



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • January 2012

Victory Over Satan Assured

By John A. Hash

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to (successfully) stand against (all) the wiles (strategies, strength, and deceits) of the devil. For we wrestle ... against principalities, against powers, against the rulers (the master spirits) of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness ... Therefore put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day (when you are tempted).” Ephesians 6:10-13.

Jesus’ victory over Satan during His 40 days in the wilderness was accomplished as He quoted Scripture. And He reminds us that *we shall not live (victoriously) by bread alone (physical needs that supply physical strength), but by Every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4). “Every Word” begins in Genesis.

Every piece of the *armour of God is the Word of God*. Never is there a time when the Christian soldier can put aside his armour and say: “The battle is won.” We are to *fight the good fight of faith* (1 Timothy 6:12), and *faith comes by hearing (reading) the Word of God* (Romans 10:17). *The Word of God is living and powerful ... a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart* (Hebrews 4:12). *It is God (through His Word) who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure* (Philippians 2:13).

We overcome in the great conflict with unbelief, worldliness, and immorality as the soldier of Christ *puts on the whole armour of God* (Ephesians 6:11). Furthermore, there are no alternatives, no substitutes. College degrees, theol-

ogy, and psychology are all powerless to prepare the soldier for spiritual warfare. It is futile to put on only half the armour, for Satan and his wiles are sure to aim his *fiery darts at the most vulnerable spot* (6:16). We’re all inclined to fortify ourselves against certain selected sins and neglect the areas in which we think of ourselves as most secure. But the Lord warns: Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (1 Corinthians 10:12). God knows all the enemy forces that we face, and He knows our weaknesses and has provided full protection and complete armour for us to be victorious — more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37).

Verse 10: Be strong in the Lord

These are the same words that God spoke to Joshua: ***Be strong***. Joshua was able to conquer all the Promised Land in just seven years. His secret of strength is pointed out in Joshua 1:8: ***This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth; but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to ALL THAT IS WRITTEN therein: then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.***

To remove all possible doubt that this is the key to Joshua’s strength, following his seven years of victories and total conquest of the Promised Land from north to south, east to west, we read, *he left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded* (11:15).

In the power of His might

To be overcome by sin is a faith failure, and *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God* (Romans 10:17). Pray as David did. *Open my eyes, that I may be-*

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Volume XCIV – Number 1
January 2012

MORNING GLORY (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Haga Publishing, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856. Periodicals postage paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56537.
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Morning Glory, c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is registered with the Department of Internal Revenue as a non-profit religious organization. Contributions for all phases of the Hauge Federation are deductible for income tax purposes.

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hold wondrous things out of your Law (Psalm 119:18).

Verse 11: Put on the whole armour of God

We are not required to, nor can we provide, our armour, but merely to *put it on*. Its effectiveness depends entirely upon the One who made it – God. And *the whole armour of God is essential for victory*.

Stand against the wiles of the devil

The great purpose of Satan is to destroy our relationship and loyalty to Christ and to make us ineffective as soldiers of Christ. Satan is real, and unseen satanic forces around us are seeking to discourage and then to defeat every Christian. Satan is *seeking whom he may devour* (1 Peter 5:8). But God, through His Word, has made available to every Christian everything necessary to be an overcomer.

Verse 12: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood

Our conflict may appear to be with men, organizations, laws, and other obstacles that seek to hinder our Christian activities. But in reality, behind all opposition to the Gospel is Satan - *his principalities and powers, and unseen rulers of darkness*. This darkness is the result of satanic efforts to pervert the truth using human reasoning.

Christ is above all principalities, and power, and might (Ephesians 1:21). And *He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world* (1 John 4:4). The normal Christian life is one of continual victory over satanic assaults. Within our heart, there is a desire for *the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the*

pride of life (1 John 2:15-17). However, we are not defenseless against the enemy.

Verse 13: Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day

The *evil day* of temptation will come but at a time when we least expect it.

and having done all, to stand. Stand.

The command to be strong in the Lord is directly associated with our having done all.

The Israelites' conquest of the Promised Land illustrates the true meaning of these commands. God said to Joshua: *Arise, go over Jordan ...Be strong and of good courage ...that you may observe to do according to all that is written ...that you may prosper whithersoever you go* (Joshua 1:1-9). And their history illustrates that conquest of the land became a reality when they were obedient to His Word. And wherever there were failures, it was a direct result of ignoring His Word.

Verse 14: Having your loins girt about with truth

This girdle, a belt, was often made of linen, wide enough for several folds that could carry valuables around the waist. Such is the Word of God, wrapped around us, (Ephesians 2:2-3). But now *be renewed in the spirit of your mind ...put on the new life, which was created according to God in righteousness and true holiness (4:23-24)*.

Ephesians teaches us that we are in a battle, not against physical forces, but against spiritual ones. It can be termed: "The Christian's guide to spiritual warfare," for it defines our armor, our battle plan, and our only weapon - God's Word empowered by the Holy Spirit.

In contrast to those who walk in the newness of life in Christ are those of the world who *walk in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God* (4:17-18).

Paul made a strong appeal for separation from *works of darkness* (5:11) - warning *that no whoremonger* (person practicing sexual sins), *nor unclean person* (impure in thought or in life), *or one who is covetous* (who has lustful desire for the property of others and is greedy for gain - in effect an idolater) *has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God* (5:5).

At the close of the book, Paul encourages us to prepare for spiritual warfare by putting on the *whole armor of God*, revealing how vital the knowledge of God's Word is to overcome all *the fiery darts of the wicked* (6:11-17).

Praying always ...for all saints Ephesians 6:18.

Taken from "Bible Pathway"

Editor's Note: Realization of the same – should make 'us' shutter! Satan is out to "kill you & me"! "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10.

Purify Your Souls

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently" (1 Peter 1:22)

PURIFY your souls!

Yes, that is needed. How unclean is not the soul which we carry in our bosom. Egoism, love of self, vanity, a penchant for criticism, envy, immorality. What a bottomless and boundless sea of unclean thoughts and fantasies there is in the human soul!

Many pay no attention to the uncleanness, and let it pass.

Others have taken up the battle. They suffer under all this uncleanness. They are repulsive even to themselves. Often times they are at the brink of despair, for all seems vain, regardless of how hard they struggle. It is like fighting with a chimney-sweep; the more you fight, the dirtier you become. Peter knew this, and shows us another way.

Purify your souls by love of the brethren, he says. The unclean content of our souls cannot be attacked *directly*. To get the air out of a glass is a very difficult task if I concern myself directly with the air in the glass. But if I fill the glass with water, the air will be forced out very easily.

We cannot drive the impure thoughts and fancies out of our hearts by attacking them *directly*. The apostle says that we should fill our hearts with a new content; then our evil thoughts will be compelled to evacuate.

