



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • May 2011

The Sabbath Rest

Please read Hebrews 4:9 - 11

There remaineth therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.” The Sabbath rest is for all the people of God, not for the Israelites only. There is no doubt but that it will be fully experienced in the glory that is to come in the heavenly Canaan. But it also is experienced here and now. This is evident in v. 10: **“For he that is entered into his rest hath himself also rested from his works, as God did from his.”**

Here is the very essence of the Christian way of salvation. **“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** When we recognize our absolute helplessness, when we realize that there is nothing that we can do in order to pay for our sins and get right with God, then we are ready to come to Jesus and let him do the saving. Salvation has already been provided by Him and all that we are to do is to rest in that fact.

To be saved through Jesus Christ is not a matter of trying to be good and holy, or trying to follow Jesus. It is a matter of admitting the absolute impossibility of being good and resting in the work that Jesus Christ has done when **He** “bore our sins in **His** body on the tree.”

This is also true of the living of the Christian life. **Just** as we are completely helpless to make ourselves members of the household of God, so are we also helpless to conquer the enemies which now possess the territory of our hearts. We need the **One** who is greater than Moses and Joshua and the way of faith is the way of admitting our own helplessness, telling the Lord Jesus the exact situation and trusting that **He** will do that which it is impossible for us to do.

It is impossible to trust Jesus for too much. We are to have faith that in the measure that we admit continually the actual condition of our life and ask **Him** to make it right, we may rest in the assurance that **His** saving power is at work

to produce in us the better life that will glorify **His** name.

“Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest.” Here is a remarkable paradox. We are to work hard to enter into rest. We are, in other words, to fight the fight of faith. The struggle and the effort comes in this that we are to give up any confidence in the power of self and rest entirely in the mercy and grace of God in Christ. This is a labor and a fight for us because of the essential selfishness of our own nature. This diligence we must never give up as long as we are in this life or else we will **“fall after the same example of disobedience.”**

Vs. 12 “For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do. 14 Having then a great high priest, who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need.”

There are **three things to help us to enter into the rest.** They are:

1. The searching Word of God. As we read and study His Word we find that it is alive with the power of God and able to reveal to us our whole inner life down into its deepest secret recesses.

Morning Glory

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The expression “quick to discern” is a translation of the Greek word from which we have the English word “critic.” This is the only place in the New Testament where it is used. It is indeed interesting to note that God speaks of His Word as being the critic of the thoughts and intents of our hearts. We are not to be the critics of the Word of God, but we are to let the Word criticize our lives. In the measure that we permit it to show us our failures and shortcomings, how glad we will be that we may flee to Jesus with it all.

2. The seeing eye of God.

Since there is absolutely nothing that can be hid from Him anyway, should we not hasten to Him to tell Him everything in our lives that His Word has shown us to be not right?

3. The sympathetic High Priest.

He is a Great High Priest. He has passed through the heavens, not only through an earthly temple. He is Jesus, the Son of God. He is sympathetic because He Himself has been “in all points tempted like as we” and can therefore be deeply “touched with the feeling of our infirmities.” But He is able to deliver us because He Himself has been without sin.

Since He is at the throne of God in heaven, that throne is a throne of grace to which we may draw near with boldness. If we come confessing our sins, failures, weaknesses, we will receive mercy in forgiveness. Then as we go out into the experiences of life we will find in each instance that His grace is with us to help us in time of need.

This corresponds with the statements of Jesus in His invitation: “**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**” When we

bring our sins and burdens to Him, in His mercy He forgives, thus **giving** us rest. **“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”** That is, having come to Jesus and been **given rest at the throne**, we go out into life as His disciples and in every experience of discipleship **find rest** unto our souls. We **find** that He is near and able and willing to help.

Taken from *“A Better Life”*
by Samuel Miller, B.D., D.D.

* * * * *

“It is finished” - John 19:30

During the late depression a working man became ill. He had not been able to make much money, therefore he ran into debt at the grocer. While he was ill the doctor came to see him several times. He was a good physician and had been able to restore him to health and strength. That he was not able to pay his debts made the working man greatly grieved.

One day he sat down and figured how much he would need to pay the doctor and the grocer, and how long it would take him to earn the money. While he sat there a friend stepped in to see him.

“I just came from the doctor’s office,” said the friend, as he handed him a slip of paper.

The working man was so discouraged that he put the paper aside without looking at it. He had nothing to pay it with. After his friend had gone, he took the paper out and looked at it. Yes, the bill was correct. But, what was this? Underneath the bill was written “Paid.” But he had not paid the doctor a cent! Oh, yes, now he understood; his friend had paid the bill for him. The working man wept for joy.

Jesus once said: “It is finished.” He has paid for our sin by dying on the Cross. Won’t you accept His payment for your bill of sin?

Dear Lord Jesus, receive our thanks for paying for all our sins. We want to look at the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin has left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

Taken from the devotional book *“Altar Steps”*
by Pastor R. P. Haakonson

Family Life

Family Life as a Calling

“Thus it is true, as men say, that parents, although they had nothing else to do, could attain salvation by training their own children. If they rightly train them to God’s service, they will indeed have both hands full of good works to do. For what else are the hungry, thirsty, naked, imprisoned, sick, strangers, than the souls of your own children? With them God makes of your house a hospital, and sets you over them as chief nurse, to wait on them, to give them good words and works as meat and drink, that they may learn to trust, believe, and fear God...O what a blessed marriage and home were that where such parents were to be found! Truly it would be a real church, a chosen cloister, yea, a paradise.”

“For God has commanded women to keep children well-disciplined, and properly clothed and bathed. However humble these tasks may be, they are good works in God’s sight. A man also does good works when he runs his household well. Even if he did a hundred small tasks a day, they would all be considered good if done in faith. Cutting wood or heating a room is just as holy for him as praying a rosary is for a monk, for all works of a pious man are good because of the Holy Spirit and his faith.”

“Parents Are Priests and Bishops. You see how rich the estate of marriage is in good works. For into the bosom of the family God places children who are conceived from the parents’ own bodies and in need of their Christian works. For example, in making known the gospel message to them, parents act as the children’s apostles, bishops, and pastors. In short, there is no greater, more noble power on earth than the religious and civil authority exercised by parents over their children.”

