

Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • June 2019

Love One Another

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law” Romans 13:8.

Christian living is motivated by love. And the basic foundation upon which that love rests is constant forgiveness. It is the same between God and man as between man and man; the condition for mutual love is forgiveness.

But man cannot love his fellow men as he ought. It so easily becomes burdensome to do them good. Selfishness so easily exerts itself and seeks one's own good rather than that of one's neighbor. But these shortcomings and defects would disappear if there were constant forgiveness. There is no other way.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray he included reference to forgiveness to others, ***“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”*** In Christ there is a unique earnestness about the matter of forgiveness.

John made a comprehensive summary statement concerning this when he said, *“This is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us”* 1 John 3:23.

“O for grace our hearts to soften!
Teach us, Lord, at length to love.
We, alas, forget too often
What a friend we have above:
But when home our souls are brought,
We will love thee as we ought” (John Newton, 1799)

PRAYER: O Lord God, perfect in love and mercy,

teach us to love as Your love constrains in every relationship. Amen.

“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven’ Matthew 18:21, 22.

A Christian's comfort is that Christ forgives, not seven times, but seventy times seven – times without number. When forgiven so generously by the heavenly Father, one ought to readily forgive others. But a Christian often finds it difficult to forgive one who has done him wrong.

Luther said, “When you see deficiencies in others, ponder your responsibility as a Christian. Exercise patience toward them and try to lead them on the right road. Remember that the world is like a very filthy stable where we cannot possibly walk without getting our feet dirty.”

All have evident weaknesses. One may have a weakness to anger, another a gloomy outlook, another stinginess. Whatever one's own weakness is, he needs forgiveness and forbearance; and he ought to be generous in forgiving others, even as Christ readily offers forgiveness.

“Jesus, in my walk and living,
Let me ever follow thine;
Bearer of the cross, O teach me
Patiently to take up mine.
If by fellow men despised,
Make me like to thee, O Christ,
O'er their sins and errors grieving,
And all injuries forgiving.” (John Hjerten)

Morning Glory

Volume CI – Number 4
June 2019

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.

Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland
508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529
email: haugerep@gmail.com

Send Announcements, Contributions, and Subscription Renewals to:
Barbara Stueland, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529

Internet Web Site: haugeinnermission.com.
Facebook: [Facebook.com/Haugeinnermission](https://www.facebook.com/Haugeinnermission)
Electronic version available – Send email to: morningglorymagazine@gmail.com

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

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Wayne AlmlieDes Moines, IA
Vice President: John MonsenBurnsville, MN
Secretary: Jim HagaShoreview, MN
Treasurer: Paul Peterson.....Kenyon, MN
Kevin GundersonDexter, MN
Willmore GundersenFergus Falls, MN
Vacant
Rodney Stueland.....Dilworth, MN
Joel Zeltinger.....Bismarck, ND

CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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

Love One Another	1-2
The Bible.....	2
The Bleeding of the Evangelical Church.....	3-4
Lane	4
Editorial	5
From our Fellowship Circle • I AM He That Liveth.....	6
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable.....	7-8
A Great Company	8
The Attributes of God.....	9-10
God Kept His Promise • Patience, Perseverance and Prayer	10
The Sword of the Spirit.....	11-12
Men Who Paid Freedom’s Price	12
Luther’s Preface to the Small Catechism.....	13-14
The Church in China.....	14
Landmark • Fallen • UpDate.....	15
Hauge Annual Conference • Mailing List Update	16

PRAYER: As Your great forgiveness is offered to me, O Lord, teach me to offer forgiveness to others, and bear them no ill will. Amen.

Rosenius’ Daily Meditations, by Carl O. Rosenius, Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc. Mpls., MN

The Bible

Some who reject the Bible as God’s Inspired, Inerrant WORD of GOD; scoff at the ‘truth/idea’ of receiving it by faith used to accept the certainties of Charles Darwin, not realizing that in Darwin’s writings he uses some eight hundred conditional phrase such as, “We may well suppose,” “Let us assume.”

There Is quite a difference between the word “assume” and the Believer’s exercising the gift of a “Living Faith”; as God’s Word is forever settled in Heaven and is an actual fact; where the other is quite conceivable. GOD never changes and thus His Word/promises never change either!

The Bible rests on “*Thus saith the Lord*” – an expression, inspired by the Holy Spirit: “Thus saith the LORD” is recorded many scores of times in the BIBLE!

Editor

The Bleeding Of The Evangelical Church

By David F. Wells

(Editor: Please note the date of the copyright of this biblical article/information)

I came to America twenty-five years ago, a newly minted doctor and ready to begin a teaching ministry. Today I look back on this quarter of a century with immense gratitude. America is, indeed, a land of milk and honey and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Christ during these years and for the nourishment which I have received from the Church during this time.

This quarter of a century has been a time of many bright highlights, but if I am not mistaken it is also a time of lengthening shadows in our evangelical world. We have been transformed from being an inconsequential religious player to one of some consequence during this time, but the costs are now becoming plain.

Twenty-five years ago, evangelicals were outside the religious establishment. That establishment was made up principally of the mainline denominations. But today evangelicals have become the religious establishment however informally. But despite this, I believe that today we are in some peril. We have a fight on our hands and what we're fighting for is our evangelical soul, for it is possible for us to gain the whole religious world while losing our own souls. I do not say this because I am one of those who thinks that the best is always what is in the past, that we are always in a state of decline, and that if we want to think of a golden-age we have to think of something that is behind us. I do not think that way at all. In some ways we, today, are better off than we were twenty-five years ago. Perhaps a lot better off. And yet in spite of that, I believe there are matters within the evangelical world today which are seriously amiss.

So what I would like to do in the time that I have is to look, first, at some of the great surface changes which have taken place during this time and second, I want to try to look beneath the surface of those changes, and then third, I want to begin sketching out ways in which I think we might seek to change some directions. So, what is the peril I see happening?

