose. The high Court will have to wade through competing appeals-court decisions – with the 11th Circuit overturning the law, the 6th Circuit upholding it, and the 4th Circuit turning down a case challenging ...

(T)he current 4-4 conservative-liberal split on the Supreme Court means Justice Anthony Kennedy will likely be the deciding vote on whether Obamacare is overturned or not and, if so, how much of the law is reversed and how much will be allowed to be put into play.

LifeNews.com

Pro-Life Groups Cheer Upcoming Probe of Planned Parenthood

Leading pro-life groups applauded the news ...that a congressional subcommittee will investigate the alleged financial impropriety and potential cover-up of criminal activities at Planned Parenthood abortion clinics.

LifeNews.com

Town Council Fights for Religious Freedom

The New York town of Greece is awaiting a federal appeals court decision as to whether it can open public meetings with prayers.

The prayers are offered by invited clergy, but two residents objected, and Americans for Separation of Church

and State sued. The organization appealed a federal court ruling that upheld the constitutionality of the town board's practice.

Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) attorney Kevin Theriot says that since the nation's founding, public meetings have been opened with prayer – and there is no legal reason, he explains, why a town should be denied this right.

“This practice has always been lawful in America, and the district court rightly affirmed its constitutionality in this case last year,” says Theriot.

The attorney adds that “secularist groups might not be happy with (the decision), but an invocation offered according to the dictates of the giver's conscience is not an establishment of religion.”

ADF has told the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that allowing government entitles to acknowledge America's religious heritage and invoke divine guidance and blessing upon their work has always been constitutional.

LifeNews.com

* * * * *

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4

A SURPRISING word!

We usually send condolences to those who mourn. Jesus calls them blessed.

Why?

Because sorrow worketh repentance. It is God who works repentance. And He does it through sorrow.

This sorrow often begins quietly and almost imperceptibly as slight restlessness. And grows gradually into sorrow and anxiety.

To begin with we become restless because of our thoughtlessness and indifference. We feel that we are putting a low estimate upon our souls and thus injuring them.

Afterward we become restless because of the *lassitude of our wills*. We see what is right and what we ought to do. We intend to enter in through the *narrow* gate of which Jesus speaks and to which we have now come. But we never take the matter seriously. We think, hope, and long. But we never act.

Now we become anxious also because of our *cowardice*. We see now that it is fear of others that keeps us back.

Thus God works repentance.

It becomes very hard to sin. We cannot go on without peace with God and with our own conscience. Thus we are inwardly liberated from our old life until we freely forsake it all and go to God.

Yes, blessed are they who mourn!

Hearken to this, you who mourn. You despair because you do not succeed in becoming repentant. You can find no peace, no joy, no assurance. Since you began to seek God in earnest you have scarcely experienced anything but sorrow, distress, and anxiety.

Listen to Jesus' words today: “Blessed are they that mourn.” God has begun His work within you. He has begun it in you in the same way as in the rest of us, through *sorrow*.

But He says: “You *shall* be comforted.”

Taken from *God's Word For Today*, Copyright 1937, Special Permission granted by Augsburg Publishing.

Little Children

“*And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*” (Matthew 18:2-3)

Many adult Christians have the mistaken notion that little children are too young to understand the gospel and so should not be allowed to decide for Christ until they are much older.

The problem, however, is not the children; it is the adults who find it hard to understand! They must become like little children before they can really comprehend the way of salvation and be converted. Jesus said, “Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God...Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein” (Luke 18:16-17).

After all, what is there to understand? A very young child, instructed in the Scriptures from infancy as God has commanded his parents (note 2 Timothy 3:15, which uses the Greek word for “baby” as the state in which young Timothy began to know the Bible), can surely comprehend that the God to whom his parents pray made him, that he has sinned against God when he does wrong, that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for his sins, and that Jesus can save him and take him to heaven. An adult may require much explanation and may imagine many difficulties, but a child will simply believe – and that's enough!