Confess your impure thoughts to God. Then listen to His words: The blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, *cleanses* us from all *sin*. Thus you become clean before God.

Then proceed in willing and self-sacrificing love to serve all with whom you associate and you will notice that your soul will become filled with pure and fervent thoughts toward those to whom you are showing kindness. This is the most certain antidote for impure thinking.

Do not be dismayed if you find that you fall back at times. Remember Him who said: "They that are in health have no need of a physician, but they that are sick."

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Praise God Anyhow

By Pastor Tony Scheving

“Therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.” (Heb 13:15)

There are thousands of languages and dialects in this world, but there is one word that is the same no matter what the language. It’s the word ‘Hallelujah’, which speaks of praising God our Creator. The Old Testament of our Bible was originally written in Hebrew, and Hallelujah is a Hebrew word for ‘praise God.’ “hallel” means praise, and “jah” means Jehovah. Now it’s one thing to praise God during the good times of life, but the verse above speaks of a ‘sacrifice of praise.’ We know what it means to have to sacrifice, or to make a sacrifice. It means to be put out, or do something when it’s difficult. Well, the Bible tells us to still praise God when we’ve been put out or let down. This is a sacrifice of praise.

The Requirement

I’ve been to the tomb of George Handel in London’s Westminster Cathedral. When Handel was writing his famous “Messiah”, he became so engrossed in his work, that he barricaded himself in his room seldom eating or sleeping for 23 days, sobbing as he composed. As he was writing the Hallelujah chorus he said, “heaven came down and the great God Himself.” Most people wouldn’t understand this. In fact, back in the days of Jesus, the religious clergy didn’t get it. When Christ made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the clergymen ordered Jesus to command the people to stop praising Him. Jesus said, *“I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out”* (Luke 19:40). Think about that! Imagine the sound of praise coming out of rocks. Our Creator meant what He said here. God must be praised! It is a requirement of man and nature. The Bible even says, *“Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee”* (Ps. 76:10). God will somehow even get glory out of the folly of the heathen. Now the truth here is this: Christian people need to be careful about being ‘selective; in our thanks and praise to God. God is good whether life is kind or not. The Bible says, *“be instant in season, out of season.”* The word ‘instant’ means *“steadfast or not fickle.”* To praise God anyhow, may hurt or cost you something. The Bible says, *“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Eph. 5:20). If God wants us to do so regardless, then evidently it is possible. He tells us to *“rejoice evermore”* (1 Thess. 5:16).

The Reason

Why should we praise God anyhow? In the gospel of

Luke, chapter 10, the disciples were rejoicing because they had power over demon spirits. One chapter earlier, the disciples were embarrassed when they weren’t able to help a demon-possessed boy. The circumstances of life may change, but God is *“the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”* (Heb. 13:8). That means life will have emotional mountains as well as valley, but God’s goodness doesn’t change. My son and daughter-in-law recently experienced the frustration of planning a wedding, but later felt the joy of a beautiful ceremony. Any mother knows the agony of travailing to give birth to a child, and also the joy that follows after the delivery (John 16:21). Circumstances change by the hour. Poverty can replace prosperity and setbacks can replace success. Bud health can replace good health and persecution can replace popularity. John the apostle knew the joy of seeing the glorified Jesus on the top of the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17), but afterwards knew the pain of slave labor in a copper mine on the island of Patmos. It was all within the will of God as John received the incredible and final book of the Bible while banished to isolation. God was still on the throne and in control of His world. The Bible tells us that God, *Will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*” (Heb. 13:5). We can praise God anyhow because He is always in control. Decades ago, the Russians launched their first satellite into outer space. The atheistic communist magazine Krokidil boasted, “The universe is now under new management!” Of course that is laughable (Ps. 2:1-4). There is a sovereign Creator in control of all the circumstances of this universe and your life, so praise God anyhow. (*Editor: That does not ‘mean’ that man cannot step out of the ‘will of God’, disobey, reject the ‘will of God’ and reap what he sows!*)

The Reaction

One of God’s faithful missionaries, Allen Gardiner, experienced many physical difficulties and hardships throughout his service to the Savior. Despite his troubles, he said, “While God gives strength, failure will not daunt me.” In 1851, at the age of 57, he died of disease and starvation while serving on Picton Island at the southern tip of South America. When his body was found, his diary lay nearby. It bore the record of hunger, thirst, wounds, and loneliness. The last entry in his little book showed the struggle of his shaking hand as he tried to write legibly. It read, “I am overwhelmed with a sense of the goodness of God.” What a reaction to adversity! I also think of the man Job in the Bible, who lost all his children, wealth, and health in a very short time. Picture with me Job standing over the 10 graves of his children and saying, *“The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord”* (Job 1:21). Later on Job said, *“Though he*

(God) *slay me, yet will I trust in him*” (Job 13:15). We would call that ‘a sacrifice of praise.’ Life is often lived from peaks to low valleys and back again. Joseph went from being the favored son, to slavery, to being a favored employee, to being falsely accused and sent to a dungeon. From there he became the overseer of the Egyptian empire! Moses went from being criticized by his people to being the hero who parted the Red Sea and brought deliverance. David went from being a giant killing national hero, to being a fugitive, to being a king, to being overthrown by his own son. On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached and revival broke out. A few weeks later, Peter is beaten and thrown into jail. Life can really be a roller coaster. Praise God anyhow! God is still good if the cupboards are bare, the car is running lousy, the creditors are calling and your job is in jeopardy. Instead of panicking, or having a pity party, we need to offer up a sacrifice of praise.

The Result

Psalm 107:22 *“And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.”* What happens when we “praise God anyhow?” A few months after Jesus ascended to heaven, the apostles were beaten by the Jewish religious leader for preaching the gospel. How did they respond? The Bible says, *“They departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name”* (Acts 5:41). They praised God anyhow! As a result, they had the power of God working mightily in their lives (Acts 4:31). Later on, Paul and Silas would be beaten and thrown in jail. Instead of having a pity party, they praised God (Acts 16:25), and God worked a mighty miracle for them. There is something powerful about praising God even in the midst of trials and adversity. Praise releases God’s power to work on our behalf. King Jehoshaphat and the Jewish people were in an awful predicament in II Chronicles 20. Instead of panicking, they offered up a sacrifice of praise and God worked a mighty deliverance from their enemy. God is able to bring about a ‘reversal’ in the midst of bad times if we would just remember to trust and praise Him (Ps. 107). At times of defeat, sickness, poverty, death, loneliness, persecution, and weakness, remember to offer up a sacrifice of praise. God is still on His throne and the Bible says, *“Without faith it is impossible to please Him”* (Heb. 11:6). On the morning of Lincoln’s assassination, a crowd of fifty thousand people gathered before the Stock Exchange Building in New York. Emotions ran high and there was danger of a riot pursuing. Just then, a well-built man in an officer’s uniform stepped to the front of the balcony, and in a voice that rang like a trumpet he cried, “Fellow citizens! The Bible

says of God, *“Justice and judgment are the establishment of His throne. Mercy and truth go before His face.”* Fellow citizens! God reigns! And the government at Washington still lives!” Instantly, the tumult was stilled, as the people grasped the truth of those noble words. The speaker was General James A. Garfield, himself to become a martyr-president sixteen years later. God is still on His throne no matter what happens, so praise God anyhow!

