



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • May 2016

Make Every Effort

Luke 12:58-59

“When you go with your adversary to the magistrate, make every effort along the way to settle with him, lest he drag you to the judge, the judge deliver you to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. I tell you, you shall not depart from there till you have paid the very last mite.”

NKJV

Jesus is in Jerusalem speaking to a multitude of unbelieving Jews, and He gives a very evangelistic message in the form of a parable. In order to understand this parable we need to figure out who the cast of characters are. We have five characters in our play. We have “you”. You are in this parable. We also have the adversary, the magistrate, the judge, and the officer. But we really only have two characters in our parable, because the adversary, the magistrate, the judge and the officer are all the same person, God.

Often times in the Bible Satan is our adversary, but not here. Our adversary is God. He is the one who has a charge against us. He is the one we have offended and sinned against. Speaking of those who had trampled the Son of God underfoot the writer of Hebrews says (10:31 NKJV) **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.** If you are not a Christian, you are an enemy of God through wicked works. Likewise, the Magistrate or the ruler of the kingdom is God. The judge is Jesus. In our creed we say about Jesus, that he will come again to judge the living and the dead. And the officer, the one who casts the lawbreaker into prison, or hell, is also God.

Notice it says “When you go.” It does not say, “If you Go.” All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

When you go with your adversary, you will go, divine justice demands it.

What is Jesus’ message to this unbelieving multitude? What is Jesus’ message to the “You” in this parable? This “you,” includes you. Make every effort along the way to settle with Him. Along the way speaks of your life. You don’t know how long that will be, but what happens between you and God has to happen in this life, because when you die and are dragged before the judge it will be too late. You will be thrown in prison, God’s prison, hell.

How do we settle with the adversary along the way to the magistrate, so that we don’t go to prison or hell? Jesus tells us in the next Chapter, Luke 13. This is a continuation of the dialog Jesus was having with the multitude in Jerusalem. There had been a couple recent tragedies that were on people’s minds. People had died at the hands of Pilate, and people had died when a tower fell, and the question in their mind was, “Did these people die because they were worse sinners than the rest of us?” Jesus’ answer was the same to both of those situations. Luke 13:3, *“Unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”*

So how do you settle with God along the way, as you have breath and are living your life? You repent or you will perish. Repentance is used either alongside of faith, or it is used interchangeably with faith. They are two sides of the same coin. When Jesus started His ministry His message was, “Repent and believe the Gospel.”

Sept. 11th 2001 – If you’re over 25, you remember that day. Over three thousand Americans died that day at the hands of terrorists. John MacArthur, a pastor from California, found himself on the Larry King show a couple nights later. He had no idea what kind of questions Larry King would ask him. The first question out of his mouth was

Morning Glory

Volume XCVIII – Number 5
May 2016

MORNING GLORY (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Periodicals postage paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56537.
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Morning Glory, c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

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

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

Internet Web Site: hauginnermission.com.
Facebook: [Facebook.com/Haugeinnermission](https://www.facebook.com/Haugeinnermission)

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

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Wayne AlmlieDes Moines, IA
Vice President: Rodney StuelandDilworth, MN
Secretary: Jim HagaShoreview, MN
Treasurer: Paul Peterson.....Kenyon, MN
Kevin GundersonDexter, MN
John MonsenBurnsville, MN
Duane NessaGarden City, IA
Vacant.....
Joel Zeltinger.....Bismarck, ND

CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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

Table of Contents

Make Every Effort1-2
Forgive2
Isaac Dwelt by the Well • Sharing the Good News.....3
You Can Have a Good Day • Five Ideas to Make the Most of your Time4
Editorial5-6
From our Fellowship Circle • The Folly of Flattery7
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable.....8-9
The Bible • How Large The Universe • If Any Man Will Come After Me9
Sin and the Sense of Sin10
The Way of Faith • Unhindered Gospel • Soothing Words11
The Sword of the Spirit12-13
Looking for Opportunities • Guilty as Charged.....13
A Touch is Greater than a Text • Four Ways to Look14
What Christians Can Learn from Piranhas • God’s Count • Who Needs God?15
Hauge Annual Conference • UpDate16

this, “What does it mean... What is the lesson... What do we take away from the devastation of the collapse of the Twin Towers and three thousand some people dying? What is the message? This is what he said. “Well the takeaway is this, you’re going to die, and you’re not in control of when.”

So I ask you, “Have you repented and put your faith in Jesus as you are going along the way?” If you wait until you are before the judge, it will be too late.

Wayne Almlie
Des Moines, IA

Forgive

The command to forgive as we have been forgiven is difficult to obey, but we need to forgive people who have wronged us – even if we don’t think they deserve it. If we don’t, the poisons of anger and bitterness will eat away at our souls – but with God’s help we can deal with them in a way that honors Him.

If we were at fault in any way, we need to face it honestly and seek God’s forgiveness. Then we need to ask the person to forgive us as well – even if they may refuse.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13.

Wisdom For Each Day,
Billy Graham, © Copyright
– 2011, DaySpring Cards,
Inc. Siloam Springs, AR

“Isaac dwelt by the well Lahai-roi.”

Genesis 25:11

HAGAR had once found deliverance there and Ishamael had drank from the water so graciously revealed by the God who liveth and seeth the sons of men; but his was a merely casual visit, such as worldlings pay to the Lord in times of need, when it serves their turn. They cry to Him in trouble, but forsake Him in prosperity. Isaac dwelt there, and made the well of the living and all-seeing God his constant source of supply. The usual tenor of a man’s life, the dwelling of his soul, is the true test of his state. Perhaps the providential visitation experienced by Hagar struck Isaac’s mind, and led him to revere the place; its mystical name endeared it to him, his frequent musings by its brim at eventide made him familiar with the well, his meeting Rebecca there had made his spirit feel at home near the spot; but best of all, the fact that he there enjoyed fellowship with the living God had made him select that hallowed ground for his dwelling. Let us learn to live in the presence of the living God; let us pray the Holy Spirit that this day, and every other day, we may feel, “**Thou God seest me.**” May the Lord Jehovah be as a well to us, delightful, comforting, unailing, springing up unto eternal life. The bottle of the creature cracks and dries up, but the well of the Creator never fails; happy is he who dwells at the well, and so His abundant and constant supplies near at hand. The Lord has been a sure helper to others: His name is Saddai, God All-sufficient; our hearts have often had most delightful intercourse with Him; through Him our soul has found her glorious husband, the Lord Jesus; and in Him this day we live, and move, and have our being. Let us, then, dwell in closest fellowship with Him. Glorious Lord, constrain us that we may never leave Thee, but dwell by the well of the living God.

