

A stylized graphic of a sun with rays, rendered in white and light blue, positioned behind the title text.

# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • March 2009

## The Choice Is Yours

**T**HE greatest question of all time is found in the Bible. In **Matthew 27:22** we read, *“What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?”* That day the Lord Jesus stood before Pilate, the Roman governor.

The Bible says Pilate “knew that for envy they had delivered him,” and that He was a “just man.” Therefore Pilate said to the great throng of people that stood before him, *“Whom will ye that I release unto you, Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?”* When the people asked for Barabbas, Pilate asked the question that we all must answer. We all must do something with the Lord Jesus Christ; we cannot get around it. There the blessed Son of God stands till we make our decision.

*“What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?”* Friend, have you answered this question? THE CHOICE IS YOURS! Jesus Christ may have stood before you many times in the past. He may have knocked at your heart’s door day after day, but there comes a time when we must make our choice and that choice will stand for time and eternity. The eternal God has given you the power to choose, and no one can keep you from your own choice.

The Bible says, “Choose ye this day whom ye will serve! THE CHOICE IS YOURS. The Bible says, *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* (Prov. 14:12)

This is a personal question. Pilate had to do something with Jesus, and so do we. The greatest day in all my life is that day years ago when I made my choice to take Jesus Christ as my Saviour. What a wonderful Saviour He has been to me. This was my choice and this can be your

choice today. Jesus stands there before you just now waiting your decision.

What will it be? Just now you can open your heart’s door and invite Jesus to come into your heart and life and He will come in and save you from your sin. Repent and turn from your sin. Turn to Christ with all your heart and He will save you. He will forgive your past life of sin, the burden of sin will be gone.

You will be a new creature in Christ, a transformed soul. All new down deep in your heart and life. Just make your choice, pray, ask God to save you. Jesus said in John 6:37, *“He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.”* Again the Bible says, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)

Thank God, THE CHOICE IS YOURS; you can answer this question now if you will. You can be a child of God and no one can stop you. No matter what the past has been, no matter how much you have sinned or missed the mark, God will take you into His great family and you will be a child of God, free from all sin.

Jesus Christ is the only way out of sin, to God and salvation. He said, *“I am the way, the truth and the life.”* Think of it, dear friend, salvation from all sin, peace with God and heaven at last, if you choose the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

I know that you have longed to be better, hoped to get rid of sin sometime and somehow. There is just one way and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Just make your choice and the blessed Lord and Saviour will answer your prayer and save you.

*continued on pg. 2*

# Morning Glory

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Pray, “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found.” Hear Him call, “*Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*” Open all your heart to Jesus, invite Him to come into your heart and He will do it. He said, “*If any man will hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him and sup with him and he with me.*”

My dear friend, do you know if you are ready to meet God? Do you know if your sins are forgiven? If not, then you are not ready to meet God or to go to heaven.

So I plead with you, do not lose your soul. Make your choice today before it is forever too late. Loved ones cannot make it for you. The church cannot make it for you. And be sure that even God cannot make it for you. You are the only one who can make a right choice for your own soul’s salvation. Look up to God, tell Him, “I choose Jesus as my Lord and Savior just now.”

Jesus paid the price for your salvation and is waiting to save you now. “*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Rom. 6:23). And in Acts 16:31 we read, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*”

Osterhus Pub. House

*Editor’s Note:* Time is fleeting and EITHER **YOU** are hardening your heart or by His Grace responding positively to His Call unto SALVATION! After you accept JESUS as your personal Savior, YOU need to remain in fellowship with HIM by prayer and reading HIS WORD. As YOU ‘abide, remain, continue, obey,’ IN HIM – **HE will see you through!**

# The Universe Testifies to Creation

Dr. Shelton Smith

The sheer magnitude of space speaks volumes that no evolutionist can answer. There are stars shining this minute (and you'll see them tonight after it gets dark) that have been dead for years and years. Their light totally went out. This moment where that star exists, it is putting forth no light because it died years and years ago. But you and I are still getting light from it because light travels at *only* 186,000 miles a second. The star went out a hundred years ago, but, because it was so far away, even at the speed of 186,000 miles a second, the light is just now getting here.

When I say the enormity of space speaks volumes, it does speak loudly to me.

The strategic order of things testifies loudly. Did you ever wonder why Neptune doesn't run into Mars? Or why there is no need for stop lights and caution lights and speed limit signs in space? Did you ever wonder why the moon comes up on schedule, the sun sets right on time and it doesn't vary off its course? The sun never sets in the north and comes up in the south. Did you ever wonder why it goes routinely from east to west? There's a reason. It's orderly. It's predictable.

Every so often we have a lunar eclipse where the earth gets between the moon and the sun, and the moon is darkened either partially or totally. Sometimes we have a solar eclipse where we get the moon between us and the sun. Those things are entirely predictable to the exact minute. With all those huge heavenly bodies out there wandering around everywhere, it still can be predicted. They can tell us far in advance, that at such and such a time on such and such a morning there will be a solar eclipse, or whatever. They can tell us that because it's all predictable, everything running in order, everything operating by a design, as though it is functioning by legislative law.

Every time you have a law, you have to have a law-giver. You would never have a law if you didn't have somebody giving law. So the very strategic order of things testifies loudly to me.

If Darwin was right, you would think that somewhere

**The odds against the right combination of circumstances occurring to evolve intelligent life on Earth, as estimated by Sir John Eccles, Nobel laureate in neurophysiology, are about 400,000 trillion to one!**

AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, Tennessee

along the line we would have discovered some little evidence. But the development of evolution just isn't there. Every baby born is a human baby. You go check with any vet, and he'll tell you that dogs always give birth to puppies, never kitties. They'll develop black puppies and brown puppies and spotted puppies, but dogs never give birth to chickens. What's the reason? There's a stability of the species, and the volume of tone of that is enormous in disputing evolution.

The Sword of the Lord

**Editor's Note:** *"He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite."* (Psalm 147:4-5)

*"Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things; Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; Not one is missing."* (Isaiah 40:26)

The very first five words in the Bible state the basic fact that explains the origin of the world and all that's in it! *"In the beginning God created ...."* (Genesis 1:1)

On the exact day that Abraham Lincoln was born in Hodgenville, Kentucky (February 12, 1809) Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England.

Lincoln was a great man. He became president of our great USA at the age of fifty-two and led this nation through one of its most critical eras.

At age fifty (1859) Darwin published a book entitled *'On the Origin of Species'*. In it he made his case for an idea called evolution – which is false and the 'devil' is the father of lies!

