



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • September 2020

## The God Who Sees Me

Pastor Craig Jennings

**T**he story is told of an elderly grandfather who was very wealthy. He was in fairly good health for his age, except that his hearing was failing him. So, he decided to purchase hearing aids. Two weeks later he returned to the audiologist so that she could make final adjustments. “How do you like the hearing aids?” she asked.

“I like them very much.” He answered. “Why, I now can pick up conversations quite easily, even in the next room.”

The audiologist was delighted. “Your family members must be happy to know that you can hear so much better.”

The old man smiled. “Oh, I haven’t told them yet. I’ve just been sitting around listening—and do you know what? I’ve changed my will twice.”

God sees and hears and knows all things! In fact, according to Psalm 139, God knows what you do, He knows what you think, knows where you go, and he knows what you say. There is no place you can go, in which his all-knowing presence is not there. Here’s the question: Is that reality a threat or a comfort to you?

Ah, if you are running from God, his omniscience (his “all-knowingness”) is a threat, indeed, it stirs up fear—fear because despite your pious outward appearances, God knows that inwardly you are merely playing religious games—fear because God knows the twisted motives and hidden agendas behind all you do—fear because God knows every secret sin and every evil desire—fear because all is open to *the eyes of him to whom we must give account* (Hebrews 3:13)—fear because one

day you will stand in judgment before the great White Throne, and your whole miserable life will be judged on the basis of what is infallibly recorded in the books.

But if you are a child of God, purchased by the blood of His Son, God’s omniscience is a source of great comfort and joy—comfort and joy because God knows you (and your needs) better than you do—comfort and joy because his strength will not allow you to sink in a sea of troubles.

Do you remember the story of Hagar, told in Genesis 16? It is the story of a young woman who is pregnant and on the run from some very difficult and painful circumstances. As you may recall, Abraham and Sarah were unable to have children, so Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham as a second wife. If Hagar were to become pregnant and bear a child, then according to custom, Sarah could claim and adopt the child as her own.

Well, Hagar became pregnant and began to look with contempt on Sarah—after all, she was able to bear a child, whereas Sarah could not. Sarah responded with anger and bitterness. In essence she said to herself. “I am a woman of wealth and standing whereas Hagar is only an Egyptian slave girl. Who does she think she is?”

Conditions quickly deteriorated. Sarah blamed Abraham for the whole mess (even though the entire scheme had been her idea to begin with). And Abraham, in response to his wife’s anger, basically said to Sarah, “Hagar is your servant. Do whatever you think is best.” Then, the Bible says, *Sarah dealt harshly with her* (16:6)—the same word later used to describe how Egyptian taskmasters treated the people of Israel.

# Morning Glory

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The God Who Sees Me.....	1-3
Peace and Safety .....	3
The Man With Two Umbrellas • Time to Recalibrate • Ten Reasons.....	4
Editorial.....	5
From our Fellowship Circle • Refuge in Jehovah • Some.....	6
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable .....	7
The Perfect Storm.....	8
The History of a Favorite Hymn • Prove All Things .....	9
Discerning The Truth .....	10-11
Not Slack • Number Your Days.....	11
Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.....	12
This Sickness Will Not End in Death.....	13
The Girdle of Truth • Human Reasoning Should Be Taken Captive.....	14
Why I Love America • Although .....	15
UpDate • God Sends No Man Away Empty • Why Want I More? .....	16

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What is Hagar to do? The only viable solution she could see was to run from her intolerable circumstances and return to her home country of Egypt. And run she did, finally arriving at a spring of water near the Egyptian border. And while she rested at that place, feeling very much alone and overwhelmed, the angel of the Lord *found her* (16:7).

What great news! In times of distress and fear and great need, you and I (like Hagar) discover that God is never far from any one of us. More than that, we discover (or perhaps, rediscover) that he knows all about our past, our present journey, and what lies ahead of us. And based upon his perfect, all-encompassing, eternal knowledge, God acts—for his glory and for our good.

In Hagar’s case, the angel of the Lord (the second person of the Trinity) gave her an amazing promise: ”Not only will you give birth to a son” said the angel, “but I will multiply your son’s descendants to such an extent that no one will be able to count them. Oh, and in remembrance of this event,” He said, “you are to name Him Ishmael, which means *God hears.*”

And what was Hagar’s instructive response? She rejoiced. But the Genesis account makes it clear that she did not rejoice primarily in the great prophecies regarding her son (although she undoubtedly was both amazed and thankful). Instead Hagar rejoiced in the presence of a gracious, omniscient God.

Indeed, at the end of the passage she celebrated God's omniscience by giving this name to the Lord who had spoken to her: *the God who sees me* (16:13). "Can you believe it?" she shouts with joy. "I have actually seen *him who looks after me*". (And that, by the way, is the name she gave to the well where the encounter took place.)

Child of God, rejoice in God's omniscience. Think about it. If God is indeed all-knowing, that means, for example, that he will never discover anything new about you, nor will he ever be surprised by anything you do. God's omniscience means that He knows the absolute worst about you, but loves you eternally and fully through Jesus Christ. He has saved you by his grace. You belong to him.

Further, God's omniscience means that as a Christian you can live your life in gospel freedom. No character flaw can suddenly come to light that God doesn't already know about. No long-forgotten skeleton stored away for years in some back closet of your life can suddenly tumble out and startle God. No – not even Satan himself can make any accusation against you that will cause God to have second thoughts about you.

God perfectly knows what you and I are really like—*he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust* (Psalm 103:14). Why, God knows you so well that *even the hairs of your head are all numbered* (Matthew 10:30). So, take heart! His grace is always sufficient, His supply is always abundant, His timing is always perfect, and his faithfulness and mercies –for you—**are new every morning**.

*Frail children of dust, And feeble as frail  
In Thee do we trust, Nor find Thee to fail.  
Thy mercies how tender; How firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.*

(Robert Grant, 1833)

Pastor Craig Jennings is Pastor at Grace Lutheran Brethren Church in Bottineau, ND. Taken from *Faith and Fellowship*

## PEACE and SAFETY

*"And they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh." (I Thess. 5:3)*

The apostle Paul has in chapter 4 just finished speaking of the rapture of the church. In chapter 5 he is speaking of the Day of the Lord of which the Great Tribulation is a part, at the last of which Christ will return in judgment. Sudden destruction will come at a time when men are talking of "peace and safety."

Now we have had a lot of talk of "peace and safety" since before World War I. It began with the Hague peace tribunal. World War I was supposed to be the "war to end war"; but it consummated in an armistice, not in peace.