Faith for Life

Editor’s Note: AS **‘we’** continue to PRAY for ‘our’ beloved USA!

* * * * *

Making the World Conform to ISLAM

It is amazing how much influence Muslims have been able to exert throughout the Western world. While they make up only a fraction of the population in the United States, they have been gaining leverage in our society.

Islam is now being taught in public schools here in America. Students are required to dress like Muslims, use Muslim names, as well as pray and recite verses from the Qur’an. Evangelical Christian parents and students challenged such teaching in the Byron Union School district in Contra Costa County, California. However, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that the courses do not violate any laws. The U. S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal on this case recently, thus their doctrination of our children into Islam will continue.

Here is one of the Muslim prayers that the school children recite: “In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to Allah, Lord of Creation, The Compassionate, the Merciful, King of Judgment day! You alone we worship, and to You alone we pray for help, Guide us to the straight path.” One need not wonder how the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals would have ruled had the course been on Christianity and had it included prayers in Jesus’ Name.

Selected

Likely year 2008

The future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded.

James Madison

All Things

“How shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Rom. 8:23

A Christian may not have much in this world, but in Jesus he has all things. Poverty may be caused, not by lack of things, but by failure to use what we possess. Jesus gives us all things, and gives them freely.

An old rag-picker was found on the streets of a city, weak from illness. Everyone thought he was penniless, but a will was found after he died. In court it was found that he possessed \$15,000 in cash, and property valued at \$30,000. He lived a rag-picker, but he had possessions that would have made it possible for him to live in comfort. (Editor: Remember this value was many years ago!).

There are Christians living the same way. Their spiritual lives are weak, poverty-stricken and defeated, and many of them will die as paupers. Every Christian does not possess \$45,000, but the unsearchable riches of Christ. All things are ours! God has given us all things in the unspeakable gift of Jesus, and He has blest us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.

Dear Lord, help us to yield our lives to Thee so that we are able to receive the gifts Thou hast for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Joys are flowing like a river,
Since the Comforter has come;
He abides with us forever,
Makes the trusting heart his home.
Bringing life, and health and gladness,
All around this heavenly Guest,
Banished unbelief and sadness,
Changed our weariness to rest.
Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
What assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea, He speaks peace to me,
How the billows cease to roll!*

Taken from the 'family' devotional book *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson. It is available from the Innermission for a suggested donation of \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for shipping.

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The Wrong Use of God's Name

In Profanity (and Slang - Editor)

By W. Herschel Ford

It is one of the most common sins of the day. This is a

cursing age. Men curse, women curse, and children curse. They curse on the streets, on the job, in the home, at parties, everywhere. This is a sad commentary.

What earthly good does profanity do? A man has a flat tire, and he curses the tire, but that doesn't put air into the tire.

A man stumbles upon a chair in the dark, and he curses the chair, but that doesn't heal the bruise.

A man curses, because he loses a game he is playing, but his cursing doesn't win the game. There is absolutely no reward in profanity.

One day I approached a man I know who was cursing a blue streak. When he turned around and saw me, he said, "Excuse me, preacher. I didn't know you were present.

I told him that I was not the one to whom he should apologize. He had taken the Lord's name in vain, and he should apologize to the Lord. If it is wrong to curse when the preacher hears you, it is wrong to curse any time.

Remember that God hears you, wherever you are and whatever you say. Your speech is an index to your character. I listen to a man speak, and I know what he is.

If he speaks in profanity, I know that his heart is sinful. Jesus said, "*Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh*" (Matt. 12:34). Pure water comes out of a pure well; impure water, out of a polluted well. It is the same with the heart.

Sam Jones, a great evangelist of another day, said, "When I hear a man cursing, I hold to my pocketbook. If he will break one of God's laws, he is likely to break another. If he will curse, he may steal."

The Sword of the Lord

Editor's Note: "Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain." What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Dr. Martin Luther's SMALL CATECHISM

“Total abstinence is considered Victorian and puritanical. We discuss what to do about alcoholism, but nobody seems to want to do much about alcohol. And that is simply a matter of trying to mop up the floor while you leave the faucet running.”

Vance Havner

Editorial

RES

God Allows or Controls??

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wher-ever He wishes.” “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.” (Proverbs 21:1 & Romans 13:1)

God can even turn something bad into good!

WHEN a person goes through a ‘difficult’ time or experience, it is often stated that the LORD sent it my way!

Now keep in mind that ‘we’ live in a ‘sinful world’ and that many times these ‘undesired periods of time’ are not because of any direct person or sin; BUT because we live in a ‘sinful world’.

For me personally there is a clear distinct difference between ‘sent’ and ‘allowed’; although they may be closely related.

Quite frequently when a person expresses concern, in regards to the future of our great USA, almost inevitably the conversation ends by some one stating, “Well, God is in Control!” Well most certainly God is the one and only ONE who is ALMIGHTY and nothing catches HIM by accident or surprise. When things are going contrary to ‘godliness, etc.’, do ‘we’ have the right to *insinuate* that it is God’s fault, or is HE just ‘allowing’ these things to happen?

You know even in Job’s life, as there was no godly man on earth that compared to him; GOD **permitted** Satan to test him: he was not sent by God!

As evangelical ‘believers’ (secondly Lutherans), we know we are to use Scripture to interpret Scripture. If a person pulls one or more verses out of context (likely to prove that they are right) you can get the Bible to say almost anything. But Scripture never contradicts itself! **The Bible is a Book of Absolutes and God is the Author thereof.** That doesn’t mean that ‘we’ always understand everything correctly in the Bible by any means; but the basic fundamentals are crystal clear – as they are enlightened by the Holy Spirit.

Keep in mind ‘we’ are now discussing IF things are sent/controlled by God OR if He allows/permits them to happen! For example: JESUS *cleansed* the ‘Temple’ twice as we find in Holy Scriptures. Now He most certainly did not intend the misuse of the Temple as He clearly states that the temple is to be a ‘house of prayer’. In general ‘today’, the ‘church’ is conspicuous by the lack of the ‘prayer meeting’. *“And He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer;’*

but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” Matthew 21:13, Luke 19:46.

