



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • August 2020

Fountains and Cisterns

Pastor Steven Lombardo

Some years ago, two men were ice fishing on Lake Superior. As they concentrated on their fishing, they did not realize the ice under them was drifting. A large piece had broken away from the shore endangering the fishermen. Thankfully, they were rescued from their precarious position.

Drifting spiritually is dangerous, too. In fact, it is the greatest danger for those who are called God’s people. Jeremiah proclaimed the Word of God to such drifters. Through the prophet, the Lord told apostate Judah there were two consequences of their drifting.

First, truth was rejected. *“They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,”* (Jer. 2:13a). Water was a rare luxury in Judah. It was cherished. The psalmist used a similar idea when he said, *“For with you is a fountain of life”* (Ps. 36:9). Jesus talked to the woman at the well. He asked her for a drink and that led into quite a discussion. He said to her: *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water”* (John 4:10). Also, Jesus on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles cried out: *“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’”* (John 7:37-38). Jesus was referring to the Holy Spirit that those who believed in Him were to receive.

Therefore, water here is lifegiving, valuable, precious, pointing to salvation and deliverance from sin; it is the flowing water of the Holy Spirit. It was this water, this truth, that the people rejected. They had a name, “the

people of God.” But their hearts were hard toward the Lord. They exchanged the truth for a lie. The people of Judah had a name but that was it. Jesus told the church at Sardis that they had a name of being alive but they were dead, no spiritual life (Rev. 3:1). Churches can have names, reputations, lots of people and yet be spiritually dead!

The people had not only rejected truth, but they also received error. This is the second consequence. *“...and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water”* (Jer. 2:13b). Cisterns were used to store rain water to compensate for the lack of water in that area. However, there were problems. The cisterns often yielded stagnant water or they cracked and allowed the water to seep out.

The worship in Judah was polluted with Baal and other idols. Along with this idolatry came immorality. The two are perverse partners. Very sad, the fountain of living waters forsaken for leaky, filthy cisterns. Quite an exchange!

Tragically, there are broken cisterns today whose waters do not ultimately quench spiritual thirst. Consider these broken cisterns.

Pride. Recently the Governor of New York indicated that improving conditions there regarding the pandemic were not due to God.

Pluralism. The belief that all religions have value and there are different paths to God. Even though Jesus is the only way (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Hedonism. This is the pursuit of pleasure with

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sensual overtones. Our culture is saturated with sexual promiscuity and perversion.

Religion. People trying to be good enough to gain heaven.

Putrid waters are no comparison to the pure waters from God’s fountain of grace. Broken cisterns offer broken people no life, no hope, only future thirst. They do not know they are hurtling toward eternal hell, where there is no water to cool the tongue (Luke 16:24).

But there is good news! There is the fountain of God’s mercy to quench every thirst. The Lord said to the same people in captivity in Babylon, under the judgment of God because of their idolatries : *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope”* (Jer. 29:11). There is grace for the sinner! Those who repent and call on the Lord Jesus Christ for cleansing will find the fountain of living waters a most welcome relief from the polluted waters of broken cisterns. The hymnwriter said it well: “There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel’s veins; And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.” The Cross still stands, a life-giving fountain inviting parched people to freely drink!

The Mysteries of the Hen Egg

Dr. Walter Wilson

Among the many wonders in nature, eggs hold a top place. The mystery of the hatching of an egg cannot be explained. With some exceptions, eggs generally hatch in multiples of seven days. The eggs of the potato bug hatch in seven days, those of the canary bird, in fourteen days.

Hen eggs hatch in twenty-one days and duck eggs in twenty-eight days. One species of the mallard hatches her eggs in thirty-five days. The eggs of the parrot hatch in forty-two days.

Have you considered how it is that the beautiful feather of the peacock, on which are accurate markings, can be brought out of an egg which contains only yellow yolk and colorless albumen?

How did the colors get there? Why are the colors always those that belong to that particular fowl? How is the figure formed on the feathers in such a way that when the tail is spread the markings are perfectly in place and beautiful in appearance? Only a living God can do this!

But to refer again to the hen egg, let us proceed. The shell on the small end of the egg is much thicker than on the large end. The baby will emerge from the shell through the large end as God has arranged and designed the shell so that the baby can easily peck its way through where the shell is thin.

At the large end of the egg there is an air chamber. This may be seen when the shell is removed from the hard-boiled egg. When the baby chick is formed in the egg, it is so placed that its head is in the big end of the egg and its little bill is in the air chamber.

No matter how much the mother hen may turn the egg over and over during the three weeks of the hatching period, she never disturbs the position of that baby. This is another miracle of God. Man could not arrange it so and neither can we understand how God does it.

No matter how many times the egg has been turned or played with by the child spinning it on a plate, the contents of the egg are not disturbed. The baby will always be formed with its nose in the air chamber at the large end.

The formation of the yolk should be observed. It is built like a battleship. The lower part of the yolk is rather dense and heavy, while the upper part is light and thin. This causes the yolk to float upright at all times.

In addition to this, there is a rope of albumen which is attached to the two sides of the yolk and on the other end is a mysterious way to the inside of the shell. This attachment is a very slippery joint – so slippery in fact, that no amount of spinning the egg will cause the yolk to turn

over.

These ropes hold upright. It is because of these ropes that the cook must, with her finger, scrape out this part of the “white” of the egg.

The little bill of the baby chick is so soft that it cannot peck its way through the hard shell. For that reason, God makes a special tool which is to be used only once. This is in the form of a tiny cone, made of a very hard substance which exactly fits over the bill of the baby.

It is with this hard cone that it breaks through the shell. There is just enough air in the air chamber to last the little thing two days. As the baby starts to breathe and the hours go by, there comes the time when the last breath of air is taken.

The air causes the little one to swell up somewhat and as the chick lunges forward to get another breath of air which is not there, the impact forces a hole through the shell and the swelling of the body cracks the shell sufficiently so the chick can emerge.

Within about two days after it is born, the hard cone falls from its nose. It is of no further use. Sometimes the cone sticks to the bill and the farmer must pick it off with his fingers. How kind God is to little chickens!

Is it not strange that these baby chickens know their mother even though they have never seen her before? Maybe the eggs from which they were hatched came from many miles away, laid by a different hen in a different state.

