



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • January 2014

The Beauty of Holiness

“He appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.” 2 Chronicles 20:21

In today’s verse, a key phrase occurs that is easy to miss. Some Bible translations miss it altogether. Literally, the Hebrew reads that Jehoshaphat, Judah’s king, appointed “ones praising the beauty of holiness.”

What does this phrase mean? “Holiness” translates the typical Hebrew word used for “holy,” and it carries the concept of being set apart. For example, God made the seventh day of creation holy by setting it apart from the other six (Genesis 2:3). When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He set apart a plot of ground as “holy” (Exodus 3:5). Firstborn children of the nation of Israel were holy in that they were set apart (Exodus 13:2).

The Hebrew word for “beauty” in this verse carries the idea of intrinsic beauty and worth, not passing or shallow beauty. Thus, the “beauty of holiness” refers to the intrinsic attractiveness of “set-apart-ness.”

Intuitively, we recognize that “set-apart-ness” is beautiful. Consider a rare and expensive diamond. Its rarity sets it apart from the rest of the diamonds. We relish in its beauty by giving it its own display case. We might even put it aside in a special room reserved for this one diamond.

However, our example stops there. Some might dispute the beauty of the diamond as a matter of preference. In contrast, the beauty of holiness is not subjective or limited to cultural context. Why? Because Scripture calls holiness intrinsically beautiful. Furthermore, Jehoshaphat commanded people to praise the beauty of holiness.

Something this praise worthy must be overwhelmingly and stunningly beautiful!

“Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” Exodus 15:11.

The objective, stunning beauty of holiness (2 Chronicles 20:21) has profound ramifications for theology. Scripture identifies God as supremely holy (Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:16). Therefore, He is gloriously and overwhelmingly beautiful.

He is holy and beautiful in His omniscience, since no one else knows all things. His omnipresence and omnipotence are also utterly unique and, therefore, holy and striking. In His freedom, eternity, self-existence, self-sufficiency, justice, mercy, grace, love, forgiveness – in all of His attributes – He is holy and magnificent, since His attributes are set apart from everyone and everything else! God’s holiness – and, therefore, His beauty – extend to every aspect of His being.

The beauty of God’s holiness intensifies our condemnation as sinners. Our sinfulness is seen first and foremost in our consistent disobedience to the greatest commandment in Scripture, loving God with our entire being (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37). Many wake up in the morning without giving Him a second thought. The wickedness of this act is magnified in light of the extraordinary and dreadful beauty of God’s holiness. Refusing to love God is not just wrong; it is also horrifically ugly.

In the human realm, we recognize how beauty amplifies the evil of an act. What would we think of people who gleefully throw mud at a pure white wedding dress, vandalize classic and precious works of art, or burn copies of Shakespeare’s plays? At best, we label them confused. At worst, we label them perverse.

Our refusal to love the beautiful and majestic God –

Morning Glory

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“glorious in holiness” in today’s verse – is a reprehensible and disgraceful travesty. How low and base an activity is sin! How acute our need for a Savior.

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24.

The beauty of God’s holy attributes should compel us to fall immediately before him in ceaseless worship and delight. Do we? A close inspection of our behavior reveals the answer.

God’s beautiful nature is adored by sinful man... when it agrees with his self-interest. Man cries out to God’s omnipotence when he wants to be rescued from the consequences of sin, but he rails against God’s sovereignty when it takes the life of one he loves. Man comforts himself in God’s omniscience when it keeps track of his good deeds; he hates God’s knowledge when it holds him accountable for misbehavior. Man loves God’s omnipresence when he’s fearful; he rejects it when he’s engaged in immorality. Man delights in God’s freedom to do as He pleases – except when it crosses his plans. Man rejoices in God’s perfect justice because it punishes his evil adversaries; he spurns it when he’s committed the crime.

Some may object: “Aren’t there attributes of God that all people worship, like His mercy and love?” Yes – when it serves their purposes. Man receives God’s mercy when it’s extended to him; he scorns it when it’s extended to his rivals. Man relishes God’s love when it results in his salvation from hell; he repudiates God’s love when it results in salvation for his mother’s mur-

derer. Man is pleased when God is patient with him; he can't understand why God would be patient with his atheistic neighbor. It's perfectly logical that God would be slow to anger with him; it's unbelievable that God would be slow to anger with dictators.

Do you see the problem? Our self-seeking stands in the way of our worship. Hence our need for self-denial, as today's verse so clearly articulates.

“But as he which hath called you is holy; so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15-16.

Slavery to sin is an awful predicament. The filth of sin should repulse us, but we often fall prey to its grip. Why? Sin seduces because sin looks attractive; it appeals to “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16).

The solution? “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

The scriptural revelation of the beauty of moral purity – of holiness – answers the allure of sin. How? First, by its superior beauty. Holiness is so stunning that Israel sang its praises (2 Chronicles 20:21). Sin, by contrast, is filthy and despicable, though we don't always see it as such.

Second, holiness answers the allure of sin by its permanence. Since Scripture describes holiness as intrinsically beautiful, there is no debate over its quality or appeal; it is objectively beautiful. Regardless of what sinners claim, holiness is always striking.

On occasion, the gleam of moral purity does shine into our hearts. We are hushed by the beauty of a soldier's self-denying sacrifice of love and courage. We admire couples who have faithfully kept their marriage vows for decades despite temptations to bitterness or immorality.

Yet when it comes to our own personal holiness, the beauty of holiness often doesn't captivate us. Why not? Holiness is commanded, as today's verse illustrates, implying that we must make an effort to be captivated by the beauty of holiness. Furthermore, we're commanded to reflect God's holiness. Fixing our gaze on His overwhelming beauty keeps our eyes from the deceptive charm of sin.

Nathaniel T. Jeanson, Ph.D.

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“Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be affrighted at them: for Jehovah thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” Deut. 31:6

MOSES told the children of Israel to be of good courage when they in a short time should attack the enemy and take possession of the land that the Lord had promised them. God was going with them, and therefore they should be bold and strong in the fight.

It is right for a Christian not to trust in his own strength. Nevertheless there is a despondency and a distrust of one's own powers which are not good. When we hide away from the conflict and the work in the kingdom of God because discouragement tells us that God cannot use us for anything, then we are giving away the self-respect that God had thought to make use of.

A Christian who withdraws into himself and considers everything impossible is not only hindering the power of God in his own life, but he may also steal away the courage from those who are in the fight.

The right Christian mind must hold fast to the comfort that God both will and can use us, and in that faith we are to go into the fight gladly and boldly. Let us grant that in this courage there may be mixed too much self-respect and even some arrogance. The experience we get in the fight will little by little lead us away from self, and unto the power of God.

