



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • January 2016

The (Holy) Spirit – A Guide To Christ

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, these shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall take of mine, and shall declare it unto you. All things whatsoever the Father hath are mine; therefore said I, that he taketh of mine, and shall declare it unto you.” John 16:12 – 15.

In the previous chapter we tried to show how the Holy Spirit has been at work in God’s people down through the ages. How helpless they were when the Spirit was absent, and how courageous and strong they were when they fought the most difficult battles in the power of the Spirit. We tried also to point out some of the ways in which the Holy Spirit works; we saw that He disturbs the sinner in his sin, permits him to reach a dead end in the maze of attempts to save himself, places a desire in his heart for Jesus (prevenient GRACE), and finally magnifies the Savior for him in such a way that all guilt and fear of judgment is drowned in the great sea of salvation. It is at this point that the old things pass away and all things become new...

May none of us forget that great day in our lives; may none of us lose what he received on that day. To find Jesus, to be saved, to be born of God – this is the greatest of all things that can happen to us here below. The great question for us who have been saved is how we may pass safely through this world and reach our heavenly home at last. It is for this purpose that we have received the Holy

Spirit.

From the Scriptures we know that the Spirit works in and through God’s people. He is to be with us and in us. He is to lead us into all truth, to take the riches in Christ and reveal them to us. He is also to help us to gain the victory over sin, and to grow in the knowledge of Christ; the Spirit is to be our leader in carrying the message of our Savior to all the races of men. Finally, He is to bring us safely to our heavenly home.

However, before we say anything further about this side of the work of the Holy Spirit, we shall let the Scriptures show us another side of what the Holy Spirit is for God’s people.

“For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus.” 1 Cor. 3:11.

“In whom ye also, having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation – in whom, having also believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” Eph. 1:13.

“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, in whom ye were sealed unto the day of redemption.” Eph. 4:30.

“Now he that established us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; who also sealed us, and gave us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” II Cor. 1:21-22.

The content of these passages of Scripture is that the foundation upon which we are to build our whole life and all of our faith is Jesus Christ. That is the foundation which has been laid, and no one can lay any other. But while we are absent from the Lord and sojourners here below we are to have something of heaven. God has given us a “seal” and an “earnest” of our inheritance. We shall be permitted to keep this “seal” and “earnest” until the day of redemption. In these simple words we are told that God

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has given the Spirit to His people; this great gift we are permitted to have as a “seal” and an “earnest.”

A “*seal*” is a mark or name that an owner inscribes upon that which is his. An “*earnest*” is something which a recipient receives as a temporary surety for that which he really owns and has a right to receive some time in the future. “The “*earnest*” must be the same kind and quality as that for which it stands as a surety.

God has placed His seal upon His people. This seal is a sign to Him, to us who are on earth and to those in both heaven and hell, indicating to whom we belong. In addition we have also received an “*earnest*” that we are to have until our dying day; with this “*earnest*” we are to appear before God and claim the right, as children of God, to our inheritance.

The “*seal*” and the “*earnest*” is the Holy Spirit.

Is not this wonderful?

This is, in reality, the same as that which God’s people received under the Old Covenant.

Facebook

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission is now on Facebook. Check us out at [Facebook.com/Hauginnermission](https://www.facebook.com/Hauginnermission). Share with your friends and family and have them “like” us. Please also remember to pray for this outreach of the Innermission as a means of sharing our emphasis on Conversion and Pietism.

The only difference is that for them it was an outward sign, while for us it is an inward possession. For them it was a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day. It was by these signs they knew that they were God's people and were on the road to their fatherland. Now it is an inward possession for every Christian; it is our light and power through life and death.

Even if we have not seen Him on whom we believe, we have the "earnest" in our hearts; that gives us both light and power. Without it faith would not be able to bring us to our goal. God's Word, even with the greatest of its promises, would be worthless for our inner being without the light of the Spirit. On the dangerous journey over the uncharted road lying before us no one would reach his destination without the cloud, the fire, the "seal," the "earnest," – the Spirit of God. But with the shining star of the Word (Revelation 22:16), and the enlivening power of the (Holy) Spirit, it shall be possible for all who are sincere (believers). ...

It is not absolutely necessary to know how the Spirit works but it is of utmost importance that the Spirit does work.

Spirit and Power, by Ludvig Hope, Copyright, Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.

* * * * *

"If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1

IF any man sin, we have an advocate." Yes, though we sin, we have Him still. John does not say, "If any man sin he has forfeited his advocate," but "we have (Ed. An Attorney/defense) an advocate," sinners though we are. All the sin that a believer ever did, or can be allowed to commit, cannot destroy his interest in the Lord Jesus Christ, as his advocate. The name here given to our Lord is suggestive. "**Jesus**" Ah! then He is an advocate such as we need, for "**Jesus**" is the name of one whose business and delight it is to save. "*They shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.*" His sweetest name implies His success. Next, it is "Jesus Christ" – Christos, the anointed. This shows His authority to plead. The Christ has a right to plead, for He is the Father's own appointed advocate and elected priest. If He were of our choosing He might fail, but if God hath laid help upon one that is mighty, we may safely lay our trouble where God has laid His help. He is Christ, and therefore authorized; He is Christ, and therefore qualified, for the anointing has fully fitted Him for His work. He can plead so as to move the heart of God and prevail. What words of tenderness, what sentences of persuasion will the anointed use when

He stands up to plead for me! One more letter of His name remains, "Jesus Christ *the righteous*." This is not only His character BUT His plea. It is His character, and if the Righteous One be my advocate, then my cause is good, or He would not have espoused it. It is His plea, for He meets the charge of unrighteousness against me by the plea that HE is righteous. He declares Himself my substitute and puts His obedience to my account. My soul, thou has a friend well fitted to be thine advocate. He cannot but succeed; leave thyself entirely in His hands.

Morning & Evening by C. H. Spurgeon, 1991
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* * * * *

"But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight" Jeremiah 9:24

Nature has all its glories lost
When brought before his throne;
No flesh shall in his presence boast,
But in the Lord alone.