Luther on the Christian Home - William H. Lazareth -
pp. 144-145, 145-146, p. 220

Taken from *“Martin Luther Speaks To Us”*

**If you don’t come to God
on His terms, then you
don’t come.**

Free to Be a Slave

“Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end eternal life”

Romans 6:22

The believer in Christ is made free from guilt, from judgment, and from penalty of his sins. He is free from all obligations to the Law, free from condemnation, and is saved from eternal death. This is made possible through the sacrifice of Christ “for the transgression of my people” (Isaiah 53:8).

Concerning this freedom the Apostle Paul wrote at length in Romans, chapters three, four, and five. John also wrote, “If the Son makes you free you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). Instead of being under the dominion of the Law, the believer is under the dominion of grace with the Lord Jesus Christ as master served in love.

A second freedom comes as a result of being made free from sin and its condemnation. It is a fruit of the former and comes to us by the working of the Spirit to give freedom from the power of sin. Bondage because of sin can be broken by the power of God at work within one’s life, giving strength for victory instead of defeat. “Sin will no longer have dominion over you since you are not under law but under grace” (Romans 6:14).

*“Fully through Christ absolved I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.”*
(Nikolaus Ludvig von Zinzendorf. 1700-1760).

Prayer: God of freedom offered through Christ, make me to perceive more clearly the wonder of this sacred freedom, and therein to live and rejoice. Amen.

Progressive Living

“Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end eternal life”

Romans 6:22.

A child of God having been made free from sin and guilt through Christ is encouraged to seek progress in Christian living which is sanctification. This progress is a work of the Spirit. Jesus said that a branch cannot bring forth fruit unless it abides in the vine (John 15:4). Neither can fruits of sanctification be harvested unless one is united with Christ.

Total freedom from sin is given a child of God even though his personal holiness is imperfect. Sanctification is the continuing work of the Spirit in progressive development and growth in grace. This is never perfected in this

life, but the process continues as Christian advances in faith, in love, and in wholesome fear of God.

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

(Johan Hjerten, 1816)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, work that work in me which is thy will to do so that I may be a truly progressive Christian, growing in sanctification. This I ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Return You Get

“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end eternal life”

Romans 6:22.

A child of God does not have the worst of worries, that of resolving his guilt, because he has been set free from his sins. Now he can follow joyously in the footsteps of Jesus. As it was his life and food to do the will of his Father, so the child of God must strive to do the Father’s will.

Being a child of God one becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). That same Spirit dwells in the Christian as was in Christ, and he will not put the Dove to flight. A Christian will not defile and destroy the temple of God with attention to the desires of the flesh. Rather, he will endure suffering than go against the Spirit of God.

Christ was obedient in every situation for the sake of the Father’s good pleasure. A child of God, too, will be obedient in his situation, and the displeasures that come shall be lost in God’s good pleasure toward him.

*“Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please him in all that I do,
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.”*

Prayer: The return I get, O Lord, in multiplied blessings and eternal life, are beyond my comprehension; but I pray that these mercies shall be preserved in my heart and life, wherefore cause me to be faithful in all things. For Christ’s sake. Amen.

Taken from “*Rosenius Daily Meditations*”
by Carl O. Rosenius,

Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc., Copyright 1973

Editorial

RES

WORK: A 'gift' from God?

*"And also that everyman should eat and drink and enjoy the good of his labor
- it is the gift of God." Ecclesiastes 3:13, (5:12, 18-20) ()*

Mankind universally thinks he must do something in order to get right with God, and because some 'religions' teach that you are *saved* by 'grace plus 'works'; therefore some Lutherans and others seem to believe that GRACE is a 'pillow to sin upon.' They have thrown the baby out with the bath water'. When JESUS said on Calvary's Cross '**It is finished**' there is absolutely nothing we can do to begin to merit or earn any degree towards our Salvation. Anyone who says living/walking the Christian life is an *easy road* shows their ignorance of Scripture and likely has not **experienced Salvation!** Now a grounded, seasoned weather-beaten Christian made a statement similar to the following: "One of the most *difficult* things for a Christian to do is to walk in the middle of the road". This saint (all born again people who are walking in the 'Light'; according to Scripture are called 'saints' also!) is not entertaining at all the *sin of compromise*, but it is so easy for 'us' who are 'believers' to graduate/erode to the extreme right OR extreme left. YET the ONE who is the **supreme authority** says 'faith without works is dead! **James 1:22, 2:14-26.** As you already know the Christian life is to be lived 7 x 24; which includes daily denying yourself and taking up your *cross* and following HIM! ONE of the 'earmarks' of being a child of the King is that others see how we love one another (fellow believers). The Scripture says that others shall know you are Jesus' disciples by your love for one another!

For a few moments let us go back to the theme of this 'editorial' and realize that *work* can be either our 'servant or our master'. Humanity is blest with a lot of diligent, honest hardworking people; yet some times 'work' takes precedence over some Christian opportunity that the Holy Spirit wants a person to be involved in. Thus it becomes a hindrance, stumbling block OR a master. For example: Work becomes your 'master' when you miss Christian Fellowship that you know the Lord wants you involved in. You are *busier* than God intends you to be! (Hebrews 10:23-25). It is so easy to get 'our needs and wants mixed up!' "*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (infidel)*" I Timothy 5:8. Scripture is

very clear how the 'church' is to care for those who are definitely in NEED – for example 1 Timothy 5. Also in Galatians 6:10 which says, "*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*" You know if you enjoy the work you are doing, **joy** takes the 'work' out of work! Then there will be a 'difference' between 'having to' and 'wanting to' do something!

The First Requirement for someone to 'work' in the Eternal Kingdom of God here on earth, is to be in a 'right relationship' with God through Jesus Christ! A fruit bearing 'branch' has to be correctly attached to the VINE - **John 15**.

EVEN on this earthly side of 'eternity', if we could see, even locally, all that is done to be seen of man, we would be ashamed and shocked! Matthew 6:1, 5, 23:5. Also there is more 'peer pressure' among that blessed little flock that Jesus calls His own then we care to admit. Yes, *often* we are influenced by others! We are far too concerned about others' opinions and thus become a 'slave' of people's favor, criticism and judgment. Our **one** concern should be: 'What would JESUS have me do?' Stop and ask yourself: 'Do I really love JESUS?' Now **love** is not a mushy, warm, goose pimply emotional sensation; BUT a commitment, loyalty, devotion, etc. Feelings *may* follow, but are not the basis of Hebrews 6:9-12. Ask yourself: 'Is HE precious to me?' 'Am I truly trying to reach others with Jesus?' 'Am I a blessing **or** a hindrance to those of the 'household of faith'?' (Now I am not trying to inflate our self-esteem or **ego**; But honestly, am I a cleansed 'vessel' in the *Potter's Hands*?) Lie not to yourself; but be consistently HONEST with GOD and one another! REMEMBER the **LORD never leads contrary to His Word!**

We admit that sometimes we get tired **in** the Lord's Work; but I trust never tired **of** the Lord's Work! The person who is not seeking to reach others for JESUS and to nurture Lambs and Sheep; needs to ask themselves: DOES the **love of GOD** dwell within me? Such a person is on very dangerous ground! You cannot have the love of God within you and not care! "*Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember Therefore from where you have fallen,*

repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place - unless you repent.” Revelation 2:4-5.