Now we need to come to ‘grips’ and ‘discuss’ where the ‘rubber meets the road’. Does God ‘allow’ OR ‘control’ all the decisions that we human beings make – like electing national leaders?? Most certainly I want to state ‘again’ that ‘nothing’ catches God by surprise or accident!

Let me give you some examples from God’s Holy Word the **Bible**: When God miraculously ‘clearly delivered’ the people of Israel from Pharaoh (Egypt), it then took them 40 years instead of app. 10 days before they stepped on the soil that God had promised them. The children of Israel decided that they wanted to be like other countries, and wanted to be led by a ‘king’, named Saul. **Romans 12:2** is the correct answer; BUT it is not forced upon us, or is it? **YES Romans 12:2** is the antidote, but it is not ‘forced/controlled upon us’; so is it ‘allowed/permitted’ by God? Notice what happened to the ‘children of Israel’: *“And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul”* Ps. 106:15.

How about God calling Jonah to preach unto the folks at Ninevah? Or Nehemiah being called to rebuild the city of Jerusalem that was in captivity? Or the time when Jesus was an infant and Joseph was forewarned to flee for ‘their safety’.

YES numerous times when the ‘ungodly’ were in ‘leadership’; GOD would use them to humble or chasten the children of Israel who had forsaken God’s Ways! **“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land”** 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Even though God in His ‘foreknowledge’ tells ‘us’ what the ‘church’ at large would be like today: we know with absolute clarity that the *lukewarm* church’ today is detestable in His sight; YET in HIS **mercy** He seeks the individuals who make up this ‘church’ to repent & return! **Revelation 3:14-22.**

For further discussion and Bible Study “Does God Al-

low OR Control”, please prayerfully read the following:

A Nation = Proverbs 14:34, Psalm 9:17, 33:12, 43:1 & Isaiah 9:16, 26:2.

False Prophets/Pastors/Teachers, etc. = Deuteronomy chapter 18, Micah 3:5, Jeremiah 14:14-15, 23:21, 32, (read entire chapter 23 of Jeremiah), Proverbs 14:5, Isaiah 56:10-11, Matthew 24:11-13, 22-24, 15:14, Luke 6:39, Romans 16:17-20, 2 Corinthians 6:11-18, 11 Thessalonians 3:5-6, 13-15 & 11 Timothy 3 - entire chapter.

Halleluiah, Praise ‘our’ GOD, What a Savior!: “*For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob*” Malachi 3:6. “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*” Hebrews 13:8.

‘We’ are born as ‘individuals’, eat as ‘individuals’, sleep as ‘individuals’, sin as ‘individuals’, die as ‘individuals’ and are accountable as an ‘individual’ unto God. **But** ‘individuals’ make up a family, community, congregation, county, state and nation, etc. God didn’t create ‘us’ as puppets! Neither do ‘we’ have to surrender to ‘peer-pressure’! “*Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him insincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!*” “*And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” Joshua 24:14-15.

Some say that **GOD made** ‘me’ or **caused** ‘me’ to do such and such. We as ‘individuals’ like to lay *at least some* of the blame on another or circumstances, especially when it comes to SIN. By nature we are born as attorneys in justifying ourselves or excusing ourselves – **BUT GOD** is not a ‘dictator nor tyrant’! James 1:12-27.

It seems to ‘me’ that when we insist that GOD is in ‘control’ that it is so easy to make God responsible for every situation; **but to say that** God ‘allowed/permited’ such and such is even more safely on Biblical Ground. I am not seeking to cause *any of lack of authority* to God whatsoever; because HE only wants the **very best** for you and me; both on this side of eternity and in eternity!

God is HOLY and yet God in His ‘Holiness’ has entrusted to ‘mankind’ (even though mankind is depraved and sinful) a certain degree of ‘freedom’ which does not intrude upon the Sovereignty/Authority (Control) of

God. (For example: the millennium (1,000 year period) is yet to take place. *No one will be in Heaven that doesn’t want to be there!* When a person ‘sins’, then who is in control? **Not God!**

Are there times when ‘we’ should not obey the government? Yes, but only when the government is forcing ‘us’ to disobey God. Jesus and His Apostles/disciples never disobeyed the government for personal reasons; when they disobeyed it was in order to follow God’s standards (today the BIBLE)! IF such should be the ‘case’ today, then ‘we’ must be ready to face the consequences, as disobedience to the same is not *cheap!*

Originally, in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve lived in a sin-free atmosphere; God still let man have a ‘free-choice’. Most certainly GOD did not want Adam and Eve to sin; but knew before the foundation of the earth that they would and it would cost Him (God) a lot (II Cor. 8:9), **His Very Own Beloved SON** – Ephesians 1:4, John 17:24.

There is a *clear ‘distinction’* between the foreknowledge of GOD and *predestination*.

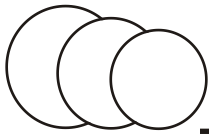
Example: As a parent that ‘loves’ their child/children, you probably told them don’t play with matches OR touch the stove when it is hot; yet you foreknew that likely the child/children would ‘disobey’ sooner or later. You see **sin** will take you further, keep you longer, cost you more than you want to pay! **Romans 5:12, 6:23, Isaiah 1:18 & Rev. 3:20**.

GOD wants ‘all’ to be saved – tragically ‘many’ won’t! “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*” Matthew 7:13-14.

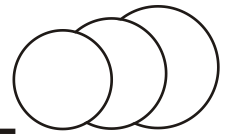
“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires (wills) all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

ALWAYS keep in mind that GOD IS SOVERIEGN
and that there is NO ‘god’ equal or like unto HIM!

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways, And
My thoughts than your thoughts.”* Isaiah
55:8-9.



From Our Fellowship Circle



Mrs. G. J.

Austin, MN

Enclosed is a gift for the *Morning Glory*. We appreciate the good articles in it very much. Will you please extend the subscription to the *Morning Glory* for ...on your subscription list. Thanks much.

M. E.

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Enclosed is \$... to help support the work of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and publishing the *Morning Glory*.

Thank you for your faithfulness in printing a Christ centered publication.

J. M.

Burnsville, MN

Thanks for keeping emphasis on the true Gospel!

L. & S. T.

Detroit Lakes, MN

The magazine is wonderful especially the last Editorial, SLEEP". We would like to be added to the subscription of the *Morning Glory* and also ...

Enclosed please find a donation in the form of a check for the amount of \$.... for this faith ministry.

M. S.

Blue Earth, MN

Enclosed is a check for \$...

Please send me two copies of "Altar Steps" and start sending a copy of the *Morning Glory* paper.

