



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • January 2020

## The Throne Of Grace And The Throne Of Judgment

*“And thou shalt put the mercy-seat above the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there will I meet thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy-seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.”*  
(Exodus 25:21-22)

**“For we must all be made manifest before the judgement-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”**  
(II Corinthians 5:10)

**T**here are two places where man may meet God. The one is at the throne of grace; the other is at the throne of judgment. The first has been established by God here on earth among sinners and for sinners. The other is beyond the bounds of this life; we appear before it only after we leave this world and the time of grace is over. No one is compelled to appear before the throne of grace. He who wishes may do so, but he who chooses to otherwise may do so.

With these two places in mind I should like to use a picture to clarify what I want to say.

A human being enters into this life through a narrow gate; we enter one by one.

Having entered, we are in a large plain; this plain is life.

Here we move about, at times singly and at other times as ants in an ant hill. Sometimes each struggles for himself, and at other times the individuals unite for work or to make common cause against an enemy.

This whole mass of men is ravaged by sin and the power of the devil. Millions of these harassed souls have no other prospect than a grave. If we could listen to these people, or look over this multitude of men and visit them in their homes, we should be made aware of a great deal of suffering.

The prisons are bursting with criminals and the hospitals are filled with ailing people. Hatred, jealousy and murder rule the day. We may see it in everyday communities; it is still more evident on the battlefield where the ground is made red with the flow of blood.

We are worse off than we think. We like to believe that we are great, strong, and free people; we do not realize that we have been kidnaped by sin, Satan and death.

In the center of this plain, right in the midst of these milling millions, God has set up His throne of Grace. From this throne He calls out to every one: I want to meet you here! By the Holy Spirit through His Word and His servants He calls: Come to meet your God here!

To live in the time of grace means that we have an opportunity to hear the GOSPEL OF GRACE! It is from the Throne of Grace GOD speaks today, for yet it has not been removed from the Earth. When the time comes – as come it will – that God removes this throne from the earth, there will be no further invitation to seek a gracious God.

Let us remember also that we appear before the throne

# Morning Glory

Volume CII – Number 1  
January 2020

**MORNING GLORY** (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, March, May, June, August, September, October, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537. 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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Facebook: [Facebook.com/Haugeinnermission](https://www.facebook.com/Haugeinnermission)

Electronic version available – Send email to: [morningglorymagazine@gmail.com](mailto:morningglorymagazine@gmail.com)

PUBLICATION OFFICE:  
HAGA PUBLISHING, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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of grace voluntarily, but that we must appear before the throne of judgment whether we want to or not. No one shall escape; we must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ.

This plain is not our true homeland. We are driven by an irresistible force toward another gate; we have to leave this life, one by one as we entered it. It is at the exit that we meet God on the Throne of Judgment. We shall not escape it; prayers and tears will avail us nothing.

He who is so wise as to meet God at the mercy-seat will be **acquitted** at the Judgment-seat. GRACE takes the place of justice at the mercy-seat. The sinner is saved by grace as he stands face to face with the living God. It is the same God before whom he shall stand on the day of judgment. If he then has with his letter of acquittal, judgment for him will then be merely a confirmation of that acquittal. God himself will invite him to enter the Eternal Kingdom.

*“If God be for us, who is then against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that was raised from the dead!”*  
Romans 8:31-34.

All those who meet God at the mercy-seat stand on solid ground. Shouldn’t this truth bring joy to all the anxious children of God who are

afraid of death and judgment? There is reason enough here to bring cheer to all the discouraged.

*“I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was the Ancient of Days did sit. His raiment was white as snow and the hair on his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames and the wheels thereof burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him; thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The judgment was set, and the books were opened”.* (Daniel 7:9-10)

*“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before his throne; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it; and death and hades gave up the dead that were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works.”* (Revelation 20:12-13)

It will be a serious matter to be a human being on the day that the books are opened. There will be no scoffing then. If our names are not written in the Book of Life we shall be weighed in the scales of God – and found wanting. It is not a tyrant who is to judge us according to whim and fancy; it is a Righteous Judge whose decisions are based upon what is written in the books. Only he whose name appears in the Book of Life will be saved; it is at the mercy-seat the names are recorded in this Book.

*Spirit and Power*, by Ludvig Hope, Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation

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## THE ARK OF SALVATION

By Evangelist Billy Graham

***“By faith Noah, ...became an heir of the righteousness which comes by faith.”*** (Hebrews 11:7 RSV)

The Bible warned the people of Noah’s day ***“My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.”*** (Genesis 6:3) They laughed at Noah and mocked his words and went about their usual business and their pleasures without ever dreaming he might be right. God was speaking – but they ignored Him. Eventually God’s patience gave out – and by then it was too late.

Outside the ark men and women struggled for their lives, clutching at pieces of driftwood, until the pitiless hand of death reached up and drew them down beneath those cruel waves. All were lost. Every soul outside the ark perished. They had had their chance, but tossed it away.

You cannot come to Christ unless the (Holy) Spirit of God brings you. But what if you ignore His warnings? Then you are in the gravest danger, for someday God will

no longer be speaking to you. Then it will be too late. Come to Christ while there is still time. Christ, God’s greater Ark, stands ready to welcome you to safety today.

### ***Are You in the Ark?***

**HOPE FOR TODAY:** Can you imagine anything more heartbreaking than a man who never quite decides it’s time to hear from God? It will be a reality for too many people. Pray fervently for the lost to heed His call.

*Hope for Each Day*, © 2017 by Billy Graham

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## Humility

**“Every one that exalteth himself shall be humbled; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”** (Luke 14:11)

JESUS had been invited to a social gathering. And He went where He was bidden. But He was the same there as elsewhere.

On this occasion He noticed that the guests sought the chief seats at the table. They were impelled by a desire to *make themselves conspicuous*. Jesus *sees* a great deal of this wherever He turns his eyes in this world.

Also, among His own friends.

It manifests itself in various ways. It does not only seek the *highest* places, but the *lowest* also, provided that the latter elicits the most attention and receives the most praise.

Without any doubt, the desire to be noticed determines the actions and the conduct of the great majority of people. On the other hand, this desire keeps us from doing many a good and necessary deed when there is no prospect of our being noticed.

Many warm-hearted Christians have lost their zeal and fervor because their hearts, *little by little*, have conceived a desire for the chief places, felt the titillating sensation of being noticed and admired, perhaps by a large audience.

If they were not noticed, brought out, greeted, and if their advice were not sought then there would be one more offended person in the group.