Change on the Surface

What has changed most dramatically, I believe, in this last quarter of a century is that when I first arrived, here we were at the end of the post war period when evangelical faith was being *doctrinally* framed and today, for the most part, it is not. Or at least, not obviously so. What shaped the Church then far more than it does

now, was theological conviction about its character and purpose. What shapes it now, far more than it did then, is a *marketing ethos*. In one sense this should not be surprising at all. Americans are nothing if not consumers; consumers of images, of relationships, and of things. You perhaps will have seen some of these figures that have seen assembled in recent years. We have 7% of the world's population but we consume 33% of the goods and services. Every year in America, 12 billion catalogues are sent out to see if some unwary consumers can be attracted. The average child watches 20 thousand advertisements on television every year and on an average day you should see 1,600 advertisements. Our whole society has been transformed into a consumer's heaven and we are nothing if not a nation of buyers, thoroughly at home in, and thoroughly an art of, the life of commerce. We move in and out of it much like fish do through water. It is in this commerce that we live and move and have our being. So, the Church's willingness to adapt to the marketing model for thinking about itself really is not remarkable.

But in adapting itself to this culture, the Church, far more than was the case twenty-five years ago, is having its character, and its purposes, and the way it functions, defined for it. There's nothing wrong with commerce *per se*, but I am going to argue that there is something profoundly wrong in trading Christ, or in thinking that religion is the commerce of the soul. Now this adaptation to this kind of culture I see taking place I see three very important ways in the evangelical world.

FIRST, the churches, in larger and larger numbers, are adapting themselves to felt needs in their congregations much as a business might adapt its product to a market. In other words, the Church is sanctioning the idea that when someone comes in its doors it's okay to view that person as a consumer, somebody who is going to attempt to hitch up a product to their own felt needs. The products in question, of course, are the activities, the experiences, the amenities, and the message of the Church. However, what people who are coming in these church doors today are thinking about and what they want, is not primarily personal salvation. What they want is a sense of *personal well-being*, however momentary and fragmentary that personal sense of well-being is and our churches are beginning to cater to this. I have no doubt at all that they are going to become very successful. Indeed, some are successful already and they are going to become more successful because marketing in America is what makes the wheels go around. They are, in other words, simply doing what Pepsi has done, what self-help groups have done, the auto makers, the makers of jeans, the makers of movies, and what Madonna herself has

done. So why shouldn't churches do this, somebody might ask? Why shouldn't they want to be successful in the same way that Pepsi and Madonna are?

The answer is that marketing will produce success but not necessarily the kind that has much to do with the Kingdom of God. To start with, the analogy between the business world and the world of Christ's Kingdom is a completely fallacious analogy. Consumers in the market place are never asked to commit themselves to the product they are purchasing as a sinner is to the Christ in whom belief is being invited. Furthermore, consumers in the marketplace are free to define their needs however they want to and then to hitch up a product to satisfy those needs; but in the Church the consumer, the sinner, is not free to define his or her needs exactly as they wish. It is **God** who defines our needs and the reason for that is that left to ourselves we would not understand our needs aright because we are rebels against GOD.

We are hostile both to God and to His law and cannot be subject to either, Paul tells us. Now no person going into the marketplace, going to buy a coffeepot or going to buy a garden hose engages with their innermost being in the way that we are inviting sinners to do in the Church. The analogy is simply fallacious. (*To be continued in the next issue of the Morning Glory, which at this time is August*).

The Bleeding of the Evangelical Church, by David F. Wells, The Banner of Truth Trust ©1995

Lane

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." Acts 8:16.

The LORD'S leading may sometimes seem to us, and to others, to be quite illogical. The line of duty seems to lead nowhere!

So, it must have *seemed* to Philip. He was being greatly used of God in the stirring revival in Samaria when was clearly directed to go toward Gaza, "*which is desert*."

From a populous center and the scene of the Holy Spirit's power he was sent to a place of no prospect. Such guidance must have seemed ridiculous to Philip's contemporaries, and possibly to Philip himself, but "*he arose and went*." God would Himself be His own answer to His instructions.

At the place appointed, Philip found everything pre-

pared for him. An Ethiopian official was passing by in his chariot. He was reading the prophecy of Isaiah, and chapter 53 at that! Talk about timing! Easily could Philip show him the Messiah in that Scripture; and the Ethiopian believed and was baptized. It is impossible to estimate the far-reaching consequences of the conversion of this man "of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure." And all this took place so quickly and so sweetly because God's servant was in the place of God's appointment, in God's time and order.

Such experiences of the Lord's leading are inexpressibly precious. By the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, by the gentle and gracious guidance of the Scriptures, by an unmistakable impression of divine guidance, we are led to a task wholly unplanned by ourselves. At the moment of obedience, we can see no reason for choosing this particular pathway. It leads to nowhere – just sand, sky and silence. How humanly stupid of us to leave a thriving field of service to go to a solitary desert.

But in deserts have been found bushes that burned and were not consumed. Likewise wells of water for thirsty souls have been located there. In lonely places some, like Jacob, have met hosts of angels to encourage the weary or, like Philip, have found someone seeking to know the Saviour. Fear not, therefore, to follow instructions even though at the time they do not look promising. The Saviour is sending you to service for Him. Your obedience will show that He always leads His own in triumph!

He Leadeth Me, by V. Raymond

*In the old days a
naughty child was
straightened up by being
bent over!*

Editorial

RES

Let God!

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

ALMOST every ‘child of God’ is familiar with the above the two Bible verses and many know them by heart; but what a privilege and challenge to apply them as you walk by ‘faith’, WITH JESUS in daily application/experience in this physical life’s journey. Notice the ‘little’ word ALL that is mentioned two times in these two verses.

That is the challenge of every ‘child of God’ and as supposedly Martin Luther said: “Take your human reasoning captive in obedience to the Word of God.” ***“For we walk by faith, not by sight”*** II Corinthians 5:7.

The BIBLE (God’s Word) is somewhat like a ‘mirror’ when we become exposed to it; either privately or in a public gathering; but the distinct difference is that God not only sees the outward appearance of your life; but all the way through to the very core of your being, which includes EVEN your inner-thoughts, desires and motives. That’s why every Christian needs to read and hear GOD’S Law both in private and publicly – like in ‘church’. It is not obsolete: *“Therefore, the law was our tutor (school master & still is) to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith”* Galatians 3:24, Psalm 19:7-14, 103:11-22. Thus a ‘believer’ NEEDS to be exposed continually: when there becomes no individual need, that person eventually will fall away from the Great PHYSICIAN!

This brings us to the vital ‘core’ of the need and desire to have daily; either privately or family in what is called ‘family altar or devotions’, because often lacking is ‘food’ for the soul. Thus, what is most lost is what most needs to be recovered. (Most certainly invite the HOLY SPIRIT to ‘open His Word’ to you and make your hearts receptive).

