



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • August 2022

Hans Nielsen Hauge

Pastor Steven Lombardo

The congregation I serve is celebrating its 175th Anniversary this year. It is certainly a testimony to the sustaining grace of God and the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To God be the praise!

Our church had its beginning when Norwegian settlers wanted a place to gather for worship. Many of these people had come out of the Haugean revivals in Norway. That is, they came to the United States with essentially the same beliefs and convictions as Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771-1824). He was taught the Bible and Luther's Catechism in his home. However, he was not converted until 1796 while at work in his father's field. I'll let him tell us about it:

My heart was so uplifted to God that I do not know nor can I express what really took place in my soul. As soon as my senses returned to normal, I regretted that I had not served the loving and all-gracious God; now I felt that no worldly thing was of importance. It was a glory which no tongue can express; my soul felt something supernatural, divine, blessed...I had a completely transformed mind, a sorrow over all sins, a burning desire to read the scriptures, particularly Jesus' own teachings, as well as new light to understand them and the teachings of godly men; toward the one goal, that Jesus Christ has come to be our Savior, that we should be born again by His spirit, be converted and sanctified more and more in godliness to serve the triune God alone, in order to improve and prepare our souls for the eternal blessedness. (G. Everett Arden, Four Northern Lights: Men Who Shaped Scandinavian Churches, p. 57).

The people who came to northern Illinois in the last

half of the 19th century certainly knew by doctrine and practice what Hauge described about his conversion. The first pastor of our congregation was himself converted in Norway some years after Hauge's death. Revival fires burned powerfully, and the effects of Hauge's ministry continued to be used by the Holy Spirit for the salvation of souls and the edification of Christians. This is the legacy of faith that we, by God's grace, continue to embrace. It is biblical and God-honoring. It is the call to new life in Jesus (“...you must be born again”-John 3:3).

The experience of conversion can vary among people (Hauge's was rather unique). But there can be no variation when it comes to the essential of conversion. “Be converted or perish!” (Matt. 18:3). We see this in what Hauge emphasized.

He stressed the importance of experienced salvation. While not disparaging the sacraments, every baptized person must be awakened to a conscious experience of sin and grace. Therefore there is always a call for the evangelization of the baptized.

For Hauge, God's Word produces life when it is received by faith. In a sermon he told of his own situation before his conversion: “I was so dead, dumb, blind, and sleepy, that the Word was nothing more than a sound.” He came to have faith in “the effectual power of the Word. Seeing awakenings break out in new parts of the country further strengthened his confidence in God's Word as the creating, life-giving, means of grace” (Andreas Aarflot, Hans Nielsen Hauge, pp. 81, 83).

There always was an urgency about Hauge's ministry. He knew that souls perish in hell without God and

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without hope. Only the remedy for sin, Jesus' sacrifice for sinners at the Cross, was the gracious provision of the Father (John 14:6). Would that all of us and our churches would have that same urgency and live in the light of eternity. I fear today many churches are merely cold museums of compromise and not flaming missions of conversion!

Hauge preached the text: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33) more often than any other scripture. "For it was the keynote of his life" (A.M. Arntzen, The Apostle of Norway, p. 298). May we, as we thank the Lord for the rich heritage of Haugean Spirit-filled revivals, now look to the same Holy Spirit to revive our hearts with the life-giving message: "Seek first..."

"Not Grievous"

A prominent, well-to-do man said to Mark Twain, "When I retire, I am going to take a trip to the Holy Land. There I want to stand on Mount Sinai where Moses received from God the Ten Commandments"

Mark Twain said, "It seems to me, sir, that you could do the world a lot more good if you would stay at home and keep them!"

"His commandments are not grievous." (I John 5:3)

Consider Him

“For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:3)

Your misfortune is that your attention is constantly circling about yourself! Your eyes see only that which makes you discouraged, for they are always turned inwardly.

Consider Him

Look what HE has done for you. Pay attention to that which HE did for you on the CROSS when HE died for you.

He does not scold you. He does not come with new demands. He comes with a complete Salvation and says that He is able to save you from your self-centeredness.

Consider Him

Look at what He is doing for you today! He is not inactive. He is still occupied with the thought of your Salvation. His desire is to make you a partaker of all the powers of His saving GRACE. This is His purpose in all His ministration on your behalf!

Consider Him

He is able to sanctify you completely. When you yield yourself to Him, rest in the joyful assurance that HE is able to complete the work He has begun in you.

YES, CONSIDER HIM.

Quiet Moments on the Way Home, by H. E. Wisloff,
Faith & Fellowship Press.

Remembrance

“This do in remembrance of Me.” (I Corinthians 11:24)

It seems then, that Christians may *forget* Christ! There could be no need for this loving exhortation, IF there were not a fearful supposition that our memories might prove treacherous. Nor is this a bare supposition: it is, alas! too well confirmed in our experience, not as a possibility, but as a lamentable fact. It appears almost impossible that those who have been redeemed by the blood of the dying Lamb, and loved with an everlasting love by the eternal Son of God, should forget that gracious Savior; but, if startling to the ear, it is, alas! too apparent to the eye to allow us to deny the crime. *Forget* Him who never forgot us! Forget Him who shed His Blood forth for our sins! Forget Him who loved us even to the death! Can it be possible? Yes, it is not only possible, but conscience confesses that it is too sadly a fault with all of us, that we suffer Him to be as a wayfaring

man tarrying but for a night. He whom we should make the abiding tenant of our memories is but a visitor therein. The Cross where one would think that memory linger, and mindfulness would be an unknown intruder, is desecrated by the feet of *forgetfulness*. Does not your conscience say that this is true? Do you not find yourself *forgetful* of Jesus? Some creature steals away your heart, and you are unmindful of Him upon whom your affection ought to be set. Some earthly business engrosses your attention when you should fix your eyes steadily upon the Cross! It is the incessant turmoil of the world, the constant attraction of earthly things which takes away the soul from Christ. While memory too preserves a poisonous weed, it suffereth the Rose of Sharon to *wither*. Let us charge ourselves to bind a heavenly forget-me-not about our hearts for Jesus our Beloved, and, whatever else we let *slip*, let us hold *fast* to HIM!