One can be saved from this sin by *coming down*, Jesus says. Down to the foot of the cross where we receive forgiveness for our exalted thoughts about ourselves. They who daily take their place beneath the Cross of Jesus will never demand a prominent place among other people. To them it is life’s greatest mystery that God endures them. And the next greatest mystery is that other people respect them and make use of them.

*God’s Word for Today*, By O. Hallesby, Copyright © 1994, Augsburg Fortress, Permission Granted

# Transform vs. Conform

By Pastor Adam Osier

*The world wants you to conform; the Father offers real change*

AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING, my family is hosting a caterpillar name Larry. Larry lives in a critter box that I've made to house unfortunate creatures who were unable to escape my son's grasp. Larry has been imprisoned longer than the average captive because my children are desperately hoping that he will soon develop a chrysalis and, before our very eyes, metamorphose into a beautiful butterfly. We've done our research and have gone to lengths to ensure he has the right environs to succeed. We've fed him, we've watered him, and we've given him a place to transform.

The message of Romans 12:2 is that our desire for Larry is not much different than God's desire for us. Paul writes, ***“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God what is good and acceptable and perfect”*** (ESV). At the heart of this verse, Paul issues two commands — a negative and then a positive one. ***“Do not be conformed”*** and then a positive one, he says, but instead, ***“be transformed.”***

Conformity is in many ways a cultural expectation. Whatever our stations in life, we mold our behavior to match the expectation of others around us. Conformity is not always bad. When it involves stopping our vehicle at red lights because a red light is the universally agreed upon signal to stop, conformity is okay. But when our conformity is according to “the pattern of this world,” we run into problems. This is because the world's patterns diametrically oppose God's patterns.

This world shapes our way of thinking. You've seen its patterns. For instance, it has set a pattern that says that above all things, we must do “what's best for us” or “what makes us happy,” regardless of what that means for others. The world has set a pattern that has defined love, not as self-sacrifice, but as any pleasure that makes us happy for the moment. The world has set a pattern that wealth, pleasure, fame, or power are the true gauges of success, and people must find the path that makes them truly happy. The world's patterns aren't new. They're well-worn, like ruts in a dirt road, and we are placed on that path from birth. Not only that, but we actively seek to stay in these ruts because we believe that in them we find our happiness. Don't let the world conform you to its patterns, nor should you conform yourselves to its patterns, says Paul.

Instead, we are to be transformed. The word used in

this verse is the word from which we get the word metamorphose. It isn't merely becoming a better version of one's self, or cleaning one's self up to be more presentable. To be transformed means to morph into something of an entirely different kind — to become something brand new — just like with our house guest, Larry. The problem is we can't do it, it must be done for us. Scripturally speaking, the only way we can be transformed is if God speaks His Word into our dead, world-conformed hearts, and grants true faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. When He does this, we become something new. We become something different — as different as a caterpillar is from a butterfly. We have new gifts. We have new desires. We have a new found peace with God, and a new understanding of His will.

Having served on our campus in the past, and now returning to serve as dean, I've had the privilege of seeing our Bible college and seminary function as a kind of “chrysalis” for our students. It's a place of transformation, and it's exciting to see. Many things change. Leadership changes. Names change. But God's Word doesn't change. At FLBC, by God's grace, we desire and strive to be an environment where world conformed hearts hear and are transformed by God's unchanging Word. This is His good, acceptable, and pleasing will for the world He loves.

Taken from *Kinship*, Winter 2019

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## Only One Step Away

“There is but a step between me and death.”  
(1 Samuel 20:3)

### Only a step!

We attach but little importance to a step. Every day we take countless steps that are unnecessary. A step requires such small effort that we think nothing of it.

And yet, there is but a short step between me and the unknown called *death*. What solemn thought! In view of this, what folly to live with unforgiven sins! Within a few minutes I may find myself standing before the (Holy/Perfect) throne of God!

Since there is but a step between me and death, there must never be a step between me and JESUS. I must live my life with him and in Him — never separated from Him. Every day must be lived in the light of that accounting which I shall have to face in eternity. I must not set foot in any place from which I cannot joyfully take the next step into eternity. Lord, help me so to live this day.

*Rest A While*, by Fredrik Wisloff

# Editorial

RES

## *Inventory*

***“Let us examine and probe our ways, And let us return to the LORD.”***

*(Lamentations 3:40)*

There are definitely FIVE things in my life that are not for ‘sale’ and for the greatest of these, me and hopefully you as well; but I will finish this thought later on in this ‘editorial’.

Generally: First of all; for most adult folk this time of the year there is a general ‘inventory’ for two basic reasons – Taxes and Resolutions. What can I get along without this coming year and how should I improve my life-style and how can I provide for this in this coming year? There are numerous items that I would be willing to sell if the prices were right.

Over the years there are ‘usually’ temporary things I don’t really need or have no use for today! In other words ‘house-cleaning’; and GOD definitely tells ‘us’ that we need to examine ‘ourselves’ in the light of God’s Holy Incorruptible Word (BIBLE) frequently, many more times a year, (EXAMPLE) Daily.

NOW how do I go about that? It is by taking a thorough look at Scripture and read/meditate on what GOD demands, encourages and provides for us in His unconditional love, grace, provisions, and empowerment to accomplish the same. God never leads ‘us’ where He will not provide!

NOW after this ‘house cleaning’ (set your house in order Hezekiah was told); there are FIVE blessing/gifts that I am privileged to possess that are definitely not for sale!

### ***1. Experienced SALVATION***

What a tremendous Gift it is to have and know Jesus as my personal Savior and yet this ‘gift’ was so costly that it made Heaven poor on my behalf and yours’ also; this Pearl of Great Price! YET it always has cost someone a great price that I may have/experience Freedom! This is absolutely true both in the secular realm and in Christianity! JESUS PAID IT ALL that I may be set Free from the guilt, punishment for sin and eternal hopelessness (Hell)! Jesus shed His Life Blood on Calvary that I may be set free. (Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 8:31-36 and I John 5:11-13)

### ***2. Measure of ‘good-health’***

ISN’T it ‘marvelous’ that the greatest ‘gifts’ that we have are from HIM who has No Shadow of turning; but

is the same yesterday, today and forever and thus HIS Promises are as secure and trust worthy as **HE IS**.

When we know Jesus as our personal Savior, not only is our ‘soul’ His, but in a sense your physical body as well. “Or do you not know that your body is the temple (dwelling place) of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (I Corinthians 6:18-19) But we are to maintain the body as we live in a land of freedom!

