

# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • January 2009

## Inside Or Outside?

*“And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and he is alive again; and was lost, and is found.” Luke 15:31–32*

**I**n the 28th verse we read that the elder son was angry and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. Again I must say I prefer the Norwegian translation which says: “He went out and talked friendly to him.” Do you see the picture?

An angry son who would not come in?

A friendly Father who came out to invite the angry son in?

It seems to me this act displays the compassionate love of our heavenly Father just as clearly as these words concerning the younger son: “But when he was yet a great way off his father saw him and had compassion and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.” One rejected his love and the other accepted it.

Are we like our heavenly Father? Do we have so much love and compassion that we go out and talk friendly to the elder son? Or do we just stand and look through the window of our Father’s house, and say cold and sneeringly, “There goes an old Pharisee; there isn’t much hope for that guy.”

Then the father reminded the elder son of his birth right and the blessed privileges of real sonship. He said: “*Son thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine*” (verse 31). This is the word that makes some believe that the elder son was a child of God.

Let us look a little closer at this. You will notice that this was the father’s answer to the elder son’s complaint. He said, “*I have served you all these years, and you haven’t given me anything.*” *The father said: “I have given thee all,*

*all that I have is thine.*” What a great contrast. We better agree with God. Peter says, “*He has given us all we need for life and godliness*” (II Pet. 2:3). Paul says, “*Our heavenly Father has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.*” (Ephesians 1:3). But remember it is all in Christ, and all by grace through faith in him.

Why then had not the elder son gotten anything?

For the simple reason that he wanted to earn his salvation by his good work, instead of receiving it as a free gift by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Yes, but didn’t his father address him as son? Of course he did; but there are ever so many who bear the name of son in vain. He was a son by name, but a bond servant in reality, because he refused to go in and receive all by grace.

Abraham called the rich man in hell son too, but he was Abraham’s son only in name. What remorse the rich man must have felt in his conscience when Abraham said, “son, remember.” He was reminded that all the blessings promised to Abraham could have been his, but he sold them for the glamour and the pleasure of the world.

The father said, “*You have been with me always. You did not go out into the far off country like my younger son, and now I want you to come in and enjoy the fullness of my grace so you can rejoice and be with me through all eternity.*” In Philip’s translation it says: “*you have been with me all the time.*” You will notice that he doesn’t say, “*You will be with me all the time.*”

In John 8:35 we read: “*And the bond servant abideth*

*continued on pg. 2*

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*not in the house forever; but the son abideth forever.”*

The last thing we hear about the elder son is that he would not come in. The door was open, the invitation was extended, but he would not accept, he refused to come in. He was not forced to come in. No one is. The day will come when the door is shut.

Before the door is shut let us as God’s people make use of every opportunity to witness both to the younger as well as to the elder son.

Taken from “*hear HIM*”  
by Lars Stalsbroten

\* \* \* \* \*

### THIS IS THE BOOK!

*Charles Spurgeon*

Since God wrote it, mark its truthfulness. If I had written it, there would be worms of critics who would at once swarm on it and would cover it with their evil spawn. Had I written it, there would be men who would pull it to pieces at once and would perhaps be quite right to. But this is the Word of God. Come, search, ye critics, and find a flaw; examine it from its Genesis to its Revelation and find error.

This is a vein of pure gold, unalloyed by quartz or any earthly substance. This is a star without a speck, a sun without a blot, a light without darkness, a moon without paleness, a glory without dimness.

O Bible! It cannot be said of any other book that it is perfect and pure, but of Thee we can declare that all wisdom is gathered up in Thee without a particle of folly. This is the Judge that ends the strife where wit and reason fails. This is the Book untainted by error but is pure, unalloyed, perfect truth. Why? Because God wrote it. Ah! Charge God with error if you please; tell Him that His Book is not what it ought to be. ...Blessed Bible, Thou art all truth.

# “This One Thing I Do”

Philippians 3:12 – 21

As difficult as it may be, one must forget “*those things which are behind*” (v.13). Satan loves to torment believers with memories of past sins even though God has already forgiven them of all their trespasses (Col. 2:13). The apostle Paul could have spent time dwelling upon the atrocities he had committed against Christians prior to his salvation, but instead he “*press(ed) toward the mark*” (v. 14). Though ashamed of his former evil works, he now possessed singleness of purpose to live every moment for God’s glory. Paul said, “*This one thing I do.*” He was not perfect; he “*had (not) attained*” (v. 12). But he was maturing and pressing forward each day.

We, too, must guard ourselves against the devil’s attempts to make us feel as though our past efforts to live godly and to avoid worldliness were in vain. Today, many parents who did their best to raise their children “*in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (Eph. 6:4) are heartbroken because their children have become “*prodigal*” sons and daughters. Though Satan delights to plague godly parents with past regrets, they must still purpose, by God’s help, to press on, to more fervently study God’s Word, to trust in His promises and to continually pray about the needs of loved ones. They must continue to resist the harmful philosophies of “*the enemies of the cross of Christ*” (vv. 18-19). The heartaches and persecutions experienced by faithful believers should come as no surprise (2 Tim. 3:12). When the trials of life come, we must heed the words of our text (vv. 15-16) and steadfastly keep our eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ, rejoicing in the promise of His coming – it could be today (vv. 20-21)! MHR

Taken from ‘Feature’  
Fundamental Evangelistic Association, Inc.  
Telephone 805 – 528-3534

**“Once in seven years I burn all my sermons, for it is a shame if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago.”**

**John Wesley**

## Salve for Your Eyes

*“I counsel you to buy from me ...salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.”* (Revelation 3:18)

Our salvation depends on our vision, that our eyes are anointed with divine eye salve that we may see. If we are enabled to see our distress and our helplessness, and at the same time be enabled to see Christ’s merits and the attitude of God we would rejoice fervently in gratitude.

Works are worthless toward attaining salvation, but Christ has wrought an eternally sufficient provision. There is no other recourse but to believe. This is the gold available without price. White garments of Christ’s righteousness cover all of my poor self, even my shabby faith and prayer life. Thou alone, O Christ, art worthy to receive honor and glory and power, for thou was slain and didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every kindred and tribe and tongue and people and nation.

This is the blessing wrought by the eye-salve of the Holy Spirit. By this means indifferent persons become alive and burning with faith and zeal. This is the way for man to receive the vision of faith whereby to behold the Lamb of God as one’s own atoning sacrifice.

