



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • March 2007

What Kind of Church?

**Pastor Steven Lombardo
Gifford, IL**

A preacher whom I greatly respect, Charles Spurgeon, once wrote: “The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them” (*The Biblical Evangelist*, Vol. 35, Number 1, Jan-Feb, 2004).

His words, written well over a century ago, could well apply to segments of church life today. In fact, Dave Hunt, writing in *The Berean Call*, February 2004, sounds very much like Spurgeon: “Some of the largest presumably evangelical churches have designed their Sunday morning services based upon what the ungodly want. Missing are the fear of a holy God’s wrath against sin, trembling repentance, and grateful faith in Christ, the eternal God who became man through the virgin birth to suffer the full penalty of God’s judgment in our place. Seeker-friendly churches must not ‘offend’ with the Truth, but pamper with the flattering ‘gospel’ of self-esteem, self-love, and positive thinking—a ‘gospel’ that cannot save. As Paul foretold, *‘they will not endure sound doctrine...’* (2 Tim 4:3).”

Today mega-churches continue to grow. And, some of these churches are flourishing because of what they have eliminated. “Gone are traditional religious dogma, rituals, and symbols, replaced by uplifting songs and sermons... The messages are encouraging and easy to swallow, and no one is called a sinner. It’s ‘Jesus meets the power of positive thinking’” (*The Christian Science Monitor*, Dec 30, 2003).

The question is: “Are we in the church called to edify people or entertain them?” That is, do we try to reach people by feeding them the whole counsel of the Word of God, or, do we seek to amuse them into the Kingdom? It is a sad commentary on the state of the evangelical church today

when many would rather hear an upbeat song than an uplifting sermon. As a result, the church is superficial, anemic, and careless about souls. Don’t misunderstand. I am not talking about worship styles or different types of music. I am talking about a consumer mentality that caters to the wants rather than to the needs of people. Commenting on this, John MacArthur writes: “The church service is too long, you say? We’ll shorten it (one pastor guarantees his sermon will never last more than seven minutes!). Too formal? Wear your sweatsuit. Too boring? Wait until you hear our band!... And if the message is too confrontational, or too judgmental, or too exclusive, scary, unbelievable, hard to understand, or too much anything else for your taste, churches everywhere are eager to adjust that message to make you more comfortable... It’s Christianity for consumers: Christianity Lite, the redirection, watering down, and misinterpretation of the biblical gospel in an attempt to make it more palatable and popular” (*Hard To Believe*, pp. 1-2).

We would do well to remember Paul’s emphasis as recorded in I Thessalonians 2:4 “...*but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.*”

Some years ago a friend of mine humorously commented on the chicken soup he had eaten someplace. He called it “Shadow of Chicken Soup.” He said that they must have had a chicken that they held over the hot water and the chicken’s shadow on the water was what gave the soup its insipid flavor. In other words, there was very little chicken in the soup.

What kind of “church” soup do you want? Even better, what kind do you need?

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When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished!
(John 19:30).

Men's hatred has now completed its evil work. Jesus has reached the end of the Way of sorrows. The cup of suffering is drained. *And the work of atonement is accomplished!*

My soul, break forth in rejoicing! Cast away your fear and discouragement. All doubt is sin. All anxiety is a shame. Jesus cries from the cross: *"It is finished!"*

What I was unable to do, Jesus has done. Atonement has been made for all my sins. I may be completely destitute, yet I lack nothing; for Jesus has wrought salvation for me. No longer need I labour under the demands of the Law, for He, my precious Substitute, has fulfilled the Law for me.

Noting shall nor can be added to what He has done; for salvation is *finished!* It is a perfect salvation even for an imperfect faith. It is a full and complete atonement even for him who lacks all, but who in his distress comes to Him.

It is finished! Then I need do nothing, for it is already done – in my stead! I have only to accept, and to give thanks, and all is mine; and I am saved! What a miracle of redemption!

Taken from "Rest A While"
by Fredrik Wisloff

"A careful investigation of the biblical text, therefore, provides a powerful antidote to the postmodern confusion which alleges that truth is subjective, elusive, and ephemeral. To the contrary, truth is objective, glorious, demanding, exalting, and ultimately, it is the standard by which we will all be judged as we stand before the Creator of the universe. Embrace it with your heart!"

Wayne Jackson

Faith And Assurance

Dr. C.F.W. Walther, in his book **Law and Gospel** writes, “There are people who regard themselves as good Christians although they are spiritually dead. They have never felt a real anguish on account of their sins; they have never been filled with terror on account of them, have never been appalled by the thought of the hell which they have deserved, have never been on their knees before God, bewailing with bitter tears their awful, damnable condition under sin. Much less have they wept sweet tears of joy and glorified God for His mercy. They read and hear the Word of God without being specially impressed by it. They go to church and receive absolution without feeling refreshed; they attend Holy Communion without any inward sensation and remain as cold as ice. Occasionally, when they become inwardly agitated because of their indifference in matters concerning their salvation and because of their lack of appreciation of God’s Word, they try to quiet their heart with the reflection that the Lutheran Church teaches that the lack of spiritual feeling is of no moment. They reason that this lack cannot harm them and that they can be good Christians notwithstanding, because they consider themselves believers.”

“However, they labor under a grievous self-delusion. People in that condition have nothing but the dead faith of the intellect, a specious faith, or, to express it still more drastically, a lip faith. They may say with their mouths ‘I believe,’ but their heart is not conscious of it. No, indeed; a person who cannot say, in accordance with Psalm 34:8, that he has **tasted** and seen that the Lord is good must not regard himself as being in a state of true faith. Moreover, the apostle Paul says, Rom. 8:16: “The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God.” Can the Holy Spirit bear this witness in us without our *feeling* it?

Born Again?

“We have ‘born again’ Catholics, ‘born again’ ungodly movie stars and rock music stars, etc. It seems to me there are going to be a lot of ‘born agains’ in Hell – unless they really get ‘born again’ the Bible way. Unfortunately, they don’t want that way because it requires repentance and faith in the Christ of the Bible.”

Pastor Rolland C. Starr

The witness in court must speak loud enough for the judge to hear. The same is necessary in this case. According to God’s Word any person who has never felt the testimony of the Spirit that he is the child of God is spiritually dead. He can offer no testimony in his favor and does wrong by considering himself a Christian nevertheless.”