As an illustration; if we purchase a vehicle and the vehicle is paid for in full, the sales personnel gives the ‘key’ to operate the same. Well, Jesus paid the full price and indirectly you and I are challenged to operate and maintain this ‘vehicle’ in your earthly journey. (Assisted suicide or abortion is not the answer)

### ***3. Freedom (In a Land which ‘we’ love)***

Even though ‘freedom’ as ‘we’ the people are indeed privileged to enjoy and experience the same; cost MANY their very life for the same, so that you and I can possess/experience the same. Please don’t take this wonderful blessing in the USA for granted until it is gone as is true in other countries as well.

If you look at documented History at all, here in the USA ‘freedom’ for US has been very costly as many have given their lives that we might enjoy the same. There is NO question as you look at ‘history’ many of our Founders were building our Country on Christian principles.

The BIBLE. Once again, don’t take this ‘liberty’ for granted and ‘freedom of worship’. (Personally, even though I am not an out-door sports person (hunting,); I believe each adult who is mentally in good-health, has the right to bear arms).

Even though there are political leaders in whom ‘we’ do not agree with; we ought to pray for them and support those who truly represent ‘we the people’ and respect their official position.

### ***4. Wonderful ‘Spouse’, Family and Relatives***

As we live in these perilous times (meaning very difficult times); we must guard in causing ‘family-disunity’

without compromise on biblical doctrine, practice and principles; for one who is truly walking with Jesus does not want to be guilty of quenching the sensitive Holy Spirit on our Christian Biblical convictions, for He is the Solid Rock and Firm Foundation. What a blessing it is to have a 'spouse' who truly loves Jesus and out of love, seeks to obey Him.

As you all know and something NOT to be proud of; is the old sinful nature and as we grow old the stronger the 'old sinful nature' also grows! Thus, if you want to keep a good marriage & family relationship, we ALL need **for-giveness**. Not only asking for forgiveness from our Holy God, but seeking that from one another as well! Don't take a Christian mate for granted, but seek to live in 'harmony'! *"Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him, And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."* (Ecclesiastes 4:13. See also Ephesians 5:22-31, I Peter 3:1-12; Proverbs 6:16-23)

Am I reading 'between the lines?' But have you noticed as each new family (generation) arrives, each family becomes more independent and less intertwined? I realize that each new generation/family unit has different priorities and responsibilities and it could be a 'subtle' beginning of the following as Satan & the fallen Angels have fallen, lost, immoral, sinful men are working overtime to divide – please take the time to read Micah 7:6 and **Matthew 10:21-22**.

### 5. *Christian Friends and Fellowship*

Satan and his 'helpers' are heartily working so busy that we divorce ourselves from gathering together with those of like mind/convictions. An ungodly person walks about and *devises evil*... *"DISCORD."* Also, the following; *"These six things the LORD hates, ...And one who sows discord among the brethren."* (Proverbs 6:16-19)

There is a very subtle yet very real hidden sin which the Scripture calls, *"Because iniquity has increased."* (Iniquity as I understand is more or less 'hidden or secret' SIN) Matthew 24:8-13. As our reverence for GOD rises and falls; so, will our 'worship' of HIM follow like a shadow!

**"BEHOLD, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"** (Psalm 133:1) *"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death"* (I John 3:14) (In other words he 'loves' the brethren, but loves to be gathered together or in the midst of the brethren which also involves commitment and loyalty!)

***"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."*** (I John 5:11-13)

Otherwise all the LORD has entrusted to me & my wife could be for sale if the price is right as Stewards of our Great Creator and Preserver.

As we travel in and through these 'Perilous Times'; this 'we' know that JESUS does not want to leave or forsake us; even though the 'storms' of life, and the wind is very contrary, and the waves seem like they overtake us, the night of the Christian's hour: JESUS is the same, yesterday, today and forever and thus HIS Promises never change either. And it could be that Jesus is letting 'us' be frail as 'we' really are; yet HE clearly states, **"Be not afraid" & "Perfect Love casts out all fear"**.

## Mercy

**"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."**(Luke 17:13)

Many Christian hymns are comparatively short-lived. After a generation or two they are seldom used and are finally forgotten.

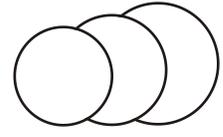
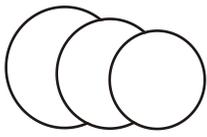
There is one strophe, however, which will live as long as the Christian Church remains on earth "Kyrie eleison; Lord have mercy on us." This deep cry for mercy will never cease to echo from the heart of a true Christian. Everyone who earnestly desires to enter into the presence of God must fall on his face and confess: "Lord, I have sinned against Thee in thoughts, words, and deeds. I beseech Thee therefore: Have mercy on

me!" And even more earnest and poignant will be the cry: "I am conscious of evil desires in my heart. Therefore, O Lord, have mercy on me!"

Alas! A Christian is in constant need of mercy, His entire life issues at last in this prayer: "JESUS, MASTER, HAVE MERCY ON ME!"

And, praise be to God, there is mercy for the sinner! *"As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him"* (Psalm 103:11). *"The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him."* (Psalm 103:17)

*Rest A While*, by Fredrik Wisloff



# From Our Fellowship Circle

**P. L. M.**

**Dayton, OH**

At an ELCA Church recently, the Pastor mentioned Yoga as a way to help ourselves to become open to receive the Holy Spirit. (Editor: According to the BIBLE and experience; ‘we’ receive the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus personally; as without the Holy Spirit’s indwelling it is impossible to live a Christian life).

There is a Lutheran Church on the other side of Dayton, that maybe I would consider attending; but distance is a factor!

I don’t know where to go to stay loyal to the Lutheran Doctrine.

The *Morning Glory* is my only Lutheran Devotional reading that I have.

Editor: It sure would be great to hear from a number of YOU, telling us briefly what the Lord is doing personally in your heart and life!

\* \* \* \* \*

## Happy Are the Unhappy

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”* (Matthew 5:4)

THIS second beatitude is perhaps the most paradoxical Jesus appears to say, “Happy are the unhappy.” But Jesus’ view of happiness is not like ours, which often rises and falls deepening on our circumstances. Jesus’ countercultural happiness is not limited by the presence of disappointments, but rather comes through mourning.

Jesus’ type of mourning is also countercultural. It is not the mourning of self-pity when you do not get what you want. Nor is it the mourning of loss when you lose someone or something you love. Jesus’ mourning is godly mourning over sin. The poor in spirit from the first beatitude will become those who sorrow over their sin. Jesus is not saying that happiness comes from the mourning itself, but rather from God’s response to our mourning. Godly mourning brings God’s forgiveness and healing, which in turn give us God’s comfort and joy.