*“God loved our erring mortal race,  
And through his Son bestowed his grace,*

*Those all who will in him believe*

*May everlasting life receive.”*

(Johannes Loearius, 1671)

PRAYER: Fan to flame the smoldering coals of fervency, O Lord, that there shall be brilliant flame instead of smoking brands, sooty and ark. Anoint my eyes with divine eye-salve to behold the beauty of Jesus; and may his beauty be seen in me, for his sake. Amen

Taken from “*Rosenius Daily Meditations*”  
by Carl O. Rosenius  
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

## Some Preachers Don’t Like Preaching

Could it be that some preachers are decrying great preaching today because they can’t do it? Could it be that we are trying to do by other methods what we can no longer do by preaching because we will not pay the price to be God-called Bible-believing, Christ-centered, Spirit-anointed men? — **Vance Havner**

# The Leaven Of The Pharisee

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(Please) Read Matthew 23:1- 11

*“But all their works they do to be seen of men,  
...But he that is greatest among you shall be your  
servant.”* (Matt. 23:5 & 11)

In every human life there are two basic urges that strive for mastery.

The one is pride and vain-glory, the desire to become great to that one can be respected and honored by others.

Even if all people may not have an equally great desire to show forth this dark side of their nature, yet pride is so inherent in everyone that it must be counted as the basic sin from which all other sins grow.

Our first parents once heard in the garden the words, “*Ye shall be as gods*” – that is, independent of God. When they yielded to this false idea of greatness they turned the whole human race into a down-grade road.

The other urge in a Christian is the desire to be humble and small, to serve others in love, to forget himself and his own good works, and in all of his conduct and activity to resemble Jesus. The nature that was given to us by God when we became His children rejoices to do good, to sacrifice and to suffer when there is no one there to see it.

Jesus reminds us of this side of the Christian life in the passage we have before us. It is this side, however, which we find difficult to see and attain to. This is possibly more true of us Christians now than of those who have lived before us.

It may be that we are more of Christian workers today and are more practical than our forebears. Perhaps no time in the past has contained so many temptations to pharisaism as our day. The development of the times has brought the Christian life and the Christian work more out into the open. Periodicals, books, and annual reports from every church, mission society, and evangelist are full of temptations that tend to the pharisaic Christianity of the marketplace.

The various societies that work for the kingdom of God try, as indeed they should, to increase their income and activity. But here it is that the temptation lies, to exalt me and mine when God’s Spirit and true Christian judgment asks us to be silent and not let the left hand know what the right one does. We say as much as we can – sometimes more than the truth will permit – of how much I have done and how much grace and blessing was over my meeting; my report is full of boasting over attendance and a good spirit; I counted the people who gave themselves to God, and report it loud enough so that all can hear. After all this it is an easy matter to daub the “grave” with a sanctimonious “The honor belongs to God alone.”

I know full well that many do not like this; they believe that it is an unjustifiable criticism which prevents Christians from revealing the mighty things the Lord has done among us. Against this criticism I do not care to defend myself. I would ask every co-worker of Christ to look at what the Savior has done, place his hand upon the heart to listen to Christ’s Word about the leaven of the Pharisees.

Every honest Christian knows that it pleases our old nature to tell others what one is permitted to do for God. When the seventy returned to Jesus they showed that even the devils were subject unto them in His name. Then the Savior replied, “*Rejoice not that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*” (Luke 10:20). ...

Each one of us is responsible for his own life, and must appear before his judge. You who wish to be victorious in your struggle against the leaven of the Pharisee: Pause a while in your chase; hide yourself from this hurried life and noisy activity. Go aside and rest a little. Let your plow and pen be idle for a while; let all the demands upon you and your time pass you by for a season while you stand face to face with your Savior. Stop your hurrying. Examine yourself and behold Jesus in quietness. Also that is God’s will for us. ...

In such times many of us will have to agree to that which we did not know and would rather not know, namely that the leaven of the Pharisees is not completely purged out in our lives. Then we shall have to choose again between two alternatives: Bend or break.

We can bend; we can turn to God with our sin and ask him to purge out the old leaven. But we can also make ourselves stiff and hard. Remember Christians: We can do that also. Many of us have done so and have found out that God resists the proud. But he who bows before God will experience that He gives grace to the humble.

Christians, do not misunderstand this word of warning. Do not think that this is said because I wish to judge or strike a fellow servant. It is said because it is burning in my heart, and because I believe your God and my God would have it spoken.

If you are clear in your conscience and free from guilt here, thank your God for so great a grace; but if in the depths of your heart you feel guilty, then meet your Savior at the throne of grace. Do not hide your sin whether you are a speaker, writer, or leader in the Kingdom of God.

This is the way that we have pointed out to others; let us also walk it ourselves.

Taken from the book “*Spirit and Power*”  
by Ludvig Hope

# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

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## Washington Becomes Second State to Legalize Assisted Suicide

The state of Washington has joined Oregon to become the second state in the nation to legalize the grisly practice of assisted suicide.

LifeNews.com

## Michigan Voters Approve Proposition to Allow Destruction of Human Embryos

Michigan residents voted ..... in favor of proposition 2, a state ballot proposal that would permit the unregulated and unrestricted destruction of human embryos for experimental purposes ... The vote is interesting because it comes at a time when embryonic stem cell research is less and less in vogue. Scientists have been unable to conquer problems ranging from the growth of tumors when the cells are injected in animals to rejection from their immune systems. Instead, scientists have focused on a new kind of cell called iPSCs that are created as a result of a process known as direct reprogramming. The technique has received the support of the pro-life community because it allows scientists to develop embryonic-like stem cells without the destruction of human life that makes embryonic stem cell research unethical and immoral.

LifeNews.com

## Bishop Urges Use of Pop Songs in Church

UK Telegraph reports that one bishop is encouraging churches to expand their horizons and use pop hits – in their services. In a new book,..... Nice Baines, Bishop of Croydon, speaks of the influence of many pop music writers to convey spiritual yearning and even truth to the younger generation, asking churches to go a step beyond guitar praise-and-worship styles. “For many people the language of the Bible has become inaccessible, and yet pop song writers can make a connection with people because their language is fresh”.....The Archbishop of Canterbury has endorsed Baines’ book.

Editor’s Comments: When man becomes the center of his own little universe, it is necessary to go further and further to accommodate his preoccupation with himself. God and whatever represents Him get relegated to a diminished importance. ...

The Sword of the Lord

## Sin on the American Scene

A new study from Ellison Research shows that an overwhelming majority of Americans (87%) believe in the notion of “sin” as “something that is almost always considered wrong, particularly from a religious or moral perspective.” The survey, which included over 1,000 adults, also compared 20 of the most objectionable behaviors and whether respondents qualified them as “sinful.” Adultery tops the list –81 percent of Americans consider it a “sinful” activity.