During World War II there was much talk of a "just and durable peace." In the presidential elections which followed World War II, all the presidential candidates promised "lasting peace," for our children and grandchildren." There has not been a time since 1912 that we have had worldwide peace.

The great wars came to an end, but there were wars on a smaller scale being fought somewhere around the earth. The League of Nations was supposed to preserve peace, but it failed. The United Nations likewise has been a dismal failure in keeping the peace.

The streets of our large cities have been full of marchers and demonstrators recently. Many well-meaning people have been drawn into this. The New Left which has promoted the (protests) does not have a peaceful intent.

All the "peace and safety" talk is the forerunner of sudden destruction. The world today is living in the shadow of Armageddon. The time will come when there will not be a safe place anywhere on earth. There will be no lasting peace until the Prince of Peace comes to set up His kingdom upon earth.

**(Written in 1970, but even truer today, fifty years later).**

*Give someone a piece of your mind and  
you'll have less brains when you're done!*

## The Man With Two Umbrellas

Dr. Gordon Torgerson, a distinguished Massachusetts pastor, had this experience.

When he crossed the Atlantic one summer, he noticed a man sitting in a deck chair reading the Bible. He sat beside him and said, “Forgive my curiosity, but I’m a minister. I see you here every day reading your Bible. I assume you’re a Christian and I’m interested to know how it happened.”

“Yes,” said the man, setting aside his Bible. “I’m very glad to talk about that. I was born in a good home in the Philippines and some years ago I came to the United States to one of your fine universities to study law. My first night on the campus a student came to see me.” He said, ‘I’ve come to welcome you to the campus and to say that if there is anything I can do to help make your stay here more pleasant, I hope you’ll call on me.’

“Then he asked me where I went to church and I told him. He said, ‘Well, I can tell you where that church is, but it’s not easy to find. It’s quite a distance away. Let me make you a map.’ So he made an outline of the way to the church and left.”

“When I awakened Sunday morning, It was raining. I thought to myself, *I’ll just not go to church this morning. Surely I can be forgiven of this. It’s my first Sunday on campus. It’s raining hard and the church is hard to find. I’ll get some more sleep.*

Then there was a knock on the door; and when I opened it, there stood that student. His raincoat was dripping wet and on one arm he had two umbrellas. He said, ‘I thought you might have a hard time finding your church, especially in the rain. I will walk along with you and show you where it is.’

As I dressed to go, I thought *What kind of fellow is this?* As we were walking along in the rain under the two umbrellas, I said to myself, *‘If this fellow is so concerned about my religion, I ought to know something about his.’*

I asked, “Where do you go to church?”

“Oh”, he said, “my church is just around the corner.”

I said, “Suppose we go to your church today and we’ll go to my church next Sunday.”

“I went to his church and I’ve never been back to my own.

After four years, I knew it was not law for me, but the ministry. I went to seminary and was ordained a minister.”

That is a fascinating story of a most important man—the man with two umbrellas. You go back to the beginning of Christian history and you will find him or her. This type of person is in back of every concert and aback of every Christian enterprise and movement in history—that unnamed fellow with two umbrellas, the person who makes his or her Christianity so winsome, so

useful, so attractive, that other people want it and say, “I’ll go with you.”

Like Ruth, they say, “Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God” (Ruth 1:16). — *Christian Victory*

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### Time to Recalibrate

WHAT have you been hearing and reading about most the last few months? I am guessing 99% of you quickly landed on coronavirus and everything connected to it. Therein lies our problem. As understandable as it may be to focus a great deal on COVID-19, we need to be aware of our human tendency to lose the ultimate good as we are pursuing the “necessary response” to our immediate situation.

After all, it is good to follow social distancing guidelines and learn how to use Facebook, Live or Zoom to connect during this time. It is the proper use of common sense to wash hands, cover our mouths for coughing or sneezing, and protect each other from spreading this virus. It is also necessary to plan for reopening our businesses and our church buildings. You and I could both add to this list based on our particular contexts. But let’s not do that.

Instead I need to ask myself do I need a recalibration? Do I need to honestly examine the direction of my time, my energy, and what is feeding my soul? Am I much more in tune with the latest pandemic news than I am God’s promises? Do I pay more attention to Dr. Fauci, President Trump, and other “Virus Voices” than I do to the words of Jesus? Is my God and my Savior shaping my thoughts “all in all” if I am to find peace and rest? HE is my Creator, my Redeemer and the great lover of my soul. I am incredibly blessed when I see God as HE truly is. Do you agree? — By Pastor Nick Mundis

### Ten Reasons Why You Should Be a Serious Bible Student:

1. The Bible is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17)
2. The Word of God is pure (Prov. 30:5)
3. Man lives by the Word of God (Luke 4:4)
4. Hearing comes by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17)
5. We are admonished to study the Bible (II Tim. 2:15)
6. The Word of God is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12)
7. The worlds were framed by the Word of God (Heb. 11:3)
8. We are born again by the Word of God (I Peter 1:23)
9. All things are sanctified by the Word of God (I Tim. 4:5)
10. The Word of God is forever settled in Heaven (Ps 119:89) — Dr. Raymond Barber

# Editorial

RES

## UNIQUE

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

*(I John 3:2)*

What will HEAVEN be like? More important is the fact/realization; will I make it and what will I be like? *There are some who seemingly think we will be like angels and even more amazing, some intelligent folk think that when a loved one or close friend dies, they turn into an angel. By the way, do angels have wings?* Well, I shall try to answer at least some of the above questions in a biblical perspective, which will be just the ‘tip of an iceberg’ in a positive sense.

OFTEN when someone dies, we hear the statement that so-and-so “Passed away,” which seemingly is a foreign word to **God’s Word!**

Where did they pass to? The word UNIQUE means: “one, most unusual or rare, being the only one of its kind, without an equal or equivalent, unparalleled.” This is just like the word “miracle” as I understand a miracle is something that **ONLY GOD can do!**

Now notice the word ‘beloved’, which in lay-men’s terms means ‘dearly beloved, cherished’ and then notice the word “NOW” in our text.

A double miracle is that a repentant, believing sinner appears before an Almighty and **HOLY GOD** through the **BLOOD** of the ‘Sinless ONE’ as though he had never sinned. Both Justified and Sanctified - a double ‘miracle’! **AMAZING GRACE.** Isn’t it marvelous what a personal God the true believer has in Christianity?