In that way the Lord will train His own to become capable soldiers.

“Jehovah is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; My God, my Rock, in whom I will take refuge; My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower” Psalm 18:2.

*Fight on, my soul, till death
Shall bring thee to thy God!
He'll take thee at thy parting breath
Up to His blest abode*

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The Bible will always be full of things you cannot understand as long as you will not live according to those you can understand.
Billy Sunday

Editorial

RES

Eye Sight!

“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with jewels.”

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself read.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen, is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, ‘These are the true saying of God.’” Revelation 3:18, Isaiah 61:10 & Revelation 19:7-9.

WHAT a **gift** from the LORD, as almost all of us have been blest with the ‘gift’ of eye-sight!

The gentleman in John 9 was not that *fortunate*; although before we get through this chapter, he had a double-miracle (PTL): both a physical and spiritual miracle from the Great Physician. Keep in mind/heart that we are ALL born ‘spiritually blind’ (John 9:9-11, 15, 19, 20, 22, 25, Psalm 51:5, 58:3, Isaiah 53:6, Ephesians 2:1-10).

By the way: when was the last time you thanked GOD for your ‘eye-sight’ – both physical and spiritual?

An old saying is that ‘a picture is worth a thousand words’; and with this in mind, it is apparent that what you SEE is even more important than what you hear; but as we know ‘both’ are very important.

How this is figured out I don’t know, but it seems that I learned in the journey of life that an eagle’s eye-sight is seven times ‘keener’ than human eye-sight!

Occasionally you hear folk say; “Only if I had cat eyes’; which sounds terrific, but again scientifically a cat’s sensitive alertness lies really in their whiskers.

Evidently those in the Laocian era think and feel they are doing alright with their many programs, activities, doctrines, etc., BUT **God says NO**, they are nauseating to ME and I will spue them out! **THAT IS VERY SERIOUS** as a person who is ‘lukewarm (carnal Christian?) is the best advertisement for Hell that there is!

(As a little side-line: take the opportunity to study the make-up of the human EYE a little. It is **Marvelous!**)

Some professing ‘Christians’ are like an ostrich and as the religious/spiritual storm clouds hover over head, they place their heads in the ‘sand’. They are not pleased with that which is happening right before their eyes; but refuse to be counted with the minority as human reasoning thinks it is too ‘radical’; and therefore to be ‘tolerant’, until tolerance becomes treason! In other words, for most people it isn’t lack of knowledge, but they refuse to take up their ‘cross’ and follow JESUS! This in spite of the fact that **SIN** is not exposed and REPENTANCE is very low keyed **IF** at all!

WELL what does the **Great PHYSICIAN** say about that situation when they refuse to let HIM place ‘clay’ (repentance) upon their EYES? In Agape LOVE notice what HE says: **Revelation 3:18.** (For Repentance, see Matthew 3:8, Mark 1:15, Luke 24:45-47, Acts 17:30 & 26:20). AND then God’s forgiveness: **“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins”** Isaiah 43:25.

Closely related to ‘eye-sight’ are the individual ‘tear ducts’. When ‘tear-ducts’ are dried up, it results in blurred vision. In order to have spiritual blindness removed, we must be willing to let **HIM** *anoint* our eyes with clay. Many times God uses cleansed ‘vessel’ to bring about Holy Spirit (godly repentance) John 9:6-7, **11 Corinthians 7:10, Galatians 3:24.**

It doesn’t take a scientist to realize that there is a difference of clarity/vision among us; as some folks ‘eye-sight’ is keener than others, But **all believers** have at least some degree of discernment and it depends much on how that ‘discernment’ is exercised! (Remember that *discernment* is also a ‘gift’ from the great Giver – James 1:17, Deut. 29:29, 1 Corinthians 2:5, 10 – 16 & Hebrews 5:13-14)

God ordains ‘orderliness’. As an example, GOD wants to be first in every life and household and in ‘authority’ (Leadership); then comes the man/husband, then comes the wife, who is to live in submission, and the husband is to love her as his own body!

Scripturally, God wants to be in ‘Leadership’, as a God of ‘orderliness (not confusion) with the individual

life and 'Communion of saints' (body of believers/church). Thus God wants the older (more mature) individual Christian to give counsel/advice/Stability/example in the 'local congregation'. Thus the younger believers are to give motivation/inspiration and example, especially to those in 'leadership', and to one another. This a Scriptural teaching throughout ALL of God's Infallible WORD for ALL Times! 11 Timothy 2:22, Matthew 7:24 -27.

Tears *are a universal language* – Tears of JOY and Tears of SORROW; both physically and Spiritually! John 11:33, 35, Luke 15:10, Jeremiah 9:1, Romans 9:1-3, etc. We who know JESUS as our personal Savior have much to rejoice in; but also much to weep over (sorrow). GOD *has 'permitted'* 'our' USA to go in the 'direction' it is heading in order to bring our stubborn knees to bend in PRAYER before the Throne of GRACE with tears of 'sorrow/repentance' in order to accomplish Revelation 3:18 & 11 Chronicles 7:14! **WILL WE???** It starts with

us as individuals and then the local congregations, including our Pastors! Notice what GOD SAYS *in Isaiah 59:12-19*. Please ask the Great Eye Doctor to **anoint your eyes** that 'we' may hate what God hates and love what God loves! Philippians 3:17 – 21, 1 Corinthians 13:6, Mark 6:34, Matthew 23:20 & 37, Luke 13:34 & Proverbs 29:18.

There is a 'brighter' day coming – 1 Peter 1:8, but in the meantime, may we take very seriously the admonition to 'occupy till I come'. May we be found faithful as individuals and corporately together UNTO HIM AND HIS WORD WHICH IS FOREVER SETTLED IN HEAVEN.

Oh, how we need to learn from the geese which fly in 'formation': That is, to encourage and strengthen one another (also in the ministry of MG and HLIF); even when *sin has left an crimson stain*. See **Isaiah 1:18, 1 John 1:7-2:1, Hebrews 10:24-25, 11 Timothy 4:7-8, Philippians 3:12-17 and Psalm 116:15. There are NO TEARS IN HEAVEN – Revelation 21:4.**

“Be ye separate”

2 Corinthians 6:17

The Christian, while *in* the world, is not to be *of* the world. To him, to live, should be Christ. Whether he eats or drinks or whatever he does, he should do all to God's glory. You may lay up treasure, but lay it up in heaven where neither moth nor rust corrupts or where thieves cannot break through or steal. You may strive to be rich but let it be your ambition to be rich in faith and good works. You may have pleasure; but when you are merry, sing psalms and make melody in your heart to the Lord. In your spirit, as well as in your aim, you should differ from the world. Waiting humbly before God, always conscious of His presence, delighting in communion with Him, and seeking to know His will, you will prove that you are of the heavenly race. And you should be separate from the world in your actions. If a thing is right, though you lose by it, it must be done. If it is wrong, though you would gain by it, you must scorn the sin for your Master's sake. You must have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Walk worthy of your high calling and dignity. Do not let those eyes which are soon to see the King in His beauty, become the windows of lust. Do not let those hearts, which are before long to be filled with heaven and to overflow with ecstatic joy, be filled with pride and bitterness.