The word for “little child” or “little children” actually means children who are not much more than toddlers. It is the same word rendered “young child” when the wise men came to find Jesus in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:8, etc.). Little children should, by all means, be taught the gospel, and should be encouraged to come to Christ before they grow too old to understand with their hearts!

Taken from “*Days of Praise*”,
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Freedom and True Holiness

(Continued from last issue of the Morning Glory)

Such is the true motive for doing that which is good. This is indicated by the word of the apostle: *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that one died for all, therefore all died”* (II Cor. 5:14); and this is what the apostle meant when he said; *“Ye also were made dead to the law That we might bring forth fruit unto God”* (Rom. 7:4).

You certainly receive your reward here on earth also for the good that you do from a legalistic motive. It is certainly also profitable for your neighbors and your household; but it does not constitute the true *sanctification*, neither is it the truly good deeds pleasing to God, of which He will make mention on the Judgment Day. So that if it be only a question of *salvation*, you may very well spare yourself the trouble of doing good and instead give yourself to a free life in sin, you will lose nothing by this; you will at any event not be saved by such a holiness as springs from a legalistic motive. *“For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse”* (Gal. 3:10). Only so much good as you do *because* you are undeservedly pardoned, and *free from the Law* – only so much true sanctification and good works do you have. Mark and remember this well, and write it indelibly into your mind: Only as much as springs from grace, from faith and love, from your freedom from the Law – only so much true sanctification do you have.

But here someone may, perhaps, ask: “Shall the Law, then, be of no service to a Christian in his sanctification? And is a Christian then so quickened by the joy of faith and love that he never does the good from any legalistic motive?” Answer: First of all, the Law is always of indispensable service and blessing in sanctification by the *guidance*

And the *light* we have in its commandments; and, secondly, this guidance always becomes for us a *chastisement*, a wholesome and needed chastisement and crushing humiliation for our crafty heart, which otherwise might soon fall into pride, security, levity, and other like abominations. But the motive itself and the very heart of a Christian’s sanctification must be God’s mighty grace. Understand this aright, and note: It is quite true that the light of grace in faith does not always burn with the same beautiful and quickening power; faith, joy, and love are often weakened during the journey, and however earnestly I may strive, I cannot at will take to myself such a burning faith as I would. But the matter does not depend

on this. If I but have such confidence in my God through Christ that, whatever my condition, I can speak to Him as His child, can believe the state of grace itself (Rom. 5:2), albeit with a rather dry faith, which, however, keeps firmly to the assurances of the Lord, then this faith will bring about a willing spirit so that I gladly subdue my flesh according to His commandment. I do not need to feel as light of heart as in happier times, when He rejoices my heart; no, as for my feelings, a legalistic heaviness often comes upon me in my walk, so that I feel far more the Law in my inner man than the grace and delight of the Gospel. But the distinction over against them that are “busy with works of the Law” consists in this: They who are under the law are “busy with the works of the Law” with intent and purpose, mark, they have outright, *that conception* that our state of grace and our sanctification do depend on our labor of godliness, and are thus agreed with themselves in this striving, yes, what we are and do is the very song of their being, comes first and last. The true believer, on the other hand, even during his legalistic periods, is nevertheless an enemy of his own self-importance, as soon as he becomes aware of it. He censures and decries it and agrees with God at once in His Word, that in us is nothing but sin and weakness and only in Christ is both our righteousness and our strength. The believer presses on to lay hold of Christ and to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and he is certain that all will thereby be righted again: it is only weakness from which he is suffering. His mind and intention are therefore evangelical, it is only feeling and his old nature that are legalistic. And although he must often, as it were, force himself to the doing of that which is good, because he feels the resistance of his flesh, it is after all the great grace of God on which he believes that moves him to the desire of thus subduing his stubborn flesh. He loves the commandments of the Lord, even His threats, yes, His rod and chastisement, and this because they assist the slaying of the evil flesh; but he has this very love for the Law and its threats because he believes the unmerited grace – and hence the deeps of his heart and his motives are evangelical. It is far different if we become “captive under a yoke of bondage,” when our thoughts, first and last, are centered upon ourselves and what we should be an do, and by this the childlike confidence is smothered and the Law even becomes the *ruling* power in the conscience. Then the life of sin and impotence which the Law always brings about enters in again. And from this we can then see how necessary it is that the conscience be free from the Law even for true sanctification. Oh, that every Christian, therefore, during all the days of his life would take to heart the admonition of the apostle: *“For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast there, and be not*

