



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • March 2017

## Which Church Saves?

By Oswald J. Smith

**M**ust we become Protestants in order to be saved?”  
“Not at all, my friends. I wouldn’t waste my time trying to convert you to Protestantism.” “But you do not believe that neither the Roman Catholic nor the Greek Catholic Church can save, do you?”

“Certainly not.”

“Well, then, I am a Roman Catholic; and my friend here is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, neither of which you say can save.”

“Well?”

“And you – you are a Protestant. You believe that Protestantism can save, do you not.”

“No, I do not.”

“You don’t? I am amazed. What then?”

“Protestantism has no more power to save than has Catholicism, my friends.”

“What, then! How can a man be saved?”

“I repeat, my friends, that neither the Roman Catholic, the Greek Orthodox, nor the Protestant churches can in any way save your souls.”

“But, sir!”

“Wait a minute. No church can save, but Jesus Christ can.”

“Jesus!”

Yes, my friends, you are saved not by any church, either Catholic or Protestant, but a Person; and that Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, is God’s only begotten Son.”

“Can it be possible? And to think that we have never heard this before!”

“So you see that it would do no good for you to become Protestants, for there are thousands of Protestants who are not saved, thousands who have professed to em-

brace Christianity who have never accepted the Christ of Christianity.”

“Is that why we have not found peace? Is there no peace in Catholicism?”

“No, friend, and none in Protestantism either. Peace is found only in Jesus. Religion cannot save; but Christ can.”

“But are you sure of this, sir?”

“Absolutely. ‘Neither is there salvation in any other (Protestant or Catholic): for there is none other name (Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic or Protestant) under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved’ (Acts 4:12) is His Word.”

“Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He (not the Catholic priest nor the Protestant minister, but He – Jesus Christ) shall save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).

“What, then, must we do?”

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved” (Acts 16:31); “...as many as receive Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God” (John 1:12).

“And will He receive us?”

“Listen to what HE says: ***Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”*** (John 6:37). **“THANK GOD.”**

“Yes, my friend, thank God indeed, for He loves you. Yes, He died for you. Your sins He bore ‘in His own body on the tree’ (1Peter 2:24). And now He offers you salvation. Then come, accept Him, trust His atoning death; believe His promise and rely wholly on Him, for ‘He will have mercy...He will abundantly pardon’” (Isa. 55:70).

“Oh, sir that we will, right gladly. We thought we were saved because we were good Catholics. But you have opened our eyes, and we know now that Jesus is the only

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**Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland**  
**508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529**  
email: haugerep@midco.net

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

Internet Web Site: haugeinnermission.com.  
Facebook: Facebook.com/Haugeinnermission

**PUBLICATION OFFICE:**  
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## Table of Contents

Which Church Saves?.....	1-2
While They Were Praying .....	2
Little Things • Unwritten Things Are Never Read .....	3
Very Important Questions And Answers .....	4
Editorial .....	5-6
Opportunity Flourished in the Fires of Persecution .....	6
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable .....	7-8
The Real Martin Luther .....	8
The Terror of the Holy.....	9-10
Saying No To Jesus • What Happened to the Modern Church?.....	10
The Resurrection.....	11-12
The Ten Commandments For Today.....	12
Fellowship • Because You Prayed.....	13
A Drop in a Bucket • A Godly Foundation .....	14
VIP • There Was No Room in Bethlehem • Watchful and Alert.....	15
UpDate • Can We Hear From You? .....	16

Saviour.”

“And you now accept Him as your Saviour?”

“We do! Yes, we do! Oh, thank God! Thank God! He saves us now.”

## While They Were Praying

A. T. Pierson

A young man in Indiana left home for a business opening in Ohio. There a gentleman from his own native place later found him and was shocked to discover that he had become a profane swearer.

Returning home, he felt constrained to tell the young man's pious parents of his awful degeneracy. They said little; so in doubt whether they had understood him, the friend called the next day and repeated what he had told them.

Then the father calmly replied, “We understood you: my wife and I spent a sleepless night on our knees pleading on behalf of our son.”

Two weeks after, the son came home a changed man. “How long since this change took place?” asked his rejoicing parents. He replied that just fourteen days before, he was struck with a sense of guilt so great that he could not sleep and spent the night in tears of repentance and prayer for pardon.

There had been no time for any parental appeal or even for a letter of remonstrance. While they were praying for him, God moved him to pray for himself.

## Little Things

By H. G. Bosch

### ***“...things which are little.”***

A group of men were carrying on a friendly conversation. One remarked that he had learned not to pay much attention to little things. “Little things,” he said, “don’t bother me.”

One of the other men smiled. “*Are you sure?*” he asked.

“Would you believe that a little thing – just a pair of socks I wore once – changed the course of my entire life?”

“I can hardly believe that,” was the reply.

“It is true though,” continued the man. “It happened this way.

“One day I expected to take a trip with some of my friends on a canal boat. Two days before we intended to leave I was chopping wood. The ax I was using slipped and injured my foot. The blue dye in the home made socks I wore poisoned the wound, and I was compelled to stay at home, while my friends went on the trip.

“While they were on their journey, a powerful preacher came to our town to hold meetings. Since I didn’t have anything else to do, I decided to attend.

“The message the preacher brought touched me deeply. He spoke to my heart. As a result, I surrendered to the Lord.

“Truly converted, I saw that my life needed a real change. New desires and purposes took hold of me. I determined to seek an education that would enable me to live more usefully for my Lord.”

The man who told this story was a former president of the United States – James A Garfield!

Little things often have far-reaching consequences. On the one hand, we should beware of coddling “*little sins*,” for often they grow into great tragedies; on the other, we should not neglect little duties and small kindnesses that await our attention on the road of life, for by tending them with care we will find many jewels of true reward sparkling our future.

Big things are obvious; it is the little things that often cause us to stumble.

***“God sees the little sparrow fall;  
It meets His tender view.  
If God so watches little things,  
I know He loves me too.”***

M. Staub

## Unwritten Words Are Never Read

The written word has influenced and inspired thou-

sands, millions and even nations. Some writers have been able to control and influence the thinking of millions throughout history. A few men penned the Constitution of the United States, and it has guided America for over two hundred years.

The theories, thoughts and writings of Darwin and Einstein have affected the power and thinking of the world. Writings of ...have inspired multitudes for many generations.

Words in the music of John Newton and Fanny Crosby continue to inspire countless millions. Cults and world religions have used their written words to create false beliefs and heresies and sway millions.