There are two obstacles to godly mourning and therefore to God’s comfort; conceit and despair. Conceit causes us to ignore our sin or blame others. Despair causes us to lose hope in God’s forgiveness and excuse sin as an unavoidable reality. Both prevent mourning.

Both hinder God’s grace. Both get in the way of happiness. But those who reject conceit and despair will discover a joy even life’s circumstances cannot destroy.

Dr. Michael Youssef, My Journal

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## God’s Eternal Love

*“The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love.”*

(Jeremiah 31:3)

We are living in a throw-away society. We use disposable dishes, disposable drinking cups, and I even heard of someone marketing a suit of clothes made of paper which you wear and throw away. Marriages are regarded as disposable. Loyalty to an employer is rare, and even loyalty to one’s country is becoming a thing of the past. We live in a world in which nothing seems permanent. But God’s Word declares that God’s love is an everlasting love.

God’s love is personal. He deals personally with you and me. He loves people (not some abstract “humanity” or “the poor”) God’s love is for individuals. When we only love abstractly, we don’t love at all. A person who talks about loving “the poor,” but doesn’t love a single poor person, doesn’t really love at all. God, the Almighty, loves you personally.

Second, God’s love is perpetual. It was there in the past, it continues today, and it will be there in the future. It is not limited by time. God’s love is beyond time and space. It is a permanent unchanging love that is not altered by fashion, or even by our own failings. The love of a spouse may wither away, or the love for a child may change, but God’s love never changes. God loved us “even while we were yet sinners.” God has always loved YOU, and always will, no matter what you have done or what you will do.

Third, God’s love is powerful. The Cross changed the world forever. It changed the relationship of God to man, and made possible communion with God for every believer. It empowers mission work, it empowers self-sacrifice, and it changes people. It provides the blessed hope of eternal life, and refreshes every day.

So, take courage! God’s love is real, and always with you. ***It will never fail, because Jesus never fails!***

By Dr. J. Harold Smith

**The Good Neighbor**, February, 2007. Taken from *Hope For Your Heart*

# Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

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## Drew Brees Criticized for Promoting Bring Your Bible to School Day

New Orleans Saints star quarterback Drew Brees (took a lot of) heat from left-leaning media after he was featured in a recent video clip shared by the social conservative Christian organization Focus on the Family encouraging kids to bring their Bibles to school...

Bring your Bible to School Day was launched in 2014 by Focus on the Family to encourage students to “celebrate religious freedom and share God’s love with their friends...”

Samuel Smith, christianpost.com

## Mom of Texas Baby Shot Grateful for Answered Prayer: “God Does Not Cause Tragedies Like This”

A 17-month old girl was among the dozens of people shot in a mass shooting ... in Odessa, Texas and the toddler’s mother says she doesn’t believe God is behind such tragedies. Rather, God is helping them get through it all.

Anderson Davis was strapped next to her twin brother in car seats that were hooked in their family’s SUV when a gunman fired a rifle, killing seven people and wounding more than 20 others.

According to her mother, Anderson had shrapnel in her right chest and a hole through her bottom lip and tongue, which knocked out her front teeth...

The toddler was airlifted to University Medical Center in Lubbock where she had to undergo surgery.

Jeanne Law, christianpost.com

Article Editor’s Comments: The mom is right. God does not cause such tragedy. We live in a world where evil men perpetrate all kinds of wicked things. The Devil “walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (I Peter 5:8). A shooter like this is in cahoots with that “roaring lion.”

*Morning Glory Editor’s Notes: AMEN & Amen!* Around the ‘world’ there are many outstanding ‘tragedy’s inspired by the ‘father of lies and deceiver’ who are working with and for him: in other words, in ‘cahoots’ with him and may not even always know it themselves! Satan also comes in the form of an ‘angel of light’ – deceiving. Don’t blame our perfect, holy God for things that are evil as the source.

## Another Texas City Declares Itself a “Sanctuary for the Unborn”

A sixth Texas city jumped on board with the growing movement to protect unborn babies from abortion at the local government level.

On (September 24) the Gilmer City Council voted 4-1 in favor of an ordinance declaring their city to be a sanctuary for unborn babies, CBS 19 reports. The ordinance prohibits abortions and bans abortion facilities from opening within city limits.

The other cities are Tenaha, Waskom, Omaha, Naples and Joaquin all in Texas.

lifeneews.com

## Christian Non-Profits Targeted

At a recent Ways and Means Committee hearing in Congress, some are discussing how they can remove the tax- exempt status of certain conservative Christian nonprofit organizations that were labeled as “hate groups” by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). Some of those targeted are Family Research Council, Federation for American Immigration Reform, American Family Association, and D. James Kennedy Ministries. The SPLC has a history of opposing Christian and conservative groups. In April 2019, a group of Christian leaders signed an open letter that stated in part, “It is now clear that the SPLC has proven to be a hate-filled, anti-Christian, anti-conservative organization and nothing more than a weapon of the radical left whose goal is to bully people into compliance with their ideology. Fail to comply with their demands, and you will be labeled as a hate group or an extremist.”

Faithwire.com

“Our pursuit of God is successful just because He is forever seeking to manifest Himself to us.”

A. W. Tozer

## Identity – Who Am I?

*“For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”*

(Romans 12:3)

There is a movement abounding today which tells people that they need to find out who they are in Christ. This is then called their “identity” or who they are in this world. They are directed to go to Ephesians 1 and write down everything that God has done for them and this is now their identity. As you do this, you come up with the list that You are: chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, grace-lavished, loved, accepted, pure, blameless, forgiven and having a hope of eternity with God. This is said to now be your identity, who you are as a person, and how you live or how you feel doesn’t change the way that God views you and this is the way for you to get a positive self-image.

While these things are true of a believer in Christ, it is God’s identity or His work on your behalf. God has done all of these things to get you to be a Christian in the first place. The end result of these things is that you are now a Child of God and you are to live a life before the world that reflects this. *“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”* (I John 3:2-3) It says that our life now in this world does not yet reflect who we are or what we shall be. The life now of God’s children is to live as pure in this world as Christ Himself lived. The Identity Movement turns the Christian’s mind inward unto self rather than to Christ.