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WE BELIEVE THAT CREATION TOOK PLACE IN  
SIX LITERAL (24 hour) DAYS

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*If evolution were really true, then the various stages of human evolution ought to be the best documented of all, since man is supposedly the most recent evolutionary arrival and since more people are searching for fossil evidence in this field than in any other. Nevertheless, the actual evidence is still extremely fragmentary and highly equivocal. Exactly which hominid fossils one ancestors of man, as well as when and in what order, are still matters of heated dispute among evolutionary anthropologists.*

Henry M. Morris

## The Authority of the Bible

When an atheist told George Pentecost that he did not believe in the Bible because he did not know who wrote it, Dr. Pentecost asked him, "Is the multiplication table a work of authority with mathematicians?"

"Most certainly," was the answer.

"Do you happen to know who the author of that table is?" was the next question.

When the atheist expressed his ignorance, Dr. Pentecost observed. "Then I suppose, as a matter of fact, being a sensible man and a conscientious skeptic, you never use the multiplication table."

"Oh, yes," he replied, "it proves itself to be true by its work."

"Then," returned the preacher, "shall we not be allowed to say that we know the Bible is a work of absolute authority in religion and morals, whether or not we know its human authors, because it works in its own sphere?"

Tarbell's Teacher's Guide, 1941

\* \* \* \* \*

## God's Will, the Place of Safety

"Is it safe to work among the lepers?" was asked of Sam Higgin – at the bottom of India, whose missionary service was so blessed to the outcasts whom Christ asked us specially to remember.

"Yes," was the answer, "it is safer to work among the lepers, if it's my job, than to work anywhere else." A place of safety outside God's will is too risky a place for any child of God to contemplate.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our Lord warned us that the shepherd who did not stand his ground when the wolves appeared was only a hireling. We are bidden to feed His sheep but not to feed wolves. I grant you that it is often a complicated problem and can be handled only on one's knees.

But we are paying an awful price today for our sweet tolerance of sin within the church. If the church of the Acts had overlooked iniquity and bypassed evil and smilingly looked the other way while the Devil sneaked into every phase of her life as we have done today, Christianity would have died in infancy.

The New Testament church had a healthy, holy intolerance. It got somewhere because it started out on a nar-

row road and stuck to it. It might easily have taken up a dozen wide boulevards and ended in destruction.

We face the peril of the wide gate and the broad way today, and it tantalizes us all the more because "many there be which go in thereat."

We were told a long time ago that "few there be" who take the S. and N., the Strait and Narrow. We Americans especially are gregarious; we like to run with the crowd. We had rather be called almost anything on earth than narrow; yet we chose the adjective, and faithfulness to Him will prove that it still fits today.

Vance Havner

\* \* \* \* \*

*Most of us would like to believe we would be more generous if we just had more money. The world's 946 billionaires help explode that myth. According to Forbes, these wealthiest people on the planet give about 1.2 percent of their annual earnings to charitable causes. Actually, most of all charitable giving comes from the modest wage earners, so be generous with whatever you may have.*

Leadership Magazine

\* \* \* \* \*

## Consider This

Editor J.A. Stueckle writes in the Beacon Intercessor:

"During our lifetime we have heard many varied sermons, and also many types of exhortations in prayer meetings. Many changes have taken place during these years in the themes chosen for a message. One change in particular is that there is more emphases now on "doctrine" and on "Bible exposition." (I believe it has become more on what someone thinks and how to keep numbers – Editor.) It seems to have replaced to a large extent the preaching on coming judgment. Preaching periodically on judgment, for sinners and saints, was as much on the preacher's schedule as any other Biblical subject. Even our Sunday School lesson each quarter had one or more lessons on end-time judgments. Does it not appear an odd incident that, as the evidence of the nearness of judgment mounts, the teaching and reminding us of it has become almost nil. Is this a mere incident or is it a clever plan to keep Christians from becoming spiritually alerted themselves and to keep them from warning the nominal and no-Christians?"

# Is Christ *Your Lord*?

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We do not ask “Is Christ your Savior,?” but is He, really and truly, your **Lord**? If He is not your Lord, then He is most (likely – Editor) certainly not your “Savior.” Those who have not received Christ Jesus as their “Lord” and yet suppose Him to be their “Savior,” are deluded, and their hope rests on a foundation of sand. Multitudes are deceived on this vital point, and therefore, if the reader values his or her soul, we implore you to get a most careful reading to this little (article) tract.

When we ask, “Is Christ your **Lord**,” we do not inquire, “Do you believe in the Godhead of Jesus of Nazareth?” The demons do that (Matt. 8:28, 29) and yet perish notwithstanding! You may be firmly convinced of the Deity of Christ, and yet be in your sins. You may speak of Him with the utmost reverence, accord Him His divine titles in your prayers – and yet be unsaved. You may abominate those who traduce His person and deny His divinity, and yet have no spiritual love for Him at all.

When we ask, Is Christ your **Lord**, we mean, does He in every deed occupy the throne of your heart, does He actually *rule* over your life? “We have turned everyone to his *own way*” (Isa. 53:6) describes the course which all follow by nature. Before conversion every soul lives to please self. Of old it was written, “every man did that which was right in his own eyes,” and why? “*In those days there was no King in Israel*” (Judges 21:25). Ah! That is the point we desire to make clear to the reader. Until Christ becomes your King (1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 15:3), until you bow to His scepter, until His will becomes the rule of your life, *self* dominates, and thus Christ is disowned.

When the Holy Spirit begins His work of grace in a soul, He first convicts of sin. He shows me the *real and awful nature of sin*. He makes me realize that it is a species of insurrection, a defying of God’s authority, a setting of my will against His. He shows me that in going my “own way” (Isa. 53:6), in pleasing myself, I have been fighting against God. As my eyes are opened to see what a lifelong rebel I have been, how indifferent to God’s honor, how unconcerned about His will – I am filled with anguish and horror, and made to marvel that the thrice Holy One has not long since cast me into Hell. Reader, have you ever gone through this experience? If not, there is very grave reason to fear that you are yet spiritually dead!

Conversion, *true conversion, saving conversion*, is a *turning from sin to God in Christ*. It is a throwing down of the weapons of my warfare against Him, a ceasing to despise and ignore His authority. New Testament conversion is described thus: “Ye turned to God from idols to serve (to

be in subjection to, to obey) the living and true God” (1 Thess. 1:9). An “idol” is any object to which we give what is due alone unto God – the supreme place in our affections, the molding influence of our hearts, the dominating power of our lives. Conversion is a right-about face, the heart and will repudiating sin, self, and the world. Genuine conversion is always evidenced by “*Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?*” (Acts 9:6); it is an unreserved surrendering of ourselves to His holy will. Have you yielded yourself to Him? (Rom. 6:13).

There are many people who would like to be saved from Hell, but who do not want to be saved from *self-will*, from leaving their own way, from a life of (some form of) worldliness. But God will not save them on their terms. To be saved, we must submit to His terms: “*Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord* (having revolted from Him in Adam), *and He will have mercy upon him*” (Isa. 55:7). Said Christ, “Whosoever he be of you that *forsaketh not all that he hath* (all that is opposed to me), he *cannot* be My disciple” (Luke 14:33). Men must be turned “from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God,” before they can “*receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified*” (Acts 26:18).

