



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • July 2008

## Revival

### An Address to the 1895 “Friends of Augsburg” Convention

**T**his topic is presented to the convention for deliberation and discussion with the spiritual condition of our congregations in mind. All spiritually enlightened and living Christians will generally admit that the spiritual condition within the majority of congregations is pitiful and pathetic. Even if our spiritual eyes are weak, no serious and sober Christian can miss this most obvious fact.

As one travels around in the congregations and speaks with the believers, he is impressed that they are now beginning to recognize and regard this condition with greater earnestness and seriousness than in the past. And many of God’s people – pastors and lay people – feel, with great pain, the oppressiveness of this spiritual sickness and ask what they can do so that revival might come upon the many spiritually sleeping and dead church members.

Through my travels and visits among the congregations, I have personally had plenty of opportunity to observe this spiritual condition close at hand. And my observations have convinced me that only a sweeping revival can introduce a real change for the better. How frequently and freely have I not heard from earnest Christians remarks such as these: “Our Lord does have some people here whom He knows as His own, but the majority of the membership in our congregation is, I’m sorry to say, worldly-minded and unconverted.”

“Churchianity,” or formal Christianity, is commonplace

in the congregations, and this does not improve conditions at all. On the contrary, it makes the situation more dangerous and doubtful, for the emphasis is placed on the whole congregation’s edification instead of the individual’s salvation. Churchianity is bound by its very nature to create a total resistance to the Holy Spirit’s calling in individual hearts and in the congregation.

The followers of churchianity are the absolute enemies of true and living Christianity in every way. They freely cry: “The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, this is the temple of the Lord.” They claim to be orthodox members of congregations where God’s Word is proclaimed in truth and purity, and the sacraments administered, according to the Lord’s own command and institution, by a regularly called and ordained clergyman and pastor.

A follower of churchianity uses the Lord’s means of grace only to rest securely in his impenitence and sin, in a sleep that can never be blessed. . . . While at the same time he seeks in his vain and carnal imagination to be able to hope safely and securely that he will be saved and eternally blessed when he dies. As an older woman on her deathbed once said to me: “As long as I was home in the old country, I really liked to go and hear the pastor preach, and so I tried to live as good as I could.” There is, I am sorry to say, very good reason to fear that in our congregations are many who, like this woman, are trusting in their outward religion and

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expecting to gain grace, yet unwilling to wake up from their sin-sleep and be converted to the Lord and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yet many of us who have been converted to a living faith in Jesus are convinced through our own personal experience as well as by God's Word that the followers of churchianity, spiritually sleeping or dead church members, are in the most dreadful danger of going eternally lost if they should die in this condition. If we believe that it is true of so many, many within our congregations, then we might well acknowledge that the topic before us is both timely and extremely serious.

Let us pray to God that He, by His Spirit, might be permitted among us during this service. We who are here certainly need to be revived, vitalized, and spiritually strengthened – primarily for the sake of our own souls. When we return to our congregations from these meetings, we could bring rich spiritual blessings back home with us. We, together with a few or more believing men and women in our congregations, unite in prayer. Then God could appropriate and accomplish a powerful work for revival and spiritual life.

Considering the dreadful and dangerous spiritual condition among us, we might well ask: What can we do to work for revival and spiritual life within our congregations?

It must be clear to us that there is a need for the proclamation of God's Word in our congregations to correspond with the spiritual condition. A proclamation of God's Word that instructs and edifies — as helpful and necessary as it is for God's children — is still not the proper way to produce revival. In congregations where spiritual sleep and death prevail, there is even greater danger, for such a proclamation of the truth works like a sedative on already sleeping sin-

*continued on pg. 3*

ners. When we consider that there are congregations where this sort of preaching has sounded over many years, and where spiritual death generally rules within them, then our experience proves without a doubt that there needs to be a very different sort of proclamation of the truth if revival shall result as a product of the message.

To put it plainly, there must be a reviving proclamation of God's Word if we reasonably shall be able to expect revival. The preaching must aim at the individual conscience with an unmistakable cry: "You are the man!" When this declaration, which means, "you are sinners, who by your transgressions have called down upon yourselves the wrath of God and the judgment of the Law," receives by God's Spirit convicting and crushing power to penetrate the conscience, then there can be hope that sinners will awaken from their sin-sleep, but not before.

With God's Word as light and law for discerning the spiritual condition, we must get all believing men and women to work together for the salvation of sinners. We must totally turn away from the old traditional ways of thinking, and (I am sorry that this needs to be said even among God's children) stop promoting the notion that it is enough when the pastor regularly preaches God's Word during the congregation's public worship services. For then sinners will not be converted, because there is no cry in it; then they will remain lost. It is useless to keep on excusing the pastors from blame, claiming that this way of thinking is so popular and powerful that even God's children have succumbed to it. Pastors must be judged according to the attitude they have chosen to take in the congregations, for one gets the unmistakable impression from many concerned men that they stand alone in any spiritual work. Certainly the price of suffering must be paid in order to encourage the exercise of spiritual gifts in the congregation (by the laity). But the result of the long neglect has been that even true believers remain idle in the marketplace, for if they do not suffer then nothing will be accomplished for revival and spiritual life in the congregation. They have become accustomed to regarding the pastor as the one who alone should carry out all spiritual work. Yet this is obviously in direct conflict with the Word of God, which teaches that the believers are a spiritual priesthood called to proclaim His merits, Who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light.

It is not only for your own personal salvation that the Lord has let the warmth of His loving heart come upon you, but so that you should be His servants, serving Him unto the salvation of others.

— by Pastor Peter Nilsen (1852-1926)

Pastor Peter Nilsen has been called a revivalist in the truest sense of the term. Immigrating to America from Norway, he trained for the ministry at Augsburg Seminary and served

parishes in LaCrosse, Wisconsin; Duluth, Minnesota; and Minneapolis (St. Luke's), Minnesota. In 1894, Nilsen was called to be Augsburg's traveling fund raiser, but the spiritual dimension soon overshadowed the financial as he was propelled into a position of leadership during the years when powerful waves of revival swept over Norwegian Lutheranism in America. His special gift was the awakening of sleeping Christians, as is evident in this message which was the opening address at the 1895 "Friends of Augsburg," (the original name for the Lutheran Free Church) convention in Willmar, Minnesota.