What forms the bond of attachment between a baby chicken and the mother hen who hatched it? We do not know. No one knows. It is another of the wonderful mysteries of GOD.

Have you ever asked the question, “*Why does the chicken not fall off the roost at night when it goes to sleep?*” You couldn’t sleep on a stick, on a fence or even on a very narrow shelf or ledge.

This brings us to another beautiful example of GOD’S skill and wisdom. The tendons from the four toes of the chicken form a single tendon in the ball of the foot. This tendon then winds around onto the front of the leg, passing through two deep grooves, thence up to the thigh where it spreads out into a fan-shaped muscle.

While the leg is extended the toes are spread open so the chicken can walk. When the chicken sits down, however, this tendon is stretched across the joints and draws the toes shut.

As long as the hen sits down on the roost, her toes automatically clutch the perch tightly and she cannot fall off even when sound asleep. You see, if God did not make provisions for the hens to sleep safely, we would have a bunch of nervous wrecks among the old hens and the eggs would cease. How terrible that would be!

The beautiful relationship that exists between the mother hen and the babies who are hatched out from her brooding is used by our LORD to illustrate His own love and care for us.

In Luke 13:34, Jesus said, ***“How often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not.”***

There are four times or occasions on which the mother hen calls her babies under her wings. One time is when she finds a bit of food – a crumb or worm or a bug. She quickly sounds the dinner call and the babies come running for the dainty morsel.

So Christ said, *“He that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst”* John 6:35.

Another occasion is when the experienced old mother sees an ominous black speck in the sky which circles round and round, getting larger all the while. She then utters a very excited cry and calls the babies together from the menacing hawk.

On another occasion she hears the thunder, sees the lightning flash, feels the cold wind blowing the leaves. Quickly she clucks her call of danger and calls the babies to shelter from the impending storm.

Now at last, as the shadows fall and the sun is set, she quietly calls for little treasures to sleep and rest.

Oh, that you might come to Christ too!

The Sword of the Lord

Unsolicited ADVICE

During World War II, Irving Berlin wrote a marching song for our troops. It was written from the perspective of a proud mother who was watching her son Jim march up the boulevard with the rest of the troops.

She knew that he was headed to France to sleep in a tent. But as she related the story, as a proud mom would, she noted how all the young ladies were looking at her Jim. She also noted that “They Were All Out of Step but Jim.”

Does this sound like your mother? It sure sounds like my mother, as Mom was always there for her five children. Even when we did wrong, Mom would find a way to encourage us, though she never excused the wrongdoing.

One of the first things that a young, new soldier learns to do is march in step. My first experience with this was the year that I entered secular college. All freshman boys were required to take two years of ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps).

Every Thursday we would report to the training field and “fall in” for drill instruction. The upper classmen would then march the lower classmen until we learned how to march in step. This was repeated until everyone, except Jim got it right. It seems there was always one or two “Jims” that just couldn’t get their feet to cooperate.

One of the great problems that we have in Christianity today is that so many churches and Christians are marching in step with the world. Unsaved people see little or no difference in the way they live and the way the professing Christian lives.

The Bible clearly commands the Christian to love not the world and be not conformed to this world. We are not to yoke up with unbelievers or get entangled with the affairs of this life (I John 2:15; Rom. 12:2; II Cor. 6:14; II Tim. 2:4).

The pressure to conform can be enormous. A moderate Christian who is your friend may invite you to do something that you know is displeasing to the Lord. What do you do? We do not want to come across as snobs, but neither should we compromise our convictions.

Many carnal Christians who go to lukewarm churches never hear any preaching about the need for us to separate from the ungodly world. So, they continue to go to the movies, listen to worldly music, drink wine, play the lottery, attend rock concerts sometimes in their church and dress and act like Hollywood.

In February of this year I was working a soul-winning booth at the Florida state fair. A man walked up and handed me a flier about an upcoming event. As I paused to read it, he invited me to come down and have a beer.

I looked at him and said, “Sir, we are Christians and don’t drink.” He exclaimed, “What’s wrong with that?” the unspiritual person just doesn’t get it.

We must make up our minds as to the direction that our life is going to go. Are we going to march in step with this stinking, stinking world or are we going to try our best to please the Lord?

Sure, we are going to fail many times in our efforts to please Lord; but do we just give up and go downstream with the ungodly, or do we make every effort to stand fast in the Lord.

I drew the line for myself many years ago. On which side of the line are you? Are you standing fast on the Lord’s side or perhaps somewhere else? It’s not too late to move. The first step may not be easy, but why not give it a try? The LORD will help you IF you truly want help. — Fred Willis

Sword of The Lord

Editorial

RES

JESUS is 'Able' to 'Save' unto the uttermost (gutter most)

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

(Hebrews 7:25)

An outstanding male theologian and conservative (approx. middle-age) clearly made the following statement, “IF I were the devil I would start at the Seminary!” Most likely at that time, he was speaking of Lutheran Seminaries; but NOW it is across the board; as that is EXACTLY what the devil has done. Satan has only one deceptive goal in mind and that is to deceive you and me for time and Eternity! He comes in many forms; but for this editorial we are mainly speaking of him as a false prophet. Angel of light “*And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*” He wants to deceive in this life and then to spend Eternity in Hell with him. IF you should so happen to *think* that he does not exist; try and resist him.

For example, there were some of yesteryear, who when graduating from Seminary (speaking of Lutherans just now; but no doubt other schools also; especially TODAY) if you were to ask them to give their personal testimony, many will say, “I was baptized as an Infant and been a Christian ever since!” (*Some will also say “and confirmed”*) Well, Infant Baptism is Scriptural, which is a biblical beginning, but what about their personal walk with Jesus today? So, what is sown in the Seminary easily takes root in the congregation.

This (false teaching) is not something new. For example, the origin of this ministry is directly tied to that of Hans Neilsen Hauge. He had to pay a great price after his conversion. YES, salvation has been fully paid for and there is a price that you and I experience being a true follower of Jesus Christ as LORD.

The late Evangelist, Joe Erickson, was visiting at a home and while he was there, a salesperson came unexpectedly to his door. Knowing Evang. Joseph Erickson, the conversation turned to Christianity and the need to know Jesus as one’s personal Savior.

