



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • February 2017

## The Friend Of Publications And Sinners

By Pastor Lars Stalsbrotten

*“Then drew near unto Him all the publicans and sinners for to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.”*

Luke 15:1-2

In Matthew 11:19 they are calling Jesus, A friend of publicans and sinners. Who gave Him such an excellent name? Not His friends, but the Pharisees and scribes, His most bitter enemies. They meant to scorn Him and put him to shame by placing such a tag on Him. But actually that was His name of honor.

He did not only say that He loved sinners, but He left the very form of God and clothed Himself in our flesh and blood in order to die for our sins, redeem, and save us. He was not a priest or Levite that passed by, but He came to us where we were, lost in our sins, lifted us up, healed and saved us. Glory to His name!

No wonder we read: *All publicans and sinners drew near to hear Him, and when the Pharisees and scribes saw the crowd they murmured and said: This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them. He receiveth sinners.* What precious truth. Heaven rejoices over it, but the Pharisees grumble and complain about it.

Look at the sinners how they are flocking to Him! I see them coming, the Samaritan woman in John 4, the tax collector in Matthew 9, Zaccheus in Luke 19, and the publican in Luke 18. He receives them all. Not one is turned away. You can read the Bible from Genesis to

Revelation but you can't find one repentant sinner that He turned away. He has promised: ***Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out.*** John 6:37. This promise is still good. For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 2 Cor. 1:20.

The greatest sinner has already been saved. Listen to his own personal testimony: *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief.”* 1 Timothy 1:15

The Pharisees and scribes were always grumbling and pouting because Christ received and saved sin-sick repentant sinners. So one day they asked His disciples, *“why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?”* Jesus answered the question Himself; it is as simple as this, ***“they that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance”*** Matt. 9:11-12. You self-righteous Pharisees and scribes are not even included in My program. You are whole, you do not need a physician. But these poor people are sin-sick; that is why I am together with them. A Savior and sinners belong together! A Savior is without work where there are no sinners. He is like a physician who has nothing to do because everyone is well.

This grumbling of self-righteous Pharisees and scribes gave Christ occasion to tell us one of the most

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glorious parables in our Bible. It tells us in a crystal clear way that sinners are saved by grace alone. In Luke 15 is Christ’s answer to the murmuring self-righteous Pharisees and scribes. ‘Hear HIM’

## A Parent

*Being a parent is hard; every child is different,*

And every day brings fresh challenges.

First, see your children as a gift from God. He entrusted them to you; take them as a gift (and responsibility) from His hands. Second, let them know you love them. Show affection for them; teach them right and wrong; spend time with them. Third, be an example of faith. Pray with them, read the Bible to them, and let them see that Christ is important to you. With God’s help, you can be the kind of parent they need.

**Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not turn from it.** Proverbs 22:6

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## GOOD EXAMPLES!

Being known as a Christian certainly means something very important, as there will be NO hypocrites in Heaven (just forgiven sinners), and that name means “Follower of Christ.” So naturally we want to be living examples to the ONE who is the Way, the Truth, the Life.

But while we want to serve as good examples, (*God’s Ambassadors, little christs*), we fail and SIN often. This is not an excuse for carelessness; but we still have the “old-nature” to contend with all the way HOME, and also the world and the Devil.

Thus it is easy to become indifferent and careless and ‘flirt’ with the world.

Samson knew he was living in a sinful world and in a sense enemy territory; as at times he was where God did not intend for him to be!

When the Philistine lords realized that Samson loved Delilah, they asked her to lure Samson into telling her the secret of his strength so that they might subdue him. On three separate occasions, Delilah tried to extract Samson’s secret from him. After the third attempt, Delilah said to him, “*You have deceived me these three times*”. At length, because of her persistent luring, Samson told her the truth: “*If I were shaven, my strength would leave me.*” So as he slept... You know the rest of the account.

SIN is alluring, attractive and enticing! **BUT GOD** can turn things around! Note how the Scripture shows the sins of those who professed faith in the Living God. Let me share with you a few examples of godly folk in the past, and how God can use our failures as opportunities to show His greatness. Consider Abraham and his lie about his wife, or Moses and his anger and disobedience to God. Remember David’s adultery and his attempt to cover it up with murder. As we move into the New Testament era, notice Peter’s cowardly denials, and the failure of Mark. Yet, despite their disloyalty, God used these people to accomplish great things to His honor and glory – Marvelous God’s Grace, mercy and forgiveness!

The next time you sin and you know someone observed it, ask God not only to forgive you, but then to use you in despite of your sinfulness. And today pray that God will enable you to be a good example (not a life of carelessness, indifference or laziness) for the cause of Jesus Christ.

The story is told of about an owner of a small factory who was greatly respected by his employees – not only for his business skills, but for his integrity and caring for his employees.

After his death one of his long-time employees was showing the gentleman’s grandson around the factory.

“This was the secret of his success,” he said. “Every

morning he slipped in here before anyone else arrived, and spent at least half an hour in prayer.”

\* \* \* \* \*

## GRACE

*...that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace.* Ephesians 2:7

I have become convinced that we can encapsulate the essence of the Christian gospel in one single word – **grace**. What is this “amazing grace”? Only those who have experienced God’s grace know what it is; yet many still can’t describe it. Grace is beyond comprehension; it is, I am sure, the greatest thing in all the world.

Grace is not justice, because it is infinitely higher, more exalted, and more noble than fairness could ever be.

Grace isn’t the same as love. Even though grace has love within it, not all love has grace in it.

Is grace the same as mercy? Now we’re getting closer to the target. But grace still goes beyond extending love to someone who does not deserve it.

Grace is totally unmerited favor given to those who deserve disfavor. Grace is receiving everything good when we deserve everything bad.

We will never appreciate grace until we see our need for it, when we see ourselves as rebels against God, as breakers of His laws, when we see ourselves as sinners in the deepest, darkest parts of our being – **then we** will begin to appreciate the meaning of grace.

When the God of all grace freely and willingly forgives and accepts us on the basis of what Jesus Christ has done, then we experience grace. And after experiencing it, we want to share it freely with others. If you were a beggar and found an endless supply of bread, wouldn’t you share it with your fellow beggars? That picture gives us just a small glimpse of what it’s like when we share God’s amazing grace with others. Can you share God’s grace with someone today?