This article is taken from *The Lutheran Ambassador*  
March 31, 1992

\* \* \* \* \*

## He Who Believes Will Not Be In Haste

Isaiah 28:16, RSV

Faith gives poise, peace of mind, and rest. Unbelief causes restlessness, anxiety, and nervousness.

Impatience in prayer shows lack of submission to God. Many a person praying claims to be engaged in a faith-conflict with God, when in reality it is only a selfish attempt to get his own way.

A restless mind gives evidence of little faith. The source of much nervousness and anxiety is unbelief. To be anxious is to doubt God.

Much of the bustle in the work of God's Kingdom has its source in too little faith in God and His Spirit. What passes for zeal for God's house is sometimes nothing more than carnal zeal and eagerness to advance one's personal interests. Many servants of the Lord wear themselves out prematurely because they rely too much on themselves and not enough on God.

He who believes does not make haste. He has learned to wait for the Lord. Faith often consists in waiting. And when a man of faith acts, he does so with inner peace because he relies on God. He who believes has found quietness in God both in his working hours and in his leisure hours, in times of struggle as well as in times of peace.

Taken from 'Rest A While' by Fredrik Wisloff

### *Perseverance*

Perseverance is one of the surest ways of overcoming a handicap. Charles Spurgeon once said, "By perseverance the snail reached the ark"

# Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

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## Israeli cities ban 'Sex and the City' ads

Officials wanted the word 'sex' removed from billboards and outdoor posters

...Forum Films, the Israeli distributor of the soon-to-be-released "Sex and the City" movie, won't be hanging advertising posters and billboards in Jerusalem and Petah Tikva because officials there don't want the word "sex" on display, said company spokesman Arye Barak.

Both cities have large religious populations. Municipal officials there asked to have the word "sex" removed from the posters.

...Ads for the movie, based on the popular TV series, were to go up elsewhere in Israel, said an official at Maximedia, the Israeli company that is handling outdoor advertising for the movie. Alternative outdoor ads will not be hung in Jerusalem and Petah Tikva, though the movie is heavily advertised on TV, the Internet and in newspapers, Barak said. The worldwide release of the movie is scheduled for May 29.

### Loincloth controversy

This isn't the first time movie advertisers have come under pressure from the religious. When the animated Disney movie "Tarzan" was released here, Tarzan's loincloth created an uproar among religious Jews who found it provocative, Barak said. The outdoor posters that were already hung were taken down so the cloth could be enlarged, he said. Nor is this the first time that "Sex and the City" has run afoul of Israeli religious sensibilities.

Several years ago, a poster and billboard campaign showing star Sarah Jessica Parker in a skimpy, sequined dress was quickly pulled and replaced with new ads of her in a dress that covered her arms, back and thigh.

— Selected

## Israel military sends message to Iran

A large Israeli military exercise this month [June, 2008] may have been aimed at showing Jerusalem's abilities to attack Iranian nuclear facilities.

In a substantial show of force, Israel sent warplanes and other aircraft on a major exercise in the eastern Mediterranean early this month, U.S. Defense Department officials said Friday.

Israel's military refused to confirm or deny that the maneuvers were practice for a strike in Iran.

Russia's foreign minister Friday warned against the use

of force on Iran, saying there is no proof it is trying to build nuclear weapons with the program Tehran said is for generating power.

U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the sensitive matter for the record.

"They have been conducting some large scale exercises — they live in a tough neighborhood," one U.S. official said, though he offered no other recent examples.

### Show of force

The big exercise the first week of June was impossible to miss and may have been meant as a show of force as well as for practice on skills needed to execute a long-range strike mission.

The New York Times quoted U.S. officials Friday saying more than 100 Israeli F-16s and F-15s staged the maneuver, flying more than 900 miles, roughly the distance from Israel to Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment facility, and that the exercise included refueling tankers and helicopters capable of rescuing downed pilots.

"It was noticed that a significant exercise took place — dozens and dozens of aircraft participated," one of the officials said. "We watch globally every day, and this was noted."

The second U.S. defense official said the maneuver could be taken as a demonstration to Iran and the international community that Israel is serious about the need to challenge Iran's nuclear program — and could be prepared to do so militarily.

"That's one of the assessments you could make out of the exercise. They (the Israelis), like the rest of the international community, are concerned about Iran, and Iran has told of its hostile intent with respect to the Israelis."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Iran should be engaged in dialogue and encouraged to cooperate with the U.N. nuclear monitoring agency.

Lavrov made the statement when asked to comment on an Israeli Cabinet member's statement earlier this month that Israel could attack Iran if it does not halt its nuclear program.

"I hope the actual actions would be based on international law," Lavrov said. "and international law clearly protects Iran's and anyone else's territorial integrity."

— Selected

## Underage Drinkers often Just Turn to Parents

Many of the nation's estimated 10.8 million underage drinkers are turning to their parents or other adults for free alcohol.

A government survey of teens from 2002 to 2006 said slightly more than half had engaged in underage drinking.

Asked about the source of the alcohol, 40 percent they got it from an adult for free over the past month, the survey said. Of those, about one in four said they got it from an unrelated adult, one in 16 got it from a parent or guardian and one in 12 got it from another adult family member.

Roughly 4 percent reported taking the alcohol from their own home.

"In far too many instances parents directly enable their children's underage drinking – in essence encouraging them to risk their health and well-being," said acting Surgeon General Steven Galson. "Proper parental guidance alone may not be the complete solution to this devastating public health problem – but it is a critical part."

The nationwide study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration tracks the social contexts involved in underage drinking, a problem leading to thousands of alcohol-related traffic deaths and injuries each year.

About one in five of those aged 12 to 20 – or roughly 7.2 million people – said they had taken part in binge drinking, defined as consuming five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the past month, the survey said. Rates were significantly higher if they lived with a parent who engaged in binge drinking.

Taken from the *Star Tribune*  
June 26, 2008, pg. A17

## California Supreme Court Rejects Gay Marriage Ban

SAN FRANCISCO – In a monumental victory for the gay rights movement, the California Supreme Court overturned a voter-approved ban on gay marriage Thursday [May 15] in a ruling that would allow same-sex couples in the nation's biggest state to tie the knot.

Domestic partnerships are not a good enough substitute for marriage, the justices ruled 4-3 in an opinion written by Chief Justice Ron George.

Outside the courthouse, gay marriage supporters cried and cheered as news spread of the decision.