The salesperson became very uncomfortable and stated he had to leave, as he had appointments yet to make for that day! The Evangelist responded and stated that he had TWO appointments!

The salesperson was so surprised and asked how did he

know?

Joe Erickson responded by quoting Hebrews “*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*” (Heb. 9:27) (By the way Evang. Erickson traveled many years as an Evangelist on behalf of the HLIF and GOD used this vessel marvelously)

At large *today* many pastors will teach and preach that you have to build a certain degree of friendship before you can truly verbally witness to someone about the need of personally experiencing SALVATION. Where in Scripture do you find that?

NOW, another deceptive-tool of the great deceiver is not only telling folk that if you have been baptized then all you NEED to do is admit you are a sinner. Basically, REPENTANCE is missing from the pulpit and calling sins by their names as God Almighty *does* in His Word. For where there is NO repentance there is NO salvation either! Some may say that is getting pretty narrow minded, harsh and bold. Well that is certainly OKAY with that because it is biblical and one day we will have to give an account before GOD! (Actually, the first sermon of Jesus recorded in God’s Holy Word deals with repentance! (See Matt. 3:17)

Also keep in mind that there are the sins of omission which means knowing what you are supposed (prompted) to do; but do it not. (See James 4:17)

Recently an evangelical Pastor said you need to repent once, while the Bible and Martin Luther state that experience needs to be frequent! (Daily)

A Conservative Pastor was challenged with this admonition: “What would you do with the Scripture that says, “Unless you become as a young child and be CONVERTED, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven?” (See Matt. 18:3) His response was, “I wouldn’t preach on that text!” NOW, who is right – the pastor or GOD?

Seemingly the list goes on, but another deceptive tool is that “prayer is the way into Heaven!” HEARSAY! **Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.** Acts 4:12-13.

Jesus tells us the truth – even when it hurts!

THE ONLY THING THAT COVERS SIN BEFORE OUR HOLY GOD; IS THE BLOOD OF THE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN ONE = JESUS!

There are Three outstanding things that are evident in a person who is walking day by day with JESUS: 1) Out of his love for Jesus, he wants to live IN Jesus, by faith; 2) This person wants to live FOR Jesus and; 3) According to the blessed hope found in God's eternal Word, the Bible; they long to be WITH Jesus in Heaven

FOREVER; where only forgiven sinners will be! That city is the one whose Founder and Maker is GOD!

In God's marvelous GRACE; as soon as our stewardship and service are over, HE will take each one Home to Himself, those who are clothed in His Robe of righteousness. It will be instantly, not a minute too soon and not a second too late! AS JESUS SAVES UNTO THE 'GUTTER- MOST' AND HE NOT ONLY SAVES, BUT KEEPS AND SATISFIES!

“Pray without Ceasing.”

(I Thessalonians 5:17)

Is it hypocritical to pray when we don't feel like it? Perhaps there is no more subtle hindrance to prayer than that of our *moods*. Nearly everybody has to meet that difficulty at times. Even God's prophets were not wholly free from it. Habakkuk felt as if he were facing a blank wall for a long time. What shall we do when moods like this come to *us*? Wait until we *do feel like* praying? It is easy to persuade ourselves that it is hypocrisy to pray when we do not feel like it; but we don't argue that way about other things in life. If you were in a room that had been tightly closed for some time you would, sooner or later, begin to feel very miserable—so miserable perhaps, that you would not want to make the effort to open the windows, especially if they were difficult to open. But your weakness and listlessness would be proof that you were beginning to need fresh air very desperately—and that you would soon be ill without it.

If the soul *perseveres* in a life of prayer, there will come a time when *these seasons of dryness will pass away and the soul will be led out*, as Daniel says “*into a large place*” (margin “*into a moist place.*”) Let nothing discourage you. If the soil is dry, *keep cultivating it*. It is said, that in a dry time this harrowing of the corn is equal to a shower of rain.

When we are listless about prayer *it is the very time when we need most to pray*. The only way we can overcome listlessness in anything is to put more of ourselves, no less, into the task. To pray when you do not feel like praying *is not hypocrisy*—it is faithfulness to the greatest duty of life. Just *tell the Father* that you don't feel like it—ask Him to show you what is making you listless. *He will help us to overcome our moods*, and give us courage to persevere in spite of them.

“*When you cannot pray as you would, pray as you can.*”

If I feel myself disinclined to pray, then is the time when I need to pray more than ever. Possibly when the

soul leaps and exults in communion with God it might more safely refrain from prayer than at those seasons when it drags heavily in devotion.

—Charles H Spurgeon

“*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.*” (II Corinthians 5:19)

There is on record a story of how a tribe of North American Indians who roamed in the neighborhood of Niagara offered, year by year, a young virgin as a sacrifice to the Spirit of the Mighty River.

She was called the *Bride of the Falls*.

The lot fell one year on a beautiful girl who was the only daughter of an old chieftain. The news was carried to him while he was sitting in his tent; but on hearing it the old man went on smoking his pipe, and said nothing of what he felt.

On the day fixed for the sacrifice a white canoe full of ripe fruits and decked with beautiful flowers, was ready, waiting to receive “the Bride.”

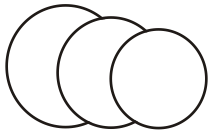
At the appointed hour she took her place in the canoe, which was pushed out into mid-stream where it would be carried swiftly toward the mighty cataract.

Then, to the amazement of the crowd which had assembled to watch the sacrifice, a second canoe was seen to dart out from the river's bank a little lower down the stream. In it was seated the old chieftain. With swift strokes he paddled toward the canoe in which was his beloved child. Upon reaching it he gripped it firmly and held it fast. The eyes of both met in one last long look of love; and then, close together, father and daughter were carried by the racing current until they plunged over the thundering cataract and perished side by side.

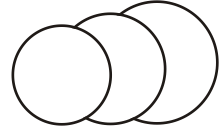
In their death they were not divided. The father was in it with his child!

“*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.*” He did not have to do this. Nobody forced Him. *The only force behind that sacrifice was the force of His seeking love for His lost world.*

— Selected



From Our Fellowship Circle



M.M. Chaska, MN
Your magazine blesses me. You speak truth and make salvation very clear. Too many of our Pastors when they preach or teach make it easy living. Blessings to all of you.