...are now in Heaven; but their written words continue to preach. Forty men inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote one powerful Book that has changed and is changing lives for over two thousand years.

The written word has proven to be more powerful than nations, governments, kings, and queens. The apostle John knew the power of the pen. ***“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”*** (1 John 5:13).

The pen is definitely mightier than the sword, but unwritten words are never read! What have you left undone?

Un-sown seeds reap no harvest. Unspoken words give no comfort. Un-written songs do not bless. Un-sent cards do not encourage. Un-written poems inspire no one. Un-preached messages remain unheard. Un-given love is unexpressed. Un-finished tasks are never rewarded. Un-given tracts (Ed. Un-read Morning Glory’s OR not passed on) are just paper. Un-written words are never read.

You are accountable not only for things you have done but also for things left undone. ***“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe...and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone”*** (Matthew 23:23).

You cannot change the past, but you can change the future. What have you done? What have you left undone? Unwritten words are never read! Selah!

Ted Camp, Silent Word Ministries

*Editor’s Note:* “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” James 4:17 & 2:10.

# Very Important Questions And Answers!

Following are some questions and answers taken indirectly from Erich Pontoppidan's book *Truth unto Godliness*; which he wrote when asked to write a book for Confirmation Instruction. It was published in 1737. Editor.

## Truth unto Godliness

Q. 50-51. Shall not a believing Christian live according to the Law?

Answer: Certainly. A believing Christian is free from the curse and bondage of the law, but not from its obedience; for the love of Christ constrains him to live according to the law, and when he fails and sins because of his weaknesses, he is not condemned, because he is in Christ. Rom. 8:1.

Q. 70-72. How can a person commit idolatry with the outward church service?

Answer: When an unrepentant soul blindly trusts in church attendance, absolution, communion, alms-giving, prayer and singing, etc. The unconverted sinner feels he must have some support to lean on. So instead of turning to God in conversion, he turns so much more to absolution, the altar and the outward services of the church. In these he finds comfort for his unconverted soul and makes them his idols.

Q. 125. What more is commanded in the 2nd Commandment?

Answer: To use God's Word rightly; to speak to others about it; to read His Word diligently, and to confess the Truth of God boldly, even in the greatest danger.

Q. 175. Is not a preacher sent to comfort all the people?

Answer: No, only the repentant ones. For the unrepentant, comfort is poison to the Soul. Ezk. 8:18.

Q. 176. Who are the false prophets among the teachers (ministers) one must look out for?

Answer: Next, after many others who cannot be enumerated, are, according to the word of our Savior chiefly those who make the way to heaven broad and comfort people with the hope of salvation until they wake up in hell. Matt. 7:14-15.

## A converted Soldier

A converted soldier, when asked, "How were you saved?" replied, "The Lord said to me, 'Halt! Attention! Right-about-face! March!' That was all there was to it!"

Q. 203. What good is commanded in the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment? (The new editions have only "to help our neighbor in every bodily need and walk with him in love and meekness, while Pontoppidan adds this):

Answer: to have concern for our neighbor's soul when we see he is in danger of being lost, as far as we as spiritual priests can further his salvation by loving, admonition and warning.

Q. 470. Is it enough that you know all these things about Christ and believe they are true?

Answer: No. The Holy Spirit must give you a living faith and reveal Christ to your heart

Q. 487. What is regeneration or the new birth?

Answer: The same as the impartation of the living faith or awakening from spiritual death, conversion, and translation from darkness to light, from Satan's power to God. Eph. 2:4.

Q. 491. How can a person know whether he is born again?

Answer: It is known by a real change of heart and the new gifts of grace that make him into a different person evident to others.

Q. 497. What is a dead faith?

Answer: A Dead faith is a false imagination the unrepentant entertain because they imagine they will receive grace without becoming converted.

Q. 517. What is understood by the church?

Answer: Not a house built of wood and stones, for the church is the fellowship of holy people and their communion in the Spirit unites them.

Q. 567. Can impenitent sinners call God their Father in heaven?

Answer: No, not so long as they are not born again and have not received the Spirit of sonship. Otherwise their true father is in hell. John 8:44.

Q. 662. Can little children have faith?

Answer: Yes, they can receive the in-working of the Holy Spirit without knowing or understanding it. Luke 1:15; Matt 18:6; 19:14.

Q. 725. Cannot the ungodly become better and be awoken by going to the Lord's Supper?

Answer: No, for as one who is physically dead cannot eat natural food, so one who is spiritually dead cannot eat spiritual food. Therefore he must first, by the grace of God, be truly converted, otherwise he will grow worse and not better by going to Communion. 1 Cor. 11:17, 30.

Pontoppidan died in 1764, but his strong Biblical presentation of the Truth lives among us yet, at least to some extent.

*Innerrmission Church History*, By P. Ljostveit,  
published by Hauge Lutheran Innerrmission  
Federation, 1948.

# Editorial

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## Purpose

*“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”  
(Philippians 3:7, Please read through verse 16)*

Christianity has its roots in the deep, form soil of history. Jesus's incarnation – God being manifested in the human flesh – certainly though without sin, but in the form of man – is on an Eternal Record as it is recorded in Heaven!

Every time you state or write the date, for example, you attest to the fact that God entered human history.

In his fear and raging jealousy, King Herod responded to the newborn Jesus with bloodthirsty hostility: Perhaps as following: “Destroy Him! Let Him die while He is still in His cradle!”

This response grew and swelled until one day many years later (Good Friday) it became a mad mob’s terrifying roar: “Take Him away! Take Him away! **Crucify Him!**” John 19:15.

A reigning Christ, an invading Christ, a revolutionary Christ, a life-changing Christ – that is unacceptable to millions of people today as well. That is a menace to their way of life!

No doubt, you are aware of the fact that God has a plan or purpose for every person, although many people go through life without ever thinking seriously about it. But God even has a ‘plan’ for the unborn infant in their mother’s womb – even though murdered in cold blood through abortion! Today, the most dangerous place an infant can be is in their mother’s womb. But even though many folk do not think seriously about where they will spend Eternity; that lack of awareness doesn’t change the fact that God put each of us here for a purpose.

We aren’t here by accident. We are here because God put us here through the miracle of conception and He put us here for a reason and that is that we might have the privilege and opportunity to accept JESUS as our personal Savior and walk in fellowship with HIM until ‘faith becomes sight’! Also that we might bring glory to His Name. God states through the Psalmist *“All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,”* and *“A man’s heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps,”* that is He wants to direct our steps! (Proverbs 16:2a & 9a). Proverbs 3:5-6.