“*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him*” (Col.2:6). That is an exhortation to Christians, and its force is, Continue as you began. But how had they “begun”? By receiving “Christ Jesus **the Lord**,” by surrendering to Him, by subjecting themselves to His will, by ceasing to please themselves. His authority was now owned. His commands now became their rule of life. His love constrained them to a glad and unreserved obedience. They “*gave their own selves to the Lord*” (2 Cor. 8:5). Have you, my dear reader, done this? Have you? Do the details of your life evidence it? Can those with whom you come into contact see that you are no more living to please self (2 Cor. 5:15)?

Oh my reader, make no mistake upon this point: A conversion which the Holy Spirit produces is a *very radical thing*. It is a miracle of grace. It is the *enthroning* of Christ in the life. And such conversions are rare indeed. Multitudes of people have just sufficient “religion” to make them miserable. They refuse to forsake every known sin – and there is no true peace for any soul until he does. They have never “received Christ Jesus the Lord” (Col 2:6). Had they done so, “the joy of the LORD” would be their strength (Neh 8:10). But the language of their hearts and lives (not their “lips”) is, “we will not have this Man to

reign over us”(Luke 19:14). Is that your case?

The great miracle of grace consists in changing a lawless rebel into a loving and loyal subject. It is a “renewing” of the heart, so that the favored subject of it has come to loathe what he loved, and the things he once found irksome are now winsome (2 Cor 5:17). He delights “*in the law of God after the inward man*” (Rom 7:22). He discovers that Christ’s “*commandments are not grievous*” (1 John 5:3), and that “*in keeping of them there is great reward*” (Psa 19:11). Is this your experience? It would be if you received Christ Jesus THE LORD!

But to receive Christ Jesus the Lord is altogether beyond unaided human power. That is the last which the un-renewed heart wants to do. There must be a supernatural change of heart before there is even the desire for Christ to occupy its throne. And that change, none but God can work (1 Cor 12:3). Therefore, “*Seek ye the LORD while He may be found*” (Isa 55:6). Search for Him with all your heart (Jer 29:13). Reader, you may have been a professing Christian for years past, and you may have been quite sincere in your profession. But if God has condescended to use this tract to show you that you have never really and truly “**received Christ Jesus the Lord,**” if now in your own soul and conscience you realize that SELF has ruled you hitherto, will you not now get down on your knees and confess to God. Confess to Him your self-will, your rebellion against him, and beg Him to *so work in you* that, without further delay, you may be enabled to yield yourself completely to His will and become His subject, His servant, His loving slave, in deed and in truth?

By A. W. Pink  
Chapel Library

*Editor’s Note:* What a challenging ‘message’ and yet in this time of GRACE before JESUS’ return (Rapture); nevertheless we still have the ‘old nature’ that we, who know Jesus as our Savior, struggle with *daily*. (**Romans 7**) “*...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*” (**Ephesians 4:22 - 24**) We never ‘graduate’ from Calvary on this side of eternity; BUT please do not use GRACE as a pillow to sin upon!

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## The Way to Be Justified

“*Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified.*” (Romans 10:4)

Here is comfort for troubled sinners. God’s eternal Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, has fulfilled the law for us!

He has fulfilled the demand of the law for perfect righteousness; and he suffered the curse of the law for our sins.

The law demands perfection. This perfection was achieved by the perfect life of Christ. While it is our duty to strive earnestly in putting to death fleshly desires, we discover in the striving that much in our lives is negative to the higher aspiration. But listen! “Christ is the end of the law” for the believer so that “being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

*“Thy grace alone, O God,  
To me can pardon speak;  
Thy power alone, O son of God,  
Can this sore bondage break.  
No other work save thine,  
No other blood will do;  
No strength save that which is divine  
Can bear me safely through.”*

(Horatius Bonar, 1862)

PRAYER: O Lamb of God offered for my sins, by whose righteousness I am made free from the law, teach me confidently to claim daily this holy gift. Help me to bear witness of such mercies that others may share the same, for Jesus’ sake. Amen

Taken from “*Rosenius’ Daily Meditations*  
By Carl O. Rosenius  
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

### ***Abortion Facts***

A conservative estimate of the number of abortions in the United States using figures from the Alan Guttmacher Institute from 1973 to 2009 is **49 million**.

The number of live births per the United States Department of Health and Human Services from 1973 to 2006 is **128 million**.

Using those two numbers, **27%** of all pregnancies in the United States excluding natural miscarriages end in abortion. This percentage is the abortion rate.

An estimated **43%** of American women will have at least one abortion by the age of 45.

Reported abortions in Minnesota, 1973–2006: **516,471**.

An abortion during the first three months costs about **\$300**.

Planned Parenthood performs **one-third** of the abortions in the United States.

Planned Parenthood receives **40%** of its funding from the Federal Government through Title X and Medicaid.

Abortionists are currently killing **1.2 million** babies per year. This is **3,288** per day.

# Observations Of An Evangelist About Church Trends

By Evangelist Jerry Drace

*Editor's Note:* Jerry Drace is an evangelist, associated with the Southern Baptist Convention. While his observations pertain mostly to Baptist churches, we need to sit up and take notice!

Since February 1975, when God led me to establish the Jerry Drace Evangelistic Association, He has allowed me to preach in more than 1,000 churches across our nation. In His divine providence He has placed me in the company of His choicest servants as well as some who seek to be served.

Throughout the past 31 years I have kept notes and observations on each of the pastors, staffs and churches where my team and I have been privileged to present the claims of Christ. I am sure some of these observations will be misunderstood; others will be embraced. I wish to share only 13 in hopes they will serve as a catalyst for your own reflections:

1. I have observed the lowering of the standards of holiness from the pulpit to the pew. It appears we are seeking to develop happy churches, but not holy churches. One pastor stated that he wanted his people to leave the Sunday morning worship feeling “affirmed, approved and applauded.” Whatever happened to leaving feeling confronted, convicted, confessed and cleansed? Spurgeon put it in perspective years ago when he said, “Of all the griefs the church ever feels, the keenest is when those who once stood in her midst dishonor the name of Christ by unholy living.”

2. I have observed the seductive fashions of the world being worn in the worship centers of our churches. Teenage girls and sometimes their mothers wear clothes to church they could neither wear to school nor to the workplace. The same applies to the male gender. We have developed a laxity in our attire and the result has numbed the spiritual senses of being in the presence of Deity. I am fully aware that God looks on the heart, but clothing, or the lack thereof, should not distract from looking into His face.

3. I have observed more and more churches having fewer and fewer revivals. Of course, the rural churches always hold a revival, whether they actually have one or not, the third week of August. Vance Havner once said, “Preachers speak of ‘holding revivals.’ Somebody ought to turn one loose!” Real revival – which takes prayer and preparation and sees scores ushered into the Kingdom and

church members rekindling the fire within – is quickly giving way to one-day events. We have stopped singing “Take Time to Be Holy,” because we don’t have time.