entangled again in a yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1). Thus our Lord Christ Himself also says concerning this matter: “Abide in my love.” Abide “in me.” “as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; so neither can ye, except ye abide in me” (John 15).

Taken from “THE BELIEVER FREE FROM THE LAW,” By C. O. Rosenius, Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

* * * * *

God’s Shining Face

“The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.” (Numbers 6:25)

This request is part of the well-known Mosaic benediction for the children of Israel (Numbers 6:24-27). The first occurrence in verb form of the word “shine” is in this verse, although in the noun form, translated as “light,” it appears in the third verse of the Bible when God said, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3).

True light comes only from God, since “God is light” (1 John 1:5). As the world depends on the sunshine for its physical life, so we continually must receive the Son’s shining in our hearts to sustain our spiritual life.

It is noteworthy that the prayer of our text occurs seven other times in the Scriptures. These are as follows:

“Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies’ sake” (Psalm 31:16); *“God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah”* (Psalm 67:1); *“Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved”* (Psalm 80:19; also vv. 3, 7); *“Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes”* (Psalm 119:135); *“Our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord’s sake”* (Daniel 9:17).

Since God, in His omnipotence, dwells “in the light which no man can approach unto” (1 Timothy 6:16), He shines on us for salvation, spiritual illumination, and daily guidance only thorough His Son, the Word made flesh, for “in Him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”* (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Taken from “Days of Praise” Copyright 2011, permission granted

The Time of Old Age

“Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and the power to every one that is to come.”(Psalm 71:18)

One tends to grow resentful against the limitations and increasing infirmities associated with aging, even complaining to God and others about growing old—at least until one considers the alternative! WE need to remember that, as long as the Lord preserves our lives, He has some ministry for us to perform for “this generation” and “to every one that is to come.”

The Scriptures abound with promises of blessing in old age, so growing old should be an occasion for rejoicing and deepened commitment to whatever the Lord enables one to do.

“The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: ...Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age.” (Psalm 92:12-14). But if there develops a tendency to grow spiritually cold with age, the admonition of Paul is appropriate. *“Aged men (should) be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, ...teachers of good things:”* (Titus 2:2-3).

Thus the heartfelt prayer of the psalmist in our text is still appropriate today, for all who will, sooner than they think, enter the time of old age. Note also the following prayer: *“Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth”* (Psalm 71:9). That God will answer such a prayer, offered in faith and sincerity, was affirmed by David when he said: *“I have been young, and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread”* (Psalm 37:25). The time of old age can be a time of happy harvest, if we have sowed the seeds of good fruit.

Taken from “Days of Praise”, Copyright 2011, Permission Granted

**Give the gift of truth to someone(s)
this Valentine month:**

Morning Glory

Walter A. Maier on Music

Ed. note: Dr. Walter A. Maier was the Old Testament Professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in the 1930's. He was also the speaker for "The Lutheran Hour." Maier preached alone behind a single microphone, and without the aid of television, The Lutheran Hour broadcast reached 120 countries. It was only passed by Billy Graham with the aid of television. When the broadcast hit the airwaves people would pull over in their car to listen. People were converted to Christ and delivered from alcohol, suicide and a number of other sins as God worked through this man and this broadcast. He was also a brilliant man and was set to publicly debate Clarence Darrow about theism versus agnosticism. Darrow backed out.

What did this man think about proper music for Christianity and the Lutheran Hour broadcast?