J & P Burnsville, MN
Strange times we are living in but God's Kingdom is growing even through this pandemic.

W. B. Belgrade, MN
The truth is needed now more than ever! Stand strong, Brother!

“So then, you will know them by their fruit”

Matthew 7:20

Dear Friends,
Jesus was speaking about false teachers (*or as ‘angels’ of light*) wolves in sheep's clothing. As Christians we live in a day where we need to carefully evaluate what we hear and see. Are the people we listen to; the books we read and ministers we see on television true people of God, or are they wolves in sheep's clothing? (Editor: Many of these deceiving folks are very sincere but sincerely wrong; check it out, to see IF it is in accordance to GOD'S plumb-line – your eternal soul is at stake)?

As we near the Lord's return we are told that people will be more likely to follow someone or something that is not true.

“But the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will fall away from the faith paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines.” I Timothy 4:1.

We are living in those times. Today people would rather believe a lie than deal with the truth.

The truth is too difficult for them to accept. The truth that says we are sinners and need to repent.

So many people today go around from church to church looking for someone who will tell them that they are OK just the way they are.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.” (II Timothy 4:3-4)

Don't be among those who are misled. Know the

Word of God and discern between those who preach and teach it correct and those who do not.

Pastor Paul Larson of Faith Lutheran,
Detroit Lakes, MN.

Is He a Crazy Man?

“We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.”

II Corinthians 4:18

Do you remember the day when almost everyone communicated with a penny postcard? I have had many a revival meeting booked and the engagement confirmed for two cents! One penny postcard would say, “Dear Brother Malone, I want you to come to a meeting at ...

I would write back on a penny postcard and say ...

Two cents transacted the whole thing.

One preacher sent me a wire: “I will come in on the Greyhound bus at such and such a time and my bodyguards will be with me.”

I looked at the wire and thought, **“Well now, this fellow has probably flipped his lid, bodyguards?”** *Why, no one knew who he was; even I had hardly known him.*” He was a stranger where I was and we weren't fighting the Devil enough to be scared of anything.

Anyway, I met the bus. Here was this little country preacher getting off. I asked, “Where are your bodyguards?”

With the BIBLE in hand, he replied, “Oh, there are some here and some there and some haven't gotten off the bus yet!”

I stood there and thought, *I can't listen to a man like that preach for a week. That man is nuts. He has flipped his lid.* He stood there with a peaceful look on his face and so calm.

Again, I asked, “But the bodyguards?”

Oh, haven't you read in the Bible where the angels of the Lord encamp round about those that love Him?”

NOW that fellow was seeing things that are real!

Thank God, they are real!

I am saying a Christian, glory to GOD, has everything and the (lost) sinner has nothing. He is a beggar just as much as the blind man who *begged*, because he was nothing.

Dr. Tom Malone, Sword of the Lord.

Believable...Yet Unbelievable

Aborted Baby cells live in COVID 19 vaccines

The top COCD vaccine trials are all using aborted baby cells and they have all received massive funding from Bill Gates – The man who insists on mass vaccinations even as he declares he wants to reduce the world population by 15 %. Apparently, the Gates family think killing innocent babies is “health care.” It is no surprise that all top Pharmaceutical Companies seeking a COVID Vaccine are using aborted baby cells to make their vaccine and they are being funded by the Gates Foundation.

From Liberty Counsel

Florida Governor Expected to sign parental consent bill for minors seeking abortions.

The Florida legislature passed a bill...requiring parental consent for minors to get abortions...Florida Governor Ron De Santis is expected to sign the bill into law. “A child cannot simply tell their parents they are going on a field trip or even playing a school sport,” one state representative said, “So, why would we accept that a child can simply inform their parent they intend to have an abortion?”

lifeneews.com

Australian Medical Board Suspends Christian Doctor for opposing Abortion and Population Control

An Australian medical board recently suspended a Christian doctor for expressing his views about abortion, population control and other issues online.

...Dr. Jereth Kok is a general practitioner in Melbourne. In his 11 years of practice, he never received a single formal complaint from any patients, according to the report.

...But Kok, a pro-life Christian, also writes about his views online; and that got him into trouble with the Medical Board of Australia...

...The medical board...ruled that his suspension...is in the best interest of society.

lifeneews.com

Forty-Seven Percent of Mainline Pastors Support Same-Sex Marriage

Results from a nationwide survey reveal that nearly half (*a whopping 47 percent*) of mainline pastors approve of and see nothing wrong with same-sex marriage.

Lifeway Research conducted a phone survey on 1,000 Protestant pastors to get their take on same-sex marriage and civil unions between ... Nearly half of the more liberal denominations’ pastors are on board with the LGBT agenda... — Michael F. Haverluck,

onenewsnow.com

Better Yet

*The years so swiftly come and go;
We hasten toward the day
When Christ the Lord of Glory comes
To catch His bride away.*

*How wonderful it is to know
Salvation by God’s grace;
Then when He comes it will be joy.
To meet Him face to face!*

*Now while my mansion He prepares
I wait and serve my best
And yet I know one thing He wants
Far more than all the rest*

*Is not the service I may give?
Nor wealth of earthly store;
A heart that truly loves the Lord
My Savior values more.*

*I want to love God as I ought
With undivided heart.
Rejoicing in His promises true
That we shall never part.*

*True love will serve without reserve
And does not think of gain
But looks with joy unto the time
Her Lord will come again.*

Edward L. Crane

Does Baptism Bring Salvation Apart From Faith? (Part II)

“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

This is the second and final article in a series on baptism and faith. The first article was in the June 2020 issue of the *Morning Glory*.

In our Lutheran circles many think that you can be saved solely because you have been baptized. We hear it all the time – At our baptism – At our Confirmation – At a funeral. I was at another funeral and the pastor put the Baptismal font in front of the casket and said the deceased is in heaven – It all happened right there. This statement was made REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY BELIEVED OR HOW THEY LIVED! Some Lutheran Pastors decry that if you have doubts about your salvation – to “Remember Your Baptism” or “Look to your baptism.” This is nowhere in the Bible! They teach that you were saved in your baptism and all you need is to just sit there and remain in that covenant.

Rather than that, the Scripture states that we are to “Remember Jesus Christ risen from the dead” (II Tim. 2:8) and “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.” (Heb. 12:2) Rather than looking to our baptism, the Scripture admonishes us to “examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith” (II Cor. 13:5) – Not to see if we were baptized.