Quoting again from Dr. Walther, we read, “It would be awful if any of you would have to retire this evening with the thought in his heart: ‘I do not know whether God is gracious to me, whether He has accepted me as His child, and whether my sins are forgivable. If God were to call me hence tonight, I would not be sure whether I should die saved.’ God grant that not one of you will retire in that frame of mind; for he would lie down to rest with the wrath of God abiding on him.”

A Promise Is a Promise

Numbers 14:1-12

In today’s text, we find the children of Israel distraught over the “evil report” delivered by ten of the twelve men commissioned to spy out the land of Canaan – the land promised by God to the Israelites. After returning from their journey, these men acknowledged the goodness of the land (13:26-27), yet they determined that they were unable to claim the land due to the strength of the inhabitants therein (13:31-33). Their refusal to press forward stemmed from a heart of unbelief – unbelief in the promises of God. Yes, God had promised to give them the land that flowed with “milk and honey,” but their lack of faith in the Lord’s promises revealed the hardness of their hearts and their anger against all who desired to live by faith (vv. 2-4, 10).

God’s Word is full of promises to people of every age, and because God is the author of the Bible, He is the author of the promises therein. Men often break promises, but God cannot break any promises He has made. Concerning the promises of God, the Bible declares that God cannot lie (23:19, Titus 1:2), that God’s record of keeping His promises is perfect (Josh. 23:14), that God is *able* to do whatever He has said (Rom.4:21) and that God is completely faithful to His word (2 Cor. 1:20; Heb.11:11). Yes, we can be certain that what God has said will come to pass in His time. Our responsibility is simply to live out lives day by day believing (exercising faith) in the promises of God concerning what He has done for us, who we are in Him and what He will do yet future. The consequences of faithless living are devastating – it hinders our fellowship with God now and will bring loss of reward yet future. MDC

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PROTECTING THE ‘OLD WAYS’

Ridicule is often heard when speaking of “the things of the past.”

It is declared that old time doctrine and tradition was not to last.

It is true that those gone before were not perfect in word or deed.

But I am convinced we have lost or are losing strongholds we need.

The New Testament teaches that we are to learn from lessons of old.

We are to learn from their mistakes as well as faithfulness told.

The same should hold to our church teachings if from the Word of God.

There is power in old time teaching as was displayed in Aaron’s rod.

Let us not get hung up on modern things that improve our way of life.

But let groups and individuals follow conscience without any strife.

But let us not belittle dangers some modern inventions have brought.

They helped change our moral values and affected our thought.

Many churches have forsaken the old ways in hope they will grow.

The results are often the opposite and spiritual deterioration show.

Bringing the world into the church is **never** a healthy thing to do.

Accepting sinful practices is saying that the Word of God is not true.

Are we willing to live separate lives, perhaps even be seen as odd?

Are we willing to be ridiculed to stand firm on the Holy Word of God?

Though we dare not worship “the old ways: and disdain things new,

May we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in paths tried and true.

By James M. Hite

ASSURANCE

Martin Luther writes, “Ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” This crying (Abba, Father) is felt when one’s conscience, without wavering and questioning, conceives a staunch boldness to be quite certain, not only that his sins have been forgiven, but also that he is a child of God, assured of his salvation, and may with a cheerful and assured heart and with all confidence call God his dear and cry to Him. Of these things he must be more certain than his very life, and must be ready to suffer every kind of death, and hell in addition, rather than allow this assurance to be taken from him by yielding to doubt.

“True there may come a strife in a Christian causing him an anxious feeling, leading him to think he is not a child of God, and to imagine and feel that God is an angry, stern judge, as happened to Job and many others. But in a conflict of this kind, childlike confidence, though trembling and quaking, must conquer in the end or everything is lost.”

What About Sin?

Evangelist Billy Sunday said:

“I’m against sin. I’ll kick it as long as I’ve got a foot, and I’ll fight it as long as I’ve got a fist. I’ll butt it as long as I’ve got a head. I’ll bite it as long as I’ve got a tooth. And when I’m old and fistless and footless and toothless, I’ll gum it till I go home to Glory and it goes home to perdition!”

**Taken from *Billy Sunday*
D.Bruce Lockerbie**

What is your attitude about sin?

The PRECIOUS BLOOD of CHRIST

1 Peter 1:13 – 25

God freely offers forgiveness of sin and eternal life to all who believe. Why? Because Jesus Christ, as a Lamb without spot or blemish, shed His precious blood to pay the penalty for our sin (vv. 18-19). The precious blood of Christ is an integral part of the very basis of our salvation, as is the glorious fact of the resurrection (vv. 20-21). The precious blood of Christ provides the believer's present justification as well as deliverance from the wrath to come (Rom. 5:9). The Bible reminds believers that if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we will enjoy not only our Lord's fellowship but also continual cleansing through His blood from daily defilement (1 Jn. 1:7). We ought to strive diligently to be "obedient children," sober-minded and "holy in all manner of conversation" (vv. 13-16). If we honestly consider the blood of Christ to be precious and if we truly are thankful for the precious faith He has provided, then we will separate from worldly corruption (v. 14). We have been bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)! We should live in accordance with that fact.

Now a word of warning: Anyone who claims that the word *death*, as in verse 19, can be substituted with the word *blood*, thereby supposedly "clarifying" the meaning of a particular Scripture, is terribly mistaken. It is "the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" (Lev. 17:11). The Lord unequivocally declares, "Without shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). Christ's shed blood is necessary in order to cleanse us from sin! Those who change the word *blood* to *death* in the Scriptures are tampering with an incredibly vital truth. Jesus Christ's shed blood is precious indeed! MHR

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**Making no Apologies
for the old time
Christianity!**

REMEMBER, GOD DOESN'T OWE A THING!

"I do not make void the grace of God: for if righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for naught." (Gal. 2:21)

The road from Golgatha to Sinai is not always long, and many Christians have walked it and thought that they did right. It appears so right and wise to do that, because our nature so much prefers to help itself rather than to live on grace. In all times it has become evident that the great danger that threatens the people of God is this: to glide away from grace and into the works of the law. To carry an empty container and just have something given to you from day to day, from year to year, from generation to generation – that might easily be mistaken for sinning on grace. In such times there is among Christians fertile soil for bondage under the law, and for the teaching of sinlessness.