"Thus says the LORD:

'Let not the wise man
Glory in his wisdom,
Let not the mighty man
Glory in his might,
Nor let the rich man
Glory in his riches'" Jeremiah 9:23

"But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption – that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the LORD'"

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Selected

"The same prudence of which in private life would forbid our paying our own money for unexplained projects, forbids it in the dispensation of the public money"

Thomas Jefferson, 1808

The fool has said in his heart, There is no God. Psalm 53:1

To be a fool is to be without common sense, without wisdom. The wise man will contemplate creation and marvel. He sees the way planet earth orbits the sun at just the right distance to sustain life. He delights in the great seas and lakes without which no life would survive. He is amazed at the countless species of plant and animal life. He studies his own body and marvelous brain and stands in awe. All of this proclaims a Creator, infinitely wise and powerful. Only a fool of this proclaims a Creator, infinitely wise and powerful. Only a fool will say that there is no God. Do not be a fool. Come to know God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Donald L. Norbie

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,

That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies,

*I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day,
The moon shines forth at His command and all the stars obey.*

I. Watts

* * * * *

LESSONS OF THE YEAR

*For I learn as the years roll onward
And leave the past behind.
That much that I have counted sorrow
But proves that our God is kind;
That many a flower I longed for
Had a hidden thorn of pain,
And many a rugged by-path
Led to fields of golden grain.*

*The clouds but cover the sunshine,
They cannot banish the sun,
And the earth looks out the brighter,
When the wearisome rain is done.
We must stand in the deepest shadow
To see the clearest light,
And often from wrong's own darkness
Comes the very strength of right.*

*The sweetest rest is at evening
After the wearisome day,*

*When the heavy burden of labor
Is borne from our hearts away.
And those who have never known sorrow
Cannot find the infinite peace
That falls from the troubled spirit,
When it finds sweet release.*

*We must live through the dreary winter
To value the bright warm spring;
The woods must be cold and silent
Before the robins sing;
The flowers must be buried in darkness
Before they can bud and bloom,
And the purest and warmest sunshine,
Comes after the storm and gloom.*

*So the heart from the hardest trial
Gains the purest joy of all,
And the lips that have tasted sadness
The sweetest songs that fall.
Then as joy comes after sorrow,
And love's the reward of pain,
So after earth is heaven,
And out of our loss is gain.*

Selected

The Door

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

The lukewarm Laodicean church had put the Lord outside. How very much like the religious system in our world today. Yet, the Lord stands and knocks on the door of the individual's heart. He calls with His voice, speaking gracious words to gain entrance. When the heart's door is opened, He comes in as a guest and says, "I ... will sup with him." Soon, this guest becomes the host, "and he with me". Are you feasting with Him?"

Rex Trogon

Editorial

RES *MUG–WOMPS!*

“He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” (Matthew 5:30, Luke 11:23)

Either for or against – neutral YOU can not be!

Maybe at times OR most of the time you are glad that you are not a politician: for example ‘running’ for a leadership ‘office’; as IF you were, you would be not only be under *attack*, BUT likely your opponent would dig up ‘dirt’ for years or decades in regards to your past! Aren’t YOU indeed very ‘thankful’ that ‘our’ Thrice Holy God does do when you have repented of your sin and are under the Royal Blood? He truly forgives and forgets – and not in partial forgiveness! **Isaiah 1:18, 1 John 1:7-9.**

While I am addressing the secular political world; may I say with absolute privilege/responsibility in reality that we are to not only Pray for ‘our’ leaders; but VOTE for the candidate(s) who would lead the best for ‘our’ Community and Nation! Naturally, ideally for a Christian Leader; if such is available.

By the way: why do ‘candidates’ make ‘promises’ that they alone know they can not fulfill IF they comply with the USA Constitution?

Isn’t it marvelous that ‘our’ Sovereign GOD says what HE means and means what HE says and does not/will not change His mind? THEREFORE **all His Promises** are ‘trustworthy’ and anchored for time and eternity? **Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, Proverbs 30:5-6, Deuteronomy 32:3-4 & “Heaven and earth will pass away but My words will by no means pass away.”** Matthew 24:35, Luke 21:33. *“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”* Isaiah 40:8.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee!

Most certainly keep in mind and heart that God’s Word is in total harmony from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:20. The same AUTHOR inspired the whole BOOK; the Holy Spirit. Figuratively it is somewhat like photography: The Old Testament could be considered the ‘negative/shadow’ of that which is to come, and the New Testament the developed Picture – same ‘picture’ – Matthew 5:17-19.

NOW being on the ‘straight and narrow path’ is not easy as there will be struggles/battles to be overcome; but JESUS will give the necessary Grace and Power to be found faithful unto HIM! Remembering though God says what HE means and HE means what HE says!

Dialog and Compromise is the prevalent ‘word’ of our

day: Be ‘tolerant’, don’t be so set in biblical truths; just give a little. (Read the book of Nehemiah for example). You know if you stay ‘anchored’ in the Eternal Word of GOD, you will be called, ‘narrow-minded, bigot, etc.

Notice the clarity as you are the ‘light of the world’, not shall become! Same with ‘salt’. For a Christian, it is personal and present tense. What kind of ‘light/salt’ are you? There is the *thought* that ‘The more we live like Jesus, the more others will be drawn to Him’. Is that necessarily true to Scripture? How about ‘hatred’, ‘division’, ‘stumbling block’ ‘offence’?? Yes, DEFINITELY ‘we’ are to grow in our likeness of Jesus, day by day, in this earthly sanctification – but OR how about ‘fear’ of man, want to be liked? *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”.* 1 Corinthians 1:18, Romans 1:16. (Also verses 14 – 17).

Martin Luther speaks of ‘Cursed be that love for unity, where the Word of God is at stake!’

Martin also states that ‘Doctrine is just an explanation of a fact. **Revelation 18:4-5.**

Sadly the ‘world’ has invaded the ‘church’, instead of the ‘church’ being a light/salt to the world. This is also true of many a professing Christian as well. The clear line/mark of distinction is missing and that is one of our major problems today! God doesn’t give ‘us’ a double or triple standard to live by in His Word: HE states that you are either for ME or against ME! The ‘world’ and the ‘church’ are NOT to be walking ‘side-by-side’ but on opposite ‘roadways’ that lead clearly to two different definite locations – Heaven or Hell! (You and I can not fool God).

Often the *worldly Christian*, besides the ‘world’ will say “you can’t judge”; which is foreign or contrary to God’s Eternal Word. Actually God tells us the implicit opposite that ‘we’ are to discern or judge IF you are in compliance with His Word. Every believer is given a measure of ‘discernment’ and that “gift” is to be exercised for your own personal benefit and for the benefit of OTHERS! You know IF you should have a ‘headache’ you don’t just grab a bottle out of the ‘medicine-cabinet’; but need to read/follow the label/instructions. Well just ‘give-a-little’ on your principles/doctrine; but which would you prefer a little ‘poison’ or a ‘lot’ in your ‘breakfast food’? The end result will be the same.