There was also a majority of individuals who believe racism (74%), drug use (65%), (abortion 56%) and homosexual sex (52%) are sins. Interestingly enough, more people believe that it’s sinful to gossip (47%) or swear (46%) than engage in premarital sex (45%).

The major disparities in the survey were mostly political – not religious – in nature. Among liberals, only 77 percent believe in the concept of sin, compared to 94 percent of conservatives. In this day of moral relativism, it’s encouraging to know that a majority of Americans still recognize and believe that there is such a thing as sin, even if there are devils in the details.

Family Research Council

**Editor’s Note:** The numbers would be considerably better on this if the American pulpit was not so ‘silent’ in what the BIBLE names as SIN! If your Pastor preaches against specific sins, and church leaders as well, commend them and pray for them!

## South Dakota Voters Defeat Measure to Ban Most Abortions

For a second time, the voters of South Dakota defeated a state ballot measure that would have banned most abortions, having defeated a similar measure two years ago. The 2006 ban would have only allowed abortions to save the life of the mother, and the 2008 ban added rape and incest exceptions,

*“The face of the Lord is against them that do evil,  
to cut off the remembrance of them from the  
earth.”*

*Psalm 34:16*

with the hope of persuading more pro-life voters to support it. Instead, South Dakota voters defeated initiative Measure 11 by a 55-45 percentage-point margin.

LifeNews.com

## Kindergartners Given Homosexual “Pledge Cards”

A pro-family advocate is outraged that a California public school teacher would pass out homosexual pledge cards to her kindergarten students.

The pledge cards were produced by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, or GLSEN, and featured oaths that students would not use “anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender language or slurs,” that students would intervene on behalf of homosexual students when possible and that they would actively support safer school efforts.

Tara Miller is a kindergarten teacher at Faith Ringgold School of Arts and Science in Hayward, California. She passed out the pledge cards to her students, which she then asked them to sign. Peter LaBarbera, the president of Americans for Truth about Homosexuality, is outraged at Miller’s actions.

“First of all, why is homosexuality as an issue being raised at all in kindergarten? These are students who don’t even know what sex is yet, and this teacher is talking to them about homosexuality,” he contends. “This is an abuse of these students’ minds, and it’s just wrong.”

...LaBarbera believes ...“This is just bizarre, and it shows how the teachers with their radical sexual agenda want to start early to reprogram these kids’ minds. They want to undermine the faith teachers that the kids have at home; this is part of a plan,” he suggests. “To me, this is like Hitler with Nazi Germany and the Soviets wanting to get to the youth and change the minds by getting to them at a very young age.”

In the same report on FoxNews.com, a spokesperson for the school agreed that the pledge was inappropriate for the kindergarten students and said that the pledges were meant for middle school and high school students.

OneNewsNow.com

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## The Riches of God’s Grace

Ephesians 2:4-10

Today’s text reminds us that God is “rich in mercy” and “rich in grace” (vv. 4-8). Both of these blessed spiritual realities have special significance for the child of God. As believers, we can look back and thank God for the riches of His mercy and grace in sending His only begotten Son, our Lord

Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins and to rise again bodily for our justification. How thankful we also should be for the riches of God’s mercy and grace revealed through His Word. We were born again as the Holy Spirit took the Word of God and used it to convict us of our sin and our need to trust in the only Savior from sin, Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:17).

The Bible tells us that the moment we accepted the Scripture’s invitation to be saved, we became new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). The new walk is to be different than the old one. We are now partakers of God’s grace as His dear children. We now have the blessed privilege of doing the good works for which we were created in Christ Jesus in the first place (v. 10). It is God’s will that we not only look back in thankfulness for His mercy and grace in salvation but also that we trust Him more each day. This yieldedness will result in our doing the work that God has called us to do.

These provisions are truly wonderful, but notice verse seven which tells us that the best is yet to come; God’s eternal plan is to manifest “the exceeding riches of His grace” throughout the “ages to come.” Every child of God can anticipate a glorious future! No believer has any reason to be downcast or discouraged now, for God’s mercy and grace has been – and always will be – abundant toward His dear children. MHR

Taken from ‘Feature’  
Fundamental Evangelistic Association, Inc.  
Telephone 805 – 528-3534

## Separation

“You should be separated  
unto the Gospel and from  
the world. You can be separated  
from the world but not  
be separated unto the Gospel,  
but you cannot be separated  
unto the Gospel  
without being separated from  
the world.”

Tom Sexton

# Editorial

## RES Only

*“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24, (Please read the entire 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Samuel))*

### What is the ‘spiritual’ forecast for the future?

History often repeats itself and often ‘we’ are hard on the ‘children of Israel’, wondering how long does it take before they learn? But ‘we’ are very much like them in that ‘we’ **all** have the fallen depraved nature (old sinful nature)! As we look at the long history of ‘Israel’; we see a long history of God’s MERCY and isn’t it good that GOD does not change and *is merciful!*

Our text marks the end of an era in the long and somewhat sad history of the children of Israel. God had delivered the Israelites into the Promised Land just as He had said (vowed) HE would; BUT they failed to honor and serve Him and found themselves in bondage time and again with the heathen nation around them. Sadly, but eventually, they refused to allow the Lord to be their Ruler any longer and instead wanted, like the nations around them, a human king to rule over them. (Probably because they saw the heathen kings were much like they were!) GOD GRANTED THEM THEIR REQUEST! “And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.” **Psalm 106:15**. What about today here in our great USA: *For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water.” “The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?”* **Jeremiah 2:13 & 5:31**. To walk after the flesh is a reproach to the cause of Christ.

In our text Samuel reminded the people of what God had done for them and then relinquished his duties as Israel’s judge and leader to their new king, Saul. Samuel reminded the Israelites that, although he would no longer lead them as their judge, he would continue to teach them the way of the Lord and PRAY for them.

In order to honor and glorify God, the children of Israel needed to heed and obey instructions from GOD through Samuel and in verse 20 GOD says ‘**fear not**’. Surrounded by turmoil, they had looked to men for help rather than turning to the Lord, thus they had good reason to be afraid, BUT a merciful **GOD**, who had led them through the wilderness and into the Promised Land, offered them comfort and hope amid their temporal difficulties and despite their spiritual infidelity.

Much of the spiritual compromise and infidelity that plagues the church today has resulted from the fear of being

mocked, scorned or despised. But we have no reason to ‘fear’ as long as we are obediently following our omnipotent Leader. We must not be ‘afraid’ to move forward in faithful service and ministry. Fear of man worketh a snare. IF you know JESUS as your personal Savior we should not worry about the unknown. Our **Redeemer** is the living, **Almighty God!**

Fear is anxiety and faith and fear are opposites! FEAR drives people away from doing God’s will!