Neither has Satan any objection to telling us how a Christian should live and what he should be, if thereby he can separate us from grace. For there is no way that more certainly leads to eternal death than the Pharisaic way of works. Wherefore Jesus also has said that we must above all things beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.

To be saved by grace alone, and then in addition to that to be permitted to live and die, saved by grace alone: that is the road leading home to heaven again that God has built for sinners. On that road we can be completely saved in sorrow and in joy, in light and in darkness, when our soul feels lifted toward God, and when our heart condemns us.

"And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me: (II Cor. 12:9).

Lord, my sins they are many,

Like the sands of the sea,

But Thy blood, O my Savior,

Is sufficient for me;

For Thy promise is written

In bright letters that glow,

"Thought your sins be as scarlet,

I will make them like snow."

Taken from "Thy Kingdom Come" by Ludvig Hope,
Published by Augsburg Publishing House

Is Hell Really Eternal Torment?

In recent years, the question of the reality of hell and its eternal torment in fire has been brought into question and denial by a growing number of evangelicals today. Popular Christian Apologist Lee Strobel, in question and answer format, says this:

“Q: How could a loving God torture people forever?”

A: For one thing, hell isn’t a torture chamber. Hell, is, first of all, about relationships—broken relationships. ...In the Bible, hell is separation or banishment from the most beautiful being in the world—God. ...It’s not torture. The punishment of hell is separation from God and the shame, anguish, and regret that go along with it. The pain may be both mental and physical, but it will be the pain and sorrow of final, unending banishment from God and the good life for which we were created.

Q: Will people burn in flames in hell?

A: I believe that the imagery of flames the Bible uses to describe hell is a figure of speech. Trying to take the flames of hell literally results in nonsense.

Q: Doesn’t the phrase “gnashing of teeth” used to describe hell mean that people are in pain and torture?

A: “Gnashing of teeth” is an expression of rage at realizing you’ve just made a huge mistake. When you hear about people grinding their teeth or gritting their teeth today, it means they’re angry or frustrated, not that they are being tortured.” (The Case for Faith, (Student Edition) pp. 63-65)

Probe Ministries, which is on Christian radio and the Internet says this: “Torment comes from the mental and physical anguish of knowing we used our freedom for evil and chose wrongly. The anguish results from the sorrow and shame of the judgment of being forever away from God and all that is meaningful and joyful. ...The flames of hell are generated by the individual who has rejected God. It is not a place where people are forced against their will to undergo agonizing pain. ...such is the anguish of hell. The pain comes from the regret of all that was lost. A person experiences separation from God, the ultimate good. ...God does not send anybody to hell; people choose to go there.” (Hell: The Horrible Choice by Patrick Zukeran, probe.org)

One ministry summed it up like this: “Do you honestly believe that Jesus would apply that kind of sadistic torture upon your lost children, parents, spouses, friends and neighbors? Jesus is not cruel and unjust.” (HE HAD Faith Ministries, Rogers, MN.)

Thus, these people and many with them believe that hell is not eternal torment in flames. Ultimately they believe that the very character of God does not allow this. Since God loves everybody, He would not punish people in torment

forever. It is beyond His character!

Let’s let the Scripture speak for itself regardless of what personal reason would want to tell us

In Matthew 25, the final judgment is laid before us. Jesus sits upon His throne judging all mankind (vv.31-32). All nations are brought before Him and He separates the believers from the unbelievers (v. 32). What a separation that will be! To the unbelievers, Jesus declares this: “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.” (v. 41). From this we learn **1) God does send people to hell**. Jesus is commanding the unbelieving people into hell. It is based upon whether these people came to personal repentance of sin and faith in Jesus in their lives. These people did not, so Jesus orders them to their destiny. Jesus emphasizes this yet even more when He says, “*But I will warn you whom to fear; fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!*” (Lk. 12:5) Jesus describes God as One who both KILLS people and CASTS them into Hell!

We also learn that **2) hell is a place of torment in fire**. This place where Jesus is commanding these people to go is called “eternal fire.” (Matt. 25:41) We need only look to other Scriptures to see if this fire is figurative or literal. In Luke 16, a certain rich man went to hell. In hell he yearned for just a drop of cold water to cool of his tongue, “*for I am in agony in this flame.*” (Lk. 16:24) It was not just the pain of a broken relationship, but agony and torment of being on fire. We see this also in Revelation 14 where eternity is described this way: “*He will also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night...*” (Rev. 14:10-11) The fire and torment of hell is all too real.

We also learn that **3) This torment is eternal**. After Jesus has separated the believing from the unbelieving and cast the unbelieving into hell, then the Scripture records this: “*And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*” (Matt. 25:46) The torment, burning and agony of hell never end. It is described as eternal torment. To say that it is not eternal is to say that heaven is not eternal either, because they are described with the exact same words in the exact same verse. People are not burned up or annihilated as some teach, but rather, they are tormented forever. We can look at the Scriptures already referenced above, as the rich man in hell from Luke 16 did not

continued on pg. 7

burn up and the unbelieving from Revelation 14 are described as “*having no rest day or night*” and “*the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever.*” (Rev. 14:11)

If my mind cannot fathom such a thing and my perception of God does not allow for Him to do such a thing, then I must submit my limited understanding to the straightforward claims of the Word of God. I may not understand it and I may not like it, but that does not change the reality of it. Rather, I need to submit to the Scriptures’ authority and heed their warning.

Dear reader, will you be duped by the new preachers who deny God’s wrath? The clear teaching of the Bible is that mankind has sinned and is under God’s wrath. This wrath will ultimately be poured out upon all outside of Christ. It will be burning in fire and torment, weeping and gnashing of teeth, gnawing your tongue for pain. It will be a lake of fire where people burn and suffer God’s wrath for eternity. It will be separation from God and all the goodness that He is into the the presence of the devil and his angels (demons). It will last for eternity and there will be no relief from its agony, there will be no hope for the future and there will be no second chance for you to be saved from this horrible state. You have but one chance in this life time, and then the door will be shut. **To deny this is to call Jesus a liar!** This is not popular today and is rejected by many, but it is still the truth of the Bible.