Taken from *Morning by Morning* by C.H. Spurgeon, Copyright 1984 by Whitaker House.

“Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee” Psalm 55:22

Worry, if carried to excess, has the nature of sin in it. The precept to avoid worry is repeated frequently by our Savior. It is reiterated by the apostles. It is a principle which cannot be neglected without involving transgression. We labor to take on ourselves our weary burden, as if He were unable or unwilling to take it for us. This disobedience to His principle, this unbelief in His Word, is all sinful. More than this, worry often leads to acts of sin. He who cannot calmly leave his affairs in God's hand is very likely to be tempted to use wrong means to help himself. This sin leads to forsaking God as our Counselor and resorting instead to human wisdom. This is going to the “broken cistern” instead of to the “fountain;” a sin which was laid against Israel of old. Anxiety makes us doubt God's loving kindness, and our love for Him grows cold. We feel mistrust and grieve the Spirit of God, so that our prayers become hindered, our consistent example marred, and our life one of self-seeking. Thus, lack of confidence in God leads us to wander far from Him. If we cast each burden as it comes on Him and we are “careful for nothing” because He undertakes to care for us, it will keep us close to Him and strengthen us against such temptation. *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee”* Isaiah 26:3.

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The Church ...

By Dr. O. Gornitzka

“Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man destroyeth the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, and such are ye.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

In these verses the appeal is to the group of believers as a body, the church or the communion of saints (Cf. 1:2). As young Christians they were lacking in the proper understanding of what it implied to belong to this body. Therefore the “know ye not” was often used by the apostle.

Two figures are employed in this chapter with reference to the church. In v. 9 we read “*ye are God’s husbandry,*” or, as in the marginal reading, “*ye are God’s tilled land,*” “*God’s field.*” By the Word of God fallow ground had been broken up, cultivated and seeded in. They were the Lord’s farm. This figure reminds us of the parables of Jesus setting forth the nature of the kingdom of God. He speaks of **sower**, the **soil**, the **seed** and also of the **harvest**.

The more prominent place is, however, given to the figure used in 3:16: “*Ye are a temple of God*” or as in 3:9: “*God’s building.*” This figure is developed in detail by the apostle Peter in 1 Pet. 2, where he speaks of Christ as the “*living stone, the corner-stone*” and each Christian as a living stone built into the structure.

This temple consists then of living stones, that is, men made alive through faith in Christ Jesus. During the building period there may be much material present on the ground not properly belonging to the structure. This material, however, will be separated and removed when the structure is complete. So also when the temple of God is completed, all that is not made alive in Christ Jesus will be separated and the glory of the structure will appear. (Cf. 2 Thess. 1:6-10).

In this temple dwelleth the Spirit of God.

Therefore it is God’s temple. What a glorious and yet solemn truth! On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit took

A good speaker leaves the listeners more informed and a little better off than they would have been if he kept quiet. Abraham Lincoln said, “I am never more embarrassed than when I have nothing to say.” The best advice here is to have something to say and know what you’re saying or keep quiet.

W. F. Weaver

His abode in this temple, there to dwell and work until the completion of the sanctuary. It is indeed true that God dwelleth not in temples made with hands but in and in the midst of redeemed souls. (See Is. 57:15). But where He dwells He (wants to be) supreme. He is not present as an onlooker, an observer, but as the supreme head. And only to the extent that this fact is recognized can His will and purpose be carried out. ... He is the divine architect. He knows what gifts to employ, what means to be used. If He can succeed in revealing these plans to His church and find a ready response the work progresses. If He finds self-willed members, carnal minded babes, His work is hindered. Yes, may even be destroyed.

Therefore the serious warning to the members of the church (called out ones/chosen vessels/redeemed’ blood bought). “*If any man destroyeth the temple of God, him shall God destroy*” v. 17. ...

The historical background for this teaching we have in the Book of Acts. How vividly we are told of the coming and abiding of the Holy Spirit in the church. How sensitive the members were to His directions and guidance. How swift the discipline meted out to those who thought they were dealing with men, forgetting the actual presence and authority of the Holy Spirit. And how anxious the members were to “listen in” that they might know the mind of the Spirit. The results were very evident. There were daily added to the Lord those who were saved.

The Foundation of the Church – 3:11

The foundation is Jesus Christ, the God-man. This foundation is laid and cannot be moved or replaced. God has laid it. The cornerstone is chosen by Him, is elect, and precious (1 Pet. 2:6). Notice the perfect agreement between Christ Himself, Paul and Peter. (Cf. Matt. 16:16-18). If man tries to remove Christ because He is a stumbling-block to him, he does not eliminate Christ as the foundation but himself as a living stone in the temple. On the other hand, he who builds on Jesus Christ shall not be put to shame. He has built on the everlasting Rock.

The church of Jesus Christ is not a society organized by men for social purposes. It is a divine organism vitally united with God. To those who are born again there is no choice between the church and religious organizations wherein Christ is rejected as the only foundation. On the basis of the Word of God there will to them be an intelligent choice resulting in a clear cut confession. In our day of Lodgism let the challenge ring out, “*Choose ye this day ye will serve.*”

Taken from *A Study Guide* (1 CORINTHIANS)

(Editor: Should this ‘*article*’ be continued in the next issue of the Morning Glory?)

The Meaning of This Freedom

... But to prevent misunderstanding and to voice the meaning of the believers' freedom from the Law, we will in brief express the same in the following manner: They who have been condemned and slain by the Law, so that they have sought and found their salvation only in the atonement of Christ, are altogether free from the Law's *condition of salvation*, or the obligation to seek their righteousness and salvation through observing the Law; ... Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me!

