



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • October 2021

Safety Between the Fires

Mr. Wayne Almlie
Des Moines, IA

The future, we don't know what it holds, but it is not totally unknown. There is one and only one book that gives us a glimpse of what the future looks like. And that book is the Bible. Revelation 20 gives us one of those glimpses into the future.

Rev 20:12 says, *“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”* What do you suppose has been written in those books about you? Even as a Christian, would you want to be judged on that great day by what has been written? I wouldn't. But we're not just talking about the last year, it's everything, everything you've ever done, every time you've broken a commandment it's been written down, it's written in the books and waiting for judgment day.

So we have the books, plural, and we have the book, singular. There is only one of those, the second book, it's much smaller, there is not a lot written in this book, no deeds, no works, no sins, only one thing written in this book, names. Many names we would recognize; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, Matthew, Paul, along with a mighty host of believers whom we've never heard of, but they are there in the book, row after row, page after page of names

The judgment of books. We will either be judged by what is written in the books, or we will be judged by what is written in the Book of Life. I know which one I want to be judged by, how about you? And it is the Lamb's book

of life, Revelation 21:27 identifies whose book it is. It's not Buddha's book, it's not Muhammad's book, it's not Maroni's book, it's not even the Pope's, or anyone else's book. It's the Lamb's book; He's the one who decides which names get written in. It's his heaven and He gets to decide.

Not everyone likes that idea. They think they should get to decide who makes it. Take for instance the great theologian Sophia Loren. She said,

“I'm not a practicing Christian, but I pray, that ought to count for something. I read the Bible, it's the most beautiful book ever written. I should go to heaven, otherwise it's not nice. It's not nice if God doesn't let everyone get into heaven, and I don't want to listen to anyone who tells me otherwise. When the Bible says that, it's not nice, I don't want to listen. I have not done anything wrong.” Wow! That's quite a life she's lived! Perfection, but by whose standards? By her standards, or by God's standards?

It's not nice that God would send anyone to hell. That's not the way I want it to be. As long as you pray a little, as long as you give the “Good Book” a thumbs up, as long as you do nice things, you should get in, shouldn't you? I've got to admit, that's attractive. There is even something inside of me that wishes that were so. But it's not my Heaven, it's not my invitation. It's God's heaven, so He gets to decide.

What does Jesus say, how do you get in? Does He say, be nice, just try to be nicer. Does He say work real hard to be as good as you can? No actually he says Be

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Perfect, and it’s not perfect as Sophia Loren is perfect, it’s perfect as you Heavenly Father is perfect, there is quite a difference between the two.

How is our name written in the book of life? John 3:15, and 16 both say; *“that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”* And to believe has little to do with head knowledge, but has to do with heart knowledge and literally means to come along side of. Whosoever comes along side of and walks with Christ in fellowship should not perish but have eternal life. Again in John 17:3 Jesus says; *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”* (NKJV) As I’ve already said, it’s not what you know, it’s who you know. This is the only way to have your name written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Rev 20:15 says, *“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”* At the end of Chapter 20 we have fire, we have it again in Chapter 21 verse 8; *“But for the fearful and unbelieving and corrupt and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”* Everyone who has not been perfect according to God’s standards, their part will be in the lake of fire. Uncomfortable things to think about I know. I understand the attraction of Sophia

Loren's theology, but I've searched the scriptures, and I have not found "nice" to be included as one of God's attributes.

But there is safety, there is a way of escape, and that is God's Son. We have a picture of fire in Chapter twenty and again in Chapter twenty one, but there is a place of safety between the fires for everyone whose name is written in the lamb's book of life.

Rev 21:3 says, "*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*" (NKJV)

The day is coming when there will be a new Heaven and a new earth, a New Jerusalem, and in Rev 21:5, "*Behold, I make all things new.*" All things new, including these bodies we reside in! New! Untouched by sin. No death, no sorrow, no crying, no pain, but best of all it says, God Himself will dwell with us.

The future, what does it hold for us? Probably more of the same. Tears, death, sorrow, crying, and pain, for that is the way of this old Earth cursed by sin. But for those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, we have the promise of a new earth where righteousness dwells. A new earth where God Himself will dwell with us. We will no longer have to hide behind the covering of the blood of the lamb, we will see face to face. And standing face to face with God, he will take a handkerchief and wipe away every tear from our eyes. You've shed some tears this last year haven't you? I know you have. We all have, and I'm sure we will shed some tears this next year. But that's part of the former things that will pass away. Rev 21:4 says, "*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain.*" (NKJV)

That's the glorious future of the redeemed, those whose names have been written in the Lamb's book of life. When the books are opened, and the book of life is opened, where will you be found? Our text starts with fire and ends with fire, but between the fires there is safety, and that safety and rest come through faith in Christ alone for our salvation. In Heb 4:1 we read, "*Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.*" (NKJV)

Led by a Wounded Hand

By H. G. Bosch

"He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out." (John 10:3)

How precious it is that God thinks of each one of us "by name"! How assuring to know that the **Good Shep-**

herd Himself will ever lead us with His nailed-scarred hands through the green pastures of spiritual blessing, up the Blood-sprinkled way, until we reach the fold of God in the heights of Paradise.

Recently there came to my desk the excellent little booklet, *Hills of God* by Ruth Gibbs Zwall. With her permission we quote her beautiful "Parable of Tomorrow," which poetically describes this precious leading.

I looked at the mountain. "It is too hard, Lord" I said. "I cannot climb."

"Take My hand," He whispered, "I will be your strength."

I saw the road, "It is too long, Lord," I said, "so rough and long."

"Take My love," He answered, "I will guard your feet."

I looked at the sky. "The sun is gone," I said. "Already it grows dark."

"Take the lantern of My Word," He whispered. "That will be light enough."

We climbed. The road was narrow and steep, but the way was bright. And when the thorns reached out, they found His hand before they touched my own. And when my path grew rough, I knew it was His love that kept my feet from stumbling.

Then I grew very tired. "I can go no farther, Lord," I said. He answered, "Night is gone. Look up, My child."