Have you wondered why there is so much social drinking (in moderation) and drunkenness in our day?

Well, the Bible tells us that Satan has held the whole world in bondage (as slaves of SIN) and with that truth in mind, we can realize why the unregenerate, who have never been delivered and do not have the blessed assurance of eternal life, feel the need to try to forget and drown the past (temporarily) as God tells us – “be sure your SIN will find you out”!

The following story is told of a Christian/saint of many years ago, who stated that when he arrives in Heaven that there would be three surprises for him: First: there would be people in Heaven that he didn’t think would make it, Second: there would be people missing that he thought would be there and Third: the greatest surprise of all, is that he was there!

Well, personally, according to my understanding of God’s Eternal Word, the BIBLE, we won’t be carrying any questions, baggage with us from earth to Heaven & Home. We are going to be like Jesus, and secondly, why bring anything earthly to a sinless, perfect atmosphere?

***“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”*** 1 John 3:2.

This brings up a question: Why do some believers think that when a loved-one – who knew Jesus as his or her personal Savior – has been taken from this physical earthly journey, that they are now looking down upon us? Why would a God who abhors/detests ‘sin’ want a child of His (who is eternally safe and in a perfect atmosphere) want a loved-one to see my and others’ SIN?

In the meantime; God not only wants to ‘save each one of us’ – but also to use us to HIS honor and glory today and each day. Otherwise, God would take us instantly HOME as soon as we are saved in and through His Marvelous GRACE! Each day we are to be “pressing on” in ‘occupying with Him’!

This is the fundamental ministry of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory as ‘Blood- bought’ cleansed ‘vessels’ in Evangelism and Nurturing God’s Lambs and Sheep! Fortunately, this

ministry not only reaches primarily the USA and Canada; but a few foreign countries as well. Just very recently I had the privilege of a limited correspondence with a Christian in Spain. YOU see all that God has entrusted to each of us is to be used to His honor and glory – *even with our temporal assets!* “*Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase;*” Proverbs 3:9. (By the way: How many times does God need to tell us something in HIS marvelous GRACE? Isn’t Once sufficient?)

IN His Marvelous GRACE, God is a very good ‘book-keeper’! HE knows what HE has entrusted to each of us and even our attitude of heart!

Martin Luther stated that ‘Human reasoning is the greatest hindrance to a living Faith’.

IF your Christian faith is important at all to you, then it is indeed important; as it is. If it is anything at all, then it is worth everything! It is either the most vital thing in your life, or it isn’t worth bothering with.

It is important to know at least somewhat when and how YOU got saved as you don’t have to have a conversion exactly like Saul (who became Paul). BUT as a right-beginning, is very important to have the Biblical knowledge and personal experience. It is also important to have the continual relationship (walk) with Jesus, as you and I **PRESS ON!**

Never forget: God doesn’t want us to realize His Presence In our lives only – You who are the Blood Bought Temples of the Holy Spirit. HE also wants you and me

to be continually conformed/transformed (earthly sanctification) into His image, even while we are still journeying on in this ‘human sinful world’. (See Romans 8:28-29 – “to be conformed to the image of His Son”). YES, HE wants us to be ‘overcomers’ over our self-centeredness – including our inner self also – Jealousy, covetousness, envy, Pride – and make us more like JESUS. HE also wants to teach us His truth and use us as His vessels and servants; thus not being literally ‘squeezed’ into the mold of this world. Romans 12:1-2.

How does this happen? How does God change us into the people HE wants us to be? Not just by a walk in the green meadow or woods, as pleasant as that may be. No, God changes us by the indwelling of the third Person of our Triune God, the Holy Spirit, and His Word, the Bible, *and even through cleansed ‘vessels’*. Most certainly as we read and listen to its TRUTH (the Law & the Gospel), the **BIBLE** will change us if we allow it to shape our lives!

*“Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Corinthians 3:16, 18.*

**PRESS ON!**

Looking unto JESUS!

IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL!

## Opportunity Flourished in the Fires of Persecution!

By Dr. Russell Dennis, Jr.

...One thirty-two-year-old preacher named John Bunyan had been saved about eleven years and only recently called to preach. In 1660 he was thrown into the Bedford jail. He was convicted of preaching and sentenced to just three months if he would pledge not to preach again.

The young preacher would not agree and ended up spending twelve years in prison. With a wife and family of four, times were hard, but especially when he thought about his blind daughter, Mary. When she would visit, Mary would feel her father’s face to see if he was crying and then kiss his tears away to comfort him. Little Mary would die while her father languished in prison.

During over a decade in jail, Bunyan began to write;

and the idea of an allegory of the Christian life began to form. He was finally released in May 1672 after the Declaration of Indulgence, and he went back to preaching.

All seemed well until five years later when persecution reared its head again and Bunyan was thrown back into prison. Six more months Bunyan was behind bars, but during those months in 1677 the Lord allowed John Bunyan to write his classic *Pilgrim’s Progress*.

Published in 1678, the book became an immediate “bestseller.” Bunyan saw his work go through eleven editions – printing 100,000 copies – plus several languages. *Pilgrim’s Progress* has never gone out of print and has been translated into over two hundred languages.

Out of great suffering came a witness for the Gospel that reached the world in ongoing generations

Excerpt taken from *Sword of the Lord*

# **Believable ... Yet Unbelievable**

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## **Allen West on Abortion: “We Will Not BE Truly Blessed as a Nation Until We Right This Wrong”**

A former U.S. Congressman... told a pro-life crowd... that the results of the November 8 election brought hope, but now is the time to work the hardest.

“No one wants to be part of a death culture,” West said... in Columbia, Missouri, the Columbia Daily Tribune reports, “But if we’re not careful, that could be the legacy we pass on.

“We will not be truly blessed as a nation until we right this wrong.” He added, “If we are a country that continues to have a business in killing our future generations, God will not bless America.”...

“We continue to see the decimation of the American family,” he said. He said America needs a return to faith family, individual responsibility, and entrepreneurship...

West, a U. S. Army veteran and president and CEO of the National Center for Policy Analysis, is a strong advocate for life through his public rules. During his talk,... the African American leader brought up how abortion has led to millions of innocent deaths in the black community...

“I cannot think of ... a better time to go on the offensive for the United States of America,” West added. “Our first inalienable right is Life.”