NOW there is a wholesome, **Godly fear** that we NEED! For example: In Luther’s Small Catechism Explained we are challenged with the answer to each of the Ten Commandments; “We should fear and love God. . . .” To fear the Lord is to reverence and respect Him; because of Who HE is! In verse 24 of our text it says ‘**Only fear the Lord**’. *“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”* **Hebrews 12:28-29**. **“And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ‘But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you fear Him!’”** Luke 12:4-5 – read on. **Revelation 1:18**.

When our Lord states ‘occupy till I come’ HE is not expecting ‘us’ to stand ‘idly’ by; BUT be involved in HIS Kingdom Work! Here in verse 24 HE states we are to serve HIM in ‘Truth’ with ALL *your* heart. Jesus clearly states that we are either for Him or against Him. You cannot walk with the smile of the world and the smile of God upon you at the same time. It is not difficult to serve two masters, but impossible.

Noah demonstrated an attitude of reverence and respect for the Lord that moved him to obey God’s command – he “moved with fear” when God instructed him to build the ark. Because Noah had respect for God and demonstrated a genuine reverence for Him, he obeyed. One who truly fears the Lord will naturally desire to wholeheartedly serve Him according to truth. When one seeks to serve Him with *compromise*, it will dull discernment and the result will be **confusion**. No wonder Jesus states: *“Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division”*. **Luke 12:51**. Please note that “peer pressure” was very costly in King Saul’s life

found in **1 Samuel 15:24**. God through Samuel states “**to obey is better than sacrifice.**” – **1 Samuel 15:22**. **Disobedience is SIN!** Notice “I” is in the very center of the world sin. When the “I” becomes a ‘nobody’ (O) in the word, it equals SON. Notice “i” is in the very center of **obedience**. “*To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.*” **Luke 1:74 – 75**, please read verses 78 & 79.

Frequently we need to be reminded of God’s goodness and to consider the great things He has done for us in order

to “be established in the present truth.” One thing to carry over from ‘last year’ throughout the ‘New Year’ is remembering how GOD has provided and HE changes not! Appreciation is ‘fuel’ for motivation to press on in the future. **Thanksgiving to God is always timely!** Naturally we are not ‘to worship’ the gifts/blessings BUT the **GIVER!** **James 1:17.** **Real love** begets OBEDIENCE and our ‘obedience’ to Jesus is tested by ‘obedience’ to His Word!

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* **Matthew 5:16.**

## A Lesson about Light

*“You are the light of the world”* (Matthew 5:14).

The obligations resting upon the Church are the same obligations resting upon every individual member. Every member is commissioned to be a light in the world, and likewise each congregation as an aggregate of individuals. “*You show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts*” (2 Corinthians 3:3).

If there is one who confesses to be a disciple of Christ but does not follow the example of Christ, he will be like a stone in the fire. He will give no light and his example will hinder the light, which should be forthcoming from the company of glowing embers. A congregation that does not reflect the light does not merit the name of a Christian congregation.

May each person ask himself, “What is there in my life that gives room for sin and that hinders conversion of others?” This examination may be painful but it is purposeful. Let us remember that the branch which does not bear fruit shall be cut off and thrown into the fire.

*“We claim the Light, the Way, the Truth  
In Christ the world’s true Light;  
His is the power to light our steps  
And lead through darkest night  
“He will forgive, support, and guide,  
And keep us for his own;  
Let’s follow him, we dare not tread  
The unknown way alone.”*

(R. F. P.)

PRAYER: Let me walk in the light and reflect the light of Your true Light, O Christ, Light of the World. Amen.

Taken from “*Rosenius Daily Meditations*”  
by Carl O. Rosenius  
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

## Settling the Seriousness of Sin

Not every person has committed the same sins, but we read in Romans 3:23, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*”

I’ve never been drunk. I don’t know what whiskey or beer tastes like. I don’t know the taste of cigarettes. There are a lot of sins that I have not committed. But I know I have sinned.

I used to think a man was a sinner because he sinned. But that’s not necessarily true. The sins don’t make the sinner. The sinner makes the sins.

A dog is not a dog because he barks. He barks because he is a dog. And I might say, not all dogs bark the same. Some dogs bark more than others, yet all dogs are dogs.

Now, I’ve said that to say this: Not all men sin the same. Some sin more than others, but all men are sinners. You don’t have to commit every sin in the catalog to be lost.

Dr. Joe Henry Hankins once asked his doctor, “Doc, what is the strongest poison known to man?”

The doctor replied, “Potassium cyanide.”

Brother Hankins said, “Doc, how much potassium cyanide would a man have to drink in other for it to kill him?”

The doctor’s answer was, “Brother Hankins, it is so strong that if a man took the stopper out of a bottle of potassium cyanide and touched underneath his tongue where the blood vessels are nearest the surface, he wouldn’t live to get the stopper back into the bottle.”

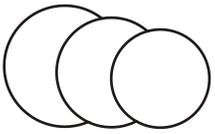
Brother Hankins continued: “What difference would it make if he were to drink the whole bottle?”

The doctor replied, “I don’t see what you’re getting at, Brother Hankins. It wouldn’t make any difference. The man would be dead either way.”

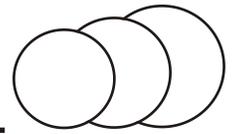
Then Brother Hankins explained, “Doc, a lot of people in this country think they have to commit every sin in the catalog to be lost. The truth is, they are lost whether or not they ever commit another sin.”

Everyone needs to be saved, because everyone has a sin nature. And everyone has committed sins. “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” There are no perfect people.

Dr. Curtis Hutson in “*Salvation Crystal Clear.*”



# From Our Fellowship Circle



**A. T.** **Seattle, WA**  
Thank you for the Christ centered articles in the *Morning Glory*; I know we have been blest by your paper.

The Lord has been good to us – wish we could give more in support of this ministry.

**V. & J. V.** **Hetland, SD**  
Please receive this share of our Christmas ‘giving’. Thank you for continuing to publish the *Morning Glory*.

**L. R.** **Fergus Falls, MN**  
Hi! Let me introduce myself. ...

My parents lived in Fergus Falls and it seemed they always had a copy of the *Morning Glory* laying on the end table which they enjoyed reading and sharing with others. Their connection to the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation goes back to when my parents lived near Joice, Iowa and made their church home at ..., where my siblings and I were raised. I too remember times when people from Hauge came to our church for meetings.