I looked, and it was dawn. Green valleys stretched below. "I can go on alone now," I said. ...and then I saw the marks: "Lord, Thou art wounded. Thy hands are bleeding; Thy feet bruised. Was it for me?" I whispered.

"I did it gladly."

Then I fell at His feet. "Lord, lead me on," I cried. "No road too long, no valley too deep, If Thou art with me. We walk together now and shall forever!"

***If we are not likely at odds today
with our culture, then we are
likely at odds with GOD!***

The Preacher's Holy Calling

By Dr. Shelton Smith

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”

(II Timothy 1:8, 9)

Every preacher needs to see himself a servant of God a man of God, an ambassador on assignment for the **King of Kings**. He needs to give himself devotedly, unreservedly to the SAVIOR who loved him, saved him and called him into the ministry. It is a precious task that is given to him. The Bible here calls it a *“holy calling.”*

The preacher needs to fill himself with the Word of God and allow the (Holy) Spirit to fill him with the power of God. Knowledge without power will be lame and listless. Information imparted is not the full story of preaching.

Surely the preacher needs to be read up, studied up and prayed up before he gets up to preach. But he still needs the mighty filling of God to give him power in his presentation and in pleading for the people.

Living and Working on a Battlefield

The preacher lives on a battlefield (as do all Christians). He is under attack, a constant siege from the arch-enemy of GOD, the Devil. He can't sleep late, take long breaks and go home early every day without losing ground fast.

The Devil will steal everything that is proper and precious and powerful. He'll take it all and laugh like a hyena while he does it. *Brother preacher, you are a sheep in the midst of wolves.* (Matthew 10:16)

Vulnerable though you may be, He who is the Good Shepherd (John 10:14), the **Great** Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20) and our **Chief** Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4) stands by us. HE is on our side because we are on HIS side. HE will provide for us and HE will protect us. He'll get us through this thing.

Fulfill Your Calling No Matter What

Since we have this *“holy calling”* it is our duty to stay in the field and serve our **Commander in Chief**. So, let's load the gospel gun, (& God's Law) aim it and fire it. **Reload!** Fire again! Do it again and again and again.

It's true — you'll have critics because of your stand, your soul winning, your separation and many other

things you do.

It's true —you'll take some hits. The hits will hurt, but don't even think about quitting. Get up! Reload! Re-group! Go again!

As the Battle Rages

The Battle is raging! Preach the Book, the Old Rock the precious Word of God, preach it every time without reservation or apology; Preach it!

The battle is raging! Keep winning souls. Dear, precious, Hell-bound sinners can be saved. Go after them. Bring them to JESUS! Do it again next week and next month and next year. **Don't ever quit!**

The battle is raging! Sit tall in the saddle, take charge, lead the church, lay out the game plan, plead the case, persuade the saints, call the sheep and *“till I come, give attendance.”* (II Timothy 4:14)

Keep Looking Up and Pressing On

Praise the LORD! We've been bought by the Blood of Jesus and saved to serve. We have a song in our souls —all of this and Heaven too!

Dear preacher, may the Lord bless you (and HE will) as you give HIM your all, your very best, every day.

Dear church folks, if you've got a preacher with vision and who is on the battlefield for Christ, by all means, stand by him, help him, love him and support him and stay by his side. **So, let's keep looking up to the LORD and pressing on in the Battle.**

Praise the LORD! AMEN! AMEN!

Editor of Sword of the Lord, July 2021

God's Love

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:9)

Kristin Millar of Winnipeg, Canada, endured a decade-long illness that was slowly killing her heart. One night, she received a phone call to inform her that a woman, whom she had never met, had passed away. Kristin would be the recipient of the donated heart. After her recovery, Kristin was asked how this experience shaped her outlook on life. She replied: “It makes me want to live every day in honor of my donor.” As Christians, we have been given new life through the death (& resurrection) of the Lord Jesus. Out of gratitude and love, let us desire to live every day in honor of Him!

I. Shatford

Editorial

RES

The One and Only Just and Righteous GOD!

“God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked (UNGODLY SINNER/one without God is included here!) every day. If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword...” (Psalm 7:11-12a)

IF you or I were an upright and righteous person and realized a person is destined for eternal penalty, who by no means can never set himself free from the just punishment he rightly deserved, what would you do? That is, if you were the one and only person that could set this person FREE, what would you do? We are talking about this prisoner; whom you dearly love, in spite of what this prisoner is bound for; what would you do? That is, EVEN the very best that you have and could sacrifice, even if it would actually make you poor, would you do all that in order to set this prisoner free?

Well, that is exactly what GOD did on our behalf! We could be ‘set-free’ through His Beloved Son, **Jesus Christ**. And JESUS was willing to make Heaven poor that we might become rich – through His Finished work on CALVARY. He was the LAMB OF GOD without a spot or blemish, yet HE opened not His mouth – Isaiah 53:7, **“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not his mouth.”**

Yet, many Lutheran churches (& others) follow tradition more than following and obeying the Word of GOD; for example the Lord’s Supper (Communion) where the participants partake of the same; and are being told that their sins are forgiven! How can that be when the participants are to be Living Believers/Christians who have had their sins forgiven by our Just & Righteous God. He forgives a truly repentant heart who confesses their sins in preparation before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, as the Supper is intended for the Family of God. In other words, how can GOD forgive when HE already has forgiven & forgotten the sins of the sinner?

The verses above are directed towards and in preparation of partaking of the Lord’s Supper. The emphasis is not just about my heart-situation towards the Lord; but also, to motivate us not to just think about ourselves, but really Who is the **HOST AND WHO ARE THE GUESTS?** HE prepared the meal (Sacrament) very close to when the pascal LAMB was slain. He laid

down HIS life without ‘spot or blemish’ at CALVARY. We are not coming to get our sins forgiven, but to remember that HE gave His own ‘life-forgiving- blood’ and to adore Him and keep in mind He is coming again!

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is a serious and solemn occasion! Therefore, GOD states in 1 Corinthians 11:28-29, **“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”**

Now doesn’t your heart ache/weep for those who go to the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper; having been DECEIVED in thinking that their sins are forgiven and on the way to HEAVEN? Not even one sin will be permitted into God’s Eternal Bliss of Heaven. Individuals and multitudes are being deceived by Pastors, etc.