"Our state now recognizes that an individual's capacity to establish a loving and long-term committed relationship with another person and responsibly to care for and raise children does not depend upon the individual's sexual orien-

tation," the court wrote.

[In] the city of San Francisco, two dozen gay and lesbian couples and gay rights groups sued in March 2004 after the court halted San Francisco's month long same-sex wedding march.

"Today the California Supreme Court took a giant leap to ensure that everybody – not just in the state of California, but throughout the country – will have equal treatment under the law," said City Attorney Dennis Herrera, who argued the case for San Francisco.

### Coalition to challenge

The challenge for gay rights advocates, however, is not over.

A coalition of religious and social conservative groups is attempting to put a measure on the November ballot that would enshrine laws banning gay marriage in the state constitution.

The secretary of state is expected to rule by the end of June whether the sponsors gathered enough signatures to qualify the marriage amendment, similar to ones enacted in 26 other states.

If voters pass the measure in November, it would trump the court's decision.

California already offers same-sex couples who register as domestic partners the same legal rights and responsibilities as married spouses, including the right to divorce and to sue for child support.

But, "Our state now recognizes that an individual's capacity to establish a loving and long-term committed relationship with another person and responsibly to care for and raise children does not depend upon the individual's sexual orientation," Chief Justice Ron George wrote for the court's majority.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Marvin Baxter agreed with many arguments of the majority but said the court overstepped its authority. Changes to marriage laws should be decided by the voters, Baxter wrote.

Massachusetts is now the only U.S. state to allow gay marriage. Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Vermont permit same-sex civil unions that grant largely the same state rights as married couples but lack the full, federal legal protections of marriage.

"I respect the court's decision and as governor, I will uphold its ruling," said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in a statement. "Also, as I have said in the past, I will not support an amendment to the constitution that would overturn this (ruling)."

MSNBC staff and news service reports  
Thurs., May 15, 2008

# Hymn History

William Cowper (pronounced Cooper, 1731-1800) was one of those enigmas of life where creative talent is torturously combined with introspection and melancholy. Cowper was the fourth of seven children born to an English minister. He had a tender disposition, but the deaths of numerous loved ones over the years— including that of his beloved mother when Cowper was only six – coupled with being bullied by an older student at school and being denied marriage to the love of his life, left Cowper emotionally despondent and fragile.

Trained as an attorney, Cowper was offered a post as a clerk to the House of Lords in 1763. But while anticipating the formal review, the pressure became too much. He attempted suicide and had a nervous breakdown.

Cowper was sent to an asylum for recovery. The director and attending physician there was an evangelical Christian named Nathaniel Cotton. Dr. Cotton nursed Cowper back to health. But the greatest balm for Cowper's ills was what he found one day while strolling the grounds.

Someone had left an open Bible on a chair. Cowper read the passage from John 11 that spoke of Christ's sorrow at Lazarus's tomb. He was impressed with Jesus' compassion. Later, in his own Bible, he discovered Romans 3:25. Referring to Jesus, it says, "*whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.*"

It was then, in 1764, that Cowper believed the gospel and became a Christian.

Over the ensuing years, Cowper continued to struggle with fits of depression. But God provided comfort through His Word, as well as through the many Christian friends who saw him through his dark days.

A gifted poet, Cowper eventually became a poet laureate. But he also used his talents for the Lord, writing many hymns, including "God Moves in a Mysterious Way," with its famous last line, "God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain." Cowper also collaborated with his close friend, John Newton, to write and publish a collection of hymns known as *Olney Hymns*.

Based on Zechariah 13:1 and dated around 1771, the hymn "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" expresses Cowper's love and gratitude for the Savior's cleansing blood and power to save – a truth Cowper knew personally.

Bruce Scott

*Israel My Glory*, March/April, 2007

*There is a Fountain  
Filled with Blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.*

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## Work at Making Friends

G. Campbell Morgan once said, "A man has many acquaintances in life, but few friends." On the wall in our home is a piece of needlework which reads, "Friends are like jewels, precious and rare; but acquaintances are like leaves, scattered everywhere"

You don't have to explain to friends. You don't have to put on a facade for friends. Friends want you to be yourself around them. Friends understand. You can confide in friends. Friends are faithful. Friends understand when you feel bad and don't feel like talking. Your enemies won't believe your explanations, but your friends don't need them.

Proverbs 17:17 reads, "A friend loveth at all times."

And Proverbs 18:24 declares, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."

Proverbs 27:10 reminds us, "Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not." And we are told in Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

How do you make friends? Well, you show yourself friendly. You be a friend to make a friend. You don't attract what you want; you attract what you are.

Another suggestion is in Proverbs 19:6: "Every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts." I'm thinking now of one of my own dear friends whom I see only two or three times a year; nearly every time I see him, he has some gift for me. Oh, it's not some expensive thing but some little thing he saw and thought I might enjoy.

He's not trying to buy my friendship: he has too much character for that. Rather, he's trying to demonstrate his friendship to me. He reminds me often, "I am your friend."

It's not the things he gives but the thoughtfulness he demonstrates that is important. I notice when I am around him that he has many other friends. And I've often heard men refer to him as "my friend." He has many friends because he does those things the Bible says one must do to have friends.

Dr. Curtis Hutson

Taken from the 'Sword of the Lord'.

# *Do the Baptized Need Conversion?*

*“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 18:3)*

There is a popular emphasis in much of Lutheranism (and some other church bodies as well) that if an infant or a young child has been brought to Christ in baptism, and never leaves that covenant established at their baptism, that they are Christians solely because of God’s Grace. If they confess their faith at their confirmation and are regular in church and at the Lord’s Supper, they are in fact faithful Christians and have no need for conversion. Is this, in fact, what the Bible teaches?

In the Scripture at the top of the page, Jesus says that unless someone is converted, they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. We, in the Lutheran Church, believe that baptism is a Means of Grace that God works through, even in the heart of an infant. We believe that baptism is what is discussed in Titus 3:5 when it says, *“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”* Notice that it doesn’t say the “washing AFTER regeneration,” but the “washing OF regeneration.” Thus, we believe that God works through baptism a work of grace in the heart of the recipient, including little ones.

However, notice in the very same verse that it states that there must also be a “renewing by the Holy Spirit.” Thus, following the order stated in Titus 3:5, it is baptism first and then a renewing by the Holy Spirit. This is how God saves us. To have baptism alone, without the renewing of the Holy Spirit, is not salvation.