"It was Martin Luther who called music the "handmaid of theology," and Lutherans have never forgotten it. Music had always played a prominent role in the program, and policy from the first was to offer only the highest variety. No sawdust melodies from frenzied arpeggios on piano or electronic organ, no gospel guitars, pious accordions, or theological trombones were permitted. Rather, the rich musical heritage of the Lutheran tradition was presented in its most representative form: the chorale, sung by a chorus *acappella*, or occasionally with pipe-organ and orchestral accompaniment.

"Most frequent of the many choral groups heard on the broadcast was the thirty-voice Lutheran Hour Chorus. Composed of Concordia students, the group had a spirited blend which projected chorales with such high technical quality that Fred Waring himself offered warm commendation. During summers, the chorus often went on concert tours throughout America.

"Another group heard periodically was the St. Louis A Cappella Choir, a mixed chorus under the baton of noted Bach interpreter, Dr. William B. Heyne. When seminarians were on vacation, the St. Louis Lutheran Hour Chorus supplied the music, a group of laymen under the direction of E. W. Schroeter. And on Sundays when the Hour was aired from a rally in another city, the best local choruses were enlisted, sometimes 2,000 voices strong. The musical ministry of the program evoked a special category of fan mail from listeners, some of whom were initially attracted to the Hour because of it."

Taken from "A Man Spoke, A World Listened: The Story of Walter A. Maier" by Paul Maier, pg. 198. Published by McGraw Hill Book Co.

Is This the Testimony of Lutheran Churches Today???

* * * * *

"Thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou besoughtest me: shouldst not thou also have had mercy on thy fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on thee?"

Matthew 18:32-33

This man was converted.

Jesus would have this fact emphasized. Nevertheless, he was lost because he would not forgive his brother.

As far as my understanding of the Scriptures goes, no sin is more dangerous as far as our relationship to God is concerned than implacability and hatred. Notice how often Jesus enforces the truth that God cannot forgive us our sins if we do not from our hearts forgive those who have sinned against us. Even among the few and brief petitions of the Lord's Prayer we find this reminder: "And forgive us our trespasses *as we forgive those who trespass against us.*"

Obviously, this is no more dangerous than other sins because it is grosser or greater than many others. Nay, it is because it, in a peculiar manner, imparts to our whole soul-life an icy frigidity.

A converted man lay at the point of death. A Christian friend of his came to visit him. He asked how things were with him as he lay there face to face with death. The sick man replied that all was well. "Then you have made up with your neighbor, with whom you have been on unfriendly terms?" said the visitor. "No" said the dying man, "I have not."

"Yes, the Bible says that you will be lost if you refuse to be reconciled to your adversary. You are very sick and are about to die. If you so desire, I will go and get your neighbor at once," he said.

"No" said the dying, man, "if it cost that much to get to heaven, I shall have to take my chances."

With these words he turned his face toward the wall and would hear nothing further of the matter.

Oh, how horrible, how terrible!

Taken from "God's Word For Today" by O. Hallesby
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Publishing

Always Speak Truthfully

A small boy was on the witness stand in an important lawsuit. The prosecuting attorney cross-examined him, then delivered, he thought, a crushing blow to his testimony: "Your father has been telling you how to testify, hasn't he?"

"Yes."

"Now," said the lawyer triumphantly, "just tell us how your father told you to testify."

"Well," the boy said modestly, "Father told me the lawyer would try to tangle me in my testimony, but if I would just be careful to tell the truth, I could repeat the same thing every time."

Christian Digest

* * * * *

A young man was trying to establish himself as a peach grower. He had worked hard and invested his all in a peach orchard which blossomed wonderfully. Then came a frost. He did not go to church the next Sunday nor the next nor the next.

His pastor went to see him to find the reason. The young fellow exclaimed, "I'm not coming anymore. Do you think I can worship a God who cares for me so little that He will let a frost kill all my peaches?"

The man of God looked at him a few moments in silence, then said kindly, "God loves you better than He does your peaches. He knows that while peaches do better without frosts, it is impossible to grow the best men without frosts. His object is to grow men, not peaches."

Christian Worker's Magazine

* * * * *

No Sinking Through a Rock!