LifeNews.com

## **Planned Parenthood Celebrates 100 Years, Millions of Dead Babies**

Margaret Louise Sanger (1879 – 1966) was an activist for birth control, population control and eugenics. Her legacy is being carried on by Planned Parenthood, which pretends to help the poor while hiding the reality that it targets the vulnerable.

In October, Planned Parenthood Federation of America celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year since Margaret Sanger opened the first clinic in Brooklyn, New York. She believed in “improving” the human race by discouraging reproduction among persons she presumed to have undesirable traits.

What began with birth control in 1916 has become the largest abortion provider in the country. Planned Parenthood’s latest annual report (2014) shows that 43 percent of the abortion provider’s revenues came from taxpayers via state and federal government health ser-

vices, grants and reimbursements in the amount of \$553.7 million.

Afajournal.org

## **Lawsuit Says Teenager Given Transgender Services Without Parental Consent**

A Minnesota mother sued St. Louis County and other agencies (November 16) for usurping her parental rights because her minor son has been receiving transgender “services” and given narcotic drugs without her consent.

Ammarie Calgaro’s involvement has been circumvented numerous times in regard to her 17-year-old son by the local school district, the county public health department and two medical services providers that have given her minor son medical treatment and narcotics for gender reassignment from male to female, national public interest law firm Thomas More Society says.

—lifesitenews.com

## **Rise of Humanism Coincides With Rise of Satanism in America**

It’s not a coincidence that as America becomes more and more secular, Satanism is becoming more and more prevalent.

WND.com (September 27, 2016) reports: “Elementary schools are forced by the government to allow ‘Satan Clubs’ on school grounds; statues of Baphomet ... erected in major American cities; and a national headquarters for the ‘Satanic Temple’ in Salem, Massachusetts, famous for its ‘witch trials’ during colonial times.

“Has America gone to the Devil? Christian leaders are speaking out – and they are reluctantly saying it has...”

There is a growing fascination with death in our culture and a growing defense of assisted suicide and abortion in our medical communities and politics. “Those who have watched the promotion of occultism, Spiritism, demonism, and hedonism in the media in the name of ‘pluralism’ are not surprised. It is simply more evidence of our culture’s fascination with narcissism, death, and rejection of common sense.”

Our country is witnessing an epidemic of murders, drug addictions, abortions, government corruption, religious denials of moral absolutes, and a growing accep-

tance of ant-Christian activities in almost every corner of the public sector.

Churches must become more active as the “salt” in our society. We must speak out and be counted. We must do everything in our abilities to warn our national Titanic of the approaching icebergs in the water.

Dr. Ron Baity, Sword of the Lord

## Kaepernick, King of Hypocrites

Colin Kaepernick, San Francisco 49ers quarterback and founder of the “I Won’t Stand for the National Anthem” movement, refused to vote in the 2016 presidential election because “it wouldn’t make any difference.”

One commentator called him “the king of hypocrites”

Another commentator said, “If Kaepernick cares about police mistreatment of black men in America, he should care about the way America is governed. He didn’t care enough to vote.”

Selected, indirectly Information from newsmax.com.  
11/11/16

## Muslim Convert To Christianity Forced To Flee Home In England

Nissar Hussain, who converted from Islam to Christianity 20 years ago, has been forced to leave his home in Bradford, West Yorkshire, along with his wife and five children. Nisar has endured years of persecution for his conversion, but last year after appearing on a television program about the persecution of Muslim converts, two men attacked him with a pick-ax and broke his kneecap. PRAY FOR THIS FAMILY.

**Editor’s Note:** This attack happened in England, not Iraq or Syria. These same kind of attacks are taking place in the United States and Canada, but they seldom receive adequate publicity to keep the public informed.  
*The Vine and Branches.*

Information from metro.co.uk, 11/12/16

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Real (Martin) Luther

POPE Francis, as well as others at the Lund assembly, gave high praise to Martin Luther, but the Luther they praised bears little resemblance to the great Reformer of Wittenberg. For years liberals have tried to reshape Luther into the person they want him to be. They would do well to study the facts of Luther’s history be-

fore dragging him into their nefarious schemes.

On October 31, 1517 (All Saint’s Eve, not Halloween) Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, outlining point of disagreement with doctrinal positions held by the Roman Catholic Church that he wanted to discuss. Luther also wrote assorted books and papers regarding his disagreements with various teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. The invention of the printing press helped to carry Luther’s writings far and wide.

One of Luther’s main concerns was the selling of indulgences that claimed to free souls from the pains of purgatory. As a parish pastor in Wittenberg, Luther confronted a fellow priest, John Tetzel, who was selling indulgence to raise funds for the construction of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Tetzel used a catch little slogan that infuriated Luther; “Whenever a coin drops into the chest, a soul flies up to heavenly rest.”

In 1521, Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther. Later that same year, the Reformer was summoned to appear before church officials and Holy roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms. Without being given an opportunity to defend his positions, Luther was asked by church officials to recant all his writings. Luther asked for time to consider their demands. The next day he returned to assembled dignitaries and declared: **“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me, Amen.”**

Church officials wanted Luther jailed or executed on the spot as a heretic, but the Emperor had promised him safe passage, so he was set free. With a death sentence on his head, Luther was secretly whisked away by friends to the Warburg Castle near Eisenach, where he translated the Bible into the German language and continued leading the Reformation. For the rest of his life, Luther was protected by Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, and other German princes.

Excerpt taken from *The Protestant Church’s Need For Reformation 1517 – 2017* by Pastor David R. Barnhart, *The Vine and Branches*, Winter, 2016.

## The Terror of the Holy

*"It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear; and He shall be your dread."* (Isa. 8:13)

This is the second in a series of articles about the conversion of Martin Luther. The year 2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, and we want to emphasize how Luther was converted, for you will see elements in Luther's conversion that are lacking in most Christian circles today.

Luther entered into the monastery thinking that he would find peace with God through his religious devotion. This did not happen; in fact, the very opposite happened. Luther spent his days in prayer, song, meditation and quiet companionship, in disciplined and moderate austerity.

Then it came time for Luther's first mass. The Church of the day believed that the bread and wine became the flesh and blood of God, and the sacrifice of Calvary was re-enacted. Who would not be fearful in performing a rite by which God would appear in human form? Luther took his place before the altar and began to recite the introductory portion of the mass until he came to the words, "We offer to thee, the living, the true, the eternal God." He related afterward:

"At these words I was utterly stupefied and terror-stricken. I thought to myself, 'With what tongue shall I address such Majesty, seeing that all men ought to tremble in the presence of even an earthly prince? Who am I, that I should lift up mine eyes or raise my hands to the divine Majesty? The angels surround Him. At His nod the earth trembles. And shall I, a miserable little pigmy, say 'I want this, I ask for that'? For I am dust and ashes and full of sin and I am speaking to the living, eternal and the true God.'