Lack of exposure to God’s Law and GOSPEL (experiences) in the believer’s life is why so many of our forebearers in the faith would scarcely even recognize us as their children today.

NEED: The story is told that one day Martin Luther came upon the scene of peasants breaking into a ‘grain-bin, as the peasants were starving! Martin Luther said that God tells us that we are not to ‘steal’; but

He does say we shall live!

SIN, by specific name is not stated by the preacher nor individually and IF mentioned often spoken of ‘shortcomings or failures’ and in a *sense*; this is foreign to GOD as HE names sin specifically in His Eternal Word.

ON a rare occasion you may hear someone mention of what is called ‘gross-sin’. If not stated are of the ‘genes’ like: homosexuality, lesbian, Same-sex-marriage, SODOMY, etc. BUT how about sins named like: malice, gossip, bitterness, backbiting, envy, jealously, pride, etc.

Thus ‘daily devotions’ are heartily recommended for nourishment of the soul, example, but also from the behind the sacred desk (Pastors, Evangelists, Professors, Missionaries, etc.).

YOU can rest assured that SIN will find you out sooner or later and most certainly in ETERNITY IF it is not brought under the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST.

THEN, we have the faithful promises of GOD, who doesn’t change HIS mind, as SIN! AND 1 John 1:7 -2:2

Confessing our sin; we come before the Throne in JESUS’ NAME (His worthiness, ***“It IS Finished”***).

A Young Gentleman, who had likely **prayed** for ‘hours’ over a period of time; had become so frustrated that after a period of time in his bedroom; about what he should be doing next with his life: slammed the bedroom door and went for a walk.

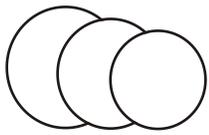
He had placed a ‘motto’ upon the door that stated ‘LET GOD’.

The ‘jar’ from slamming the door caused one of the ‘letters’ to fall down and so when he returned it said, ***“LET GO”***.

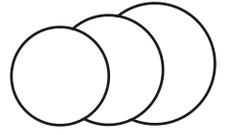
Then he realized that he should ‘let go’ of the reigns of his life and turn them over to GOD!

Proverbs 3:5-6.

BECAUSE then ‘anywhere’ with JESUS I can safely go!



From Our Fellowship Circle



V. B. Colfax, WI
I greatly enjoy the *Morning Glory* magazine and pray that you can keep printing it.

Enclosed is my offering to help keep it going.

You're in my prayers and oh, people need the Lord so desperately today!

A partner in prayer and I am 89 years old.

L. & D. T. Mondovi, WI
Thank you for the ... I am enclosing duplicate address label as we receive two copies – one in our name and one in...

We decided to include *Morning Glory* in our Mission Offering at the annual meeting of our Congregation yesterday. Keep up the great work!

P. S. We have one granddaughter ... She will be two in March. There is also one due in... So great to be Grandparents.

G. B.
This woman lives on Social Security of the amount of \$... per month and she can't afford you! Please do not ask for money here again!

Editor's Note: That is an 'interesting' statement; being this 'ministry' seeks to operate by FAITH, which we have repeatedly stated throughout the *Morning Glory*.

We challenge you to invest in this portion of God's Kingdom Work as HE lays it upon your heart!

Pastor J. & B. S. Minneapolis, MN
Just a note to let you know that we'd like to have our name removed from the "Morning Glory" mailing list.

We have appreciated your issues that arrive so faithfully; but we have so much reading material that comes each month that we are cutting back. We are enclosing the mailing label.

We have many wonderful memories of our times of fellowship together. May the Lord bless you in this coming year!

B. H. Milton, OR
I enjoy your paper very much I also am so thankful that I was 'born-again' and saved by the Grace of God.

J. Q. Morris, IL
Please send me your publication.

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore."

Revelation 1:18a

There are certain laws of evidence, which hold in the establishment of any historic event. There must be documentation of the event in question, made by reliable contemporary witnesses. There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived, or that Alexander the Great died at the age of 33. It is strange that historians will accept thousands of facts for which they can produce only shreds of evidence. But in the face of the overwhelming evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they cast a skeptical eye and hold intellectual doubts. The trouble with many people is that they do not want to believe. They are so completely prejudiced that they cannot accept the glorious fact of the resurrection of Christ on Bible testimony alone.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Lord Jesus, I know you are alive – for you live in the hearts of all those who love you!

"... Our homeland is in heaven, where our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ is; and we are looking forward to His return..."

Philippians 3:20 (TLB).

The Scriptures indicate that we are living in man's day. But there is coming a day that will be called the Day of the Lord. In the midst of hopelessness, there is hope! And that hope is centered in the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now the will of man runs riot in the earth. Then the will of the Lord will alone be done. Till that time, we are under orders from the King of kings to proclaim His message. When we engage in evangelism, we are obeying His great command to "go and proclaim." In doing so, we are hastening the day of His return.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: As I live in the hope of your return, give me the wisdom and love to reach those around me.

Day By Day with Billy Graham, Copyright © 1976 by the Billy Graham Ev. Assn.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

United Kingdom Cathedral Adds Carnival Slide to Attract Visitors

In 2019 ... England's Norwich Cathedral (will set) up a carnival slide right in the center of the sanctuary. The... will transform into a kind of amusement part... August 7-18 in a project called "Seeing It Differently." A "helter-skelter" carnival slide will form the centerpiece of this transformation.

Canon Andy Bryant... said in a statement, "We will be doing what cathedrals have always done: helping people see things differently and make connections with the things of God." ...

The Church of England has indeed lost hundreds of thousands of worshippers in recent decades, but making church into an amusement park is only likely to drive more people away. ...

Tyler O'Neil, [pjmedia.com](#)

Editor's Note: Isn't this the 'trend' here in the USA as well? At large, seemingly, religious folk want to be entertained at church and emotionally feel good!

Is this *insinuating* that Jesus and His Word (the Bible) are not enough to draw folk to want to hear God's Law and Gospel?

Disney Theme Park to Host Its First 'Magical Pride' LGBT Parade

Disney will be sponsoring its first LGBT pride parade this year at its Paris theme park.

The function will be called "Magical Pride" and will take place on June 1, 2019, at Disneyland Paris...

"Gay Days" at Walt Disney World in central Florida have been held the first Saturday in June since 1991, but the company has never officially sanctioned the event... This year marks the first time the park is endorsing and organizing the parade.