Morning & Evening by Charles Spurgeon, Copyright -1991, Hendrickson Publishers

* * * * *

Do you believe that He (Jesus) would send those men out to preach the Gospel to every creature unless He wanted every creature (individual) to be saved? Do you believe He would tell them to preach it to people without giving people the power to accept it (prevenient Grace)? Do you believe the God of Heaven is mocking men by offering them His Gospel and not giving them the power to take hold of it? Do you believe He would not give men power to accept this salvation as a gift? Man might do that, but God never mocks men. And when He says

“*Preach the gospel to every creature,*” every creature can be saved if he will.

D L. Moody

Editor’s Note: With the call of God unto godly Repentance and Salvation comes the grace and power to accept JESUS as personal Savior!

* * * * *

Sharing the Good News

Michael Youssef, PH.D.

The king of Syria, Ben-Hadad, erected a siege around the city of Samaria so that nobody could go out and nobody could come in. In time, the people began to starve to death.

But God set fear in the hearts of the Syrians and drove them out of the city. They left everything behind – food, clothing, gold, silver.

In 2 Kings 7:3 we read that there were four lepers outside of the city. One person would come out twice a day from the city and shove food for them through a hole in the wall. But nobody was able to get out of the city, so the lepers were starving to death.

So these lepers looked for salvation in the camp of the Syrians. Much to their surprise, they found that all the tents were empty! Food was abundant; water, gold, silver, animals, all were there for them to take. Their kin-folk were starving behind the walls while they had all the food they could eat for the rest of their lives.

The challenge this passage presents is found in 2 Kings 7:9. “*Then (the lepers) said to each other: ‘What we’re doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let’s go at once and report this to the royal palace.’*”

They saw and experienced the good news. They witnessed the promise of God fulfilled in front of their eyes and were enjoying it, but the rest of the community was starving to death.

This is a day of good news, and we are doing right to keep it to ourselves. It is not right when we focus our energy, our activities, and our money on ourselves while there are men and women who are spiritually starving to death.

Are you sharing the Good News? Who around you is starving and needs to be told about the miracle Christ did in your life?

“*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your god reigns!’*” Isaiah 52:7

Why You Can Have A Good Day

The Day Ahead Is As Bright As the Promises of God

By Dr. Paul Chappell

Every morning brings fresh opportunities – and fresh challenges. Sometimes the challenges seem to outweigh the opportunities. Sometimes it's difficult to see the opportunities embedded in the challenges. Sometimes – with or without challenges or opportunities – it's just a rough day. Thankfully, every morning also brings the faithful promises of God – each one just as fresh today as when God first gave it.

When we forge God's promises, we flounder through our day relying on human strength and faulty perception. But when we remember and believe them, we find provision for our needs and strength for our labor. Notice just twelve of these promises for our needs and work:

God's presence: *"I will never leave thee"* (Hebrews 13:5). (Ed. We can 'stray from HIM).

God's protection: *"I am thy shield"* (Genesis 15:1).

God's power: *"I will strengthen thee"* (Isaiah 41:10).

God's leading: *"And when He putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them"* (John 10:4).

God's provision: *"I will help thee"* (Isaiah 41:10).

God's purposes: *"I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

God's rest: *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28).

God's cleansing: *"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).

God's goodness: *"No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly"* (Psalm 84:11).

God's faithfulness: *"The LORD will not forsake His people for His great name's sake"* (1 Samuel 12:22).

God's guidance: *"The meek will he guide"* (Psalm 25:9).

God's wise plan: *"All things work together for good to them that love God"* (Romans 8:28).

God's presence, protection, leading, rest, guidance ...and more! Sounds like a good day to me.
Selected

* * * * *

Five Ideas To Make the Most of Your Time

We Must Redeem the Time

By Dr. Kevin Folger

I don't know if your life is like mine, but I find that time is moving at breakneck speed. I hardly get a new week started when it seems like the week is over and I am looking at a new week. They say that time moves quicker the older you get. I don't know why that is, but it certainly seems true.

Psalm 90 instructs us to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom. Below are some ideas to help make the most of your time:

1. Make God an essential part of your time. Begin your day with Him reading the Bible and praying. Make sure that He is the focus of your time throughout the week. Do not view church attendance as optional! It is not a waste of time, but rather a way to capitalize on your time.

2. Plan your week as much as possible. At the beginning of every week, try to write down the things that you need to accomplish and when you are going to do them.

3. Prioritize your time with your family. If you have young children in your home, remember that they will be grown and gone from your home soon. You have this moment to make a difference in their lives. If your children are grown, make sure that you and your spouse make time to be with each other. Eat meals together as a family. Talk at the table and encourage one another.

4. Turn off the television and read a good, helpful book (Ed. How about the *Morning Glory?*). When was the last time you read to expand your mind and grow intellectually and spiritually? Encourage your children in this matter of reading. It will help them more than they know.

5. Finally, assess your week. How was it spent? How did you manage your time? When you fail, determine that the following week will be better.

Nothing in our wardrobe ought to take anyone's focus away from the preaching of the Word of God OR sharing a personal testimony of JESUS in a life walking with HIM!

Editorial

RES

Sit or Set???

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore...”

(Colossians 3:1 – 5a.)

At the very beginning of this chapter (v. 1), a very significant two letter word is stated – **IF**.

I was raised on a very small dairy farm in Wisconsin and so I am aware of the fact there is a very significant difference between a mother hen sitting on her eggs or setting on them, in order to hatch a brood of chicks!