IN the meantime, in our earthly journey, we are told to grow in Grace and in the knowledge of **JESUS**. In other words, in our earthly journey, we are intended to become more and more like Jesus and not conformed/squeezed to the form of the worldly person. Romans 12:1-2, 8:28-29, 1 Peter 3:8-12, **II Peter 3:10-18.**

Some times well-meaning folk say: “I have more time than money”! Is that right? How much time do you have? You should know somewhat how much ‘money’ you have!

Verse 2: ‘*shall be*’ and just the word ‘*shall*’!

Now I am going to give you a little Bible Study as

every true ‘child of God’ should be very interested in. What am I going to be like in ETERNITY?

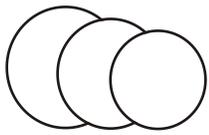
Psalm 17:15, 16:9-10, Job 19:25-27, Isaiah 25:8-9, Luke 14:14, Romans 8:20-23, Philippians 3:20-21, I Corinthians 15:38-58, II Corinthians 3:18, 5:1-8, I Thess. 4:14, **I John 3:2**, Revelation 22:4.

I imagine that in Heaven we will be similar to Adam & Eve before they sinned in the Garden of Eden! From a human point of view, Heaven is so great that God uses negatives to give us a little idea of what heaven is like. There will be **NO** sickness, sorrow, death, **SIN**, etc. **ETERNALLY** – No End! **“But as it is written, ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’”**

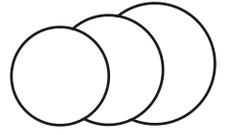
(I Corinthians 2:9)

IN the mean time: Christianity is falling apart (Apostasy) but God **“has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.”** (II Cor. 5:18-6:1)

*What a day that shall be  
When my **JESUS** I shall see  
When I look upon His face  
The **ONE** who saved me by His **GRACE!***



# From Our Fellowship Circle



**C. L. LaCrosse, WI**  
 I love to get the paper and want to keep it. However, I fell and broke my right leg so had to come to ... nursing home. I will be here for a while but my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. Praise God He will keep. Pray for me to be a light for my Savior.

**K. & F. C Sebring, FL**  
 Please accept my apology for not getting this donation to you all. The work that you are doing make many of us stay-at-home people a way to see Jesus in the light He needs to be seen. Pure love is the reason we are here and able to conquer our fears of this world, for which we all should be ever so grateful that God loves us so very much-giving His only Son to cleanse us from our sins. As we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

We are so blessed to live in a nation where we can freely worship our God, study the Bible (His Word-The Good News), praise His name in singing, praying and living. God shows us so much grace and we must also show others these same gifts – let us be one in the Holy Spirit and keep His love alive as we know Jesus truly is the way, the truth and the life. Thank you so much for going on in keeping the love of God alive with the Morning Glory...we must be aware of the many tricks Satan has out there and with this paper you are showing us just how many evil ways this world is encroaching on our freedom. Thank you and your staff- keep up the great work and let God's light shine bright!

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## Refuge In Jehovah

**“It is better to take refuge in Jehovah,  
 than to put confidence in man.” (Psalm 118:8)**

Even the best and longest friendship between men may fail. In cases where we thought we could rely most fully on each other, the end, many a time, was distrust, separation, and deep wounds. If love for self and the world gets the upper hand the most delicate ties of friendship may be broken before we know it.

When thoughts go back to days that have passed, many of us will likely be reminded of much unfaithfulness and many broken promises, perhaps by both ourselves and others. To trust in oneself or other men is like

building on sand. The more fully we assimilate this grievous truth the fewer deep wounds will we get when we encounter unfaithfulness and broken promises.

But then life has also taught us—at any rate us Christians—that God does not break a friendship or a word. He has never failed us, least of all when we were in a tight pinch.

When everything looked dark and impossible, He stood faithfully at our side and often managed to get the best results out of the worst materials. When all others forsook us, He stayed by us closer than ever; and when everything seemed headed for the abyss, He took us up higher.

That is the way the Lord has treated us always, and in this way He will treat us till our dying day. So, let us try to have confidence in Him. He who trusts in the Lord will never be put to shame.

*“O my God, in Thee have I trusted,  
 Let me not be put to shame;  
 Let not mine enemies triumph over me”*  
 (Psalm 25:2)

***No one is so safe from danger,  
 As God's little children band:  
 Not the little swallow nesting,  
 Not the child in mother's hand.***

*Thy Kingdom Come*, by Ludvig Hope, Copyright © 1939, Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted.

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## SOME

Some Muslims have challenged the LORD JESUS CHRIST'S dying for all mankind. As proof they offer Deuteronomy 24:16, which states, *“The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers; every man shall be put to death for his own sin.”* The verse repeats the theme that we all must pay for our own sins, which would be IMPOSSIBLE. Then Jesus being crucified, would really have no valid purpose and to even imagine/think (you cannot even use logic here, instead of faith) that our sins were never nailed to the tree and ISAIAH 53:4-12 would be a total false prophecy and II Corinthians 8:9, ***“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich”***— would be worthless! Editor

# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

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## 'Murder Hornets' from Asia Spotted in US for First Time

The world's largest species of hornet, which can wipe out a honeybee hive in a matter of hours, has been seen for the first time in the United States, according to the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Asian giant hornets – also known as “murder hornets,” the “Giant Sparrow Bee,” and the “yak killer” – measure up to two inches long and prey on large insects, such as praying mantises, wasps, other hornets, and bees.

They are so lethal that just one can kill 40 European honey bees in one minute, while a small group of them can decimate an entire bee colony, decapitating them and taking the hive as their own, and using the bodies of the dead bees to feed their young.

The Epoch Times

## New Christian Channel

GOD-TV, a Christian broadcasting company that broadcasts in over 200 countries, has launched a cable channel in Israel, broadcasting in the Hebrew language. A statement from its website says, “Today we made history! For the first time ever, a Messianic television channel is broadcasting the Gospel across Israel to know, not a foreign Messiah, but a Jewish one! His name is Yeshua and He has not forgotten His people.”

timesofisrael.com

## (Ted) Cruz Urges AG Barr to Investigate Officials Who Target Religious Communities

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) is urging Attorney General William Barr to watch for state and local officials who may be engaging in discrimination against faith-based groups amid the pandemic.

The move follows comments made by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio in a Twitter post, in which he appeared to threaten the “Jewish community” with “summons or even arrest” after hundreds of Orthodox Jews gathered to mourn the passing of Rabbi Chaim Mertz, a respected religious leader in their community.

In a letter to Barr, Cruz highlighted the incident as an example of local officials who are allegedly targeting and discriminating against people of faith while imposing restrictions to mitigate the spread of the CCP virus.