*New Every Morning*, by D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, © 2016 D. James Kennedy Ministries

## PRAYER

*“Intercessory Prayer is the finest and most exacting kind of work that is possible for man to perform.”*

Ole Hallesby

## Hypocrites — A Senseless Reason To Go To Hell!

By Pastor Warren (Chip) Roy, Stephens City, VA

How many times have you heard this line? “I would gladly do so but there are too many hypocrites in the church!” You talk to someone about their soul and the reason they need to be saved. And rather than listening to what you say they will rather answer something like, “I would gladly do so but there are too many hypocrites in the church!” And sometimes they will even go as far as pointing out people they know who profess to be saved and are clearly hypocrites.

I remember when I was young in the Lord. It seems like that was an excuse that I had often heard why some of the folk I would talk to about their soul’s salvation would respond about not giving their hearts (open) to Jesus. Sometimes it was false reasons. A good example is one guy told me of a man that I went to church with, and he was accused of being a hypocrite. When it was nailed as to why that man was considered a hypocrite, it was all because that Christian wouldn’t hire him for a job! Personally, if that is the only reason, it is surly a bad reason to condemn someone as a hypocrite! And personally, if I was that man who had the business, I wouldn’t blame him at all if he chose never to hire him with an attitude like that!

Sad to say that sometimes there are real hypocrites. I never forgot how one night I tried to witness to a lady that I knew from my days in High School. Sad to say this person did not want to get saved because of the hypocrites! She went as far as telling me about one lady in particular who she knew was a professing Christian. But it turned out that she was nothing but a pretender. She went on to tell me that this lady had beer in her apartment that she drank. And that one time this hypocrite actually had a man spend a weekend with her! It

Once we come to Christ (Ed. And remain IN Him) we are no longer just individuals. We are now members of His family – what the Bible here calls “the church, His body”. We are now part of that vast group of people throughout the ages who have trusted Christ and are our brothers and sisters in His family. Although we’ll never meet most of them this side of eternity, we’re still united spiritually with them. This transcends any local church or denomination; it includes all who truly belong to Christ. ***Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior.***

Ephesians 5:23

was a real situation involving alcohol and fornication!

*Yet* it is really senseless to let any hypocrite stand in your way of getting **saved!** WHY? Because, while refusing to become a saved sinner through the finished work of Jesus, why should a person rather go to Hell and be with the hypocrites? As the **BIBLE** clearly says:

**“But woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in”** Matthew 23:13.

**“And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”** Matthew 24:51.

I personally would rather go to a church with many hypocrites and serve God, than to refuse to get saved – all because of one hypocrite – and then spend all eternity in Hell because of one or more hypocrites!

So today, if you are reading this article and you are allowing a *hypocrite* or a group of hypocrites to keep you from coming to JESUS, you may ask what you are to do. First off, you need to be like Zacchaeus and get above the hypocrites to rightfully see Jesus as we find in Luke 19:1-10. We read, *“And he sought to see Jesus who He was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature”* v. 3.

He allowed a press or a crowd to block his view of Jesus. When you allow a hypocrite to hinder you, you are being just like that. What did Zacchaeus do? He got above the crowd! *“And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him: for He was to pass that way”* v. 4.

You must get above the hypocrites. Make up your mind you are going to trust Jesus and be born again regardless of how many hypocrites there are in the church! Then you need to repent of this wickedness of letting hypocrites get in your way of the Savior as well as your other SINS. *“I tell you, Nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* Lk. 13:5.

And then simply by faith receive Jesus as your own personal Savior and Lord! ***“But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name”*** John 1:12.

And from there on out, don’t let be the hypocrites be an excuse for you not being saved and serving the Lord. Rather, live and tell to show them how it is supposed to be done! Who knows, your decision to be born again (John 3) and to follow Jesus may be what it will take for a hypocrite to be soundly saved!

So stop using this senseless excuse to keep yourself from being saved and ask JESUS to save you today.



# Editorial

RES

## *What's In a Name?*

*“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.” “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.”*  
(Proverbs 22:1 & 18:10)

In the BIBLE, God and JESUS are given many very meaningful Names. For example: **I AM, Messiah, JESUS, Titles: Savior, Lord;** and the word ‘Savior’ means ‘Deliverer’, Redeemer, etc. The word ‘Lord’ means “Master”. Now especially in evangelical circles, occasionally the question is asked: “Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior and not Master?” In my understanding, this is *foreign* in the New Testament. In the New Testament, Jesus is either both to you or you are still an unsaved and lost sinner.

Now getting back to the question: “What’s in a Name”. It is so very unique that JESUS was named very early-on, as Joseph was divinely told that Mary’s pregnancy (She was the ‘Virgin’ Mary) was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Conception is a ‘miracle’ – a gift from GOD – and Mary remained a virgin during this entire time of pregnancy. A female experiencing fornication could likely be put to death before the marriage took place – for being ‘unfaithful’! **“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit, ‘And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”** Matthew 1:20b-21.

There are some ‘*professing-Christians*’ who say, not in words, but actions that JESUS is my Savior; but I want to live my-own ‘life-style’ as I please! No wonder that JESUS in His Incorruptible WORD asks the question, for our benefit: ‘Will I find ‘faith’ on earth when I return?’ The apostles declared: “‘having a form of godliness but denying its power thereof. And from such people turn away!’” II Timothy 3:5. JESUS didn’t ask if there will be people being very religious, and/or active in church. “‘So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Rev. 12:9). We know from observation that Satan and the fallen-angels are doing exactly that TODAY in roaming through-out the whole earth, seeking whom they may devour – not only to steal and destroy, but also to KILL!

Now, it is easy to say that it is someone else; but the Disciples, who were in the upper-room, asked JESUS,

**“Lord, is it I?”** We know our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked, so you and I need to exam ourselves frequently in the LIGHT OF GOD’S WORD, THE BIBLE! ***ETERNITY is too long for you and I to gamble and take a chance on!***

It costs something to be a true believer IN JESUS! NOW Salvation is totally a **free Gift** through the “Finished Blood Atonement of JESUS”, but to be a Christian is costly.

Many people are willing to try to have Jesus as a Savior of their lives, but not Lord! People are willing even to profess faith in Jesus, and even Lord over a part of their lives, as long as it doesn’t cost them anything! You see, JESUS becomes almost like an insurance policy – something they obtain and then forget about until their life becomes very fragile to them. Yet God states that life is like a vapor or flower, BUT Jesus calls us to follow Him every day.

*“A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother”* Proverbs 18:24. A truthful friend will have to at times even rebuke you in love!