"The terror of the Holy, the horrors of Infinitude, smote him like a new thunderbolt, and only through fearful restraint could he hold himself to the altar to the end.

"... [Luther's] God was the God who inhabited the storm clouds brooding on the brow of Sinai, into whose presence Moses could not enter with unveiled face and live. ... Luther's tremor was augmented by the recognition of unworthiness. 'I am dust and ashes and full of sin.' ... How could a pigmy stand before a divine Majesty; how could a transgressor confront divine Holiness? Before God the high and God the holy Luther was stu-

fied. For such an experience he had a word which has as much right to be carried over into English as *Blitzkrieg*. ... It is all the doubt, turmoil, panic, despair, desolation and desperation which invade the spirit of man.

"Utterly limp, [Luther] came from the altar to the table where his father and guests would make merry with the brothers."<sup>1</sup>

Luther experienced something that most modern people, even in the church, know nothing about. It is called "The Fear of the Lord." "*The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*" (Prov. 9:10) It is where the Law in all its fury is unleashed upon your soul. When Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, "*the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked ... and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*" (Gen. 3:7-8)

It is to realize that God is entirely holy and you are entirely sinful. Even the angels, who are sinless, cannot even look upon God in His glory and holiness. "*Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.'*" (Isa. 6:2-3)

Because of this, you are under God's wrath against you. When Isaiah saw the scene quoted above, his response was this: "*Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.*" (Isa. 6:5) Like Luther, Isaiah was stricken to the core at the sight and thought of God being entirely holy and he being sinful. This is the testimony of a man commissioned as a prophet! He realized that even man at his very best is still wicked in the eyes of God in His holiness, and sin cannot exist in the presence of God or He would cease being entirely holy.

Dear reader, has what happened to Luther happened to you? When it happened to me, I laid awake at night wondering if this would be the day that Jesus would return and cast me into hell. I was afraid of God because of what He would do to me. I knew I deserved it because of my sin. I didn't enjoy even living and would rather die than continue on this way. My very soul was brought low and I was a broken man.

Hear afresh the admonition of Jesus: "*And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that, have no more that they can do. But I*

1     *Here I Stand* by Roland Bainton. Nashville: Abington Press, pgs. 30-31

*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. 12:4-5)

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

\* \* \* \* \*

## Saying No to Jesus!

There are a lot of people in our world today who say "no" to Jesus. They will not let Him have access to their life. It's not that they haven't heard that "Jesus came to save (lost) sinners!" They just want to be left alone, so they can do their own thing. I ask you, are there consequences for saying "no" to Jesus?

I want to write to you as personally as I can through this means; about what is going to happen to a person who lives like that. I will base my burden and conclusions on what the Bible says about this subject.

All of us choose, in life, about so many things; the food we eat, the clothes we wear, sport activity, what car you want to buy or what job you want to do in life, etc. We choose between right and wrong. Should I then tell you the truth or not? Should I excuse sin away and blame it on someone else as so many do?

All of us have heard about Jesus, that He came into this world of ours as an infant child. He is God's only begotten Son. He bore our sins as well as the sins of the whole world, when He died upon Calvary's Cross; taking our just punishment upon Himself. The Bible teaches us in 1 John 2:2: "*He is the sacrifice for our sins. He takes away not only our sins but the sins of all the world.*" Then the resurrection of Jesus proves that He was triumphant over sin, death and Hell. If a person knows thus much, and does not do anything about it, there will be disastrous results upon that person's life. Why? Because John 3:36 says, "*And all who believe in God's Son have eternal life. Those who do not obey the Son will never experience eternal life, but the wrath of God remains upon them.*" (Also read 3:18). You see, Jesus is the only Mediator between you and God the Father.

Jesus came to save and forgive us of all our sin. He came to heal the broken hearted. John 17:3: "*And this is the way to have eternal life – to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.*"

**You are an eternal being** because you have a soul that never dies. If you say "no" to Jesus, you will go to a place that God calls Hell. It is a place prepared for Satan and his angels. Hell is a place of torment and agony. It says in Revelation 20:10b: "*There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*" You will spend

an eternity there if you don't know Jesus personally! I plead with you to call upon the name of Jesus and ask Him to save your soul and forgive you of all your sin. You will never, throughout eternity, regret that choice.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Willmore Gundersen, Fergus Falls, MN

\* \* \* \* \*

## What Happened to the Modern Church?

By Dan Gilbert

The modernist church has substituted minor purposes for its major purpose. The only real purpose of the church is to show men the way to Heaven, to teach them the truth of God, to bring them into a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ed. And to nurture the Lambs and Sheep).

True, the church did minister to the poor; it did feed and clothe the hungry; it did comfort the discouraged and the bereaved. But all these, and many other more minor functions, were incidental and subordinate to the great purpose: the saving of souls.

The modernist "reconstruction" of the church has magnified these minor and subordinate functions while obscuring the real purpose. The "social gospel" has overshadowed and blurred out the spiritual Gospel.

The soul of man is ignored, if its very existence is not questioned or denied. The spiritual side is passed over, while the physical side is exalted. The building of a "new social and economic order" is preached and propagandized, while the kingdom of Heaven is regarded as a myth or vain hope.

This present brief and fleeing life is regarded as being at least equal in importance with the life everlasting. Time is equated with eternity. Utopia on earth is weighed at least equally with Heaven itself.

Physical comfort now is as highly evaluated as endless and infinite bliss in the hereafter. The elimination of the slums is made an objective of equal merit with the keeping of precious souls out of Hell. The feeding of stomachs is counted at least as important as the nourishing of souls.

The spreading of "scientific truth" is placed on a par with the preaching of the Truth of God. A knowledge of "world affairs" is counted as worthwhile as a grounding in the Word of God. As much time is given to psychology as to prayer. Socialized medicine is valued as highly as salvation.

The Sword of the Lord

# The Resurrection

By Dr. O. Gornitzka

## Key Word

**KEY WORD:** Reading through the chapter [I Corinthians 15] carefully we find one word used repeatedly – the little word “*vain*.” And it is found in two combinations – “*in vain*” and “*not vain*.” See vv. 1-19 and v. 58. The word is used in connection with the main topic of the chapter, the resurrection of the body. If there is no resurrection of the body as far as our Christian faith and life is concerned all, is concerned all is “*in vain*.” On the other hand, as the fact of the resurrection is established, it is “*not vain*.” Evaluations must therefore be made in the light of life eternal if they are to be true.