Keep in mind that God’s Work is a great work for it has both an earthly and **eternal value**. Thus ‘nothing’ is insignificant or not important when HE is leading. **God’s Work is to be done with enthusiasm and expectancy!** NOW Martin Luther more or less states that ‘all’ is important as long as the Lord (Holy Spirit) is leading; IF He asks you to sweep the floor OR preach the Gospel!

When the the Holy Spirit is in control of an individual (vessel), there will be an urgency of getting the *liberating Message* of the Gospel out to others. *“Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD deceitfully (lax/slackness)...”* Jeremiah 48:10 (Romans 12:10-11 and Hebrews 5:1-9). Recall that as a soldier of the Cross, you are in a ‘spiritual battlefield’. It becomes *easy* to become ‘faint’; but there is a difference between ‘faint’ and ‘fainting’. We shall reap if we faint not! Is it more conducive IF you are a ‘sidewalk supervisor’ than a ‘worker’? **Psalm 126, Jeremiah 9:1, Romans 8:1-8.** Personally I believe we are often more guilty than we want to admit of the SIN of ‘*omission*’. Sin is ‘anything’ that comes between us and God; it is missing the mark. *“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”* James 4:17.

OFTEN when God lays a ‘burden’ upon your heart it is not ONLY placed there so you **pray**, but God wants to use you as a channel (feet) to answer your prayer burden that gives HIM the **glory!**

Seemingly it is so easy to ask someone else to be the ‘feet & hands’ to our prayer burdens; like a Bible believing Pastor. But you say, I ‘feel’ so inadequate - that’s fine! *Isaiah 57:15, II Corinthians 3:5.* Sadly and tragically many Pastors are not saved! But those who are born again and are called by God into this area of the Lord’s Work need to be supported and encouraged.

They have a very important ‘role’ in the work of the Kingdom of God. Satan has seen to it that pressures on a conscientious ‘Under shepherd’ have intensified and Satan is out to *kill* them spiritually along with you and I. How ‘we’ treat them also has an effect on how God will bless us! *“Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct”* Hebrews 13:7. *“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine”* I Timothy 5:17. **(Galatians 6:1-10).**

On ‘occasion’ you hear some thing like this from a ‘believer’: “I don’t know why God still has me here; but I can at least pray!” FIRST of all let me assure you that is one of the greatest, *if* not the greatest thing you can do; provided you are on Scriptural praying ground. Is ‘prayer’ work? Most certainly it is, all by God’s GRACE. But follow me to the Garden of Gethsemane and identify with Jesus and the disciples, and it is clearly WORK. (Colossians 4:12). To say that there is ‘little’ OR ‘nothing’ you can do to further the work in the Kingdom of God; is indirectly saying, “God, you have overlooked me as a ‘member’ of your spiritual body!”

There is **definitely** a place of quiet REST for the child of God both spiritually and physically – **Hebrews 4:9-16, Matthew 11:28-30.**

As you again thank God for the greatest **GIFT** of all ‘gifts’; don’t forget to keep in mind **Ephesians 2:10 along with verses 8 & 9.** ***May the LORD richly bless you as we labor together in the work of the kingdom of God! Jeremiah 32:19, Revelation 14:13.***

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 15:57-58. **MATTHEW 16:25-28**

Last Chance

When the famous minister Phillips Brooks (1835 - 1893) was critically ill and not expected to recover, visitors were not permitted to see him. Bob Ingersoll, the famous agnostic, who didn’t know that visitors were not allowed, called at the hospital and asked to see Dr. Brooks.

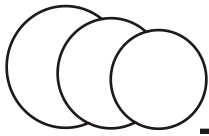
He was told that visitors were not permitted, but that they always reported to the patient when friends called.

When the sick man was told that Mr. Ingersoll had called, Dr. Brooks insisted that he be allowed to come in.

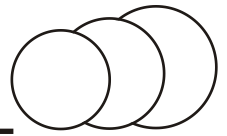
When Mr. Ingersoll entered the room, he said, “I appreciate this very much, but why do you see me, when you deny yourself to your other friends?”

“Well, you see,” replied Dr. Brooks, “I feel confident of seeing most of my friends in the next world, but this is my last chance to see you.”

Robert G. Lee in *Sermonic Library*



From Our Fellowship Circle



Mr. & Mrs. F.

Bemidji, MN

A contribution to help with your continued ministry through the *Morning Glory*. A real Blessing every month!

Mrs. H. K.

Kandiyohi, MN

I am enclosing a Memorial check for the *Morning Glory*. It is in memory of my twin sister ... Don't know if you remember the C. & S. B. who went to the Hauge Meetings? Anyhow we are their twin daughters. I will miss my twin sister but she's 'Home' now!

We enjoy the *Morning Glory* with all the 'good' in it.

O. L. A.

Newport, N. C.

You are doing a good work! Your 'editorial' was very good. I feel that God may have let America become enshrouded with darkness as she turns away from "Thus saith the Lord."

I believe also that the first Chapter Isaiah describes America today. Only God can prevent our fall to Sharia Law of the Muslims. God tells Israel (and us) that He could prevent their captivity, but He won't do it because of their unrepentant attitude. I believe that America should this.

Just as truth had fallen in the street (Isaiah 59:14, 15) so truth in America has been replaced by political correctness. Such stomping the truth has given rise to the public display of skimpy clad people even in the churches.

Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice ... shew my people their transgression ..." Enjoins all Christians to warn people in America. Who will warn of God's anger and wrath if not the preachers and pastors?

Isaiah 5:20-24 describes us today from Washington, D. C. to every State of the Union.

Yes, you are doing a good work by publishing *Morning Glory*.

E. T.

Newark, IL

My gift - to God be the Glory!

P. J.

Willmar, MN

Thanks for a good paper as we read it all! The Lord is Good!