Oh, how 'we' need to exercise the 'gift' of discernment in these days of *apostasy* (literally falling away'). Again Martin Luther shares: "The person who does not fear himself has the greatest reason of all to fear", Jeremiah 17:9, "Lord, is it I"? Evidently how easy and mechanical it can become to have a Sermon/Bible Study without the unction/presence of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Sermon/Bible Study becomes so "DRY" that it is fortunate that no one lights a *match*? How we need to earnestly pray for the presence of the Third Person of our Triune God and use the gift of discernment to discern the difference!

When brought into Scriptural light the words, 'remain, abide, continue, if, etc. it is not at all questioning the power of God to save and keep; but the allurements of the pleasures of sin and the deceptiveness of the sinful, corrupt heart that each of us have.

How popular it is in Bible Classes of today, to ask what do you think so and so in the Scripture thought or felt? We will never know! The matter of importance is 'what is God telling/teaching 'us' through His Word today?'

Sometimes the Gentle (Dove) Holy Spirit is grieved or quenched and the congregation or individual does not even sense this, that as activities and mechanics remain the same. Yet the Holy Spirit (Jesus) is pushed outside and is seeking re-admittance – Revelation 3:20. AND it is so easy and dangerous for the 'church' to get into competition with numbers in attendance, etc.

Years ago when I was attending a basic Lutheran Bible Institute the question would surface 'can I do this and still be a Christian'? IF you truly LOVE JESUS shouldn't the question be: In His Grace and empowerment, 'what can I do that is more pleasing to my SAVIOUR? Now don't get the 'cart before the horse'!

You see at 'times' not only in the secular sense that tolerance can become treason, but also in the Christian realm. Somewhat a 'thought now' among some Christians is as long as Scripture is being 'read' in their midst; God can still use it: which we know God's Word will not return unto HIM void; but also keep in mind Satan even uses

Scripture; that is parts to further his cause! (Satan even used God's Word' in the Garden of Eden and JESUS was being tempted/tested in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights, but not with the whole TRUTH!)

Then there again is the 'danger' of dialogue and compromise saying that all or most religions are all leading to God and Heaven; which is a LIE from the very pit of Hell! Today some are even including Roman Catholics or Muslims (with their false teachings); YES definitely pray for them and seek to bring them (LAW & GOSPEL) to come to **Jesus Christ**, but not okaying their teaching/doctrine.

"Now I urge you, brethren note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."

Romans 16:17-18, 11 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, Titus 1:10-14, 11 Timothy 3:1-17, for 'many' Matthew 24:3-14 & Ephesians 5:8-21.

Some folk treat God's Word like a hypothetical marriage, where one tells their spouse to be faithful unto me six days of the week and on the seventh day do as you please (Galatians 5:16-26, 1 Thessalonians 5:22 **"Abstain from every form of evil."** not satisfying the 'old nature'. And God who is a 'jealous' God states: "Be thou faithful unto Me and I will give you the Crown of Life!"

"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.'" II Timothy 2:19.

God's GRACE teaches us self-control – 1 John 1:8 and God GRACE trains us under God's Authority – Romans 6:14.

Where did this 'Title' come from? Well it describes those who seek to 'straddle the fence' with their Mug on one side and their Romp on the other!

God says EITHER - OR !!!

O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:2

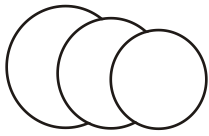
After learning of God's plan to restore Israel, Habakkuk prayed for revival. The condition of God's people was appalling and he longed for what could be. Martyn Lloyd Jones writes: "We are living in a godless age and the main reason we should be praying about re-

vival is that we are anxious to see God's name vindicated and His glory manifested. We should be anxious to see something happening that will arrest the nations, all the peoples, and cause them to stop and to think again." May the Lord revive the church and may it begin with me.

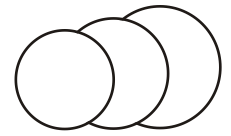
W. A. H.

*Revive Thy work O Lord, disturb this sleep of death.
Quicken the smoldering embers now, by Thine almighty breath.*

Albert Midland



From Our Fellowship Circle



R. & J. R.

Lake City, IA

We love all the articles in the *Morning Glory*. 'Believable ...Yet Unbelievable' is always a first to read. Yes, we must pray for our "Leaders" – to be God-fearing and knowledgeable of the U.S.A. Constitution which was written basically by godly men for a God-fearing Country many years ago! Now, are we being 'led' in the light of the same!?!?

F. C.

Viroqua, WI

Very good Editorial and accounts of the life and work of Hans Neilsen Hauge.

M. J.

Hixton, WI

Thank you all for putting out such an excellent publication.

Morning Glory is one of the best places to find truthful information on what's really going on around the world. It is a true blessing for my Parents and Myself in these seemingly "last days".

May God bless you all until your 'cup-overflows'!

* * * * *

WANTING TO BE USED!

Dear Concerned reader of the Morning Glory,

Greetings with: **"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the off-spring of David, the Bright and Morning Star"** Revelation 22:16. (Please prayerfully ponder the Name and the coming of the significance of the 'Morning Star')!

This 'ministry' by the Grace of God; wants not only be under and through the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST as a cleansed vessel; but to be used in the nurturing and in furthering His Kingdom – to *His Honor and Glory!*

As you already know, the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is a Biblical, pietistic Lutheran (faith) ministry intended to be an blessing and encouragement to Bible-centered Congregations and Individuals in your local community and on!

BECAUSE you love JESUS; will you continue to specifically pray for this ministry? Also please pray for

the financial income for the same and most certainly pray for 'open doors' of service, in basically that folk like you will want to host a Hauge Bible Conference or series of Evangelistic Meetings in your midst.

If you are interested in using the Hauge Evangelistic Gospel Tent for one of the same, please contact Paul Peterson of Kenyon, Minnesota.

As 'we' share these burdens/concerns with YOU, will you also bring these challenges/opportunities specifically before your Mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Meeting?

May 'our' Living Savior richly bless YOU as you do your part in this 'team-work' in the Kingdom of GOD here on Earth! May HE even make YOU an even greater blessing unto others as YOU obey HIS leadership!

Seeking to 'occupy' for HIM until **HE**, the *Morning Star*, comes in a '*Twinkling of an Eye*'!

Thank you again!

His Because of Calvary,
Editor & Part-time Field Rep.