**OCCASION:** It had come to Paul’s knowledge that the resurrection was being denied by some in the congregation. “*How say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*” v. 12. It was not a direct denial of the resurrection of Jesus but a denial of the resurrection of the believer’s body. Paul shows, however, that any such denial involves also the great fact of the gospel that Jesus arose. And not only that, but it involves our entire Christian faith. Vv. 12-19 and 29-34.

I. The Fact of the Resurrection. vv. 11-19 and 29-34

### The denial of the fact – what it involves

1. “*Neither hath Christ been raised*”: v. 13 and 16. Christ came in the flesh to live under the same laws that govern our bodies. His was the same kind of flesh and blood. He became the second Adam, v. 22, that as we share in the curse involved in Adam’s sin, so shall we as a race also share in the blessings that come through Jesus Christ. He is a member of the race. What happened to one member shall also happen to the other members. Therefore, if there is no resurrection of our bodies neither did our representative Jesus Christ rise. Those who claim that it is impossible for a dead body to rise from the dust also claim that the body of Jesus, even to this day remains dust in the grave.

2. “*Then is our preaching vain*.” V. 14. “**We are found false witnesses of God.**” Paul and the other servants of God had given themselves to bring the Gospel to the world. Their chief endeavor was to proclaim in the name of Jesus redemption from sin, death and the power of Satan. This would all be “*in vain*” or “*void*” if there were no resurrection. The central theme of their preaching was the resurrection of Jesus which proved that His life and death was accepted by God. If it were not true that Jesus had risen their preaching would be nothing but empty words. And worse than that, they would be false

witnesses because they claimed to be witnesses of these things. If we deny the literal bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ we thereby, as far as our testimony is concerned, take the very heart out of the message.

3. “*Your faith also is vain*.” V. 14 and 17. “**Ye are yet in your sins.**” V. 17. Your faith in Christ as Savior is vain because you have then put your trust in a deceiver and liar. He in whom you have put your trust for the forgiveness of sins was Himself a sinner. He claimed that he was the Son of God and that God would raise him up on the third day. If this did not take place our Christian faith would be the world’s greatest delusion. The very Word which warns against fables would itself be the greatest fable. 1 Tim 1:3.

4. “*Then they also that have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*” V. 18. It is by the resurrection of Jesus Christ that we are begotten again unto a living hope. See 1 Pet. 1:3-5. To fall asleep in Christ means to die with all the comfort and assurance which we have in a crucified and risen Savior. And what a large host there is who have closed their eyes in peace and with joy as their eye of faith has been toward that cross and that open grave. These many have died in their sins if Christ did not rise. And He did not rise if our bodies are not to be raised from the dead. What a dark picture this satanic denial rolls up before us. No wonder the Apostle adds: “*If we have only hoped in Christ in this life we are of all men most pitiable*” v. 19. Not that we have lost anything even in this world by being God-fearing men and women, but in view of the great hopes and expectations we have had we would then have been so sadly deceived.

5. “*Else what shall they do that are baptized for the dead?*” V. 29. This verse is one of the most difficult verses in the Bible to interpret. Opinions differ as to what the Apostle refers to. There was possibly a custom in this day if one died without being baptized that someone else was baptized in his place. Or, as others have suggested, baptisms may have been performed over the grave of the departed believers as a testimony to the hope of the Church and the oneness of all believers, whether belonging to the church triumphant or the church militant. In either case the practice would be an empty form if there were no resurrection of the body.

6. “*Why do we also stand in jeopardy every hour?*” V. 30. The reference here is to the sufferings experienced by the servants of God in the ministry of the Gospel. It would be foolish to endure such hardships for a lie. Better than to adopt the philosophy of the world: “**Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die**” v. 32. If this is all we can hope for let us get the most out of it. Different, however, if this world is only a school preparing for the life to come. Our life-philosophy as well as our life-conduct

will be different if we measure life with God's yardstick and view life in the light of eternity.

### **Warning and admonition**

"Be not deceived" v. 33. Companionship with those who lightly speak of eternal truths has a subtle influence over a sinful heart. It was by listening that our first parents were deceived. ***Awake to soberness righteously and sin not.*** V. 34. While sinners as yet are asleep and many are in ignorance concerning the victory in a risen Christ, it is no time for a Christian to sleep on the job and let the devil do his subtle work in spreading false doctrine. His slogan today is: "**Let us be liberal.** It sounds good to human reason but it leads to spiritual bondage when applied to divine revelation. **Oh, that many Christians today could be moved to shame because they have so lightly esteemed the precious truth of a crucified and risen Lord!**

To be continued:

*A Study Guide, 1 Corinthians*, Bible Banner Press,  
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## **The Ten Commandments for Today**

*"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the works of the law...Do we then make the law void through faith? God forbid! Instead, we establish the law."*

(Rom. 3:28, 31)

The Ten Commandments seem to have fallen on hard times lately. And some churches even falsely teach that the Commandments don't apply to us today because "we're under grace."

But the Creator of the universe descended upon Mount Sinai and gave to us a reflection of His own nature, a revelation of His will: the Ten Commandments. These commands cover all pertaining to our relationships with others and with God. Contrary to what some churches and some cults teach, Christ did not render the Ten Commandments null and void when He died. Jesus said that the one who loves Him **keeps** His commandments, not to gain heaven but to show love for Him.

The Law brings us death and damnation because we can never fulfill it except through Christ's death on the cross. Only when we see our sinfulness and realize our need for forgiveness can we find salvation. After we're cleansed by Christ's blood, the law of God becomes a guide for our life. Marin Luther said the Law in a Chris-

tian's life is like a hammer that smashes our self-righteousness, a mirror that shows us our uncleanness and guilt, and a whip that drives us to the Cross of Christ for redemption. Even though we've been saved, we still need the Law as a tool for our sanctification, drawing us nearer to Christ.

Ask God to use the Ten Commandments to draw you nearer to Him each day.

***If we should repeal all the regulatory laws on our statute books, and enforce only the Ten Commandments, in ten years we would become the most law-abiding nation on earth.***

James R. Page

*New Every Morning*, by D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe © 2016 D. James Kennedy Ministries

*Editor's Note:* The following is from *Luther's Small Catechism Explained*: "What is God's will concerning man? God willeth that all men should be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim. 2:4.