The Epoch Times

## Anti-Viral Masks

Israeli company Sonovia has developed an anti-pathogen fabric for use in masks. Its technology uses sound waves to permanently infuse zinc oxide and copper oxide nanoparticles into the material, making it anti-viral and anti-bacterial. Laboratory testing showed a 98% success rate in stopping airborne viruses and bacteria. The fabric can be repeatedly washed and will not lose its anti-pathogen qualities. These have just become available in the U.S.

jpost.com, a reprint from *The Vine and the Branches*.

## Annexation Plans

Israel is contemplating a plan to move forward to annex parts of the West Bank and the Jordan Valley, which they refer to as Judea and Samaria, where there are over 400,000 settlers presently living in 128 settlements. This comes after the U.S. announced, as part of Trump's peace plan, that it recognizes Israel's control. Annexation would officially make them a part of Israel. This would likely bring an end to the two-state solution negotiations, as both sides would be dug into positions the other side would never tolerate. This is a controversial issue in Israel and with other governments as well. This move could be seen as a provocation against the Palestinians, who are in extreme opposition to this, and there would likely be a large and violent reaction if it was made.

Slate.com

*Editor's note:* From a biblical perspective, let us find what territory or land was promised to the Palestinians! According to my limited knowledge of biblical facts, I indeed believe GOD said they would not have a home-land, but wander from place to place. Check it out!

## Iran

Nearly two-thirds of Iran's population is under the age of 30. Iran's population is 84.9 million. Many of them are disillusioned with their oppressive regime, and ISLAM is not answering their spiritual questions. BUT Christians who share the GOSPEL with Muslims are being arrested, prosecuted, and imprisoned for “crimes against national security.”

# The Perfect Storm

## AN ALARMING FORECAST

A highly destructive storm is nearing the shores of our nation. A category-five hurricane, an EF-5 tornado, and a magnitude-ten earthquake, all combined, would pale by comparison to the storm that now threatens our Republic.

The fierce winds carrying this storm are blowing from four directions simultaneously. As parts of this storm merge, it might well be described as “the perfect storm.” This isn’t hyperbole—the storm is real, imminent, and growing more menacing every day. The most unique thing about this storm, however, is that it can yet be turned away if the American people wake up and take appropriate action.

## OUR GOVERNMENT

First and foremost, this unprecedented storm is forming from the halls of our government, where an insatiable appetite for money and power holds sway over many of its members. A growing number of elected and appointed officials view themselves as the privileged elite. Many of these so-called public servants have grown rich while leveraging their influence with lobbyists and special interest groups. Some of these self-serving politicians are not interested in serving the needs of the American people but in being re-elected in order to hold on to their lucrative positions.

Without any thought of fiscal responsibility and sustainability Congress is spending without any sign of restraint. So much so that our nation has rolled up a mind-numbing and growing national debt of \$25 trillion.

They delight in passing laws and regulations from which they often exempt themselves. There are laws for them and there are laws for the rest of us.

## THE LIBERAL CHURCH

The second part of the impending storm emanates from liberal churches and denominations whose irresponsible leaders demonstrate an utter disregard for God’s Word. Instead of standing against the arrayed forces of evil that are seeking to destroy our nation, these churches and their leaders have sold out to our depraved culture by embracing its ungodly practices and adjusting their own official dogma. They cast aside the Word of God, replacing it with modern understandings of the day, assuring each other that they now know more than the Bible. Were it not for these apostate churches, we would not be facing this storm.

## CULTURE OF WICKEDNESS

The third part of the coming cataclysm springs from a decadent culture that has turned decency and morality on its head. Good has become evil, and evil has become good. Our culture’s morally impoverished condition did not happen overnight. It was a slow progressive slide, a little at a time over the years with the help of the entertainment industry, the media, and an array of anti-God forces that daily take the nation to new depths of depravity, desensitizing the people to accept more and more wickedness as “normal.” The demonization of our culture has been aided by those who constantly strive to push God out of the nation’s life and conscience.

## ENEMY NATIONS

Finally, the fourth part of the storm bearing down on us comes from international powers of evil that are determined to see the United States utterly destroyed. How do we know this? Because they have brazenly made known their plans for America’s demise. We are all witnesses to their numerous attempts to carry out these objectives by covert and open aggression. Advocates of militant Islam, godless socialism, and globalism hate everything our nation represents, especially our devotion to freedom. Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, and other Islamic nations work covertly and at times conspire to undermine and weaken America, the last bastion of liberty on the planet.

## NO QUICK FIX IS POSSIBLE

One of the most frightening aspects of the approaching storm is seen in the apathy displayed by so many of our fellow citizens. Their apathy is fueled by leftist political and religious leaders, as well as the media. Their shared goal is to convince the American people there really is no approaching storm and that by bringing in their socialist programs and by embracing the entirety of their progressive agenda, all our problems will vanish.

However, the problems now threatening us have become so profuse and complex that a quick fix or an easy solution is rendered impossible. Fixing only the economy or a few other problems will not save us. America’s spiritual and moral problems must be addressed also. Our nation’s only hope and recourse is to repent of the sins that are destroying us, fall on the mercies of God, and seek the shelter of His blessed protection. But time is running out.

— by Pastor David Barnhart

Taken from *The Vine and Branches*, Summer 2020

## HISTORY of a FAVORITE HYMN

by Dr. Lindsay Terry

### **Washington Is Burning**

#### *The Star-Spangled Banner*

***“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”*** (Ps. 33:12)

It was September 13, 1814, and the citizens of Washington, D.C., watched in horror as their city burned. The White House, the Capital and most of the other government buildings were ablaze. England and the United States were engaged in the War of 1812.

As the British retreated in the ships anchored in Chesapeake Bay, near the mouth of the Potomac River, they took William Beanes as a captive. He was a prominent physician and friend of Francis Scott Key, a lawyer and plantation owner.

Key then secured permission from the government to negotiate for the release of Beanes. Although Key was successful, he and Beanes were detained overnight on the British ship *Minden*. Their enemies feared they had learned of the intention to attack Fort McHenry near Baltimore.

Key and his party watched as darkness fell and obscured Fort McHenry and the fifty-foot American flag that was flying overhead. They watched until the last gleaming of the twilight.

A raging battle began. Cannon fire, rockets and flames allowed glimpses of the flag all through the night. As the day dawned, “OLD GLORY” could be seen still waving. They rejoiced that the fort had stood.