* * * * *

"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious." 1 Peter 2:7

This verse doesn't say what the Lord should be to us, but rather what He is! Love for Christ is a result of having believed and is one of the unmistakable signs of regeneration. John says that "*We love him, because he first loved us*" (1 John 4:19). Paul declares that anyone who does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, "*Let him be anathema,*" which means "accursed." Friends, there is no middle ground. The saved love the Lord Jesus and the unsaved don't. The Redeemer is precious to all the redeemed. What does He mean to you?

Carl Knott

(Editor – John 3:18 & 36).

*I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

William R. Featherston

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Oprah Winfrey's "Belief"!

A few months ago Oprah Winfrey started a series of TV programs called "BELIEF". IN this Series it seemingly promotes a number of 'religions' and might make one *think* there are many paths to God, as Oprah has said in the past.

The BIBLE is crystal clear that there is only one way to God the Father. **John 14:6, Acts 4:12.**

One Way, One Savior, No Exceptions!

General Moshe Dayan – and the Tractor Driver

Years ago Moshe Dayan, the famous one eyed General of Israel, talked to a tractor-driver of long experience but had no license. It had been refused. He had no doubt that General Dayan could arrange for him to get one. General Dayan asked the man why he had been denied, but the man was reluctant to state the reason. All he could do was stammer unintelligently and shake his head. He finally thrust his face close to General Dayan's and then did the General see why he was too embarrassed to put it into words; he had only one eye! The left one, like General Dayan's, was missing.

General Dayan pulled a pad out from his pocket and gave the tractor driver a note to the licensing bureau in Beersheba telling them not to underrate the power of vision of the one-eyed!

Selected

Curt Schilling Suspended by ESPN; Tweet Compared Islamic Extremists with Nazis

Former Red Sox star pitcher Curt Schilling has been suspended by ESPN for the rest of the 2015 season for sending out a tweet comparing Islamic extremists to Nazis.

The tweet, sent August 25, reproduced a graphic of Hitler with the following message: It's said only 5 – 10% of Muslims are extremists. In 1940, only 7% of German were Nazis. How'd that go?" Schilling added his own comment: "The math is staggering when you get to true numbers."

Schilling is an analyst for Sunday Night Baseball and was covering the Little League World Series in August when he was pulled off the air. ...

Mark Judge, E. Brief

Difference!

The 'difference' of a Godly person and an ungodly person IS the conscientiousness of SIN!

BESIDES

All that's needed to be *ungodly* is 'minus' not knowing JESUS as their personal Savior!

WITHOUT GOD!

News Briefs

** A new media push is underway to create support for a nationwide ban on the death penalty. We firmly believe any such ban is an unwise move. No doubt improvements could be made to achieve what USA Today (9/16/15) called a "foolproof system." With only 35 executions nationwide in 2014, the ban is already in place in many places. Sword Press Service.

** Yum! Brand food, which owns Taco Bell, is testing the selling of alcohol in two new stores – one in Chicago and one in San Francisco. Alcohol already flows like a raging torrent down the streets of our land. Is there no sanity left anywhere? Sword Press Service

** According to a 2015 poll by Newseum Institute, only 24 percent of adults surveyed believe news media are unbiased in reporting news. This is a decline of 17 percentage points from last year. (AFA Journal)

Tide Detergent Commercial Mocks Conservative Christians

Freedomoutpost.com (September 16, 2015) reports that a Tide washing detergent commercial mocks the conservative Christian view of traditional marriage.

The commercial begins with a shot of a woman speaking to a priest, and two men's hands join. The men are in tuxedos; and from what is seen, they are entering the building to be "married."

The woman gasps at seeing them, steps away from the priest, and holds her hand up declaring, "How offensive!..." I won't let you blemish the sanctity of marriage!"

However, she isn't really offended at two sodomites getting "married" She's offended that they will do so with a stain on one of the shirts.

Quickly, she grabs Tide-to-Go stain remover and takes out the stain.

"There, flawless," she declares, "carry on, boys."

The commercial then ends with "Never tolerate the stain."

The commercial was made by an independent consumer, but it was not opposed by the Tide company.

Conservative Christian values are the target of liberal social activists. Don't expect to see any commercials by leading companies endorsing traditional family values.

Dr. Ron Baity, RETURN AMERICA

The Paris Attacks!

Paris attacks (11/15) took place amidst strict gun control laws and open boards!

Lay Aside

Let us lay aside every weight ...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

A contestant entering a race on a hot summer day with a woolen coat, work boots and a backpack would never win. These burdens need to be removed if there is to be any chance at success. This image of a weighed down runner is presented here as a lesson for the Christian life. We cannot have success if we are burdened down spiritually. Excess weight is anything that hinders our faith. The Christian life is a race that requires discipline and endurance and weights like laziness, bitterness, fearfulness or other habitual sins will ruin the race for us. By the Spirit, each of us knows what weight needs to be removed in our life. Will you lay it aside?

Robert Gentile

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Believe and Be Saved

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” Mark 16:16

MR. MACDONALD ASKED THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND OF St. Kilda how a man must be saved. An old man replied, “We shall be saved if we repent, and

George Müller was once consulted by a man who had a business offered to him that promised great financial profit. “I have to give an answer within an hour,” the man said. Mr. Müller quietly replied, “Then the answer is ‘NO’, for that cannot be right, that leaves a man no time for prayer.” See to it that we make time to spread the matter before the Lord.

forsake our sins, and turn to God.” Yes,” said a middle-aged female, and with a true heart too.” “Ay,” rejoined a third, “and with prayer;” and, added a fourth, “It must be the prayer of the heart.” “And we must be diligent too,” said a fifth,” in keeping the commandments.” Thus, each having contributed his mite, feeling that a very decent creed had been made up, they all looked and listened for the preacher’s approbation, but they had aroused his deepest pity. The carnal mind always maps out for itself a way in which self can work and become great, but the Lord’s way is quite the reverse. Believing and being baptized are no matters of merit to be gloried in – they are so simple that boasting is excluded, and free grace bears the palm. It may be that the reader is unsaved – what is the reason? Do you think the way of salvation as laid down in the text to be dubious? How can that be when God has pledged His own word for its certainty? Do you think it too easy? Why, then, do you not attend to it? To believe is simply to trust, to depend, to rely upon Christ Jesus. To be baptized is to submit to the ordinance which our Lord fulfilled at Jordan, to which the converted ones submitted at Pentecost, to which the jailer yielded obedience the very night of his conversion. The outward sign saves not, but it sets forth to us our death, burial, and resurrection with Jesus, and, like the Lord’s Supper, is not to be neglected. Reader, do you believe in Jesus? Then, dear friend, dismiss your fears, you shall be saved. Are you still an unbeliever? Then remember there is but one door, and if you will not enter by it you will perish in your sins.