We speak of this renewing after baptism as conversion, which means turning. When the baptized person becomes old enough to understand the issues of sin, condemnation, and the wrath of God under the Law, and then forgiveness of sins through Jesus under the Gospel, then the person must make a conscious choice by an act of their will on two things: 1) What will I do with my Sin?, and 2) What will I do with Jesus Christ? The Holy Spirit will bring each soul to this point of decision, like a fork in the road.

After baptism, the soul must repent of their sins before God by an act of their will. This did not take place in baptism. After baptism, the soul must come to personal faith in Jesus by an act of their will. This also did not take place at baptism.

Ole Hallesby relates the following in regards to to baptism and conversion:

“It has now become clear to us that the awakening affects the God-fearing child in exactly the same way as it affects the grown person who has fallen away from God. It works in both a knowledge of sin that reaches into the heart’s world, until both feel themselves perfectly helpless in the grip of sin, because they love sin and are unable to change this love. The difference between awakening in the adult and awakening in the child is only a difference in length of time.

“Thus the struggle toward repentance becomes the same also theoretically for the God-fearing child as for the backslider.

“...When the awakening of the God-fearing child is complete, it necessitates a choice. This choice is un-avoidable. But what it will choose is left to the child to determine. If the child submits to the conviction it has gained through its awakening, it will experience repentance.”<sup>1</sup>

Even if a young person has never gone off into open and coarse sin, he is still in need of conversion. This conversion will involve a real conviction of sin. This means that they will realize that they have sinned against the Lord and the fact that they were once baptized will no longer cover that sin. They will also realize they need to come to Jesus in a personal, living way. It will no longer be enough that they believe in Jesus, but they will have to make a definite act of appropriating Christ for themselves. As Halesby relates, this conversion will be as real for them as someone who DID go off into open and coarse sin and was thoroughly converted.

There will be a definite choice that MUST be made by the baptized if they are going to be a Christian. When the Holy Spirit brings that soul to this point of decision, if they decide against or just remain neutral, they then are going away from the Lord and will go lost.

Dear reader, are you trusting in your baptism to get you to heaven? Are you trusting in your confirmation to get you to heaven? You need to be converted by an act of your will. *“Unless you are converted,”* Jesus says, *“you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

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1 Excerpts taken from *Infant Baptism and Adult Conversion* by Ole Hallesby, Augsburg Publishing House, 1924.

# What's Eating You?

Dr. Russell V. DeLong tells the story of three men who were talking one day. During the conversation, one of them remarked, "The trouble with most people is that they eat too much.."

The second fellow, taking exception, declared, "It is not how much you eat but what you eat that is important."

The third man, who was a doctor, got to the crux of the matter when he said, "It is neither what nor how much you eat. It's what's eating you that is important."

Anxiety, impatience and worry are all sins. They are sins against self because of physical and spiritual damage, and sin against God for failure to trust Him. Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount that we should not worry (Matt. 6:34). Paul also wrote that we should not be anxious (Phil. 4:6). But it is so easy to fret and worry! We often run before God. It is difficult to practice patience, yet he who would be spiritually mature must learn of complete trust.

Selected

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## Do You Love Men?

When George Pentecost had finished a sermonic discourse in the city of Edinburgh, Horatio Bonar put his hand upon his shoulder and said, "You love to preach to men, don't you?" and Dr. Pentecost answered, "Yes." Mr. Bonar said, "But do you love the men to whom you preach?" That was Christian preaching in the days of Jesus Christ – "When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion."

George Dowling

\* \* \* \* \*

## Then — Now

We were chaff, now we are wheat; we were dross, now we are gold; we were ravens, now we are doves; we were goats, now we are sheep; we were thorns, now we are grapes; we were thistles, now we are lilies; we were strangers, now we are citizens; Hell was our inheritance, now Heaven is our possession; we were children of wrath, now we are sons of mercy; we were bond slaves to Satan, now we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Jesus Christ.

James Bisse (1581)

## What We Sow, That We Surely Will Reap

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*

(Gal. 6:7)

This law is just as true in God's kingdom as in man's kingdom, just as true in the spiritual world as in the natural world. If I sow tares, I am going to reap tares; if I sow a lie, I am going to reap lies; if I sow adultery, I am going to reap adulterers; if I sow whiskey, I am going to reap drunkards. No one can blot this law out; it is in force. No other truth in the Bible is more solemn.

D. L. Moody

\* \* \* \* \*

## Big Government

**"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have."**

Thomas Jefferson

## When God Appeared

When God appeared to Moses, "Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God." (Ex. 3:6)

When God appeared to Job, he said, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:5-6)

When God appeared to Isaiah, he cried out, "Woe is me! for I am undone." (Isaiah 6:5)

When God appeared to Daniel with visions and revelations, he said, "As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed." (Dan. 7:28)

When God in Christ was transfigured in glory before Peter, James and John, "...they fell on their faces and were much afraid." (Matt. 17:6)

When God in Christ appeared to Peter, "he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Lk. 5:8)

When God in Christ appeared to John – "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead." (Rev. 1:17)

Dear reader, have we forgotten "with Whom we have to do?"

# Self-Righteous Jealousy

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*“And he was angry, and would not go in; therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou has killed for him the fatted calf.” (Luke 15:28-30)*

The elder son had never experienced God’s mercy and grace unto salvation, and therefore he was cold and indifferent toward his prodigal brother. He looked down upon his brother, exalted himself, and even disowned him completely.

The servant said, “thy brother has come home,” but the elder brother said to his father, “this thy son.” It was exactly the same spirit and attitude the Pharisee had in the temple. (Luke 18:9-14). He thanked God that he was not like the publican. He was also bragging of his own good works. He justified and exalted himself.

But the publican was so ashamed of himself and his own sinfulness that he stood far off. He felt he was not worthy to lift his eyes up to heaven, but he smote himself on his breast and cried from the very depth of his heart: “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” God heard that cry for mercy immediately, and the publican went home saved, justified, clothed in the best robe, while the Pharisee went home in his own self-righteous filthy rages.

The Pharisee, which is the elder son, is not interested in the cry from a repentant sinner. He has no use for revivals. He doesn’t believe in altar calls. When sinners weep over their sins and cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness, he feels entirely out of place. He calls it emotionalism.