So thrilled was Key that he grabbed an envelope from his pocket and began to write what his heart was feeling. He finished the poem the next day in a Baltimore hotel room, adding several more verses. The original copy is in the Maryland Historical Society’s H. Furlong Baldwin Library.

The poem, sung to an English tune known in the United States as “Adams and Liberty” and written by John Stafford Smith, became so popular in our Country that in 1931 Congress made ***“The Star-Spangled Banner”*** our National Anthem. The flag that flew over Fort McHenry is now on display in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Francis Scott Key a devout Christian believed deeply in Liberty and Freedom. It is reported that the slaves he inherited from his wealthy father were freed by him in 1817. Before their release, he helped them with family problems, defended them, at no cost, in the courts and started Sunday School classes for them. He did everything in his power to

lighten their burdens.

He died January 11, 1843. Two statues of Key stand in our nation: one over his grave and another in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California. A flag, by order of the Government, flies continuously over his burial place in Frederick, Maryland.

Many soldiers in Fort McHenry gave their lifeblood on that fateful night that you and I might be **free**. Today, multiplied thousands of American men and women lie in Flanders Field and in countless other burial places where crosses mark their graves, row upon row.

They too gave their lives for our **freedom** – freedom to live and work and play without the fear of tyranny. What a wonderful blessing – this freedom we enjoy!

**Reflection:** Who is the Author of liberty, the Founder of FREEDOM? You and I can never be really free – free from the guilt of our sins – apart from the freedom that Christ alone paid for with His blood on Calvary’s Cross. Oh, (Editor: to be justified) free from guilt, to know that our wrongs have been made right, to know that we are free in our NATION and in our souls before **Almighty God**.

Sword of the LORD

*Editor’s Term:* JUSTIFICATION is to be made ‘right’ (ready) before GOD. This is by Grace Alone, Word Alone, Faith Alone; through/under the Blood of Jesus!

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### **Prove All Things**

**“Prove (test) all things; hold fast that which is good”** (I Thessalonians 5:21)

To imply that we are not to judge: teachings, movements, and doctrines is to be disobedient with the clear scriptural admonition of the Lord. He has called each one of us to be a judge (Matthew 7:1-5; 1 Corinthians 5:12, 6:2-5; Jude 1:25). To accomplish this, our judgment must be based on the sure Word of God –not on the constantly shifting foundation of experience.

*APPLES OF GOD*, Copyright 2004, by Berean Call

*Editor’s Note:* The basic Bible verse of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is as follows: as we definitely believe **all** SCRIPTURE is inspired by the HOLY SPIRIT; clearly preaching/teaching the need of ‘Experienced Salvation, Christian Fellowship, Evangelism and Simplicity of Worship Services: **“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”** Jude 3

Editor

# DISCERNING THE TRUTH

By Paul Larson

## TRUTH

In this day we must discern what the truth is. Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man can come to the Father but through Me” (Jhn. 14:6). Jesus was speaking about more than just who He was. He is the embodiment of truth. Therefore, every word He spoke was truth. The Bible tells us clearly that all of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation is the inspired, inerrant Word of God. “All scripture is inspired by God” (2 Tim. 3:16).

The Bible warns us of a great apostasy that will occur in the last days—2 Thessalonians 2:3. We need to guard our hearts and minds so that we do not fall for the many deceptions that Satan will bring into the world in those last days. As 2 Thessalonians 2:9 puts it, “the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders.” There will be many signs and wonders, people claiming supernatural events and experiences. Make sure you do not fall for these and thus become a part of the apostasy.

## DISCERNING THE FALSE

The problem we have today is that many people ignore any part of God’s Word that would conflict with their personal beliefs. If it doesn’t agree with what they preach, then they choose to ignore it or reason it away. It is absolutely vital that Christians know what the Bible says, so they are not led away from the truth by false prophets.

There are some very important verses in I John 4 that protect us from falling for the deception of the last days. “**Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God**, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that **confesses** that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not **confess** Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world” (I Jn. 4:1-3).

Do you believe that Jesus is truly God in human form? “They shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:23). However, these verses speak of much more than just believing that Jesus is God. The word translated *confess* in these verses is *homologos*, which literally means “same words.” The line “**every spirit that does not confess**

Jesus is not from God” we could fairly translate as

“everyone who **does not agree with the same words** of Jesus is not from God.”

## TESTING FOR THE TRUTH

How do we know if someone or something is true? It must agree with the Word of God. If it contradicts the Bible, you can be sure it is not truth. One thing Jesus made clear is that in the last days there would be “many false prophets and people claiming to be Christ or at least claiming to do what only Christ can do. “And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many” (Matthew 24:11). “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and mislead many” (Matthew 24:2). Claiming to be Christ can be done by saying you are Christ or by claiming to be able to do something that only Christ can do.

## FALSE CLAIMS

Another phenomenon of the last days is all those who claim to have gone to heaven or hell and then returned with a message for all of us. Alex Malarkey admits he made his story up, but Colton Burpo, the last time I checked, still claims to have gone to heaven and come back. His net worth from selling his book is said to be around five million dollars. How do we know who is telling the truth? It all comes back to what the Bible says and whether these stories agree with the Word of God.

If any of these storytellers were to say I had a dream or a vision that I went to heaven and came back, I would have no problem with what they are doing. However, when someone claims to have physically gone to heaven and come back, they are in conflict with numerous Scripture verses. Jesus told us only one person ever had a heavenly body and came to earth. John 3:13—“no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.” Jesus has told us not to accept any “adds” to His Word. We have the Word of God, and we need to stick to it when it comes to determining what is truth.

Some will also use the argument that Lazarus, Tabitha, and others died and were brought back to life. Yes, they died, but not one of them was it said that they went to heaven. They died so God could reveal that He had power over death. They died, and God brought them back to life. It does not say they went to heaven and God brought them back to earth again.

## OUR FILTER

The devil is getting more and more deceitful as we near the time of Christ’s return. We will see more and more of these kinds of things as we near the end. Jesus

said,” For false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will sow signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray” (Mark 13:22).

It is so important that we recognize that the Bible is complete and that we filter every event and teaching through that written Word of God. Is what a person says or does in agreement with the Word of God. Are they teaching the “same words” that Christ has given to us in His Word?

Paul Larson is Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, MN

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### Not Slack

**“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness.”**

(II Peter 3:9)

Sometimes when the Lord waits to answer our prayers’ we think He is tardy, but what He has promised us, that He will give us. He sometimes keeps us waiting in order to strengthen our faith for a greater testing. Those who want to destroy the work of the Lord say that the Lord is slack almost to the point of being neglectful of His promises to His children. They do not understand that God likes to test us to see if we love Him for the things that He gives us, or for Himself alone.