My parents have both gone home to be with the Lord. We would like to share a memorial in their memory for your ministry. May the Lord Bless you!

**A. & A. M.** **Rothsay, MN**  
We were blest in attending the Bible Conference you sponsored in Fargo, ND and it was nice meeting you.  
God’s blessing in your Good Work – keep it up.

**L. & R. S.** **Bottineau, ND**  
Just a note to say thank you for the Morning Glory. We look forward to each copy. We thank God the truth is still being shared through this paper. We need revival. God Bless!

**J.V.** **Billings, MT**  
The November issue of the Morning Glory has a full range of writings so timely for today’s world. Repentance; preaching, (that gives us the whole counsel of God); the high priority of prayer.

May these spur us on to obedience and fruit bearing for the Lord’s glory! I also enjoyed the article on President Bush and his support and praise for Israel. It was so nice to see our president portrayed in a positive light. God bless your work.

**O.R.** **Langdon, ND**  
Your magazine “The Morning Glory “ is so wonderful to receive, we get the “Truth”. This modern religion has lost the “Truth” and so many people are led astray. Keep up the good work, and God’s blessings upon you. Enclosed is a check... Yours in Christ

**MN subscribers**  
Please remove our name from your mailing list...I strongly disagree with your stance on “contemporary” music...

**G & S N** **Mill Creek, WA**  
We thank the Lord for your ministry. It is so desperately needed in times like these. Keep up the great work.

**G & N L** **Harding, IA**  
We are very grateful to receive the Morning Glory. It is very encouraging and helpful these days.

## **THERE ALWAYS WILL BE GOD**

*They cannot shell His temple,  
Nor dynamite His throne;  
They cannot bomb His city,  
Nor rob Him of His own.  
They cannot take Him captive,  
Nor strike Him deaf and blind,  
Nor stave Him to surrender,  
Nor make Him change His mind.  
They cannot cause him panic,  
Nor cut off His supplies,  
They cannot take His kingdom,  
Nor hurt Him with their lies.  
Though all the world be shattered,  
His truth remains the same,  
His righteous law still potent,  
And “Father” still His name.  
Though we face war and struggle  
And feel their goad and rod,  
We know above confusion  
There always will be God.*

Albert Leonard Murray  
Osterhus Pub. House, Minneapolis, MN

# An Unspeakable Gift

By Cecil Holcombe

## *An Unspeakable Celestial Mansion*

Not only has God provided us with an unspeakable salvation and an unspeakable sanctification, but He has provided us with an unspeakable celestial mansion.

Jesus said, “*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*” (John 14:1, 2)

I’ve tried to think what that might be. Scripture does not give us a lot of specifics about Heaven and our mansion. Somebody said, “If the Lord had given us all a really detailed description of this mansion, then all the saints would just want to go on to Heaven immediately.” So God didn’t fully describe to us some of the things He has in store for us.

Some years ago I wrote these few lines:

*Heaven is a place of beauty supreme  
With a street of gold and a crystal stream.  
Heaven is a place with no toil or strife  
With its gates of pearl and the tree of life.  
Heaven is a place Jesus went to prepare  
So all who believe will be with Him there,  
Heaven is a place with no sin or fear;  
The Father is there to wipe away tears.  
Heaven is a place where loved ones will meet,  
And the saints of old with joy we will greet.  
Heaven is a place where there is no night;  
The glory of God and the Lamb is the light.  
Heaven is a place of beauty, ‘tis true,  
With its lovely estate and its people too,  
Heaven is a place where the Saviour will be,  
And anywhere the Saviour is will be Heaven for me.*

Excerpt taken from ‘*God’s Unspeakable Gift*’  
in “Sword of the Lord”

\* \* \* \* \*

## *The Young Man Convinced*

Robert T. Grant told me that on one occasion, while traveling, he was sitting on the train reading his Bible. He noticed the people around, many with nothing to do. He opened up his bag, got out some gospel tracts and, after distributing them, sat down again.

A young man left his own seat and moved over to the preacher and asked, “What did you give me this for?”

“It is a message from Heaven for you, to give you rest in your soul,” replied Mr. Grant.

The young man sneered and said, “I used to believe in that stuff years ago, but when I went to school and got educated, I threw it all overboard. I found out there’s nothing to it.”

“Will you let me read to you something I was going over just a moment ago?” Mr. Grant asked. “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.’ Is there nothing in that, young man? I have known the blessedness of that for many years. Is there nothing in it?”

The young man replied, “Go on; read what comes next.”

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.’ Is there nothing in that?”

“Pardon me, sir; let me hear some more,” said the young man.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Is there nothing in that?”

Then the young man cried, “Oh, forgive me, sir. There is everything in that! My mother died with those words upon her lips and besought me to trust her Saviour, but I have gotten far away from Him. You have brought it all back. Tell me more.”

And as God’s servant opened up the truth as to the way of salvation, the young man, who had been so careless and unbelieving, was convicted of his sin and led to trust in Christ and confess Him as his own Saviour right there on the train.

Dr. H. A. Ironside

## Hard to Believe?

Sometimes people say they would find it very difficult to believe in a God who had prepared such a place as the lake of fire for His creatures. He never did! He prepared that awful place for ‘the devil and his angels.’ If you go there, you will go there against the will (desire) and the pleadings of God. You will go past the Cross to get there; and IF you are not going to be saved (when God calls) YOU would have been better off IF you had never been born!

— Selected

## IT CAN HAPPEN AGAIN ...

A boy gave his lunch to Jesus, and five thousand men, besides women and children, were fed.

A slave girl spoke to her mistress about God, and her master, healed of his leprosy, became a devout believer.

Andrew told Peter about Jesus, and three years later Peter preached a sermon that won three thousand souls for Heaven.

A Sunday school teacher visited Dwight Moody in the shoe shop where he worked and spoke to him about Christ, and Moody became a world-renowned evangelist leading thousands to Christ.

Hudson Taylor said “yes” unreservedly to God, and more than 1,200 missionaries went forth to China under the banner of the China Inland Mission which he founded.

A little group of students met by a haystack to pray for the lands where the Gospel was unknown, and the great movement of American foreign missions was launched.

It can happen again! Will it happen to you! “*Ye shall be (My) witnesses:* (Acts 1:8).

Selected

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### Consider This

Editor J. A. Stueckle writes in the *Beacon Intercessor*:

During our lifetime we have heard many varied sermons, and also many types of exhortations in prayer meetings. Many changes have taken place during these years in the themes chosen for a message.