God has provided a way for you to escape this horrible place called hell. He has given Jesus on the cross to die for all your sins. Jesus bore the fierce wrath and fury of God that you deserved. He died for every sin of every person of all time. In Christ you can be forgiven all your sins, be declared righteous in God’s sight, made God’s child, and enter in the glory of heaven. To have this you must do two things: 1) Repent of your sins, and 2) Receive Christ as your own personal Savior and follow Him as Lord of your life.

If you will not do this, then you will go to hell.

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

(John 3:36)

So far as is known, no bird ever tried to build more nests than its neighbor. No fox ever fretted because he had only one hole in the earth in which to live and hide. No squirrel ever died in anxiety lest he should not lay up enough nuts for two winters instead of one. And no dog ever lost sleep over the fact that he did not have enough bones buried in the ground for his declining years. So many people put the emphasis on the wrong things. Selected

* * * * *

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst (John 19:28).

The *soul* of Jesus was athirst. He yearned for love and understanding. He thirsted for human souls. His two outstretched arms were as an invitation to the whole world to come to Him.

This, however, is not what Jesus has in mind when He exclaims: “I thirst!” He refers to *physical* thirst. It is now about 3:00 o’clock. Jesus was crucified at 9:00 o’clock. For six long hours the had been suspended on the cross. The greatest physical suffering connected with crucifixion was *thirst*. As time went on, the thirst became like a fire burning in every part of the victim’s body. It was the result of loss of blood. Crucifixion brought on a high fever. For six hours Jesus had been bleeding, and so He cries in pain: “I thirst!”

During the first three hours on the cross Jesus was so occupied with the welfare of those who stood about the *cross* His executioners, the robbers, His mother, and John – that He forgot His own pain. During the next three hours, when darkness covered the earth, His anguish of soul was so great that His physical suffering faded into the background. However, when the light again appears, the thirst makes itself felt like a consuming fire; and then He cries: “thirst!”

Thanks be to Thee, my Savior, for what Thou has suffered. It was all for *me*.

Taken from “*Rest A While*” by Fredrik Wisloff

The Love Of Christ

“The love of Christ, which passeth knowledge” (Ephesians 3:19)

The love of Christ in its sweetness, its fullness, its greatness, its faithfulness, passeth all human comprehension. Where shall language be found which shall describe His matchless, unparalleled love towards the children of men? It is so vast and boundless that, as the swallow but skimmeth the water and diveth not into its depths, so all descriptive words but touch the surface, while depths immeasurable lie beneath.

Well might the poet say, “O Love, thou fathomless abyss!” for this love of Christ is indeed measureless and fathomless; non can attain unto it.

Before we can have any right idea of the love of Jesus, we must understand His previous glory in its height of majesty, and His incarnation upon the earth in all its depths of shame.

But who can tell us the majesty of Christ? When He was enthroned in the highest heavens, He was very God of very God; by Him were the heavens made and all the hosts thereof. His own almighty arm upheld the spheres; the praises of cherubim and seraphim perpetually surrounded Him; the full chorus of the hallelujahs of the universe unceasingly flowed to the foot of His throne. He reigned supreme above all His creatures, God over all, blessed forever. Who can tell His height of glory then?

And who, on the other hand, can tell how low He descended? To be a man was something; to be a man of sorrows was far more. To bleed, die and suffer! These were much for Him who was the Son of God, but to suffer such unparalleled agony, to endure a death of shame and desertion by His Father, this is a depth of condescending love which the most inspired mind must utterly fail to fathom.

Herein is love! And truly it is love that “passeth knowledge.”

Oh, let this love fill our hearts with adoring gratitude and lead us to practical manifestations of its power.

Charles Spurgeon

“Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Luke 12:6-7

* * * * *

The habit of intemperance by men in office has occasioned more injury to the public and more trouble to men than all other causes; and were I to commence my administration again, the first question I would ask respecting a candidate for office would be, “Does he use ardent spirits?”

Thomas Jefferson

* * * * *

What It Is to Be Lost!

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36)

Oh, that we would wake up to the thought of what it is to be lost! The world has been rocked to sleep by Satan, who is going up and down telling people that it doesn’t mean anything.

I believe in the old-fashioned Heaven and Hell. Christ came down to save us from a terrible place, and any man who is cast down to Hell from here must go in the full blaze of the Gospel and over the mangled body of the Son of God.

We hear of a man who has lost his health. We sympathize with him, and we say it is very sad. Our hearts are drawn out to sympathy.

Here is another man who has lost his wealth, and we say, “That is very sad.”

Here is another man who has lost his reputation, his standing among men. “That is sadder still,” we say.

We know what it is to lose health and wealth and reputation, but what is the loss of all these things compared with the loss of the soul?

D.L. Moody

Did Jesus and Mary Magdalene Have A Son?

“*The Lost Tomb of Jesus*,” a new documentary, suggests just that. Is it a Titanic discovery or the world’s biggest fraud?

The Academy Award-winning director behind “Titanic” is attempting to challenge fundamental tenets of Christianity by suggesting that Jesus may have been a father whose body was buried far from the Jerusalem tomb where believers say he rose from the dead.

In a documentary set to air Sunday [March 4], filmmaker James Cameron and his team contend that they’ve produced new evidence that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and fathered a son named Judah. Biblical experts and archaeologists who are familiar with the central evidence instantly discounted the claim, which the Discovery Channel has touted as possibly “the greatest archaeological find in history,” as an ill-informed, recycled publicity grab.

The chances that the findings in “The Lost Tomb of Jesus” are real “are more than remote,” said Israel Museum curator David Mevorah. “They are closer to fantasy.”

If proved true, the findings would undercut Christian beliefs that Jesus never had children and that he rose from the dead. The documentary also contradicts long-held beliefs by Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians that Jesus had lain in a tomb around which Christians built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Old City of Jerusalem.

“It doesn’t get bigger than this,” Cameron said Monday. “We’ve done our homework . . . now it’s time for the debate to begin.” The Discovery Channel documentary and an accompanying book center on a 2,000-year-old limestone tomb that was discovered more than 25 years ago in Jerusalem between the Old City and Bethlehem.

When the tomb was uncovered in 1980, specialists were called in. The man who led the effort was Amos Kloner, an archaeologist from Bar Ilan University, who documented the findings. The tomb contained 10 limestone burial boxes and scattered bones. Among the inscriptions on the caskets: Jesus, son of Joseph; Mary; Judah, son of Jesus.