A Christian once received word from some relatives across the sea to the effect that they were ill and in need. She took her problem to the Lord, and asked Him to supply that need. She later went to the mail box to mail some letters, and on her way home she saw a paper in the sand which had gathered in the corner of the street. She stooped down and picked up the paper and found it to be a five-dollar bill.

With the money in her hand, she bowed her head and said, “Oh, thank Thee, Lord, for answering my prayer so soon. May the person who lost this bill have enough so this one will not be missed.”

With a song in her heart and on her lips, she hurried home to send the five dollars across the ocean.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to trust Thee and Thy promises. Give us the grace to wait upon Thee. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Give these and then Thy will be done;  
Thus, strengthened with all might,  
We, through Thy Spirit and Thy Son,  
Shall pray, and pray aright.*

*Altar Steps* by Rev. R. P. Haakonson

*Editor’s Note:* If you really want to know an element

that will strengthen and help to glue your family together for years to come, I would recommend, “*Altar Steps;*” (especially where there children yet at home) in your daily family devotions. I believe that Jesus wants a family to be knitted together, but daily family devotions also blend you TOGETHER, as you read God’s Word and pray before the Throne of GRACE – even IF there is ONLY two of you left, in your abode.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Number Your Days

**“So teach us to number our days, That we may get us a heart of wisdom.”** (Psalm 90:12)

It is not right to forget days that have passed. Contrariwise we ought to remember the times that are no more, the roads we traveled, and what we have lived through. The sins we committed and that God has forgiven, we should not drag around, but we should remember the many times that God has been gracious to us, and how He has guided and followed us among hidden reefs in storm, and darkness.

I think it is especially profitable to look back on life after one is somewhat advanced in years. Which is not saying that youth should neglect an occasional examination of the years that have fled, but he who is older sees more clearly and is able to pass a fairer judgment. In autumn the air is clearest and cleanest not only in nature but also in human life. And the blessedness of this backward look is that much of what we encountered, and which we at that time considered punishment and misfortune, we now see was full of God’s Father-care. Where we thought ourselves rejected by God, there His love and grace now shine upon us. We also see that which cost us the most in struggle and tears, gave us also life’s greatest riches.

The Christian harvests this wisdom for his heart when he lets God teach him to number his days. And it is such people that become more and more thankful the longer they live. But in that case it is good to be old, too

*But I will tell, while I am living,  
His goodness forth with every breath,  
And greet each morning with thanksgiving,  
Until my heart is still in death.  
Nay, when at last my lips grow cold,  
His praise shall in my sighs be told.*

*Thy Kingdom Come*, by Ludvig Hope, Copyright © 1939, Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted.

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” (Matthew 5:6)**

Pastor Gideon Johnson, Kenyon, MN

*(Continued from the August issue of the Morning Glory)*

In his book ‘Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes’, Kenneth Bailey says this in regard to righteousness, “In biblical literature ‘righteousness’ often refers to mighty acts of God in history to save.”

So, for example, Israel’s exodus out of Egypt was a mighty act of God in history to save. Israel’s deliverance out of captivity in Babylon was a mighty act of God in history to save. And throughout the Old Testament you see time and time again, these mighty acts of God in history to save His people from their enemies.

Again, this, Bailey says, is what righteousness often refers to. Therefore, when Jesus says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.”

He’s saying, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for God’s saving action on their behalf.”

However, it isn’t the Pharaoh of Egypt or the mighty Babylonian empire, that we ultimately need saving from. No, we need to be saved *from* sin, death, and the power of the devil. We need deliverance *from* this body of death and the world of sin. We need to be rescued from everything that would separate us from fellowship with God. Therefore, this is what the Christian hungers and thirsts for. We long for the cry out to God to save us-with His mighty and righteous hand-*from* all these things that would separate us from Him.

But not only do we hunger and thirst to be saved *from* these things, at the same time, we hunger and thirst to be saved *for* something; that we might be holy as Christ is holy.

Here’s what Martin Lloyd Jones says in this regard, “(To hunger and thirst for righteousness) means a desire to be free *from* sin, because sin separates us from God. ...It also means...a desire to be free *from* the power of sin...*from* the desire for sin...to be free *from* (our sinful) self in all its horrible manifestations, in all its forms.”

However, then he goes on to say, “(In a positive sense) to hunger and thirst after righteousness is nothing but the longing *to be* positively holy (or, longing *for* holiness)...The man who (hungers and thirsts for righteousness is the one who) wants to exemplify the Beatitudes in his daily life. He is a man who wants to show the fruit of the Spirit in his every action and in the whole of his life and activity. To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to long to be like the New Testament

man, the new man in Christ Jesus. That is what it means, that the whole of my being and the whole of my life shall be like that. ... (To take a step further) it means that one’s supreme desire in life is to know God and to be in fellowship with him, to walk with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the light.”

So, this is what we hunger and thirst for. This is what our bellies ache for and our mouths swell for. As Christians, we hunger and thirst for righteousness; to finally and fully be set free *from* sin, death, and the power of the devil (from all unrighteousness) and set free *for* a life of holiness before God; that we might be like Christ. That’s what we desire; that’s what we continually long for.

See, like it was with the second beatitude (Blessed are those who mourn), this hungering and thirsting is ongoing. Literally, Jesus says, “Blessed are those hungering and thirsting for righteousness. “Again, it’s an ongoing thing. It’s a daily longing; longing to be set free from this body of death; longing to be set free from this world of sin; longing to be holy as Christ is holy. Forget about power and prestige; honor and praise. The world can have all those things; we want righteousness. We long to dwell in righteousness; we long to be righteous. This is what characterizes the Christian.

And, Jesus says, “Blessed/happy are you who are characterized as such.” Why? Not because hungering is so satisfying or thirsting is so delightful in and of itself. Rather, blessed/happy are you, because in your hungering and thirsting for righteousness, you are and will forever be satisfied. That is, you will find fulfillment; it’s found daily and eternally in Jesus Christ.

In John 6, Jesus says, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” In other words, in Jesus there is perfect satisfaction. For in Jesus, by His death and resurrection, there is deliverance from this world of unrighteousness, from this body of sin and death. In Jesus, by His death and resurrection, we are declared perfectly holy in Him and are being made perfectly holy like Him.

So, are you hungering and thirsting today? Like a wanderer in the desert, do you long for the righteousness that only Christ can deliver and nurture in you? If so, then blessed are you, because in your hungering and thirsting, you will continually and eternally be satisfied when you turn to Christ and seek first His kingdom. You will be filled full.