One change in particular is that there is more emphases now on “doctrine” and on “Bible exposition” than there was in earlier times. In itself this is good; but it has this sad result, namely, that “doctrine” and “Bible exposition” seem to have replaced, to a large extent, the preaching on coming judgment.

“My mind became so exalted that I was not myself aware, nor can I express, what took place in my soul. For I was beside myself. As soon as I came to my senses, I was filled with regret that I had not served this lovingly transcendently good God. Now it seemed to me that nothing in this world was worthy of any regret.”

Hans Nielsen Hauge  
(describing the time when he found peace with God)

ment. Preaching periodically on judgment, for sinners and saints, was as much on the preacher’s schedule as any other Biblical subject. Even our Sunday School lesson each quarter had one or more lessons on end-time judgments.

Does it not appear an odd incident that, as the evidence of the nearness of judgment mounts, the teaching and reminding us of it has become almost nil. Is this a mere incident or is it a clever plan to keep Christians from becoming spiritually alerted themselves and to keep them from warning the nominal and non-Christians?

**Editor’s Note:** When was the last ‘time’ you heard a full sermon on “JUDGMENT”? Most certainly there is NO lack of evidence in God’s GRACE BOOK, the BIBLE! Seems to ‘me’ the sermons are getting ‘shorter’ and more casual; more in consideration of what the ‘folk’ like to hear than what ‘they’ need to hear! Personally I’m not so interested in what the ‘leader’ thinks, BUT what the Bible teaches!

Biblical ‘doctrine’ is important; the one who has no ‘convictions’ will FALL for ANYTHING! The ecumenical movement shares that doctrine divides and love unites; while Martin Luther shared, “Cursed be that love for unity where the Word of God is at stake.”

\* \* \* \* \*

### JESUS ONLY

By Dr. Samuel Miller

“*And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, save Jesus only.*” (Matthew 17:8)

*Jesus only on the mountain, Jesus only on the sea,  
Jesus only in the valley, There in dark Gethsemane,  
Jesus only up to Calv’ry, Jesus only on the cross,  
Jesus only in all suffering, All things else are empty dross.*

*Jesus only in life’s evening, Jesus only on the rest,  
Jesus only can support me, When the sun sinks in the west.*

*Jesus only in the morning Of that vast eternity,  
There reveal’d glorious splendor, In the home He won for me.*

“*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*” (Acts 4:12 – 13)

# The Excellency of Christ

Jonathan Edwards

There is an admirable conjunction of diverse excellencies in Jesus Christ. He is the lion and the lamb. The lion excels in strength and in majesty of his voice. The lamb excels in meekness and patience.

There do meet in Jesus Christ infinite highness and infinite condescension. Christ, as he is God, is infinitely great and high above all. He is higher than the kings of the earth; for he is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is higher than the heavens. All kings and princes are as worms of the dust before him. All nations are as a drop of the bucket, and the light dust of the balance; yea, and angels themselves are as nothing before him. He rules over the whole universe, and doth whatsoever pleaseth him: his knowledge is without bound: his wisdom is perfect, and what none can circumvent: his power is infinite, and none can resist him: his riches are immense and inexhaustible: his majesty is infinitely awful.

Yet he is of infinite condescension. None are so low or inferior but Christ's condescension is sufficient to take a gracious notice of them. He condescends, not only to princes and great men, but to the poor of the world. He takes a gracious notice of little children. In him we find infinite justice and infinite grace. He is the judge of the world and will not at all acquit the wicked, or by any means clear the guilty. Yet he is infinitely gracious and merciful. He has grace for every sinner and even for the chief of sinners. In the person of Christ do meet together infinite glory and the lowest humility. There is equal honor due to him with the Father. Yet what a wonderful spirit of humility appeared in him contentedly living in the family of Joseph the carpenter and Mary, his mother, and afterwards choosing outward meanness and poverty and contempt rather than earthly greatness; in his washing his disciples' feet, in his cheerfully sustaining the form of a servant and submitting to such an immense humiliation at death! He was a lion in majesty and a lamb in meekness. In the person of Christ are conjoined absolute sovereignty and perfect resignation. Though he sweat, as it were, clots of blood, yet he said, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." Though he be a consuming fire to sin, yet he is the life and light of sinners.

His infinite condescension marvelously appeared in the manner of his birth. The blessed Virgin was shut out by those who thought themselves her betters and would not give place to her. Lying in a manger, he appeared eminently as a lamb, he who was born to conquer and triumph over Satan, that roaring lion. He never so appeared as a lamb as when he was slain, and yet, in that act, he did in an especial

manner appear as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. His humiliation was never so great as in his last sufferings. Never was he subject to so much ignominy as then. Never did he suffer so much pain in his body or so much sorrow in his soul. This act of his is celebrated by angels and hosts of heaven. "And behold I heard the voice of many angels around the throne; and the number of them was ten thousand and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory, and blessing.'" He will sit upon the great white throne. The devils tremble at the thoughts of that appearance. But to his saints, he will clothe himself wholly with sweetness and endearment. The church will then be admitted to him as his bride: that shall be her wedding day: the saints shall all be sweetly invited to come with him to inherit his kingdom, and reign in it with him to all eternity.

Taken from "*Behold The Christ*"  
Roland Bainton

## *Does being Raised in a Christian home make you a Christian?*

Charles Spurgeon relates the following about his childhood:

"Through the Lord's restraining grace, and the holy influence of my early home-life, both at my father's and my grandfather's, I was kept from certain outward forms of sin in which others indulged; and, sometimes, when I began to take stock of myself. I really thought I was quite a respectable lad, and might have been half inclined to boast that I was not like other boys — untruthful, dishonest, disobedient, swearing, Sabbath-breaking, and so on. But, all of a sudden, I met Moses, carrying in his hand the law of God, and as he looked at me, he seemed to search me through and through with his eyes of fire. He bade me read "God's Ten Words" — the Ten Commandments — and as I read them, they all seemed to join in accusing and condemning me in the sight of the thrice-holy Jehovah.

C.H. Spurgeon Autobiography  
Vol.1: The Early Years 1834-1859, pp. 59-60.

# The Decline and Fall of the United States of America

*“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God”* (Psalm 9:17)

Dr. Carle Zimmerman studied civilizations throughout history like Greece, Rome and others. He looked at the factors that led to their eventual downfall. He discovered that the breakdown of the family and its effect upon society was at the core of this downfall. He identified three phases of decline, the third of which is summarized as follows: <sup>1</sup>

- 1) Marriage loses its sacredness. It is frequented by divorce. Alternate forms of family are introduced.
- 2) The feminist movement flourished, with women losing the desire for child bearing and rearing.
- 3) Increased desire and acceptance of adultery. It is celebrated, not frowned upon.
- 4) Growing disrespect for parental authority. An increase in juvenile delinquency, promiscuity and a spirit of rebellion.
- 5) Greater tolerance for sexual perversions. This is marked by a rise in homosexuality and other perverted sexual practices. This marked the final phase and signaled the demise of the culture.