This we shall now see by the words of the Holy Scripture itself. When, in Romans 7, the apostle has first set forth the example of the perfect freedom from the law of the husband, into which the woman is transferred when her husband dies, so that she may now without sin be joined to another man (v. 2, 3), he adds in v. 4: "*Wherefore, — ye also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ; and ye should be joined to another, even to him who was raised from the dead.*" And again, v. 6: "*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 oldness of the letter.*" But if anyone then asks about which law the apostle here speaks, he immediately receives enlightenment as to that in the following verse (v. 7), where the apostle expressly quotes the essence, yes, the very marrow out of the Law of the Ten Commandments, namely: "Thou shalt not covet," which, we know, is the conclusion of the moral Law, the last of the Ten Commandments. There I see, then, about which Law the apostle speaks. It is also from the moral Law, or the Ten Commandments, alone that we learn to "know sin" (v. 7), become "slain" (v. 11) and "exceeding sinful" (v. 13), etc., as the apostle says of the Law in this chapter. For from the ceremonial law the Jews received, on the contrary, their comfort and glorying, because it could be fulfilled. Accordingly it is of this moral Law the apostle says that the believers are "freed (American Revised Version 'discharged') from the Law." But alone in that manner which he himself explains, namely, that we are free from its "*curse*" (Gal. 3:13) and from its "*yoke of bondage*" (5:1). Therefore he also expresses the contrary of "being under the law" by "being under grace," when in Rom. 6:14 he says; "*For ye are not under law, but under grace.*" When these two conditions, to **be under Law** and to **be under grace**, stand as opposites of one another, then I see what is meant by the freedom from the Law. Only as a **rule** and a **light** in regard to what is sin or holiness do the commandments of the moral Law retain their eternal importance and power even for the believers, as a loving guidance for their willing spirit and as chastisement of their evil flesh. For, as was said before, what God at any

time loved, that He always loves, and what God at any time hated, that He always hates, as sure as His holy being cannot be changed. Therefore we see that the same apostle Paul, who most speaks of our freedom from the Law, nevertheless, when he admonishes the Christians, sets before them the commandments of the Law as a rule, for example, when he says: "*Only use not your freedom for an occasion to the flesh, but through love be servants one to another, For*"—mark this addition — "*the whole law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself*" (Gal. 5:14). There we see that he presents the commandments of the Law as the rule. And John says: "*This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments*" (1 John 5:3). ...

Consequently the believers live under such a condition that they, to be sure, have an unchangeable rule in the commandments of the Law, but that they never shall be condemned for the greater or lesser failings in the observation of this rule. They shall, to be sure, be chastened, corrected, cleansed, and broken for their sins, first by the Law, then by "rod and torments", wherever necessary, but never be judged according to the Law; for should they be judged according to the Law, then they would be **condemned**, because the judgment of the Law is a curse upon the least sin, — the judgment reads thus: "*Cursed is every one who continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them*" (Gal. 3:10). Therefore we also see how Christ, to be sure, reproveth and correcteth His believing disciples for their sins, but never excluded them from grace, rather in the midst of his reprovingspoke of their seats of honor in heaven (Luke 22:24-30). Thus John, too, says in his First Epistle, Chapter 2: "*My little children, these things write I unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*"

So this can explain to us the perfect freedom from the Law. And if any one still finds it difficult to believe and comprehend the very truth of the matter, we only remind him that he who does not believe this great truth, has not yet the right conception of the forgiveness of sins; for it is only because of a singular darkness of our soul that we do not consider that the **forgiveness of sins implies freedom from the Law**. For how can sin be forgiven, if we shall be judged according to the Law? **A state of grace, a constant forgiveness** must naturally imply that we are not under the judgment of the Law; ...

In heaven there is an everlasting son of praise to the victory of the Lamb, but here below on earth only brief moments of increased light, joy, and songs of praise. In God's great book my account is forever balanced, but my little Pass-book, my conscience, seldom corresponds with God's account, for we have an enemy who continually

makes new entries of debt against us in order to disturb and terrify us. But praise be God, that the covenant of grace is in His heart perfect, firm, and undisturbed; that He does not count our sins against us; and that He does not judge us according to the Law, ...

Taken from *The Believer Free From the Law* by C. O. Rosenius, Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

* * * * *

STAND STEADFASTLY!

By F. E. Marsh

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 15:58

Do we not find the plea, the reason for steadfastness, as expressed in the word “therefore”; for it brings before us the truths enumerated in 1 Corinthians 15? In this chapter, we see the death of Christ, His resurrection, His glorious victory over death, His coming glory which we shall share with Him, the first fruits which He has become and the certainty that we shall triumph over all our foes.

As we see these things, we shall be steadfast in our adherence to Christ (Ruth 1:18); steadfast in our hearts’ allegiance to Him (1 Cor. 7:37); steadfast in holding fast our confidence in Him (Heb. 3:14); steadfast in looking for Him (Acts 1:10); steadfast in looking to Him (7:55); steadfast in our faith in Him (Col. 2:5); steadfast in our resistance of Satan with the Word (1 Pet. 5:9); steadfast in growing in grace (II Pet. 3:17); and steadfast in our work for Christ (1 Cor. 15:58).

A firm stand – “unmoveable.” This means standing on resurrection ground, keeping our position, because we are kept by the power of God through faith.

A persevering effort – “always abounding.” We do not work by fits and starts but in prayerful, believing, loving, and persevering effort; and we also abound therein.

An important reminder – “in the work of the Lord.” We are to see that our work is *in* the Lord, *for* the Lord, and *with* the Lord; not for the glory of self or to bring honor to any part.

A blessed assurance – “forasmuch as ye know.” Nothing that we do for Him escapes His notice; and although it is only a cup of cold water, it will not lose its reward.

An encouragement – “labour.” Our service is not play, but hard work – and yet easy, because it is with Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

A sure reward – “not in vain.” Working for Christ on

such lines, in such a manner, and with such ends can never miss its reward. Thus seeking to be used by the Lord in blessing to others, we ourselves shall be growing in grace and become more Christ-like.

Taken from *Sword of the Lord*

* * * * *

Evolution?

“Evolutionists and others that claim that the Creation days mentioned in Genesis 1 are lengthy eras or epochs fail to take ecology, which is defined as, ‘The totality or pattern of relations between organisms and their environment,’ into account. In the late 1960’s TIME reported about alfalfa native to North America imported into Australia. The alfalfa thrived in Australia, except it did not produce any seed and thus started to die out after some time. The Australians, checking into the problem, discovered that a certain type of bee also native to North America pollinated the alfalfa. After importing bumblebees from North America the alfalfa plants in Australia produced seed again and as far as I know are still thriving today. This is just one of the myriad of examples of the interaction between insects and plants, and their interdependence on each other. Had the third day of creation been of some lengthy period of time, plants dependent upon insects for their fertilization would have died out by the fifth and sixth day of Creation when God created living creatures.