4. I have observed more and more churches decreasing from mortification rather than increasing due to salvation. There is more life outside in most church cemeteries than inside on the pews. At least in the cemeteries the grass grows and the flowers bloom. If there is not a revival in our land many of our rural churches will be turned into antique malls. If you don’t believe this, visit Great Britain.

5. I have observed more and more churches growing by transferring letters than transforming lives. It doesn’t take a genius to build a church numerically. Given the right staff and programs you can fill a church. However, there is an eternal difference between filling a church with people and filling the people inside the church.

6. I have observed more and more pastors and evangelists preaching someone else’s sermons rather than studying and preaching their own. The call to preach has been replaced with the desire to succeed. Being an expounder of the Word requires time alone with God. Being a mouth for God to the people of God is an awesome responsibility. Preaching someone else’s sermon doesn’t guarantee your anointment. If the sermon isn’t gathered and set ablaze in the pastor’s heart, it likely won’t spread to the hearts of the church members. Some of the greatest proclaimers of the Good News are seldom heard because they neither pastor a mega church nor are they featured speakers on Christian cruises.

7. I have observed unethical and even immoral conduct by religious leaders with little or no remorse on their part once the deeds were made public. The graveyard of compromise is filled with those who listened to the sirens of the world. Accountability and integrity were sacrificed for personal gain and puffed-up egos. When Christian leaders become legends in their own minds the ice has already broken.

8. I have observed the policies of the community dictating the policies of the church, especially in the area of sports. We now schedule events of the church around the athletic calendar of our schools or recreational departments. We have surrendered to the god of sports. Many of our parents allow their children to play their favorite sport on Sunday morning with the rationale, “What can we do about it?” These same parents wouldn’t allow their chil-

dren to skip school for a church event. We even close our churches on Sunday nights if it is a national holiday. Good thing God doesn't cancel His services.

9. I have observed more and more churches teaching the latest trends in church growth rather than the doctrines of the Scriptures. We have churches full of people who can quote from the latest church-growth guru, but for the life of them they can neither recall nor defend any of the doctrines of the Bible. We can be seeker friendly and purpose driven, but if we fail to seek Christ and find our purpose in Him alone all the books, seminars and mega conferences will only impede the salvation of the lost and the disciplining of the saved.

10. I have observed us becoming a people who enjoy the expression of worship without encountering the experience of worship. No one enjoys the beautiful choruses more than me, yet with the freedom of style which this has ushered into our churches, we must be careful not to allow our performance to overshadow His presence. Celebration without commitment leads to worthless worship.

11. I have observed religion becoming big business. Christian recording artists are now referred to as superstars, and certain pastors are touted as religious CEOs. Religious leaders have evolved from troublemakers of society to trend-setters in society. We have religious personalities who are known as much for their political creeds as their theological convictions. Simple statements from the Bible are marketed into multimillion dollar enterprises. An executive in a Christian publication company once told me, "It's all about the buck." You half expect to see certain religious organizations listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

12. I have observed a few proclaimers who have compromised their call because of cowardly commitment to the truths of God's word. This brings about a deceitful delivery of devilish doctrines. The end result is a man who panders to the people and prostitutes the proclamation in the process. When wickedness enters the doors of the church it soon spreads throughout the land without any opposition. Satan himself could not have better allies than pastors who refuse to preach the truths of the Scriptures and church members who refuse to live godly lives.

13. I have observed a righteous remnant in every church who have a hunger and thirst for experiencing God to the fullest. It is this group both young and old, who will pass on the teachings and doctrines of Holy Scripture to the next generation. Praise God for ministers and members who are not driven by fashions and trends, but remain faithful and true to fulfilling the Great Commission.

Taken from *'The Vine and the Branches'*

## "It Is the Blood . . . ."

*Leviticus 17:10-16*

In some circles today, the importance of the shed blood of Christ is subject to debate. Many suggest that the term *blood* unnecessarily offends the lost. They claim that the death of Christ is of central concern, not the blood that flowed from the crucified body of the Lord of Glory. But what does the Bible say? God's Word certifies that Christ's blood does, indeed, have incalculable power and worth. The Old Testament types and prophecies foreshadowed not only the death of the substitutionary Sacrifice but also the way in which He would lay down His life as the divine Sin-bearer. The offering God required for sin had to be through the shedding of blood: "*For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul*" (v.11). The Lord placed a particular emphasis upon the blood. Why?

First, the offering of this blood necessitated the death of the sacrifice – "the life of the flesh" had to be taken. It was not enough that our Lord lived a sinless life and provided the perfect example. He had to die. Second, God is the One who provides the sacrifice – "I have given it to you." God's provision for our salvation is from His hand, not from the works of our own. The Father provided by His grace the supreme sacrifice. And, third, "it is the blood that maketh an atonement"; only the blood is efficacious. Why? God says it is! He has established how sin must be dealt with, not man. The efficacious nature of the blood runs from Genesis through Revelation. How dare anyone depreciate what the Lord has deemed is essential to our salvation. DWC

Taken from 'Feature'  
Fundamental Evangelistic Association, Inc.  
Telephone 805 – 528-3534

*"God can remold a broken vessel and use "it" for His Glory, seldom the proud."*

# Editorial

RES

## *Threefold Purpose Or Function Of God's Law*

*"But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully." (1 Timothy 1:8)*

On his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday Robert Halbert received a registered parcel containing a tissue-wrapped instrument he quickly recognized as a surgeon's knife or scalpel. Robert, a student in medical school planning to specialize in surgery, was intrigued by the glistening knife even though it was not new.

Enclosed with the instrument was a note from an old friend, a famed surgeon, who had been the family physician as long as Robert could remember. Actually, because of this doctor, it became a real factor why he had decided to become a doctor himself. The note was brief and began: 'Dear Bob: I am mailing you a gift I have saved for you for 21 years. One night before you were born I was called to attend a beautiful young woman who was very ill. An operation was necessary, and this little knife was used to perform it. The young woman died as a result of the operation ....'

Bob glanced at the instrument, glittering in the sunshine that filtered through an open window, and a strange revulsion came over him. The thought that the scalpel had caused the death of a human being sickened him and made the knife a hideous object in his sight. But he read on:

"Like most of us, the young woman did not want to die. She had much for which to live. Besides her devoted husband, she had a fine son of 6 and a beautiful little daughter of 3; and now she was about to be a mother again. Her eagerness for the third baby was intense. That baby was you, Bob. The young woman was your mother ..."

The note concluded: "Everything medical science could do was done to save you both. It was your mother's desire that no matter what happened to her, you should be saved; and she went into the operation fully aware of the possible consequences. So, you see, Bob, this scalpel gave you your life, even though it cost your mother hers. I am sure you will prize it."