The "Alls" of Salvation

After an evening service at the mission, the preacher was hurrying away to a late train. He had just three minutes in which to catch it. Fortunately, the station was close at hand. A gentlemen came running after him. "Oh, sir," said, he, breathlessly, as he came up, "can you speak to me? I am very anxious about my soul." "Well," replied the missionary, "my train is just here, and it is the last one; but look up Isaiah 53:6. Go in at the first 'all,' and go out at the last 'all.' Good night."

The gentlemen stood staring at him until he disappeared into the station, and then he muttered, "Go in at the first 'all' and go out at the last 'all.' What does it mean? When he arrived at home he took down a Bible. He turned to the text and read these words: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

"Go in at the first 'all,'" he repeated. "All we like sheep have gone astray.' I am to go in with that 'all.' Yes, I see. It just means that I am one of those who have gone astray. And go out with the last 'all.' 'The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.' I see. Yes, I am to go out free with those whose iniquity has been laid on Christ." That short, pithy comment brought, by the Holy Spirit, light and peace to the man's conscience and heart, and he rejoiced in Christ as his Savior. — *The Christian Herald*

Taken from "*The Way of Life*" by A.W. Knock

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

ELCA's TOLERATION KNOWS NO BOUNDS AS THEY JOIN THE SIKHS FOR WORSHIP

First English Lutheran Church (ELCA), Mishawaka, Indiana, worshipped with the Sikhs on Sunday, December 12. The previous day the congregation at First English Lutheran invited the Sikhs to their church for fellowship and to learn about the many religious beliefs they share in common, according to the pastor of First English, Leonard Jepson, who also headed the exchange program.

"For 30 years it's been a passion of mine to focus on the things we have in common," Jepson said, "and that's faith in God, instead of what divides us."

A member of First English Lutheran Church and a participant in the event said: "I saw a lot of similarities between the two religions. Just the fact that we also look at one God, that everyone is God's child, that this religion has a messenger as a way to God, and Christ is our way to God. There are all kinds of religions in the world, and I think understanding is the way to world peace."

Jepson said his denomination (ELCA) is one of the more liberal ones in the Lutheran church. "Evangelicals are divisive when they quote Jesus saying that he is the only way to God," He added.

The Vine and Branches

Editor's Note: The Sikhs believe in 'reincarnation' as the way to salvation. Sikhism began about 500 years ago. The Bible clearly states that there is only ONE WAY to Heaven and that is only through **JESUS! Acts 4:12-13.**

Alabama Governor Speaks Out, Gets Hammered

Two days after being sworn in as Alabama governor, Robert Bentley apologized ... for proclaiming to a Baptist church audience that only Christians were his brothers and sisters and vowed to work for people of all faiths and colors.

His comments...shocked and offended some....of other faiths, but the backlash didn't seem to be a serious political wound for the retired dermatologist and Southern Baptist deacon.

... "If anyone from other religions felt disenfranchised by the language, I want to say I am sorry..." he told reporters ... after meeting with leaders of other faiths in

his new office.

After he took the oath of office at the Alabama Capital...Bentley headed across the street to a service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., at King's first church, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. During his speech, he remarked: "Anybody here today who has not accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, I'm telling you, you're not my brother, and you're not my sister, and I want to be your brother." ...

Bentley apologized for his remarks, but not for being a Christian. "I will never deny being a born-again Christian. I do have core beliefs, and I will die with those core beliefs," Bentley said. "But I do not want to be harmful to others.

And I will die if I have to defend someone else's right to worship as they choose." ...

"I thought that with his statement he created two classes of citizens in Alabama, those that were his brothers and sisters in Christ and everyone else. As an elected official, he has the responsibility to serve all the people equally," (Welton) Gaddy (president of Interfaith Alliance) said.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a Jewish group that fights discrimination, said it sounded like Bentley was using the office of governor to advocate for Christian conversion. "If he does so, he is dancing dangerously close to a violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which forbids government from promoting the establishment of any religion," said ADL regional director Bill Nigut.

OneNewsNow.com

Editor's Comments: Two days into his first term, the governor gets his first lesson in how to tiptoe through the politically-correct briar patch. Since he is now governor, how dare he speak so plainly and so unequivocally about his Christian faith? Doesn't he know that only the liberal humanists and secularists can speak so plainly in public? Christians are prohibited from exercising their free-speech Constitutional rights because they might offend someone.

The double standard is an un-American abuse, and hopefully this governor and other Christians will not be intimidated.

Sword of the Lord

Planned Parenthood Gets \$363 Million in Tax Money, Abortions Rise

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America finally released its 2008 - 2009 annual report detailing its financial figures. The report shows it received more government funding, which has translated into more abortions.

The nation's largest abortion business released a fact sheet in September showing the number of abortions it performed in 2008 increased to 324,000, a 6.1 percent increase over the 305,310 abortions it did in 2007.

The total government grants and contracts received from government sources including state, local and federal governments increased from \$337 million to \$350 million in 2009. The new report shows that figure has increased again to \$363 million, though it does not specify what portion of the figure was received from each level of government...

In 1997, Planned Parenthood did about 160,000 abortions and received approximately \$160 million in total taxpayer funding from various levels of government. Both the number of abortions and the amount of money received from government, supposedly for family planning to reduce abortions, has more than doubled since then.

LifeNews.com

THE ELCA'S TOLERATION KNOWS NO BOUNDS ...

In the days of Elijah many in Israel had an infatuation with the goddess Asherah. The prophet Elijah contested with Asherah's priests on Mount Carmel and disposed of them, or so we thought. Apparently these are the days of Elijah, as one ELCA church in San Francisco has resurrected the goddess Asherah and is now promoting her virtues.

A report on the web site of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, known also as "Her Church," tells of the pastor's efforts to make Asherah acceptable once more. You can read about the ELCA's toleration of apostasy for yourself by going to herchurch.org and looking under "spirituality/gift," and then reading a report of a "She Who Is" retreat led by ELCA pastor, Stacy Boorn.

The Vine and Branches

MUSLIMS BEING WON TO CHRIST IN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS

More than 4,000 Christian leaders representing over 190 nations gathered in Cape Town, South Africa last year for Lausanne 111, a conference on world evangelization. Those attending heard several reports about Muslims be-

ing led to profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Sam Yeghnazar, founder of Elam Ministries, told the gathering there were only 500 Iranian Christians from a Muslim background at the time of the Lausanne 1 conference in 1974. But over the past 30 years, more Muslims have come to Christ in that country than in the past 1300 years.