Morning & Evening, by Charles Spurgeon,
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Redeem the Time

Time seems to go by so fast when you are elderly; but GOD tells us to “Redeem the time,” regardless of a person’s age, for time is not be wasted, but invested in ETERNITY!

“In Christ all will be made alive... But each in his own order.” (I Corinthians 15:22-24)

Fairly recent we celebrated the Resurrection of **JESUS CHRIST** from the dead: the tomb is empty and He is Risen and coming again; I SHALL RETURN! But as we read chapter 15 of I Corinthians; really it tells us to “rejoice every day” in the fullness of the Resurrection! Really, we shouldn’t spend much time looking back, as the tomb is empty; but rejoice in the victory of the resurrection of all who truly have trusted in Jesus, regardless if physically alive OR entered a ‘*borrowed*’ tomb (regardless of your age)! The real question is; Do you belong to Jesus? Have you repented of your sins and received Christ as your personal SAVIOR? Then let us each day look forward with anticipation to OUR resurrection, described so clearly in I Thessalonians 4:13-17. After Christ returns for His own, shortly thereafter will be the time of the Great Judgment upon this sinful world! So *Morning Glory* readers, let us make use of each day in seeking to strengthen/nurture fellow-believers and reaching out to the lost! **“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”** (I Cor. 15:58)

The Stated Goals Of Black Lives Matter Are Anti-Christian

By Meeke Addison

Does God care about justice? Absolutely! In fact, God says of Himself in Isaiah 61:8, **“For I, the Lord, love justice”** (NKJV).

What about life? YES, because above all other created things, only human beings are crafted and molded in His Image! Psalm 139 powerfully communicates the value, worth and sanctify of human life.

God’s concerns for life and justice are woven throughout the Bible, and the two are not mutually exclusive. So, we as Christians should care about justice and defend life. Likewise, we must make sure that our endeavors to plead for justice or defend life don’t inadvertently align us with veiled missions and agendas that seek to undermine God’s standard of holiness.

The question is not whether evangelicals should tackle a discussion on perceived or actual racism; the question for ALL Biblical Christians with an interest in social justice is “do the core values of Black Lives Matter square with the Bible’s clearly-prescribed ways of holiness and morality?” The short answer is NO.

Historically, the church has always been at the forefront of the justice movement, but without being aligned with entities or movements that are antithetical to the Gospel we preach and the Lord we follow. We are called to speak for justice, but our message is distinct and our methods are peaceful and Gospel-driven. Because CHRIST first loved us, we are to love others!

What’s the Harm? Because of its thoughtfully-crafted agenda values and mission, BLM is unmistakably incompatible with BIBLICAL Christianity, and the many reasons ‘Christians’ have to reject this movement can easily be found at BlackLivesMatter.com. According to its own “herstory,” BLM was founded by three black women, two of whom are self-proclaimed “queer.” And while these women may care about injustice and racism, they also care about normalizing sexual deviance, de-constructing the Biblical definition of family, and emasculating strong.

Here are three reasons Black Lives Matter is incompatible with Biblical Christianity:

1. Black Lives Matter seeks to dismantle the Biblical definition of family. In their own words, they are “committed to disrupting the Western prescribed nuclear family structure requirement.” ONE man married to ONE woman is not a Western prescription for family; two (man and woman) becoming one flesh is so powerful a union that the Apostle Paul used this illustration to

talk about Christ and the church in Ephesians 5.

2. Black Lives Matter champions the celebration of homosexuality. They refer to it as “queer-affirming,” but it simply boils down to rebellion against God’s for sexuality. In their own words, BLM gathers “with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or, rather, the belief that in the world are heterosexual unless s/he or they disclose otherwise.” No matter what secular culture decides about sexuality, the BIBLE is unequivocal regarding God’s design for sexual intimacy. Romans 1, for example, lists homosexuality as a “vile passion.” We love homosexuals and wish them to be redeemed through faith in Christ. So how can we link arms with a group whose mission is to undermine and celebrate rebellion against God’s design?

3. Black Lives Matter touts gender confusion as normal and seeks to make heroes of those who are mentally confused. There are TWO genders: male and female. The science is clear, and the Bible is crystal clear when it comes to God’s Creation. **“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them”** (Genesis 1:27, NKJV).

Gender confusion is an attack of Satan to mar the Imago Dei. Black Lives Matter is complicit in this destruction!

Aside from its divisive nature, Black Lives Matter calls for violence and holds an insatiable desire for lawlessness, so Christians have deep, spiritual reasons to resist aligning with this movement, its founders and their core convictions. Just a few of the movement’s “guiding principles” should provide plenty evidence to believers that aligning with such an ungodly ideology is at least troubling and at most diabolical.

Again, Christians can and should stand up against injustice, but we should absolutely refuse to stand behind an organization and movement that vehemently opposes God and His righteous standards. On this question there is no room for debate!

I can support working with people on a common cause, even when we disagree on secondary issues.