Morning & Evening by C. H. Spurgeon; Henderson Publishers, Inc.; Copyright - 1991

Editor’s Note: Evidently Mr. Spurgeon did not believe in (Adhere too) what we call ‘Secondarily Doctrine’ and that is Scriptural Infant Baptisms; but please do not make ‘eternal security’ out of ‘Infant Baptism’! WHEN an ‘Infant’ grows older and begins to know/realize sin and grace, that ‘child’ must definitely make a personal decision of wanting Jesus as their personal Savior OR else is LOST!!

NEW TESTAMENT ‘Baptism’ was not instituted until after the ‘resurrection’ of JESUS from a ‘borrowed tomb’! Fairly ‘often’ those who do not adhere to ‘Infant Baptism’ will state that the ‘repentant thief’ was not baptized and in John 3 JESUS could not be ‘telling’ ‘Nicodemus’ to be baptized even though that may be good logic. The New Testament “Baptism” (Sacrament) was not yet instituted by JESUS!

Biblical Lutheran Haugeans believe that ‘coming’ is ‘believing in action’! A ‘living faith’ is coming just as I am, but that Thy BLOOD was shed for ME ...SALVATION is **100% GRACE** ALL the way: Past, Present, Future: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Word Alone!

“Recant, or Else!”

By Ev. Rick Flanders, (Bridgeport, MI)

“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” Matt. 5:10.

For two thousand years, Christians have been persecuted in many places all over the world for teaching and practicing their faith. This is not a new phenomenon. News sources are telling us every day of places where Muslim radicals are giving Christian believers an ultimatum which amounts to “convert or die!” As a result, many are dying for their faith.

Strangely, however, a similar ultimatum is now facing Christians in the United States. Changes in the law are mandating that believers violate their consciences and their faith or suffer a variety of consequences. The First Amendment to our United States Constitution was adopted 224 years ago to prevent such a situation by guaranteeing the “free exercise” of religion.

Unfortunately, the political events of recent years have worked to negate that guarantee. Christians will be forced to choose between obeying God and obeying the government. Is there not a way to reverse the course of the ship of state and avoid the collision of religion and government? The issue that is producing this conflict is the Supreme Court’s rogue decision to redefine marriage to include the union of homosexual “lovers.” Marriage has always had a logical and needful definition making two people of the opposite sex legally into one. Nations of all times and places have historically recognized this traditional and rational definition. The viewpoint of civilization has been consistent about what marriage is.

But in recent years when laws that reaffirmed the traditional definition of marriage were adopted by the people of certain states, they were called by opponents in the media “bans on same-sex marriage.” This label, of course, was misleading. You might as well speak of a “ban on the jackalope.” Of course there is no such thing as the jackalope, and so there cannot be a ban on the species. A list of animals native to a certain region cannot be said to ban the jackalope because the mythical creature is not on the list!

Likewise, there is no such thing in our society as same-sex “marriage.” Therefore, a law defining marriage in the time-honored way ought not reasonably to be a “ban” on faulty definitions. The effect of these laws is to discard false definitions by affirming the right one, but labeling them as bans on homosexual marriage give the impression that they bring a form of persecution to a segment of the population.

The laws simply fortify the right definition of marriage against the attacks of the irrational. They do not take

away anybody’s rights. Contrary to the misleading propaganda, it is not the homosexual community that is being persecuted. When the law calls for the acceptance of these “marriages,” those whose religion prevents them from recognizing or accepting them will suffer persecution.

Already Christian business owners have been run out of business for refusing to cater “gay weddings.” How will the revision of civil rights laws to cover the interests of same-sex-couples affect consistent Christians? Will there be fines, penalties or jail time for those who refuse to recognize same-sex marriages as marriages or participate in same-sex weddings (as in Rowan County, Kentucky)?

Will the changes in the law bring churches that teach and practice the Bible into legal trouble? The Bible condemns homosexual activity as sinful, just as it condemns heterosexual acts committed out of wedlock.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves. Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lusts one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.” Romans 1:24 – 27.

Bible-believing Christians cannot go against the teaching of Scripture, no matter what the government tells them to do or not to do. Look at Acts 5:28: “*We ought to obey God rather than men.*” The Christians have no choice.

Will ministers who decline to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies be denied the right to perform other weddings? Will churches with policies against homosexual activity or same-sex marriage lose tax exemption or incorporation? How many churches in the United States will fold under the burdens the new anti-Christian public policy will bring upon them? Will our churches even be able to buy insurance?

Somewhere this week ISIS will demand that a Christian renounce his faith or die. Someday soon Christians in our country will be told to abandon their religion or suffer serious consequences. “Progressive” activists don’t seem to understand that a person with religious convictions cannot just change!

In order to accept same-sex marriage, the Christian must reject the divine origin and authority of Scripture. In

order to do that, he must reject the teachings of Jesus Christ, his Lord and Saviour. He must recant his faith in order to make the change. And a Christian cannot do that.

True believers in Christ will not shrink from suffering for Him, but do Americans want to make them suffer? Is it the will of the people that large numbers of decent citizens suffer for their faith in the Land of the Free?

Some think that the trouble caused for Christians by progressive politics is a matter of unintended consequences or just unfortunate collateral damage. Others suppose that the suppression of biblical Christianity is actually a goal of powerful progressives and that believers are in the crosshairs of their sites.

Whatever the truth is about why this is happening, the ugly face of religious persecution is coming quickly to America, disguised as tolerance and equality; and only Americans can stop it.

“If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.” 1 Peter 4:15

Sword of the Lord

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Praying Privately (*Secretly*)

By Herbert Lockyer

While Scripture records instances of public, united prayer, it has much to say about secret prayer (Matt. 6:6). Our Lord speaks of the place of prayer; “*enter into thy closet*” (*Ed. Storehouse- like pantry*); then He draws attention to the privacy of prayer: “*shut thy door.*”

Alas, it is sadly possible to shut our closet door upon the world as a sphere and yet carry the atmosphere of the world into the closet! The world will never know, neither will we as individuals, how the secret prayers of others on our behalf have influenced us.

Jesus has taught us to “pray to the Father which is in secret,” for alone with God we can unbosom ourselves. What cannot be told to human ears can be poured into His sympathetic ear. What cannot be told to human ears can be poured into His sympathetic ear. Alone with Him we can speak intimately about our unsaved loved ones. We can converse with Him about each one of them with the assurance that He who hears will answer.