TODAY we hear so much about God’s Love from behind the ‘sacred-desk’ (pulpit); which is great; but what about preaching in regards to God’s LAW out of LOVE!

John the baptizer was sent by God as a fore-runner of the Person of JESUS, and he didn’t spend much time in the Scriptures preaching about God’s Agape LOVE; but in LOVE he declared: **‘Repent or Perish’**. The absolute truth is also true of the Person of JESUS. In the beginning of His earthly ministry, He did not say: “Smile, God Loves you.” God does love us, but Jesus preached about the necessity of godly repentance. Check it out! **“Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss form us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”** II Corinthians 8:9-10.

**“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”** Gal. 3:24.

The month of February is very special for a number of reasons. Each day and breath is a *gift* from God; but the month of February we commemorate two of the greatest Presidents USA has ever had, and also included is Valentines Day! IF you really love someone; you are especially challenged to let them know; and the florist would say: "Do it with Flowers!" But in the Christian ministry of the *Morning Glory*/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, we seek to be honest. We are not always flowery or sugar-coated, but in love and concern for your soul, with the honest TRUTH, we share with you each month the glory of GOD who infinitely LOVES YOU and me. This Love was shown when HE gave us the perfect sacrifice/offering for our sins – THE LAMB OF GOD! **Agape Love is not conditional!**

JESUS loves you and me, but not our sin. He not only loves me when I am supposedly good, but *HIS LOVE is unconditional, YES, He loves the 'unsaved sinner' even to the gates of HELL.* We live in a fallen, sinful and wicked world; for look what our SIN did to the Divine Son of God! Yes, marvel not if the 'world' hates you! In fact, **IF** that is not the case, you and I have reason to be spiritually concerned. It isn't that we should go out and try to cause sin and trouble, but that will be the result of living a righteous, godly-life – the world will hate YOU.

JESUS warns His disciples that it will be costly for them (and us) to be true followers of Him. One very basic reasons it will be costly is His statement: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, daily, and follow Me" Luke 9:23. This His cross is not affliction, sickness, etc. but the 'choice' of a believer and the resulting persecution as a result. Notice the word "daily." Sad-to-say a goodly number of professing Christians seem to think they can be 'friends' of the world and a follower of Jesus at the same time, which is IMPOSSIBLE. Yes, John 6:66 is true today also. There is no *false advertising* in the BIBLE! ***"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."*** John 20:31. **1 John 5:10-13**, v. 12: ***"He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."***

JESUS CHRIST isn't just the center of the Bible, He should be the very center of our lives; as we *"have life in His name."* The word 'believe' means "to come" as it is faith in action! What does that mean? First it means Eternal Life in Heaven, because without JESUS, there is NO hope of Heaven. ***Jesus loves you and me!***

JESUS loves you and me, even when I am not GOOD! For the BIBLE tells me so! Titus 3:5: *"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have*

*done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,"* Titus 3:4-5. NOW try to meditate on the realistic exactness that the "Holy ONE" even had you and me in His heart and mind before the "foundation of the Earth." What a **SAVIOR!**

A minister was building a trellis to support a vine and as he worked, he noticed a young boy watching him. The minister nodded at the young lad, thinking the boy would go away. After a while, however, he noticed that the boy still stood there. Finally, he said to the boy, "Getting a lesson in horticulture?" "No," he responded. "Just wanted to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer." Non-believers very often study our lives watching to see if our actions and reactions corroborate what we profess.

GOD and JESUS love us so much that They even chastise us in infinite LOVE! Ouch, that hurts; but HE wants us to know and experience that the God-filtered (permitted) LOVE is not only permitted, but possibly sent, and is being permitted through Nail scarred Hands.

This is done for one of two reasons: It is either that we may see our need of a personal relationship with Him, or that our roots might grow deeper and stronger in His WORD – so that our lives might be more bountiful and fruitful to His honor and glory. Afflictions permitted by God are not punishment, but chastises for our 'correction' (or benefit in the future tense). Punishment is something for which a person deserves for the past. *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives"* Hebrews 12:5b-6, Deuteronomy 8:5, Romans 8:28-29 – let the LORD do the mixing.

As a loving Parent will chasten their son: *"He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly"* Proverbs 18:24. Isn't it interesting that the Creator placed within our human body a cushion for a number of reasons? You see when the rule of learning is applied to the seat of understanding, a person will smart in one end and smarten-up on the other! NOW the 'rule of learning' is only to be applied when needed, and most certainly in LOVE.

AGAPE LOVE can not stand 'idly-by' while souls are perishing or lacking spiritual nourishment: ***"But this I say; He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver"*** II Corinthians 9:6-7. Are you willing to do as the LORD leads?

This is most certainly TRUE of God's LOVE and

GRACE in knowing our lost and condemned condition. Jesus was *willing* to make Heaven poor that you and I might become rich – because God could not stand idly by and not pay the penalty for our sin! His LOVE is not just feelings and emotions, BUT definitely an involvement, commitment and loyalty! God also clearly states not to make a ‘vow’ that is not intended to be followed through with!

YES, **JESUS LOVES US so much** that HE often spoke (in the Bible) of His return for His ***Blood Bought Bride***; stating the same, not for our speculation, but that we should make certain that we are ready and living a

godly-life in “occupying” in and for Him! ***He is looking forward in bringing His Bride to His Eternal Home in HEAVEN!***

HEAVEN is a place where we’ll be eternally safe in God’s presence, and all fears, insecurities, sorrows, disappointments and affliction will be banished forever. No weaknesses, sin, deaths or separation will be there, for we shall be changed like HIM (**Jesus**)! **“Beloved ... we shall be like Him, for, we shall see Him as He is.”** 1 John 3:2. What **love!** Are you willing to obey Him in your personal life – living, telling, and giving unto HIM, out of a willing and cheerful LOVE?

## **A Pattern for (a Heaven sent) Revival!**

First of all: LISTENING TO THE WORD

### ***Nehemiah 8:1-8.***

Nehemiah, cup-bearer to the Persian king, Artaxerxes, led his Jewish countrymen in the rebuilding of the wall surrounding Jerusalem. Throughout the effort, they faced severe opposition.

When the task was completed, the people seemed to sense that something else was needed. The people, though they had not been properly led or taught until the coming of Nehemiah, were conscious of spiritual dereliction. Some of the recorded events, and their effect upon the people, form something of a pattern for spiritual revival. Let’s look at the first example.