So, Yes, stand and speak for justice and mercy and humility before God (see Micah 6:8). In fact, Christians should lead the way! But don’t attempt to do it in the name of an organization that despises the Gospel and the only GOD who can bring lasting peace.

Excerpts taken from *Decision* magazine, July – August, 2020.

Editorial

RES

Seven (7) Dangers Of Neglecting Bible Prophecy In The Church

(By Jonathan Brentner)

I have been so 'blest' with the following article, that I am submitting it as my "Guest Editorial"! (Reprint, in part, from 'Prophecy News Watch' 4/14/22)

Pastor Tom Hughes... "Five Reasons Pastors Don't Teach Bible Prophecy." Below are the five reasons from his article:

- *They don't understand prophecy
- *They fear offending members of the church
- *They sense it will scare people
- *They fear people will stop giving
- *They fear looking like fringe groups who take things to an extreme.

Even though written several years ago, the list remains relevant today! Fear stands out as the key motive behind the silence. Pastors also say they do not understand prophecy, but do they take the time to learn or turn to those who do understand it?

Someone might ask: "Why does that matter? Does it really make a difference if preachers keep quiet on future things as long as they proclaim the Gospel with biblical clarity?"

It not only matters a great deal, but it's risky to ignore a topic that the BIBLE emphasizes over and over again. The neglect of biblical prophecy in the pulpit results in:

Believers Relying Upon social media and the Internet for End Times Theology

Many pastors remain silent on biblical prophecy, believers look for information on biblical prophecy on social media and the Internet. There they find a wide array of teachings and opinions, some biblical, but most are false and misleading...

The Flourishing of False Teaching

Many pastors fear causing division in their congregation and thus remain silent on matters related to the Rapture. However, they fail to realize that it's their refusal to preach on what the BIBLE says on this matter that has led to the diversity of opinions in their churches. The potential disunity is there even if they

remain quiet!

Believers Look to this Life for Their Immediate Hope

Another consequence of silence in the pulpits regarding future things is that believers look for hope in things other than Jesus' imminent appearing. A popular theology today, often referred to as "dominion theology," teaches that the church will prevail against the evils of this world and usher in a millennial reign of its own before Jesus returns to the earth. Many Christians falsely believe the church itself is their hope for the future. Additionally, even pastors who not adhere to "dominion theology" also make the 'church' the object of hope for those that hear them preach. Those who allegorize the book of Revelation often, in my experience, change its message to exalt the church rather than JESUS...

Reduce Motivation for Godly Living

The LORD intended our hope in the 'Rapture' to be a motivation for godly living! John wrote these words in 1 John 3:2-3: "**Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we will be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**" Our hope in Jesus' imminent return has a purifying impact on our lives...!

Silence in the pulpits regarding our "blessed hope" leaves those in the seats assuming they have their whole lives ahead of them although SCRIPTURE tells us this may not be the case. For many, this negates the urgency to walk closely with the Lord.

Believers that are Unprepared for the Dangers that Lie Ahead for this World

The scarcity of preaching on biblical prophecy leaves believers unprepared and unaware of the dark and threatening storm clouds gathering on our horizon. The BIBLE promises that Jesus may come at any time but we may experience tough times before that happens.

The war in Ukraine has led to a humanitarian crisis not

seen since WWII and will very likely lead to critical food shortages throughout the world by the end of 2022. We live in perilous times, and they are about to get much worse!

The current silence in the pulpits not only shifts the hope of the saints to this life, but leaves them ill-prepared to deal with ever-present threats of nuclear war and famine. IF focus is solely on their future in this life these things will cause anxiety.

Today more than ever before, believers need the assurance of SCRIPTURE regarding their joyful and glorious future. Pastors who refuse to teach about Jesus' imminent appearing from the pulpit deny their people critically needed assurance as the threats of war and famine increase with each passing day.

Believers not Watching for the Lord's Appearing as Jesus Instructed us to do

Referring to His return, Jesus said this in Matthew 24:44, "*Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*" In the same discourse, HE later said, "*Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour*" v. 25:13.

JESUS' instruction led to a church that eagerly anticipated His return! In Philippians 3:20-21 Paul wrote this: "*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject all things to himself.*"

The Greek word for "await" in verse 20 denotes to an "intense anticipation" or an "excited expectation" of a future event in this text, Paul portrays believers as eagerly longing Jesus' appearing with great anticipation; they expected it to happen at any moment. When we watch for JESUS' appearing, we copy the eager expectancy of the early church to meet Jesus in the air.

Believers not Recognizing the Convergence of Prophetic Signs

My head is spinning from all that's happening in our world from a prophecy perspective. A few years ago, I believed that many signs of the approaching Tribulation were converging as never before, but today this reality has grow beyond what I could have imagined back then. As the shadow of the approaching Tribulation grows darker by the day, those aware of this convergence of prophetic signs recognize that JESUS' appearing to take us Home must be ever so close. I never thought I would hear a president of the United States of America talk openly about the need for New World Order, which during the Tribulation will morph into the kingdom of the antichrist! But yesterday, it happened as President Biden started talking about his commitment to it! I have long assumed this, but it's another matter to hear him talk about it as something that is going to happen.

The 'Rapture' may happen soon, and I pray it does! But if not, we will see our world rapidly deteriorate as critical food shortages develop and as the Coming New World continues to suppress the rights of people throughout the world!