Another fact that evolutionists surprisingly do not take into account when putting forth the theory of evolution, namely that of deciduous plants. How do trees, for example, know, sometime before winter weather sets in, to prepare for winter and the coming spring? Trees are clever enough, or in the language of evolutionists, have evolved to the point, that they know to extract the nourishment from the leaves, to store it and produce tightly sealed buds in the fall. If trees would not prepare in that way they would soon die out. How are evolutionists able to explain how trees acquired these traits by the process of evolution? It was God the Creator Who implanted these traits into trees.

Another observation which seemingly is ignored by evolutionists is the curious anomalous property of water being lighter in its solid (frozen) state than in its liquid state. Had the Creator not designed the water molecules with these anomalous properties, ice would be denser than liquid water and all bodies of water would freeze solid from the bottom up, thus killing all sea and sweet-water creatures. Ice forming on the water’s surface instead creates a seal protecting all water creatures and plants.”

Signed “Ziggy”, a letter written to *CHRISTIAN NEWS*.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Federal Court Keeps “In God We Trust”

A challenge to America’s national motto has been struck down by a federal district court. Dr. Michael Newdow and the Freedom From Religion Foundation sued to have “In God We Trust” deleted from U. S. currency.

The court stated there was ample body of case law and they could only come to one conclusion. The order rejects arguments the motto violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment...

“The decision is welcomed and well-reasoned,” (The American Center for Law and Justice) Chief Counsel Jay Sekulow said.

The ACLJ, in a brief submitted to the court, points out the national motto reflects the historical beginnings of the United States. The belief in God was integral in the founding of the nation, and removing all references to God to please atheistic preferences is not supported by the First Amendment.

The brief also explains, “The national motto simply echoes the principle found in the Declaration of Independence that our freedoms come from God and not the state: and that the Establishment Clause is not intended to guarantee the public will not be exposed to religions or religious symbols.

CBN.com

High School Seniors Binge Drinking

In a *USA Today* (September 17, 2013), Nanci Hellmich reports that a new study released the day before has documented that approximately one in five high school seniors in the U.S. have engaged in “extreme binge drinking.” By “extreme” they mean **10 or more** drinks at one sitting.

A review of the actual research reveals that the problem of “binge drinking” exists much earlier than the senior year in high school, but it obviously grows as the students get older. Many of the issues with accidents, alcohol poisoning, drowning etc., can be traced to alcohol. This obviously sets the stage for many of these young people becoming alcoholics (drunkards).

When will our nation come to its senses and put major restrictions on the flow of alcohol?

SWORD PRESS SERVICE

“Sharia Bill” Becomes Law in North Carolina After Governor Refuses to Veto

North Carolina has become the seventh state explicitly to prohibit sharia law interpretation in court after Governor Pat McCrory denied vetoing House Bill 522.

McCrory, a Republican, refused to sign the bill entitled “Foreign Law/Protect Constitutional Rights,” calling it “unnecessary.” However, he also did not actively veto the bill, and therefore the piece of legislation automatically became law (on August 26, 2013).

The bill seeks to protect the constitutional rights of those involved in family court matters, including domestic and child abuse cases, by prohibiting judges from interpreting “foreign law,” including the Islamic sharia law, or set of legal codes imposed by the teaching of Islam, as well as Jewish law.

Katherine Weber for ChristianPost.com

South Dakota Christian Billboard Erected as Rebuttal to Atheist Signs

A digital billboard with the words, “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God,*” was erected in Sioux Falls, South Dakota (August 26, 2013) in direct response to the seven signs dispersed throughout the state inviting residents who do not believe in God to “join the club.”

The new electronic billboard, which stands in front of one of the signs questioning God’s existence, features rotating slides with the biblical verse, Psalm 14:1, appearing every couple of seconds. According to construction business owner William Kreider, who personally funded the sign, the message is meant to give South Dakotans a different perspective.

Jessica Martinez for ChristianPost.com

Five Nigerian Christians Executed in Latest Attack by Islamists

Five individuals have been executed by Islamists after declaring themselves followers of Jesus Christ outside the Nigerian city of Jos (in late August, 2013).

The shocking incident saw Islamists stop a minibus and order its occupants to get out. After finding out five individuals were Christians, they were forced to lie down in a ditch, where they were then shot dead...

In recent years, Nigeria has been a hotbed of violence with Muslim extremists attacking Christians on a regular basis. The violence has been led by a group known as

Boko Haram, a jihadist terrorist group seeking to make Nigeria an Islamic state and impose sharia law. Since its inception in 2001, the group has gained notoriety by killing Christians and bombing their churches and schools.

Morgan Lee for ChristianPost.com

Editor's Comments: These Islamically driven killings in various countries are being reported daily. It is the norm, and no amount of hedging about a "religion of peace" can justify such actions.

Sword of the Lord.

Kids Find Three-Month Premature Baby in the Trash, Still Breathing

A group of kids found a three-month premature baby, who was still breathing, in a trash pile behind a building in Jersey City, New Jersey (Labor Day weekend, 2013). The child is now at Jersey City Medical center receiving medical care and treatment.

New Jersey's safe haven law would have allowed the mom to leave the boy anonymously at a hospital or police station without abandoning the infant to die...

Weighing just 2.85 pounds, the little boy was in a stable condition in intensive care...He still had his umbilical cord attached.

Steven Ertelt for LifeNews.com

INTERESTING!! I became aware of the following 'information' on November 8, 2013:

VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis will receive Russian President Vladimir Putin on November 25, 2013: Did it actually happen? Check it out!!!

* * * * *

PRAY for the Land of the brave and free (USA) and our Leaders!

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED BRETHREN

"Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels, Remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also". Hebrews 13:1-3.

ALSO

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

IT is sin to commit sin, but there is something that is still worse, and that is to turn away from God and hide the sin from him. Our deepest hurt is not that evil dwells in us, nor that sin rules over us; the deepest hurt is that we refuse to confess our sin to God. We try in every way to wriggle away from admitting sin itself; or we try to find a cause for it here or there – only not in ourselves.

Right there is our deepest hurt.

Pride carried man away from God, and pride is the chief obstacle when man is to find his way back to God. We can indeed admit that we are sinners, and that we commit sin too, but we are often real masters at getting around sin itself, also when we appear before God. Of all the things that humble us, there is hardly anything that is so difficult for us to agree to do as to confess sin itself. If we can surrender to God also this stronghold in our life, then victory is won by him who gives grace to the humble. Then joy and peace come forth in the soul anew, because He who forgives the sin that we have confessed, he cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Nothing ought to be too dear to sacrifice in order to possess life's greatest joy.

*Thy light to every thought impart,
And shed Thy love in every heart;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.*

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WHY NOT???