Now we have been addressing one issue of definite ‘error’; let us continue to be scripturally realistic and specially notice two outstanding words in God’s Word at this time – they are the the words ‘but God’ and All.

“All we like sheep have gone astray, We have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6) The word “all” is the first word in this verse and also the last. The first ‘all’ presents our lost spiritual condition without Jesus Christ as personal Savior and standing guilty before our Holy and sinless GOD. The second “all” refers to JESUS who died for **all** lost *sinners!* **“Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Who gave Himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time.”** (1 Timothy 2:4 & 6)

Search the Scriptures frequently to see if you are on the path (***by grace alone, word alone & faith alone***) as a ‘fellow-pilgrim’ true/believer and ready for HIS COMING!

Eternity is very long (everlasting) and GOD is not only Loving, Merciful, Forgiving; but JUST AND RIGHTEOUS!

Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

Sixty-two Percent of Americans Oppose Allowing Boys Who Identify as Female to Compete in Girls' Sports

Supreme Court Sides with Christian Student in College Free-Speech Class

Conservatives just secured a massive victory at the U. S. Supreme Court regarding free speech.

The Supreme Court ruled in an 8 – 1 decision that a Georgia college's speech code policy violated the First Amendment and that a student who was harmed by the policy can seek damages.

Justice Clarence Thomas issued the opinion of the Court, writing that nominal damages claims are enough to establish standing to sue for a constitutional violation. Chief Justice John Roberts was the only dissenter in the ruling favoring a couple of Christian students who challenged the University for restricting when, where and how they could speak about their faith and disseminate materials on campus.

Uzuegbunam et al. v. Preczewski et al. Chike Uzuegbunam, a student at Georgia Gwinnett College, was stopped by campus police for handing out religious materials on campus, a reported violation of the school's "Freedom of Expression Policy," which limited distributions and other expressions of free speech zones only with permission from the administration.

Biden Overturns Trump Rule Protecting Doctors from Being Forced to Kill Babies in Abortions

In June 2020, President Donald Trump issued a pro-life rule ...to block the effects of a dangerous Obamacare provision that could be used to compel doctors to participate in abortions.

On May 10, 2021 Joe Biden reversed it.

During the Trump administration, the Department of Health and Human Services finalized a rule that ...protected doctors, nurses and medical professionals from being compelled to assist abortions...

Before the November presidential election, Biden indicated he would eliminate conscience protection for pro-life healthcare providers, forcing them to adhere to pro-abortion ideology even if it conflicts with their

medical judgment.

Lifenews.com

Editor's Note: Now at this time, every true-blooded AMERICAN is concerned about approx. 10,000 Americans who are captured and many others who want Freedom AND as far as the true American people are concerned; NO definite plans of how to try to rescue them!

Supreme Court Schedules Review of Mississippi Abortion Ban

Pro-life advocates gladly welcomed the U.S. Supreme Court's announcement ...(May 12, (2021)) it would rule on the constitutionality of Mississippi's ban on abortions of unborn children whose gestational age is more than 15 weeks.

The case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Woman's Health Organization*, offers the High Court the opportunity next term to rein in a legal regime inaugurated in 1973 that has made the United States one of the permissive countries in the world regarding abortion rights. Mississippi's 2018 Gestational Age Act is one of many state laws enacted in recent years that establish prohibitions on Abortion at certain stages of pregnancy and offer challenges to *Roe v. Wade* that legalized the procedure nationwide.

The Supreme Court's next term begins in October and it is expected to issue an opinion in the case before it adjourns in the summer of 2022.

Baptist Press

OSTRICH

When the weather is very unfavorable, the winds are blowing and the sea seems to be coming ashore; GOD doesn't say, "Oh, give up or close your eyes and take a vacation, because the battle is not worth it and you are going to lose anyway!" In other words, don't be an OSTRICH! But the battle isn't over yet, so HOLD THE FORT FOR I AM COMING. "**Occupy with and for ME as it will be WORTH IT ALL**" when the boisterous wind (both spiritually & politically) and the sea is as calm as a mirror. Editor

What About Hell? – Part III

“The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:41-42)

This is the third in a series of messages on the denials of Hell by the modern church, some of their reasons behind them and a biblical response to each one.

False Ideas Present Today:

Hell is not a place, but the suffering we endure in this life

This belief is presented because of John 16:33, which says, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”* It is true that we have definite severe things in this world that are typically described as being “hellish,” but that does not mean that there is no place of suffering in the afterlife. In the Scripture at the top of the page (Matt. 13:41-42), Jesus described hell as a literal place, “In THAT place.” Jesus also called it a “Furnace of Fire.” In Luke 16:23-24, the rich man in hell described the location where he was as “a **Place** Of Torment” and that he was in “Agony in this Flame” His ungodly soul went immediately upon death to punishment in the flames of hell with no stop at purgatory and no soul sleep between death and hell. Will we believe the Words of Jesus or not?

Hell defies the Love of God

The statement is made that God is Love and the precious love and compassion of God would never allow this kind of endless suffering and torment upon someone. But in the very verse that many know by heart, the difference is seen. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16) It doesn’t say that God’s Love says everyone, but the ones who believe should not perish. God’s Love goes out to the whole world and seeks to save everyone, but only those who respond to God’s Love in Jesus are saved and do not perish.

To say that God’s Love could not allow for hell to exist is to not understand the attributes of God. It is not God’s Love which does this, but God’s Holiness. When people breach the holiness of God as sinful men, then Judgment is what they get. Even the consecrated high priest would perish at the Ark of the Covenant if he came at the wrong time or without the blood atonement. *“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter*

at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.’” (Lev. 16:2) This has nothing to do with the Love of God, but everything to do with the Holiness of God.