"Iran today is a closed land with countless open hearts," said Yeghnazar. "It is the most open nation to the Gospel in the entire world. Tens of thousands of Iranians are turning to Christ."

Others told of Muslims coming to Christ in various Islamic nations and urged Christians to get behind this effort with prayer and labor.

The Vine and Branches

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Doing Things Right

When something must be done, do it promptly. Attend to pressing matters immediately. The longer you wait, the more prone you will be to neglect the task. You may miss great blessings or experience great burdens if you fail to handle the small things promptly.

For loss of a nail, a horseshoe was lost. For loss of a shone, the horse was lost. For loss of a horse, a soldier was lost. For loss of a soldier, a battle was lost. For loss of a battle, a war was lost. The war was lost because of the loss of a nail. Neglecting the little things can cause a chain reaction that brings great dishonor to God.

Don Sisk, *Ten Principles for Biblical Living*

**THE PHILOSOPHY IN THE
SCHOOLROOM IN ONE
GENERATION WILL BE THE
PHILOSOPHY OF THE
GOVERNMENT IN THE NEXT**

Abraham Lincoln

Hans Nielson Hauge

*The Father of Lay activity and the Spiritual Life
Movement Among the Norwegians in Norway and
America*

To describe the life of this great apostle of repentance and Christian testimony, about whom so many books have been written, cannot now be done. He was a great gift from heaven to the Norse people. He was born April 2, 1771, in the Tune parish, southeast of Oslo. The outstanding day for himself, for lay activity and Norse Church history was April 5, 1796, when out in the field, after a long spiritual struggle, he was born again, set free and filled with the Holy Spirit. He received the call from heaven to confess the name of Christ at all occasions and call sinners to repentance. The glory of God filled his soul for some three weeks in such a way that he hardly felt the need of eating, drinking or even sleeping – only a couple of hours a night, and people thought he was going crazy.

Then came a new fight. Then the testing. Then the fiery darts of the devil – while God pressed on with the high calling. “O, send some one else!” he cried. “Send a professor! Send a bishop! How can I, a young ignorant farmer boy go out preaching the Gospel? Let me die!” But God whispered: “Will you now die? Before you served sin. I have saved you from sin. Should you not serve me now?” So the call stood forth plain and big as a cloudless moon and Hauge was sent out by the Holy Ghost - out and out and out, through the length and breadth of Norway with a burning message from a burning heart: “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

To sum it all up: From April 5, 1796, to his long imprisonment which began October 24, 1804, Hauge found a wonderful outlet for the spiritual power God had given Him. He went from house to house, from parish to parish, from one end of the country to another preaching the living Truth. The 600 churches of Norway were there to be sure, and everybody was a church member. There was organization, but no life, no power. Now the Gospel was preached from experience and in living power. Not in a single church would Hauge be permitted to preach or was ever permitted. No, not one. But outside the churches after services, in market places, in high-ways and by-ways, in private houses, doing personal work, along the roads as he traveled, he went on in his most wonderful, soul-saving career. I doubt if he ever held a meeting, unless it led to the conversion of one or more souls.

But the progress he did make, he made on his knees. On the way to Oslo to publish his first book – he published in all some 36 books and publications – he was assaulted by the devil. How did he win? On his knees in prayer to

God. On the way to the parish of Rollag, Nummedahl, when the devil appeared, just as he did to our Savior in the wilderness, how did he overcome him? On his knees, standing on the promises of God our Savior.

But as salvation was drawing nigh to hearts, settlements, parishes, the entire nation, the devil got frightfully busy and raised a horrible cyclone against him. At first he sent the most slanderous and lying rumors: “He is a false prophet, a deceiver, a disturber of peace. He makes the people crazy and many commit suicide because of his preaching.” Etc. When this did not help, the ragings of the devil increased – through the government, the mob, and especially through the ordained ministers: “It is our office and calling to preach; we can well take care of that. What in the world is it you are after? Who has called you to preach?” Then Hauge published a book describing the awful condition of the people and the churches, writing as follows against the preacher:

“What makes the spiritual condition so hopeless is the leaders of the people (the ordained ministers) ‘make the way to heaven broad, so the Lord now as before must lament: My people are lost sheep; the shepherds have led them astray. These preachers who are dead in sin close the door to the kingdom against those who want to enter. The true Christians are few, because of soul-destroying teachers (ordained ministers, often called teachers).

They are carnal, they are hirelings, and deceive people with false hope till they wake up in hell.” (Editor: Martin Luther stated the bottom of hell would be covered with the skulls of unconverted preachers).

Now the devil woke up a perfect cyclone of wrath and persecution through the ordained ministers. (Editor: Thank God, there are *some* ‘ordained Pastors’ who truly know JESUS as their personal Savior!). Before his final imprisonment, Hauge was arrested nine times; he was struck three times – once by a minister. Once a minister spat him in the face while he was speaking. Finally in October, 1804, the cry against him became so frightful that he was imprisoned for about ten long years and suffered the most barbarous treatment. His books were taken away, no writing material, no friends to visit him – shut up in an unhealthy, damp prison, as if he were the very worst criminal in the country. Once he was let out to help the country manufacture salt – for he was a most skillful man at all practical work – and it was at a time when England blockaded the country. As soon as he had helped the government out in the manufacture of salt, he was remanded to prison again.

Hauge was finally set free in 1814. After that he lived quietly on his little farm, Bredtvedt, near Oslo till March 29, 1824, when God took his suffering servant and martyr home. His last words: “Follow Jesus!” and “O everlasting

and loving God!” Age only 53. (to be continued)
Taken from “*The Hauge Movement in America*”

Editor’s Note: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, For there is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” Matthew 5:10-12. “Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division” Luke 12:51 (Matthew 10:34). “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” II Timothy 3:12. **“The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe”** Proverbs 29:25.

* * * * *

THE SIN WE’RE AFRAID TO MENTION

And Its Remedy

By Pastor Oscar Lowry

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:8-10.

IN THE first part of this Scripture passage we have set before us the horrid consequences of covetousness, the sin we’re afraid to mention. In the latter part of the passage we have God’s remedy for man’s cupidity, that is, tithing, the divine basis of an acceptable stewardship *For some unaccountable reason many seem to be afraid to mention covetousness as sin...*

Dictionaries give as the meaning of covetousness, “avaricious,” “grasping,” “greedy of gain,” “greed of wealth with a view of hoarding it.” These expressions describe a sin which is most common among all classes. The young and the old, the poor as well as the rich, generally speaking, are all guilty of this sin...