Whether you believe in 'New Year's Resolutions' or NOT: 'Why Not' make it a practice as Relatives and Friends gather to visit in your home, to make certain that before they leave, to discuss Scripture and have Scriptural reading and Prayer?

Whether we admit it or not: WE NEED IT!
Hebrews 10:24-25, Proverbs 27:17.

Restored Souls and Righteous Paths

“He restoreth my Soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Psalm 23:3

(Continued from last issue of the Morning Glory)

PSALM Twenty-three is a love song. It is a song of the love and intimacy that exists between the shepherd and the sheep. It illustrates the relationship that exists between God’s sheep on earth and their Shepherd in heaven. ...

A Mr. Hadad tells of watching shepherds on the slopes of Mount Hermon, with the loving care they exercise over the sheep. The shepherd knew his sheep and they knew him. He said that every shepherd watched his flock closely to see how it fared. When a shepherd found a new-born lamb, he would put it into the fold of his greatcoat, since it was too feeble to follow its mother. He told of one shepherd whose greatcoat was so full of lambs that when he found another new-born, he laid it on his shoulders, holding it by its feet. He did this until the little ones were able to follow their mothers. This is the beautiful picture that is drawn of our Savior in Isaiah’s description in chapter forty, verse eleven, *“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”*

INTERPRETATION

We have seen that early in the morning the shepherd led his flock from the fold. He must lead them out to pasture to drink every day. The paths in Palestine are many. They have been made and traveled by shepherd and sheep for many generations. Paths run every way. Some of them are paths of peril, paths that run near the precipice, paths that run through shadows where wild beast lurk, paths that are rough and steep. The shepherd knows the paths and the passages, and leads the sheep in safe paths; that is, paths of righteousness.

The shepherd watches the sheep constantly lest they go astray, yet with all his care some do wander away. Here comes a sheep who says to itself, “Just look at that nice path. The shepherd missed it. That’s better than the path in which he leads. I’ll take it.” And away goes the sheep, following the path that leads through the mountainous country where precipices are on every hand over which the sheep may fall. The sheep thinks the path is all right and knows not the danger. *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

When a sheep does go astray, the shepherd goes after it and brings it back. *“He restoreth my soul,”* wrote David.

APPLICATION

“He restoreth my soul.” Again we call attention to the personal aspect of this Psalm. “He restoreth MY soul.” Not “He restoreth a soul.” Not “He restoreth the soul.” Not “He restoreth some soul.” “He restoreth MY soul.”

“MY soul.” And what is my soul? My soul is I. It is the “me” of this Psalm. It is the eternal “me.” One translation makes it, “He restoreth me.” The hymn puts it, “Restores me when wandering” Could language convey a more heartening assurance than this?

There might be several meanings to this sentence. It might mean that the shepherd restored the sick to health. The shepherd will care for the sick sheep. He will hunt out the hurt sheep or lamb and anoint and dress its wounds. He will bind broken bones with success. He is a surgeon, not only for sheep but sometimes for people. God’s charge against the false shepherds of His people Israel was, *“The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost”* (Ezek. 34:4). So our Lord is a true Shepherd Who restores us. *“The great Physician now is here, the sympathizing Jesus.”* ...

“He restoreth my soul” means that I am refreshed by lying down in green pastures and by drinking of the still waters.

While these things may be true we believe that the phrase *“He restoreth my soul”* means more. The original meaning of the word “restoreth” is *“to bring back.”* The old Saxon translation is, *“He is bringing back my soul.”* Bringing back implies wandering, or what we would call backsliding. Christ is the home – bringer of the wandering sheep.

How sad it is that after we have heard the voice of the shepherd saying to us, *“Thy sins are forgiven;”* after having enjoyed the green pastures and the still waters of His provision; after knowing the Father’s house with its “bread enough and to spare;” after the ring, the best robe, and the shoes; we should turn away to the filthy rags of sin and to the husks of the wine. How sad that straying should ever occur. How sad that restoration should ever be needed. It is a wretched heart, indeed, that requires such grace.

Sheep stray easily; so do people. Sheep are very stupid. They have no responsibility. ...

Sheep do not know enough to remain in the flock. They do well at going astray. We are like that, for *“All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned every one to his own way.”* Your own way is not the way of righteousness.

It is so easy for sheep to wander, and men are prone to go astray. It is not only a going astray in open sin; there is a

heart wandering also. If we do not enjoy the word of God and find it rich we are wandering away from the Shepherd. If Prayer Meeting is a dry place to which we do not like to go, we are wandering sheep. If we do not enjoy Christian fellowship, if we do not enjoy the services in the church, we are going astray. If we are indifferent to the souls of men, and if we compromise with the Truth, we are wanders away from God. ...

“He restoreth my soul.” To what? To the flock; to the fold, to fellowship; to service.

Taken from *The Psalm of Psalms*, By R. L. Moyer, D.D.

* * * * *

What Business Would Advocate LOWER STANDARDS To Draw a Crowd?

By Dr. Earl Jessup

I have searched the Internet and looked everywhere I can. I have watched and listened to commercials to see if I can find one. There just are not any out there. I cannot find anyone or any business that uses lower standards to bring in business and clients.

I cannot find a dentist or doctor that is offering discounts because he sterilizes his instruments after every third patient. I have looked for an automobile company that is advertising a lower price because they use lower-quality parts on their brakes. They just are not out there!

If there is a business in North America that is following the lead of contemporary churches to attract people, I just cannot find one! Where are they?

In fact, it is just the opposite. I found the following: Meijer, “higher standards”; Bank of America, “higher standards”; Rome Insurance Agency, “higher standards”; Home Life Realty, “higher standards”; For, “Quality is Job One.” British Columbia’s Minister of Education, George Abbott, wrote the following:

The plan consists of five key elements: Personalized Learning for every student; Quality Teaching and Learning; Flexibility and Choice; High Standards; and Learning Empowered by Technology.

I think if we talked to any company trying to compete in the marketplace, we would find that they are promoting higher standards for their business and top-quality products. It seems the business world knows that the higher they can keep their standards, the better the product they will produce, and the more clients and customers they will attract.

The Bible says in Luke 16:8 *“For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.”* Why is it that the only place where people seem to want to lower the standard is the church?

I recently asked this question to a group of young adults, and one young man said, “Because we are wicked flesh.” What an astute answer! There is always a battle between our wicked flesh and the higher standards set forth by the Scripture.

Sadly, many churches are caving in to the desires of fleshly members and lowering their standards. The church is the only place where people do not understand that lower standards equal lower quality. Maybe this is the reason we are so powerless in impacting our communities for Christ.