### The Mind of Jesus

Since we are to be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29), did Jesus think of Himself in these terms? No, in fact He had the exact opposite of this. *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* (Philippians 2:5-8) If ever there was a man who rightfully could exalt Himself for who He was and for all that God had done for Him, it was Jesus, since He was the very Son of God. Yet Jesus specifically DID NOT THINK on Himself that way. He had a mind which

denied His very identity as equal with God, which did not exalt Himself and was even willing to suffer even the most horrible treatment against Himself for the sake of God and His Kingdom. It isn’t that Jesus wasn’t these things, He just refused to think upon Himself that way. This is the mind we are commanded by God to have of ourselves and it is the exact opposite of what the Identity Movement teaches us to have.

Jesus Himself taught us the way of a disciple is to deny ourselves. *“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.’* (Matt. 16:24-25) The cross is an instrument of shame, scorn, pain and death. This is what Jesus would have us do with our lives and our attitudes of ourselves – take up your cross and die to self – deny self – and follow Jesus and not yourself. The Christian life is about Jesus within us from beginning to end, not who we are ourselves. The Identity Movement is opposite what Jesus laid out for the life of a disciple

### The Mind of the Apostles

Even the very apostles themselves did not exalt themselves or who they were in God. The apostle Paul’s identity was, *“Oh wretched man that I am”* (Rom. 7:24). He did not say, “O wretched man that I Was” as though that was who he was before conversion. If that weren’t enough, *“For if I do wish to boast I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this, so that no one may credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me. And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me – to keep me from exalting myself!”* (II Corinthians 12:6-7) When he prayed three times to the Lord for Him to remove this, God did not do that. *“And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”* (vv. 9-10) The apostle’s secret of strength was not in boasting of who he was in God, but in brokenness of self.

This was also true of the mighty man, John the Baptist. As the prophesied fore-runner of Christ, there were no other men who were greater than him – Jesus said so. *“Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than*

he.” (Matthew 11:11) Yet, did John look at his identity and who he was? No, he did exactly the opposite. “*And they [the Pharisees] asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”*” (John 1:25-27) The mighty John the Baptist was not worthy to even touch the sandals of Jesus. When he was later questioned further, he responded, “*He must increase, but I must decrease.*” (John 3:30)

The apostle Paul shows us the secret to properly understanding ourselves in comparison to Christ within us. “*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.*” (Galatians 2:20) This is the self-testimony of the man who wrote (by inspiration) all those verses in Ephesians chapter one that the Identity Movement uses. His very self-life had been crucified with Christ and the only life he could now live was the life of Christ within him. I find meaning and direction and fulfillment in life not by looking to who I am, even as a redeemed child of God. Rather, I must let God put to death the old self and I must look to Christ and Christ alone as the One who gives me life and all things with it that I need.

The Identity Movement is contrary to the very life of Jesus and His teachings to us. The method of modern Christian teaching is to exult people so that they can become who they are in God. The method of God is the way of the Cross which has always been to break the self life so that Christ can control. This starts with salvation and conversion. “*The LORD is near to the broken-hearted, And saves those who are crushed in spirit.*” (Psalm 34:18) We then follow Jesus into dying to self and rising with His life within us. Jesus described it this way: “*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*” (John 12:24-26)

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

*I can feel good about myself, not because  
of **who** I am,  
But because of **Whose** I am.*

## No Longer Afraid

*(Please read Zephaniah 3:9-17)*

***“They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.”*** (Zephaniah 3:13)

WHEN THE ETHIOPIAN POLICE found her a week after her abduction, three black-maned lions surrounded her, guarding her as though she were their own. Seven men had kidnaped the twelve-year-old girl, carried her into the woods and beaten her. Miraculously, however, a small pride of lions heard the girl’s cries, came running and chased off the attackers. “(The lions) stood guard until we found her and then they just left her like a gift and went back into the forest,” police Sergeant Wondimu told one reporter.

There are days when violence and evil, like that inflicted on this young girl, overpower us, leaving us without hope and terrified. In ancient times, the people of Judah experienced this. They were overrun by ferocious armies and unable to imagine any possibility of escape. Fear consumed them. However, God always renewed His unrelenting presence with His people: “*The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.*” (Zephaniah 3:15)

Even when our catastrophes result from our own rebellion, God still comes (Ed. Willing to be our Shield, Buckler, Defense & Shelter; AS unworthy as ‘we’ are) to our rescue. “*The LORD your God is with you,*” we hear, “*The Mighty Warrior who saves.*” (v17)

Whatever troubles overtake us, whatever evils, Jesus – the Lion of Judah – is with us. (Revelation 5:5) No matter how alone we feel, our strong Savior (The word ‘Savior’, also means Deliverer) is with us. No matter what fears ravage us, our God assures us that He is by our side.

(Ed. That is provided that we know JESUS as our personal Savior and then He indwells us by the Holy Spirit and His Word, provided you know some of His Word; so, keep nourished).

*What is your greatest fear right now? How does God’s promise to be with you encourage you?*

***Mighty Warrior God, I need You, I need a Mighty Warrior to stand with me and overwhelm my fears.  
I’m choosing to trust you.***

*Our Daily Bread*, November 2019. Used by permission.

## Window Into Worldliness

By Pastor Steve Lombardo

What is most important in your life? As a major baseball player, upon learning a teammate was diagnosed with colon cancer, said, “We’re not immortal. Sometimes baseball seems like the most important thing in our lives, but it’s not!”

### **AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH**

Jesus said in Luke 17:26-30: “*And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.*”

What Jesus says here is astounding. He points to the fact that people will be essentially the same in the days before His return as the people who lived in the days of Noah and Lot. Human nature will be unchanged.

There are those who say we are progressing – getting better – but Jesus doesn’t say that. Instead, His view is that people will remain basically the same. People will either be saved or they will be worldly, belonging to the world system whose god is the devil. Worldliness describes a concern for physical, material values, or it is seen in an ordinary life void of biblical truth. Jesus, in the text, provides a window into worldliness.

### **REMEMBER THE ESSENTIAL**

First, worldliness forgets the essential. In Noah’s and Lot’s time, people were involved in normal everyday activities, things that make up the issues of life. None are inherently sinful. There is nothing necessarily wrong, except when these things become the priorities of life. It is interesting that Jesus does not focus on the wickedness and blatant sins of the people, for which Noah’s and Lot’s time is remembered. Instead, Jesus talks about indifference or apathy, resulting in a neglect of that which is most crucial.

What are the people indifferent about? Their own souls. The essential is the human soul. The thing about living is that it is so daily. The routine may be fine, but the routine can also numb a person to what is really critical – the soul’s value! The rich farmer in Luke 12 had his farm, his work, and his success but he missed the essential. In v.