The Tithe Is The Lord’s

Every Christian should tithe his income because this is a principle of righteousness established by Almighty God

Himself. Leviticus 27:30-32 (R.V.), “*And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s; it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will redeem aught of his tithe, he shall add unto it the fifth part thereof. And all the tithe of the herd or the flock, whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord.*” Here we find that God claims without question or condition one-tenth of our income. But I can imagine some one in defense of their negligence saying at once, “Oh, that belongs to the dispensation of the law, and has nothing to do with us in this dispensation of grace.” Now let us see if this principle of tithing belongs to the law of Moses. Turn to the fourteenth chapter of Genesis. There we have an account of Abram, or Abraham as he was afterward called, paying tithes to Melchizedek, a priest of the Most High God. Now that was seven hundred years before Moses received the law at Mt. Sinai. Why do we find Abraham paying to this Priest of the Lord, the tithe of all the spoil taken in battle?...

Two hundred years after Abraham, five hundred years before the law was given to Moses, we see Jacob fleeing from the wrath of his brother Esau. We find him spending a night alone in the mountain. He took a stone for a pillow and lay down to sleep. While sleeping, God revealed Himself to Jacob in a dream or vision...

Genesis 28:20-22, “*If God will be with me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then shall the Lord be my god, and this stone which I have set up for a pillar shall be God’s house; and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.*” ...

Tithing no more had its beginning at Mt. Sinai than did the Sabbath. The Sabbath did not originate with the giving of the law. ... A Sabbath has been observed by God’s people from the creation of man. ...

Ceremonial laws may change, but God’s eternal principles, never. So ancient is this law of the tithe, that Cain and Abel were acquainted with it. According to the Septuagint translation of Genesis 4:7, it seems to be hinted that Cain’s sin was not wholly because of the ‘quality’ of his offering, but also in the “quantity” as well. The passage reads, “*If thou hast offered aright but hast not divided aright, has thou not sinned?*” So then, we find that the idea of the tithe did not originate with the law of Moses. It had been in practice centuries before Moses was born. Since Jesus is “a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek” and since Abraham is the father of us all, through faith, the same principles that led Abraham to pay tithes to Melchizedek who was a type of Christ, should certainly lead every Christian to honor Christ with his tithes and offerings.

Excerpts taken from
“*The Sin We’re Afraid To Mention*”

Homesick for Heaven

We are Heaven's citizens. We are headed toward Heaven's bliss. However, as we journey, we are hindered by the pull of this world. It is very easy to become satisfied in this life.

If this life offered no hardness, no sufferings, no tears, no bitterness, no disappointments, most of us would be content to remain here.

It is the nights of this earth that make Heaven to be desired – where there is no night.

It is that tears of this life that make Heaven a delight – where God shall wipe away all tears.

It is the sufferings of this life which make us long for Heaven – where there shall be no pain nor sickness.

It is the poverty of this life that makes the riches of Heaven more desired than ever.

It is the disappointments of this life that make us long for the bliss of Paradise.

It is the heaviness of this life that makes the rest of Heaven a holy anticipation.

It is the mourning of this journey that will make the hallelujahs of Heaven blessed.

It is the loneliness of this life that makes us long for the fellowship of Jesus in Heaven.

The longer we live and the more tears we shed, the more homesick we become for Heaven. One by one our loved ones are crossing over, until soon we have more loved ones on the other shore than here. As this separating continues, so the more we desire to depart this life and enjoy reunion with loved ones who have outstripped us to Heaven's shore. — Dr. Harold Sightler

Editor's Note: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" John 14:6. BEING JESUS is the only way (God's Redemption At Christ's Expense) I want to see my Savior first of all than all the other sinners SAVED by GRACE! You know Heaven can be spelled this way for a 'child of God' = HOME.

* * * * *

God's Will For You

Did you as a child ever walk alone out under the stars looking and looking - and wondering? How bright the stars were! How beautiful they shone from a canopy of blue! How great and powerful God is who can create such! How holy He must be!

Did the question then also arise in your heart: "Does such a God, so pure and holy, who is able to create this glorious world - does He really care for one like me? I am so small and He is so great. And I am so sinful, too. How can He ever love one like me, or have any will for my life?"

Does He want anything at all with me?"

What Does God Want Me To Do?

That was perhaps our first question. And it seemed to be the proper question to ask. But we had not gone far in life until we discovered that "what I want" and God's will for me, were two entirely different things. We are by nature selfish; our inclinations and tendencies are toward that which satisfies our own evil nature. Even as children we said, "I want," over and against the will of our parents. What would have happened to us if they had given us all that we, in or childish ignorance, desired?

Rather our prayer needs to be, "*Teach me to do thy will; For thou art my God*" Ps. 143:10. "Teach me" – that is, not only instruct me so I may know what is Thy will, but also incline my heart so that I shall be willing to do Thy will. To do so requires that we admit He is Lord of our souls and lives and that He has a right to do with us as He desires. "But I have no such willingness by nature," you say. No, but God can remedy that, if you ask Him. "*For God is at work in you, both to will and to work, for his good pleasure*" Phil. 2:13. When I yield myself to God, I allow Him to work out His plans in me. Then I can also do all things He desires of me in the strength He daily supplies.

And so we think of all the varieties of work people are doing—farming, craftsmanship, carpentry, painting, music, the ministry, etc.— and wonder which of these we shall choose. But in doing so we forget two things, first, that "*we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand*"

Eph. 2:10. God has endowed us with gifts and talents which He desires we shall use to His glory. We need first to find out what these are. In the second place we must recognize that He is more concerned about what we *are* than what we do. He desires that we shall be "His workmanship," creations of His power, new and living beings in Christ. Rather we should first look at

God's Appointment

Paul states this clearly, "*God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with him*" I Thess. 5:9, 10. Some think God is a cruel monster who desires to punish his creatures. He is not such a person, nor is that his purpose. Notice the cause, not for wrath, but for salvation. Notice the provision, or how He is to bring this about "through Jesus Christ, who died for us." Then notice also the purpose, "that, whether we wake (are living) or sleep (have died), we might live with him." What beautiful and loving purposes God has for the people of His creation!