First, there is the attitude of the people; they were disturbed at the conditions of the time. I think it’s good to note that they didn’t wait for a leader to take action. NO, there was a grass roots movement so compelling that not only the men, but the women, came together as one, to hear what God’s law said.

And, today, for a true revival to take place, first of all there **NEEDS** to be specific prayer for this, and likely for some time! When there is need, why should we wait? If the house is cold now in February, etc., we don’t wait until summer comes for it to become warm. Likely, we turn up the thermostat immediately. WE should schedule Evangelistic (Gospel) services, as God has called some people as Evangelists, even in our day. But we look expectedly to God in HIS mercy and grace to refresh us with His Presence with Seasons of Refreshing! Are YOU willing to follow this scriptural basis and be involved AND carefully study God’s Word?

### ***A Pattern for a Heaven Sent Revival***

#### ***Nehemiah 9:1-2***

The second thing we learn in this Scriptural pattern is not only listening to the Inspired Word of God, but being

attentive, concerned and obey God’s prescription, His Word. Notice that they stood from morning to mid-day in the public square – hungry to hear God’s message. Now, in itself, it wasn’t necessarily the length of the worship service, but they were HUNGRY for the Word of God! Little may be expected if God’s people are not concerned to undergo some inconvenience and to give priority to the work and Word of God!

Then, please notice: the people came before God in a spirit of reverence, for our GOD is a HOLY GOD!

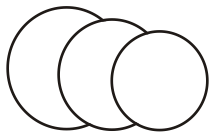
When Ezra opened the Book of the Law, they stood; when he blessed and praised the Lord, they said, “Amen, Amen.” The word “Amen” basically means “I am in agreement of what is said or in agreement of what was stated,” and they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD.

There is no doubt that one basic reason we do not receive the fullness of God’s Law and Grace, and the TRUTH HE has for us, is that we don’t apply ourselves! *Maybe* sometimes we seem to expect the preacher not only to provide spiritual food for us but to digest it for us (so to speak) as well!

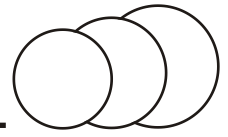
Then, we are told they fasted and **“separated themselves from foreigners,”** and **“stood, confessing their sins,”** verses 1-2. Now to stand is a good point; but from the heart is definitely NEEDED and they did this attentively and reverently. (Most certainly confession of SIN is necessary privately before our HOLY GOD; but at times even publically – especially in church assembly!) Then we are to come to terms with the moral and spiritual implications facing us. In Nehemiah’s time these people walked in the “Light of God’s WORD” given unto them as ‘hearers’. And, as they did, their tears of repentance and contrition changed to tears of JOY! Isn’t this what we should do in our day?

Let us dedicate ourselves to renewal and revival in our midst, and our devotion to our Living SAVIOR who is coming again, and also to His WORD and will!





# From Our Fellowship Circle



**E. G.** **Stony Plain, Alta, Canada**

I so look forward to the receiving of the *Morning Glory*. I had a whole bunch of your magazines and recently I gave them to a born-again Lutheran Pastor here.

I'm still praying for and looking for a Heaven sent 'revival' and there are many believers' who want the same!

Fortunately I am privileged to meet a lot of folk. ...

I praise God, but I need a fresh touch from the Lord. ...

Keep up the good work and pray that your financial needs will be met.

**H. & D. H.** **Hoffman, MN**

Enclosed is some help in hoping that you will be able to keep the *Morning Glory* on a regular monthly basis as it has been such a blessing to us over the years.

Have you been out to South Dakota lately? Our son, ...attended the Church you were serving back in the 80's. But in 1997 they had to leave because of the flooding in that area. The water now covers most of the Farm and the area that the farmstead is on the only way one can get to it is by Boat. It is now Lynn Lake and it doesn't appear to be going away...

May you and your wife have a Blessed and Joyous Season as we celebrate the Birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**R. & A. P.** **Waukesha, WI/Mesa, AZ**

Your October issue of the *Morning Glory* had many inspiring articles of which I enjoyed and was richly blest with. I trust my gift will help with your publishing costs. I am retired from my carpenter business now.

My wife ... and I have lived in Wisconsin since 1966, but we have been spending our winters in Mesa, AZ since 2002.

My Uncle, Pastor Arnold Windahl, was at one time the Editor of the *Morning Glory*. My father, Pastor A. A. Pedersen, was the President of the Lutheran Brethren Schools in Fergus Falls in the 1950's, so I am well acquainted with your magazine and some of the writers.

**N. F.** **Rudd, IA**

I was sorry to hear of the financial problems *Morning Glory* is having. Enclosed is a check to help. I always read it from cover to cover and then pass it to friends.

*Editor's Note:* The *Morning Glory* and the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation are a Biblical Lutheran Free Pietistic Movement that operates and functions by faith. So we are dependent upon God laying on the hearts of individuals and congregations to provide our financial need. We went through a financial crisis and I don't know where we stand financially at this moment; except that we depend upon you and others to provide as the LORD lays upon your heart and life what to do. After all, this ministry is a portion of His Kingdom Work, and so we seek to occupy as HE provides!

**M. R.** **Elyria, OH**

Just want you to know that I enjoy reading the *Morning Glory*. I appreciate all the work that you put into it and the truths that you stand for. I pray you can continue putting out the paper.

May God Bless you,

**M. J. J.** **Hixton, WI**

Hope this will help your financial condition a little. (Ed. Yes, 'many drops or more' fill the bucket)!

I appreciate the *Morning Glory* so much.

I am 88 years old and my husband was 96 when he died, as he died last February. We were married for 70 years! (Ed. Marvelous!)

**R. & C. H.** **Inver Grove Heights, MN**

Thank you for staying true to God's Word – the BIBLE!

May God Bless all of you who work to keep us informed.

With appreciation,

**K. K.** **Minneapolis, MN**

Thank you for your dedication to *Morning Glory*! It is a light in this sinful dark world and it provides so much food for thought and soul.