Five of the burial boxes, known as ossuaries, had names that could be linked to the Bible, including versions of Joseph and Matthew. Then and now, Kloner took no note of the names, saying they were common at the time.

But Discovery hired a statistician who concluded that the chances that this was the tomb of Jesus and his family were 600 to 1.

Mevorah called that “a good trick.” While the collection of names might seem compelling, he said the names were

popular at the time and that another ossuary with the inscription “Jesus, son of Joseph” is on display in Florida as part of a traveling exhibition of Christian artifacts.

The documentary used DNA testing on samples from the ossuary for Jesus and for Mary to show that the two sets of bones weren’t related, evidence the TV researchers said indicated that the two probably were married.

The documentary suggests that the ossuary labeled Judah, son of Jesus, may have carried the bones of their son, though the researchers make no mention of doing DNA testing on that box.

After watching a review copy of the documentary, Kloner said it was little more than a publicity stunt. The documentary and book aren’t the first to focus on the tomb. A BBC crew in 1996 concluded the tomb was that of Jesus and his family. Scientists and religious leaders also challenged that report.

Leading the latest team was Simcha Jacobovici, who was at the center of a similar stir four years ago when he produced another piece for the cable company. That documentary focused on an ossuary that was thought to be the oldest archaeological find to bolster the Bible. It bore the inscription: James son of Joseph, brother of Jesus. Within months, however, Israel’s Antiquities Authority deemed the ossuary a fake.

Dion Nissenbaum • McClatchy Foreign Correspondent
Jerusalem

Taken from *The Star Tribune*, Feb. 27, 2006

Editors Note: The unbelieving world is always trying to dig up some evidence to try and deny the authority of the Bible and its record of Jesus. All it accomplishes is to try and provide a temporary relief for their guilty consciences. If they can convince themselves that Jesus is not the Son of God and risen from the dead, then they won’t have to stand in judgment before Him and go to an eternal hell because of their sin.

We know that Jesus IS risen from the dead and that He never married or fathered any children. We know this because of the faithful testimony of the Scriptures. Everything they have predicted has or will come true. Those who have come to Jesus know that He is alive, He does forgive sinners their sin, He does change lives and the Bible is true without error. Everything it tells us of Jesus is true and events will happen just as they are predicted.

Believable...Yet Unbelievable

Web Site Aimed at “Teens” Promotes Homosexuality

A Web site that targets its messages to “tweens,” which it identifies as those ages 9 - 14, is promoting homosexuality to those children because the idea of one-man-and-one woman is “so last century.”

The Web sit (Kidzworld) ...is lobbying children to oppose the policy by the Boy Scouts of America against allowing homosexuals to lead troops of young boys, and advocates for the “rights” of homosexuals to adopt children...

...(T)he Web site’s agenda is unabashed throughout its messages to the children:

“Isn’t the most important issue to have two parents who love you? Does it really matter if a child has two mommies or two daddies?” it tells readers....

(N)one of the pro-homosexual comments was found on the first page, the location most parents who actually do inspect a site would be most likely to check. ...They were found embedded in the site as a reader follows various links.

WorldNetDaily.com

Forty Thousand Abortions in Israel

New reports indicate that there are about 40,000 abortions that take place every year in Israel. According to official records, the government approves and pays for about half of the abortions, which are carried out in public hospitals

Steven Mosher, the president of the Population Research Institute, says abortions have caused population problems for Israel.

“With birthrates well below replacement, Israel’s economy has survived over the past decade and a half largely because of the steady influx of Jews from Russia and the other former Soviet republics,” Mosher said.

Lifenews.com

Muslims Pose Major Danger for Indonesian Christians

Christians in the world’s most populous Muslim nation didn’t let the threat of violence keep them from church, Agape Press reports. On Christmas Day, tens of thousands of police guarded churches in Indonesia. The country has 190 million Muslims but is also home to a significant Chris-

tian minority. Dr. Carl Moeller, President of Open Doors USA, says over the past year tensions have mounted between Christians and Muslims. “We’ve seen in just one province, Central Sulawesi, 15 bomb explosions, which have killed at least two Christians,” he notes. Still, says Moeller, Christian churches are growing throughout the Muslim-dominated nation.

RELIGION TODAY

South Africa to Legalize “Gay Marriage”

South Africa became the fifth country to legalize “gay marriage” November 30 when acting president Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka signed a landmark bill into law. South Africa is the first African country to redefine marriage. Worldwide, Canada, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands also recognize “marriage” among homosexual couples.

Selected

Israeli High Court Orders “Gay Marriage” Recognition

In a landmark 6 - 1 decision, Israel’s Supreme Court November 21 ordered the government to begin recognizing “gay marriages: from other countries, such as Canada. Although the decision doesn’t give homosexual couples the ability to “marry” within Israel’s borders, it nonetheless puts Israel at odds with countries such as Great Britain and the United States, neither of which recognizes foreign “gay marriages.”

The ruling by the High Court of Justice – the name for Israel’s highest court – gives homosexual couples the same legal benefits as traditional couples, including tax breaks and the ability to adopt, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. The decision forces the government to register the “marriages” like it does any other marriage.

“We don’t have a Jewish state here. We have Sodom and Gomorrah here,” lawmaker Moshe Gafni told Israel’s Army Radio, according to the Associated Press. “I assume that every sane person in the state of Israel, possibly the entire Jewish world, is shocked, because the significance is the destruction of the family unit in the state of Israel.”

BAPTIST PRESS

"But it shall come about, if you will not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you this day, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you."

(Deut. 28:15)

Legal Group Tells IRS to Back Off Efforts Intimidating Churches

Agape Press reports that a religious liberties group says it has had enough of the Internal Revenue Service's bullying pastors and wants those pastors and churches to know that the U.S. Constitution trumps IRS regulations about what can and can't be said from the pulpit. The Washington, D.C. based Becket Fund for Religious Liberty says the First Amendment takes precedence over regulations established by the IRS concerning political speech from the pulpit of a house of worship. Anthony Picarello, vice president and general counsel for the Becket Fund, says the first mistake most churches make when they are confronted with an IRS investigation is keeping quiet about it. He recommends they go public. "Make sure that the world knows about what's going on," he suggests. "I think that's one of the best approaches that a church can take when it's confronted with this sort of investigation."