This reminds me of even a much greater TRUTH: "*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God*" **1 Corinthians 1:18**.

Not everyone likes to hear what God's Law has to say and even some 'Christians' are upset when the 'LAW' is preached.

Martin Luther shares that there are **three** functions or purposes of the LAW: **1.** Judicial – civic, **2.** To show 'us' our NEED and **3.** Guidance for the believer.

**1. Judicial – civic.** As it was in Noah's and Lot's time, so it is today and basically **Ecclesiastes 8:11-12** tells us why! By the way, have you ever wondered what happened to SIN?

Seemingly in our day about the worst that happens is someone's 'failure or mistake' and, IF that person gets 'caught', it probably then is SIN. Well, God is a God of *absolutes* as HE will never change – **Malachi 3:6 & Hebrews 13:8**. YES, we definitely are living in the New Testament Era, in this marvelous period of GRACE; but HIS LAW is also forever settled in Heaven (not speaking of ceremonial laws of the Old Testament). Luther speaks of God's Law (in the secular sense) as like putting a lion in a cage; but it doesn't change his heart. Just because the 'laws' of the land, at times change, God's Law will never change!

**2. Need.** Wherever God's Law is not preached – sin will move in! That means in the individual life, Community and Nation. Martin Luther also states: that where sin is not dealt with (individual) the Bible is a closed Book! He further mentions: "To pray properly, one must first despair of his merits and come to God clothed in the imputed righteousness of Christ, for apart from Christ no one is 'worthy to speak with the Lord' – indeed, says Luther, "if I were righteous, I would not pray' – 'if anyone is not resting completely in the finished work of Christ, prayer will spring from a false sense of personal merit and God will not hear."

The Law of God knows *no elastic*, it is **absolute** (so is the entire Bible **absolute**) and the Law demands holiness, sinlessness, perfection, YET written in **Agape (Divine Love)**. The function/purpose of the Law is not to enslave, but spiritually slay! Thus God intends that His Law be preached in LOVE as it is given in LOVE for 'our' benefit. Without the Law there is no knowledge of sin – **Romans 3:10, 18-20, 7:7-12, & 1 Timothy 1:9-11**.

A missionary shared that after they had cut down the 'tall grass' for the purpose of planting vegetation, he was surprised how much there was. How true it is of our lives, as God's Law is His Perfect Will and it is like a *mirror* as we look at ourselves in the light of His Law – how many 'snakes' (sin) there are in our lives. HE LOVES 'us' so much that HE wants 'us' to see our NEED!

Our 'righteousness' is like *filthy rags* before a thrice Holy God! **Isaiah 64:6**. Notice what God wants HIS Law to do in our lives: **Galatians 3:24, Luke 19:10, Psalm 19:7 & Colossians 2:14**.

**So God's Law** is shared with 'us' in its fullness, sternness and YET in LOVE! *If you really love people you will give them the TRUTH of God's Word!* "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" **Titus 3:5**.

### 3. Guidance for the believer.

Hans Neilsen Hauge shares that the repentant sinner who takes 'refuge' in Jesus only for his Salvation is removed from the 'condemnation' of the Law; but not compliance to the Law! **Romans 8:1**. Actually GOD shares, "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination" **Proverbs 28:9**. "He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded" **Proverbs 13:13**. BUT keep in mind that a repentant 'sinner' is under the BLOOD of the Crucified and Risen **ONE**. As soon as we get 'under' the Law, we will loose our 'joy' in the Lord and no doubt eventually loose His 'assurance' of SALVATION. **Galatians 3:25, chapter 5**. YET Jesus shares that, IF we love HIM, we will keep His Commandments and they are not grievous. In other words, such a repentant, believing sinner is not doing it in order to be saved, but because he is SAVED! Salvation is not a merit that is earned. – **John 15:9-17, Galatians 3:22 & Romans 8:7**. In **Proverbs 19:27** we see "Cease listening to instruction, my

son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge." In Luther's Small Catechism Explained we learn: "What does the daily forgiveness of sins work in the Christian?" "*The daily renewal, or that he day by day becomes more and more thankful to God, and increases in child like obedience and faithfulness*". Charles Spurgeon, shares, "I have a great need but I have a great Christ for my need." A person is not saved by trying to 'keep' the Law, anymore than putting a 'horse' in a 'garage' and calling it a 'car'!

Many misunderstand **Matthew 5:17-20** thinking that JESUS did away with the Law; but actually HE states that he came to 'fulfill' the Law (in our stead); but HE is in full agreement with the Law and encourages 'teaching' of the same.

Isn't it marvelous that the way of the CROSS leads Home and the ground at the foot of the 'cross' is level! There is Mt. Sinai and Mt. Calvary; which of these two places do you take refuge? A Christian never graduates from CALVARY on this side of **eternity**.

## Listen to J. C. Ryle

"Controversy in religion is a hateful thing. It is hard enough to fight the devil, the world, and the flesh without private differences in our own camp. But there is one thing that is even worse than controversy, and that is false doctrine tolerated, allowed and permitted without protest or molestation. It was controversy that won the battle of the Protestant Reformation. If the views that some men hold were correct, it is plain we never ought to have had any Reformation at all! For the sake of peace, we ought to have gone on worshipping the Virgin, and bowing down to images and relics to this very day! Away with such trifling. There are times when controversy is not only duty but a benefit. Give me the mighty thunderstorm rather than the pestilential malaria. The one walks in darkness and poisons us in silence, and we are never safe. The other frightens and alarms for a little season. But it is soon over and it clears the air. It is plain Scriptural duty to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3)."

*Editor's Note:* Might the *Hauge Lutheran Inner-mission Federation/Morning Glory* be a little lifeboat or lifeboats (Bible Conferences, Evangelistic Meetings, Fellowship Circles, etc.) into which tired pilgrims, hungry and awakened and disillusioned souls can flee and find refuge. YES, **feed** My lambs, My sheep and reach the unsaved! (By God's Grace).

To that end let "US" work, watch and pray!

## A Scheduled Hour

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the son, but the Father only. As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man"* Matthew 24:35-47.

The return of Christ was declared by the two men "in white robes" who stood in the midst of the disciples when Jesus ascended to heaven. They said, "*Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:10,11).

This proclamation was clear and unmistakable. The first church and earlier generations held firmly to this assurance that the Lord would return soon. This hope and anticipation is an essential part of a life of faith. The Christian faith holds fast to the anticipation, just as the early Christians were hoping that Christ would return soon and that they would be taken up to be with him.

*"O hasten thine appearing,  
Thou bright and morning star!  
Lord, may we soon be hearing  
The trumpet sound afar;  
Thy people all are yearning  
To be thy raptured bride,  
And at thine own returning  
Be caught up to thy side.*

(S. M. Miller, 1922)

PRAYER: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Amen.