Praying thus, we come to know what it is to be rewarded openly. No one knows of our prayers, but we see them changing things and persons. Of course, we ourselves are changed, for secret prayer transforms those who pray thus (II Cor. 3:18; Exod. 34:29, 30).

Is it not true that the saints of all ages have been men

of the closet? They proved that “solitude is the mother country of the strong.”

Jesus had His sacred garden spot to which He often resorted to pray. Judas knew the place, and the most despicable aspect of his crime was that he led Christ’s enemies to His garden of secret prayer.

Selected

Editor’s Note: One of my favorite Bible verses is as follows: “***Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.***” Psalm 62:8, Heb. 4:15-16.

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Think About This

A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a very great thing.

A true friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.

We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

Honesty is not only the best policy; it is the only policy God recognizes.

Some people have all the answers, but they do not understand the questions.

Cornerstone Challenge, Belmont, Massachusetts

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Dangerous Trends – 2015!

ISIS has released a new video vowing more September 11, 2001 type attacks on American soil and warning bluntly that terrorists affiliated with its group are currently in the United States.

The video says, Breitbart reported: “We are back in America.” It then goes on to say Americans should be alert for another attack of the size and scope of the World Trade Center and Pentagon assaults.

“(We promise) cars full of explosives and suicide bombers,” the voice in the video said.

The video spans ten minutes and quotes the now-deceased Osama bin Laden pressing followers of Islam to rise up against America.

“Every Muslim, from the moment they realize the distinction in their hearts, hates Americans, hates Jews and hates Christians,” bin Laden is quoted as saying. “For as long as I can remember, I have felt tormented and at war and have felt hatred and animosity for Americans.”

WND.com

Hans Nielsen Hauge

(Continued from the December issue
of the Morning Glory)

Meanwhile, he had become an esteemed man in the upper circle of society, and tradition has kept remembrance of visits from many prominent men. It is of far greater consequence, however, that the farm, Bredtvedt, became the center for the Christian life in Norway. Numerous letters were sent from there all over the the country. What influence Hauge's "religious letters" had upon the people at that time, one can at the present day hardly imagine. And large crowds poured in to Bredtvedt year in and year out. The old ones, who once through the admonishing words of Hauge became changed people, would see the spiritual father once more; fathers in Christ, who in former days had worked with him for the propagation of the Kingdom of God, wanted their sons to hear an admonishing word from him whose testimony had had such a wonderful power. Traveling lay-preachers also went there as often as possible. Even when Hauge was sick in bed, they could hear a word which was of great worth to them, like gold and silver. But when he was fairly well, he always performed devotions for those present. After Hauge came out of prison he expanded a considerable authorship. And these publications from his last years achieve distinction above the older works by the clarity of thought and expression.

The ten years' imprisonment gave plenty occasion for self-examination and quiet contemplation, combined with the Christian books he read during this time, strengthened and mellowed him in several ways. These works of his have the character of an experienced, tranquil and level-headed man, who from year to year grew in regard to the inner man. On the other hand, one seeks in vain both the bubbling life which is peculiar in his earlier publications, and the prominent fighting grit and that intense fervency of the spirit, which characterized his youthful work.

It was great joy for him to live to see that over most of the counties in Norway there blew a blessed Pentecostal wind which swept away the miserable wisdom of rationalism. At the young university the sound Lutheran teaching was recited with life and warmth, and gradually there proceeded from this groups of young churchmen who testified with life and energy of the salvation in Christ for the Norwegian people around the whole country.

When Hauge was not bedridden he lived outdoors. One could often see this stoop-shouldered figure with the yellowish pale face wander over the fields at Bredtvedt. Then he usually had his little son with him and showed him the flowers and talked to him about God's virtue and

love. And many who saw how he suffered first from one illness, and then from another, said to themselves: "This you have suffered and suffer for Christ's sake."

However, his last years were somewhat darkened to the thought that many a discord would break out among his old friends after his departure, chiefly concerning the relation to the state church, whose patient and faithful servant he had always been.

Gradually his health became so poor that he seldom could leave the bed. He felt the end was near; therefore he wrote his "Testament to his friends," which was reprinted several times and received wide circulation. It is rich in advice and guidance for his friends and less a sound, Lutheran and ecclesiastical impression. His time of redemption grew nearer. In the spring of 1824 he stayed in bed continually for 14 days. One Sunday morning he had such a violent spasm in his chest that he could not talk at all the whole day and the following night. But it seemed as though he wanted to say something to those around, so his wife cried out: "Oh, if I only could understand you!" And in a clear voice the dying man said: "Follow Jesus!" And right thereafter he called out joyfully: "Oh, you eternally loving God!" When his wife said: "Now He will surely soon take you unto Him," he said: "Yes! Pray with me!" Then the Lord came and took his faithful and tired servant with Him. He died Monday, the 24th of March, 1824, at 5 o'clock in the morning, only 55 years old. His grave is in "Gamle Aker" cemetery, where his friends have erected a memorial stone over him. Around the whole country thousands mourned; they had in the deceased lost a spiritual father, brother and friend.

But the ecclesiastical history in times to come will not be able to omit this farmer boy and the great revival which he had caused, and which brought about a spiritual spring with new life after the dark and cold winter of rationalism. It could now also be said about the Norwegian church: "the old is gone, see everything has become new." Thinking of Hauge, we will finally be reminded of the following text in Scripture:

"The base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yes, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: Than no flesh should glory in his presence" (I Cor. 1:28-29)

Hans Nielsen Hauge, *A Short Account of the LIFE AND WORK OF HAUGE*, By C. B., 1890

Our Weapon Against Deception

By Michael Youssef, Ph.D.

When we become serious about being Christ’s apostles, Satan will work harder to discourage and to deceive us. And that is why we must know how to pray against deception.

Godly wisdom is our weapons against deception. *“Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who have left the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways. (Proverbs 2:12-15).*

The Gibeonites knew that they could not defeat the Israelites with military might, so they decided to scheme against them instead. They knew that God’s Word said to destroy the Canaanites, but to covenant with people of distant cities (see Deuteronomy 20). So they disguised themselves as travelers from a distant country: “make a treaty with us” (Joshua 9:6). Sometimes the people who are most deceptive can quote the Bible as well as we can. They will use passages from the Bible to silence us from speaking the Truth. They quote the Bible – but twist the meaning – to deceive us and to intimidate us. The Bible warns us, *“let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient”* (Ephesians 5:6).