During a hot sticky summer day in a town in Iowa I had a Sunday afternoon service in one of the large Lutheran churches. I was traveling at the time as evangelist for the Lutheran Innermission. The church was filled and the air was

## ***Don’t Forget***

While memory too well preserves a poisonous weed, it suffereth the rose of Sharon to wither. Let us charge ourselves to bind a heavenly forget-me-not about our hearts for Jesus our Beloved, and, whatever else we let slip, let us hold fast to Him.

— Charles Spurgeon

hot and stuffy, but the Holy Spirit was working. One girl came under conviction of sin. She was weeping during the service. Two of her Christian friends were sitting beside her. When I finished preaching these two girls spontaneously knelt down and started to pray for their unsaved friend.

The young Pastor of the church didn’t know what to do. Nothing like that had ever happened in his church.

After the service was over he went to the door to shake hands with the people. When this girl came, for whom they had prayed, he said to the two girls, “take her out to the park and I hope it will soon go over . . . .”

He evidently thought she had been emotionally disturbed or overcome by the heat; but he was badly mistaken.

Twenty-five years later I met her in Minneapolis. She was now a mother of six children, a fine Christian family.

“Well, well,” I said, “what happened to you at that church in Iowa twenty-five years ago hasn’t gone over yet?” She laughed heartily and said, “No, thank God, that will last for ever.”

Taken from “*Hear Him*”  
Pastor Lars Stalsbroten

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## **“Teach America to Pray”**

*May our good land be true and just,*

*Her motto e'er "In God We Trust"*

*May she be guided by Thy Word,*

*Thy wisdom in her walls be heard.*

*May all who love her plead today,*

*Lord, teach America to Pray!*

*And as her flag unfurls on high*

*Its starry splendor to the sky.*

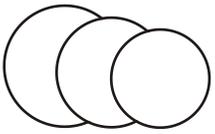
*May we, in grateful thanks to Thee*

*Who gave to us this land so free,*

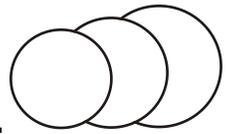
*Preserve her freedom in Thy way.*

*Lord, teach America to Pray.*

By Edith A. Wilsey



# From our Fellowship Circle



**EE Moorhead, MN**  
Please send a subscription of the 'MG' to....Thank you. "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." II Cor. 4:7

**HB Ortonville, MN**  
I am so blessed to receive your Morning Glory. It gives me hope and faith in our troubled world. What a miracle of love and grace. I am so thankful for your messages of Hope. I praise the Lord for you. Please send the 'MG' to... Thank you.

**AL Bismarck, ND**  
Thank you for sending forth the good news through 'MG'. These are difficult times spiritually and my prayer is Lord Jesus Come Quickly. Enclosed find a gift...

**ML Badger, IA**  
Enclosed is a gift to 'MG' in memory of Gene Johnson from our family. Together we all have had a blessed time at our fellowship meetings, etc. He is now in the presence of Jesus. He has fought the good fight, finished the course and kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give him at that day and not to him only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. Taken from II Tim. 4:7-8

**MB LeRoy, MN**  
I do enjoy the 'MG' as there are so many good articles. So many Lutheran churches are getting so liberal. I'm just an old lady but I have the Lord and I received Him many years ago at the tent meetings in Faribault, MN. ... Keep up the good Work and God Bless your Work.

**HB Story City, IA**  
Thank you for the 'MG'. May you continue to print such good articles that our Lord and Savior can be glorified.

**PJ Willmar, MN**  
Thank you for your good work.

**RP Astoria, OR**  
A gift given in memory of my precious wife, Doris.

**A & D T Seattle, WA**  
Thank you for being true to the Bible and all the good articles, it's our favorite paper. The Lord has been good, praise His name. In Christ.

**GR Marysville, WA**  
Enclosed is a check for a worthwhile cause. Thank you so much for a magazine that tells the truth. God Bless you.

**OR Langdon, ND**  
The 'MG' is so welcome in my home. The 'Truth' is the leading news that we can get. Keep up the good work. Enclosed please find ....Sincerely in Christ...

**MF Stanwood, WA**  
I enjoy your magazine so much. I remember my Mother had it and she wanted to make sure I had it too...Keep up the good work. Thank you and God Bless.

**CH Laredo, TX**  
Morning Glory Staff, thank you for your ministry.

\* \* \* \* \*

## The House

"The *beauty* of the house is **order**

The *blessings* of the house is **contentment**

The *glory* of the house is **hospitality**

The *crown* of the house is **Godliness**"

Author Unknown

## Raise the Banner!

*As the corruption of our society continues to "come in like a flood," the Church should definitely stand all the more resolutely on the principles of God's Word and 'raise up a standard.' The reasons for wars, fighting, lust, and corruption is the same now as it always has been – it results from putting man first.*

# WE WOULD SEE JESUS

Mrs. Ardell Bratland

WHEN I think on these four words I am reminded of a pastor I heard on the radio. When he was a young man he was asked to speak at a Bible Camp. The pulpit was made out of a tree, rustic and crude. When he got up to the pulpit to speak, he saw these words inscribed on the top: WE WOULD SEE JESUS. What a message they spoke to him. Since then this thought comes to him every time he speaks.

This is the thought that should come to every pastor and layman who is asked to bring a message. It should be the theme of every testimony. Perhaps it should be inscribed on the front and back of every church in America – in the front for the people to see and in the back for the pastor and anyone else who is in front to see. This has been a blessed, living thought to me, and as I think of it I find in Colossians 2:8, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world *and not after Christ.*”

How can we preach anything except Christ? How can we bring worldliness into the church and yet say we are a gospel-preaching church? To every Christian, no matter what his church or if he has no church, the devil is real and will find the weak spot and attack as a lion; yes, but even more dangerous, as a wolf in sheep’s clothing and as a serpent, sly and unnoticeable. He will attack the Christians. He doesn’t need to waste time on the ungodly as they are his already. There is an exception to this. The devil will spend time to get a seeking person to stay just where he is and not do anything about finding Christ in a real way.

We may have to give up some of the things we thought meant a great deal to us, even church, family and friends, if we want to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and be a living testimony for Him. *We can never expect to be a light for Christ if we are compromising with the world.* Many people use compromise as an excuse for getting all kinds of worldly things into the church, saying we must at any cost get the people into the church and then get them saved. We must remember above all that Christ saves people from their sins, not in their sins. Furthermore, it is not only what we do that condemns us but what we are by nature.