For some clarification, let us briefly state to ‘**sit**’ is basically a relaxed position. To ‘**set**’ is to put into a specific position, a stable position; also to restore, to fix firmly in an immobile manner.

Following in Verse one, very closely, is the word ‘SEEK’.

As a true Christian believer, we most certainly do not seek wisdom from astrology because the BIBLE tells us clearly not to. Astrology and other forms of fortune-telling were very common in the ancient world, but the Bible states that GOD hates such and God calls them “*detestable practices*” – Deuteronomy 18:12.

Furthermore, the ONE who only wants the best for you and me, clearly states: “*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.*” Matthew 6:33. God clearly states that if we search for HIM with our whole heart (all, singleness, pure) we shall find HIM! For “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” (6:22). You see, we human beings are so earthly bound that in God’s Love we need this admonition. “*But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly*” Luke 21:44. You see, we Christians, by the Grace and Mercy of God (as a whole), are not ensnared with carousing and drunkenness, BUT in these days of *somewhat difficult* economic times, how about the ‘things of this world’? God says “...be careful not to get weighed down” with physical, earthly things! In other words, don’t get over-charged and burned out.

AND as we truthfully examine ourselves in the light of Scripture, we need to keep in mind that the decisions we

make are our decisions and we are accountable to GOD and man for them.

I recall a gentleman stating that if he did not have time for “morning devotions,” and he also did not have time to eat breakfast. Where is the discipline! What time of the day do you have your family altar? Is it *Morning & Evening*?? Do you pant after the Living Water? Are you Thirsty?

WHY, in the midst of a very busy day, did Jesus insist His disciples take time-out? Yes, leave the crowds to rest and be alone with Him in separation and fellowship with Jesus and their fellow believers! He knew the busier they were, the more they needed to make time to rest and be alone with HIM. IF they didn’t, eventually they would hurt both themselves and those they were seeking to help. JESUS knows the demands, peer-pressure and responsibilities you face – at home, in the job, school or even in your church. BUT He also knows you need His guidance and wisdom and empowerment to get them done rightly. “*And He said to them, ‘Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while,’ For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.*” (Mark 6:31)

We are to SEEK ‘*those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God*’.

Isn’t it marvelous how gentle, caring, loving and patient that God is with us in our earthly journey until we reach HEAVEN and HOME?

The story is told that Martin Luther was very discouraged for a period of time. Finally his wife, Katie, came into his midst dressed in black, which was a sign of mourning. Martin asked her who had died? Her answer was: GOD must have, the way you are acting!

SO we are to set our minds ‘on things above’. “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service, And do not be conformed (literally SQUEEZED) to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your*

mind,” Romans 12:1-2a. See also II Corinthians 10:3-5.

The reason is given to us in verse three and the result is found in verse four! When something is dead, you do not keep on yielding to or ‘feeding’ it. We are to ‘reckon’ ourselves as being dead to the sinful *worldly* things. IN Christ there has taken place a change and transformation. See II Corinthians 5:17.

You and I will never be good enough to get into Heaven on our own. The reason is because God is pure, holy and just – and even one sin – just one sin – would be enough to keep a person out of Heaven. Just think if you committed only three sins a day (sins of omission and commission). At the year’s end that would total over 1,000 sins. Thus, we cannot remove our sins even if we washed with nitre (lye); we would still not be justified before our Holy God! Therefore, we each need the sinless Son of God and have all our sins washed away in and through the BLOOD of the sinless ONE. This is how we are forgiven! See 1 John 1:7-2:1.

UNLESS we come as JESUS states, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, there is NO real HOPE of arriving in **HEAVEN!** *“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 18:3)

The greatest thing that the Creator made was humanity. But how does an Infant enter into this world? Naked and totally dependent upon someone else! The ONLY thing little child brings into this world is a hunger for food. Spiritually, God gives us a ‘hunger’ to be on the way to heaven through JESUS. With the ‘Call of God’ comes the power to respond positively to that call! What GOD calls “wise” is when a person openly confesses their lack of spiritual wealth and in humility cries out, **“God be merciful to me a sinner.”** Luke 18:13 (Or to make it personal, “The sinner”) In God’s calling, first the realization of spiritual emptiness comes before filling, and spiritual poverty before riches.

Little children depend totally upon their parents for protection and care. When we come to Christ, we become children of God, and we can trust the heavenly cause of this personal relationship. Children are not poor, but if it weren’t for trust in their parents, they would be helpless and poor indeed.

When we come to Christ, we become children of God, and we can trust our heavenly Father to provide for us. In verse 5 of our text, it starts with the word “Therefore.” What is it there for? Because we have a choice to make! You see, the old nature actually grows and we are to put it to death in God’s marvelous GRACE and empowerment! See Galatians 3:24.

Our loving God actually lists some sins here by name,

because HE cares and loves and at times His LOVE is tough. As Ambassadors of the King of kings, why don’t we follow suit on these on a personal level? What about the pastor preaching from the pulpit and naming these sins? For example, GOD names at least FIVE SPECIFIC SINS by name in our brief text! For us to do less is not only compromising the Word of God, but a form of treason! These sins are: 1. Fornication, 2. Uncleanness, 3. Passion, 4. Evil desire and 5. Covetousness, which is idolatry.

Martin Luther mentions that we need to drown the old-Adam (nature) daily, but he learned that the old-Adam ‘swims’. So it is a constant battle who wins: the old nature OR the new nature. Ephesians 4:21b–23 says, **“as the truth is in Jesus, 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.”** (Please READ the entire fourth and seventh chapters of Romans). *“Righteous are You, O LORD, And upright are Your judgments. Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.”* Psalm 119:137-138.

Also notice how verse five of our text describes covetousness that is not put to death – God says it is **idolatry!**

What a person sows, that he also reaps! Look at the cost of DISOBEDIENCE in verse six! Today, a person hardly hears anything from anyone about the **wrath of God**. But the ONE BOOK, which contains sixty-six smaller books has much to say about it. **“Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,”** v.6.