Keep in mind that this work was published in 1947 and Dr. Zimmerman had no knowledge of what is currently going on in America. This list seems custom suited for society in America today, especially with what has developed in the last 40 years or so. If our nation continues the way that it is heading, it will never make it. Just like every other great civilization, it will crumble in the dust, be over-run by another people and be nothing more than another civilization for historians in the future to study.

Right after God created Adam and Eve, He instituted marriage as the foundation upon which society would be based. He said, *“Therefore shall a man leave father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh.”* (Gen. 2:24) In this sacred covenant, one man and one woman would enter into a binding contract, and would agree before God never to break it. It consisted of doing three things: 1) Leave father and mother. This meant that the child was leaving their home and family in order to establish a new one. They were to 2) Cleave to one another. This meant that the marriage bond was permanent and there would be no separating from it. As Jesus put it, *“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asun-*

*der.”* (Mk. 10:9) They were also to 3) Become one flesh. This meant that through the sexual union, man and woman would be one together and through this union, God would procreate the human race. But notice very carefully that God’s design for this procreation is done within the context of marriage and the home, so that proper love, nurture and discipline can take place for the rearing of the children in the fear and love of God. This is the design that God has built as the fabric and backbone of society. When this design is disavowed, then society can no longer exist.

We can see this demonstrated in two societies in Scripture which met their demise from God. The first example is listed in Genesis 6:5, *“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”* Notice how emphatic God describes the wickedness of this culture. EVERY thought was ONLY evil CONTINUALLY. They had become a society which had completely turned away from God and God’s ways. This manifested itself in their relationship with one another: *“And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. Then God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them, I am about to destroy them with the earth.’ ”* (Gen. 6:12-13) The end result of this wickedness is that man deceives himself into thinking he is supreme, and will destroy anyone who crosses his path. They were a very violent society. Does this sound familiar today? Notice that God destroyed externally what had already destroyed itself internally.

The second example is listed in Genesis 19. God sent two angels in human form to rescue Lot and his family. When they arrived in Sodom, here is the reception they found, *“Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; and they called to Lot and said to him, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out that we may have [sexual] relations with them.’ ”* (Gen. 19:4-5) Notice that the entire town was given to this, when it says “all the people, young and old.” They were completely given over to homosexuality. Does this sound familiar today?

Lot then proceeded to offer his two daughters to this mob! Lot said, *“I have two daughters who have not had [sexual] relations with man; please let me bring them out to*

<sup>1</sup> Carle C. Zimmerman, *Family and Civilization*. Harper & Brothers, New York.

you, and do to them whatever you like...” (Gen. 19:8) Can you imagine a man offering his two daughters for sexual perversions? Just as Zimmerman discovered: This is the last phase and signals the end of the culture. This was the last phase as God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone (v. 24). Will God do any less for another culture, like ours, that does likewise?

Is there any hope for America? On top of all of this, our culture has lawfully approved the murder of some 40 million babies through abortion. Are we to think that God will sit by and do nothing when such blatant murder takes place? He did not do so at the first murder, when Cain rose up and killed Abel. Rather He said, “*What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.*” (Gen. 4:10) The blood of these poor babies is crying out to God for Him to avenge their death. Do we think that God does not hear and that He will not act?

Is there any hope for America? If we continue down this path, the answer is no. Great civilizations in the past have demonstrated repeatedly that they can’t exist this way. When God’s design for the family is ignored, then God’s glue that holds society together is melted, and society comes apart. It is impossible for it not to come apart, because God is still in control and He still has the last word in all matters.

Is there any hope for America? I believe that there is only one hope for our nation, and that is for God to send us a prophet. That will be the topic next month.

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

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### “Fight the good fight of the faith”

(1 Timothy 6:12).

LUTHER says somewhere that faith lives only as long as it strives. He had in mind this very fight of faith to hold fast to the grace of God when our heart condemns us because of our daily life.

This tension is inherent in living faith and can never be removed. If this is eliminated from faith, we have a dead faith which holds fast to the grace of God with the intellect and does not give the conscience an opportunity to condemn sin.

This struggle and this tension in connection with faith can therefore never be obviated by theoretical insight into the mystery of the Gospel. Not even a long *experience* of the grace of God can eliminate it.

The people who experience these difficulties in connection with believing the grace of God are not Christians of the poorest type. Luther himself, a great hero of faith, often had great difficulty even in believing the forgiveness of sins.

The more sensitive and keen our conscience becomes,

the *more* it will accuse us, the *deeper* it will prick us.

A rich and long experience of the grace of God will also sharpen the conflict: Can you be a child of God when so much of His grace has been so fruitless in your heart and life? Is not this proof that your faith is dead, that you are misusing the grace of God ?

Here, too, living faith will win the victory and again *rest* in the grace of God.

But only after a *struggle*.

The distress of conscience caused by sin is therefore not only the mother of faith; it is this distress which each day preserves the faith of a child of God as a *living* faith.

“Redeemed, restored, forgiven  
Through Jesus’ precious blood,  
Heirs of His home in heaven,  
O praise our pard’ning God !”

Taken from “*God’s Word for Today*” by O. Hellesby  
Augsburg Publishing House

## *A Step of Faith*

The Hauge Innermission Federation is taking a step of faith in calling a Field Representative. This person will work to contact our readership to encourage Christians and their walk with the Lord. He will work to arrange evangelistic meetings, Bible conferences, home fellowships, and tent meetings. [The Hauge Innermission has a tent ready to set up for tent meetings] He will work to expand the ministries of the Innermission and the readership of the *Morning Glory*. He will be our man who puts feet to our ministry.

Pastor Rodney Stueland of Dilworth, Minnesota has accepted the call to serve as our Field Representative. He has been the editor of the *Morning Glory* for many years. Some of the readers will remember the late Pastor Jay Erickson as the last Field Representative of the Innermission. He went home to be with the Lord in 1992. We have not had a Field Representative since that time, until now.

We ask for and covet your prayers for Pastor Stueland as he seeks to do this arm of the Lord’s work. If you would like to contact him about coming to your church or fellowship to present the work of the Innermission, he can be reached by letter at: 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, by email at: rodandbarbie@live.com or by phone at (218) 287-5586. Please remember to pray for this as we step out in faith that the Lord would direct and provide to the salvation and discipleship of precious souls.