It was only when I knew there was no place else to turn (as I had tried to do all I knew) that I came to the end of myself and cried to God to hear and to forgive me of all I was and all I had done. Then He did hear and the peace of God came to me.

It is the word “sin,” that has that “I” in the middle, that causes the world so much trouble. But when the “I” is changed to an “O” we have a completely different word which is SON. God’s Son is the one who can change a life. Just what is the purpose of the Christian Church? Just this (quoting from Hannah Chalmers tract); “The only purpose for the Christian church is to point sinners to ‘The Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world’.” Then when sinners are saved they accept the challenge to bring the Gospel to every creature.

Has the Church lost its vision? Can it be that because of prosperity, comfort, selfishness, etc., shepherds and lay people have their vision dimmed, and therefore cannot see the whitened harvest fields, the urgency of the hour, the sunset, the eve of the Lord’s return? There are few prayer meetings in the church, church doors are closed on Sunday evenings, the world is within the church running the affairs of God’s business. Modernism offers a sham of religion without the cross and the shed blood, amusements as bait luring people to church, compromise with those who are in in the fold, thinking that by such compromise they might be brought in.

Can it be that the Church is not awake to Satan’s tactics and that we *prefer to sleep the sleep of death while hell is being populated by thousands of souls hour by hour? Shall we continue with churchly activity and much physical exertion, accepting that as substitute for Holy Spirit power?*

Shall we continue to talk to all the people within the church as if they were all saved, thereby letting thousands go lost while they think that all is well with them? Jesus said, “Ye must be born again. Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Unregenerate men and women who live in selfishness and sin cannot be children of God until they have, through the door of repentance, turned about, confessed sin, forsaken sin and the world, and turned unto Him.

The church is God’s house. It was never intended as a recreational center, a cafeteria, a social center, a play house, or place of entertainment. God would have His cleansed. In His Word He says, “My house shall be called a house of prayer.”

Thus the duty of the born-again Christians is to proclaim Jesus, and Jesus only. May this too be the aim of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and of all lay people who are born again, that the lost may see **JESUS!**

*Morning Glory, May 4, 1966*

## ***“This do in remembrance of me”***

### **1 Corinthians 11:24**

It seems then, that Christians may forget Christ! There would be no need for this loving exhortation, if there were not a fearful supposition that our memories might prove treacherous. Nor is this a bare supposition: it is, alas! Too well confirmed in our experience, not as a possibility, but as a lamentable fact.

It appears almost impossible that those who have been redeemed by the blood of the dying Lamb, and loved with an everlasting love by the eternal Son of God, should forget that gracious Savior but, if startling to the ear, it is, alas! Too apparent to the eye to allow us to deny the crime. Forget him who never forgot us! Forget him who poured his blood forth for our sins! Forget him who loved us even to the death! Can it be possible? Yes, it is not only possible, but conscience confesses that it is too sadly a fault with all of us, that we suffer him to be as a wayfaring man tarrying but for a night.

He whom we should make the abiding tenant of our memories is but a visitor therein. The cross where one would think that memory would linger, and unmindfulness would be an unknown intruder, is desecrated by the feet of forgetfulness.

Does not your conscience say that this is true? Do you not find yourselves forgetful of Jesus? Some creature steals away your heart, and you are unmindful of him upon whom your affection ought to be set. Some earthly business engrosses your attention when you should fix your eye steadily upon the cross. It is the incessant turmoil of the world, the constant attraction of earthly things which takes away the soul from Christ.

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## ***Prayer opens up the portals of the soul and allows the light of Christ to pour in.***

*It is better to take refuge in Jehovah than to put  
confidence in man. (Psalm 118:8)*

EVEN the best and longest friendship between men may fail. In cases where we thought we could rely most fully on each other, the end many a time was distrust, separation, and deep wounds. If love for self and the world gets the upper hand, the most delicate ties of friendship may be broken before we know it.

When thoughts go back to days that have passed, many of us will likely be reminded of much unfaithfulness and many broken promises, perhaps by both ourselves and others. To trust in oneself or other men is like building on sand. The more fully we assimilate this grievous truth, the fewer deep wounds will we get when we encounter unfaithfulness and broken promises.

But then life has also taught us – at any rate us Christians – that God does not break a friendship or a word. He has never failed us, least of all when we were in a tight pinch. When everything looked dark and impossible, He stood faithfully at our side and often managed to get the best results out of the worst materials. When all others forsook us, He stayed by us closer than ever; and when everything seemed headed for the abyss He took us up higher.

That is the way the Lord has treated us always, and in this way He will treat us till our dying day. So let us try to have confidence in Him. He who trusts in the Lord will never be put to shame.

*“O my God, in Thee have I trusted, Let me not be  
put to shame; Let not mine enemies triumph over  
me.” (Psalm 25:2)*

No one is so safe from danger,  
As God’s little children band:  
Not the little swallow nesting,  
Not the child in mother’s hand.

*“Thy Kingdom Come,”* by Ludvig Hope  
Used of special permission Augsburg Fortress Publishers  
Copyright 1939, Minneapolis, MN 55440

### ***Diligence***

Is it possible that King David had mounted his housetop for retirement and devotions? If so, what a caution is given us to count no place, however secret, a sanctuary from sin! While our hearts are so like a timber-box and sparks so plentiful, we had better use all diligence in all places to prevent a blaze. Satan can climb housetops and enter closets, and even if we could shut out that foul friend, our own corruptions are enough to work our ruin unless grace prevents.

Charles Spurgeon

# Blotted Out!

**“I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake; and I will not remember thy sins.”** (Is. 43:25)

IT is for his own sake that God blots out our transgressions and forgets the sins we have committed.

It is not always easy for us to hold fast to this. Without fully understanding it we get into the delusion of ascribing a part of the cause of our salvation to ourselves. That is the reason it is so much easier for one to believe that he is saved, and to be certain of sonship with God when he feels the good in him, than when he feels the evil. When thoughts and disposition draw toward God, when the feelings are fair and spiritual, and everything seems to help to carry us upward toward God and the good, then it is easy to believe that we are saved. But when the time comes when the good seems to be entirely absent and we feel unspiritual and sinful, when evil desires and nasty thoughts do not leave us in peace even in the prayer chamber, then anxiety, fear, and doubt come on.