Taken from "*The Way of LIFE*" by A. W. Knock

The Great Confession

Matthew 16:13-18

This is one of the most remarkable passages in the whole gospel of Matthew. We are here touching the very center of the gospel story. We find light which flashes backward and forward. It illuminates both the first 16 chapters as well as the last 12 chapters of the gospel.

Christ has taken His disciples apart for a quiet talk. He is really catechizing them, asking them questions, which were all centered around Himself.

He is first inquiring about what people in general say about Him. Not the scribes and Pharisees, but the common people. We read that the common people heard Him gladly.

Whom do men say that I the Son of Man am?

In other words, what is the result of my work so far? What is the result of my preaching and teaching, working of miracles, and your preaching and teaching?

When they answered they said only the best things they had heard about Him. They had heard men say: "He is beside Himself." "He hath a devil," etc., but they did not mention that.

They simply said: "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." They could not quite place Him. We can hear sometimes the lamentations of Jeremiah. We have seen some of Elijah's fire of Mt. Carmel flashing from His eyes. We have seen and heard some of the thundering and lightning of John the Baptist. But we do not quite know who He is. They knew he was a prophet sent from God, but they had not discovered the deepest truth concerning Him.

Then He narrowed the inquiry.

Instead of the wider sweep, He turned to the small minority group, the twelve. You have been with, walked with me and talked with me, you have seen the healing and heard the teaching, and watched the opposition, and seen how I have dealt with it.

The people in general have come so far and no farther, they are just living in the twilight, but what about you, have you seen the clear light?

Whom say ye that I am?

That leads us to the heart of our text: to **Peter's Great Confession**.

I can just see Peter as he looked into his Master's wonderful face and said:

"Thou Art The Christ, The Son Of The Living God."

What a wonderful confession! Thou art the Christ, Messiah, the anointed one, the fulfiller of all prophesy,

and of all expectations, our Saviour and Redeemer. Thou art the Messiah, more than John the forerunner, more than Elijah the foreteller, more than Jeremiah the watcher. Thou art the one toward whom they all looked. There is manifested in all your doing, in all your teaching something different from all other teachers of men. You say you are the Son of Man. Yes, you are that in a special sense; but you are also the Son of the living God.

Then follows the beatitude, Christ's benediction and blessing upon Peter: "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven." Jesus did not pronounce a reward for Peter, for the discovery he had made. No, on the contrary, He was rather describing the condition unto which this new revelation of the Father had brought him.

How did Peter make this great discovery?

Flesh and blood hath not revealed it.

That means it was not something he had received from another man. No, my Father hath revealed it.

How did the Father reveal this to Peter?

Through Christ's person and His work.

You remember Andrew led his brother Peter to Christ: "And when Jesus beheld him he said: thou art Simon, the son of Jonah, thou shalt be called Cephas which is by interpretation "Peter, a stone."

Now at Caesarea-Phillipi He said, "Thou art Peter. I told you what you would be when I first met you. I knew how unstable and undependable you were, but I said you shall be a rock, a man of strength. Now you are. Now you know me. Your confession proves it."

Then Christ makes this great announcement: "And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Isn't it marvelous what Jesus Christ can put into just one little verse? Let us look at it. Here we hear about the Church of Jesus Christ; "my church" He said. And who is the builder? "I will build my church." He compares His church to a building with a sure foundation. It is built on a solid rock. And lastly, He is giving His church a great promise. The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. It is a victorious church.

When we build a house we start with the foundation; so let us first take a look at the foundation of the church of Jesus Christ. Christ says, "upon this rock"; not on Peter as a person, but on Peter's confession that Christ is the Son of the living God. Paul understood it that way when he said in I Cor. 3:11: "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

That was also Peter's understanding, for he writes in his first epistle: "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and pre-

cious. Ye also as living stones are built up a spiritual house.” Christ’s church is a spiritual house where God’s Spirit lives and works.

Christ is both the foundation and the builder. Peter had found the foundation, the rock, when he found Christ, and he himself had become a living stone in this building.

“I will build my church,” Christ says. Man can’t do it, only Christ can. Only those who have accepted Him as their personal Saviour become living stones in this building.

His church is a living aggressive church and meets with opposition from all evil forces, but even though hell opened up all its gates and let the whole army out to attack the church of Jesus Christ, the gates of hell could not prevail against it.

The Son of the living God, crucified, risen, glorified with all power in Heaven and earth is the foundation, builder and protector of His church and therefore nothing can prevail against it.

But His church will never be seen in all its perfect glory until the morning of the second advent. When His great building program is finished He shall present His church to God, a glorious thing, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. (Eph. 5:27).

Then His ransomed and redeemed church will be the medium through which all the glory of God shall flash in resplendent glory through an endless eternity.

Taken from “*We Would See JESUS*”
by Pastor Lars Stalsbroten

* * * * *

Thy Word Have I Hid...

By Pastor James Olson, Shoreline, WA

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

Psalm 119:9-11

When I was born in 1925, my parents were Lutheran who faithfully attended church. My five siblings had been baptized as infants, yet my parents were not born again Christians. In the late 1930s, however, after hearing the gospel in a special evangelistic meeting, my father was saved. I still remember his first testimony. He stood up in church and said, “I am a sinner. God knows it, so the rest of you might as well know it too.” A few years later my

mother and oldest sister had the same experience of salvation.

CONVERSION

Our church didn’t have any youth group, so after confirmation most of us pretty much went our own way. As a teenager dealing with peer pressure, wanting to be somebody, feeling the lure of the world - these were very difficult years for me. I wore a smile on the outside that didn’t picture my true feelings on the inside. I feared God to death. I was not prepared for eternity. I thought going deeper into sin might erase the turmoil within. My church attendance became irregular and nearly ceased.

At that time, however, the Lord called again through some special meeting to which I was invited. I thought, “I’ll go, then make a quick exit after the service.” I don’t remember the message that night, but the invitation song gripped me – “Almost persuaded...almost, but lost.” It seemed that the Lord and the devil were battling for my soul. I felt that this might be God’s last call to me. I prayed the simple prayer: “God be merciful to me a sinner.” The Lord had won! But then followed two days where I felt I was in “no man’s land.” I didn’t feel like I belonged to the Lord and I didn’t want to go back to the devil and the life I was living. Two nights later on December 5, 1942, the evangelist preached on Matthew 9:2 – “Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven You.” This became my assurance of salvation. God was now my father and I was his child. There was a sudden change. I had tried the “rest,” now I would try the “best.”