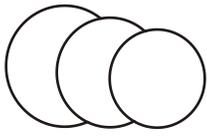
How we need to keep our priorities in line with the Bible and follow the example of the Apostle Paul’s testimony in Philippians 3. *If you don’t have a destination or goal in your heart and mind, then YOU are lost!*

YES, here on earth, we are in a journey of life. Each day has an effect upon our Eternal Goal – HEAVEN AND HOME!

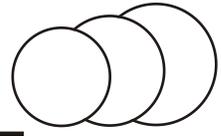
So my friend, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God and SET your **mind** on those things which are above. Then we shall meet up-yonder someday, IF we don’t meet first before that DAY!

“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame” Revelation 16:15.

P.S. Lord willing, some of you will have a golden-opportunity to COME APART AND REST AWHILE – by taking in the Hauge Bible Conference at Fargo, ND on June 24 – 26, 2016 at St. Paul’s Lutheran. See the schedule for this conference on page 16.



From Our Fellowship Circle



M. & M. J.

Northfield, MN

I am so thankful for this Publication. I try to read from it every day, as it helps set the tone for the Day.

H. B.

Woodburn, OR

How great to have the Hauge ‘ministry’ still spreading the Gospel through the Morning Glory As you recall from history, Hans Neilsen Hauge almost died in jail - But he is still a light to the blind church.

We live in a Condo of elderly folk and we pass the paper onto others that live here.

My husband is almost 96 years of age, but still reads too. ... My Dad and ... used to write articles for the *Morning Glory* and it always was in our home.

God bless you for keeping on...

P. J.

Willmar, MN

Thank you very much for the paper. I read it all and put some of the things in the Christian letters that I write.

M.H.

Story City, IA

Thank you for all the work and the dedication you give to the *Morning Glory* – it’s always been a blessing to me.

L. E.

Red Wing, MN

Thank you so much continuing the *Morning Glory*. I look forward to reading it every month.

J. & G. Y.

Webster, SD

We’re enclosing a check for \$... in memory of Edwin Stensland who went to be with the Lord on February 12th, 2016

Edwin was an inspiration to us and we miss him a lot, but we know he is in Heaven with Jesus and that we’ll see him again one day.

May God Bless you immensely.

K. R. S.

Amery, WI

Enclosed find a memorial gift in memory of my husband, John who entered his Eternal home on January 17th, 2016. We both enjoyed reading the *Morning Glory*.

N. F.

Rudd, IA

Enclosed is a check to help you continue your inspiring ministry.

Thanks for all you’re doing for our beloved United States of America!

The Folly of Flattery

By Louis Albert Banks

In Windsor Castle there was a suite of rooms for the use of Queen Victoria’s Chaplain. A private passage connected the chaplain’s study with the Queen’s apartment, and she frequently repaired there to consult him on important matters.

One day as the Queen was returning to her apartment after an interview, a parrot called out some words in a cross tone of voice from its cage in the passage. Failing to understand the sounds, the Queen turned to the chaplain and asked, “What is the parrot saying?”

With much embarrassment he replied, “IF you please, Your Majesty, I would rather not repeat it.”

“But what was it?” she said.

“Something I fear Your Majesty will not like; therefore, I hope Your Majesty will excuse me from telling it.”

The Queen’s curiosity was now thoroughly aroused. She said, “Come, I insist.”

The chaplain bowed low and made answer: “Since Your Majesty insists, the parrot said, ‘Go along, you ugly old woman!’”

Queen Victoria laughed heartily as she said, “Well, I am glad that there is at least one voice in the kingdom which is not afraid to tell me what it thinks of me.”

Many preachers of our day are making the fatal blunder of preaching to people a Gospel out of which is carefully eradicated the sharp, keen sword of God’s Word, which would pierce the consciences of their hearers and convict them of sin.

There never was a time when there was more need of Nathan’s example in dealing with David, when he described the sin and aroused the sinner and looked him straight in the eye and said, “*Thou art the man*” (II Sam. 12:7)!

Sword of the Lord

HISTORY

“History fails to record a precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse or a progressive deterioration to ultimate national disaster.”

General Douglas MacArthur

Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

Three Networks Slant News to Liberal Bias!

A media watchdog has released its year-long study that tracked evening newscast in 2015.

ABC, CBS, and NBC totaled more than 300 hours of news coverage in 2015 with stories on crime, terrorism and weather, attracting heavy attention.

According to Rich Noyse at the Media Research Center, however, the MRC analysis revealed that many important stories received little attention.

For example, the undercover Planned Parenthood videos got only 25 minutes of coverage while same-gender “marriage,” bolstered by a U. S. Supreme Court decision, received two hours and 11 minutes.

“But that was something where the media, clearly from the tone of their coverage, wanted to celebrate it and promote it,” Noyse says of the marriage issue. ...

OneNewsNow.com

Remember This?

When he appeared at the U.N. and banged his shoe on the podium?

QUOTE:

“Your children’s children will live under communism. You Americans are so gullible. No, you won’t accept communism outright; but we’ll keep feeding you small doses of Socialism until you will finally wake up and find that you already have communism. We won’t have to fight you; *We’ll so weaken your Economy, until you fall like overripe fruit into our hands.*”

Nikita Khrushchey, 9/29/1959

Pope To Join Lutherans In Celebrating 500th Anniversary Of The Reformation

The Vatican has announced Pope Francis will travel to Lund, Sweden, for a joint ecumenical commemoration at the start of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The one-day event, October 31, 2016, will be held in the Lund cathedral. The joint-service, sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation, will be attended by Lutherans, Catholics and various other Christian denominations. The worship service will follow a joint document entitled “*From Conflict to Communion*,” which focuses on the themes of thanksgiving, repentance and commitment to common witness.

Editor’s Note: This is one event every orthodox, evangelical, Bible-believing Lutheran will want to be sure to *miss!* It is a total sellout of the Reformation. Luther must be spinning in his grave! Not a single theological issue that brought about the Reformation has been changed or redressed by the Roman Catholic Church.