The meaning of the word “Holy” is “Separate.” Unless the sinfulness of man is dealt with, they can’t be in a holy God’s presence. When Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, God “drove” them out of the garden. This is more than just a polite request to leave, but a definite action of God to drive them out. It is virtually identical to what happens to people who are lost on Judgment Day. *“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”* (Revelation 20:15) The angels of God will throw or cast these lost sinners into that lake of fire. It’s almost a picture of grabbing a dog by the scruff of the neck and throwing it. This is not the Love of God, but the Wrath of God which does this.

If your personal sentiments can’t believe that God Almighty would ever do such a thing, then you need to set aside your personal feelings, which change like the weather, and look instead to the Word of God, which never changes. *“Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.”* (Psalm 119:89)

It is not reasonable (or fair) that God would punish people for an eternity for a life-time of sins

Human reason cannot understand the infinite ways of God. *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways,”* declares the LORD. *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”* (Isaiah 55:8-9) The Bible is filled with things that are totally beyond the reason of man – like the Creation of the Universe out of nothing (Gen. 1) and a Virgin bearing a Son (Matt. 1).

If God’s standard were for you to do your best, then it may seem fair that God would grade on a scale and give less duration of hell to those who were better in this life. But God states that the standard is not your best, but the absolute perfection of God Himself. *“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* (Matt. 5:48) Everyone who does not achieve the righteousness of God is condemned regardless of how close or far away they come to that. God is perfectly just in condemning anyone for the sins they have committed, regardless of the number. It is not a question of how many sins a person has done, but the fact that they have no covering for their sins, because this comes only through Jesus. *“I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.”* (John 8:24)

Pastor Jim Haga
Hagapublishing.com

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

By O. Hallesby

In the Presence of the Lord

When a patient goes to his physician to be examined, he does not sit down and talk continuously. If a doctor had a patient who only sat down and talked all the time and left his office as soon as he was through talking, the physician would no doubt have a reason to believe that his patient was unbalanced. But the Great Physician has daily visits by just such patients, who leave Him as soon as they are through talking. Meanwhile He observes how sick these patients are. And He tries to persuade them to lie down quietly in order that He may examine them and ultimately heal them of their ailment.

Quiet hours, such as these, in the presence of the Lord, when the secret thoughts and counsels of the heart are laid bare in the light of God's truth have a twofold effect. In the first place, they humble us deeply. When we begin to see the uncleanness which clings to us in word, thought, and deed—even in our prayers and good deeds—than our hunger and thirst after righteousness become real indeed. The Gospel also begins to acquire a new and fresh appeal to our souls. We take refuge quietly and gratefully once again beneath the cross. And joy in the Lord gives us strength to take up the battle anew. A willing spirit again pervades us—the workmanship of God.

In the next place, these quiet hours in the presence of the Lord have a peculiarly healing effect. There is no more effective antidote for our sinful habits than to bring them into the light of God's presence. There are physical ailments which respond most readily to light treatments. The affected parts are exposed to light regularly for longer or shorter periods of time until the bacteria responsible for the illness have been destroyed. We do not have a more effective means of combating our sinful desires and sinful habits, which often tempt us and cause us to fall, than to expose them regularly to the light of the Lord's presence. Our sins never become so repulsive to us as when we see them in the light of the Crucified One.

Do you have a particularly weak point, one in which you fail day after day, perhaps many times a day? Then take care that you expose it to the light of God's presence. Tell Him immediately how seriously you have erred. Mention your sin by name. Tell Him about the dishonest way in which you are dealing with this sin how easily you are tempted to show favoritism toward it, make it appear in a better light than it is and look upon

it as harmless or innocent. Then you will experience how effective these light treatments are.

In the second place, permit me to indicate what a privilege and a joy it is to live in the presence of the LORD with all one's plans and purposes. Most people do not dare to take counsel with GOD. They have the unregenerate man's distrust of God, and think that it involves too great a risk to permit God to have His way. So, they take the helm into their own hands, and sooner or later run their skiff aground. What good fortune it is to have learned to trust God in such a way that we allow Him to be at the helm. It imparts to our lives, in the first place, inner poise and balance, even when we in making some of the momentous decisions of our lives, lay all our plans before the Lord and pray that we may be assured of what His will is in each particular instance.

There is, in the next place, an inner, peaceful joy connected with bringing one's plan and purposes into the presence of the Lord. The friendship of God, which we experience, gives life a depth and a wealth of riches that is more stable and permanent than even some of the other joys which can be experienced in fellowship with God.

And, finally, such a life, lived in the presence of the Lord with our deliberations and our purposes, will keep us from many a wrong road which we would have to take if we had the reins in our own hands.

It soon becomes apparent whether or not a Christian takes counsel with the Lord each day! It is wonderful to meet those simple-hearted believers who feel so dependent upon the Lord that He is the first One whose counsel they seek.

In the third place, I would mention the joy and privilege of living one's whole commonplace daily life in the presence of the Lord, to live through all one's joys and sorrows, great and small, one's encouragements and disappointments, one's seasons of work as well as rest, in fellowship with the Lord. To most of us, daily life consists of little, unnoticed acts and events, which, because they are commonplace and consistently repeated, quickly tire us and become monotonous. If we can see that the Lord is with us in the greater as well as in the lesser experience of life, then these become ever new to us. In the light of God's presence, the little events of our daily lives will take on an entirely new significance. Even the simplest and most retiring life will become rich and interesting when our inner eyes have been opened to see the Lord and recognize Him as He meets us in love in the prosperity or the adversity of each passing day. ...I do not know whether it is possible to glorify the LORD more than by living one's home life in the presence of the Lord. At least, there is no place where we

have so many opportunities to glorify GOD...

Our homes, more than anything else among our beloved people, are facing complete disintegration these days. It is therefore doubly important that the homes of the Christians become good homes, in order that sound and strong young people may be sent forth.

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The Colorblind God

By Pastor Troy Tysdal

As my wife and I entered the old Spanish fort on the island of Vieques, I immediately noticed the statue of a white woman with flowing blond hair and bright blue eyes. She was holding a child of similar complexion. The Roman Catholic symbolism made it obvious that this was Christian art. I assumed it to be the virgin Mary and the child Jesus, but I had never seen them depicted so Scandinavian. "Who's the woman?" I asked the Puerto Rican man behind the counter, as I pointed toward the statue. "It is Saint Barbara, the protector of the fort," he replied. Now knowing I had the identity of the woman wrong, I wondered if I had the identity of the child wrong as well. "Who's the kid?" I asked. The man looked at me as if I had spoken blasphemy. It is God!" he said, "The Lord! Jesus!"