The Gibeonites knew what God commanded, and they used it to their advantage. If Joshua had sought God’s counsel and wisdom, then perhaps God would have shown him that the “travelers” were Canaanites in disguise. We must always be on guard against those who use spiritual language to seduce us away from the Truth.

Editor’s Note: Amen, Satan is ‘great’ in quoting ‘partial-truths’ from the Bible; we notice that even in Genesis 3 and when JESUS was in the ‘wilderness’ forty days and forty nights!

How we need to spend time ‘daily’ in God’s Eternal Word, the BIBLE, and ‘time’ before the Throne of GRACE in prayer! Because *“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”* Matthew 24:24. Deuteronomy 29:29, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16. AND then ‘we’ are to exercise this ‘gift’ of discernment: *“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”* Hebrews 3:12-13, **5:12-14.**

Keep in mind and heart, that ‘evening’ when JESUS told

the Apostles: ‘one of you is going to betray me’; they didn’t point their finger(s) at Judas; BUT each one with self Examination – **“Lord, is it I?”**

Martin Luther shares: ‘The one who does not fear himself, has the greatest reason to fear of all’!

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WISHING YOU BLESSING

j. Danson Smith

We warmly would greet you and wish you much blessing;

*Perhaps we shall fail to say aught that is new
Nor golden thoughts send; but we would be expressing
The vital things held by us and by you.*

*God’s great love in Christ is unchanging, unending;
Forgiveness, for Christ’s sake, from guilt sets us free;
Now joint heirs with Christ – it is past comprehending –
All because Christ borne our sin on the Tree.*

*As pilgrims we journey toward God’s great city
Whose mansions shall welcome the ransomed and
blest;*

*And meanwhile we find – in our Father’s great pity
His love, and His care and His guidance – our rest.*

Selected

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“There we saw the giants ...and we were like grasshoppers.” Numbers 13:33

The promised land which God had prepared for His people stretched out before them. All they had to do was possess what God had promised to them. But between them and God’s blessings were giants of great size and strength. These giants robbed God’s people of what was rightly theirs. In like manner today, God has promised His children all spiritual blessings, but too often giants like fear and discouragement and guilt rob us of God’s best. With God’s help all of our Goliaths can be defeated.

Charlie Tempest

*O victory in Jesus, my Saviour forever,
He sought me and bought me,
With His redeeming blood. – E. Bartlett*

“Both Oars in the Water”

By Dr. Oswald Smith

It’s a clever little catch phrase that I employ occasionally when someone says, “How is it going?” Others use it to express a negative opinion on the intelligence of someone who isn’t functioning up to par. But for me, it is my attempt to give a generic answer to a question which could take a lot of time to answer fully.

If you’ve ever done any canoeing or used a rowboat, you know that the use of two paddles (oars) will move the boat forward. Typically in a canoe, one guy sits up front and another in the back. One paddles on one side of the canoe, and the second guy on the opposite side.

In a rowboat, two oars may be mounted in such a way that one person can use them both. When only one oar is used on the same side of the boat, you’ll just go in circles. To move forward, you’ll need to paddle on both sides of the boat. That’s why we say we are keeping “both oars in the water.”

When Nehemiah rebuilt the wall around the city of Jerusalem, it is said of his workers, “*They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.*” Nehemiah 4:17.

They were diligent in their building of the walls, but at the same time there was a need to be vigilant while they worked. They worked, but they also watched for danger. That’s both oars in the water.

As Christians, we are gospel “ambassadors” (11 Cor. 5:20) with a responsibility to get the Gospel out. But we also are to be “stewards” (1 Cor. 4:1) of the things of God and “deliver sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1) when we speak. That’s both oars in the water!

We have a mandate to evangelize (Matt. 28:19, 20), but that same Great Commission of our Lord also has instructions for us to disciple those we evangelize. Again, that’s both oars in the water!

Salvation is a big event. Nothing is right until we come to Christ and are saved. But once we are saved, our lifestyle should show a focus of our attention (Eph. 2:8-10). Salvation is instantaneous, but sanctification is a lifelong project. Salvation and sanctification! One gets you forgiven and headed to Heaven, while the other polishes on your life so that you will ably demonstrate that you are saved (Phil. 1:27). That’s both oars again!

Preaching (1 Cor. 1:23) and teaching (1 Tim. 2:13) but staying on duty (Luke 19:13) while we await the trumpet sound (1 Thess. 4: 13 – 18). That’s both oars in the water!

What’s the most important – your family or your church? That’s a question that only gets asked when you haven’t figured out how to do what you should do. Your

family and your church should not, indeed must not, become competitors.

The choice is not one or the other. It is both of them. That’s both oars in the water!

Here’s my concern: When you major on one good thing while leaving out another major thing, you are going to go around in circles like the boat with one paddle, and your progress is going to be totally diminished.

Too many of our families simply do not have both oars in the water! Tragically, many of our churches are also one-paddle operations, and they are getting very little done.

Take a careful look at your situation and decide to be honest with yourself about it.

If you are going in circles and getting nowhere, you do not need a crash course on how to be relevant, cool or casual. You want to be sure that you have both oars in the water and somebody manning them.

Excerpt, *Sword of the Lord.*

Feelings & Entertainment

It’s not surprising – today’s “positive” gospel emphasizes love, minimizes doctrine and ignores Divine Justice. The essential Biblical truths that prepare hearts for genuine repentance and conversion no longer fit.

Many simply dismiss the notion of “sin” as old-fashioned legalism and shut their eyes to its corrupting power in their own lives. When faced with today’s non-offensive teaching on sin, many translate it into a more comfortable half-truth: *Sin is a normal part of life, and I’m just as good as everyone else, maybe a little better. Besides, God understands and loves me as I am.*”

In my conviction/opinion Pastor Rick Warren is a ‘goat in sheep’s clothing – who basically side steps SIN. Repentance and Salvation and substitutes “**Purpose.**” (Ed. Not alone, as there are ‘numerous’ other ones! WHY? Why is preaching/testifying on SIN omitted today; when God in His Agape Love and Infinite Grace, specifically names SIN!)

Pastor Rick Warren, at Saddleback Church, said, “We are unapologetically contemporary...”

Does God really love today’s cultural “variety?” I doubt that God is pleased when we feed our cravings and strengthen our “need” for emotional stimuli. When ancient Israel became bored with God’s Word and embraced a wide variety of cultural and spiritual thrills, God disciplined them severely. He even compared his wayward people with a “*wild donkey...that sniffs at the wind in her desire.*” (Jeremiah 2:24) Selected.