Pastors, why not start preaching about biblical prophecy now rather than waiting until people in your church demand that you teach on this subject, or the threatening condition around leaves you no choice but to talk about the details of our joyous and imminent hope? In Tom Hughes' article titled "Five Reasons Pastors Don't Teach Bible Prophecy," he said this, "Let Jesus also be the example in what we teach and preach. He taught a great deal about His Second Coming and the signs surrounding it. We should, too."

A realistic look at our world is indeed scary and grows more ominous with each passing day, but we view current events through the lens of Scripture and what it promises us about our future, the LORD gives us strength and peace to face the joyous future that lies ahead of us!

We Will Fear Nothing

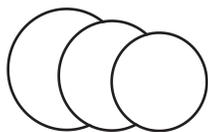
"If I did not see that the Lord kept watch over the ship, I should long since have abandoned the helm. But I see Him! Through the storm, strengthening the tackling, handling the yards, spreading the sails – aye more, commanding the very winds! Should I not be a coward if I abandoned my post? Let Him govern, let Him carry us forward, let Him hasten or delay, we will fear nothing!" Martin Luther

My Horse

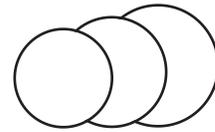
"My horse was very lame, and my head did ache exceedingly. Now what occurred I here avow as truth – though let each man account for it as he will. I cast my burden upon the Lord as I rode astride.

Immediately my wariness and headache ceased, and my horse was no longer lame!"

John Wesley



From Our Fellowship Circle



J. L.

Southern CA

I was raised by very devout Christian parents who brought me up teaching me about Jesus and His love. I was 14 years old when I gave my heart to Jesus under the teaching of a missionary while attending a summer Bible Camp. I knew then that I wanted to have a personal relationship with Jesus!

Upon graduation from high school, I attended California Lutheran Bible School for one year. It was there that I met my future wife. In 1968 I was drafted into the USA Army and spent one year in Vietnam. Upon returning from Vietnam, Ruth and I were married. We eventually had two sons, Joshua and Jeremiah. My growth in Christ has continued by my serving Him as a Sunday School teacher, AWANA leader, deacon, elder, and member of governing boards in churches I was a member of.

My career was as a police officer for 21 years, attaining the task of police sergeant. In August of 1993 I was injured and forced to retire. This was all in the Lord's plan, as He led me to the current job I have, which is a college professor.

In 2011 my oldest son was arrested and eventually sentenced to prison time. This event was a life-changing one for me. The LORD used this to bring me to the realization that my walk with HIM was not what it should be. *Yes*, I was attending church and serving in the church, but my commitment was incomplete. It was then that I recommitted my life to Jesus Christ, and since then my walk with Him has been constantly moving forward, and the relationship with Him has reached a new level. Now Christ is my everything, and without Him I am nothing! My desire is to continue to grow in my relationship with "Him", and to serve Him where HE calls me. I now put my complete trust in my God who reached down and saved me and completely rely on His leading me the direction He wants me to go!

I am currently involved in my church by serving as a deacon, leading a small group Bible Study, and regularly attending the Men's Bible Study. I also serve on the Advisory Board of Southern California Seminary, which is affiliated with my church.

My prayer, and my desire, is that I continually draw closer to my LORD as He continually draws closer to me, that I may serve Him to my fullest ability. In Christ,

Taken from *The Kenyan Call* —
Supporting the Gospel in Kenya

Editor's Note: My wife and I have had the privilege knowing him and his wife; and have been blest by the same!

Pastor B. R. K.

Princeton, MN

I am sending a message (article) that the Lord has laid on my heart for some time!

The LORD has been so especially good to my wife and me; as old-timers. I had my 90th birthday last month... During this month of August, we will be reaching 67 years of blessed wedlock. As the Psalmist says, "bless the Lord O my soul." That is our desire for the many blessings we receive. We are blest to receive the *Morning Glory* which has so many good articles in it. God Bless!

Feelings

Although you say you do see Him, Yet, justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him (Job 35:14)

There are many who in their spiritual life live in bondage to their feelings. They are dominated by them and all decisions are made by them. And the results are accordingly. Surrender your emotions to Jesus and He will change your emotions into servants where they are now your masters.

To be a Christian is not to base your life on certain 'feelings' but on a certain way of life! Faith and assurance build on quite another foundation than that of feelings. You must cast your anchor outside of yourself if you not to drift. *Otherwise*, the storms of life will **destroy** you.

Feelings have butterfly wings. They will stay by you for a moment, then noiselessly fly to another place. It takes so little to frighten them away. Unless they find honey, they will fly away even IF are not frightened.

It is not decisive that you feel God's nearness, but that HE sees you, sees that you are living honestly in the light with your God! Then any matter to be decided is laid before Him and You must wait on HIM.

HE does not change even though your feelings do.

There is nothing that is so unspeakably reassuring as to rest in the certainty that no matter how things go, I will still be permitted to be a child of God. HE always sees my problem.

Quiet Moments on the Way Home,
by Professor H. E. Wisloff

Believable... Yet Unbelievable

Kamala says abortion IS in line with Christianity

Baptist VP says there's 'nothing' about supporting abortion rights that requires Americans to 'abandon or change their faith'

Harris said on Friday that she sees no conflict between faith and abortion rights. She argued that she only wants to ensure women have a choice in the matter.

The Vice President said she had convened 'faith leaders' to discuss the matter. Harris is a practicing Baptist with a multi-faith family, including Jewish husband.

...

Vice President Kamala Harris has argued that there is no conflict between religious faith and support for national protections for abortion, as the Supreme Court is poised to issue a major ruling that could curtail abortion rights. Harris, a practicing Baptist from a multi-faith family background, told reporters on Friday that she had 'convened faith leaders' to discuss the abortion issue from a religious perspective.