Embarrassed, I sought to justify my error. "It's just that Jesus probably did not look like that," I said. "He was Jewish. He would have looked more like you than me. His skin would have been darker. His hair and eyes probably brown." "How do you know this?" asked the man. "I'm a Lutheran pastor," I replied. "What is a Lutheran?" he asked. I responded; "We are followers of Jesus. We believe the Bible teaches that we are saved by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone." "...and by being good." He added, as if I had left something out.

Three unmistakable evidences of being born again:

- 1) Keeping His Word – I John 2:5*
- 2) Loving the brethren – I John 3:14*
- 3) The Spirit bears witness with our spirit – Romans 8:16*

"NO!" I replied. "We try to be good, because God is good, but it doesn't save us." "Only Jesus does that."

Over the next twenty minutes, my wife toured the Spanish fort, while the man and I took an express trip through the book of Romans. As we stood next to each other, shoulder to shoulder, both looking up Bible verses on our phones, the man couldn't get enough of the idea that Jesus did everything necessary to bring him Eternal Life, and I began to notice the identifying marks of a life lived hard. His visible skin displayed a few deep scars. His arms were covered in amateur tattoos, and the wrinkles on his face aged him well beyond his years. I wanted to know his story, but didn't ask. Something told me our limited time was better spent in the Word of God.

"We know that whatever the Law says, it says to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be silenced the whole world held accountable to GOD. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in GOD'S sight by the works of the Law, rather, through the Law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the Law the righteousness of GOD has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of GOD, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by JESUS CHRIST." (Romans 3:19-25a) GOD presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His BLOOD -- to be received by faith.

As I sensed my time with the man coming to a close, I asked him, "Do you believe what you have read today?" He replied, "I need to see it in Spanish. I have a Spanish Bible at home. I will look up the verses you gave me." "Please do," I said, "But the important thing is not the color of His skin, it is the fact that He took on skin -- that HE became human like us -- so HE could die as a sacrifice for us."

A few seconds later, a group of new tourists entered the fort, and I bid the man farewell. I left that place amazed by God's relentless pursuit of the broken.

Are you broken? Does your soul bear the marks of a life lived hard? Perhaps today you need to be reminded that God pursues you as well! There is no scar too deep, no sin so ugly, that it cannot be covered by the Blood of Christ.

Call to Jesus. HE does not discriminate. Those who call on the Name of the LORD, He heals, and those who believe He saves.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP, May/June, 2021

The Firstborn of Every Creature

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.” (Colossians 1:15)

A widespread cultic heresy based on this verse claims that Jesus Christ was not eternal, but merely the first being created — perhaps an angel — before becoming a man. Note, however, that the verse does not say He was the “first created of every creature,” but the “first born of every creature.” In fact, the very next verse says that BY HIM WERE ALL THINGS CREATED” (verse 16). He was never created, for He, Himself, is the Creator. “*All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made*” (John 1:3).

He is “born” of God, not “made,” the only begotten Son (John 3:16). “*No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father; He hath declared Him*” (John 1:18). The eternal Father is omnipresent, and therefore invisible, inaudible, inaccessible to the physical senses. The eternally existing Son is the “image” of the invisible Father, the One who declares, reveals, embodies His essence. Although He is always “in the bosom of the Father,” yet He is eternally also “the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person” (Hebrews 1:3). He is the eternal, living Word, which was “in the beginning with God: (John 1:2), and which “was God” (John 1:1).

Thus, the phrase, “firstborn of every creature” in our text, can be translated literally as “begotten before all creation.” The eternal-inner-relationship of the Persons of the Godhead is beyond human comprehension in its fullness, and the terms; “Son” and “begotten” are the best human language can do to describe it. Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, is the only begotten, eternally generated, Son of the Father, forever shining forth as the image of the otherwise invisible God.

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God, by Dr. Henry M. Morris, Copyright, 1997 by Dr. Henry M. Morris, Published by World Publishing, Inc.

Come Out

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you.” (II Cor. 6:17)

All through God’s Word we are told that as His children we are to live separate from the world. And all through the Bible we read how Satan in various ways tried to get God’s children to mix with the world. He does that same with Christians today. Many people live lives so mixed with the world that it is hard to see that they are

Christians.

A farmer once went to town with two barrels, in one was cottage cheese, and in the other was sauerkraut. He sold the cheese and the sauerkraut to the people right from these two barrels. He dipped the contents out with a big ladle, but he used the same ladle for both barrels, He was not very careful to empty them, either, as he dipped from one to the other. At first those who bought got just what they ordered, but as he kept dipping and letting some of the cheese drip into the sauerkraut and the sauerkraut drip into the cottage cheese, it became mixed so that those who bought last could not tell what they were getting.

Just so with the Christians who mix with the world. They cannot remain God’s children unless they come out of the world and live for Him.

The Lord is holy and wants a holy people. So He tells us to come out and be separate from the world.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be willing to suffer outside the camp with Thee, and not take of the unclean things of this world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Take time to be holy,
The world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret
With Jesus alone
By looking to Jesus,
Like Him thou shalt be:
Thy friends in thy conduct
His likeness shall see.*

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

Altar Steps by Rev. R.P. Haakonson

Commitment

“Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.” (John 11:16)

This is commitment! The Jews had tried to stone Jesus to death, making the disciples afraid to return to Judea (v. 8). Thomas, however, would never go back on his commitment to his Lord, even if it meant rocks being hurled at him, crushing him to an excruciating death. Paul was also committed to Christ. He was stoned and left for dead at Lystra, but God raised him up and later fearlessly returned to the very spot they had stoned him. The Greek word to have faith is *pisteuo* which includes the meaning to “**commit to.**” True faith in Christ involves being utterly committed to HIM whatever opposition we may face.