19 he said to his soul, “*Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.*” But it wasn’t well with his soul because to him it wasn’t the essential. There were other considerations. God called him a “fool” (v. 20). (Ed. A ‘fool’ knows better, than...) Jesus said, “*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (Matthew 16:26)

### **REMEMBER THE ETERNAL**

Second, worldliness also forgets the eternal. The people of Noah’s day did not seem at all concerned about future life. There was little, if any, thought about eternity until the flood came. The people of Lot’s day did not give consideration to the future until the fire fell from heaven in judgment. It was too late for them! Noah’s and Lot’s warning went unheeded. The people forgot the eternal.

What about eternity? The thrust of Jesus’ words here is that of awakening His hearers in the reality of eternity. Every person one day will be there, in heaven or hell. A sea of stuff, having occupied attention and energy in this life will vanish. Job said, “*Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there.*” (1:21) Of course, the wise person is the one who makes preparation for the future. The people Jesus mentioned from Noah’s and Lot’s time were involved with innumerable things: eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling, planting, building – for the most part normal activities but temporal not eternal. The wise person is the one who has made preparation for eternity, who can say when death is imminent: “I am ready when the Lord is ready!”

### **REMEMBER THE EXTRAORDINARY**

Third, worldliness certainly forgets the extraordinary. In v. 25, just before our text, Jesus says that “*He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.*” He is talking about His crucifixion, His sacrifice for the sins of the world. Worldliness forgets the stunning sacrifice of Jesus! Noah proclaimed repentance as he built the Ark. Lot was “*oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men*” as he sought to live a righteous life (II Peter 2:7-8). Jesus said, “*Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*” (Luke 13:3, 5) But He not only exposed sin, He did something about it! Jesus gave up His life, shed His Blood to pay that debt of sin we could never pay. For the purpose that whoever comes to Him in repentance and faith will not perish but have Eternal Life. Worldliness forgets the extraordinary ministry of JESUS, a ministry that brought life to the world in the death of the Cross. “Amazing,” said the hymn writer, “that Thou my God should die for me!” Also, the Resur-

rection of Jesus confirms that God the Father accepted His sacrifice. No other sacrifice, no other death, is necessary. Sin was paid for in full! *“It is finished!”* (John 19:30)

Being worldly, forgetting the essential, the eternal, the extraordinary, is very dangerous! Martyn Lloyd-Jones said in a sermon decades ago: “According to our Lord, there are only two groups of people – those who are in this condition of worldly-mindedness and those who are not. And their ultimate fate depends entirely upon that fact. The worldly will share the fate of the people before the flood, and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. The others belong to the group containing Noah and his family, Lot – the saved. To which group do you belong?”

*The Vine and the Branches*, Winter 2019  
Abiding Word Ministries

*Editor’s Note:* Lord willing, Pastor Steve Lombardo will be our guest Evangelist at Elim Lutheran Church, Oaksis, MN on April 17-19, 2020: He will be speaking at four sessions.

We also have two other guest speakers and these are members of the HLIF Board, they are Pastor Jim Haga and Mr. Wayne Almlie.

Please begin NOW to pray Specifically for this Hauge Lutheran Bible Conference as this is the beginning of the hundredth Anniversary year (*As HLIF became an organized/official non-profit ministry at Elim Lutheran Church. This is a testimony of God’s Preserving GRACE to us.*

If at all ‘feasible’ plan NOW to be there in attendance. – Psalm 133:1.

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### Acceptable?

**If the Lord Jesus Christ has taught us anything, it’s that what is acceptable to our culture is not always acceptable to Him.**

By Dr. Michael Youssef

OUR culture is changing before our eyes. Only a few years ago, the Christian worldview still shaped our society at large. Today, our nation’s Biblical foundations are quickly dissolving. How can we make a difference for Christ in this post-Christian era? What must we do in these times of cultural confusion and social change?

As the church we must return to our Anchor, our roots, our foundation. We must return to Christ’s class on the mountaintop. Let us therefore look to the basic text of our Lord Jesus Christ ...and allow HIM to teach us how to turn cultural norms upside-down. (Ed. Actually it is right-side up)

If the Lord Jesus Christ has taught us anything, it’s that what is acceptable to our culture is not always acceptable to Him. Conversely, what is acceptable to Jesus may never be accepted by our culture. Let us therefore follow the counter-cultural way of the Cross, shining as Christ’s lights in this dark world, *“that they may see (our) good deeds and glorify (our) Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16)

### FOR GOD’S GLORY,

*The world wants us to buy into its prescription for happiness, but it’s a pill that only leads to death and destruction.*

*In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shows us the path to true blessing, the path that His people must walk – a path that continues to counter culture even today!*

Taken from *My Journal*

\* \* \* \* \*

## What are the New Heavens and the New Earth?

HEAVEN – the new earth – is a physical place where we will dwell with glorified physical bodies (I Corinthians 15:35-58). The concept that heaven is “in the clouds” is unbiblical. The concept that we will be “*spirits floating around in heaven*” is also unbiblical. The heaven that believers will experience will be a new and perfect planet on which we will dwell. The new earth will be free from sin, evil, sickness, suffering and death. It will likely be similar to our current earth, or perhaps even a re-creation of our current earth, but without the curse of sin.

What about the new heavens? It is important to remember that in the ancient mind, “heavens” referred to the skies and outer space, as well as the realm in which God dwells. So, when Revelation 21:1 refers to the new heavens, it is likely indicating that the entire universe will be created – a new earth, new skies, a new outer space. It seems as if God’s heaven will be recreated as well, to give everything in the universe a (new) “fresh start,” whether physical or spiritual. Will we have access to the new heavens in eternity? Possibly, but we will have to wait to find out. May we all allow God’s Word to shape our understanding of heaven.

Selected.

*Editor’s Note:* Personally, I am not in total ‘harmony’ with this ‘article’ according to the convictions that I believe God has given to me based on His Word. But there is much food for thought and meditation and just check it out based on God’s Eternal Word, the BIBLE.

## **GOD Bless AMERICA –** **Land that I love**

*Editor's Note:* I am starting with this, before the article because at the present there will not be a February issue of the *Morning Glory* because of lack of financial means.

Secondly, notice this article's copyright date.

Thirdly, You might not agree with the political leadership at this time; but 'we' are to pray for our 'Leadership' regardless.

February is a 'month' we especially emphasize the great 'Leadership' of two great Presidents of the past who definitely believed in 'Freedom of Religion'.