Jeannie Law, [christianpost.com](#)

Pope Acknowledges Priests, Bishops Have Sexually Abused Nuns

Pope Francis has for the first time publicly acknowledged the scandal of priests and bishops sexually abusing nuns...

The issue has come to the fore amid the Catholic Church's overall reckoning with the sexual abuse of minors ... In the past year, the ... media have reported on

cases of bused nuns in India, Africa, Europe and South America – evidence that the problem is by no means limited to a certain geographic area.

[Onesnewsnow.com](#)

Elective Bible Course

A North Dakota lawmaker, Oley Larsen, has proposed Bill 2136 that would make New and Old Testament studies an elective choice for students in public and private schools. He notes, "It is the one piece of information that founded our country. I believe that history has been lost. This is an alternative to a history class elective if a student is interested in the history of the Bible. If you really want to understand the history of the United States, you really need to understand the philosophy of the Bible and the Christian faith."

[Christiannews.net](#)

Israel Builds a City Wall

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently announced the final phase of construction has begun on a 20-foot-high steel barrier that will run the full length of Israel's frontier border with the Gaza Strip. The wall will extend 40 miles along the Gaza border and also includes "smart" security features that can detect underground tunnels. Netanyahu advised, "The barrier will prevent terrorists from Gaza from penetrating into our territory on the ground." Construction began in 2016, and they expect to complete it this year at a cost of \$833 million.

[Cbn.com](#)

Democrat and Pro-Life

Katrina Jackson, congresswoman from Louisiana, represents the Democratic Party but has taken a pro-life stand. One of the speakers at this year's March for Life, she stated "In Louisiana, it doesn't matter if you're Democrat or Republican, black or white – we fight for life." When asked about her pro-life position, she says, "I'm a Christian first. Proverbs says that God hates the shedding of innocent blood. There's no blood more innocent than an unborn child, and so for them... we will fight."

[Lifenews.com](#)

Seminary Student Dances in Drag

A student at the ELCA Luther Seminary in Minnesota recently performed in drag at a recent Lip Sync Battle held at their chapel. The student, who is in his final year of studies to enter the ministry, posted on social media a video of his own performance, where he performed as “Rhonda F’ Plause.” Wearing a long blond wig and a short pink dress, he danced to the song “Baby I’m Burnin’.” The performance was met with laughter, applause, and cheering by those in attendance. The soon-to-be-pastor proudly announced that he “took home the trophy” from the competition.

Christiannews.net

Doctors Weigh In

Dr. Omar Hamada wrote a Facebook post that has gone viral, where he stated, “I want to clear something up so that there is absolutely no doubt. I’m a Board Certified OB/GYN who has delivered over 2,500 babies. There’s not a single fetal or maternal condition that requires third trimester abortion. Not one. Delivery, yes. Abortion no. There is absolutely no medical reason to kill a near term or term infant, for any reason.” As a result of his post, he has received both support and death threats. His post echoes a similar statement made by Dr. Lawrence Koning in 2016: “As an OB/GYN physician for 31 years, there is no medical situation that requires aborting/killing the baby in the third trimester to ‘save the mother’s life.’ Just deliver the baby by c/section and the baby has 95+% survival with readily available NICU care even at 28 weeks. C/section is quicker and safer than partial birth abortion for the mother.”

Christiannews.net

Couple Sues Planned Parenthood Because Abortion Pill Did Not Kill Son

A cash-strapped couple from Idaho, who traveled 700 miles to acquire the services of a Planned Parenthood in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is now suing the abortion giant for \$765,000 and other damages because the abortion pill did not kill their son.

They are now worried that the boy who is almost three, “may carry defect or injury into adulthood” as a result of the failed attempt to kill him.

Leonardo Blair, christianpost.com

“and there followed him a great company of people, and of women which also bewailed and lamented him” Luke 23:27.

Among the riotous mob which hounded the Redeemer to His doom, there were some gracious souls whose bitter anguish was released in wailing and lamentations – fit music to accompany that march of woe. When my soul, in imagination, see the Savior bearing His cross to Calvary, it joins the godly women and weeps with them; for, indeed, there I true cause for grief. My sins were the scourges, which lacerated those blessed shoulders and crowned that thorn-bleeding brow. My sins cried, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” and laid the cross on His gracious shoulders. His being led forth to die is sorrow enough for one eternity, but my having been His murderer is more grief than one poor fountain of tear can express. Why those women loved and wept is not hard to guess. They could not have had greater reasons for love and grief than my heart had. Nain’s widow saw her son restored – but I myself have been raised to newness of life. Peter’s wife’s mother was cured of the fever – but I was healed of the greater plague of sin. Seven devils were cast out of Magdalene – but a whole legion was cast out of me. Mary and Martha were favored with visits – but He dwells with me. His mother bore His body – but His formed in me the hope of glory. Let me not be behind the holy women in gratitude or sorrow.

“The place which is called Calvary” Luke 23:33.

The hill of comfort is the hill of Calvary; the house of consolation I built with the wood of the cross; the temple of heavenly blessing is founded on the riven rock – riven by the spear which pierced His side. No scene in sacred history ever gladdens the soul like Calvary’s tragedy. Light springs from the midday-midnight of Golgotha, and every herb of the field blooms sweetly beneath the shadow of the once accursed tree. In that place of thirst, grace has dug a fountain which ever gushes with waters pure as crystal, each drop capable of alleviating the woes of mankind. You who have had your seasons of conflict will confess that it was not at Olivet that you found comfort, not on the hill of Sinai, nor on Tabor; but Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha have been a means of comfort to you. The bitter herb of Gethsemane has often taken away the bitterness of your life; the scourge of Gabbatha has often scourged away our areas, and the groans to flight. Thus, Calvary yields us comfort rare and rich. We never would have known Christ’s love in all its height and depths if He had not died. We could not guess the Father’s deep affection if He had not given his Son to die.

Morning by Morning, by C. H. Spurgeon, Copyright © 1984 by Whitaker House

The Attributes of God

This is the first in a series of articles about the character and nature of God. The church today has brought God down to a human level and consequently people view and relate to Him through strictly human terms and we have forgotten Who it is *“with whom we have to do.”* (Heb. 4:13)

The first thing we need to realize about God is that He is a Spirit. *“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (John 4:24) This means that He is a being with full living capabilities, but has no physical make-up. He is not bound by physical limitations as we humans are. He ascribes to Himself human manifestations like see and feel, but that is only so that we can relate to Him on terms we understand.