If baptism is all that is necessary for salvation – then the reformation was a waste of time. Luther was baptized – yet it gave him no inner assurance of salvation. When he was in a quandary on how to find forgiveness of sins – why didn’t he simply “remember his baptism” or “look to his baptism?” Luther had a time when he came to salvation AFTER his baptism:

“Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that “the just shall live by faith.” Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.”

The cry of the Reformation was that salvation was “By Grace Alone through Faith Alone based on Scripture Alone.” This was in the face of a church body that practiced baptism as we do.

The Response to God’s Grace

Baptism is a means of grace, but like any grace offered to us by God, it must be responded to. Baptism without personal faith will not avail salvation – as Jesus said, “*He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.*” (Mk. 16:16) All of God’s Grace given to us needs a response of faith to be effective in our lives. Our baptism needs a response of faith if baptism is going to accomplish what God desires in our lives. It isn’t that baptism is wrong or is limited – it’s that it has to be personally responded to.

It is just like hearing God’s word. It has God’s grace in it as well – in fact it is The Primary Means of Grace. Does just hearing the Word mean that it has done its work? No, not until we respond to what God brings us in His Word. James 1:21-22 “*in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*” So we must respond to God’s Grace that comes to us in His Word if it is going to be effective in our lives. The same is true with all means of Grace that God brings to us. Is it because there is something wrong or limited with baptism? No, it is a means of Grace, but there must be a response to the grace that has been offered to us. In Mark 16:16, Jesus is describing 2 things necessary for salvation (Faith and Baptism) – Not just one (Baptism only). “*He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.*” Other Scriptures bear this out as well.

John 3:5 “*Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’”*

Acts 2:38 “*And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”*

Titus 3:5 “*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.’”*

So those who are baptized still need to be born again of the Spirit. This is THE missing element in most churches practicing infant baptism today. Prominent religious people give testimony that they were saved when they were baptized. They are only half-way there! When were you born again of the Spirit? A testimony of salvation simply because you are baptized is not a testimony at all – it is a testimony of being baptized, not being a receptor of the Holy Spirit. You receive the Holy Spirit when you receive Christ as Savior and Lord and He comes to reside within you – this is what is necessary for everyone who was baptized as an infant.

The infant did not repent when it was baptized so this must take place in the life of the baptized. The infant did not turn to Jesus as Lord and Savior when it was baptized, so this must take place as well. This process of coming to a living faith is called conversion, which means turning.

Am I making a mountain out of a mole hill – is this really all that important? Notice very carefully what happens to those who don't come to Christ – *“but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned”* (Mark 16:16) Even the baptized who don't come to faith in Jesus will be condemned. This is THE ACID TEST on whether you are going to make it to heaven or not. It is Absolutely crucial so Don't Miss It. Have you been born again of the Spirit? Does the Holy Spirit reside within you? If the answer is “no,” then you aren't going to make it to heaven. Romans 8:9 says, *“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”*

This happens when you accept Jesus Christ into your heart as your own personal Savior. When Jesus came into your heart, He came to reside there by the Holy Spirit. That is why the Scriptures admonish you to examine yourself and see if you are in the faith. *“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you— unless indeed you fail the test?”* (II Corinthians 13:5) True salvation comes through repentance of sin and acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Faith is NOT just a knowledge of historical fact. You can know all the important facts of the Bible about Jesus: His Virgin Birth – Sinless Life – Vicarious Death on the Cross for the sins of all mankind – His Bodily Resurrection from the dead – His Ascension to heaven – His return in Glory to rule and reign, and still not have salvation. Just knowing these will not bring you salvation. Faith is not just to sit there and believe, but to accept this grace in Jesus for yourself.

Some Lutheran clergy will say, “But it just isn't Lutheran to have altar calls for people to accept Christ. They are already there through their baptism. To do this is to deny the efficacy of baptism.”

Calling the baptized to come and accept Christ is not denying the efficacy of baptism – not doing so is denying the need for a personal response to the grace that is offered. The *Lutheran Confessions* teach this:

“We also reject the following formulas if they are used without explanation: That man's will before, in and after conversion resists the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit is given to those

who resist Him. From the foregoing exposition it is clear that when the Holy Spirit's activity produces no change at all for good in the intellect, will and heart, when man in no way believes the promise and is not prepared by God for grace, but wholly resists the Word, conversion does not and cannot take place. For conversion is that kind of change through the Holy Spirit's activity in the intellect, will and heart of man whereby man through such working of the Holy Spirit is able to accept the offered grace.” (Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article II, Free Will)

Luther's Small Catechism teaches this as well:

“What Gifts or Benefits Does Baptism bestow?
Answer: It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe, as the Word and the promise of God declare.”

It is both Biblical AND Lutheran to call sinners to receive Christ by an act of their will as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts through Law and Gospel as the Scriptures declare:

John 1:12 – *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name”*

Colossians 2:6 – *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him”*

Romans 5:11 – *“And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”*

I Corinthians 15:1-2 *“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.”*

II Corinthians 11:4 *“For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.”*

Does this not give us some understanding into I Peter 3:21, *“And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you— not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience— through the resurrection of Jesus Christ?”* The whole context of this Scripture is that of Noah being placed into the Ark for deliverance from the flood. Noah had to obey God by faith and respond to God's directive to build the Ark and then get into it. So Baptism is not to be viewed apart from faith that accepts Christ and lives and walks in

Him.

Dear reader, are you baptized? That is good and right and necessary. But are you in Jesus – is Jesus in you? Are you born again with the Spirit of God in your heart? Because if you aren't – your baptism alone won't give you salvation apart from a born again faith in Jesus with the Spirit of God residing within.

Pastor Jim Haga
Hagapublishing.com

“Is Anything Too Hard For The Lord?”

Genesis 18:14

God wants us to ask Him for the impossible

God can do things that man cannot do. He would not be God if this were not so. That is why He has graciously made prayer a law of life. *“If ye shall ask ...I will do.”* This inviting promise from the Lord means that He will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves; He will do for others what we cannot do for them – if we but ask Him. How little do we avail ourselves of this immense privilege!