Thank you and God's blessing on the continued work of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.

I am currently reading the book 'Hauge Movement in America'. It is an old book of my Mother-in-law.

Promoted to Prayer

By John Heie

Over the years I had always been heavily involved in church work, in a number of different capacities. With this, I found myself in many public settings and meeting rooms. I never gave any thought to room temperatures, until God sent a rare auto-immune blood disease my way, called cold agglutinin. In temperatures below 78 degrees, anti-bodies in my blood attack and destroy my red blood cells, hereby reducing my hemoglobin count to potentially dangerous levels, and turning my extremities blue.

For the last 16 years the daily question I deal with is, how cold is it going to be in this place, or that place? This has greatly curtailed my ability to be involved in church work in recent years. I loved serving the Lord in church, but He had something different in mind.

One day a few years back, I was having coffee with my associate pastor. I wasn't feeling very positive, so I said to him, "I have been reduced to prayer." He smiled at me and said, "No, John, you have been promoted to prayer." It was a very meaningful moment for me.

While acknowledging the importance of doing the actual hands-on work, God has helped me to see more clearly that it is prayer that connects us to the power source. My daily time with the Lord, and my various prayer lists, are precious to me. And perhaps I am more effective in His kingdom work than every before, because He is the one who has to build the church through His power, not mine. "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain" Psalm 127:1. — Used by permission, "Faith and Fellowship"

Editor's Note: No doubt you who are on 'praying ground' are experiencing numerous causes (individuals/ministries), to pray for & thank GOD for; BUT it is so appreciated if you will pray for this 'ministry'; in all areas, as long as GOD will be *glorified* through the same! Example: Pray that we may be found 'faithful' unto the Author and Finisher of the 'faith' unto our journey's end: that *lives* might be 'born again', Christians nurtured and edified, for 'open doors' for Evangelistic Meetings, Gospel Tent Meetings, Bible Conferences, Christian Literature, etc. Pray that provisions and protection may be granted until this 'journey' ends – both as a 'Lutheran Free Movement' and 'us' as individuals/families who are directly involved as we seek to 'occupy till HE comes'! Pray that **ALL** under the under the BLOOD of the crucified & risen ONE – that HE Might Be Glorified!!! Thank YOU and may God continue to Bless YOU and make YOU a Blessing!

*Think of three things - whence
you came, where you are going,
and to Whom you must give an
account.*

Benjamin Franklin

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Proven Science does not Contradict the Bible

“Terry Mortenson, Ph.D., in the History of Geology from Coventry University in England, says **there is no scientific fact that contradicts the Bible**. Dr. Mortenson is on the staff of the Creation museum in Kentucky, and in a video recorded interview with me on June 23, 2009, he said, ‘I have studied a lot of arguments from evolutionists; I have had several formal debates with evolutionary professors at universities, and I have never heard or read any scientific fact that contradicts what the Bible says. There are evolutionist’s *interpretations* of the facts, but the facts themselves are not contrary to Scripture.’ In a blog entitled ‘Origins Views and the Assemblies of God,’ dated December 11, 2010, Dr. Mortenson wrote: ‘Science has not found a living cell spontaneously evolving into existence by chance from non-living matter, as evolutionists claimed has happened 3.5 billion years ago. Science has not found transitional forms between different kinds of plants and animals, either living or in the fossil records, to support evolutionists’ claims that all life is descended from a common ancestor – the first living cell. And science has not found millions of years of time in the rocks or a gas cloud collapsing to form a star. None of these things have ever been observed by any scientist, so they are not findings of science. Rather, evolutionary scientists using anti-biblical (naturalistic and uniformitarian) assumptions and imagination have interpreted some of the observations of the natural world (while ignoring other observations) to invent a story about the past that contradicts the time-tested, historically orthodox and exegetically sound interpretations of God’s inerrant Word. It is not a conflict between the ‘finds of science’ and ‘traditional interpretations’ of the Bible. It is rather the conflict between the atheistic and deistic interpretations of God’s creation by people who are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18-20) versus the sound interpretation of God’s Word by godly leaders and pastors in the church down through history.’”

Friday Church News Notes via Christian News

Two Thousand-Plus Chaplains Saying “No” to Pentagon

Despite a recent Pentagon directive, a coalition of chaplain endorsers that represents more than 2,000 military ministers has pledged not to perform same-sex “wed-

ding” ceremonies under any circumstances.

Members of the chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty are concerned about the memorandum issued by the Pentagon September 30 that authorizes military chaplains to perform same-sex “marriage” ceremonies and military chapel facilities to be used for “any private ceremony.”

Colonel Ron Crews (USA-Ret.), who served as a chaplain for 28 years, is executive director of the Alliance. He says his coalition is joining the Catholic Archdiocese for Military Services to say “no” to the directive.

“They made a very strong statement saying that no Catholic chaplains serving in the military will participate in any same-sex ceremonies at any chapels. We appreciate that strong stand,” he shares. “So we just wanted to let the Department of Defense know that it’s not only the Catholic chaplains, but that some 2,000 chaplains who come from evangelical backgrounds are saying our chaplains will not participate in same-sex ceremonies in the military.”

Crews says the Alliance is once again calling on Congress to enact a right of conscience clause in the revised code to ensure that no American service members are forced to deny what the Bible says about homosexuality.

OneNewsNow.com

AARP Advocating Homosexual Agenda With Your Money

AARP uses member resources to advocate same-sex marriage and pro-homosexual military policy.

Page 38 of the July/August AARP Bulletin contained an article entitled “Pride is Ageless” which announced AARP’s plans for advocacy efforts in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) arena.”

The article stated, “AARP has created a new online home for the older lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender community.” The page links to news stories on such hot topics as same-sex marriage, gay adoption and the repeal of the military’s ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy, as well as articles on personal finance, travel and other issues of interest. In addition, the site clarifies AARP’s positions and advocacy efforts in the LGBT arena ...

AARP members who would like to cancel their membership and receive a refund for their unused membership time may do so by [contacting the organization.]

American Family Association

McGuffey Reader

If you can induce a community to doubt the genuineness and authenticity of the Scriptures; to question the reality and obligation of religion; to hesitate, undecided whether there be any such thing as virtue or vice, whether there be an external state of retribution beyond the grave, or whether there exists any such being as God – you have broken down the barriers of moral virtue and hoisted the floodgates of immorality and crime.

I need not say that when a people have once done this, they can no longer exist as a tranquil and happy people. Every bond that holds society together would be ruptured; fraud and treachery would take the place of confidence between man and man; the tribunals would be scenes of bribery and injustice; avarice, perjury, ambition and revenge would walk through the land and render it more like the dwelling of savage beasts than the tranquil abode of civilized and Christianized men.