The Vine and Branches

Ken Ham Wins Major Victory In Court Worth Millions

Ken Ham sued Kentucky after state officials denied his new attraction, the Ark Encounter, the right to participate in the sales tax tourism incentive that could be worth up to \$1.8 million. In January, however, a federal judge ruled that Kentucky officials had violated the group’s First Amendment rights by denying its participation in the state’s sales tax program. The tax incentive program refunds a portion of the sales tax collected from those who voluntarily choose to buy a ticket to tour the Ark Encounter.

The Ark Encounter, a theme park with a life-sized replica of Noah’s Ark, which cost over \$90 million to construct, is set to open July 7 in Williamstown, KY. The opening date, 7/7, coincides with Genesis 7:7, which describes Noah and his family entering the Ark.

Ham also stated that initially the Ark Encounter will be open 40 days and 40 nights before going to its normal schedule on August 15. Ham expects the park, which will accommodate up to 16,000 people, to be filled daily the first few weeks after it opens. That is why they will operate 24 hours a day for the first 40 days.

Information from christianpost.com,1/26/16

Declaration Of Independence

“But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide view Guards for their future.”

Thomas Jefferson

Hats Off To Schuler’s Bakery!

The owner of Schuler’s Bakery in Springfield, Ohio, recently posted the following sign on the front

door of his shop:

NOTICE

This store is politically incorrect. **WE SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS, GOD BLESS AMERICA, WE SALUTE OUR FLAG & GIVE THANKS TO OUR TROOPS, POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS. IF THIS OFFENDS YOU, YOU ARE WELCOME TO LEAVE.**

IN GOD WE TRUST

Schuler's BAKERY, Trent A. Schuler – CEO/OWNER

The Vine and Branches, Midwinter 2016 Issue 1

PBS Panel Calls Ted Cruz And His Father “Satanic”

During a recent telecast of The News Hour, led by Judy Woodruff on PBS, two members of the panel, David Brooks and David Corn, concluded that Ted Cruz and his father, Rafael, were ‘satanic.’ Panelist David Brooks said, “Cruz is somehow beginning to get some momentum from Iowa and elsewhere. And so people are either mimicking him, which Rubio is doing a little by adopting some of the dark and satanic tones that Cruz has...It is an ugly world in Ted Cruz’s world.”

David Corn was even more caustic when he said, “Well, actually, if you go to a speech from his dad, who is a pastor, evangelical Rafael Cruz, it actually is satanic. He – I watched a speech in which he said Satan was behind the Supreme Court decision to legalize gay marriage.”

The Vine and Branches, Midwinter 2016 Issue 1

Editor’s Note: See Matthew 5:11, Luke 6:22, 1 Peter 4:14, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before, it hated you” John 15:18. “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” II Timothy 3:12.

The ‘spiritual warfare’ is definitely intensifying and also having its effect in the secular world!

* * * * *

THE BIBLE

“There is no such thing in all the Bible as an abstract doctrine, something which is to be held headwise and not heartwise as a mere matter of opinion and controversy instead of action and life. These are great and serious demands.

We are living our one only earthly life, and we cannot afford to be the victims of mere tradition or of a mere philosophy. We are glad and confident, therefore, that the

great facts – historical and verifiable facts – which form the substance of the Christian faith and out of which its doctrines grow were not transacted in a corner. Submitting to the authority of the Bible, we are able to give a reason for the hope that is in us.”

C. I. Scofield

How Large the Universe

How vast is God’s universe? Pretend the earth were a grape or marble. In proportion, the sun would be the size of a beachball and would be 163 yards away – a little less than the length of two football fields.

The largest planet in our solar system, Jupiter, would be about the size of a grapefruit; and it would be about five blocks up the road. What about the nearest star? In our scaled-down universe, the nearest star would still be twenty-four thousand miles away.

If the earth were a grape, the Milky Way, reduced to a proportionate size, would still be fifty-five billion miles wide. And the universe is filled with other galaxies. Who can imagine the size of the universe?

Selected.

* * * * *

“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” Mathew 16:24

***Only a little while
Of walking with weary feet
Patiently over the thorny way
That leads to the golden street.
Suffer if God shall will
And work for Him while we may,
From Calvary’s cross to Zion’s crown
Is only a little way.***

Maria P. A. Crozier

*“Deal bountifully with Thy servant, That I may live and keep Thy word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy Law. I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Thy commandments from me.”
(Ps. 119:17-19)*

Sin and the Sense of Sin

(Continued from the April issue of the Morning Glory)

Here was one of the noblest characters among the cultured and religiously-minded Jews of that time. Everything that we read about this man in the New Testament shows this to be true.

He comes for a conversation with Jesus about a question which is agitating his soul more profoundly than anything else. However, what he really intended to say we have not been permitted to learn, for before he had finished his introduction Jesus interrupted him with these words; *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew he cannot see the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and flesh cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

Certainly Jesus' hard words to the Samaritan woman had no stronger effect upon her than these words about the new birth had upon Nicodemus.

Nicodemus was a Jew, and was therefore in possession of the promises and of the covenant. He no doubt expected, as did his people, that when God finally did send the Messiah, the chosen people would enter into the kingdom, while the enemies of that people would receive their punishment through the Messianic judgment. In Nicodemus this conviction was the more firmly rooted because he belonged to that group within the chosen people, the Pharisees, which adhered most strictly to the law of God and took this law most seriously. Among these, again, Nicodemus occupied a particularly high position; he had been chosen to their supreme council. Moreover, Nicodemus was a sincere Pharisee, as everything we read about him in the New Testament indicates.

Now Jesus tells him, without in any way veiling His words, that all his godliness and morality in no wise entitles him to any hope of entering into the kingdom of God. Here again Jesus thrusts the sword of His Word directly into a vital spot. By a single flash of truth He shows this pious Israelite his sinfulness and depravity of soul. He even upbraids him that he, a teacher of Israel, does not know this, of which even the prophets have spoken, from Isaiah to John the Baptist.