The first attribute we will look at is that **God is Eternal** – He has no beginning or ending. *“Before the mountains were born, Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.”* (Psalm 90:2) In eternity past, there was nothing but God. What did He do forever in the past? We don't know. But this tells us that God is forever and will never cease. This means that He is infinite – there has never been a time when God was not nor will there ever be a time when He is not. We can't get our minds to comprehend this because we humans are finite. We have a specific time when we were conceived and born and a specific time when we die physically. This brings us in direct contrast with who we are versus who God is. *“I say, ‘O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days, Thy years are throughout all generations. ‘Of old Thou didst found the earth; And the heavens are the work of Thy hands. Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, And Thy years will not come to an end.’”* (Ps. 102:24-27)

It also tells us that God is neither created nor begotten. There is no power or force or being or energy that brought God into existence. He is uncreated. That is one of the meanings of God's Name from Exodus 3:14, *“I AM who I AM.”* He is self-existent, He is uncreated and He is eternal with no beginning and no end.

The next attribute is that **God is Unchanging**. He is always the Same. *“For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”* (Malachi 3:6) This means that God will always be the same as we read about Him in the Scriptures. He will never

change from what He has stated about who He is and what He will do. Consider just how important this attribute is to us. One day you stand before God on judgment day with heaven and all its bliss on one side and hell with all its fury on the other. You have but one chance to pass this judgment and the outcome lasts for eternity in either location. According to the Scriptures, it is only your faith in Christ that will grant you access to heaven, as Jesus said many times, *“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.”* (John 14:6) As a Christian, you have trusted in the promise of Jesus. Just imagine if you brought this answer to the Lord as to why you should enter heaven and the Lord would reply to you, *“Oh, I changed My mind on that so that isn't true any longer.”* You would be lost because God has changed. But that is the beauty of God's character – It never changes. Neither does the Word He has given change either. Everything God has written in His Word will stand for all eternity. *“Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.”* (Ps. 119:89) That is why you can read your Bible and believe it and stand upon it because it will never change, neither will the Lord who gave it change either.

The next attribute is that **God is Omnipotent** – He is All Powerful or Almighty. This is what we confess in the first part of the Apostles' Creed, *“I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”* Gen. 1:1 says, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”* He did this out of nothing simply by His divine power and by simply speaking His Word and it came to be. Through the 5 days of creation, God simply said the words, *“Let There Be”* and it came to pass. Jesus stated this in Matthew 19:26, *“And looking upon them Jesus said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”* When Sarah thought about conceiving a child in her old age, she thought it was impossible for God to do such a thing. But the Lord said to her, *“Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”* (Gen. 18:14) Nothing is too difficult for the Lord. He will rule sovereignly over all things forever. *“The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; And His sovereignty rules over all.”* (Ps. 103:19) God sits enthroned over all creation and He rules and reigns over it. He determines what will happen and nothing will deter that from happening.

But the greatest demonstration of God's Power is when He created mankind. *“For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my*

soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth.” (Psalm 139:13-15) Our entire being – body, soul and spirit – are created by the Almighty Power of God. We owe everything we are and do to Him.

There is no limit to God’s Power. The only thing that God can’t do is what His attributes do not allow – He can’t lie, He can’t change, He can’t sin, etc.

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

God Kept His Promise

“When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law”
Galatians 4:4.

When the angelic son resounded over the pasture-land of Bethlehem, *“Behold I bring you good news of a great joy... for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour.”* The WORD had become flesh. There in the manger lay the “Seed of the woman” who was to bruise the serpent’s head.

Here was the “Seed of Abraham” in whom all nations of the earth were to be blest. There was the “Ruler of Judah” to whom the nations were to give heed (Genesis 49:10); the “Son of David” who was also “David’s Lord” (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:43). *“The government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’”* (Isaiah 9:6).

Now the promise was fulfilled which had been repeated by the prophets over a span of about four thousand years. In the light of this reality the doubt of my darkened heart become as dust in the wind before the innumerable testimonies of the centuries, or as straw blown against a mountain.

*“Triumph, ye heavens!
Rejoice ye in high adoration!
Sing to the Lord, to the
Saviour in glad exultation!
Angels give ear!
God unto men draweth near,
Bringing to lost ones’ salvation.”*

(Gerhard Tersteegen 1735)

PRAYER: For the promise kept, for victory won, for salvation offered to all who will receive, I would laud and magnify the name which is above every name. Help me Lord, to do all that I do in that holy name. Amen.

Incarnation

“God sent forth his Son” Galatians 4:4.

The Bible tells us that the babe lying in the manger at Bethlehem WAS the Son of God who was *“with the Father from the beginning”* before the world was created. The Bible tells further that in Bethlehem He was to be born, *“whose origin is from of old, from ancient days”* (Micah 5:2). Concerning him the Bible speaks of the WORD made flesh. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made... And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father”* (John 1:1-3, 14).

Christ himself said, *“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16).

PATIENCE (Perseverance) AND PRAYER

We ...do not cease to pray for you
Colossians 1:9.

Some years ago a woman wrote me that she had pleaded for ten years for the conversion of her husband, but that he was more hardened than ever. I advised her to continue to plead. Sometime later I heard from her again. She said her husband was gloriously and miraculously converted in the eleventh year of her prayer vigil. How thankful she was that she had kept on praying!

The Scripture says, *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). This should be the motto of every true follower of Jesus Christ. Never stop praying, no matter how dark and hopeless your case may seem. Your responsibility isn’t to tell God when He must act or even know He must act. Your responsibility is simply to **“PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,”** trusting (expectedly) Him to act according to His perfect will.

Hope For Today

Hope for Each Day, © 2002 by Billy Graham

Editor’s Note: Frustration comes when we take more of the burden than we were meant to bear! We don’t have to understand why something happens or how it is to be fixed. We are to pray and watch and trust God to do what only He can do.

The Sword of the Spirit

“And the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” (Eph.6:17).

The items of the Christian’s armor which we have considered thus far are such as are used for protection against the enemy, but it is still better to put him to rout. If a Christian is to progress he must be mustered out for offensive warfare.