'For those of us of faith, I think that we agree, many of us, that there's nothing about this issue that will require anyone to abandon their faith, or change their faith,' she said, referring to abortion.

'It's simply saying that the government should not have the ability to decide what an individual does with her own body – let her make that decision with her pastor or her rabbi, or whoever she consults,' added Harris. 'But it should not be the government making that decision.'

Harris, whose mother was a Hindu immigrant from India, was raised attending a Baptist church in Oakland, California.

She has said in interviews that she still regularly attends church and professes a Christian faith. Her husband Doug Emhoff is Jewish, making him the first Jewish spouse of a vice president.

By Keith Griffith for Dailymail.com, 17 June 2022

Canada Allows Assisted Suicide

In 2015, Canada's Supreme Court struck down a 22-year ban on assisted suicide. The next year, its parliament passed legislation allowing "MAID," or Medical Assistance in Dying for those who suffer from terminal illness and whose death was "reasonably foreseeable." Five years later, the "reasonably foreseeable" language

was dropped, as was the requirement of terminal illness.

Today, ending one's life with "medical assistance" simply requires a physician and a witness to agree that physical or mental suffering is such as "cannot be relieved under conditions that you (the patient) consider acceptable." Next year, that will expand to include anyone with a mental illness, like PTSD or depression. There's also talk about expanding the practice to include minors.

Soon, under Canadian law, someone accused of a crime "must possess the capacity to understand that his or her behaviour was wrong in order to be found guilty." However, someone will not need the mental capacity to understand the implications of "medical assistance in dying" in order to choose death.

None of which, we are told, should alarm us. Proponents of assisted death always point to "safeguards," such as physician approval, the uncoerced consent of the patient, or humane conditions.

Certain stories are elevated, such as Betty Sanguin, an ALS patient who chose to end her life in Churchill Park United Church, a progressive and LGBTQ Affirming Church in Manitoba, surrounded by friends, family, and clergy, who secured permission for a MAID team to kill her in their sanctuary.

The service was called a "Simple Crossing Over Ceremony" where Sanguin was able to 'let go of her hold on this life.' ...

Even in the so-called "safe" cases, a grave evil has been done. Life is sacred, a gift of God, and should never be thrown away. To intentionally end life in a church is not a blessing, it's a distortion and a blasphemy.

For the most part, the realities of doctor-assisted death look nothing like the beatific best-case scenarios described in the sales pitch. In particular, there are culture-wide implications for human dignity and value, something that euthanasia advocates seem unable or unwilling to predict. Many begin to believe that their lives are unworthy of life, their volition stolen, their dignity degraded. ...

Individuals are supposedly "free" to choose, but it is unclear just how often this decision is impacted by financial concerns. "Healthcare, particular for those suffering from chronic conditions, is expensive," wrote Zhu, "but assisted suicide only costs the taxpayer \$2,327 per 'case'." He concluded:

"Canadian law, in all its majesty, has allowed both

the rich as well as the poor to kill themselves if they are too poor to continue living with dignity. In fact, the ever-generous Canadian state will even pay for their deaths. What it will not do is spend money to allow them to live instead of killing themselves.”

For at least some of Canada’s poorest citizens, coercion in death is not some distant fear, promoted by scared conspiracy groups. The pressure is a daily reality.

Euthanasia in any form is a misguided answer to a real, human problem. Some face a life of unimaginable pain. The only acceptable and loving response is to provide the best compassion, care, and pain management possible.

Anytime a country, such as Canada, embraces “death with dignity” or “medical aid in dying” or some other euphemistically disguised lack of compassion, a price tag is placed on people. And, whenever a price tag is placed on something that is inherently priceless, it is cheapened. In Canada’s case, the money is going to the so-called “autonomy” of vulnerable people, instead of fighting for their lives.

Breakpoint.org, May 13, 2022

Take God out of our Schools?

Not that many years ago, people decided to “separate church and state” and remove all references to God, Jesus, the Cross, the Bible, Prayer and the Ten Commandments from our schools. How is that working?

This is a list of the schools where there have been fatal shootings:

- Sandy Hook Elementary School, December 14, 2012
- Hazard Community College, January 15, 2013
- Chicago State University, January 16, 2013
- University of Central Florida, March 18, 2013
- Santa Monica College, June 7, 2013
- North Panola High School, August 23, 2013
- Sparks Middle School, October 21, 2013
- Arapahoe High School, December 13, 2013
- Purdue University, January 21, 2014
- South Carolina State University, January 24, 2014
- Los Angeles Valley College, January 25, 2014
- Reynolds High School, June 10, 2014
- Marysville Pilchuck High School, October 24, 2014
- Umpqua Community College, October 1, 2015
- Independence High School, February 12, 2016
- UCLA Los Angeles, June 1, 2016
- Townville Elementary School, September 28, 2016
- Scullen Middle School, January 27, 2017

- North Park Elementary School, April 10, 2017
- North Lake College, May 4, 2017
- Rancho Tehama Elementary School, November 14, 2017
- Aztec High School, December 7, 2017
- Marshall County High School, January 23, 2018
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, February 14, 2018
- Central Michigan University, March 2, 2018
- Great Mills High School, March 20, 2018
- Santa Fe High School, May 18, 2018
- University of North Carolina, Charlotte, April 30, 2019
- STEM School, Highlands Ranch, May 7, 2019
- Saugus High School, November 14, 2019
- Pleasantville High School, November 15, 2019
- Searles Elementary School, November 23, 2019
- Sarah J. Anderson Elementary, November 26, 2019
- Bellaire High School, January 14, 2020
- Texas A&M University, February 3, 2020
- Oxford High School, November 30, 2021
- Bridgewater College, February 1, 2022
- Robb Elementary School, May 24, 2022

The above list is just a summary of school shootings where there were fatalities. “The U.S has had 2,032 school shootings since 1970 and these numbers are increasing. Alarmingly, 948 school shootings have taken place since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012.” “Since the historic attack at Columbine High School in 1999, 300,000 students have been on campus during a school shooting.”