Someone spoke this searching word at Edinburgh in 1910: “We have lost the eternal youthfulness of Christianity, and have aged into calculating manhood. We seldom pray in earnest for the extraordinary, the limitless, the glorious. We seldom pray with any confidence for any good to the realization of which we cannot imagine a way. And yet, we suppose ourselves to believe in an **Infinite Father.**”

The natural man calculates results. ***Calculations have no place in our relation with God.***

That matter which has been so burdening us just now, and with which we can see no way of dealing, *how are we praying about it? In anxiety, or with thanksgiving?*

Worrying prayer defeats its own answer; rejoicing prayer gets through. “In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request made known unto God.” Then will come the answer *“exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think.”*

The more we are cut off from human help, the greater claim we can make on Divine help. The more impossible a thing is to human or mortal power, the more at peace can we be when we look to Him for deliverance.

“Only those who see the invisible can do the impossible!”

God will answer when to thee,
Not a possibility
Of deliverance seems near;
It is then He will appear.

God will answer when you pray,
Yea, though mountains block thy way,
At His word a way will be
Ev'en through mountains, made for thee.

God who till divides the sea,
Willingly will work for thee;
God, before whom mountains fall,
Promises to hear thy call.

M. E. B.

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* * * * *

Let Down the Nets

“And Simon answered and said, ‘Master, we toiled all night, and took nothing; but at Thy word I will let down the nets’” (Luke 5:5)

Peter's sad complaint that morning is well known among us Christians of this day. So little seems successful, and so much fails.

Father and mother struggle not only a whole night but through a whole lifetime that their children may be saved, and yet they are living away from God. The Christian teacher wears himself out in the school room, trying hard to help the little ones to Jesus but the work seems to be in vain. The little flock of believers in town and country try to gather people about the WORD, but no one is converted. The missionary sits worn out in the midst of a strange people who give him scorn and stripes as pay for all the sacrifices he has made that the name of Christ may be known. Selected

***The Cross is our refuge; Thy Blood our plea.
None other we want, Lord Jesus, but Thee.
We fear not the shadows at the close of the day.
For Thou will go with us the rest of the way.***

Selected

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

(Continued from the last issue of the *Morning Glory* and I apologize to you for giving the wrong credit for the writer of this article. The correct writer is Pastor Gideon Johnson, Kenyon, MN).

I’m sure we can all somewhat relate to that feeling of being hungry and thirsty. In fact, maybe you’re a little hungry and thirsty right now. If you are, please, hit the pause button and go get a snack.

Again, we can somewhat relate to this idea of hungering and thirsting. And yet, due to the fact that we’re living in a nation where food and water never seem to be in short supply what Jesus says here may not quite hit us square in the eyes. At least in the way it would have for Jesus’ original audience. In other words, when we hear the term hunger and thirst, we think of that little growl in our stomach or being a little parched. But here, when Jesus refers to hungering and thirsting, HE’s talking about hungering and thirsting in desperation. To wrap our minds around that, listen to this account by a theologian named Kenneth Bailey in his book Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes. He himself is using this story to illustrate what Jesus means in this fourth beatitude. Here he says this,

Once in my life I nearly died of thirst. While living in the south of Egypt, a group of friends and I traveled deep into the Sahara Desert by camel. As our trek began, the temperature soared to above **110 degrees** Fahrenheit in the shade, and there was no shade. On our way, one goat-skin water bag leaked all of its precious contents.

With consumption high due to the heat, we ran out of water, and for a day and a half we pressed on while enduring intense thirst. The goal of the excursion was a famous well named Bir Shaytoun, deep in the desert. Our guide promised us that it never ran dry – ah, but could we survive to reach its life-giving liquid silver? My mouth became completely dry, and eating was impossible because swallowing felt like the rubbing of two pieces of sandpaper together. My vision became blurred and the struggle to keep moving became harder with each step. We knew that if the well was dry, our armed guards would probably have forcibly seized our three baggage camels and ridden them back to the valley, leaving the rest of us to die. As I staggered on, my mind turned to this verse (Matthew 5:6) and I knew that I had never sought righteousness with the same single-minded passion that I now gave to the quest for water.

Yes, we managed to stagger to the well, and it was full of “the wine of God,” as water is named by desert tribesmen in the Middle East. In the process I learned something of the power of Jesus’ language. In a world where water was scarce and travel arduous, His listeners would have known what it meant to “hunger and thirst” after food and water, and thus could understand what Jesus was saying about an all-consuming passion for righteousness.

So, you see, to hunger and thirst is more than a little growl in your stomach or having lips that are a little dry. To hunger and thirst is to be in a state of **desperation** for that which you long for and **need**.

And what is it that we long for and need? Well, for natural man, in our sinfulness, we hunger and thirst for worldly/fleshly things. For wealth, power, prestige. For acceptance, for fulfillment, for honor, for praise, for love, etc. For anything that will boost our pride or give us a chance to boast in ourselves. These are things we long for and think we need. These are the things that we think will lead to satisfaction and blessedness.

But that’s where the spiritual person is different; that’s where the Christian is different. Because by the “Grace of GOD” and through the Holy Spirit of God, we are led to long for something wholly different; something holy in every way. See, the moment that Christ takes hold of your life, your desires now begin to change. Sure, those former desires may still be present or clawing at the back of your mind. Yet, at the same time you have new longings; a new hunger and a new thirst; that is, you hunger and thirst for righteousness. This is what you long for; this is what you are desperate for; this is what you pursue and have your eyes fixed on more than any other thing.

So, what does Jesus mean by righteousness? I mean let’s face it, if Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for a slice of pie and a tall glass of milk” we’d know exactly what HE means. Righteousness though? That may be a little less clear. So, what does He mean by righteousness in this instance? In other words, what is this that the Christian hungers and thirsts for?

To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to hunger and thirst for God to save us from sin, death, and the power of the devil and to save us for a life of holiness.

(To be continued in the September issue of the *Morning Glory*)

Under His Wings

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most-High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of Jehovah, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” (Psalm 91:1-2)

My mother died when I was twelve years old. I have therefore only a childhood recollection of her. But they are fresh and clear in my memory. Mother was sickly as far back as I can remember. She was not bedridden, but she did have to keep to her chair a great deal of the time. Father had thoughtfully provided a comfortable chair for her.