It is a war of conquest which enriches the Christian; it is also under such warfare that he most of all experiences God’s help. If we are going to attack we must have weapons; these have been provided for us in God’s Word. With these we forge ahead and cut our way through.

A Christian with a mite of spiritual understanding knows how often on e is tempted to use his Christianity, his sanctification, his piety, and his many years in the school of God as a sword. We are of the opinion that all we have experienced of God’s help shall strike the enemy down; time after time, however, we have to learn anew, that this metal is much too soft for Satan’s flinty neck.

The only sword, which is of any account, is the Word of God; but it must be in the hands of the Spirit. It is not the mouth, nor the memory, which is to wield the sword, but the Spirit. Many a Christian strike’s with Scripture passages to the right and left because he has a good memory; in a debate he may win the argument. However, no one must think for a moment that Satan is frightened by this.

The devil has no respect for the Word of God which reaches only to the brain. He himself knows the Bible on his fingertips, but it avails him nothing. But when he meets a spiritual Christian who has been empowered by the Word, he retreats. There is a wonderful mettle in God’s Word; this is true when it is placed in the hands of a saved sinner.

It is therefore of utmost importance for us to have the contents of God’ Word—the power of the gospel and the secret of salvation—woven in the very fiber of our inner being. Then these become living realities in our soul.

The wise and proper way to use the Word of God is with a prayerful and humble mind. Then we go straight through the letter and into God’s eternal power.

To study the Scriptures according to the latest methods and the best rules may be useful. But there will be no sword in the hand of the Spirit unless there is a mind that is submissive and prayerful.

“The letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life.”

It does not depend upon how much we read; it is more important that our spirit comes to rest in the Word. Then we learn to meditate upon God’s law; then the mind

is filled with the will of God; then we understand salvation and God’s purpose for our lives. Then will come to pass this wonderful thing that the Spirit touches our spirit.

Then a Christian learns to use the sword in battle.

He who has nothing else for spiritual nourishment than newspapers and novels will become like a newspaper and a novel. He who used the Scriptures in the right manner will receive more and more of the spirit and power of the Bible in his life.

He is like a tree planted by rivers of water.

In our day we have so many Christian books and papers in our homes. Consequently, we are so easily tempted to lay the Bible itself aside.

If our souls subsist more on religious periodicals, books, and sermons than on the Word of God itself, it will soon be seen that we are in no condition to go into battle. In the most difficult encounters our Christianity will show itself to be impersonal. We have yielded too much to human opinions, and our Christian person is made up of material that has come from others.

As far as it goes it is good to receive instruction from others; but it is not far enough. Another person’s knowledge of the Word of God is not sufficient for me because I am in many ways unlike him. If I do not find my own way to the Bible, something in me will suffer. If we have accustomed ourselves to nourish our souls by the hand of another we shall often find ourselves standing by a dried up creek-bed while the mighty river flows right past our door; we die of thirst because we have not learned to drink from this inexhaustible source.

Under such circumstances it is easy to lose the sword!

Many people excuse themselves by saying that the Bible is so hard to understand when they read it; but when it is explained by other’s they understand it.

True. This excuse would be worth a great deal if it depended upon how far we can get in to God’s Word with our understanding. But is not so. Many a person with a clear understanding of God’s Word has a dull sword, and loses in the battle. On the other hand, there are many who do not have a great understanding of the Word, and who have difficulty in expressing their opinion; but they have the power of the Word in such a way that they go from victory to victory because the Spirit has sanctified the Word for them. They have learned to sin and pray with the hymnwriter:

*Thy Word is like an armory,
Where soldiers may repair,
And find for life’s long battle-day,
All needful weapons there.*

*O May I find my armor there,
Thy Word my trusty sword;
I'll learn to fight with every foe
The battle of the Lord.*

It is for this reason that a humble mother who lives in the backwoods and who has had little contact with learning can wield the sword of the Spirit more effectively than the most learned theologian and the ablest preacher.

No one else but God could provide such a salvation. Jesus must have had this in mind when he said: "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou has hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight."

Soldiers of Christ! Do not lose your sword!

Spirit and Power, by Ludvig Hope, Hauge Lutheran Innermision Federation ©1959

Men Who Paid Freedom's Price

Our nation's founding fathers knew how to count the cost of liberty.

ON July 4, 1776, there was signed in the City of Philadelphia one of America's historic documents: The Declaration of Independence. It marked the birth of this nation which under God, was destined for world leadership.

We often forget that, in declaring independence from an earthly power, our forefathers made a forthright declaration of dependence upon Almighty God. The closing word of this document solemnly declares: **"With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."**

The fifty-six courageous men who signed that document understood that this was not just high-sounding rhetoric. They knew that if they succeeded, the best they could expect would be years of hardship in a struggling new nation. If they lost, they would face a hangman's noose as traitors.

Of the fifty-six, few were long to survive. Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes, from Rhode Island to Charleston sacked, looted, occupied by the enemy or burned. Two lost their sons in the army. One had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-six died in the war, from its hardships or from its bullets.

Whatever ideas you have of the men who met that hot summer in Philadelphia, it is important that we remember certain facts about the men who made this pledge: they were not poor men, or wild-eyed pirates. They were men of means, rich men most of them, who enjoyed much ease and luxury in their personal lives. Not hungry men, but prosperity, and respected in their communities.

But they considered liberty much more important than the security they enjoyed, and they pledged their lives their fortunes, and their sacred honor. They fulfilled their pledge. They paid the price. And freedom was won.

Someone has said "To be born free is a privilege. To die free is an awesome responsibility."

Yet freedom is never free. It is always purchased at great cost.

Little did John Adams know how significant his words would be when he spoke to his wife, Abigail, on the passing of the Declaration of Independence and said, "I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure, that it will cost to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states; yet, through all the gloom I can see the rays of light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means." To those who sacrificed for our freedom, the end was worth the painful means. Where would we, who are citizens of the United States of America, be today if there had not been those who counted the cost of freedom and willingly paid for it? Where will we be tomorrow if men and women of integrity do not come forward today and pay the price to reclaim a dying America?

The Rebirth of AMERICA, Published by 'The Arthur S. DeMoss Foundation', Copyright © 1986.

Editor's Note: Don't ever let anyone deceive you into thinking that **FREEDOM** is **FREE!** Someone (S) had to pay a tremendous price for you and me to have the privilege of 'Freedom' in 'our' Great United States of America!