An elderly Welsh lady, when she lay dying, was visited by her pastor. "Sister, are you sinking?" he asked.

She answered him not a word but looked at him with an incredulous eye.

He repeated the question: "Sister, are you sinking?"

She looked at him again as if she could not believe he would ask such a question.

At last, rising a little in her bed, she answered, "Sinking! Sinking! Did you ever know a sinner to sink through a rock? If I had been standing on the sand, I might sink; but, thank God, I am standing on the Rock of Ages, and there is no sinking there."

Charles Spurgeon

SPRING HAUGE BIBLE CONFERENCE

March 16 – 18, 2012

At Mt. Sion Lutheran Church, Kasson, MN

Pastor Lyle Aadahl, Host Pastor

Back to Biblical Basics in the 21st Century

Friday Evening

7:00 p.m. – Stringed Instruments & Singpiration

7:30 p.m. – Guest Speaker: Missionary/Pastor Connely Dyrud, Maple Grove, MN

Refreshments & Fellowship Following

Saturday, March 17th

Prayer Time at 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

9:30 – 10 a.m. Coffee/Refreshments

10:00 – 10:55 a.m. Guest Speaker: Pastor Jim Peterson, Mondovi, WI

11:05 – 12:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: Pastor Jim Haga, Shoreview, MN

Noon Meal provided at the Church

1:15 – 2:10 p.m. Pastor Jim Peterson

2:20 – 3:15 p.m. Pastor Jim Haga

3:15 – 3:45 p.m. Coffee/Refreshments

3:45 p.m. – Testimonies, Fellowship, Hymn/Gospel Singpiration

4:30 p.m. Hauge Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. Supper at Church

7:00 p.m. Evening Service – Missionary Connely Dyrud, Coffee/Refreshments following

Sunday, March 18th

Worship Service and Sunday School/Adult Class

(Definitely encouraged to attend, also)

Missionary Connely Dyrud is the 'guest speaker' during the Worship Services both at Mt. Sion Luth. – Kasson and Zion Luth. – Dexter

Restaurants and lodging also available in Kasson, MN

YOU ARE INVITED AND PLEASE BRING OTHERS!

Please Pray Expectantly

Prepare yourself to be richly Blest!

(Come not only expecting many blessings, but to be an encouragement and blessing also)

P. S. *IF* convenient: Please bring along 'goodies' for 'refreshment' times. Thank You.

Update

(Guest Article)

Verily, I say unto you, This poor widow cast in more than all they that are casting into the treasury: for they all did cast in of their superfluity; but she of her want did cast in all that she had.”

Mark 12:43-44

IN our age of great economic pressure many have little to give. They feel that it is nothing short of embarrassing when an offering is to be laid upon the altar, that it is like going up and giving a demonstration of one's poverty.

My friend, you should not feel that way. Jesus sits down over against the temple treasury now also. He knows how little you have to give. Just as He knew that the widow had no more than she gave.

Notice how happy Jesus became. He called to His disciples that they too might share His joy. If your resources are small, then give your little gift and do it without being ashamed.

You, however, whose gift is small even though you have an abundance from which to give, you know, do you not, that Jesus sits and looks on every time you give? Your gift shows Him the condition of your heart. It shows that you *love* neither Him nor your neighbor. Your heart is closed to need. You live for yourself and your own.

You do not *believe*, either. You do not believe that God keeps His promises. That is why you are so afraid to give. You think that it is dangerous to give away money and therefore you give as little as you possibly can without losing your respectability.

The Word today speaks to you gently but earnestly. Not only must your *gifts* be changed, but your *heart* as well.

Pray to God that you may see Him who gave and gave until He gave His last drop of blood for you. He will change your heart. And impart to you a mind to give, making you a cheerful giver.

Then you, too, will begin to gladden the heart of God – and many people – by your gifts. You yourself, however, will reap the greatest joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive.

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P. S. Genuinely and truly *any and all gifts* are greatly appreciated. GIVE as HE prompts and prospers you. May God richly bless you and make you a **rich blessing!**

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