How this pointed truth affected Nicodemus at the moment we are not told. Later we hear that he became a believer and was saved – saved also from his fear of men, with the result that he who first came to Jesus in the darkness of night courageously took upon himself not only the reproach but also the risk of being one of the disciples of Jesus at a time when they had all fled (John 19:39-42). We all, no doubt, agreed that it was the truth which Jesus spoke to him in that midnight hour which became the means of his salvation.

As a third illustration of how Jesus preached about sin I shall mention the account of the rich young ruler (Mark

10:17-22). Here, moreover, we see Jesus in the presence of a young man.

This young man had heard Jesus and had very evidently been gripped by His message. Now he comes to Jesus and asks, *"What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"* Jesus answers him by asking him if he is not familiar with the law. It is very apparent that the young man now became quite disappointed. He had quite evidently expected to hear something entirely different from Jesus than this. So he replies: *"I have kept the commandments from my youth."*

Let us now note that the man spoke the truth, as the answer of Jesus indicates. Moreover, we are even told that Jesus looked upon him and loved him. The young man had kept the commandments of God from his youth, as he had been taught them by his religious leaders. If he had lived in our day, he would have been called a Christian by virtue of his childhood training, or a "baptized and confirmed" Christian, as they are frequently designated.

What does Jesus then do with this young man who has been honest and pious from his earliest youth? Again He thrusts the sword of His Word into the most tender spot in the young man's soul. Go, sell everything you have; then come back and we shall continue our conversation, is the counsel that Jesus gives him.

There he stands with his sinful heart bared before Jesus. In a flash he has been given to see the nature of his love toward God and his neighbor. He is rich, but loves his possessions more *than God*. That he has grasped and become inwardly *convinced of* the truth of Jesus' words, is apparent from the *closing* remark: *"And he went away sorrowful."* If he had not felt the truth of Jesus' words, he would not have gone away grieved.

Let us now note carefully what had happened. Jesus had preached the young man away. And He let him go. He made no attempt to lower the requirements contained in His strong exhortation to the young man.

Jesus wanted him to face the facts. He wanted to show him the will of God in such a way that the man would see his real sin, the selfishness and willfulness of his own heart. And when He had succeeded in doing this, He wanted the man to go away convicted of sin – if he would not yield and obey the words of Jesus. Jesus wanted to send him away bound within. Then he himself would have to fight out the battle with the truth of which he had been convinced by Jesus. Until this battle had been fought out Jesus could not help him. Did he come back? Nothing is said to that effect. However, and of that we are glad, nothing is said to indicate that he did not come back either.

The Christian Life, by O. Hallesby, Ph.D., Augsburg Publishing House, Copyright – 1934, Permission Granted

The Way of Faith

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

II Corinthians 5:7

The way of faith is not the way of sight. It is not looking for evidences, either in our own feelings or in the circumstances that attend us.

The way of faith is not the way of effort. Real faith is confidence in God that He is working on our behalf. Instead of bringing worry and effort into our hearts, it brings rest.

The way of faith is the way of reliance upon the character and promise of Another – upon God and His Word. Faith looks to God to work as He has said He would and refuses to undertake for itself, except to fulfill those conditions that God may have laid down with His promise.

Indeed the largest part of faith’s struggle often is to keep from interfering on its own behalf. Unbelief will not wait for God to work but must rush ahead to help itself. Thus it fails to receive from God, for He works, *“for him that waiteth for him”* (Ed. Not only patience, BUT expectance)! Isaiah 64:4

Faith is willing to endure trial and to wait long if need be. It knows that He is *“faithful who has promised”* Hebrews 11:11 and *“though (the vision) tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come”* Hab. 2:3.

The way of faith is God’s way with His people. He has no other (Heb. 11:6). He who is infinite and trustworthy asked that we trust Him. Could He ask less? When our Lord Jesus was on earth, He always asked to be believed. He rejoiced at faith but was astonished at unbelief (Mark 6:6, 3:5).

Hyman Appelman

An Unhindered Gospel

Lessons from Acts 28:30 – 31

Dear Pastor (& Friends)

As (GOD through) Luke closes out his narrative in the book of Acts, he tells us that Paul, even under house arrest for two years, continued preaching *“the kingdom of God teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

He does this with confidence, knowing that God will permit His Word to *“accomplish what He sends it forth to do.”* (Ed. Isaiah 55:10-11) All this builds our faith and encourages us to continue in the ministry to which God has called us.

But in this article, I want to point you to the very last word Luke uses: “akolutos.” The Greek word “akolutos”

literally means *“unhindered.”* Different translations render it “no man forbidding him” (KJV), “no one forbidding him” (NKLV), and “unhindered” (NASV). The literal translation “unhindered” gives great meaning.

The Gospel message had overcome all the obstacles that had tried to destroy and distort it throughout the book of Acts. The Gospel had overcome threats from the Sanhedrin (Act 4:13-22), the lies of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:11-11), the apostles’ persecution (Acts 5:17-42), division within the body (Acts 6:1-8), and more. The record continues through the book of Acts to reflect the power of the Gospel over all barriers, personal, geographical, financial, political, etc.

When Luke closes his historical account he tells the readers that the Gospel is stronger than any power that would come against it.

The last word “unhindered” also lets us know the Gospel being carried to the nations, works best in freedom – freedom to share the Gospel (unhindered) with those in our own nation, but also freedom to send missionaries to other nations.

Join me in praying for an “unhindered gospel.”

Sincerely, Bert Harper, Director of Marriage, Family, and Pastoral Ministries, American Family Association,
1/16/2016

Soothing Words

The Jewish nation was on the brink of an invasion that would soon destroy it and send most of its inhabitants into exile. And yet few wanted to hear what Ezekiel had to say, for his message warned of God’s impending judgment.

Instead, they wanted to listen to prophets who declared soothing words telling them that Ezekiel was wrong and soon the nation would experience peace.

A multitude of talk show gurus promise the same thing. Some may have value – but many are like the false prophets and charm merchants of Ezekiel’s day. Don’t be misled, and don’t be deceived!

Instead, build your life on the truth God has given us in His Word.

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against your magic charms with which you ensnare people. Ezekiel 13:20.