**.... Lutheran Church** **Karlstad, MN**

It is with great joy that our Congregation decided to send this check. Praise the Lord! Pray that it will help! (Ed. Definitely – PTL)



## Awakened!

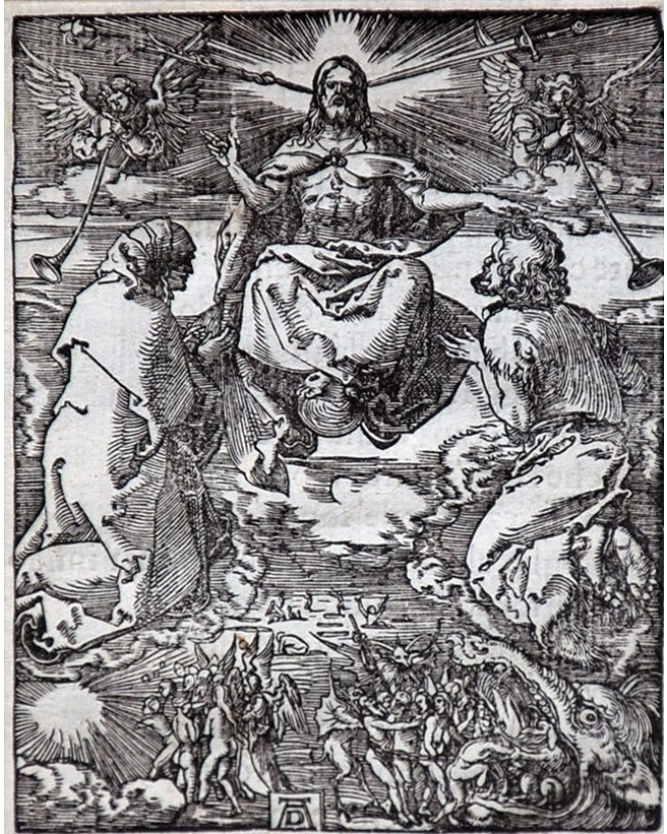
*“Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (Eph. 5:14)*

This is the first in a series of articles about the conversion of Martin Luther. The year 2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, and we want to emphasize how Luther was converted, for you will see elements in Luther’s conversion that are lacking in most Christian circles today.

It all started one day in July of 1505 when Luther was traveling outside Stotterenheim. It started to rain, and a bolt of lightning knocked Luther to the ground. He cried in terror, “St. Anne help me! I will become a monk.” Why did Luther make such a vow as this? Because he was awakened to his lost estate before God. The instant thought of impending death drove him to despair at the thought of dying and then standing before God. His religious training taught him to call upon the saints, so he called upon St. Anne for help. It was thought then, as today, that the people who were classified as saints could help people who prayed to them and asked them for help. It was also thought that the path to righteousness before God was through consecration of life and good works. Thus Luther pledged that he would become a monk, for what greater good can a man do in this life more than that? This would be fitting penance.

This happened when Luther was 21 years old. His baptism and confirmation did not appease his conscience. The Catholic Church practiced the same as we do today in the Lutheran Church. He did not think that all would be fine before God simply because he had been baptized and then confessed that with his mouth on his confirmation. What happened to Luther is also what happens to many young people – They are told again and again that they are saved by their baptism, yet they have no assurance in their hearts that this is true. When calamity or fierce doubt strikes their souls, they sit and wonder why they are fearful of God, death and judgment. Like Luther, there is no inner reality of what is taught outwardly. You cannot manipulate the Holy Spirit.

Another reason that Luther responded the way he did was because of how people viewed God in his day. “The entire training of home, school and university was designed to instill fear of God and reverence for the Church.” ... “Hell was stoked, not because men lived in perpetual dread, but precisely because they did not ... God was portrayed now as the Father, [then] as the wielder of the thun-



**CHRIST THE JUDGE SITTING  
UPON THE RAINBOW**

der. ... A full page woodcut portrays Christ the Judge sitting upon a rainbow. A lily extends from His right ear, signifying the redeemed, who below are being ushered by angels into paradise. From His left ear protrudes a sword, symbolizing the doom of the damned, who the devils drag by the hair from the tombs and cast into the flames of hell. ... Every one of those now dead would some day rise and stand with the innumerable host of the departed before the Judgment Seat to hear the words, ‘Well Done,’ or ‘Depart from Me into everlasting fire.’ The Christ upon the rainbow with the lily and the sword was a most familiar figure in the illustrated books of the period. Luther had seen pictures such as these and testified that he was utterly terror-stricken at the sight of Christ the Judge.”<sup>1</sup>

Dear reader, have you been awakened to where you stand before Almighty God? Do you realize that your sins have brought the wrath of God upon you? Are you ready to face Judgment Day with the outcome of eternity at stake?

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

<sup>1</sup> *Here I Stand* by Roland Bainton. Nashville: Abington Press, pgs. 20-22

# Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

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## Norway Allows Children Legally to Change Gender

Norwegians as young as six can now legally change their gender using an online form – without a doctor’s approval, counseling or surgery.

The law, adopted with a 79 – 13 vote by the Norwegian parliament in June, makes Norway the fifth country in the world to pass a similar law and the second, behind Malta, to include children. While the process in Malta requires a parent to seek court approval for the gender change, children in Norway apply for the exchange using the same process and paperwork as adults.

Experts warn treating gender dysphoria so lightly could multiply harm for children who most likely will shed feelings of confusion as they become adults.

More than 250 Norwegians, including nine minors, have applied so far; and the government has accepted every application.

Kiley Crossland for WORLD News Service

## Court Rules Government Bureaucrats Have No Business Deciding Whether Iowa Church Activities Are Religious

A federal court late (October 14) denied the request of Iowa officials to dismiss a church’s lawsuit against a law that a state commission has construed as giving it the power to censor and control churches. In its decision allowing the suit to continue, the court found that while the church’s “fear of prosecution.....is objectively reasonable,” churches have never been public accommodations subject to government regulation and state officials have no business trying to decide which church activities are religious and which ones aren’t.

The ruling provided much-needed reassurance and clarification to churches in the wake of two vague brochures produced by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission that applied the Iowa Civil Rights Act to churches. The commission’s interpretation and application of that law could censor church statements of biblical sexuality in certain contexts and force churches to open their restrooms to members of the opposite sex under conditions that the government dictates.

ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

## Pro-Israel, Double Amputee Army Vet Now in Congress

In 2015 Brian Mast, 36, a U. S. Army veteran and double amputee, volunteered to help the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) through an organization call Sar-EL. It does behind-the-scenes services for IDF. One Israeli soldier called him an inspiration to the other soldiers on the bases.

ON November 8, 2016, Brian Mast defeated his Democratic opponent Randy Perkins for Florida’s District 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional seat by a margin of 54% to 43%. It is the same seat formerly held by Allen West who served only one term.