Why do these disturbed sensations come then? Because we believe more in what we are or are not in ourselves as Christians, than we believe in what God had done for us. We believe more in God’s gracious work in us, than we believe in Christ for us.

If we would more fully get away from ourselves and yield to what Christ is, then we should stand on the foundation that endures eternally when heaven and earth pass away. Let us stand there!

Show me now a Father’s love,  
And His tender patience,  
Heal my wounded soul, remove  
These too sore temptations;  
I am weak,  
Father, speak  
Thou of peace and gladness  
Comfort Thou my sadness.

*“Thy Kingdom Come,”* by Ludvig Hope  
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# The Most Important Thing

**A Tribute to our Dad, John Torkelson**

By Andrea (Torkelson) Welch

Evangelist Billy Sunday said, “the public can know of a man’s reputation but only a wife (and children) will know of a man’s character.”

I have yet to meet a man more kind, humble, self-sacrificing, loving, wise and discerning than my Dad. Dad became a Christian at age 21 and more than anything else, he loved Jesus and wanted to serve Him wholeheartedly. If you were to ask my father who he was he would respond with tears in his eyes, “I’m only a sinner saved by grace. “Dad prayed fervently and about *everything*.

Dad led our family by example more than any other way. His actions spoke volumes to me. He believed in the principles that God had outlined for him and was determined to live by those principles whether in private or public.

My brothers, John Jr. and Brad were able to spend a lot of time with Dad doing the farm work. We could count on Dad to help us and impart wisdom and strength.

Dad showed us children through his personal situations how to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. He would often tell us to “be slow to anger and quick to forgive.” When I was quite young, he was angry with me about something that I had done and he raised his voice. Later on that day, he came into my room and sat on my bed and asked if I would forgive him without ever bringing up what I had done wrong.

Dad always encouraged good character over performance. We were taught important lessons about honesty.

Rachel remembers how Dad loved to visit with people, whether it be with family and friends or people he would meet while sitting on a bench at the mall waiting for Mom and us girls. One of many meaningful conversations Rachel had with Dad was when he asked her, “What answer would you give to someone who asked why you deserve to go to heaven?” Dad said he had been asked that question recently and his answer was that he did not deserve to, but by Jesus’ blood it was made possible.

I remember, while growing up, feeling grateful that my parents’ marriage was solid. After his last visit to me in California, Dad was looking forward to going home to see Mom, his bride of thirty-five years.

# Editorial

RES

## Double Standard

*“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 1:6-8, 4:8)*

IS the BIBLE a Book of absolutes or not??? Before we try to answer that question let us clearly keep in mind that GOD is not a God of **CONFUSION**! How often have you not heard the statement “God led Me!” Yet, sometimes a fellow ‘believer’ has a “**check**” in ‘their spirit’ as to whether another person is being led of God, or if he is “self” motivated! As we try to ‘clear the air’, let me quickly state that in some instances it does not seem so important regardless; BUT wait a minute, IF that were the case, then we would run into ALL kinds of *confusion*. Let me give you a couple of pertinent examples: Some say that it is okay as a Christian to listen to “christian rock music”, while others definitely say not! Dancing used to be considered by Christians across the board as SIN; but now subtly some Christians support ballet ‘dancing’ as not only okay but encouraged. Even the ‘evangelical Christian church’ in some locations seem to condone moderate drinking of alcoholic beverages by ‘Christians’. NOW who is right in the light of God’s Eternal Word? Does God have a double “standard” that some things are right for some but not for others? No, sin is sin. *Rather*, could it be that there is definite degrees or stages in the Christian’s life of growth? Personally I believe so!!!

When we first come to know JESUS as our personal Saviour, Biblically we are ‘Infants in Christ’. Then, as we feed on, obey and seek out Christian Fellowship on the basis of God’s Eternal Word, (by the GRACE of God), we **grow in Him!** Remember, in our “*old nature*,” we love/cherish darkness rather than Light! Being individuals as we are; there definitely is a difference of obedience/compliance in our every day living. Some folk are definitely more ‘sensitive to the Holy Spirit than others! Now that is not judgmental - it is just a plain matter of fact! Now we need to be very careful that we do not get caught up in an ‘attitude’ of superiority in holiness. “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” Galatians 6:1. SIN is enticing, and also attractive and subtle! *SIN will take you farther than you want to go!* LISTEN, “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9. That’s why we NEED a Book of GRACE that is **absolute** and not a message which has a ‘double standard’. **It is a Book of Clarity!** Basically, unless we are willing to deal with SIN, the **Bible becomes a closed Book to that person!** We NEED to **walk** (obey) in the light of God’s Word while we have the Light, and then HE will give us more Light! Individuals and congregations at times will bend/compromise in order to accommodate for numbers; rather live and work with ETERNITY in view! **TRUE freedom** is not a ‘freedom to do your own thing, BUT ‘freedom from’ and ‘freedom to serve’. IF sin is mentioned at all, have you noticed how it is ‘sugar coated, camouflaged and the labels blurred? Bibli-

cally, what was SIN, still is Sin and will continue to be Sin regardless of how man justifies or rationalizes it! “But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours becomes a stumbling block (bait) 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.

A double-minded person is one who vacillates, one who thinks that they can have the smile of God and the smile of the (religious) world upon them at the same time. Examples are: One who seeks to be loyal to Christ and yet married to a church that definitely is drifting, or even left the primary basics of the Word of God. It is not difficult to serve two masters, it is **impossible**. Then there are those who think they are equal or above the authority of the absolute Word of God instead of practicing submission under the guidance of God’s Word. Another deception is rationalization of actions instead of looking in His Word and seeing one’s need of bowing to God, who is supreme, and obey His commands and follow His precepts. Prov. 3:5-6. To be double-minded is like having two heads receiving his guidance from two different sources and pointing them in opposite directions, and with the world, saying ‘Enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season’, and God saying, ‘This is the Way, walk ye in it.’ We know that we cannot build on the solid foundation, Jesus, and upon the sinking sand such as things, accomplishments, self indulgence, etc. all at the same time.

This is also true of our ‘beloved nation’. We’ve come a long way from the old days when government and its institutions openly admitted that we needed God to have this nation work. It is not unusual for a nation to ignore God, especially as that nation is blest and prospers and then tragically many times drifts away from the Giver, instead of becoming more dependent upon the Giver.