Taken from "*Rosenius' Daily Meditations*"

By Carl O. Rosenius  
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

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## TV Stations Ban ...

Two TV stations, WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids, MI and WSYX -TV in Columbus, OH, have banned a television special showing by American Family Association called "Speechless .... Silencing the Christians." This showing was scheduled to be shown; but because of the demands of a handful of homosexuals activists it was yanked, imagine after agreeing to run it and AFA was paying for the time.

They said the program was "controversial." The stations do not consider showing two lesbians, two homosexuals kissing or getting into bed with each other controversial. The manager of the Columbus station told AFA the station would not air the program because telling the truth about homosexuality did not represent "positive Christianity." 2/13/09

## Lottery Sales Surge During Hard Times

Times are tough, but lottery sales are up. Nationwide lottery revenue has been on the rise annually since 1992, according to a January 12, 2009 story in the *Nashville Tennessean*. Even during the financial meltdown of recent months, more than half the states with one or more lottery games are reporting an upswing in sales.

Lotteries are another scheme operated by the government to siphon more money from the pocket of folks who earn it. It is little more than a scam that preys on the weak and vulnerable.

While there are a few "winners," the thing is calculated for the government to be the big winner. If you buy into the scheme, you are almost certain to lose.

Beware the lottery temptation!

Sword Press

*Editor's Note:* The Lottery is coveting and stealing and those are SINS!

## House Speaker Says Abstinence Programs Dangerous

In mid-year 2008, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D. - Calif.) spoke on abstinence programs at the super-liberal "Netroots Nation" blogger conference. The Speaker called abstinence-only programs "dangerous" to America's youth and said that the only solution is to elect more pro-abortion politicians.

Family Research Council

## Muslims' Foothold in American Politics

A bold headline in USA Today stated it clearly: "American Muslims Gaining a Foothold in Politics."

It is true that the Muslims in America tend to be more westernized or Americanized than their Middle Eastern counterparts, but that should not be given too much weight.

It has yet to be demonstrated anywhere in the world (not even once) that an American-style democracy can survive when Muslims are in the majority.

Furthermore, a strong Muslim presence almost always means a hard time for Christians and Jews.

Even the moderate-sounding Muslim voices here in America have been reticent to speak too long or too loud about Muslim tyranny and Muslim terrorism.

With an ongoing track record of intolerance and violence, it doesn't make any sense at all to give place to anything Islamic.

Sword Press

## ELCA Leaves Gay Clergy Decision to Local Churches

Unable to agree, a task force will submit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America a proposal to leave ordination of gays up to congregations and synods.

The long-awaited position on ordaining gay clergy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America isn't a clear yes or no.

An ELCA task force admitted Thursday [Feb. 19] that it could not reach a consensus on the issue that has polarized its members for years. But with the matter expected to dominate this summer's national convention in Minneapolis, its position paper offers this suggested solution:

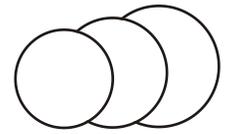
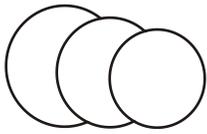
The ELCA will allow the ordination of gay pastors but will leave it up to individual congregations and synods whether to ordain or appoint pastors. The term used to describe this compromise is "structured flexibility."

While acknowledging that such an intentionally vague policy probably won't play well with "the bumper sticker crowd," the bishop of the St. Paul Area synod, the Rev. Peter Rogness, said it reflects the ELCA's practice of trying to match ministers to congregations. He compared it to a rural congregation feeling that it would rather call a minister with a rural background, for instance.

"The Lutheran Church has never imposed anything on anyone," he said. "We never have, and we never will."

Leaders of Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Reform), a group that describes its mission as seeking "to preserve the authority of the Bible in the ELCA," quickly announced that it will work to defeat the proposal at the convention.

By Jeff Strickler  
*Star Tribune*, Feb. 20, 2009



# From our Fellowship Circle

**VO** **Viroqua, WI**  
I appreciate the 'Morning Glory', it's a real blessing. I still think it's one of the best papers I receive. Thank you for your work.

**An Iowa Reader**  
Thank you for the good magazine. Keep up the good work! Pray for me and ...Church and the people who voted to leave the ELCA. We were in the majority but lacked enough to be the 2/3 majority. God is so good!!

**JR** **Lake City, IA**  
Enclosed find a ... gift in appreciation of your magazine. I wish it could be more for such a fine Christian Publication. From cover to cover it is filled with Christian news, information and food for thought. Thank you and keep up this fine work.

**HB** **Ortonville, MN**  
Just a note to say Thank You for the 'Morning Glory'. I look forward to each copy. It's very encouraging, in these trying times, it's so good to receive the truth. Gods Blessings upon you.

**ND readers**  
Thank you for the work you people do for the Morning Glory! We look forward to receiving it and since God's Word is so hard to come by these days, it becomes that much more valuable! Please put these two names on your mailing list as our children are not receiving much spiritual food in the church they attend – nothing to grow on. A gift enclosed. In Christ's Love.

**HO** **Lyngdal, Norway**  
I want to say thank you very much for a lot of good stuff through several years. I suppose that it must have been some of my relatives in the US that have ordered it sent to me. I am now 87 years old, and my eyesight is growing more dim. I therefore ask you to stop sending me the MG. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas 2008 and a Happy and Peaceful New Year 2009.

**DML** **Goldfield, IA**  
We remember you in our prayers every day. God Bless you in your work. We find such good articles in every one we receive. In Christ, ...

(PTL for intercessors! Editor)

**LM** **Rolette, ND**  
Thank you for a periodical that preaches the truth. We need that now more than ever before. Enclosed find check to help a Biblical cause.

(Psalm 91:4 "...his truth shall be our shield and buckler." ED)

**DJ** **Horace, ND**  
Thank you for the Christ-centered articles in the Morning Glory. I share your paper with my daughter. I would be most interested in the 'Altar Steps'. Enclosed is a donation toward that. Yours In Christ.

**BH** **Blooming Prairie, MN**  
Thank you for your faithfulness to the Word of God and to those who love the Lord and are waiting His return. In the love of Christ.

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## BUILD SOME WALLS

It looks so appealing to be involved in some common prayer service or join hands with others in some ecumenical gathering where we are calling upon some nebulous God defined in different ways. It looks so loving and kind, and it impresses dignitaries and higher-ups – but it does not impress God!

We hear so often about building bridges of understanding to other people of other faiths.

I want to remind you that throughout Scriptures you never read of one bridge, but you find lots of walls.

Dr. Dan Reed (Acworth, Georgia)

### **OVERHEARD IN THE ORCHARD**

*Said the Robin to the Sparrow,  
"I should really like to know  
Why these anxious human beings  
Rush about and worry so."*

*Said the Sparrow to the Robin,  
"Friend, I think that it must be  
That they have no heavenly Father  
Such as cares for you and me."*

—Elizabeth Cheney

# Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus

This poem was written in 1858 by George Duffield, Jr., 1812-1888.