David Croudace

*Pressing onward, ever onward, never looking back;
With my way to Him committed, nothing shall I lack.*

Chasing Fleas

Dr. R. G. Lee

“After whom is the king of Israel come out? After whom dost thou pursue? After a dead dog, after a flea.” (I Sam. 24:14)

The Bible is a book beyond and above all books as a river is beyond a rill in reach, as the sun is beyond a tallow dip in brightness, as the wings of an eagle are beyond the wings of a sparrow in strength, as a tree is beyond a twig in fruit bearing.

Now just one unique flower from this vast garden of God’s inspired Word have I selected for our scrutiny today. One obscure corner in this wide continent of God’s revelation have I chosen upon which to pitch our mental tents at this hour.

Just one overlooked star in the full sky of the scriptural world would I have you focus your intellectual telescopes upon for a brief period. Just one unappreciated gem from the vast storehouse of our God’s treasures have I brought forth for the center of our heart’s meditations. Just one scene from the Old Testament life of David would I have you consider now.

This: “After whom is the king of Israel come out? After whom dost thou pursue? After a dead dog, after a flea”!

And considering how this verse, rich in Oriental imagery, reveals a king choosing the role of a fool, its every word staggers under a weight of agony.

Because Saul hated David he said, “I will smite David even to the wall; (18:11); ”Let the hand of the Philistines be upon him” (vs.17). And he “spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David” (19:1).

Now “Saul became David’s enemy continually” (18:29); and driven by this fury of hatred, Saul was searching “throughout all the thousands of Judah” (23:23) for David, determined to end his life.

Think of it! A king who was a choice young man! A king who stood head and shoulders above any other man in Israel! A king who was kingly in appearance! A king who had a great friend in Samuel the prophet!

A king who wore the garments of royalty! A king who had a crown, a scepter, a throne! A king who had an army at his command! Doing what! Chasing a flea. A ludicrously grotesque comedy, all tragedy!

A king prostituting great authority to ignore ends, wasting great energies in cheap trivialities, despising great opportunities with sinful scorn! A king dishonoring himself with cheap littleness—an eagle coming down to titmouse dimensions, “contracting his firmament to the

compass of a tent.”

A king shooting a cannon at sparrows, charging anthills with drawn swords, fishing for minnows with an anchor hook, lassoing tabby cats with cart ropes, seeking to capture a flea!

Saul is a type of any and all who use their mental endowments, their physical energies, their educational advantages, their spiritual privileges, their all, in seeking those things that matter little—following the paths that lead eventually and inevitably to the land of nobody-ism.

This is a type of all who change heavenly principles for loose expediencies, high ideals for cheap compromises, who are slaves to small anxieties, shallow ideas, small ambitions—who are daily missing life’s central melodies because they are victims of dawdling ditties.

Flea chasers are:

1. They who make pleasure the chief aim in life
2. They who seek ease in life
3. They who pursue fame and worldly praise
4. They who follow after sin.

Redeeming the Time

This is not a time for us to go into spiritual sleep, but to be alert. Redeeming the time!

By Dr. Michael Youssell

AS we come to the end of Paul’s extraordinary epistle to the Romans, ...what it means to be unashamed of the GOSPEL, to be saved and sanctified, to know the love of Christ, and to trust in God’s sovereignty. Now, the apostle concludes his letter by answering the question: **“How are we to live in light of all these things?”**

Paul (God’s inspiration, Word) reminds us: These are urgent days. A spiritual battle is at hand. This is not a time for us to go into spiritual sleep, be alert, redeeming the time. The day is coming, and it may be nearer than we think. For this reason, let us put off the things of this world and put on Christ. Let us live the life of disciple — one that is self-sacrificing, God-glorifying, forever dreaming, and constantly kneeling.

As disciples of Christ, we’re called to live Heaven-bound. This means that, whatever season of life you may find yourself in, you must look to God’s Word. Be ready to serve in every situation. Don’t get distracted by the affairs of life. You were bought with a price (& in His GRACE to Serve **HIM!**) ...

Taken from *My Journal*, July, 2019.

Engaging Our Neighbors

By Roy Hegglund

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus made it clear that everyone with whom we come in contact with is our neighbor. Jesus used the example of someone from Samaria being the neighbor to a beaten and dying Jew. Normally, Jews and Samaritans had nothing to do with each other because the Jews, as God's chosen people, considered the Samaritans outcasts with a corrupted form of Worship. By using this example, Jesus made it clear that *"our neighbors"* includes even people with whom we may disagree on some of the basic things in life.

How do we engage neighbors who we have already decided would never be interested in the Gospel? You know, those who are so different from us that we sometimes think they must have been raised in a different world than we were. Certainly, they would be the first ones to reject any overtures by us. Does that let us off the hook?

We all know the story of the crucifixion. Jesus was nailed to a cross between two criminals who, along with the crowd, mocked JESUS. Yes, even these two who were also despised by the crowd made fun of our LORD. But something dramatic happened during the hours that Jesus and the criminals hung on the *cross*. One of them became convinced that Jesus was the Son of God and received the *gift* of Eternal Life, just moments before he left this earth. The other criminal, *who heard and experienced the same things* as the one who believed, left this life for Eternal punishment. (Editor: Both 'eternities' are of the same length of time). How can two people who saw and heard the same "truths" at the same time from the same person (Jesus) respond so differently? We don't know. BUT the implication is that only GOD knows who will receive His *gift* of salvation. Only HE can save! That is not our job. Our job is to give the "Truth" (Ed. privilege/responsibility – Romans 1:14-17) to everyone we can.

People tend to distrust and disbelieve those they do not know. So, the likelihood is small of our 'neighbors' with whom we have had little or no contact listening to us. Are there things we can do to improve the inclination of such neighbors to hear the Message from us? Here are a few:

1. Pray that God would change our heart toward anyone that we assume would not be receptive to hearing the Gospel. After all, it is God's Word that creates faith and receptivity to the Good News.

2. Pray for them, and for anyone we meet, that God would prepare their hearts to receive His Good News. Sometimes we speak and act as though prayer is the last

resort when it is actually the most powerful thing we can do.