# Where Do I Go To Church?

**QUESTION (COMPOSITE OF SEVERAL):** We can't seem to find a church in our area that has godly leadership and biblical preaching. We feel so alone and now just read the Bible and pray at home. What should we do? How do we find a "good" church?

**RESPONSE:** It is a sad commentary on the state of the church that we receive many such queries.

What marks a "healthy" church? Crucial to the answer is Matthew 18 :20: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst" Christ himself must be the central focus-not a pastor, gripping sermons, a strong missionary emphasis, exciting youth programs, compatible fellow members, or even agreeable doctrines, important as all these factors are. A fervent love for Christ and a heartfelt corporate worship of His Person must be the primary mark of a healthy church.

The early church was thus characterized. It met regularly on the first day of the week in remembrance of His death. That weekly outpouring of praise, worship, and thanksgiving had one purpose – to give God His due portion. It isn't primarily a matter of *my* need, *my* edification, *my* enjoyment or *my* spiritual satisfaction, but of *His* worth in my eyes and the eyes of the church.

As I see it, our secondary focus should be our opportunity for servant-hood with a corporate body of believers. I give myself to a needy, imperfect people for whom I can pray, for whose needs I can concern myself in practical ways, to whom I can be an encourager and a minister of the Word, and among whom I can demonstrate and work out Christ's desire that His own "might be one." This fellowship is commanded: "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*" (Heb 10:25). Is it our joy to gather with God's people in intercessory prayer and study of the Word, or is Sunday-morning only quite enough? A healthy church will not only gather unto Him, but with each other.

Lastly, I need to assess my own spiritual needs. The shepherds must provide the spiritual food that will nurture the flock, that it might be "*thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Tm 3:17). That's a big order and requires, of course, a teachable flock that loves the Word and is in willing subjection to it. The shepherds must also guard the flock of God by keeping out false and dangerous doctrines contrary to the truth. They must adhere to the pure Word of God as the only authority for faith and morals.

You say, "Wonderful! Lead me to such a church." Remember, however, the order of priority: Worship (do you worship sincerely, wholeheartedly, and in a manner satisfy-

ing to the object of that worship?); Servant-hood (do you serve, even as Christ gave us an example, with humility and with joy?); Personal needs (are you growing, maturing, taking on Christ's character?).

The final decision as to your church affiliation must be, prayerfully, yours. Is your personal worship of the Savior so joyful and satisfying a thing both to you and to Him that it supersedes other considerations? Do your opportunities for service render your fellowship sufficiently meaningful and significant? Or do doctrinal concerns or lack of biblical preaching and teaching cancel out the other two? You must seek the Lord for His answer. God's comforting assurance remains: "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*"

Taken from *The Berean Call*  
December, 2008

**Editor's Note:** The above letter and response from *The Berean Call* reflects what we are hearing from godly people across the land: Where do I find a sound church? Many are seeing their once beloved church go the way of popular fads, such as The Purpose Driven Life, Contemporary Worship, fun, entertainment, skits, drama, and on and on. Some are even seeing their once beloved church go to absolute denial of the Scripture and Scriptural standards, even to the point of including or even ordaining homosexual people. Some churches are so dead that you come home worse than when you left!

Many saints today have fought for the truth and been pushed to the side by the church leadership. Some pastors have even been put out of their churches because they refused to compromise and give in to such madness. Some saints are still trying to see something spiritual happen in their church, so they hang in there, in spite of the compromise. Some have just given up and are meeting with close friends at home for prayer and fellowship. They are not really trying to be rebels, but there is no solid, spiritual work in their area. Many are lonely, hurt and confused.

The Hauge Innermission wants to be a help to you. We want to encourage you in your plight because many of us are in the same boat that you are. We want to provide you with good, spiritual food through the *Morning Glory*. We want to encourage you to consider having an Innermission meeting, sponsored by even your small fellowship group and advertise it around so that others who are like-minded would become aware of you. It could be the start of a good spiritual work in your area, regardless of the size. We want to encourage you to press on in the Lord.

## Update

John 9:4-5

### RUST OUT OR WEAR OUT????

Recently I was telling a 'brother in Christ' some reasons why I would be limited to trying to fill a certain position AND his response was: Do You Want To Rust Out Or Wear Out For The Lord? In essence, how 'often' haven't 'we' heard: "Well I have done 'my part' OR it is time for me to 'step aside' or 'retire' from such a position OR there is nothing more I can do!" Friend, the "walls around Jerusalem" are crumbling and we NEED TO SPAN THE GAP! ALARMINGLY the "crumbling" has gotten so BAD & SERIOUS that even supposedly Christian conservative 'congregations' are questioning the infallibility, inerrancy, and inspiration of the BIBLE, God's Word! Indirectly just 'think of' the number of precious Souls that will go eternally LOST because of such an unbiblical stand (statement) of questioning. II Timothy 3:16 – 17 & II Peter 1:19 - 21!

R. A. Torrey said, "We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions, much machinery but few results."

William Law said, "There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as praying for him."

By the GRACE of GOD we are seeking to be a 'Standard – Bearer' (Trumpet Sound) 1 Corinthians 14:8: "*For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?*" By the GRACE of GOD, with your continued PRAYER and financial support we are Making No Apologies For The Old Time Christianity while 'contending earnestly for the faith.' Jude 3.

Income for Morning Glory in November = \$2,584.00

Cost for each issue of the Morning Glory is approximately \$2,375.

## Altar Steps

The Hauge Innermission Federation is considering reprinting the devotional entitled "*Altar Steps*" by Rev. R.P. Haakonson. This is a daily devotional which is geared for family use with children. This devotional has been out of print since 1959. We have permission from the Haakonson family to do this.

The cost of setting up the printing for this is \$500. The final cost will tentatively be \$5.00 each. If the Holy Spirit is impressing you to give toward this, simply respond in the envelope that is located in the center of the magazine.

## Upcoming Bible Conference

The Spring Bible Conference of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation will be held at Mt. Sion Lutheran Church, Kasson, Minnesota (Pastor Lyle Aadahl – Host Pastor) on March 13th-15th, 2009 (Friday evening through Sunday noon), Lord willing.

Mr. Toby Knutson and Pastor Rodney Stueland will be the Guest Speakers and a schedule should appear in the next issue of the *Morning Glory*. Please make plans to attend NOW and PRAY for the same!

A motel number for lodging in the immediate area is: (507) 634-3444.

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