I remember her best in that chair. Here she would sit day after day in the living room, with her knitting or with a book.

We always knew where to find mother...

This childhood memory throws a light and sheds a glory all of its own upon this passage about “the secret place of the Most-High” and “the shadow of the Almighty.”

It teaches us how God would have us live the Christian life.

It should be the great privilege of our lives to live our brief span of years at the feet of the Almighty, in the secret place of the Most High.

In our homes, in the midst of our daily lives, is God, the great and good Father, with whom we are SAFE. It is His desire that we as His children should play in His presence, as well as do our work under His fatherly guidance, with His smile upon us.

The life which we are called upon to live is a difficult and a complex life, full of grief and pain.

The world in which we live is terrible; wicked, unsafe and dangerous. And, worst of all, it will never be otherwise as long as sin and sinners dwell therein.

Not even God can prevent this.

In a world of sin, sorrow, suffering, and death there is only **one place** where a troubled and aching soul can find release, peace, and security, that is in the secret place of the Most High...

But our GOD is such that we need but be in His presence and a sense of security dawns upon us, just as surely as light follows the sun.

This is because God is God.

By being in God's nearness, then, we become rightly orientated with respect to all of life, including this wicked and dangerous world with all its misery.

From the secret place of the Most High we learn to look at everything around us in the right light, both men and devils, sorrows and joys, prosperity and adversity, suffering and death.

God's nearness does not alter the fact of sin, nor does it eliminate the dangers of life, the wickedness of the devil, sorrow or death. But God's nearness does import a sense of security in the face of all that is evil and dangerous. In God's nearness I can don that secret armor with which I can walk with safety in the midst of danger and evil...

Our daily shortcomings make us restless and discouraged.

A conscientious Christian is conscious of the fact that he sins every day both against God and man, in thought, word, and deed.

Above all he sees his sins of *omission*, which more clearly than anything else shows him how little he is living for others.

He sees the worldliness of his own mind, his slothfulness in prayer, his indifference toward the Word of God, his unfaithfulness and disobedience with respect to the promptings of the Spirit.

It more than pains him.

It makes him restless and uneasy. Often, he is not certain whether he is a child of God or not, whether or not he has a Biblical right to lay hold of the gracious precious grace and practicing that spiritual guile which will forever exclude him from the salvation of God.

Then it becomes necessary to seek cover in the secret place of the Most High.

When a storm or a bird of prey approaches, the young of the mother hen hasten to take refuge ***under her wings***.

In a similar way, let the storm of accusations which the adversary of your soul raises against you drive you into the secret place of the Most High. There everything has been ***ready made*** to receive just such as you. He awaits you, and grieves over the fact that you are not continually hiding yourself in HIS BLESSED WOUNDS.

To be continued in the September issue
of the *Morning Glory*.

Under his Wings by O. Hallesby, Ph.D., © copyright
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Fellow Believers:

It is time to wake-up and move from the
‘play-pen’ to the very front line of the
‘Battlefield’!

The Girdle Of Truth

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

The first item of a Christian’s armor mentioned in this section is the belt or girdle. From the expression “girded with truth: this part of the armor has been called the *girdle of truth*.

There are other passages in the Bible with this piece of the warrior’s equipment; we have these: “Let your loins be girded about, and your lamps burning (Luke 12:35); “Wherefore girding up the loins of your mind, be sober and set your hope perfectly on the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (I Peter 1:13).

It is strange that the belt or girdle should be the first item of the Christian’s armor to be mentioned. The reason is undoubtedly this that the garments worn in those days were such that without a belt a person could not very well do his work. At least he could not go into battle without one; nor could he go on a longer journey. The purpose of the belt was to hold the garment tight about the body, thus permitting full freedom of motion.

The question arises as to what it might be in a Christian life and fellowship with God that has been given the name “girdle of truth.”

When we discussed the work of the (Holy) Spirit we tried to show that there is more than one truth; perhaps it is more correct to say that there are many sides to the one great truth. We have in the Scriptures the truth concerning God, our creator and redeemer; we also have the truth concerning man, namely that he is a sinner. In addition, we have instructions to the effect that it behooves us to approach Him with truthful hearts. Which of these truths, then, constitutes the girdle of truth that we are to have about our loins?

I am of the opinion that it is *the truth concerning us*. It is not only the truth that we are sinners; it is also this that we ought to be absolutely truthful when we approach God.

People who have lived in fellowship with God for some time often have this question rising in their hearts, “Is there truth in my heart, and do I walk in truth?”

It was right on this point that we fought our first great battles, and we shall long remember the victory that we won; we threw our heart wide open before God and pleaded for grace. From that day and on God has had access to our hearts, and we have had access to the throne of grace. Thus, it must be throughout life. If we begin to slacken on this point and become less zealous for the truth, we shall lose the belt with which the breastplate of righteousness is fastened. We have many exam-

ples of this in the Bible; one of the most eloquent is found in Joshua 7.

The people of Israel marched against Ai, but lost. When Joshua heard of it he cried lamentingly ‘Oh, Lord, what shall I say, after that Israel hath turned their backs before their enemies?’ After some time they found the reason for this misfortune. Achan, a man of the Israelites, had taken some of the contraband spoils of the war and had hidden them in his tent. This dishonest act on the part of one robbed the people of their power against the enemy.

Saul and Judas suffered a similar fate, as did also Ananias and Saphira. They were untruthful, and lost their power.

Judging by these examples we have reason to believe that the girdle of truth is this: *To be completely honest in one’s inner being as well as in one’s outward conduct.*

If it were within my power to do so, I would cry to every Christian soul: “Be absolutely honest from the depths of your heart. Hide nothing from God. Do not ever try to have a secret chamber in your heart into which you do not admit your Savior. Let our life be an open book before the Lord. Never listen to any voices which would persuade you to do otherwise; they are lying spirits sent out by the father of lies. Try also to be honest toward all people in word and deed, whether you are a master or a servant.”

If we make compromises with ourselves on this point, we shall soon lose the girdle of truth; this loss will be followed shortly by a loss of the whole armor, and we shall turn our backs upon the enemy.

When even today it becomes necessary to lament with Joshua, “Oh, Lord, what shall I say, after that Israel hath turned their back before their enemies,” the reason is undoubtedly this that there is something hidden in the heart that we do not wish to reveal.