3. Be kind and helpful to our neighbor, treating them with respect. Do not condemn them for their ideas or try to persuade them that your way of thinking is the only one that makes sense. Instead, lovingly give them God's Truth, which can meet them where they are and penetrate all their defenses. Remember, God's Word alone can bring life to the dead. Our words can never do that unless we are speaking the *Words of LIFE*.

May God give us his grace to share His Love and Good News with those around us. And let us share that Message with those around the world through the ministries of the CLB (Ed. & Morning Glory, etc.). **May GOD bless you as you labor and give to His Glory.**

Faith & Fellowship, May/June, 2021.

God the Owner

By Dr. Henry M. Morris

"The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1)

In communist countries, "the people" own the lands, while in capitalist countries, individuals may own "private property." Both are myths unless these are viewed as a stewardship from God. We don't really own anything, *"for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."* (I Timothy 6:7)

In the mineral kingdoms, the most important substances are the precious metals upon which monetary standards are based, yet God makes it clear that all *"the silver is mine, and the gold is mine."* (Haggai 2:8) The greatest members of the plant kingdom are the mighty trees and full of the forest, and God reminds us that *"trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which He hath planted"* (Psalm 104:16). All the birds and beasts are His also, *"For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills."* (Psalm 50:10)

Again, and again GOD reminds us that "all the earth is mine" Exodus 19:5 and even the infinite heavens, **"Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is."** (Deuteronomy 10:14)

God has, indeed given man "DOMINION ... OVER ALL THE EARTH" (Genesis 1:26) and Satan has, indeed, laid false claim to *"all the kingdoms of the world"* (Luke 4:5, 6), but there remains the fact that *"the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will."* (Daniel 4:32)

Holidays

By Fred Willis

The LORD gave many special days and holy days unto the children of Israel. The fourth of the Ten Commandments was a command to **“remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy”** (Exodus 20:8).

One of the most important days was Passover, which is still kept today. It was actually a weeklong event and represented redemption by the blood. Christians recognize this as a picture of Christ redeeming us by His Blood that was shed on Calvary’s Cross.

Most countries of the world today have special events. In America we have several national holidays. Some of the biggest are the fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s and Easter.

The Devil also has his holiday, known as Halloween, which I’m told is the second-largest commercial holiday.

In what is now post-Christian America, Easter is no longer given the great significance that it once had. Were in not for the bunny and candy, Easter might be all but forgotten by the secular world.

BUT for the Christian, the events surrounding Easter (The death, burial and resurrection of our Lord) are still the most important of all time. It is the resurrection of Christ that guarantees us a home in HEAVEN someday.

We have a good number of lesser holidays. Sometimes when the mailbox is empty past delivery time, I ask myself, *“Is this a holiday!”* We have recently celebrated Mother’s Day, and June is the time we observe Father’s Day.

Mother’s Day tends to be a much bigger celebration than Father’s Day. I suppose this is because of the love and tenderness that is associated with a mother, as opposed to the macho image of the male counterpart.

Psalm 78 shows the importance of the role of the father. In every household, GOD has assigned that role to a male. One of a father’s chief responsibilities is to instruct the children regarding the greatness of Almighty God.shew to the generation to come the praises of the **LORD**, and His strength, and His wonderful works that HE hath done” (vs. 4).

The Psalmist begins the psalm with the exhortation, **“Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth”** (vs. 1). In other words, He is saying, **‘Listen carefully to what I am saying, as it is very important.’**

However, somewhere along the line far too many fathers have dropped the ball and we have an entire generation that has little or no respect for God.

One of the prime reasons for instructing our children and grandchildren is so **“that they might set their hope in**

God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments” (verse 7). I speak to hundreds of people every year about the matter of their salvation and their hope of Heaven. Most of the time, their hope is in themselves instead of in the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**.

Fathers, we need to begin early instructing our children about God who made them and before whom we are going to stand in the Judgement someday. Let us not be as the children of Israel, **“a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.”** (vs. 8)

When we properly instruct our children in the ways of the LORD, we can have a happy Father’s Day every day, instead of just once a year!

The Sword of the Lord

Heard My Voice

“I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my Supplications.” (Ps. 116:1)

When we love the Lord and put His will above our own, we can be sure that He hears us when we call upon Him. We love Him because He heard us when we were in our sin, and redeemed us from our sin and shame. We love Him because when we are in distress, His ear is ever open to our cry and to our need.

A native girl came to a mission station in Zululand, some years ago, and wanted to study the Bible. Her mother came for her, but she would not go home. A native man came with a letter from the chief, but she still refused to leave. She said, “Throw me in jail, or punish me—I have seen Jesus. I want white clothes now, and I want to go to heaven!”

The police came and took her home where she received punishment. The next day she came again to the mission. The police came again and put her in jail for fourteen days. After the fourteen days expired she came back to the mission. The missionaries sent her to another station where the police could not find her. At Christmas time she was baptized. She later visited her home and brought a New Testament with her from which she read to her relatives. She loved her Lord for He had heard her voice, but she also wanted others to know about Jesus.

Do you love the Lord? Open your heart to Him today, and He will deliver you out of your distresses.

Dear Lords Jesus, we thank Thee that Thou didst hear our cry for salvation. Use us to win some soul to Thee. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Altar Steps by Rev. R.P. Haakonson

A New Wife

“When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.”

(Deuteronomy 24:5.)

Very Interesting challenge from the CREATOR of God’s Word and Designer; how would that work of Today? Here we see God’s provision for a partner/togetherness until death thus separates in this earthly journey. This is adjusting to especially the female’s role in God’s design. God directs the husband’s attention to her during this time. It becomes a type of prolonged honeymoon – also a beautiful picture of God’s loving tenderness. When we come to JESUS as our personal Savior and are faithful unto HIM, it is a beautiful picture of God’s loving tenderness, as we have become the GROOM’S *Bride!* This is accomplished only through the *shed blood of Jesus*. Because we have become part of the family of God (Bride of the Lamb), through HIS Grace.