Now is the time for local churches to begin promoting “higher standards: like the companies listed above. While doing so, we should also instruct our church family that having higher standards is a good thing. Higher standards produce better quality. Everyone in the business world knows this, and we should as well.

Second, when higher standards are promoted, we attract people who are looking for quality. There are people who are sick and tired of churches that lower their standards, but we are afraid to promote that we have a higher standard.

We should never be ashamed of belonging to a church where one strives for a high standard. People in our communities will attend churches with higher standards when they understand that higher standards are a good thing, even for churches.

Third, when presented properly, higher standards develop stronger churches. It is time we begin to explain to our church families the biblical reasons we hold to a higher standard. When we do that, they will not be tempted to take their families to the churches that are luring them away with worldliness and entertainment.

Satan has used the contemporary church movement to attract people from our churches by lowering their standards in music, preaching and dress. The philosophy of this movement is that God is not interested in high standards. They have taken this argument and promoted it so much that people believe it without even thinking it through. Please consider this carefully. Not one business would promote lower standards. They know that lower standards do not stand for high quality, and people want the highest quality they can get. Neither should the church lower its standards. We should never let the *‘children of this world be wiser than the children of light.’*

Taken from *The Sword of the Lord*

Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thess. 5:22

WHEN we have given our life to Christ, we have crossed the boundary into the kingdom where all sin must be our enemy. We must abstain from all that is evil, beginning with the most hidden thought in the heart, and on to the life that is open to the gaze of all. We have not the right to let sin rule in one single instance. If this truth always stood clearly before us, many things would be different in our daily life.

Another domain where we Christians must be careful is the realm of what are called “middle things,” or adiaphora, or things indifferent: acts that some people consider sin, and others not. Perhaps you can take part in many of these things without damage to your soul: you do not consider them sinful. But by taking part you may cause some other Christian to fall. Paul was so careful on this point that if he knew that anyone was caused to stumble by his eating meat, then he would eat no flesh “for evermore.” Among us Christians of today there are many who never taste alcohol, not because they themselves are tempted to drunkenness, but because they do not want to cause others to fall. That is a healthy, Christian view. That is obeying the Bible Word about being a good example for others.

A Christian must also be on his guard lest he be deceived by that which in itself is good. When home, business, money, buildings, and land become dearer than God, then there is grave danger. Surely more people have fallen away from God through love for the world, than by a sinful act.

*My soul, on thy guard,
Ten thousand foes arise;
And hosts of sin are pressing hard
To draw thee from the skies.*

Taken from *Thy Kingdom Come* by Ludvig Hope,
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Editor's Note: Enlightened by the Word of God (the Holy Spirit) I believe the Bible definitely teaches TOTAL abstinence from alcohol beverages (not speaking in regards to *possible* “Medical” prescriptions): for example: Proverbs 20:1, Isaiah 28:7-8, 56:10-12, Proverbs 23:31, Romans 14:21, John 5:37-39, 1 Timothy 3:3, Ephesians 5:18. Every alcoholic/drunard starts with the FIRST DRINK! Keep in mind that the Bible NEVER contradicts **Itself**. *It may seem so to some people; BUT all Scripture lives in harmony!*

Anyway a ‘word’ to ALL believers: “*Beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.*” 1 Corinthians 8:9 & 12.

P. S. QUESTION (?) WHY DON'T ‘OUR’ COMMUNITIES AND STATES APPROACH the alcohol industry WITH THE SAME “VIGOR” as they do the tobacco industry?

All Through This Hour

Read: Psalm 25:11

“Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on you I wait all the day” Ps. 25:5

The majestic chime of London’s Great Clock of Westminster, commonly known as Big Ben, is familiar to many. In fact, some of us may have clocks in our homes that sound the same hourly chime. It is traditionally thought that the melody was taken from Handel’s Messiah. And the lyrics inscribed in the Big Ben clock room have a time significance: *All through this hour, Lord, be my guide; And by Thy power, No foot shall side.*

These lyrics are a good reminder of our constant need for God’s guidance. King David recognized that he needed guidance all through the day as he faced the challenges of life. In Psalm 25 he says: “*Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day*” (v. 5). Wanting to be a teachable follower of God, David looked to his Redeemer for direction. His heart’s desire was to wait on God with dependent faith throughout the entire day.

May this be our desire as well. Our requests for God’s help often begin the day, but then competing distractions can pull our attention away from Him. Lord, remind us to pray: “All through this hour, Lord, be my guide.”

Dennis Fisher

*There’s never a day nor a season
That prayer may not bless every hour,
And never a prayer need be helpless
When linked with God’s infinite power. – Morton*

Let Christ be first in your thoughts in the morning, and last in your thoughts at night.

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I Want to See Jesus!

By Bob Jones, Sr.

A steamboat with a pleasure party on board was going down the Mississippi River. A woman on deck fell overboard. As quick as a flash, a man leaped into the water and rescued her. She stood shivering in the wind, dripping wet when somebody rushed up and said, "Take this wrap."

She said, "Take that wrap away! I want to look into the face of that man who saved me!"

I want to see Jesus, the One who found me when I was a little country boy at the age of eleven, the One whom I have never seen but have loved all these years. I want to see Him!

I wish I could have seen Him when He was a Baby. He must have been beautiful.

I wish I could have seen Him in the manger.

I wish I could have seen a star leading the Wise Men to His cradle.

I wish I could have seen Him when His mother and His foster father, Joseph, took Him down to Egypt.

I wish I could have seen Him at the age of twelve as He talked to the doctors of the law in the temple. I would have enjoyed watching those old wise men as they sat under the spell of His personality.

I wish I could have seen Him at Jordan when He was baptized.

I wish I could have seen Him on the mountaintop in the wilderness or on the pinnacle of the temple when He was tempted.

I wish I could have been at the marriage supper that night and seen the look of astonishment on their faces when He changed the water to wine.

I wish I could have seen Him perform some of His miracles. I should like to have been with Him at the tomb of Lazarus when He said, "*Lazarus, come forth,*" and there walked out of that grave that man who had been dead.

I wish I could have seen Him on the cross. I think it would have broken my heart if I had stood there that day and seen Him hanging in agony and blood. But, oh, how I would have loved Him!

I wish I could have seen Him when He pulled off His grave-clothes and walked out of the tomb.

I wish I could have seen the astonished look on the face of Thomas when he saw the nail prints.

I wish I could have watched with that crowd when He climbed back up to His Father's house.

But I would rather see Him when He comes again! The humblest Christian will have the glorious privilege of seeing Him come in glory someday. We shall see Him!