Be honest before God! It shall be well with such a one. ***“The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.” If the Lord sees that we are right with Him, He helps us; with His support even the poorest pilgrim can make progress, because he is strong in the Lord.***

Spirit and Power, by Ludvig Hope, © Copyright 1959 by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. This will be continued in September issue of the *Morning Glory*

“Pray Ye”

Matthew 9:38

A sexton (janitor) was showing another gentleman around the church building he was responsible for and also the godly Pastor they had. So, he took this gentleman to the Pastor’s Study and asked this gentleman to sit down in the chair and said, “Sit there, that is where the master used to sit.” Then he said, “Now put your elbows on the table.” This was done. “Now bow your head upon your hands.” Because the pastor they had used to do that. “Now let the tears flow; that is the way the master (pastor) used to do.”

The visitor was then taken up into the pulpit, and the janitor said, “Stand there behind the pulpit.” The gentleman obeyed. “Now” he was told, “lean your elbows on the pulpit and put your face in your hands.” Strange as this may seem to be, again he obeyed. This having been done, he said “Now let the tears flow; that is the way the master (pastor) used to do.”

This testimony gripped the heart of the visitor. With tearful eye and trembling voice he said, **“He called down the power of God upon us and it is with us still.”**

TODAY, if we had even a few people who had a compassion and burden for precious souls in each community and congregation, we definitely would see a change of direction of the people!

If we had more tearful Pastors today, there wouldn’t be so many dry EYES in the pews! (See JEREMIAH 9:1 & PSALM 126:5-6)

Selected

“I am the Resurrection and the Life.”

John 11:25

BISHOP FOSTER was one of the leading bishops of the Methodist Church in his day, and was a very godly man. After an earnest search for thirty years he found what is here related in the hope that it may be a help to some other hearts who sought light as he did.

“I have perused all of the books written on the immortality of the soul, bought them at great prices, studied them with great earnestness. I have spent thirty years at it, hoping some day I might be able to present the argument with more force and make its impression stronger upon the mind and heart of the world.

“But when death came to my home and struck down my darlings, when I went and looked into their graves, I saw nothing but utter darkness. With an anguish I cannot

express I went out into the deep woods, and looked up into the great vault above, and beat upon my breast and cried to my Father until my heart was crushed and broken. In speechless silence I lay with my face upon the earth to see if I could not hear them; but I found that it was dark and silent; not a ray, not a voice.

“I went and sat down by the philosophers, but now I found they gave me nothing but husks. I read their arguments which once had cheered me, but now they broke my heart. There was nothing in them, not even enough for me to found a conjecture upon. I was desolate with an utter desolation. I wrung my hands in an agony I cannot describe.

“Nor did I find relief until I heard a Voice coming through the gloom. Out of the darkness and silence, with heavenly music and sweetness in it, it said:

“I am Jesus, the resurrection and the Life; and thy dead shall live again.”

“And with that single idea that I could rest my hope and my faith upon, HE has revealed that great doctrine; HE has established the truth which ever eluded mankind till HE came down out of heaven telling the story of the Fatherhood of God and the immortality of His own spiritual children.”

Selected

The Devil’s Disguises

By Hugh Pyle

The Devil comes as a “servant” and a “Dragon” (Rev. 12:9). He comes “as a roaring lion” (I Peter 5:8). He comes as “an angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14). He comes as an “oppressor” (Isaiah 51:13), as a “deceiver” (Rev. 12:9). He comes as a “beast,” “a man of sin” (Rev. 13:1, II Thess. 2:3); but as never before in America, in the world, in our century, he comes in liquid form!

Whether beer, wine, gin, vodka, rum or whiskey – you’re a liquid devil!

Not one with good sense would risk it.

Only “fools make a mock at sin” (Proverbs 14:9). Not all “Winesaps: grow on apple trees!

Never has the Bible had as many illustrations from human life as in the case of the liquid devil!

Every day the papers declare; the law courts prove, and the broken-hearted, tragedy— stricken victims of drink scream, **“Liquid devil!”**

Which will it be – the bottle or the **Bible**?

Neutral you cannot be. **“The LORD knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”** (Psalm 1:6)

Update

We believe that God's Law and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only real hope and defense for the USA, Canada & the world! This includes ourselves, our children and great grand-children and the world! Fortunately, we are privileged and responsible to seek doing our part in accomplishing that proclamation.

Thus, your partnership and support are greatly appreciated and will continue to be used in seeking to help in expanding HIS Kingdom Work in this our earthly journey.

Needless to say; help us continue all our efforts to proclaim Biblical Truth in our national crisis and around the world.

We request you to help us as we also trust in the goodness of GOD in these very serious times.

Please prayerfully consider what GOD would have you give as we contend with and for the truth, for *our freedom for our Nation and world.*

Some may ask: "Is there hope for the USA and the world?"

YES, as we continue to share God's Incorruptible WORD and for our Freedom and Liberty!

The total offerings received for the month of June were \$1,810.00 The monthly expenses are approx. \$3,500.00.

ONE Comes & ONE Goes!

In the month of June (2020) the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation Board elected a new Hauge Board Member, namely Mr. Marvin Jacobson of Northfield, MN. Mr. Kevin Gunderson did not permit his name to be re-elected. We are sorry to see Kevin leave as he has been very helpful in this portion of God's Kingdom Work. We still hope to see and hear from him regularly and his spouse, Sharon. Thank you for your many years of faithful service for us!

With extend a truly warm welcome to Marvin and we pray he will be a rich blessing on the board of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and with his spouse – Margaret!

We definitely want GOD to richly bless you and as a result you become an even greater blessing unto others! May God's Benediction rest upon each of YOU!

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Pastor Jim Haga has been writing articles for the *Morning Glory* for over 20 years. You likely have read his articles on various aspects of faith and life. He writes from a conservative Lutheran Pietistic position. Many readers of the *Morning Glory* have expressed their gratitude to him for these articles.

Pastor Haga has been publishing the *Morning Glory* under the business title of Haga Publishing. He has started a website (Hagapublishing.com) where he has chronicled these articles according to their content. He has also written two Books, "*The Word of God and the Occult*" and "*What About Contemporary Christian Music?*" All these are available on the website as a free PDF download.

Check it out as a reference for your Christian reading.