Wisdom For Each Day, Billy Graham; Mfd. For ©
2011 DaySpring Cards, Inc.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.”

It does not depend upon how much we read; it is more important that our spirit comes to rest in the Word. Then we learn to meditate upon God’s law; then the mind is filled with the will of God; then we understand salvation and God’s purpose for our lives. Then will come to pass this wonderful thing that the Spirit touches our spirit.

Then a Christian learns to use the sword in battle.

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

He is like a tree planted by rivers of water.

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

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

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

Under such circumstances it is easy to lose the sword!

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

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

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

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

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

preacher.

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

Soldiers of Christ! Do not lose your sword!

Our generation has a critical and know-it-all attitude; this contagion has also affected the people of God. We want to understand everything, and we are loathe to believe anything beyond our understanding. From many a pulpit and lectern faith is more and more discredited.

We who are Christians may find ourselves without swords someday. If we would avert such a tragedy we must make diligent use of the Bible; we must learn to find our way to God through the Word. Then no one shall be able to take the Word from us, for we have found and receive that which the Word promised.

Then shall the host of God Triumphant be in battle.

Taken from *Spirit and Power*, by Ludvig Hope,
Copyright – 1959 – Hauge Lutheran Innermission
Federation

Editor’s Note: How you and I need the Holy Spirit’s enlightenment to correctly understand the BIBLE! **“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD GOD, ‘That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it’”** Amos 8:11-12. BECAUSE (In my opinion) the WORD will be (is being) ‘adulterated’ (watered-down); which is foretold in God’s Holy Inspired Book, the **BIBLE!**

Look for Opportunities

“Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool.” John 5:7

What thoughtful person has ever read the story of the helpless man who had lain so long at the pool and not found himself thinking, I would have done it? But are we really looking for such opportunities and taking advantage of them?

A couple in Denver, Colorado told of going out of curiosity to a meeting conducted by Evangelist Billy Sunday. When the invitation was given, they looked at

each other questioningly, then shook their heads.

As they turned later to leave, a woman behind them said, “You will never again find it as easy as it would have been tonight.” Startled, the couple demanded to know what she meant and why she had said it.

She answered, “Oh, I just felt it was true and that I should tell you.”

The wife looked frightened and said to her husband, “There is something more behind this than that, whether or not she knows it. We are being notified that this is our last chance; let’s take it!”

An usher was able to find Mr. Sunday for them; and before they left him, they knew that their names were written down in Glory.

I read the testimony of a man who had been about to take a train when he was half drunk. A deaf man came up to him and, taking a piece of paper from his pocket, wrote on it, “Jesus is my Saviour. He helps me every day. Read John 3:16.”

Obviously the Holy Spirit was speaking to the drunk man, for he became so eager to find out what John 3:16 was that he went to two houses and asked for a Bible before he found one.

He spent that night in an old shed down by the river, not able to get the two messages out of his mind. Now he too is able to say as did the deaf mute, “Jesus is my Saviour. He helps me every day.”

God can use the least gifted, if we listen for His leading. Let us bring the needy ones to Him!

Selected

Guilty as Charged!

Gladstone said strong drink was “more destructive than war, pestilence and famine.”

Sir Wilfred Lawson said it was “the devil in solution.”

Abraham Lincoln said it was “a cancer in human society, eating out its vitals and threatening its destruction.”

Robert Hall said it was “distilled damnation.”

Lord Chesterfield said it was “an artist in human slaughter.”

Ruskin said it was “the most criminal and artistic method of assassination ever invented by the bravos of any age or nation.”

General Pershing said, “Drunkenness has killed more men than all of history’s wars.”

Robert E. Lee said, “My experience through life has convinced me that abstinence from spirituous liquors is the best safeguard to morals and health.”

President Taft said “He who drinks is deliberately disqualifying himself for advancement.” – Selected

A Touch Is Greater Than a “Text”

By Ted Camp

In this generation of technology, it seems the personal touch is missing. As one said, “I’m tired of Facebook; I want a face look.” Some have learned that you can have thousands of Facebook friends and still be lonely.

In 1979 AT&T said, “Reach out and touch someone.” Today, it is, Reach out and text someone.” We need to realize that there is no substitute for a touch and being there when needed.

A boy was declining in health. One compassionate nurse said some kind words and hugged him. She noticed he perked up. She did this on each visit. The doctor was amazed at the boy’s improvement and asked, “What made the difference?”

The nurse said, “He seems to improve with love and hugs.”

The doctor prescribed, “*Give more love and hugs.*”

There are many who need this prescription. Everyone needs to be loved and hugged sometimes – everyone!

One girl was playing and called to her dad, “Come out and play with me. I am alone”

He said, “Not now; I am busy. But remember, you are not alone; the Lord is with you.”

She said, “I know, but I want someone with skin that I can touch.”

A touch means more than a text. Someone needs you! It seems that iPhones, cell phones and smart phones are now **24/7/365** and in constant control of our lives. Well, it could be time to put down your iPad, smart phone cell phone, Facebook, e-mails, texting; unplug your earphones and reach out and touch someone.

“*Of some have compassion, making a difference*” (Jude 22). At this time, can you think of someone whom you need to reach out and touch – someone in a nursing home or hospital, someone who is a shut-in, invalid, or living alone; someone facing a tragedy, health issue, discouragement, disappointment, broken home, or a broken heart?

Has the Lord touched your heart to touch someone? “*But whoso hath this world’s goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels (heart) of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*” (1 John 3:17).

Do you see or know someone who needs you? Reach out and touch someone. Do it now! Tomorrow could be too late. Don’t have regrets later! If you reach out and touch someone, you will be glad you did. So will that person, and so will the Lord. Selected

Four Ways to Look

(Please read Psalm 77:1-15)

I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. V. 12.

Joan was struggling with some difficult issues with her children when she sat down for a worship service. Exhausted, she wanted to ‘resign’ from motherhood. Then the speaker began to share encouragement for those who felt like quitting. These four thoughts that Joan heard that morning helped her to keep going:

Look up and pray. Asaph prayed all night long and even expressed feelings that God had forgotten and rejected him (Ps. 77:9-10). We can tell God everything and be honest about our feelings. We can ask Him anything. His answer may not come right away or in the form we want or expect, but He won’t criticize us for asking.