Is the Bible then the only safe rule of our faith and duty? Yes, the Bible alone contains full information of the will of God concerning our salvation.

How has God given His law to us? In the creation God wrote His Law in the heart of man (Conscience, Rom. 2:15). At Mount Sinai He gave His Law in the Ten Commandments, written on two tables of stone. Ex. 20:1-17.

Of what benefit, then, is the Law? It points out to us our sins and the wrath of God toward sin. Rom. 3:20. Through the law cometh the knowledge of sin.

It makes us anxious to seek Christ. Gal. 3:24. The law has become our tutor to bring us unto Christ.

It points out to the believer what fruits his faith must bear. Ps. 119:105. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path."

A Lutheran – Hans Neilsen Hauge – shared that a believer is removed from the condemnation of the Law, but not compliance to the Law!

***"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."*** Romans 8:1.

**"Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pain taken to bring it to light."**

George Washington

## FELLOWSHIP

*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42*

Much goes on in Christian churches today under the name of "fellowship." Usually this consists of coffee and donuts or church socials, or sports. As delightful as these functions may be, they should not be confused with biblical fellowship.

Nowhere in the New Testament do any of the Greek words translated "fellowship" imply fun times. Rather, they talk of, for example, "*the fellowship of the ministering to the saints*" (2 Corinthians 8:4) as sacrificial service and financial aid. (See, for example, 1 Timothy 6:18).

Elsewhere, Paul was thankful for the Philippian believers "*fellowship in the gospel*" (Philippians 1:5), for he knew that "*inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense of the confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers* (same word as fellowship) *of my grace*" (Philippians 1:7). This sort of fellowship may even bring persecution.

We are to emulate Christ's humility and self-sacrificial love (Philippians 2:5-8) through the "*fellowship of the Spirit*" (Philippians 2:1). In some way known only partially to us, we have the privilege of knowing "*the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death*" (Philippians 3:10), and even "*the communion* (i.e., fellowship) *of the blood*" and "*body of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 10:16).

As we can see, this "fellowship" is serious business. As in our text and subsequent verses, fellowship should be accompanied by teaching, prayer, and ministry to the poor (Acts 2:45).

This kind of fellowship will be in '*favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*' (Acts 2:47).

John D. Morris, Ph.D.

*Days of Praise*, Institute for Creation Research  
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### **"Because You Prayed"**

(Please read Isaiah 37:9 – 22, 33)

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Philippians 4:6

What do you do with your worries? Do you turn

them inward, or turn them upward?

When the brutal Assyrian King Sennacherib was preparing to destroy Jerusalem, he sent a message to King Hezekiah saying that Judah would be no different from all the other nations he had conquered. Hezekiah took this message to the temple in Jerusalem, and "spread it out before the LORD" (Isa. 37:14). He then prayed and asked for help from Almighty God.

Soon afterward Isaiah the prophet delivered this message to Hezekiah from the Lord: "*Because you prayed about King Sennacherib of Assyria, the LORD has spoken*" (Isa. 37:21-22 NLT). Scripture tells us that Hezekiah's prayer was answered that very night. God intervened miraculously, conquering the enemy forces outside the city gates. The Assyrian army didn't even "shoot an arrow" (v. 33). Sennacherib would leave Jerusalem, never to return.

Three words in God's message to Hezekiah – "***Because you prayed***" show us the best place to go with our worries. Because Hezekiah turned to God, He rescued him and his people. When we turn our worries into prayer, we discover that God is faithful in unexpected ways!

James Banks

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*Editor's Note:* Very likely, when we worry, we think we are in control and thus we need to learn how to pray specifically! EVEN sometimes: "*It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.*" Isaiah 65:24. "*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*" Jeremiah 33:3

I urge and challenge YOU to please pray specifically for this the Lord's Ministry! Also: Ephesians 6:18-20.

### **Tea Time**

Little Johnny was left to fix lunch. When his mother returned with a friend, she noticed that Johnny had already strained the tea.

The two women then sipped their tea happily while having lunch.

"Was it hard finding the tea strainer in the kitchen?" Johnny's mother asked.

"I couldn't find it, Mom, so I used the fly swatter," he replied.

His mother nearly fainted, so Johnny hastily added, "Don't get excited, Mom. I used the old one!"

# A Drop in a Bucket

By H. G. Bosch

***"There be ...things which are little upon the earth, but..."*** Proverbs 30:24

Little things are much more important than we often imagine; they have been known to turn the course of events for hundreds of years.

For instance, a great king once noticed that his soldiers were using their sleeves instead of handkerchiefs, and – that's how we all got buttons on our cuffs!

Another monarch was bald and had his servants make him a fancy toupee; immediately judges and courtiers took up the style, and for hundreds of years men of importance shaved off their own locks and wore flowing wigs of artificial curls!

So too, for good or evil, each of us has his own widening circle of influence.

Someone once complained, "What I say or do doesn't matter. My influence is like a drop in the bucket!"

"Ah, but a drop can be very important," said another. "It all depends on what it is made of and what's already in the bucket. One little drop of water falling into a container of acid may cause an explosion. One drop of germ culture introduced into a container of milk can make the liquid dangerous to drink, while one drop of cleansing disinfectant can neutralize a whole pail full of contaminated water."

Yes, even a "drop in a bucket" can make a tremendous difference. Our influence is greater than we suspect. In fact, those whom the world considers insignificant are probably the ones whose lives are making the greatest impact for eternity!

Have you ever thought of this: It's only the small birds that sing? You never heard a note from the eagle in all your life, nor from the turkey, nor from the ostrich. But you have heard thrilling melody from the throat of a canary and bright, happy trills of praise from the robin and the lark. My, how they can sing!

So too, the sweetest music often comes from those Christians who are small in their own estimation but great in the eyes of the Lord. Indeed, "*There be ...things which are little upon the earth, but.....!*"

Selected

## A Godly Foundation

Dr. D. James Kennedy, Ph.D.

There are those who say that this nation is not a nation under God, that there was no godly foundation. However, if we go back to the first beginnings of America, to 1606, we find that there were some people leaving

England to come and found Jamestown. Before they left England, they drew up the first Charter of Virginia which stated:

***We...hereafter tend to the Glory of His Divine Majesty, in propagating the Christian Religion to such People, as yet live in Darkness and miserable ignorance of the true Knowledge and Worship of God...***

That is why these first people came here – to further the knowledge of God and the building of the faith. They landed in 1607, then in 1620 the Pilgrims came to America. Before going ashore they gathered in the captain's quarters and wrote the Mayflower Compact.