The tune was composed in 1837 by George James Webb, 1803-1887.

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
Ye soldiers of the cross,  
Lift high his royal banner,  
It must not suffer loss;  
From victory unto victory  
His army shall He lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished,  
And Christ is Lord indeed.*

MANY and varied are the sources of inspiration that lie behind the composing of our great hymns. Sometimes an intense joy in the world of nature is the inspiration, as in "This Is My Father's World," and in "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." Sometimes an impressive visit to a memorable place has been the occasion, as in Phillips Brooks' visit to the Holy Land which led to his writing "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Again, a little child's act of trust and faith may have inspired the hymn, as in "God Will Take Care of You."

Behind a great militant hymn there is a spirit of courage and independence, a strong and gallant character, able to stand up against rebuffs and disappointments, a conviction that the principles of right have to be vigorously defended against a powerful enemy. Of such fine caliber was the young man whose life inspired the writing of a hymn that rings out like a clarion call, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus."

Rev. Dudley A. Tyng, a young minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, had been attracting notice in Philadelphia, in the early 1850s, for the extraordinary strength and appeal of his life and preaching. His ardent proclaiming of his convictions, especially for church union and against slavery soon, however, aroused the hostility of certain groups. In his own church, the Church of the Epiphany, the feeling ran so high against him that he was compelled to resign.

Young, keen, and full of vigor, Mr. Tyng must have left bitterly disappointed at this blow. His faith in his principles remained undaunted, however, and in 1857 he organized the Church of the Covenant holding the services in a public hall. In addition, during that winter, 1857-58, although he was then only thirty-three years old, he became one of the leading forces in the revival of religion that was spreading throughout the country at this time. This new wave of religious feeling was especially pronounced in

Philadelphia, where it was referred to as "the work of God in Philadelphia." Mr. Tyng and several other young ministers, including his close friend, George Duffield, Jr., of the Presbyterian Church, were among the leaders of this movement.

The Young Men's Christian Association, then in its early days, was sponsoring, during this period, great noon-day prayer meetings held at Jayne's Hall in Philadelphia. Here, Mr Tyng's magnetic power as a speaker, the broad sympathy of his views and his spirit, brought him into the forefront as leader of young men. The most noted of his messages at these meetings was the one he gave on March 30, 1858, taking as his text Exodus 10:11 "Go now, ye that are men, and serve the Lord." Five thousand men had gathered to hear him; inspired by the fervor of Tyng's appeal, it is said that over a thousand men dedicated their lives to Christ. This was one of the most successful sermons ever preached in America.

Two weeks after this great meeting came the tragic accident that cut short his career. While he was at his home in the country at Brookfield, near Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, Mr. Tyng left his study to go to the barn, where a machine was operating, shelling corn. The sleeve of his gown caught in the moving machinery, his arm was pulled in, and he was so seriously injured that the outcome was fatal. After a brief but intense period of suffering, he died on Monday, April 19, 1858.

The strange, almost miraculous power of a hymn to comfort and bring peace in time of need was illustrated during the last hours of this young man's life. Tyng suddenly roused to say to those about him, "Sing! Sing! Can you not sing!" and then himself began to sing "Rock of Ages."

The sad announcement of Tyng's death, made next day at the noon-day meeting, shocked and stunned the whole city of Philadelphia. The painful circumstances of the accident, the tragic and seemingly needless cutting short of a career so full of brilliant promise, brought bewildered protests from many hearts. Yet above this sorrow rose the young man's own ringing message, "Let us all stand up for Jesus!" Stronger than death was his indomitable courage.

With his friend's last words ringing in his heart, Reverend George Duffield went home from Tyng's funeral service. The message shaped itself into the poem, the exhortation to service, which was to become one of the outstanding American hymns. The next Sunday, Mr. Duffield preached a sermon about his friend, choosing as his text the passage, "Stand, therefore having your loins girt about

with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness,” Ephesians 6:10. He closed with his poem “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus.” The superintendent of the Sunday School, immediately impressed with the vigor and power of the verses, had it printed for the use of the Sunday School. It soon found its way into a Baptist newspaper, and has been translated into German, and many other languages, and circulated all over the world.

Probably no other American hymn, except “My Faith Looks Up to Thee,” by Ray Palmer, has been included in as many hymn books as has this stirring and martial song.

Taken from “*Stories of Hymns We Love*”  
by Cecilia Margaret Rudin, M.A.

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## “A LITTLE WHILE”

*Read John 16:16-23*

Weeping Christians, it is better to enter heaven with tears than hell with laughter. Listen to the words of Jesus: “In a little while: everything will be changed. Today you weep; tomorrow you may enter eternal blessedness. Yes, even before the sun sinks in the west today your heavenly Father may have wiped the last tear from your eyes. If your Savior were to come in the clouds today to receive you, would you be sorry that you had been weeping for a little while? Would you exchange with him who now laughs?

But even if he should come neither today nor tomorrow, we can be certain that it is only a little while until He comes. Measured against eternity our time on earth is but as a sigh.

*Soon we are home and shall stand before Him;  
What matter then, though we have suffered here.  
Then He shall crown us, while we adore Him;  
So death and all our pains will disappear.*

But you people who seem to rejoice apart from God! Bear in mind that in a little while you will never be happy again. When the time of grace is over, and you depart from God forever, then you will enter the place of eternal lament. Not a ray of hope for better days will enter that place. The sun has descended upon your life for the last time. There will never be another invitation for you to come to God. The dark shadows of death are everywhere, and you spend eternity’s night in weeping.

I would counsel you to find your place near to the heart of your Savior, there to weep over your sins today. Everyone who weeps over his sins now has hopes of better days. For him the road leads away from sorrow and to

eternal blessedness.

*What blessedness were yours today,  
If you began right now to walk upon that way.*

Finally, a word to you who are Christians!

In a little while your day of labor will be over. No one will ask you again to speak to others about the Savior. You shall have no further opportunity to comfort a discouraged soul, to strengthen a doubting friend, or to give another gift to missions.

“In a little while ”

Make use of your precious days. Serve the Lord, and help your neighbor to find Him. Do not complain because you have too much to do for God; rather rejoice that He has given you the privilege of being His servant. In a little while you will rest from your labor, and your works shall follow you. All which is from God returns to Him. “*And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away.*” (Rev. 21:4).

Taken from the book “*Spirit and Power*”  
By Ludvig Hope

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## REFLECTION

Greetings from 1 Peter 1:1-9. This portion of Scripture was a blessing to me this morning. “The living hope” – is there a message which this world needs more today than this? Hope in the time of discouragement, frustration, and anxiety. Let us ask ourselves: How did we attain this living hope which we boast of today? Was it through some achievement of our own? Or perhaps by some wonderful experience which we have enjoyed?