SandyHookPromise.org

Perversion

Genesis 1:27-28 states, “*And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”* God’s purpose and design of mankind was a man and a woman to come together after holy matrimony and enter into a sexual union that had the capacity to produce offspring. Any other sexual design, as between two men or two woman, does not have the capacity to produce offspring and is a perversion of God’s design. Any person, group or institution which teaches this is against God.

A Seared Conscience

“By means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.” (I Tim. 4:2)

In the ancient world, when the doctors were unable to stop the flow of blood in a wound, one of the ways they were able to do that was to cauterize the wound. This was done with a hot iron. Can you imagine this before anesthetic? You have a wound and the doctor brings over an iron that is stoked red hot in a fire. The hot iron gets pressed on the wound and you would pass out from the pain. When you wake up, you realize the blood flow has stopped, but that is not all that has happened. The whole area where the hot iron was applied no longer has any feeling. The hot iron not only stopped the bleeding, but it also killed the nerves so that that area is beyond feeling. It has been seared with a hot iron.

This is what some people’s consciences are like: they no longer feel evil. Great acts of evil are going on and the people don’t have any feelings that anything is wrong. They can lie without blushing – they can cheat and steal and even murder without a qualm. How can anyone get to this point to where they can commit even the most heinous acts of evil and not even lose any sleep over it? It is because their consciences have been seared and they are past feeling. Just like the dead nerves left in the wound where the hot iron was applied, the conscience that is seared has no feeling whatsoever – it is absolutely numb. Ephesians 4:19 describes people like this: *“Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”* When they no longer have any feeling, nothing can penetrate a conscience like this and people just give themselves over to more and more evil.

Jesus described people like this. *“They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.”* (John 16:2) How could anyone who kills Christians think that they are doing a service to God? Because they are seared in their conscience and they believe that wrong is right and their service of devotion to the utmost is to eliminate people who have a different view of God. Even their natural sense of right and wrong and even murder doesn’t even phase them. This is precisely what is happening in many countries around the world today under primarily Islamic terrorists.

This is also what Saul of Tarsus was doing before he was converted. When Stephen was stoned to death, *“And Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.”* (Acts 8:1) Saul watched in joyful glee as they murdered Stephen in cold blood. He then went on to conduct his own personal war against the church of Jesus Christ.

“But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. (Acts 8:3) It took a blinding vision of the Lord Jesus Himself to turn him from such a seared conscience.

When we see people who we would describe as “maniacs” take a gun and shoot people indiscriminately without any qualms, these are people with a seared conscience. It is happening so much today that it is hardly news anymore. It happens almost on a daily basis somewhere in our country. Even minor irritations between people, like a traffic encounter, can lead to shots being fired and innocent people and children end up being the victims. A doctor dismembers an infant to perform an abortion, and even lays out all the pieces together so that they are sure they got it all. How can someone like this see that and not realize they have committed a heinous act of murder? This shows you where a lot of people are at in their thinking and their conscience.

Is this only a warning for the heathen out in society and not a warning for the people in the church? NO! This follows what the Apostle Paul described as what will be happening in the church in the last days! *“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.”* (I Timothy 4:1)

These people whom the Apostle Paul is describing are people who were once in a proper doctrinal church and were then deceived by a false demonized teacher and fell away from a true faith in Jesus. They believed teachings that are from the very demons of hell and swallowed it up as a “new and enticing doctrine.” They then went on to a life of hypocrisy and ended up with a seared conscience! It is as though they once knew the truth and now had forsaken it and now God brings a worse deception upon them because they have forsaken the truth. You see this demonstrated in Scripture.

“And with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.” (II Thessalonians 2:10-12)

Just how important is it that we stay the course on preaching and teaching the truth of the Scripture? The very future of true spiritual life and salvation depends upon it, and the very course of what people will end up doing in their personal lives in society will be affected by it as well.

Pastor Jim Haga
Hagapublishing.com

In Jesus' Name

John 16:23-28

Much in this passage of Scripture could use explanation, but for the purposes of this writing, and for brevity, I would like to focus on what I think is probably the central idea, and that is the matter of praying in Jesus' Name. I am confident that readers of this magazine are probably familiar with the words, In Jesus' Name: we use them in our prayers all the time, don't we? Often that's how we end our prayers. We say, In Jesus' Name. Amen.

We are so accustomed to using those words that the idea of praying in Jesus' Name may not stand out to us as having the significance in this passage of Scripture that it actually does. I know I didn't realize it until I began this study.

I was helped in my own prayer life by the things I learned as I worked through this passage, and my prayer is that all who read may be similarly helped.

To make it as clear as I can, I would like to use the following outline:

1. What is Jesus saying about praying in His Name?
2. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' Name?
3. What difference does it make in our prayer lives that we pray in Jesus' Name?

First, what is Jesus saying? Actually, this passage of Scripture isn't the easiest to understand. Even the disciples were having a hard time understanding some of what Jesus was saying. He said in verse 12 of this same chapter that He had many other things to say to them, but they weren't ready to hear them. They weren't ready, at least in part because the thought that Jesus would be crucified was almost impossible for them to fathom.