## This Sickness Will Not End in Death

By Pastor Paul Larson, President of the Church of The Lutheran Brethren Synod

IF the previous couple months (more months now) have affirmed one thing to me about the nature of the Church, it is our *togetherness*.

The spring of 2020 will undoubtedly go down in history as a vulnerable and difficult season of concern, grief, isolation, and loss. And, in our missing of each other and our gatherings, have we not caught a fresh scent of FELLOWSHIP, of our need and nature to somehow in some way connect, gather, pray, share joy, and support one another?

JESUS once gave a word in the face of isolation. Of the grave illness of Lazarus, he assured his disciples, "*This sickness will not end in death*" John 11:4.

Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha were close friends of Jesus. John says, "*Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus*" John 11:3. In their heartache and worry, and in their trust relationship with Jesus, these sisters send word to Jesus: "*Lord, the one you love is sick*" John 11:3. Similar urgent, expectant prayers have undoubtedly been prayed during this pandemic, just as ardent now as then, "*Lord, the one you love is sick.*"

Jesus explains that while He is never the cause of sin's curse in its many outcomes, yet He remains Sovereign through human pain and peril. Jesus, in every trial and circumstance, is always at work to save. Three times in this chapter (vv.4, 15, 42) we are assured that, while in the trial we are only able to count the pain, the infections, the deaths. GOD knows the count of those who – through this trial – in their seeking are found, in their doubt come to know, and in their dead heart are resurrected eternally alive.

In the temporal world, by the time Jesus leaves for Bethany, Lazarus has died. "What! Lazarus dead? I thought Jesus said ...didn't we all hear Him say, '*This sickness will not end in death*'?"

When Jesus arrives at Bethany, he goes to the tomb that has housed Lazarus' dead body for four days. He is deeply moved at the grief and unbelief he sees; this too is part of the weight he will soon bear to the Cross. Jesus commands the stone across Lazarus' tomb be rolled away, and calls out with the Voice of resurrection power, "*Lazarus, come forth!*" And ...*he does*.

We must ask ourselves, of whom is this promise spoken? The answer is, "*the one Jesus loves*".

The one who is His own. Ones like Lazarus and Martha. Ones like Mary, who bowed herself in humility,

willing to wash his feet with her own hair – as a confession of sin, and a confession of faith – with gratitude to Him as her SAVIOR. Of such people it may be said, "*This sickness will not end in death.*" And this *must always* be said of the one Jesus loves!

I must tell you, as much as we know, this can be said of every one who has come by repentance and faith to be the friend of Jesus, you must also realize *the opposite is true* for any person who is not by faith the friend of Jesus. No matter one's health, strength, or security. If they are not by faith one Jesus loves, the opposite is true. For the person outside of Christ it cannot be said, "*This sickness will not end in death.*" Rather, it must be said of this person, "This apparent health, this seeming strength, this transient security, *will not end in Life.*"

On the Cross, the promise of Jesus to those He loves is put to the test of faith.

Here the Cross, the predicament, the punishment, the prognoses of all that makes us ill by SIN is laid on our Friend. He takes it all unto Himself, and bears it, finally destroying the deadly contagion of sin and all its refuse in our lives! But here also at the Cross is the charge against all who have made themselves not friends, but enemies of Christ. For all their apparent strength, wellness, and goodness, it will not end for them in life, but in Eternal Death. For their greatest malady will be their rejection of JESUS as FRIEND, and His Innocent Blood will be upon them, forever unforgiven.

Finally, in all of us who are by faith the friend of Jesus, who have been made well – the 'cross' reminds us that we carry within us, in our hands and in our mouths, the *great antidote* our dying neighbors need. It is the very gospel of Jesus.

At this vulnerable time in our world, I say to all: friend of Jesus, seeker of Jesus, isolated and spiritually-separated from HIM – believe! Become by faith one HE loves. Trust His promises.

**"This sickness will not end in death."**  
Faith & Fellowship

*Editor's Note:* Please, do not misunderstand the 'writer' as God does not show 'partiality' in loving one individual over another; for the Bible clearly states that it is HIS will that **all** should come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved! **John 3:16, 18, 36; Isaiah 53:5-6, I Timothy 2:4 and I John 2:2.**

*The trinity of womanhood is purity,  
dignity and spirituality.*

Billy Sunday

## THE GIRDLE OF TRUTH

*(Continued from the last issue of the Morning Glory;  
(please reread for your benefit))!*

**“Stand therefore, having your loins girded with truth”** (Ephesians 6:14)

I hope no one thinks that by the girdle of truth I mean sinless perfection. If that were the girdle of truth, none of us would be girded. David was not innocent, but he was honest. Jehoshaphat was not without fault; he went to war on the side of Ahab. He should not have done that. But he was honest, and the Lord was his strength. Peter sinned, but he repented of his sin, and the Lord was gracious toward him. All of these were wounded in BATTLE, some very severely; but none of them was lost, because they retained the girdle of truth.

This is what I mean: Be truthful in your Christian life. Do not pretend that you are something that you are not. Each one of us is tempted to polish the exterior of his life so that the internal injury can be hidden from view. When you meet someone whom you think to be a much better Christian than you are – and in all probability he is better – you are so easily tempted to act and appear like him without actually being like him. This is a dangerous and cowardly hypocrisy. Never try to clothe yourself in the forms of another’s godliness, use your own coat, even if it may seem a bit scant. In Acts 19 we are told of seven sons of a Jewish high priest who took upon themselves to use the name of Jesus in driving out evil spirits. They said, *“I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preacheth.”* But the evil spirit replied, *“Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are ye?”* And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped upon them and tore their clothes from their backs so that they had to flee from the house naked and wounded.

This was a very course form of spiritual impersonation.

No, to go out and perform miracles, or whatever else it might be, under the cloak of another’s Christianity, that will never do. If we ourselves do not have sense enough to see that this is wrong, we can be certain that others see it; often it is those who we think can know the least about such matters who see it most clearly. We can be certain of this too that also ‘today’ the people who pretend to be more than they are will be stripped naked, of then they have to flee in shame.

**People of God!** Gird yourselves with the girdle of truth.

Do you, child of God, feel that you do not amount to much? Does it seem that you are both insignificant and worldly? Confess it to God. Do you find that you have little desire to read GOD’S WORD and to pray? Do you find that you do not particularly care to be obedient to God? If so, you will never find a solution by trying to convince yourself and others that all is well. Tell it to God, calling

each sin by its right name; that is true Christian conduct. Then you will be girded about with the girdle of truth.