### ***God Bless America Land That I Love***

The president recently asked for prayer as he faces the complex and dangerous challenges of leading our Country in such tumultuous times.

His request was a pointed reminder to me that I should be praying for our president and leaders every day – not to get something from them – but simply in obedience to the Scriptures. I personally haven't prayed the way I should, and I'm sure that's the case for some of you as well.

We know from Scripture that God can turn the hearts of kings (Proverbs 21:1). That means that we should be praying for God's will to be done and for our leaders to seek God and listen to Him. We should pray that they would be surrounded by godly counsel and, most important, that our leadership would personally know God and the salvation found through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Think about all of the issues our President and the leaders of our Nation face at this moment. Ebola is not only a huge problem for Western Africa but it could be a major problem for this Country. Our broken borders are a major challenge. In addition to all of the other concerns, they can provide terrorists easy access.

ISIS is brutally murdering Christians in Syria and Iraq, and other jihadists are killing Christians in Iran and other parts of the Muslim world. Believers are being threatened, villages are being burned, and churches pulled down.

Ukraine is in peril as Russia seems to want to rebuild its former Soviet empire there. China is spending huge amounts on its military and beginning to flex its muscles in the Pacific, threatening its neighbors including (South) Vietnam and the Philippines. North Korea has nuclear weapons, Iran may be on the verge, and the threat of terrorists gaining access to nuclear bombs is very real.

Should we not be diligently praying that God would

give our President, Congress and Military leaders wisdom? Our Senators and Governors and Council members need our prayers – even if they are not the candidates we voted for.

Interceding for those in Authority is not an option. It is a biblical command that we are to obey.

Understand that the Apostle Paul is writing this instruction to his protégé Timothy at a time when the vile emperor Nero was at the helm of the vast Roman Empire. Christians were viciously persecuted, clothed in wild animal skins and put in the arena before hungry lions, even covered red in pitch and used as human lanterns to light the streets of Rome.

Nevertheless, the aged Apostle, who would soon be martyred during Nero's reign of terror, instructs Timothy to pray for the rulers of his day...

There should be a sense of urgency in our prayer life, an understanding that we ***“do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*** (Ephesians 6:12) The prince of darkness is grimly and powerfully at work in world affairs, and prayer is a great battlefield especially as we pray for those in leadership.

When the Scripture says that the ***“king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water”*** (Proverbs 21:1), it means that a Sovereign God can turn the heart of a king at any time and in any way. If there are policies and platforms that don't conform to biblical ethics, the intercession of Christians can be used in a powerful, transforming way.

Neither kings, presidents, nor mayors, nor members of Congress are the ultimate authority – God is. ***“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.’ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh... (Psalm 2:2-4).***

As Charles Spurgeon said, **“prayer is the slender nerve that moves the Omnipotent muscle of God.”** The Bible commands us to pray for authorities.

*Perhaps* this is at least part of what the apostle meant when he said that praying for our leaders can result in an atmosphere that is conducive to the spread of the GOSPEL, leading to a **“Quiet and peaceable life.”** (I Timothy 2:2, KJV). The more hostile the culture is to Christians and Christianity – which is certainly the case in our nation today – the more we need to pray.

The LORD may use our prayers for those in authority to somehow delay or even stop legislation or initiatives that hinder the advancement of the Gospel. We have experienced serious moral degradation in America, but there are still many opportunities for the proclamation of the

GOSPEL. The day may soon come when that freedom no longer exists, thus all the more reason to pray for GOD'S mercy to turn the hearts of our Leaders now!

It is also very clear that the ultimate reason the Bible instructs us to intercede on behalf of our leaders is so that they might come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. "***This*** (our intercession) ***is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***" (I Timothy 2:3-4).

God's desire is that as many people as possible be saved before He returns...

**Prayer is the Christian's greatest weapon in a world that seems to be coming apart around us!**

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### Conformed to His Image

***"And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."*** (I Corinthians 15:49)

One of the most amazing promises of the Word of God is that those who "love God" and are "the called according to his purpose" are those whom "he also did predestinate (Ed. Had & has 'foreknowledge of'; as GOD doesn't *choose* some to go to Hell and some to go to Heaven) to be conformed to the image of his Son." Romans 8:28-29.

Adam and Eve were created in His image physically in the beginning, "*So God created man in his own image ... male and female created he them.*" (Genesis 1:27) Presumably this means they were created in the physical form that God knew He would assume when, in the fullness of time, He would become man Himself, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

That image was marred when Adam (and, in Adam, all men) sinned. Nevertheless, it can be restored spiritually when we receive Christ and "*have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*" (Colossians 3:10)

But this is not all. As our text reveals, we who have been made in God's earthly image (both physically and spiritually) will also, in due time, receive His heavenly image. This will take place when Christ returns. At that time, "***we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye ... and the dead*** (Ed. Those who are IN Christ Jesus) ***shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.***" (I Corinthians 15:51-52)

In what way shall we be changed? The Lord Jesus Himself "***shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body.***" (Philippians 3:21) His body, after His resurrection, was still His phys-

ical body, but it was no longer subject to pain or death and was able to pass through walls and to speed rapidly from earth to heaven. That is "*the image of the heavenly*" to which we shall be conformed some-day soon! For "***we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.***" (I John 3:2) — Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

*Days of Praise*, Institute for Creation Research  
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### Thanksgiving Day after Day

By Barbara Rainey

Has it ever seemed surprising to you that God made the Israelites wander in the wilderness for 40 years just for ***grumbling*** and ***complaining***? My kids may have spent 30 minutes in their rooms for griping, but 40 years? That's some severe discipline!

One thing is crystal clear from this Biblical account. God is obviously not pleased with grumbling, ungrateful hearts. And we should not tolerate grumbling either – in ourselves or in our children.

Being grateful is a choice that we readily and ritually express on THANKSGIVING DAY. But what do we do on other days of the year when the mood is less festive or the atmosphere is more ordinary?

I like the contented way the Pilgrims approached life. They did not allow their feelings or circumstances to determine whether or not they would exercise gratitude and thanksgiving. They believed that God was in control – "providence" they called it! Following this belief to its logical conclusion they responded to challenges with a perspective that said, "God has allowed this for our good." They chose to believe – rightly so – that their dependence on a Holy, Faithful GOD was well placed and that even though much was against them, there was always much more for which to be grateful. Developing a heart of gratitude is essential to growing a stronger faith. As John Piper stated in his book *A Godward Life*, "***If we do not believe that we are deeply dependent on God for all we have or hope to have, the very spring of gratitude and faith runs dry.***"

Make the choice today to take your eyes off yourself and your circumstances, gratefully acknowledging who God is and what He is doing. Deny yourself the right to complain, embracing instead the deep-seated joy of thanksgiving ... in all things.