I found my Bible, wiped the dust off it, and started to read it again. I did so, not because I had to, but because I wanted to. What we studied in the catechism also became alive and real to me.

CONSCRIPTION

In the early 1940s came World War II. Over ten million young men were called up, and some women also volunteered to help defend our liberty and the free world. When our numbers came up, we went. When young men left for service from our community, the local American Legion gave each one a New Testament, complete with a metal front cover. The idea was that if worn over the heart this would protect you! I also had my Bible with me.

I took my Infantry Basic Training at Camp Joseph T. Robinson just north of Little Rock, Arkansas. We lived in simple shacks without windows. They did have screens and shutters. One night when the shutters were open, it rained, and my Bible got wet. The pages were discolored, but still readable.

In December 1944, the German Army counterattacked in Belgium and pushed the Allies back for a while.

It was “The Battle of the Bulge.” Because our forces over there needed infantry replacements, our seventeen-week basic training was cut to fifteen. We were given a six-day delay for a short visit home before reporting to Fort Meade, Maryland.

There, in a gym packed with G.I.s, a lecturing officer plainly told us, “You are going over and some of you are not coming back.” At this, each one looked at the man next to him, thinking, “He must mean you and not me.”

Seeing our reaction, the speaker added, “I knew this is what you would do.” He warned that from now on our letters home would be censored, so we must not write anything that might benefit the enemy if it fell into their hands.

There followed a full field inspection. We dumped everything out of our duffle bags. We could each take only eight pounds of personal belongings, including wash cloth, two towels, toothbrush and paste, and shaving kit. Besides these permissible belongings, I had my Bible. When the inspector, a young Second Lieutenant, saw this, he asked, “What do you intend to do with that?” “I plan to take it with me,” I replied. He then told me that I should send it home. When he went on to the next person, I wrapped my Bible in a towel and put it back in my duffle bag.

Our next stop was at Camp Miles Standish – near Boston, for a final field inspection. My Bible showed up again and it seemed even bigger than before. This time our inspector was a staff sergeant. He asked the same question. I gave the same response. Then he said, “Good deal. Take it with you.”

COMBAT and SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

With 7,000 other doughboys bound for Europe, we boarded a former luxury liner, the Wakefield. The conversion from luxury liner to troop carrier was 100%. There wasn't a bit of luxury left in it. We were stacked five high and rubbing elbows with our seasick neighbors.

So I had my Bible with me in basic training, through inspections, across the starry north Atlantic, through England, France, Germany, and deep into the heart of Austria. Here, on May 6, 1945, our 71st Division, having penetrated the farthest east of any American unit, met the Russian army coming from the east on the River Enns near the town of Styr. Squeezed between us however, were Hitler's elite shock troopers, who made a last-ditch stand. We suffered our heaviest casualties of the war that day. I was never wounded, but I saw shrapnel cut the grass around my feet. This was close enough.

May 8 was V.E. Day (Victory in Europe). There was celebration back home, but for us simply relief that the fighting had ended. It was a time of spiritual darkness and

discouragement for me after seeing the loss of life on both sides. I concluded that the gospel is the only solution for real peace in this world, and committed my life to help spread the good news of Jesus.

The war was over in Europe, but not in Asia. So we were put on the rifle range. We heard rumors that we would cross Russia in trucks and attack Japan from the west. Fortunately, the war in Asia ended, so this rumored trek across eleven time zones never materialized. (I never imagined then that my wife and I would later go with other Lutheran Brethren volunteer “soldiers of the cross” to establish a spiritual “beachhead” along the Japan sea coast in Yamagata and Akita prefectures in Japan.)

CALLED

After serving in the Army of Occupation and being discharged in August 1946, I entered the Lutheran Brethren Bible School in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This was a culture shock in adjusting from army life, where we had seen the ravages of war, starvation, suffering, death and sin in the raw. However, I enjoyed the fellowship and learning from teachers who were in tune with God.

After graduating from the Bible department in 1948, I spent one year at an Indian Mission in North Dakota, mainly helping to construct a children's home. The following year I returned to seminary, graduating in 1951. This was followed by one year of internship at Elim Lutheran Church near Osakis, Minnesota.

My wife Evie and I both felt called to be missionaries in Japan. After our marriage in 1952, we served there from 1954 to 1989. Returning to the States we started an outreach to Japanese people in the Seattle area. Our son Roger and his wife Susan, who had also been missionaries in Japan, took over the Seattle outreach in 2004.

CONCLUSION

Now that I have shared God's mercy to me in life, I can go back and complete the title of this article.

The Psalmist asks and gives the answer to a relevant question in Psalm 119:9, “*How shall a young man cleanse his way?*” The answer is, “*By taking heed according to your word...*” Then in verse 11, “*Your word*”— a GOOD POSSESSION — “*I have hidden in my heart*”— a GOOD PLACE — “*that I might not sin against thee*”— for a GOOD PURPOSE.

Taken from “*Faith & Fellowship*” with permission

Editor's Note: II Timothy chapter 4

Update

“Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You. I know also, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.” I Chronicles 29:13-14 & 17.

Funding for this faith mission/ministry comes through concerned folk like YOU; who by God’s Grace **realize** that we are in the midst of apostasy (falling away); therefore see the need of seeking to ‘fill in part of the *gap*’, thus give of their means **cheerfully**. Please prayerfully ask the Lord to direct your part in extending this mission/ministry for the Salvation of Precious Souls and nurturing the Lambs & Sheep in the Kingdom of GOD.

A little girl had been given a new silver dollar. She went to her father and asked him to change it into dimes. “What for?” asked the father. “So that I can give the Lord His part,” she replied. The father put ten dimes into her hand, and shortly afterward walked with her to the church. When the offering was taken she dropped in a dime and then before her father could say anything, she dropped in another. “Why,” said her father, “I thought you gave the tenth to the Lord?” “Yes,” she answered, that tenth belongs to Him and I can’t give Him what is His own, so if I give Him anything I must give Him what is mine.”

May the LORD be permitted to lead, guide and direct also our ‘financial stewardship’ to ‘Biblical’ ministries that are *investments pleasing in His Sight!* As the LORD directs YOU, may you be assured that any size gift in this ministry is truly appreciated! Thank you and may the LORD Bless!

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At

Faribault, MN

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Pastor Ron Wik, Host Pastor

On

June 17th - 19th, 2011

(Friday evening through Sunday noon)

P. S. Details to appear in the June issue of the
Morning Glory!

Pray, Plan, Pray, Invite, Pray, Attend, Pray!