For true Christianity, Heaven became poor that you and I might become rich! Consider what it cost GOD: **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (comes) in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."** John 3:16.

Just think again that JESUS was willing and obedient that you and I could truly be set **FREE! AMAZING GRACE AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE!**

Luther's Preface to The Small Catechism

Some of the newer catechisms today don't have the true introduction on what Luther intended for the Catechism in the first place. The proper introduction was, "For the head of the household to teach to the children in a simple fashion." In other words, the Catechism was designed for home use. The reason for this was the Luther didn't think that the churches were going to be able to continue the reformation. The reason for this and how Luther wanted the Catechism taught are contained in the Preface. Following are some excerpts from that Preface.

[PREFACE]

Grace, mercy, and peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord, from Martin Luther to all faithful, godly pastors and preachers. The deplorable conditions which I recently encountered when I was a visitor constrained me to prepare this brief and simple catechism or statement of Christian teaching. [Luther made visitations of congregations in Electoral Saxony and Meissen between Oct. 22, 1528, and Jan. 9, 1529.] Good God, what wretchedness I beheld! The common people, especially those who live in the country, have no knowledge whatever of Christian teaching, and unfortunately many pastors are quite incompetent and unfitted for teaching. Although the people are supposed to be Christian, are baptized, and receive the holy sacrament, they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments. They live as if they were pigs and irrational beasts, and now that the Gospel has been restored they have mastered the fine art of abusing liberty.

How will you bishops answer for it before Christ that you have so shamefully neglected the people and paid no attention at all to the duties of your office? May you escape punishment for this! You withhold the cup in the Lord's Supper and insist on the observance of human laws, yet you do not take the slightest interest in teaching the people the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, or a single part of the Word of God. Woe to you forever!

I therefore beg of you for God's sake, my beloved brethren who are pastors and preachers, that you take the duties of your office seriously, that you have pity on the people who are entrusted to your care, and that you help me to teach the catechism to the people, especially those who are young. Let those who lack the qualifications to do better at least take this booklet and these forms and read them to the people word for word in this manner:

In the first place, the preacher should take the utmost care to avoid changes or variations in the text and wording of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments, etc. On the contrary, he should adopt one form, adhere to it, and use it repeatedly year after year. Young and inexperienced people must be instructed on the basis of a uniform, fixed text and form. They are easily confused if a teacher employs one form now and another form—perhaps with the intention of making improvements later on. In this way all the time and labor will be lost.

This was well understood by our good fathers, who were accustomed to use the same form in teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. We, too, should teach these things to the young and unlearned in such a way that we do not alter a single syllable or recite the catechism differently from year to year. Choose the form that pleases you, therefore, and adhere to it hence-forth. When you preach to intelligent and educated people, you are at liberty to exhibit your learning and to discuss these topics from different angles and in such a variety of ways as you may be capable of. But when you are teaching the young, adhere to a fixed and un-changing form and method. Begin by teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, etc., following the text word for word so that the young may repeat these things after you and retain them in their memory.

If any refuse to receive your instructions, tell them that they deny Christ and are no Christians. They should not be admitted to the sacrament, be accepted as sponsors in Baptism, or be allowed to participate in any Christian privileges. On the contrary, they should be turned over to the pope and his officials, and even to the devil himself. In addition, parents and employers should refuse to furnish them with food and drink and should notify them that the prince is disposed to banish such rude people from his land.

... You should also take pains to urge governing authorities and parents to rule wisely and educate their children. They must be shown that they are obliged to do so, and that they are guilty of damnable sin if they do not do so, for by such neglect they undermine and lay waste both the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world and are the worst enemies of God and man. Make very plain to them the shocking evils they introduce when they refuse their aid in the training of children to become pastors, preachers, notaries, etc., and tell them that God will inflict awful punishments on them for these sins. It is necessary to preach about such things. The extent to which parents and governing authorities sin in this respect is beyond telling. The devil also has a horrible

purpose in mind.

... So it is up to you, dear pastor and preacher! Our office has become something different from what it was under the pope. It is now a ministry of grace and salvation. It subjects us to greater burdens and labors, dangers and temptations, with little reward or gratitude from the world. But Christ himself will be our reward if we labor faithfully. The Father of all grace grant it! To him be praise and thanks forever, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Taken from the *Book of Concord*

The Church in China

Chinese Christians pray for Easter rebirth

Xing Liu never met a Christian until he was in his 20s. Growing up in China, where religious repression was part of life, he nonetheless accepted an invitation to an underground house church 19 years ago. So moved emotionally, he and his wife were baptized in a ceremony over a plastic bathtub on an Easter Sunday.

The joyful occasion had serious undertones. The people arriving at the house entered silently at different times. They parked their bikes in scattered locations. They treaded carefully on the creaky wooden floor. The Christians gathered in a living room had one priority beyond praising Jesus' resurrection – being invisible to the outside world.

"If we were in China today, I don't know if we could celebrate Easter because government control of the church is much stronger," said Liu, now the Pastor of Minnesota Mandarin Christian Church in Edina. "It's a difficult time."

Liu is among the Chinese faithful living in Minnesota who, on this Christian holy day, are praying for their communities back home. While the church has never been free in China, it had been tolerated to some extent in recent decades. Now a government crackdown has led to the arrest and harassment of thousands of Christians, stepped-up surveillance, cross removal campaigns and more, according to human rights groups.

The persecution has cast a shadow 6,000 miles away in Minnesota, where fear still grips many in the Chinese Christian community. Their churches here, for example, don't publish membership directories with photos and personal information, as many parishioners worry the information could get back to China and jeopardize loved ones or their own ability to travel.

For similar reasons, missionaries living in Minnesota request zero public attention because they could

also face detention and arrest. Many Chinese Christians are careful what they post on social media and avoid direct contact with Christians back home.

... One of the couple's friends at church is a mother recently returned from China. She witnessed firsthand the new government rules to curb Christianity, or at least force it to align with communist ideals. She spoke on the condition of anonymity, out of fear for herself and her family.

For starters, the government now can dictate when worship services are held, said the woman, echoing reports from human rights groups. In the central China community she visited, holding services on Sunday during the day was forbidden – just at night or midweek.

Since house churches are under threat, she went to a government-sanctioned church near her family's home. Walking downstairs, she noticed a camera near the ceiling filming everyone. Meanwhile, the walls of the church room, which once had Bible verses and psalms, now just had a quote from President Xi. No physical cross was present, just a cross projected on a screen. "Turn off the projector and the cross goes away," she said.