A GRATEFUL HEART PLEASES GOD!

***"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me."*** (Psalm 50:23) – Revival Tidings

## Behold, Thy King Cometh

(Please read Matthew 21:1-9)

*“Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy king cometh unto thee, meek, and riding upon an ass, upon a colt the foal of an ass.”* (v.5)

One year rolls by after the other. The wheel of time turns incessantly, and we follow. It seems that each year passes more swiftly than the preceding one. Old customs yield to new ones. We follow friends, parents and relatives to the grave with painful regularity. We weep – and forget.

Life is like a bustling ant hill. Tired and disgruntled people complain of weariness and injustice. The earth is aging. The races of mankind are wearing out. The end of all things is at hand; God’s great autumn season is before us.

In the midst of all this bustling and teeming life of sweat and blood and tears stands an immovable rock; the flood waters of the world have failed to change it with the passing years. That is Jesus Christ, our Savior. He is yesterday, today, and forever the same.

To Jerusalem is accorded the privilege of another visit from the Savior. Once again, He desires to offer the Kingdom to these stiff-necked people. Still another time He yearns to knock with a loving hand at the locked door. Once more – can it be possible that tears and loving words may thaw the frozen hearts of frigid souls?

Alas, no! Also, this time the heart-door is closed to peace and salvation. For a fleeting moment the people thaw out sufficiently to hail their king. Then everything freezes up into eternal ice again.

Jesus wept (Ed. We have way too much dry-eyed Christianity today) as He rode into the city. Remarkable tears these were. According to human reasoning this was the only day of His earthly life that He had a reason to rejoice, and on that day HE wept.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday brought suffering derision and judgment; but there were no tears in His eyes then. Instead He turned to the weeping ones about Him urging them to cease weeping over HIM.

When love suffers voluntarily it does not ask to be pitied. It is self-love that goes from door to door to solicit sympathy.

Why did Jesus weep on Palm Sunday, but not on Good Friday?

On Good Friday Christ walked to Golgotha as the Savior of the world. His purpose was then to redeem the sin-bound race from sin, death, and the kingdom of Satan. The urge to save us impelled Him on toward this day. Now it had arrived. Therefore He gave Himself volun-

tarily and meekly as a lamb. In this way He opened again the road to the Father’s House for us. As heaven was closed to Him it was opened for us. That is why Jesus did not weep on Good Friday.

On Palm Sunday Jesus saw a group of people who would fail to benefit by all that He did for them. He saw that His life would be given in vain for so many of His own people. That is why He wept.

It is hard to sacrifice everything for other in vain; it is doubly so when one is rewarded with disgrace and mockery. Slighted love is the most painful experience a human being can suffer.

Many a strong and brave man has lost all courage and desire to live because he loved one who would never be his. Many a radiant young lady has paled away as a fading flower because she loved without being loved in return. In each case a whole life volunteered to wear itself to the bone for another person, but this other one slightly rejected the offer.

*Now Jesus at the door is knocking!  
Hark how He pleads our heart to win!  
Who hears His voice, the door unlocking,  
To sup with him He enters in!  
How blest the day, my soul, how blest!  
When Jesus comes to be thy guest!*

Slighted love is the heaviest burden and most excruciating pain that is possible in life.

This is the kind of pain that made Jesus weep.

*Spirit and Power*, by Ludvig Hope,  
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*Editor’s Note:* Likely there will be *Morning Glory* readers who quietly will say to themselves: “Editor, this is the wrong time of the year to be meditating on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Morning! After, all for a child of God, Easter, Good Friday, Christmas is a reality every day through-out the whole year, etc.”

REALLY? Well JESUS was born (physical flesh = INCARNATION); to be born to DIE for your ‘sins’ and ‘mine’ and you and I were born to live forever with JESUS – Matthew 1:18. Look up the meaning of the word – ADVENT!

Furthermore ‘we’ no-longer ‘worship’ an INFANT in a manger; but a crucified and risen SAVIOR who is coming (*possibly soon*) for His Blood Bought BRIDE as **KING** of kings!!

HOW HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED SINCE LAST YEAR? Sadly, but maybe YOU are a “reader” of this issue of the *Morning Glory* and yet reality states ‘there is NO room in the Inn (your life)!

## Update !

In light of our mission (MG/HLIF) and as you are able, we ask that you consider supporting the ongoing ministry of the same as We seek to walk by faith, as a faith ministry, as we share God's Law and God's Gospel in concern and love.

In a way these are exciting times (Perilous Times – very difficult times)! Please know that every gift makes a significant difference in providing financial aid in operation of the same.

Most certainly we are grateful for your continued support of the ongoing 'ministry'.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever and HE is able to do great things AND we welcome YOU to consider joining us in JESUS ministry here on earth, as it is part of His Eternal Work.

Thank You so much with your 'patience' in regards to 'our' financial appeals; but it seems that *almost* every 'month', it becomes a greater challenge where the 'rubber meets the road', financially and I firmly believe the LORD wants 'us' to keep on and IF anything press more forward! Most certainly by God's Grace and Empowerment; with your support, we will press on with His call to nurture the Christians and seek to reach the lost with Jesus Christ's Kingdom advancement here on earth!

LET US NEVER GROW WEARY IN DOING  
HIS WORK TOGETHER –  
**I Corinthians 15:57-58.**

**To GOD be the Glory,**

The income for the month of November was \$2,710.00

Our monthly operating budget is approx. \$3,600.00

Thank you to everyone who has given to support this ministry. May the Lord bless you richly.

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 CII • Number 1 • January, 2020  
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

## Hauge Spring Conference

### LORD WILLING!

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation will be beginning to commemorate/celebrate the beginning of it's 100th year of service in the Lord's Ministry at Elim Lutheran Church of rural Osakis, MN; where officially it was organized as a Faith Lutheran non-profit Christian organization.

Naturally it is because of God's Grace, Faithfulness and Empowerment.

The dates and Guest Speakers are:

April 17 – 19, 2020.

Dr. Steve Lombardo, Gifford, IL

Pastor Jim Haga, Shoreview, MN

Mr. Wayne Almlie, Des Moines, IA

Please Pray Specifically for this very special Hauge Bible Conference NOW and mark these dates on your Calendar and begin planning to take in this Blessed Event!

We hope many will try to attend and be blest with us as you are very WELCOME!