IN ALL ‘cases’, GOD is going to have the *final/last Word!* God’s will throughout the history of nations and for our nation today is that we repent, turn to Him and truly trust Him. To trust God is to take Him at His word, accept His Son Jesus Christ, and obey His commandments.

God, in his mercy, has provided a solution to our personal and national sins. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to come and die for our sins, so that whoever truly believes in Him has his sins washed away and becomes a member of the family of God. When we are God’s children, we experience what a relief it is to trust in Him and live by His **absolute Word** to govern ourselves, our families and our nation.

**IN GOD WE TRUST!**

# Theology, Cafeteria-style

**Note:** This article comes from Katherine Kersten, who is a columnist for the *Star Tribune* in Minneapolis. She is responding to a local situation where a Catholic church banned its members from holding a gay-pride prayer meeting in its church, which was to be held in conjunction with the annual Twin Cities Gay-Pride Festival. In this article, she identifies the real root problem of not only the “Christian-Gay” movement, but most of what the true problem is in Christianity at large today.

“The organizers of St. Joan of Arc’s gay pride service seem to think that if they complain shrilly enough, they can compel the Catholic Church – by embarrassing and humiliating it – to come around and embrace their enlightened views. This attitude should not surprise us, because it reflects the dominant cultural mood of our age.

“Today, we want wardrobes, homes and vacations that “fit my lifestyle.” We want a God who does the same. Transcendent truth? We prefer to believe there’s no such thing. If 52 percent of Americans disagree with the church about something, we conclude it must be the church that’s wrong.

## Theology, cafeteria-style

“But there is a religious vision that dissents from this cafeteria-style theology. In 2008, it often comes into conflict with trendier views on the flashpoint issue of sexuality – perhaps the greatest preoccupation of our age.

“For 2,000 years, Christianity has taught that God had a purpose in creating human beings as male and female. He gave the two sexes complementary bodies and natures so that they could become “one flesh,” and in the process generate new life. The faithful, committed sexual love of man and woman holds a special dignity in Christian teaching, which sees it as mirroring God’s love for humanity.

“In recent years, however, a different vision of sexuality has grown fashionable. In this view, sex of all kinds – whether straight, gay or otherwise – is best understood as a vehicle for pleasure and self-expression. Today, this vision of sex dominates our entertainment industry, is taught in our schools and inspires events such as gay pride celebrations.

“The controversy at St. Joan of Arc is part of a larger picture. When the gay rights movement emerged several decades ago, its leaders asked only for tolerance – a live-and-let-live attitude on the part of the larger society. Today, the movement increasingly demands both approval of and conformity to its creed. More and more, it labels all dissent – even that based on religious conviction – as “hateful.”

“Secular institutions have largely acquiesced. The

church alone perseveres in the conviction that human sexuality has a larger purpose. That is why it is now a central battlefield in this crusade.”

Katherine Kersten  
Star Tribune, June 30, 2008

**Editor’s Note:** Katherine has hit it right on the head when she declares that “we want a God who fits my lifestyle.” Rather than conforming myself to God’s Will which is revealed in Scripture, modern man, including many in the Christian Church today, want a Cafeteria theology. We want to pick and choose FOR OURSELVES what we want God to be.

The end result of this is a “self-centered” approach to Christianity. The Church at large is catering to the self wishes of people in order to attract them to Christ. That is why we see “new” worship services which feature rock-n-roll music, skits, drama and plenty of entertainment. The last thing that self wants is a sermon that would condemn us in our sin.

This approach is great for drawing large crowds who can now have a “Jesus” who lets them live any way they want. However, this approach is lousy at making disciples and contrary to what Jesus Himself said. *“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)

When people compromise the clear mandates of Scripture, then the blessings of the Spirit of God are not present, regardless of the numbers present or the perceived “response” that is given. You can get a large crowd by telling them that all you have to do to be saved is ask Jesus into your heart. It’s a whole different story to tell people that in order to be saved, you must repent of your sin and receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, which means you are willing to give your entire life to Jesus. This is the Gospel according to Jesus and the Scriptures.

**THE FUTURE AND SUCCESS  
OF AMERICA IS NOT IN THIS  
CONSTITUTION, BUT IN THE  
LAWS OF GOD UPON WHICH  
THIS CONSTITUTION IS  
FOUNDED. – James Madison.**

## UpDate

The mission and ministry of this arm of the Lord's Work is to be Christ-centered, helping to equip YOU (the reader) to think biblically, live wisely and serve faithfully. It's the prayer support and financial help of our team(you) that makes it possible for us to continue to press forward confidently in completing this mission.

Financially, summers are the most difficult time of the year and we readily admit that the financial strain taking place in most areas is also a reality in most households. But, the Lord is faithful as each of us seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness; HE will provide our every need. Nothing is too difficult for God. **God always keeps His promises!** Isn't it "marvelous" that GOD is **bigger** than any problem we have?!

Remember, this 'ministry' can continue only as long as gifts are received to make it possible!

Truly we are grateful for your friendship and for your faithful support of this ministry. May God, who is **Almighty**, enables us all to be faithful unto HIM!!

May Income for the *Morning Glory* is: \$795.00

June Income for the *Morning Glory* is: \$1169.00 (plus, Praise the Lord, the *Morning Glory* was included in an Estate Will).

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

**Pray earnestly for our Nation and the upcoming election, as "IN GOD WE TRUST".**

Please also remember to pray for us in the Innermission. We need your prayers for the blessings of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the protection from the fiery darts of the enemy.

Satan does not want this ministry to go forward because he has many in Lutheranism trapped into a false salvation.

By God's Grace, we will go forward and preach the truth of God's Word in regards to salvation, Christian Living, and current issues of the day, both in society and the Church.

Thank you so much for taking time to remember us before the Throne. God will bless us, and bless you for praying!

## *Evangelistic Tent Meetings*

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of rural Wanamingo, MN will be using the Innermission tent for evangelistic meetings. They have secured Pastor Mark Olson for these meetings. The meetings will be at the Wanamingo Truck Stop.

The dates for these meetings are August 24-27, 2008. They will start each evening at 7:30 p.m.

Perhaps your church or fellowship group would like to use the Innermission tent for evangelistic meetings. Would you commit this in prayer to the Lord and see what He would like you to do?

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