When she and her daughter and her mother sat down, they were immediately approached and told that the daughter must leave. Children under age 18 in China are barred from religious services. The experience was frightening, said the Minneapolis mother. "Because I was monitored, I think, 'Will they stop me at the airport? It has happened to others.'"

Difficult to help

The surveillance and potential for persecution has made it difficult for Minnesota's Chinese Christian community – or for any foreigners – to assist the faithful back home. One Twin Cities minister said he used to donate money to a house church but stopped because he didn't want to call attention to it. Besides, there are reports of police entering those churches and confiscating funds because they are "illegal organizations."

Some Minnesotans also used to order Bibles online and have them shipped to a friend or pastor in China. But last year the Chinese government banned online retailers from selling Bibles there. Even phone calls or e-mails of support to Christians in China have been curbed or ended to avoid potential repercussions.

"Persecution is not a new thing for Christians," said Jingjing Liu. "Maybe this is a dark time. The people in China now are fighters on the front line, but I believe things will change."

Taken from the *Star Tribune*
April 21, 2019

Landmark

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

Ezra 8:21

EZRA was in need of God's guidance. He had reached the frontier of Persian political and military control. Beyond the river Ahava lay the vast stretches of the desert, inhabited by lawless and bloodthirsty brigands. Definitely danger and difficulty lay before him and his people.

Thus far he had been led aright by the good hand of the Most-High upon him. The king had given him both permission to go to Palestine and provision for the temple to be erected in Jerusalem. A number of his fellows had volunteered to accompany him. They had set out on their journey, and now they had reached the far edge of civilization.

It is one thing to press forward impetuously on a chosen path because we are persuaded that we are in the center of God's will. To do so may brook trouble for because the original indication of God's will may not include that warning as to the details we shall meet from day to day on the road. Like Ezra we do well to pause in the way to pray in faith and not in fear, in patience and not in presumption.

Like Ezra we know that *"the hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him"* Ezra 8:22. What we need is sensitivity of spirit to assure us that we are entirely obedient to His will. Then we can be fearless of heart to follow Him.

This attitude of heart is achieved by prayer and patience perseverance and possibly by fasting as well. An hour or a day spent in quietness before the Lord can be used by the Captain to calm our every apprehension and to clarify our objectives.

We do not have to beg God for guidance; rather, we are simply to believe that He who has led aright thus far will continue so to do. He is not reluctant to advise and to encourage us. As truly as He helped Ezra and his people in that far-off day, He still hears the prayer of the trusting and tenderhearted.

Because of prayer for the right way and patience to wait the Lord's time, Ezra could testify, *"Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way. And we came to Jerusalem, and bode there three days"* Ezra 8:31, 32.

Mission accomplished! No time was lost because of the pause to pray and to fast at the River Ahava. Nor are we delayed because we wait upon God when the way is dangerous and dark.

To wait on God, no time is lost!

He Leadeth Me, by V. Raymond Edman

Fallen

"You have become estranged (severed) from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace" Galatians 5:4.

As soon as a believer gets under the LAW of God; this person will lose their assurance of Salvation; but a believer is to live in compliance to the Law. A believer is removed from the condemnation of the Law; but not compliance to the Law for out of LOVE for JESUS: Jesus says they that love Me will obey!

Notice also the word "fallen."

Up Date

"I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" John 9:4.

As you are already aware, our 'ministry' is a portion of GOD'S MINISTRY in seeking to reach both saved and unsaved with the liberating Good News of the Word of God.

As we seek to follow His Instructions and Leading, it becomes exciting what GOD can and will do as 'we' partnership together to His Honor and Glory – being it is His Work!

But as the days of "apostasy" are now only upon us and are steadily becoming worse; we need not only press on to the high calling in JESUS: but to seek to fill the vacuum of dead 'Sacramentalism' & 'falling away'!

THUS, we challenge and urge you to up-hold 'us' before the Throne of GRACE and support as the LORD leads. Your partnership is important, and allows us to freely give what we have freely received in and through CHRIST.

THANK YOU in advance for what you have been doing in your 'Partnership' and will be doing. May our Risen and coming Again Savior richly bless YOU in 'our' Partnership as the LORD leads!

The total offerings received for the month of March are \$4,049.00.

**Annual Hauge Lutheran Innermission
Federation Bible Conference**

*Stavanger Lutheran Church
Garden City, Iowa*

June 7-9, 2019

(Friday Evening through Sunday Noon)

THEME: "Guarding Against Deception"
James 1:16

FRIDAY – Service at 7:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Pastor Jim Haga, Shoreview, MN
Refreshment time to follow evening service.

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. – Prayer Time
9:30 a.m. – Coffee/Refreshments
10:00 a.m. – Pastor Jim Haga
11:00 – Pastor Ben Unseth, Audubon, IA
Noon Meal at the Church (Free Will Offering)
1:15 – Pastor Jim Haga
2:15 – Testimonial/Singspiration
Fellowship and Refreshments following
3:00 – Annual Conference of the Hauge Lutheran
Innermission Federation – You are encouraged to at-
tend
Tentative Hauge Board Meeting following
7:00 p.m.– Wayne Almlie, Des Moines, IA

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. – Service – Wayne Almlie
10:00 a.m. – Worship Session – Wayne Almlie

PLEASE pray specifically for the Bible Conference
if you are in attendance or not!

MOST CERTAINLY all are **welcome!**

May GOD be glorified and Souls nourished!

*If feasible: please bring 'home-made' goodies for
Refreshment times. Thank you!*

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 CI • Number 4 • June, 2019
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Mailing List Update

Perhaps you noticed the insert in the middle of the magazine. We want to keep our mailing list current of people who want to receive the *Morning Glory*. If you would like to continue to receiving it, please fill out your name and address and check the box to indicate that you wish to receive it. We are glad to send it to anyone who wishes to receive it even if they can't contribute. This is the last month of this appeal. Thanks to everyone who has already responded.

If you gave the *Morning Glory* as a gift to another person, please fill out their name and address and indicate that we should send it to them. If you don't wish to receive this magazine any longer, please check that box. If you have a friend or relative who is deceased or doesn't want it any longer, please check that box for them. Please return this insert in the envelope provided. If we don't hear from you, we will assume that you don't want to receive it.