McGuffey Reader, 1854

* * * * *

“Behold, we count them happy which endure.” James 5:11

To endure is to keep on and to hold out. Let us think of what it will mean to others when we endure hardship, trials and testing for the Lord’s sake.

In a large America city there lived a poor, blind, bed-ridden [black] lady whom everyone called “Poor Betty.” Among those who came to visit her was a well-to-do business man who loved Jesus. One day the business man brought a friend along to see “Poor Betty.”

“So, you are still alive, Betty,” the business man said as he entered the room with his friend. “Yes, praise the Lord, I’m still living.” “But,” continued the business man, “what do you think is God’s reason for permitting you to live here so long, poor, sick and blind. It would be better for you to be in heaven, would it not?”

“Don’t you understand?” asked Betty in surprise. “There are two things we need to do in life. One is to pray; the other is to work. God wants me to live and to pray for others. He allows you to live and to work for others. But your gifts would not be as great a blessing if it were not for “Poor Betty’s prayers.”

Are you an enduring saint? As you endure, remember you, too, are doing God’s work.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to endure so that our testimony will be a blessing to others. And help our endurance to strengthen the weak Christians. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*My God how wonderful Thou art,
The everlasting Friend!
On Thee I stay my trusting heart,
Till faith in vision end.*

Taken from ‘Altar Steps’ by Pastor R. P. Haakonson

Editor’s Note: IN this ‘team work ministry’ ‘we’ care about one another and by the GRACE of GOD want to be found ‘faithful’ unto HIM, *until He calls ‘us’ Home!* ‘We’ are asking YOU to stand with ‘us’!

* * * * *

***“He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is
dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”***

Is. 53:7

Sheep are patient animals even when they have to suffer. That is why our Saviour was compared to a lamb. He did not protest against suffering when He died on the Cross, but bore pain and anguish patiently, without murmuring.

One summer day some travelers stood outside of a church in Germany, while one went to get the key to the church. Just then they noticed a lamb made of stone on the wall of the church. They asked an old woman who was passing by what the stone lamb meant. She said, “Many years ago a man was working where you see the lamb. The rope suddenly broke and the man came tumbling down. Just there a lamb was eating grass, and the man fell with his full weight on the lamb. It was killed, but the man was unhurt. He was so grateful that he made a lamb out of stone and placed it upon the wall as a memorial.”

Jesus was bruised for our sins. Live for Him today and show your gratitude for His sacrifice.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy sacrifice for our sins. Give us grateful hearts with which to praise Thee as we ought. In Jesus’ name. Amen

*Lamb of God most holly! Who on the cross didst suffer,
Patient still and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer;
Out sins by Thee were taken, Or hope had us forsaken;
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!*

“Altar Steps” by Pastor R. P. Haakonson

Freedom And True Holiness

But the freedom of the conscience from the Law is also necessary for true *sanctification*, and that we might be *able to do deeds truly good and pleasing to God*. Oh, that God would open the hearts of many to this truth, which is such foolishness to the blind reason! The apostle says expressly: "Wherefore, my brethren ye also were made dead to the law ... that ye might bring forth fruit unto God" (Rom. 7:4). And again, "But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that wherein we were held; so that we serve in newness of the spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter" (6). And in the same way the apostle speaks in Gal. 2:19: "For I through the law died unto the law, *that I might live unto God*." Note, however, that the apostle hereby expressly declares that we cannot live unto God, cannot bring forth fruit unto God, unless we first are dead unto the Law. Consider here but two circumstances. First that which is taught by experience: As long as a soul is not delivered from the spirit of thralldom, but labors at his piety with his eye on himself and on the Law and looks upon God as One who demands something of him, then all is dead, heavy, and listless in the heart, and with all resolutions there comes no power, no accomplishment, nothing but thoughts and words and a few outward observances, which are not too difficult for the natural self. Further, if the Law also attacks the heart and the inner corruption, this becomes doubly stirred up and irritated as the apostle says: "When the commandment came, sin revived," and "wrought in me ... all manner of coveting," and so forth (Rom. 7:7-11). Oh, how many anguished bondservants sign under this experience and cannot comprehend where the mistake lies! They hear and read the Word of God, they cry out and pray, they go to the Lord's Supper, and all is in vain, all is death and powerlessness; only sin is alive and mighty. Oh, that they would hear! Oh, that they would bow their ears to the wisdom of God! Then would their peace be as a river, and their righteousness as the waves of the sea (Is. 48:18); then would they know a new heavenly desire and power in their hearts.

What you lack is this: You were never truly delivered from the yoke of bondage, you never truly tasted what the true faith means, never became truly blessed in pure unmerited grace. Oh, that you would receive that light which one brother cannot give to the other but which is a *revelation of God* in the soul, a heavenly gift, which so sets forth Jesus that you would see the unspeakable grace in which the Heavenly Father, for those commandments you are slaving, has had such mercy upon us, as to deliver up His

Son to fulfill for us all that the Law can demand of us. Then you would see that *for you, too, He has already fulfilled all that which you are working at*, and that God has no other purpose with His Law than to exhaust and slay your self-righteousness, because He never has thought that you would be able to do anything but sin (Rom. 3:12, 19). And you would also see that God through the propitiation for our sins is merciful to all your iniquities, loves you just as you are, and has Himself taken away all your sins and inscribed your name in heaven, just as you are, all for the sake of Christ, your Brother and Mediator!

If you saw all this in the light of the Spirit, and saw how the heavenly Father never counts on you, but has His satisfaction in His beloved Son, for whose sake He never, never looks upon your sins; yes, if you saw, how in the midst of your deepest despondency because of sin you are beautiful and lovely in the eyes of God, through Christ, just as you are -if you saw this in the light of the Spirit, verily, you would weep for love, and leap for joy, and everything which hitherto has been altogether too difficult and impossible for you would become light and pleasant. What was it that caused the martyrs to go joyfully to the stake, Vincentius, his body in torments, to call the glowing coals roses, frail women to say that they had never gone with such joy to their dances as now to the stake? Nothing else than that they were filled with the unspeakably great grace that the Son of God was their Brother and that they through Him were friends of God and the desire of His eyes. This is what Scripture expressly says" "The joy of Jehovah is your strength" (Neh. 8:10); and again: "I will run the way of thy Commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart" (Ps. 119:32).