Yet things would be happening soon, and they needed this teaching now. Jesus was going to be arrested that very night, crucified the next day, and on the third day He would rise again from the dead. Jesus spoke of these things in what He called figurative language or proverbs when He said, "A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me."

In the wider sense, an historic transition was about to take place. It is interesting that both the word crux and the word crucifixion, have similar roots. Both are related to the word cross. And to me it is notable that the crucifixion stands at the crux of history. The crucifixion and the events connected with it the resurrection, ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit, stand at the dividing point between Old Testament and New Testament history.

This major transition was about to happen. The dis-

ciples would live through it. And the next chapter in their lives would be life in the New Testament era. So a big change was about to take place, and Jesus wanted to prepare them for it.

And what Jesus had to say to them applies very directly to us, because the New Testament era, which they were about to enter, is also the era that we live in today. So what Jesus was teaching them about prayer He is also teaching us.

So what is Jesus saying? Let's add a few words of explanation to verses 23-24, "And in that day you will ask Me nothing (explanation: physically face to face after I'm gone). Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name (explanation: because asking in my name is new to you and you haven't needed to do so until now because I have been physically with you). Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

He was teaching them that now in their prayers, they would begin the practice of praying in Jesus' Name. Familiar as the practice is to us, I hadn't thought about it being a new thing for the disciples. But it was. Jesus here is granting to His disciples and to all of us a great privilege, the privilege of coming to the Father and making requests of Him **in Jesus' name**. And he said that whatever we ask in His Name we would receive, and He said it would give us fullness of Joy. That's what's happening here in this passage of Scripture.

So secondly, now that we know what is happening here in this Scripture, the question is, What does it really mean to pray in the name of Jesus? Both for those immediate disciples and for us, what does it mean?

Does it just mean that we need to end our prayers doing what we do by saying In Jesus' Name. Amen? Is it using those words that makes our prayer a prayer in Jesus' Name? Does it mean that if we don't use those words we are not actually praying in Jesus' Name?

The short answer to all of those questions is, No. It is not just a matter of the words we say.

Ok, so, very practically, what does it mean?

One answer is given to us in our Catechism, question #269, where it asks, "What is meant by praying in the name of Jesus?" The answer it gives is this: "To pray in the name of Jesus is to ask on the strength of what He has done for us, and His intercession with the Father." You may have memorized that in Confirmation class.

Alright, so how do we do that? Luther helps by using the word "authority." We make requests of the Father on Jesus' authority.

With that in mind, let's put it this way: Suppose you

were to walk into the bank where I have an account and say to the teller, Please give me a hundred dollars. Jim said that I could have a hundred dollars from his account. What kind of reaction do you suppose you would get from that teller? He'd probably look at you kind of funny and say something like, I can't just do that. I need some kind of authorization.

But now suppose I had written you a check for \$100, and you brought that check into the bank and you asked to cash it, or to put it into your account, it would be a whole different story, wouldn't it? The teller would recognize from looking at the check that you have come in my name and on my authority. The check would authorize you to receive a hundred dollars from my account. In fact, the check would actually be an expression of my will that you receive that money. And so, the teller would probably first verify the strength of the account to make sure the funds are there, and he would grant your request, which he would understand to be not only your request, but actually my request, because I had written the check, pay to the order of (you). To express that situation in the words of Jesus, so that we can understand what Jesus meant, it would be as if I could say, Most assuredly I say to you, that whatever you ask the teller in my name, he will give it to you.

Similarly, we ask on the strength of what Jesus has done. Just as my account was good, so the resources of Christ's finished work are there. Also, we ask on the strength of His intercession with the Father and on His authority, which means that we are in agreement with Jesus, and He is in agreement with us when we pray in His Name. And Jesus is telling us here that in this way, when we pray in His Name, the Father will give us whatever we ask for, because it is what Jesus wants.

So thirdly, how does praying in Jesus' Name affect our prayer lives? First, it should give us great confidence in prayer, especially when we know we are asking for the kinds of things that Jesus Himself would ask for and did ask for.

It doesn't mean we can't ask for other things too: the Bible says in Philippians 4:6 to bring everything to God in prayer, not in a name it and claim it kind of a way, but just knowing that God cares about every detail of our lives. We don't always know what the will of God is on a lot of things, things such as for physical healing, or to find something we lost, or even to win the ball game, but that doesn't mean we can't ask, as long as we say, or even just have it in our hearts to mean, Lord, if it is your will, and then trust that whatever God does or doesn't do is right.

There are also prayer requests we might make that God says He will not grant. James says, "You ask and do

not receive because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." That can sound like a contradiction to the promise of receiving whatever we ask in Jesus' Name, but it's not, because asking wrongly to spend it on our own passions doesn't exactly fit the definition of praying in Jesus' Name.

But just think what kind of backing we have and what resources are available to us when we do pray in the name of Jesus on the basis of His will and on His authority!

The power we have in prayer is the power of the creator of the heavens and the earth. He is able to call into being what did not exist. He could open the Red Sea to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians. He could still the storm on the Sea of Galilee and bring a great calm. He could turn water into wine, He could heal sick people with a touch or a word. He could feed a crowd with a small bit of food, and have more left over than what He started with. He could say, I am He, and cause all the soldiers who came to arrest Him to fall to the ground. Ephesians 3:20 tells us He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Jesus' authority likewise is vast beyond our comprehension. He showed His authority over demons, whether one or a legion, by commanding them to leave and they left, sometimes dramatically. He showed His authority to forgive sins by healing the lame man so that he took up his mat and went home. And what did He say just before commissioning us to make disciples of all the nations? He said, All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Can you imagine that? ALL Authority? Kings, kingdoms, governments; weather, timing, angels, demons, circumstances you name it, and it is under Christ's authority, and He is able to move mountains in order to accomplish His will.