While serving in Afghanistan with his Ranger detachment in 2010, Mast lost both legs and badly injured his right arm. “I was lying in Walter Reed Hospital and I said to my wife, ‘I’m not done yet,’” said Mast. “When I got into this race a year ago it was because I wasn’t done defending this country. I wasn’t done fighting. And now I will take that fight to fix the problems of this country to Washington DC.”

*The Vine and Branches*, Winter, 2016

## Add Colorado To States Allowing Physician-Assisted Suicide

Colorado overwhelmingly passed its End of Life Options Act on November 8, making it the sixth state in which such laws exist. The new law gives patients over 18 years old access to “medical aid-in-dying medication.” It allows terminally ill patients with under six-months to live, as diagnosed by at least two physicians, to self-administer drugs prescribed by a physician to produce “peaceful death.”

To their credit, many Christians and churches fought to defeat the bill.

Information from *thebaptistpress*, 11/10/16, selected

“Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first and most basic expression of Americanism.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower



# The Believer Free From The Law

By C. O. Rosenius

But to prevent misunderstanding and to voice the *meaning* of the believers' freedom from the Law, we will in brief express the same in the following manner: They who have been condemned and slain by the Law, so that they have sought and found their salvation only in the atonement of Christ, are altogether free from the Law's condition of salvation, or the obligation to seek their righteousness and salvation through observing the Law; and, secondly, they are also, according to their faith, free from the rule of the Law in the conscience, or what the apostle calls the "*spirit of bondage...unto fear*" (Rom. 8:15), and the "*yoke of bondage*" (Gal 5:1), as well as from the agonies and sufferings connected therewith, since in their Lord and Surety they have their whole fulfillment of Law, ... That the believers are free from the Jewish ceremonial law is conceded by all, ... They live therefore under a *constant grace*, in a *kingdom of grace*, which at all times – so long as they by faith cling to Christ – is mighty upon them. "*By so much also hath Jesus become the surety of a better covenant*" (Hebr. 7:22). Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me!

This we shall now see by the words of the Holy Scripture itself. When, in Romans 7, the apostle has first set forth the example of the perfect freedom from the law of the husband, into which the woman is transferred when her husband dies, so that she may now without sin be joined to another man (v. 2, 3), ... But if anyone then asks about which law the apostle here speaks he immediately receives enlightenment as to that in the following verse (v 7), where the apostle expressly quotes the essence, yes, the very marrow out of the Law of the Ten Commandments, namely: "*Thou shalt not covet,*" which, we know, is the conclusion of the moral Law, the last of the Ten Commandments. There I see, then, about which Law the apostle speaks. It is also from the moral Law, or the Ten Commandments, alone that we learn to "*know sin*" (v. 7), become "*slain*" (v. 11) and "*exceeding sinful*" (v. 13), etc., as the apostle says of the Law in this chapter. For from the ceremonial law the Jews received, on the contrary, their comfort and glorying, because it could be fulfilled. Accordingly it is of this moral Law the apostle says that the believers are "freed (Am. Rev. V. 'discharged') from the Law." But alone in that manner which he himself explains, namely, that we are free from its "*curse*" (Gal. 3:13) and its "*yoke of bondage*" (5:1). Therefore he also expresses the contrary "being under the law" by "being under grace," when in Romans 6:14 he says: "*For ye are not under law, but under grace.*" When these two conditions, to "be under

Law and to be under grace, stand as opposites of one another, then I see what is meant by the freedom from the Law. Only as a **rule** and a **light** in regard to what is sin or holiness do the commandments of the moral Law retain their eternal importance and power even for the believers, as a loving guidance for their willing spirit and as chastisement of their evil flesh. For, as was said before, what God at any time loved, that He always loves, and what God at any time hated, that he always hates, as sure as His holy being can not be changed. Therefore we see that the same apostle Paul, who mostly speaks of our freedom from the Law, nevertheless, when he admonishes the Christians, sets before them the commandments of the Law as a rule. For example, when he says: "*Only use not your freedom for an occasion to the flesh, ... This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments*" (1 John 5:3)... Consequently the believers... shall, to be sure, be chastened, corrected, cleansed, and broken for their sins, first by the Law, then by "rod and torments," "wherever necessary," but never be judged according to the Law; for should they be judged according to the Law, then they would be condemned, because the judgment of the Law is a curse upon the least sin, — the judgment reads thus: "Cursed is every one who continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them" (Gal. 3:10). Therefore we also see how Christ, to be sure, reprov'd and corrected His believing disciples for their sins, but never excluded them from grace.

Excerpts taken from *The Believer Free From The Law*  
by C. O. Rosenius,

\* \* \* \* \*

***How do you draw the line between your own desires and God's will for you? It isn't always easy.***

The question of our motives – why we do what we do – is always with us.

It's not wrong to enjoy something, as long as it's good and honorable.

God may even have gifted you in certain ways, and it would be wrong to deny those gifts. But always commit your motives to Christ and seek His Will in everything – even in things you enjoy.

**Delight yourself in the Lord and He will  
Give you the desires of your heart.**

Psalm 37:4.

*Wisdom For Each Day*, © 2008 Billy Graham, Mfd.  
For © 2011 DaySpring Cards, Inc.



## Evidences Of Our Christian Heritage

*There are many evidences that our nation was founded on a commitment to God and the principles of His Word.*

In the summer of 1787, representatives met in Philadelphia to write the Constitution of the United States. After they had struggled for several weeks and had made little or no progress, eighty-one year-old Benjamin Franklin rose and addressed the troubled and disagreeing convention that was about to adjourn in confusion.

“In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a super-intending Providence in our favor... Have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?”

“I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this...”

“I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning.”

The very purpose of the Pilgrims in 1620 was to establish a government based on the Bible. The New England Charter, signed by King James I, confirmed this goal:... to advance the enlargement of Christian religion, to the glory of God Almighty...”

Governor Bradford, in writing of the Pilgrims’ landing, describes their first act: “being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven...”

### *Confirmed by the Colonies*

The goal of government based on Scripture was further reaffirmed by individual colonies such as The Rhode Island Charter of 1683 which begins: “We submit our persons, lives, and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords and to all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given us in His Holy Word.” Those “absolute laws” became the basis of our Declaration of Independence, which includes in its first paragraph an appeal to the laws of nature and of nature’s

God. Our national Constitution established a republic upon the “absolute laws” of the Bible, not a democracy based on the changing whims of people.