“No one can know the true grace of God until he knows the fear of God.” — A. W. Tozer

A Backward Glance

By John D. Jess

A very interesting hobby... is the researching of given names and their meanings. Today we give our children names simply because they appeal to us – not for any particular denotation they may have. In ancient times, however, every name had a meaning, and often parents expressed their aspiration for their offspring, or their gratitude to God, in the choice of a child's name. For example, my own name, John, is from the Hebrew word Yohanan meaning "God is good," or "God has been gracious."

My middle name is David. I doubt that my parents realized that it means "beloved," but if the combination of the two names was an accident, it was a rather nice one, don't you think? Still, that combination is spoiled by my last name which is short for Jesse, meaning "uncertain." If John means *Like many of us today, Israel had a penchant for remembering the wrong things.*

"God is good," there's no uncertainty there. But if David means "beloved," there were a number of years in my life when I'm sure my parents (and many others) wondered if my middle name deserved that connotation!

Now I realize that Christians should always be forward-looking. Those who dwell excessively in the past have little time for today, and tomorrow. But retrospect isn't all bad, and backward glances aren't necessarily harmful. We can scarcely hope to be better persons today, or tomorrow, if we never take stock of the past. I want to avoid with all determination the role of a reversionist – one who retreats into the past and loses all meaningful contact with the present – but I sometimes find positive good resulting from the resurrection of *pleasant* memories. Habitually exhuming and dwelling on the un-pleasantries of the past can have a deleterious effect on the mind, body, and certainly upon the spirit of an individual.

Advantage Of Remembering

In the 8th chapter of Deuteronomy, Moses urges the children of Israel to remember. He could see his days of leadership drawing to a close, and soon he would be laying down the burdens he had carried so bravely for so many years – burdens he would be shifting to other shoulders. In this case, remembering would encourage the Israelites to continue trusting God. In verse 2 of chapter 8, he says, **"And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you ..."**

Israel had a penchant for remember the wrong things – which is true of us today. We remember the hurts, the slights, the sorrows, the mistakes, the burdens. The result can be, and often is, a perpetual state of morbidity. Remember ...but remember the right things, the good things.

Surely you have many pleasant memories – victories, deliverances, pleasant times. Paul urges us to dwell on these things.

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things" (Phil. 4:8, NASB).

Why did Moses urge his people to remember? So they would be continually reminded that it was God who delivered them from Egypt, and that they might be humbled. Who guided them safely through that wilderness for 40 years, miraculously supplying their needs? Not Moses. He was as dependent as they for the daily manna, the water from the rocks, the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. Memories of divine benefactions should humble us, too.

Putting Things Into Perspective

Today, as I take my own backward glance, I hang my head in shame for every time I doubted God, became discouraged, complained. Oh, yes, I've done my share of that sort of thing, and I'm not proud of it. But now, as I look back, somehow I see no mud or cobblestones – just paved superhighways. Detours? Sure, lots of nasty, rough, frustrating, maddening detours. But actually they were quite short – then the pavement again – smooth wide, safe pavement. You who keep thinking of mud roads and provoking detours, how long, actually, are they? Not long. Ninety-eight percent of our journeys are on wide, beautiful highways, aren't they?

So with life. As we look back, we can see the true brevity of the bad roads, the tough times, the exasperations. How often have any of us gone naked for lack of clothes? Now often have we been weak from hunger? How many times have we been helpless, without absolutely no one to whom we could turn? How many times sick with no individual or agency to care for us? How many times alone with nobody near to help or care? Oh, friends, a backward glance today should make us inexpressibly grateful!

As I take my own backward glance, I'm not oblivious to the mud-holes, the sorrows, the times of desperation and mental distress. I've had my share. But when I look back, they were, in retrospect, quite insignificant.

David had moments, weeks – even years – of seeming failures. Many of his psalms are laments. Yet, when he got his head together this is what came of his heart.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

Take this realization with you through the day – each day – and it dominates you mind ...And your memories.

Selected.

UpDate

“Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.” Ecclesiastes 11:1

“Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.” “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 54:2, 55:11.

CANDID COMMENTS

To our friends everywhere let me express ‘our’ most cordial greetings and the hope that this New Year of 2016 will be a joyous and blessed year for you and yours’.

Heartfelt thanks to all who have encouraged us with kind words, reports of blessings received through this ‘ministry’ and have given ‘us’ financial support, and especially so as when the financial burden is more heavy; ***such as now!*** (At the time of this ‘writing’ the financial burden is very real)!

Once again, with open honesty, the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is committed to an inerrant, infallible Bible, the Inspired (In-breathed by the Holy Spirit) Word of GOD!

Most certainly ‘we’ do not accept the teaching of some that it is not free from error – the whole Bible is inspired and is absolute TRUTH, if a person agrees with it or not! Men have made *possible* mistakes in translating it, but the BOOK, as it came from/by the Spirit of God, ***is absolutely TRUE and Error-free.*** (II Peter 1:19-21, II Timothy 3:16-17, Revelation 22:18-19) THEREFORE, by the Grace of God, we do not make any apologies of the old time Christianity and seek to practice the same!

May I on behalf of this portion of the Lord’s Kingdom Work (Vineyard), ask YOU to prayerfully also consider remembering this ministry in your Last Will and Benefit?

ALSO, ask yourself and other fellow ‘believers’ to consider a monthly OR yearly Financial Amount of your Congregation’s Benevolence? Thank you so much!

November’s Income for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* is approx. \$1,700.00.

The cost of publishing and mailing the *Morning Glory* each month is approx. \$2,000 PLUS noticeable other financial obligations as we function by faith.

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“Let the Redeemed of the LORD say So”

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation Board has prayerfully decided to compile a book with personal testimonies of Jesus’ saving grace.

Would you be willing to share your personal testimony of how you came to Jesus as your own personal Savior? If you are willing to do that, you can submit it in writing to the editor: Rodney Stueland, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529; or by email at: haugerep@midco.net. The editor will then review them.

We would especially like to encourage anyone who came to salvation through the Innermission, or has had close ties with the Innermission, to share their testimony. It is not limited to only those individuals, but we are encouraging them to do so.

WHAT a wonderful opportunity for you to share your personal testimony and to seek to *glorify Jesus* for what HE has done and is doing in your life!

Will you prayerfully consider this and be obedient to the Holy Spirit? Your testimony could be something that could help someone else come to the Lord.