This is the first point as to the condition, or state, of the believer, telling us that we must be freed from the Law to be able to bring forth fruits unto God. The second point is, that even if you could do much more good than all believers, not a single one of your deeds is pleasing to God as long as they do not spring from this evangelical faith and love. As long as the Law rules in the conscience, it spoils everything you do. You, perhaps, do exactly the same deeds as the believing and delivered soul; but there is an ugly black stain on your deeds which makes them even repulsive in the eyes of God. This black stain consists in this one thing, that you do the good *for the sake of the Law* and not of the heart's own free desire and love, that you do the good because of commandments, threats and promises and not of an inward urge, of free inclination and desire - just as it puts an ugly black stain upon a child's kindness to

its mother, if the child was forced to it by the rod of its father or was prevailed upon by an enticing promise while of course the child ought to have shown this kindness from its own heart's feeling for its mother. Now it is evident from all the Word of God that the Lord God will not have any forced services. What He desires is the heart, its love and devotion.

A married man who really loves his wife is not satisfied with the mere services he receives from her. He would first of all have her love. And if he discovers that for the sake of his property she only feigns love for him, but in reality does not love him, then all her kindness will only be an abomination to him, and simply kindle his wrath. So with God. Before His eyes all that piety and godliness is repugnant and rejected which is practiced only because we "shall," we "ought," we "must," that is, practiced only from a *legalistic motive*, and which does not flow forth from a liberated, blessed, and grateful spirit, from the love of the bride which says "Now I do not so much as pick up a straw in order to merit salvation and the friendship of God, or to atone for my guilt; for my Bridegroom of blood has done all this during the thirty years that He was a bondservant under the Law for me, and finally suffered the bloody death of the Cross. But what little I do, I do because I do not need to do anything for my pardon; only because He has done all for me, and is every day and every moment my only righteousness before God; only because I now am in such a kingdom of grace that all my sins shall never be reckoned against me, that I shall never be judged according to the Law. This liberty it is that moves me so ardently and gladly to do and to suffer what my God wills, since He has taken away from me the cankerous anxieties of my heart over sin and Law. Yes, since *He* has taken upon Himself the great, heavy burden, the matter of my salvation, I will very willingly take upon me some of these lighter burdens-for sake the world and sin; subdue my flesh, and serve my neighbor in love, with deeds, with words, and with patience; give the hungry bread; the homeless hospitality; visit some one in sickness and some prisoner, forgive some enemy and have patience with some troublesome fellow-being or some hard calling in life. Since my Lord has been so gracious as to be pleased with such little matters, it seems almost like a paradise to me that I may do the faithful, dear Lord some service pleasing to Him. All this my heart loves to do, because of His exceeding goodness and instituting this kingdom of grace, so that no sin is reckoned against me and I shall never be judged according to the Law.

"The Believer Free From The Law" by C. O. Rosenius
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.
To be continued in the next issue of Morning Glory

Continue

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them." 2 Timothy 3:14

This encouraging exhortation by the apostle Paul is in the midst of a most discouraging prophetic warning of things to come. *"In the last days,"* he said, *"perilous times shall come"* (v. 1). We may very well be entering those very times, and, in any case, we do well to be alert for the signs of those times. The doleful description that follows seems to be a very accurate picture of the beliefs and practices of modern secular humanists, including those religionists who have *"a form of godliness,"* but deny *"the power thereof"* (v. 5). (Ed. Emphasis mine).

Moreover, there is little prospect that the situation will get better, for *"evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived,"* and *"all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"* (vv. 13,12). Should we, therefore, tremble and flee, or perhaps compromise, or even surrender to such powerful and persuasive deceivers?

No, we should continue! Just keep on believing and obeying God's Word. Even in the dark last days, the *"Holy Scriptures"* are still able to make a man *"wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"* (v. 15). Since they are all *"given by inspiration of God,"* they are still just as powerful and just as profitable for every need, *"that the man of God may be perfect"* (that is, ready for whatever comes) and fully equipped *"unto all good works"* (vv. 16-17).

Paul himself set an inspiring example of *"patient continuance in well doing"* (Romans 2:7) under conditions of great trial. Awaiting execution in a roman dungeon even as he wrote, he still requested his books and parchments (2 Timothy 4:13), that he might continue to study and prepare himself. May God enable us also to continue, to remain, to abide, and to stand in His truth in these last days.
HMM

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It there is one thing which pierces the Saviour's heart with unutterable grief, it is not the world's iniquity but the church's indifference.

F. B. Meyer

It Will Pay You To Do Right!

By John R. Rice

We raised fine horses in West Texas, and one time my father said to me, "Son, if you want to sell a young horse that has not yet reached maturity but promises to be a fine horse, you will have to sell it to an older man. A young fellow doesn't have time to wait. If you have a nine – or – ten year old horse, sell him to a boy; but if you have a colt that is going to be a fine horse a bit later, sell him to an older man. He has time to wait."

It is another way of saying that youth is not very sensible. It sacrifices the future on the altar of the present. It sacrifices the permanent for the incidental and temporary. Bless is the fellow who takes a long look at things and does them so they will turn out right tomorrow.

It is always true that sin offers pleasure today for heartbreak tomorrow. Sin offers drunkenness today, but at the last it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder (Prov. 23:32). Sin first brings laughter and popularity, but when it is finished, it brings forth death (Jas. 1:15).

Christians should think about the payday coming for doing right. It always pays to do right in the long run.

Selected

* * * * *

Songs in the Night!

C. H. Spurgeon once heard that in a certain part of England one could hear nightingales sing more beautifully than anywhere else. He journeyed there to hear for himself.

He secured a room in the inn and was told, "As it begins to get dark, look out on the thorn bush. You will see the nightingale. You will hear his song."

But toward evening it turned cold and started to rain. Spurgeon despaired. Suddenly, he heard the beautiful thrilling song of the nightingale, clear and sweet.

He looked out the window. There, perched in the thorn bush with a cold rain pelting down, the little bird was lifting its voice in a truly beautiful song.

He said, "It was so sweet and so beautiful that I do not expect to hear anything so thrilling until I hear the angels sing." Then he mused, "The God of the nightingale is the God whom I serve. In spite of darkness, cold, rain or thorns – He can also give me songs in the night."

Capital Voice

Editor's Note: "Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy

name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:4-5.

* * * * *

"But when the king came in to behold the guests, he saw there a man who had not on a wedding garment." Matthew 22:11

IN this parable Jesus tells us that God is preparing an eternal wedding feast and that he is sending out invitations to all the people of earth, but that most of them do not care about the invitation.

But the most serious thing in the whole parable is contained in our verse.

Among the few who accepted the invitation was one who was subsequently cast out. He did not have on a wedding garment.

To us this sounds harsh and unreasonable. But to an Oriental everything would be clear. At royal festivals it was the custom that all the guests received a festive garment as they arrived. It was an insult to the prince not to put on the princely garment provided for the guests at his festival.

That was what this man did. He despised the gift as well as the wishes of the prince. Therefore things went as they did.

Today Jesus would warn *us* who have accepted the invitation and started out upon the way to the eternal wedding feast. He bids us prove ourselves, whether or not we have on the wedding garment.