### *Reaffirmed by the Presidents*

In his inaugural address to Congress, the first president of our nation stressed God’s role in the birth of this republic: “No people can be found to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency... We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which heaven itself ordained.”

One of George Washington’s early official acts was the first Thanksgiving Proclamation, which reads, “Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor...” It goes on to call the nation to thankfulness to Almighty God.

Continuing through the decades of history, we find in the inaugural addresses of all the Presidents, and in the Constitution of all fifty of our states, without exception, references to the Almighty God of the universe, the Author and sustainer of liberty.

### *Observed by Historians*

... “It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.” Abraham Lincoln.

“The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles... to this we owe our free constitutions of government.” Noah Webster

The concluding words of our National Anthem summarize the fact that the United States of America was born out of a commitment to God and His principles.

*“Blessed with victory and peace, may  
This Heav’n-rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and  
Preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our  
Cause it is just;  
And this be our motto: ‘In God is our  
Trust!’  
And the star spangled banner in  
Triumph shall wave.*

*O'er the land of the free, and the home  
Of the brave."*

*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*

*The Rebirth of AMERICA, Copyright ©1986,  
Arthur S. DeMoss Foundation*

**"...THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL  
HAVE A NEW REBIRTH OF FREEDOM ..."**

Abraham Lincoln

\* \* \* \* \*

## How I Know There Is a God

*The fool has said in his heart, "There is no  
God." They are corrupt, they do abominable  
deeds, there is none who does good. Psalm 14:1*

Many non-believers want hard and fast proof that God exists. Such proof does exist. First of all, consider the universe. The universe had to come from somewhere (every effect has a cause). The universe could not have created itself, because you cannot create something out of nothing. Therefore, Someone eternal must have created it.

The second proof is the presence of life itself. Life could not have come from non-life, nor could it have happened by chance. It also had to be created. Who else could have created it but God, who is life?

The third proof comes from examining the intricate design of the universe. Because the universe is so intricately designed, Someone all-knowing must have designed it.

The fourth proof is God's loving care. If the earth orbited ten percent closer to the sun, we would burn up. If it orbited ten percent farther away we would freeze and die. Instead, the earth orbits around the sun at just the right distance to sustain life.

The fifth proof is the soul's transformation. This happens so mysteriously that no one can explain it. We know only that Someone changed Paul from a killer of Christians into the world's greatest missionary, and this Someone has changed our hearts as well.

As you speak with those who challenge God's existence, ask Him to show you when to present any or all of

the information I've shared with you. And pray that God will ultimately reveal Himself to them.

*"The beauty, order, and harmony of the universe is an expression of the will of God; the structure of the universe is the work of a great intelligence."*

Aristotle

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

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## Daily Things

By Pastor James (Jim) Mizell

There are some things we as Christians need to do daily. Let me share some of the daily things that can be taken advantage of:

(1). We need a daily renewing of the inner man. In 2 Corinthians we read, *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day."* 2 Corinthians 4:16

(2). We need to read God's Word daily. There is strength found in reading God's Word. Plus, it is the guide book for our lives. Check it out for up-to-date instructions. Nehemiah 8:18 tells us, *"Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God."*

(3). We need to spend time in prayer daily with the Lord. If Jesus needed to pray, and He did often, we surely need to pray as well. The Scriptures say, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"* Philippians 4:6.

(4). We need to praise and thank the Lord. We read in Psalm 71:14-16, *"But as for me, I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, For I do know the sum of them. I will go in the strength of the Lord God, I will make mention of your righteousness, of Yours only."*

(5). We need to exhort and encourage one another daily. In Hebrews 4:13, we read: *"Exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin"*

(6). We must bear our cross daily. We all have a cross to bear. Listen to Jesus speaking in Luke 9:23: *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

Yes, there are some things that we must do daily in the spiritual realm, just as we do some things daily in the physical realm...

*One Hundred and Three Devotions*

## The Age of Pietistic Revivals

(Continued from the last issue of Morning Glory)

Spener looked forward with joy and praise to his final release which came Feb 5, 1705. God started through him a spiritual life movement which is still continuing (Ed. *Indirectly*, and then far later through Hans Neilsen Hauge), the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and *Morning Glory*). ***Praise be to God!***

On August Hermann Francke (1663-1727), perhaps the most fruitful branch on the tree of Pietism, we can only give a bare outline:

1). He experienced a most wonderful conversion after he had become a preacher. (Ed. Similar to the late Pastor Joe Stump, who was a pastor for ten years before he came to know Jesus as his personal Savior). His main stress after that glorious experience was: ***“You must be born again, or you will never see the kingdom of God.”***

2). He accomplished wonderful works of mercy – established orphanages; gave relief to the poor and needy. He reached even the unfortunate Swedish war prisoners in Siberia. Francke seemed to have room in his heart for every need in the world.

3). He started the very first Bible society together with Baron Cannstein in 1712, printing Bibles, Testaments and tracts more cheaply so that poor people might have access to them... Now the Holy oil in the heart could be kept alive by God’s Word. Before this time Bibles were too expensive for the common people to buy.

4). Francke, by the help of Spener and the Elector of Brandenburg, founded that wonderful Pietistic school at Halle, Prussia, that became such a distinct Innermission and Pietistic headquarter. There Francke gave the young students such spiritual training, that they came out as spiritual ministers encouraging the gifts of grace and preaching the new birth – somewhat the same as Prof. Hallesby now trains ministers in his “Menighets-fakultet” for the church of Norway – men who are taught to understand the lay people and work hand in hand with them. How much that is needed in our day.

5). Francke sent out student lay preachers here and there, even as far as Norway, to hold Christian fellow-

ship and prayer meetings with the people. This is something the old Haugeans upheld and is now stressed by schools that stand for spiritual life.

6). Francke sent out missionaries to heathen lands. The most noted of them is Bartholemew Ziegenbalg (1683-1719) who became the first Pietistic Lutheran missionary to India, in 1705.

Francke, like Spener, led a most intimate prayer life. All he accomplished was steeped in prayer. He experienced most marvelous answers to his prayers. Just before his release, June 8, 1727, he praised God for that wonderful day at Luneburg, 40 years before, when he was saved by grace, and God had accepted him as His child.

Count Zinzendorf (1700-1760), our third Innermission Father, may briefly be cited for the following:

1). He stressed salvation by the blood of Jesus and free grace somewhat more ... Hans Nilsen Hauge who followed closely in the steps of Francke ...

3). Zinzendorf went a step further than Spener and Francke when he organized small colonies of Christians here and there as little Innermission congregations. ...