RELIGION TODAY

Russia sees 1.5 Million Legal Abortions Annually, 120K Women Injured

The number of abortions in Russia is now about 1.5 million annually, just under the number of births there, which number 1.6 million per year. However, despite abortion's legal status, women continue to be injured by it; and as many as 120,000 women experience medical problems following abortions.

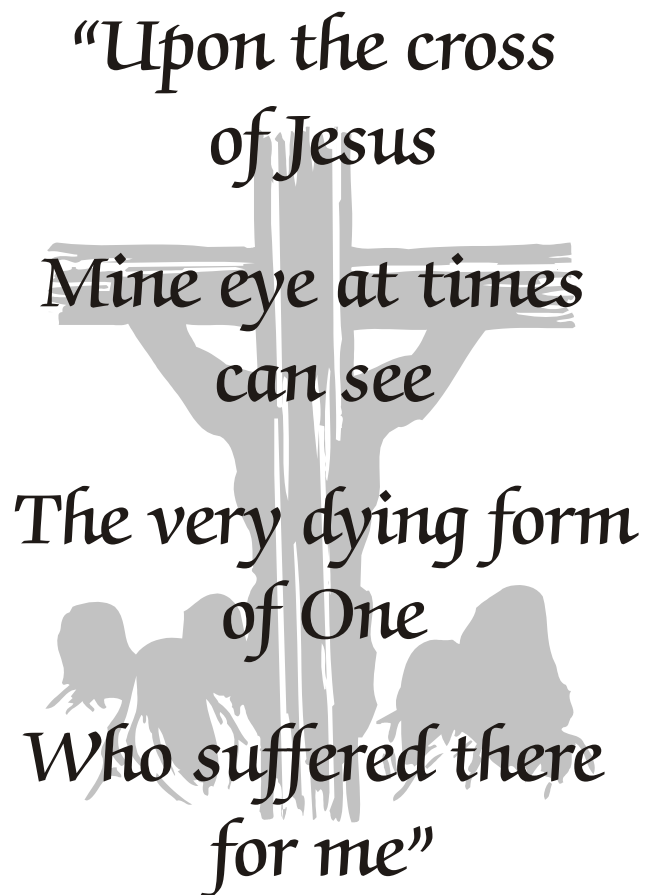
lifeneews.com

Facing Lawsuit, University of Georgia Agrees to Recognize Christian Fraternity

Two days after Christian lawyers filed a discrimination lawsuit against the University of Georgia, administrators announced (December 5) they would recognize a Christian fraternity and consider eliminating the school's nondiscrim-

ination policy regarding religious groups. The Alliance Defense Fund and the Christian Legal Society ...Sued the university after it denied official recognition to Beta Upsilon Chi, a Christian fraternity. The group was denied recognition, because it refused to sign the school's policy that would have required the group to accept non-Christian members and officers.

cnsnews.com



*"Upon the cross
of Jesus
Mine eye at times
can see
The very dying form
of One
Who suffered there
for me"*

Editorial

RES

The Privilege of Knowing Jesus

(Please prayerfully read Psalm 116)

Why do we often focus on what we don't have, instead of the gifts that have been 'entrusted' to us?

As you are well aware of, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation of shadow or turning" James 1:17. The word 'thanksgiving' is mentioned many times throughout the inspired Scriptures, the Bible. *Thanksgiving unto the LORD is always timely* BUT we need to be careful that we don't get taken up with the 'gifts' more than the Giver! We should trace our 'gifts' unto the Giver and *thank HIM*.

WHEN is the last time you told JESUS "**I love You**", provided you do love Him?

What a privilege to not only know JESUS as your personal Saviour (Amazing Grace), but to speak to Him at any time through prayer and HE never turns a 'deaf ear' or gives a 'busy signal' from Heaven.

It is at the foot of the 'Cross' that burdens are lifted and where the ground is level. A Christian ALWAYS finds his/her place at the foot of the Cross. As you see, it is only those who have nothing but *sin* who come here to find and experience peace with God and the peace of God. To the unsaved the Cross is not that significant; oh yes, there may be some emotions that run through their veins; BUT the child of God has no other place to find 'refuge' and he/she never loses the 'marvel' of the cleansing power of the **blood of the crucified and risen ONE! And yes, HE is coming again!** "For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers: But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil" 1 Peter 3:12. Just think who we are and who He is and we can converse with HIM on a one to one basis through the one and only Mediator!

We can go through much pain, but the Psalmist mentions that earth knows no sorrow that Heaven cannot feel! As we trust, rest and obey IN HIM, we know that

HE is in control, and what we then experience is Father filtered. What a Sovereign God and Saviour we have **as nothing catches our God by accident or surprise.**

Have you ever found yourself a recipient of someone's kindness/goodness to you but just don't know how to express your appreciation? Then please notice in verse 12 how the Psalmist responds: 1) "I will take up the cup of salvation", 2) I will "call upon the name of the LORD", 3) "I will pay my vows to the LORD" and 4). "Now in the presence of all His people." "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" Romans 2:4. **Thanksgiving is the memory of the heart** - verse 17. "Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews 13:13-16).

God says "*Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*" God so loves YOU that HE says that even the process of **coming Home** is precious in His sight, for being "Home" for all ETERNITY is 'precious' to Him who **loves you so much** - safe and secure. Heaven is possible BECAUSE HE paid the 'debt' that HE didn't owe, and a 'debt' that is totally impossible for YOU and I to pay. He paid it in our stead.

For "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (II Timothy 4:7-8). There is a new way of spelling HEAVEN - **HOME**. By the GRACE OF GOD, will you be there? **ARE YOU SURE? *Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people!***

Revive Us Again

In his book *A New Springtime*, Robert Lee, president of the AFLC, said that there were six principles that summarize the Spirit of awakening sparked by Hans Neilsen Hauge. They are as follows:

1. The demand for true conversion, with emphasis on the working of God's Law in bringing the sinner to repentance. Over the last 150 years the Holy Spirit has slowly been stripped of the only tool at its disposal to bring the knowledge of sin. Paul said in Romans 3:20: **"By the Law comes the knowledge of sin."** He says in Romans 3:19; **"Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."** And in Romans 5:20: **"Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound."**

If I'm out driving around and pretty soon I'm cruising with the flow of traffic. I look down at my speedometer and I see it's at 70 mph. Well the speed limit is 55 mph, but everyone else is doing it, and it does feel good. Besides, it's only 15 miles over and everyone would stare at me and make obscene gestures at me if I was doing the speed limit when everyone else wasn't.