And if He takes His nail-pierced hand and puts a crown on my head, I will let it stay there for just a minute because He put it there. Then I want to lift that crown from my head and put it at His feet and ask the redeemed hosts to sing:

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem

And crown Him Lord of all.

I shall see Him! He is coming again. "*this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:11).
Selected

Editor's Note: Matthew 17:1-8.

MINCED SWEARING

At school I am about the only Christian in our class. The boys and girls swear a lot. I don't believe it is right for them to swear, because the children in the younger classes pick up the words and use them. Is it all right to use such words as "gee," "golly," "darn," etc., since they aren't swear words?

First of all, let me say that I feel that the three words you mentioned are swear words the same as a number of others that people use. If you will check "Webster's New World Dictionary," you will find that the word "gee" is simply a contraction of the word, "Jesus" and is classified as a slang expression. The word "darn," according to Webster, really means "damn," and is the pronunciation of a curse on someone. "Golly" is a term of speech for "God." We could go on and point out other such words which are really substitutes for God or the Lord Jesus and consequently, the same as taking the name of the Lord God in vain and breaking the commandment given in Exodus 20:7. Generally, the use of such words is the first step to the use of more vile language and swearing.

The fact that you are the only Christian in your class is all the more reason why you should be careful of what you say so that the other boys and girls will see that you are different. ...

Taken from *How Danny Orlis Would Answer* by The Good News Broadcasting Association.

For the ‘child’ of GOD

“I WILL love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.” Psalm 18:1-3

Editor’s Note: Please note the word “MY”

* * * * *

Time For A Change

Read Genesis 12:1-8.

There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD – (V. 8).

Many believers long to spend daily time with God, praying and reading His Word. Ironically, they are often distracted by a busy schedule. Frustrations mount as busyness seems to crowd out an opening in their schedule. Oswald Chambers has wisely commented on the transforming power of even five minutes in the presence of the Lord. Indeed, even a short time spent in intercession and the Word still has great value: “It is not the thing on which we spend the most time that molds us, but the thing that exerts the greatest power. Five minutes with God and His Word is worth more than all the rest of the day.” Now, it may sound like Chambers has made an overstatement. Yet powerful results can come from even a short time of prayer, because **God** is powerful.

Sometimes our days are filled with busy demands that crowd out time spent in listening to and responding to God. But no matter where we are, any time taken to build our own spiritual “altar” to the Lord as Abram did (Gen. 12:8) opens the door to His transforming power. If you are having trouble establishing a time with God, you could start with just five minutes and see where it leads. Our God longs to meet with us and show His power in our lives.

– Dennis Fisher

Lord, it’s amazing to me that You, Almighty God, Would want to spend time with me! Thank You. I stumble with my words at times but am in awe of You. Thank You that You want to hear from me.

Talk with God – He wants to hear your heart

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A Religion of Four Letters!

R. A Torrey

A friend of mine once said to another who was seeking peace by doing, “You have a religion of two letters. My religion is a religion of four letters.”

“How is that?” asked the other.

“Your religion is **do**. My religion is **done**. You are trying to rest in what you do. I am resting in what Christ has done.”

* * * * *

Be Careful What You Say

(Little Ears Are Listening)

I had always talked about my job a lot at home, and my young daughter had always expressed great interest. So I thought it would be a treat for her to spend the day with me at the office. Since I wanted it to be a surprise, I didn’t tell her where we were going, just that it would be fun. Although usually a bit shy, she seemed excited to meet each colleague I introduced. On the way home, however, she seemed somewhat down.

“Didn’t you have a nice time?” I asked.

“Well, it was okay,” she responded. “But I thought it would be more like a circus.”

Confused, I asked, “Whatever do you mean?”

She said, “Well, you’ve always said you work with a bunch of clowns, and I never got to see them!”

Selected

Make Plans Now to Attend the Hauge Spring Bible Conference

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church
Rural Cannon Falls, MN
Friday, March 28 – Sunday, March 30, 2014

Conference Theme: Marriage Supper of the Lamb
from Revelation 19:7-9

Speakers:

Pastor/Missionary Connely Dyrud, Maple Grove, MN
Pastor Paul Tjelta, Westby, WI
Pastor Rodney Stueland, Dilworth, MN
Pastor Jim Haga, Shoreview, MN

Look for more information and a schedule in the February issue of the *Morning Glory*.

UPDATE

WHY???

“‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

Haggai 2:8-9.

GOD through his ‘prophet’ challenges HIS people who are living (basically) for the present time; who are remodeling their houses (today’s conveniences: outdoor recreational vehicles/instruments, sports, etc.). NOT that it is wrong in itself: **BUT** to put God and His righteousness and experience first! See Matthew 6:33

It has been said that there are nominal/carnal Christians (?), real Christians and yielded Christians – in which then GOD gets access to the ‘billfold/checkbook’. WHY is it so ‘difficult’ for ‘us’ to let go; because HE SAYS the silver and gold **are Mine?** WHEN that which is ‘withheld’, belongs to another, this is a form of stealing. See Malachi 3:8-10.

Why, when it took a MIRACLE to hang the ‘world’ in *space* ... it took a ‘**miracle of love and GRACE**’ to ‘save’ my soul: is it so *difficult* to let HIM have ‘free’ access to ‘our’ finances (trust Him)?

Part of the question of WHY is, we who know JESUS as our personal Savior, know from the depths of our hearts that our Loving Savior only wants the best for us, both in this life and eternity. YET it is a ‘struggle’ to let HIM manage our entire ‘stewardship’ in HIS behalf.

YOU know ‘battles’ are never won by retreat so we press on. That’s ‘why’ people save, invest, build, plan and pray. It’s why pastors preach, teachers teach, builders build, and farmers’ plant. They are ALL looking forward. **MG/HLIF** is looking forward to expanding its positive impact on individuals, families, churches and communities with your help.

‘WE’ are in a ‘spiritual war’ and desire more spiritual volunteers of ‘soldiers of the cross’ of Jesus Christ as soldiers marching as to war! Make no mistake ‘we’ are in a war. Satan is out to **kill us**, and we need to continue to draw the line in the sand, lock arms, minds, hearts and souls, led by JESUS with the power of His blood in obedience/love to His WORD and say, NO! No to Satan today, tomorrow and on.

Just take a ‘moment’ and read **verse 9** again and also apply it ‘spiritually.’

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the

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chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit’ Ephesians 2:20-22.

God wants only the best for you and I, as we work ‘together’ as a TEAM!

Are you willing to work together with ‘us’ as a ‘team’? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

November’s Income for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* is \$2065.00.

The actual cost of publishing and mailing each issue (monthly) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,000; plus there are definitely other noticeable expenses. **3 John 2-8.**