***Soldiers of Christ, arise  
And put your armor on;  
Strong in the strength which God supplies,  
Through His eternal Son.***

***Stand then in His great might,  
With all His strength endued;  
And take, to arm you for the fight,  
The panoply of God.***

*Spirit and Power, Ludvig Hope, Hauge Lutheran  
Innermission Federation, ©1959*

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## Human Reasoning Should Be Taken “Captive”!

***“Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.”*** (Matthew 25:45)

HUMAN REASONING is one of (if not) the greatest hindrances or stumbling blocks to a personal living Faith! God’s Ways are not necessarily our ways; but our way should be God’s Way because He definitely knows what is best for this life and the LIFE to come! He Has a definite plan and purpose for each of us. As there is a way that seems right unto man, but the way thereof leads to ‘death’.

We have no way of knowing all the simplest ways the Lord can use us by ministering His life to others. Often, we pray for opportunities that we can serve Him, but we don’t recognize them because they are different than what we had planned and they could prove to be ‘distasteful’ for the present! It could lead us and keep us upon our knees too. ESPECIALLY the latter.

Why is it? That on occasion a parishioner’s contact the pastor with a prayer request/challenge and ask the Under-shepherd to visit so and so? Could it be that God laid this burden on this person’s heart; because to use this vessel himself!

*Notice the privilege/responsibility, challenge & promises* in the following few Bible verses: ***“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And, lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. Honor the LORD with your possessions, And, with the first-fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”*** Proverbs 3:5-10.

## Why I Love America

Evangelist Hyman Appelman

Born in Russia, I came to the United States when I was twelve. I cannot tell you in detail why I love America, but every crimson drop of blood in my body carries that affection.

I love America because of its greatness. It is great in territory, great in resources, great in man's strength, great in woman's beauty, great in child sweetness.

It is great in achievements, in accomplishments, in activities that have led the world in every line and sphere of human venture and adventure.

It is great in its history with Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln—giants who stand out above the run of even the mighty!

America has never dipped its flag. From Bunker Hill to the Argonne, Old Glory has been covered with honor and praise.

I love America because of its graciousness. America has shared its wealth, its scientific discoveries, its medical accomplishments with all mankind. Pleas for help from many quarters of the world have been heeded.

Belgian children lived because American food ships landed on their shores. German babies have grown into manhood because with the signing of the Armistice in 1918, American relief lifted the hunger bans of that luckless land. Starving Russians and emaciated Chinese knew hope when American soup kitchens lined them up for charity.

Japanese cities were rebuilt. Japanese homes were reestablished. Japanese men, women and children were given a new lease on life when the American Red Cross crossed the wide Pacific to bring help and hope.

I love America because at terrific sacrifice it has been the world's Big Brother.

I love America most of all because it gave me Christ and salvation. Here the Gospel was preached to me. Here the cross of the Lord Jesus was lifted up before me. Here salvation was proffered me as the gift of God's grace, backed up by yearning, loving anxiety of Christian hearts.

Here waters of baptism laved me. Here that church welcomed me. Here the theological seminary opened its doors to me. Here I was and here I am, praise God forever, given the right to preach the burning conviction of my soul—that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world to save sinners.

You ask me why I love America?

The blood-marked sentry of George Washington's ragged Continentals hallowing Valley Forge is my answer.

The laconic report of Commodore Perry on Lake Erie, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," is my answer. The Texans' cry, "Remember the Alamo," is my answer.

Abe Lincoln's "with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right" is my answer.

The bloody Meuse-Argonne campaign, Chateau-Thierry, the tomb of the Unknown Soldier are my answer.

The hand of the Marines on Wake Island is my answer.

Douglas Mac Arthur and his sweat-stained, blood-soaked heroes in the foxholes of the Philippines is my answer.

You ask why I love America?

I am a Jew! I am a Christian! Let the deep, fathomless depths of gratitude out of the very innermost being of my life, on my knees, on my face, thanking God for Christ, for the Constitution, for the Declaration of Independence answer you, shout to you, rejoice with you—I **love America.**

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### ALTHOUGH

Although Church/Assembly of Believers, Mid-week Bible Study and Free Prayer isn't a time of entertainment, it should be something, we anticipate as we look forward with desire and anticipation in obedience to God's Word and for our benefit and growth. Some folk have the attitude of "take it or leave it" which comes down to attendance.

The people of God have a biblical mandate to meet together, but in addition to that, what a privilege/opportunity! So, gathering with few or many around the Inspired Word of GOD should be a delight! **IF** we love the LORD as we should, we will find a time and a place for it!

Sunday is the time and the place is the house of God to **start with**; to receive & share. RES

**Help me to live this day quietly, easily;**

**To lean upon Thy great strength  
trustfully, restfully;**

**To meet others peacefully, joyously;**

**To face tomorrow confidently,  
courageously.**

**Author Unknown**

## Up Date

### NEVER FORGET...

“Come over ...and help us!” (Acts 16:9)

NEVER FORGET ... “Where the Spirit of the Lord has gone (Ed. is Present also) *freedom* has followed. Those nations that are free today are free because of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”  
Dr./Pastor D. James Kennedy.

THANK YOU for your commitment to Christ – to stand for truth and for freedom in this time of great crisis in our Land and around the world! TOGETHER, we are engaged in the battle for Christ and His Kingdom; in our great USA and beyond.

Now is the time to boldly stand with us as we seek God’s face and blessing; through His Marvelous GRACE and empowerment; for our people of this great-land and beyond.

Your support in prayer and finances will help us proclaim the life-transforming TRUTH of the Law and the Gospel for the saved and lost... **which is the only REAL hope for mankind. (Matthew 25:34-40)**

The total offerings received for the month of July are \$2,366.80.

***GOD sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.***

The only way to hear from God is to read (& listen) the Bible. It is God’s Message to man. The Bible is not a revelation of what God knows but a revelation of what God wants us to know. Far too many Christians live and die and never read the Bible through word for word.

D. L. Moody

*Editor’s Note:* Faith comes by hearing or reading the Word of God! BUT the BIBLE is a closed ‘book’ for those who are not willing to deal with sin. **GOD sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.**

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## *What Want I More?*

*Spoken by a saintly woman  
Dying on an attic floor,  
Having not one earthly comfort:  
“I have Christ! What I more?”*

*You may have gold and grandeur  
And yet be counted poor;  
He alone has riches truly  
Who has Christ, though nothing more!*

Selected