Then all of a sudden I see a cop car with its lights flashing and its siren blasting entering the freeway. I look at my speedometer and see that it's at 70 mph and I think, "Oh no, 15 miles over." I know that for every mile per hour over it adds up to more money. It no longer matters that everyone is doing it. I know if I'm standing in front of a judge, and I give him that excuse he will throw the book at me, so I hit my brakes and slow down to 55 and hope that he's after someone else, instead of me. The Law entered and the offense abounded. I saw my actions for what they were, lawlessness.

That's the way the world is, everyone is on the freeway of life, and everybody is speeding along, doing their own thing. They think, no big deal, everyone is doing it. They think the law has forgotten to patrol that section of the road.

More than ever, today we need a revival of the preaching of the law so that people will see their sin and cry out, "What must I do to be saved?" Only then will they be prepared to receive the good news of the Gospel.

2. Living faith, a vital and personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, manifested in holy living. Hans Hauge faced the same dilemma that John Wesley faced in England. With the state church everyone was baptized

and everyone's names were written on the churches rolls, so everyone presumed they were also written in the "Lamb's Book of Life". But John Wesley and Hans Hauge preached that no one could claim they were a Christian unless they were born of God and had the witness of the spirit within them.

James says faith without works is dead. If you call yourself a Christian and your life is the same as your unbelieving neighbor, you had better examine yourself to see if you are in the faith. If your faith doesn't affect the way you live and think, James calls it dead. You could be in danger of Christ saying to you on that day, "Depart from me I never knew you." Living faith is a life changing faith, it's being changed from one degree of glory to another.

3. An ethical emphasis on sanctification.

From Nelson's Bible Dictionary we read: SANCTIFICATION: **"The process of God's grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God's righteousness. Accomplished by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, sanctification results in holiness, or purification from the guilt and power of sin."**

As Christians we are set aside, we are separated from the world, we are God's own people. **Eph 5:7-8: "Therefore do not be partakers with them. Walk in Light, for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."**

4. An emphasis on personal Salvation.

Norway in Hauge's day had a state church. You were born into it. You were baptized and everyone was a Christian. Lutheranism in many churches has reverted back to that. It's sacramentalism. You're baptized, when your older you're Confirmed, then you take Communion and attend church; as long as you perform the rituals, then you're OK. That's religion, but that is not Christianity, which is a personal salvation. God doesn't have any grandchildren. He only has children. And how do you become a child? You have to be born! How do you become a child of God? You have to be born of God. **John 1:12-13 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** That comes when you see your sins for what they are, rebellion against God, and you see "Christ crucified" as the only remedy for your sins.

continued on pg. 14

5. Vigilance, or the continual need for Christians to watch and pray lest they fall and to examine themselves spiritually on a regular basis.

This is so important. "Prone to wander Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love," the hymn writer says. We're like Adam and Eve, like Samson, David, Judas, and like Peter, it's easy to lose our first love, it's easy to become lukewarm. **Heb 3:13: "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."** In Hebrews 2:1 we read **"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away."** What have we heard, what have we read, what have we meditated on? We need to stay in His word; we need to hear the preaching of the Word, lest we drift away.

We need to: **(2 Cor 13:5) "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you fail the test."** It's easy to be deceived, to think we are saved and to not be. Scripture tells us that this is a big category; Jesus said many will come on that day, and Jesus will tell them, "Go, I never knew you". We often time ask people "Do you know the Lord?" Maybe the correct way to ask this question is: "Does the Lord know you?" Paul says examine yourself. This is a pass, fail test as Paul says, If Christ is in you, you pass, if not you fail. How sad that day will be for so many people when they find out just being religious wasn't enough.

6. Evangelism, a burning compulsion to spread the Good News by means of simple and direct personal outreach.

Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which is lost. If we are His, that will be our desire too.

George Whitefield, the famous English Evangelist, said, "O Lord give me souls, or take my soul."

Henry Martyn, missionary, kneeling on India's coral strands, cried out, "Here let me burn out for God."

Charles Spurgeon said, "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for."

John Hunt, a missionary to the Fiji Islands, a prayer upon his dying bed said, "Lord, save Fiji, save Fiji, save these people, O Lord, have mercy on Fiji, save Fiji." (Today that prayer is being answered, there is a revival going on in Fiji).

These were the principles of the Haugean revival that stirred Norway and many of our great, great grandparents in Norway years ago. They would stir us too if we took them to heart and practiced them in our daily lives and preached

them from our pulpits.

Submitted by Pastor Wayne Almlie

* * * * *

Is Seeing Believing?

"Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." (John 20:25)

These words above came from the lips of one of Jesus' very disciples – Thomas. Consequently, he has come to be known as "doubting Thomas." This demand for proof has also been the cry of many people down through the ages – Unless I can see with my own eyes and have absolute proof of Jesus – I will not believe. Today's rational, scientific mind is more prone to this than was the thinking of years past. We must be able to mathematically and scientifically examine and prove this matter of Jesus before we will believe such a thing.

Is that really true, though? Would really seeing the real Jesus really die on the cross for the sins of all mankind really convince people? Well, simply look to those who did actually stand and watch the event unfold. There were the two thieves on each side of Jesus. *"And when they came to the place of The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left."* (Lk. 23:33) One of them turned in a death-bed conversion to Jesus and the other blasphemed Him to his death. Hanging right beside Jesus did not convince one man as to His reality.

Then there was the multitude of people. *"And the people stood by, looking on."* (Lk. 23:35) It was Passover when Jesus was crucified, so most of the people in Israel were coming and going in and out of Jerusalem. Since Jesus was crucified on the outside of the city, he would have been seen by many people. What effect did it have on them? *"And all the multitudes who came together for this spectacle, when they had observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts."* (Lk. 23:48) They were saddened and grieved by what they saw, yet, there is no mention in the Scriptures of anyone seeing this happen and turning to Christ for salvation.