Look back and remember what God has done in the past for you and others. Asaph didn’t talk to God only about the pain; he also recalled God’s power and mighty works for him and God’s people. He wrote, *I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracle of long ago*” (v. 11).

Look forward. Think about the good that might come out of the situation. What might you learn? What might God want to do? What do you know He will do because His ways are perfect? (v. 13).

Look again. This time look at your circumstances with eyes of faith. Remind yourself that He is the God of great wonders and can be trusted (v. 14).

May these ideas help us gain perspective and keep moving in our faith journey with Jesus.

Our problems are opportunities to discover God’s solutions.

Our Daily Bread Ministries, © Copyright – 2015-16, Grand Rapid, MI ,Used with permission.

A Four-year-old

A four-year-old was praying one night, having been listening at church: “And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.”

What Christians Can Learn from PIRANHAS

Do You Build Up Others or Tear Them Down?

By Cary Schmidt

When your journey on earth is complete and your time comes to a close, what will you leave behind in regards to your relationships? Will you have spent more time building up or tearing down? Edifying or demonizing? Encouraging or discouraging?

The Bible warns us in Galatians 5:15, *“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”* God’s Word warns us repeatedly against devouring each other, because it’s easy to fall into this trap. We often mask our slander as “concern” or “standing for what’s right” when in reality, we simply have a critical spirit.

In reality... is our pride, insecurity, envy, jealousy, and arrogance more abundant than our love, encouragement, and happiness for others? When we stand before God, will all the fingers we pointed at others be pointed back at us, exposing hypocrisy, self-righteousness, arrogance and blindness? To say it simply, will our time on earth have been dominated by devouring or by developing others?

This thought brought to mind the ways of a *piranha*—a regular fish that ravidly devours. The more I understand piranhas, the more I DON’T want to be one. What can we learn from a regular fish that is bent on destruction? Let’s take a look...

TRUE FACTS ABOUT PIRANHAS

1. Piranhas are just regular little fish that happen to have sharp teeth.

“There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour” (Proverbs 30:14)

“There is one that speaketh like the piercings of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health.” (Proverbs 12:18).

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.....” (Proverbs 18:21).

2. Piranhas school together, not to cooperate for strength, but in fear and insecurity.

“For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal?” (1Cor. 3:3).

3. They attack more violently when food is scarce and water levels are low.

“For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s.” (Philippians 2:21).

4. Piranhas often attack prey they perceive to be physically larger.

“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another; envying one another.” (Galatians 5:26).

5. They cannibalize other piranhas that are caught or hooked.

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1).

6. Piranhas attack their weak and often wound each other for dominance.

“Now we exhort you brethren...comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.” (I Thess. 5:14).

Summary: It is wise advice to not swim with piranhas. It’s even wiser not to become one. It’s wise to recognize we’re all just little fish in a very large ocean of souls and needy hearts. It’s really silly to devour each other when in reality we need each other. In an increasingly darker world, people cannot afford to devour each other. When others choose to bite and devour like a piranha, choose to swim away rather than be drawn into the conflict.

Faith for Life, Spring Edition, 2016

God’s Count

I counted dollars while God counted crosses.

I counted gains while He counted losses.

I counted my worth by the things gained in store.

But He sized me up by the scars that I bore.

I coveted honors and sought for degrees;

He wept as He counted the hours on my knees.

And I never knew ‘til one day at a grave

How vain are these things that we spend life to save!

Selected

Who Needs GOD???

Who needs GOD when ... “Socialism” is on the horizon and rising, as the Government will supply everyone’s need at someone else’s expense??? (It seems many people under 30 years of age are more interested in this!)

HAUGE BIBLE CONFERENCE

(Annual Conference)

AT

St. Paul's Free Lutheran Church
2802 12th. St. S,
Fargo, ND 58103

Pastor Micah Hjermstad, Host Pastor

June 24 – 26, 2016

(Friday eve. thru Sunday noon)

THEME:

“Building & Battling”

Based On
Nehemiah & Jude 3

Friday Evening

7 p.m. – Evang. & Pastor Willmore Gundersen,
Fergus Falls, MN . Refreshments following

Saturday

9 a.m. - Prayer Time

9:30 a.m. – Coffee & Refreshments

10:10 a.m. – (Business man/Farmer) Mr. Marlow
Nash, Colfax, ND

11:10 a.m. – Circuit Judge: Timothy Tingelstad,
Bemidji, MN

Noon – Meal at Church, *Free-will offering*

1:15 p.m. – Pastor Willmore Gundersen

2:10 p.m. – Circuit Judge, Timothy Tingelstad

3:05 p.m. – Coffee and Refreshments

3:30 p.m. – HLIF Annual Meeting

HLIF Board Meeting following

7:00 p.m. – Pastor Willmore Gundersen

Sunday

9:15 a.m. – Judge Timothy Tingelstad

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service – Pastor Willmore
Gundersen

WELCOME: One and All

Regardless IF attending or not:
Please PRAY for Conference.

It is appreciated to anyone
who can bring Refreshments

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Hauge Lutheran Innermission
c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center
1026 West Alcott Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Volume XCVIII • Number 5 • May, 2016
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

UpDate

***WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMPTS, GOD
WILL PROVIDE!*** – *Provided Obedience to His
Will!* – Luke 6:38

With the upcoming elections in the USA and the chaos of our world, it is crucial that we be rooted in the enduring truths of God's prophetic Word and that we keep a watchful eye on the momentous events occurring, especially in the Middle East and beyond. (We need to Walk Circumspectly).

Your support in prayer and support for the Lord's Work in and through the *Morning Glory* and the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for standing with us today as we forge ahead with this vital ministry – seeking to touch hearts and lives with the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ while there is still time. Frankly, we are still lacking financially. We are thankful for everyone who gives to this ministry.

The cost of publishing and mailing the *Morning Glory* each month is approx. \$2,000.

March's income: \$2,590.00.