The hope which Peter speaks about is based upon the resurrection of Christ. The very doctrine of the resurrection of Christ makes the “Christian” religion superior and different from other religions. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians that if this be removed from our message, our preaching is vain and we have nothing but a dead faith and we are still in our sins. But because He died, was buried, arose from the dead and ascended unto the Father, it is possible for us to have a “living hope.” Isn’t it good to know that you and I had absolutely no part in this perfect plan of redemption? It is all of the “father’s abundant mercy” that you and I have been saved.

How often haven’t we found ourselves sitting with a paper and pencil, figuring our financial standing. This is a very common practice in the business world, and we Christians are also obligated to do so at various times.

Even though one might be able to manage his financial affairs to the best of his ability, there is still a danger of it losing its value.

In accordance with verse four we see that this property which is held in reserve for us is in safe hands. Often we feel confident of ourselves and perhaps have the feeling of superiority, but let us never forget that it is only by the grace of God that we will be kept. By grace we are saved and by grace we are kept from day to day. 1 Peter 1:5 states very clearly that it is by faith. All our good deeds, our prayers, giving of gifts will be to no avail if we have not placed our salvation in the finished work of Christ. All these other things will be the result of our love for the Master and our fellow men.

Why do we have to have our faith tested? Certainly there is a real danger in our time, such as it was in the time of Peter. The Word tells us that our faith is more precious than gold. The most valuable of all materials is of less importance. We all desire to have the faith which is found in Christ. It is only this faith which shall stand the test of time and will in the end bring you safely home.

It is very important to have our faith tested so it will be purified. This is done by the various testings permitted by the Father. Haven't the trials, testings, times of sorrow often been the means of driving us closer to the cross? If it hasn't done this, all these things have been of no avail. (1 Pet. 1:6,7).

May our faith not cease till we behold Him in His fullness. When the final trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall rise, then, and then only, will we no longer have need of faith (1Cor. 15:23).

At this time we would like to say to you all, "*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*" (1 Pet. 1:13, ff)

Shirley & Orville Olson

*Editor's Note:* This letter was printed in the April 21, 1965 issue of the Morning Glory. Just this past September Shirley went Home to be with JESUS! Isn't it marvelous though, that God does not CHANGE. (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8) His promises NEVER change either!

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## BELIEVE GOD'S WORD

*It is strange we trust each other and only doubt our Lord.  
We will take the word of mortals and yet distrust His Word.  
But, oh, what light and glory would shine o'er all our days,  
If we always would remember that He means just what He says.*

A. B. Simpson

## EASTER

*Joyous Easter will soon be here  
Jesus triumphed o'er the grave.  
We thank and praise you through each year  
You died so our lives you'd save.  
We read about Pharisees and Scribes  
And how they tried to test you  
But how often have we offered bribes  
To get what we want too?  
The miracles you performed on earth  
Before they condemned you to die  
Can only compare to the Virgin birth.  
Oh, why did they say, "Crucify!"?  
You led the multitude and walked on the sea  
And caused Peter's faith to increase  
"Keep your eyes on you"—now that's the key  
And our storms of life will decrease.  
"My yoke is easy and the burden light"  
How can we doubt our Lord?  
"Suffer the children to come unto me"  
It's all here in His Holy Word.  
It hurts so to read how you suffered and died  
How you hung upon the tree;  
You were mocked and scourged and crucified.  
And died so innocently.  
The temple curtains were torn in two  
The earth shook and rocks split apart  
"Truly this was the Son of God"  
Now fear entered every heart.  
His body was laid in Joseph's tomb  
With a rock to seal the door.  
He was in God's care as in Mary's womb.  
He could not be harmed any more.  
The angel descended on the third day  
The guards became like dead men.  
The stone at the door was rolled away  
And Jesus came forth again.  
He lives! He lives! I know He lives!  
And He is calling to you and me  
Open your heart – accept what He gives  
He offers it generously.  
He is at your door and wants to come in;  
Won't you open for Him today?  
He knows your heart and sees your sin –  
Only He can take them away.*

By Mrs. Bud Haugen  
Snohomish, WA

## Update

### RESPONSES

*“Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” Galatians 6:6-7.*

Scripturally ‘we’ do not ‘give’ in order to get; BUT God does promise that we shall receive according to our attitude resulting in our ‘response’. In our text, God reminds ‘us’ that how we treat truly godly, Scriptural Leaders (remember such also are sinners saved by GRACE) will have some effect in regards to what we receive! Our ‘response’ is in conjunction to our ‘attitude’. How you treat your pet, car, etc. is a response, (attitude) towards the same. So God clearly states that what we ‘sow’ we shall also ‘reap’. He further states that where your ‘treasure is’ there will be ‘your heart’ also!

Have you made provisions to where your earthly possessions will be invested when you are through with this ‘journey of life’? How about prayerfully considering remembering the *Morning Glory*, Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation in your will? (If you are being blest through this ministry!)

REGARDLESS, we stand in need of continued support as ‘we’ press on and go forward in this portion of His Great Kingdom’s Work! **First of all, your prayer support**, encouragement and finances as the Lord lays on your heart. We appreciate any and all gifts; but once again I want to challenge you in regards to regularity; IF that is feasible for you.

**“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you” Luke 6:38.** (How many challenges do you find in this ONE verse and how many **promises**?)

**P. S.** Naturally, now with a part-time Field Representative of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation our expenses have increased. The Field Representative will *primarily* communicate with you through telephone, letter and E-mail. We trust this will be beneficial in fellowship, encouragement, arranging for Bible Conferences, Special Services, possible advice, etc.

January 2009 Income for ‘Morning Glory’ was \$1,647.00. Cost for each issue of the *Morning Glory* is approximately \$2,375.

We have received additional ‘funds’ for the printing and publishing of the family devotional book by Pastor R. P. Haakonson “*Altar Steps*,” but still need several hundred dollars before it is put to press. Would you like to assist in this step of faith also?

## Hauge Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation (Morning Glory) will be held at Stavanger Free Lutheran Church of Garden City, Iowa on June 12-14, 2009. The scheduled Guest Speakers are: Pastors Earl Korhonen, Jim Haga, and Rod Stueland, Lord willing. Pastor Korhonen is the Host Pastor. Part of the ‘messages’ will deal with some of the *Attributes of God!*

Please **PRAY** for the Conference and, IF possible, plan on taking in at least part of the ‘conference’ IF not all of it!

More information will be forth-coming! It’s most certainly not too soon to consistently pray for the Conference and plan now to attend. (3 Motels are located in Story City, which is 15 miles from Garden City). May our Crucified and Risen Savior be **GLORIFIED!** Again those ‘dates’ are June 12-14, 2009. Expect Great Things from our GREAT GOD!

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