Then there were the rulers. *"And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, 'He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of god, His Chosen one'."* (Lk. 23:35) Seeing Jesus die had no effect whatsoever on them. They hated Him in His life and ministry, and seeing Him on the cross was a glad sight for them. They, who should have known the Scriptures and recognized the fulfillment of them in this very moment, stood by in sheer mocking and torment. They would go on after His death to have Pilate secure a guard around the tomb. Seeing Jesus die brought none of

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them to salvation.

Then there were the soldiers. *“And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!’”* (Lk. 23:36-37) These men had followed Jesus along from Pilate’s hall and had been the ones to inflict flogging upon Him. They had mocked Him with a robe, crowned Him with thorns and beat Him with their fists. Did seeing Jesus die have any effect on them? *“Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, ‘Certainly this man was innocent.’”* (Lk. 23:47) In Matthew, we are told further of this man, *“Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’”* (Matt. 27:54) Were these people converted through this? It is hard to say whether this statement about Jesus’ deity was one of panic at the moment or was a true cry of faith.

So of all the people who did actually see Jesus die, one came to faith, and perhaps some of the guards, but the vast majority did not. Seeing did not convince them that Jesus was dying for the sins of the world. This should not surprise us, because faith is belief without proof. *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen.”* (Heb. 11:1) Faith takes the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God in the heart of man. It is NOT based upon seeing.

In fact, if people will not believe the testimony of the Scriptures, they will not believe, regardless of what they might see. In Luke 16, the rich man was in hell and cried out for Abraham to send Lazarus to the rich man’s house to warn his five brothers that they not also come to the place of torment. Abraham’s reply was, *“They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.”* (Lk. 16:29) But the rich man cried all the more, *“No Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!”* (v. 30) The rich man thought that seeing was believing, especially to see something as miraculous as someone coming back from the dead. But Abraham responded back, *“If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.”* (v. 31)

If people will not believe the testimony of the Scriptures, they will not believe, regardless of what they might see or experience. This is how powerful the Spirit of God is as He works through the Word of God. Preachers in years past went out with just the Word and Spirit of God because they understood this precious truth. How about today?

Selected

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom. 10:17)

Dear Readers of the *Morning Glory* An Appeal for Prayer!

Many sincere people feel that something is missing in their life and that is TRUE. Our Creator’s “instruction manual” has the answers to life’s greatest questions and need! Working behind the scene, we conscientiously seek to be faithful and true to the inspired Word of God, the BIBLE. We strive to give you the Bible in a practical way that will help deal with the pressures and needs of everyday living.

God’s Word tells us how to get to Heaven when we die, and how to live while on the way to that Prepared Place for a Prepared People. This life is actually a dressing room for ETERNITY! Thus we are not only seeking to be ‘biblical’ but also true Lutheran in doctrine, pietistic, conservative and evangelistic in our presenting the Word of GOD!

There are people and evil forces behind them which want to stop the *Morning Glory* from going forth. There is real opposition against this ministry and this publication. This should not be surprising since Satan will oppose the TRUTH because that is what sets people free. (See John 8:31-32) We are addressing issues that nominal Christianity is promoting and exposing it from Scripture for the lies and deceit that it really is. We believe that there is a growing remnant of true believers in Christ who are tired of the compromise they are seeing, not only in Christianity at large, but also in their local churches. Some are shaking their heads in sheer unbelief that things could be as bad as they are, and wondering where they can find true Biblical teaching that meets the needs of their soul. We believe that God has called us to fill that need: Biblical truth through the *Morning Glory* and true Christian worship and fellowship through Bible Conferences, tent meetings, Evangelistic meetings and the like.

We want to be true salt and light in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. But we will fail at this **UNLESS** you earnestly pray for us. Please do not read this and dismiss it. The future of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and the *Morning Glory* depend upon it. The future of Christians and Christian churches are at stake.

Please pray for Us and the Ministry of the same.

THANK YOU!

Update

INTERESTING, FRANK, *REALISTIC*

“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” Romans 13:11.
“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:15-16.

God clearly tells US that where your treasure is there will your heart be also! Let me very frankly, yet in love and concern, relate a realistic practice in our day that becomes more than interesting as you keep the above Bible verses in mind.

WHY is it that likely most ‘Americans’ are willing to invest more for a daily newspaper, weekly periodical and/or monthly magazine than they are to invest in a Biblically sound Christian periodical?

Just guessing but perhaps some of you spend as much as one hundred and fifty dollars for a daily newspaper rather than a faith based ‘free movement’. Perhaps this much for the subscription of a monthly magazine or a weekly periodical *and* by far most of the information therein is either ‘negative’ or ‘fodder’ for the gossip trough! (Say, by the way how much time do you spend a day/week watching TV (some folk probably pay \$300 to \$500 a year for cable/dish TV connection) in **comparison** to reading the BIBLE and secondly reading ‘Christian periodicals’?)

NOW don’t misunderstand ‘me’, it is not wrong to have a daily newspaper, weekly paper, magazine, etc; provided it is clean/good material you consume! BUT what goes into the mind (eyes) MUST come out sooner or later! *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Romans 12:2).

INTERESTING, FRANK, *REALISTIC!* A word to the “wise” should be sufficient! What are our priorities? **It is the LOVE/GRACE of GOD that should ‘constrain’ (empower) US! God loveth a cheerful GIVER!** It’s not so much how much you give, but with what attitude you give that REALLY counts for ETERNITY! Let the LORD lead! **JESUS is Watching!**

January’s income for the Morning Glory was: \$2030.00

Each issue of the Morning Glory costs app. \$2300.

Thank you and may God richly bless YOU All ways, Always! Thank YOU again!

Should a Christian Ever Marry an Unbeliever?

By Dr. R.A. Torrey

Most assuredly not. To do so is to disobey the plainest directions from God’s Word. He says in 2 Corinthians 6:14, *“Be ye not unequally together with unbelievers.”*

When a man and woman marry, they are yoked together in the most complete and intimate sense. By “unbelievers” in this passage, God does not merely mean infidels, but all who have not definitely received Jesus Christ and surrendered their lives to Him.

More promising lives are shipwrecked by a marriage contrary to God’s Word than in almost any other way. Some women marry men for the purpose of converting them. Such marriages result in inevitable and utterable misery. You cannot hope to convert another by disobeying God yourself.

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