The Compact begins with these words. "In the name of God, Amen." *This country had nothing to do with God?* That would have come as an amazing bit of news to the Pilgrims. The Compact continues: "...having undertaken for ye gloire of God, and advancements of ye Christin faith, and honour of our king and countrie, a voyage to plant the first colonie in ye Northern part of Virginia..."

What was the first thing the Pilgrims did upon landing, according to Governor Bradford, who wrote its history? He said, "***Being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven....***" Likewise, in 1607 at Jamestown, the first act performed by the settlers was to erect a large wooden Cross, and then they fell upon their knees and thanked God.

Yes, that is the way America started, and this continued through numerous other chapters and constitutions down through succeeding years. In 1643, all of the settlements joined to form what is known as the New England Confederation. There they declared why all of them had come to this new continent as they stated in the New England Confederation of 1643: "Whereas we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end and aim..." What was this "end and aim" that all of the colonies joined together and said they came here for? "...namely, to advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel in the purity with peace..."

*And this country had nothing to do with God – nothing to do with the Christian faith?* Nothing could be further from the truth! If we jump ahead to the Declaration of Independence, we find that a number of times it mentions the Creator. To wit: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their ***Creator*** with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. This nation does indeed have a godly foundation.

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## VIP

In many contexts, **VIP** means “**Very important Person.**” But the acronym also offers us a character test. The **V** stands for VISION, for “*where there is no vision, the people perish*” (*Prov. 29:18, KJV*).

The letter **I** stands for INTEGRITY, meaning a person is the same on the inside as he or she appears on the outside. **P** stand for PRESENCE – God’s presence in our lives. Without God’s help we are doomed. So be steadfast in your commitment to Christ, and be a real **VIP** — person with vision, integrity, and God’s presence.

**Do not conform** (literally = Squeezed) *any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* Romans 12:2

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## There Was No Room in Bethlehem

*There was no room in Bethlehem  
For Him who left His throne  
To seek the lost at countless cost  
And make their griefs His own.*

*But there was room on Calvary  
Upon the cross of shame  
For Him to die uplifted high  
To bear the sinner’s blame.*

*There was no room in Bethlehem,  
And in the world today  
Men will not give Him room to live  
And bid Him turn away.*

*But there is room on Calvary  
And there He stands to give  
A home to all who heed His call  
And look to Him and live.*

*There was no room in Bethlehem  
For Christ the Prince of Kings,  
From throne and crown to earth  
Came down  
With healing In His wings.*

*But there’s still room at Calvary  
For sinners to abide,  
For those who come and find a home  
In Jesus crucified.*

E. M. Clarkson

\* \* \* \* \*

## Watchful and Alert

(Please read Genesis 3:1-7)

**“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith”**

1 Corinthians 16:13

My desk sits close to a window that opens into our neighborhood. From that vantage point I’m privileged to watch birds perch on the trees nearby. Some come to the window to eat insects trapped in the screen.

The birds check their immediate surroundings for any danger, listening attentively as they look about them. Only when they are satisfied that there is no danger do they settle down to feed. Even then, they pause every few seconds to scan the area.

The vigilance these birds demonstrate reminds me that the Bible teaches us to practice vigilance as Christians. Our world is full of temptations, and we need to remain constantly alert and not forget about the dangers. Like Adam and Eve, we easily get entangled in attractions that make the things of this world seem “*good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom*” (*Gen. 3:6*).

“*Be on your guard,*” Paul admonished, “*stand firm in the faith*” (*1 Cor. 16:13*). And Peter cautioned, “*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*” (*I Peter 5:8*).

As we work for our own daily bread, are we alert to what could start consuming us? Are we watching for any hint of self-confidence or willfulness that could leave us wishing we had trusted our God?

**Lord, keep** us from the secret sins and selfish reactions we’re so naturally inclined toward. By Your grace, turn our temptations into moments of growth in Christlikeness.

## The best way to escape temptation is to run to God

*Our Daily Bread*, Adapted from Grace Notes, by Philip D. Yancey, © 2009 Zondervan, © 2016 Our Daily Bread Ministries, Permission Granted.

## UpDate

### Daily Bread

New Challenges and privileges come every day, as each day is certainly a gift from GOD, either to get right with HIM or Occupy for Him! Just because your need was met yesterday, you are still dependent upon God or His vessels to meet your need today. It is also the same with this portion of God's Kingdom Work on earth: the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation – our needs and wants are real!

Most certainly we are thankful for the faithful support of all our friends and partners; but as you know, we continue to face ongoing new challenges/privileges, even though in the secular sense things seem to be improving for most of us (if not all); but the Spiritual need and battle continues on and the enemy forces do not give up! The Spiritual Battle rages, and even though there is new light at the end of the secular tunnel, the greatest NEED of the USA/Canada and beyond is a Heaven Sent Revival. God brings about that marvelous change through the preaching/sharing of His Law and Gospel.

So we pray that those who have stood with us in the past will continue to do so, and NEW friends will come along to stand with us as we communicate His Law and Gospel and the supremacy of His Lordship, and a biblically informed local/national and worldwide view, so that God's children may be strengthened in their walk with Jesus and others may come to know Jesus personally. Satan and his hench men (his angels) have not gone on vacation nor have fallen asleep. The battle actually intensifies, as Satan knows his time of working on the face of the earth may soon be over!

Your support (prayer & finances) are not only requested, but needed to keep this ministry going, and Lord willing, expanded. May we count on you to do your part as the Holy Spirit lays this upon your heart – and then follow His leading? The Lord Bless! We know we cannot out-give His prompting!

The January Income for the *Morning Glory* was app. \$2,656.00.

The cost of publishing and mailing the *Morning Glory* each month is approx. \$2,100. In addition to the above costs there are administrative costs, so it takes about \$3,600 per month to keep the *Morning Glory* and the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation alive.

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## Can We Hear From You?

We received very little to print this month in the section entitled, "From Our Fellowship Circle." We always appreciate hearing from you, especially what the Lord Jesus is doing in your lives. Thank you to each one who has sent offerings to us. We deeply appreciate each one, regardless of size.

We also want to be good stewards of what you entrust to us in the Lord. If someone has moved or is deceased or does not wish to receive the *Morning Glory* any longer, please notify us of the change so we are not sending it to those addresses.

May the Lord bless each one richly.