Although a Jewish bride’s time of special attentiveness ended after a year, our joy of His love will continue to all Eternity. Even though we are ‘strangers’ in this sinful world; what a blessed and purifying hope we have ANCHORED in the *Solid ROCK*. May our lives reflect our high and holy calling!

“The bride eyes not her garment, but her bridegroom’s face;

I will not gaze at glory but on my King of Grace”

A. R. Cousins

Editor

Admonish the Disorderly

“But we exhort you, brethren, admonish the disorderly, comfort the faint-hearted, sustain the weak, be patient towards all.” 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (Darby)

By Carl Knott

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all” (NKJV)

The word “disorderly” comes from the Greek word *ataktos* which is a military word indicating those who are out of step, not following order, not keeping rank, causing disturbance. These are self-governed individuals who call themselves Christians as long as they can do whatever they want. They march to their own cadence and don’t like taking orders or being directed. To

them Christ is only a “get-out-of-jail free” card. Friend, if you resent the idea of obeying the Lord and submitting every area of your life to him then you have a serious problem. God will have order in His household.

Never Full

“Hell, and Destruction Are Never Full.”

(Proverbs 27:20)

A road sign was erected in the town of Exmouth in England in an attempt to make drivers cut their speed. The sign read “*Slow — Heaven is never full.*” While the Bible says that hell is never full, no direct comment is made in this regard to heaven. At the moment there is still room for those who want to go there. However, the Bible does warn that at some point the ‘door’ will be closed and access to heaven will cease. Perhaps you need to slow down and think on this matter. Make certain to ensure your entry while the door remains open.

Brian Powlesland

“Therefore Sheol (Hades/indirectly Hell) has enlarged itself And, opened its mouth beyond measure...” (Isaiah 5:14)

Two Sons

A Christian man lay dying. He had three sons, two of whom were Christians, but the third and youngest was a wayward sinner. The old man spoke to the two boys who were Christians and said “*I am going to leave you for a little while, but it won’t be long, I will see again someday. Goodnight.*”

But to the youngest son he said, “Goodbye, my son, goodbye.”

And this boy, with a breaking heart, cried out, “Father, why do you say goodbye to me with such finality and tell my brothers that you will see them before long?”

The old man replied, “Your brothers trust my Savior as their Savior. You have rejected Him and those who do this never find the way to the heavenly home ... this is the parting of the way for us forever.”

The poor boy broke down and sobbed and said, Oh, Father, just tell me goodnight for a little while. I too trust the Savior right now. I will see you again someday.”

How is it going to be with you? Do you know Jesus? Are you ready for His coming? When He does come, will you be one of His own? — W. Herschel Ford

Right, But Wrong!

“And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.” (II Chronicles 25:2)

Amaziah was twenty-five when he became king and he ruled for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem, but he desperately lacked experience; at least for a while! He was young and inexperienced. *Today*, we would say he is a ‘Christian’, as he looked upright, but lacked experience and our Lord tells us in the New Testament that we are to grow in His Grace and knowledge of His Word. Is the same thing happening in many congregations – that the young adults have taken over in leadership and it becomes more ‘liberal’ – instead of older Christians in leadership? Lack of experience! True “Christianity” is based on *the Infallible Word of God*, the BIBLE. In the book of ACTS (A Book of action, not just intentions or resolutions) they prayed over and about leadership before choosing them. They were NOT VOLUNTEERS, BUT CHOSEN congregational leaders. Take every decision to the Lord in prayer and then, whatever HE directs, do it with a loyal, honest heart and attitude. Just do it! ONE DAY HE will test one’s work, of what quality it is.

Editor.

* * * * *

Can’t Imagine!

I can’t imagine a true child of God can continue in their earthly journey of life and not have a special burden concerning the eternal destiny for someone! So, why not after prayer and continuing to pray for this person(s) send in their names and address to be added to the mailing list of the *Morning Glory* with a financial gift to cover the same! Do not forget you are investing for time and ETERNITY by doing the same.

Also, don’t forget that GOD’s Word will not return unto HIM VOID, as His WORD is, **“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”** I Peter 1:22-23. Isaiah 55:10-11.

Noah walked with God

The only other man of whom this was said, was Enoch — Noah’s great-great grandfather. Now Noah, as a lad, would have known and conversed with his grandfa-

ther, Methuselah, who would, in turn have known much of his own father, the saintly Enoch. As parents and grandparents, we have a duty (and privilege) to leave a legacy to those following – to be an example (in word (testimony) and deed) that the younger generations want to follow.

Selected

***As surely as He overcame,
And triumphed once for you,
So surely you that love His name,
Shall in Him triumph too.*** — J. Newton

UpDate

“And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: “I AM has sent me to you.”” (Exodus 3:14)

Let me bring to your attention, that this is/was/shall be the plan and purpose of the Founders of the *Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation* over **100 years** and later-on the same purpose of taking on the *MORNING GLORY* in God’s Provided GRACE, ETC.

The God, the **I AM**, is both self-existent and self-sufficient. He is complete and Almighty, so in a sense needs the frail efforts of humans to assist HIM; but in His Love asks vessels that are His to spread His Word; which is a privilege and responsibility as His *ambassadors*! Thus, HE desires us to be with Him for all Eternity and be able to say to each of us; you have been *faithful*!

Some of the time when the Holy Spirit lays/directs a burden/desire upon our hearts; He also says you have the means/opportunities to help fulfill this burden; heart, hands, tongue, PRAYER, feet, hands, finances to be used as my vessel and I will give you extra joy.

The I AM does not need us but instead He wants us! HE desires us to be with Him for all Eternity to such an extent that He gave us His Only Begotten SON to cleanse & forgive through His Son’s **Precious BLOOD** and thus HIS Precious Promises. HE gave us the very best Heaven had to offer! Through His Finished Work, we are complete in Him (Colossians 2:10) (justified) and all we need to enter Heaven is FAITH ALONE, GRACE ALONE, WORD ALONE!

Are you willing to be a vessel to help us keep this ministry alive? May He be privileged to work through you & us!

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h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	1139	1111
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James R. Hage, Publisher Date: **9/25/21**

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