As Zinzendorf blest the outgoing missionaries, he said: ***“Oh, that you may win some souls for the Lamb!”*** He made two trips to the American Colonies (the present U. S.). One time he arranged for a sing-and-testimony service for many of the converts from different mission fields. They all sang and prayed and each spoke in his own tongue. An eye witness wrote: “When they all sang the praise of God in their own tongues, I saw myself as transported to heaven listening to the song of the Lamb by the redeemed audience coming out from every race, tribe and nation, washed in the blood of the Lamb.”

Zinzendorf had a very glorious sunset. That he was filled with the love of God and His glory was manifest to everyone who came to see him on his death bed. He praised God for the converted heathen he soon should meet. His last words were; ***“Now I am going to my Savior; now I am ready; nothing hinders me any more.***

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

*Editor’s Note:* Isn’t it Marvelous what **GOD does** and **can do** through one person or only a few persons; not only in Bible times, but yesteryear and today and tomorrow, for our **God changes not!** What a blessing, encouragement and challenge for you and me! Doing God’s Work in God’s Way and thus receiving God’s Blessings is what we are seeking to do!

**“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.” Woodrow Wilson.**



## Thankful for Our Republic

(Editor: By Family Research Council's Dan Hart; November, 2016; BUT how appropriate for Presidential month of February and prevalent each day in our great USA)

Millions of Americans will gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving this week in a constitutional republic such as ours, it seems especially appropriate that a federal holiday is set aside each year for the sole purpose of giving thanks. Even if the Pilgrims had never gathered with Chief Massasoit's tribe to feast and give thanks all those years ago in Plymouth, it would seem wrong not to officially recognize the extraordinary blessings that his great country has enjoyed over the course of its young history. After all, it is our great privilege to be part of a country founded on these immortal words: ***"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."***

What's more, Americans should be eternally thankful for the wisdom possessed by our Founding Fathers, who, rooted in their Christian belief that there is no king but Jesus, instituted a form of government that requires the political leaders to be elected by the people. This means that no single president administration or Member of Congress can govern without the approval (or disapproval) of the people.

The election ... ago was another stirring reminder that the American people are anything but predictable. With virtually every mainstream media outlet and almost every poll predicting a liberal victory, voters chose a different path. In what felt like an overnight seismic shift, the people placed a new party in the White house and gave one party unified control. As we have made clear over the last..., this election is a God-given opportunity to right some of the wrongs done to life, natural marriage, and religious liberty over the last eight years. This reprieve that the Lord has given is all the more reason to be particularly thankful this year.

With this great democratic power that the American people have comes great responsibility, and it won't work without a moral foundation. As a Founding Father and our second President John Adams said, ***"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other"***... We are keenly aware that this wonderful democratic experiment we call America would crumble overnight if it were not held in place by the ***Sovereignty of God Almighty***.

... (Ed. That is also why we here with the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation want to further the **TRUTH of JESUS** in and through the USA and in foreign countries).

In a certain sense, the primary reason to be thankful for our Republic is that it allows us to live in a monarchy. In other words, we are called as Christians to live completely in the service of **Christ the King**. We need to let Him be the King of every aspect of our lives, which in turn means that He must be King over every aspect of our society. This is the beauty of America – the freedoms we enjoy in this Country allow us to attempt the wonderful mission in the first place.

Therefore, America has much to be thankful for... (Editor: On behalf of the Lord's ministry in and through the Morning Glory and HLIF, we extend our thanks to you and your family for helping us bring about a culture in which human life is valued, we have the 'freedom' to spread God's Law and Gospel, families flourish and we have religious liberty!)

Tony Perkin's Washington Update is written with the aid of FRC senior writers.

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## God's Moral Standards do not Change

What He decreed in the Ten Commandments thousands of years ago is still in force, and will be to the end of time.

God has given us these standards for another reason: He loves us, and He wants what is best for us. What happens when an individual or society ignores these basic moral laws? What happens when lying and stealing and immorality and murder become the norm? The result can be summarized in one word: *chaos*. Thank God that He cares about us so much that He has told us how to live.

**"I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear; not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law."**

*Editor's Note:* And also, it is interesting to note that folk state that "tithing" is under the LAW, but how can that be when Abraham 'tithed', and he was approximately 400 years before God gave the Ten Commandments to and through Moses?

## UpDate

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty mighty become rich.” “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”* II Corinthians 8:9, 9:15.

As I am privileged and responsible to be the Editor of the *Morning Glory*, I am writing this UpDate actually a while before December 25, 2016; but in reality, in significance it is GOD’S INCARNATION: the Christmas Gift (**JESUS**) is *every day* of the year, for a believer! **JESUS** was born to die FOR you and me, while we are born to live! What an indescribable GIFT! Have you accepted this “Gift” personally and are you walking in fellowship with HIM today?

Not only are we trying to reach precious lost souls for Christ in the USA/Canada and beyond; but to nurture/admonish fellow-believers in JESUS’ Kingdom Work here on earth.

For a number of you, you cannot find a biblical Lutheran Congregation to fellowship with and labor in. This magazine *may be* the closest to “Christian Fellowship” you have, who are of the same biblical Lutheran doctrine. BUT with your specific prayer support and financial giving, you can be encouraging others, including those who are more fortunate to be in biblical Lutheran Congregations. IN other words, there is a challenge for all of us to reach-out unto others!

A few months ago, it was necessary to insert an **S. O. S.** in the *Morning Glory*. The response was wonderful (PTL); but the monthly expenses continue on and prayerfully we hope we don’t need to send out another S.O.S., because of your obedience to JESUS and your cheerful giving! Please keep in mind and heart that this ministry functions by faith.

**P. S.** Let us see IF we can even enlarge this ministry by prayerfully submitting names and addresses of others to the *Morning Glory* to the glory of GOD, as it is a portion of His Kingdom’s Work here on Earth! Lay Up Treasures in Heaven!

December’s Income for the Morning Glory was approx. \$4,116.00.

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## Afraid

*“We can see these symptoms of materialism throughout our Society, but the most visible One is Loss of Courage. People stand By and Watch a Fellow Citizen being beaten or Stabbed and they do not interfere. They are afraid. Our Political Leaders watch Communism (Ed. Socialism) gobble up other Nations and they do nothing. They are afraid. People complain in private about the state of affairs but will not speak out in public. They are afraid...”*

General Lewis W. Walt