Will you heed the warning of Jesus today? Do you desire to know the truth about yourself, whether you are a Christian in *truth* or only in *name*?

The poor man in the text kept silence. You would perhaps *speak*, and say:

"But I am converted. Do you not remember that they prayed for me at that after-meeting? And since that time I have of course been a Christian. Everybody has confidence in me. I sing; I pray at the prayer meetings; I testify."

Suppose that the King should say: "I know all that. But I do not know you. You make use of my grace to excuse your sins. You do not give me an opportunity to speak out to you about your most cherished sinful desires. You have a name that you are spiritually alive, but you are dead."

Taken from *God's Word For Today* by O. Hallesby
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Rome's Attempt to Exterminate Christianity

History reminds us that during the most intense times of persecution, untold thousands lost their lives. Around the turn of the first century, Pliny the Second, a Roman naturalist and writer, "seeing the lamentable slaughter of Christians, and moved therewith to pity, wrote to [Roman Emperor] Trajan, certifying him that there were many thousands of them daily put to death, of which none did anything contrary to the Roman laws worthy of persecution."

After Trajan, Adrian brutally persecuted Christians with the same vehemence. In this new round of persecution, such influential Christian leaders as Alexander, bishop of Rome; his two deacons; many prominent Christians and their families; and at least 10,000 others were put to death.

A time infamously referred to as the Era of the Martyrs was incited by Galerius, Emperor Diocletian's adopted son. Provoked by his pagan mother, he continuously badgered Diocletian to begin a major persecution of Christians. Diocletian finally yielded; and February 23, 303, was declared Terminalia: a day the pagan world hoped to exterminate Christianity.

Churches were stormed and sacred books seized and thrown onto fires. Not content with merely burning the books, Diocletian and Galerius had a church leveled, ordered the same for all other churches in the empire, and declared Christians outlaws. As a result, "All the Christians were apprehended and imprisoned; and Galerius privately ordered the imperial palace to be set on fire, that the Christians might be charged as the incendiaries and a plausible pretence given for carrying on the persecution with the greater severities."

Entire households were burned in their homes. Others were chased from their houses, tied together with stones fastened around their necks, and driven into the sea. In some cases, whole villages were slaughtered and burned because the inhabitants refused to renounce their faith in Christ.

Wrote John Foxe: "The persecution became general in all the Roman provinces, but more particularly in the east; and as it lasted ten years, it is impossible to ascertain the numbers martyred, or to enumerate the various modes of martyrdom."

Not even the Roman military was immune to persecution. A remarkable account of courage is recorded about the Theban Legion, composed entirely of Christians.

Maximian ordered a pagan sacrifice requiring the legion not only to participate but also take an oath of allegiance swearing to eradicate Christianity from Gaul. The entire legion refused and so enraged Maximian that he ordered every tenth man killed. When the remaining 90 percent still refused to comply with the order, every tenth man again was killed. When those still standing refused to recant, Maximian, in a fit of rage, ordered all surviving 5,400 soldiers executed. The sentence was carried out by other troops who hacked the Christians to pieces with their swords.

In the final verses of Hebrews 11, the author recounted people of faith who braved almost every conceivable abuse. Summarizing, he said they "obtained a good testimony through faith," demonstrating fearlessness despite intense persecution (Heb. 11:39-40). He continued: "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (12:1).

The witnesses are those who were persecuted, as cited in the previous chapter. They are *witnesses to us*, providing an unswerving testimony of courage, endurance, and faith in the face of the ultimate trial.

There is no way to ascertain how many hundreds of thousands have perished for their faith in Christ through the centuries of church history. Nor is there space here to rehearse the myriad perverse methods used to torture and kill them. What seems obvious, however, is that these Christian martyrs took to heart the words of Jesus Christ who warned, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Mt. 10:28).

In this age of political correctness, the words of Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, should encourage believers not to fear men but to fear God alone. Condemned as a Christian and transported to Rome for execution, he declared, "I care for nothing, of visible or invisible things, so that I may but win Christ. Let fire and the cross, let the companies of wild beasts, let breaking of bones and tearing of limbs, let the grinding of the whole body, and all the malice of the devil, come upon me; be it so, only may I win Christ Jesus!"

By Charles E. McCracken
Friends of Israel, January/February 2008

UpDate

LOVE

"We love Him because He first loved us."

"whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls." 1 John 4:19 & 1 Peter 1:8-9.

WHAT is LOVE? Well it is definitely more than a 'warm fuzzy feeling' OR goose pimples running up and down your spine! In my opinion it is commitment, dedication, devotion, loyalty, involvement, etc.

I believe that most of the faithful 'readers' of *Morning Glory* are in love with Someone whom they have not yet *seen*; which is a miracle in itself! AND **HE** says that if we **love HIM** we will obey/keep HIS Commandments!

For example: 'Give and it shall be given unto you'!

Now for an unsaved person to give to a 'Christian cause' is not reasonable to them, BECAUSE **eternity** is not 'real' to them! YET **God says**, He loves a '*cheerful giver*'. So from that Biblical view 'we' are dependent upon God's children to support God's Work **and** the more HEAVEN and Eternity are real to 'us' the more *cheerfully and willingly* 'we' will return unto HIM to further His Kingdom's Work accordingly what HE has entrusted unto each of us.

Isn't it interesting that **love for Him** is the motivator and 'faith' is not only a noun, but an 'action' also. *"Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!'"* Lamentations 3:22-24. Have you stopped and 'thanked HIM' for HIS many blessings in your life today; not only for the '*gifts*', but for the **GIVER HIMSELF**? YES, let 'us' continue to give thanks to our God for the blessings, protection and grace He has showered upon 'us', and let 'us' support His Work in and through the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/*Morning Glory* and keep trusting in His unbreakable promises as we face all 'our' tomorrows. Brother and Sister in Christ, 'we' are in this battle/struggle TOGETHER! United 'we' will stand 'together' (this ministry) and divided 'we' will fall. 'We' continue to **urge** you to express encouragement, prayer and financial support. When 'we' **love Him** 'we' want to do what HE lays upon 'our' hearts.

1 John 3:1-2, 1 Corinthians 15:57-58, Acts 12:5

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Hauge Lutheran Innermission
c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center
1026 West Alcott Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Volume XCIV • Number 1 • January, 2012
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

November income for *Morning Glory* is app.
\$3,335.60

The actual cost of publishing and sending each issue (monthly) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,300 plus considerable other expenses.

COMING - Lord willing Hauge Spring Bible Conference

at
*Mt. Zion Lutheran Church,
Kasson, MN*

March 16 - 18, 2012

Please Pray for and Plan NOW to Attend