Praying in Jesus' Name also means that we are in a spiritual battle. Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil, says 1 John 3:8, so we can be confident that when we pray in Jesus' Name against the work of the devil and for the advancement of God's kingdom, we are praying with great power. And because that's true we can also expect that the devil will do his best to stop us from praying by making prayer as difficult as possible.

He'll try to discourage us from prayer by tempting us to think that prayer is too weak, or too unnecessary, that God already knows, so why pray, or that God isn't listening, or doesn't hear us anyway.

He will try to distract us from prayer, by reminding us at prayer time of other things we need to do, and of how important they are, and before one distraction is taken care of, he throws up another, and before we know it the day has gone by and we have not prayed.

We need to recognize the schemes of the devil for what they are, and give prayer its proper priority. Jesus got away by Himself to pray sometimes when there were plenty of people that would have wanted Him to heal them or help them in some way. And sometimes spending the night in prayer was a priority over sleep. What might praying in Jesus' Name mean for our priorities? Part of the battle is just getting to it. It would be good if we would turn discouragements and distractions from prayer into reminders of prayers importance, and defeat the devil at his own game.

I like this quote from A.W. Tozer: A praying Christian is a constant threat to the stability of Satan's government. The Christian is a holy rebel loose in the world with access to the throne of God. Satan never knows from what direction the danger will come.

Another thing I came to realize about praying in Jesus' Name is how it helps us in our worthiness to pray.

On the one hand, we may be tempted to think that God is more inclined to listen to us when we are spiritually up, so to speak, when we have good religious feelings, when we have read our Bibles, been blessed through Christian music, have done loving Christian acts, have cozied into a warm Christian fellowship group. Nothing wrong with those good feelings etc., but we need to remember when we pray that it is not on account of those things that God hears us. We don't come in our own name, we come in Christ's name, and it is Christ and His work and His authority, and His intercession that makes our prayers accepted and effective at His throne. I don't mean to burst anybody's good feelings bubble, but the truth is that if we can be deceived one way, then we can be deceived the other way too, and avoid prayer when we are not feeling so up.

And so on the other hand, praying in Jesus' Name means that God is not less inclined to listen to us because of our feelings of unworthiness. Sometimes the devil tempts us not to pray by somehow getting us into a mood or state of mind where we feel we can't pray. Perhaps we have just sinned in some way that makes us feel unworthy and ashamed to come into the presence of God, and the devil whispers, "You can't pray now. Do you really think God would accept you after what you've done? Why don't you wait until after you've suffered through a period of guilt, until you have more holy feelings, until the memory of what you did fades enough for you not to feel so ashamed?"

Or perhaps as we are about to have a time of prayer, something happens, or somebody says something that irks us and we become angry, and ungodly feelings get riled up within us, and we feel like we'd almost rather do anything but pray. And the devil tells us, "You can't go to

God now! Why should He even listen to anybody that comes with the attitude you've got right now? You'd better wait till you simmer down, until you've got better control of yourself, until you can come to God with a more spiritual tone."

It is then we need to remind ourselves that we do not pray in our own name, but in the name of Jesus. Luther says, "Why do you torture yourself for a long time and enter into a debate with the devil, or why do you look for excuses and shrink from praying because you feel cold and unready? Christ wants you to pray in His name. You have His command and His promise. It is as though He were saying: 'My dear friend, it does not matter in what condition you are. If you cannot pray on your own authority and in your name, as indeed you should not, then please pray in My name. If you are not worthy and holy enough, let Me be holy and worthy enough for you. Just come on My authority and in My name.' And do not doubt that such a prayer is pleasing to God and that it is heard as surely as the name of Christ, God's own dear Son, is pleasing to Him, and as surely as God must say 'yea' and 'amen' to all that Christ asks for."

I don't know about you, but I'm blessed by that, because I've had times when I don't feel ready to pray, but this is what we need to remember. This is how we resist the devil, firm in our faith, and give honor to the Name of Jesus in which we pray.

When we feel least ready to pray and most unworthy to pray, we can come to God even then, confessing our sin and unworthiness, and throwing ourselves upon the mercy of God. I call this audacity. It probably isn't audacity because Jesus invites us to come boldly to His throne of grace. But it sure can feel like audacity. When we have just fallen in sin it can feel like audacity to believe right then and there. When our guilt is screaming at us, even then the grace of God covers us. And in view of our faith in Jesus, God accounts us righteous and pleasing in His sight, and that therefore we can pick up and go on living for Jesus. Likewise, praying in Jesus' Name means that we can have that same audacity when we come in our unworthiness to God in prayer, because our faith is not in ourselves but in Jesus, and in the promises of God.

"Ask," Jesus says. God wants us to ask, because He loves us, and because through Christ He can do what He delights to do, which is to pour out His blessings on unworthy and undeserving people such as ourselves. May it not be that we have not because we ask not. "Ask, and you will receive," He says, "that your joy may be full."

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Strong In Battle

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.” (Ephesians 6:10)

The battle is not against flesh and blood! It is not a war among people as we usually think of war. It is a spiritual warfare. No cannon is seen or heard, no saber glitters in the sunshine, and no bayonet is used against the enemy. BUT it is war nevertheless; anyone who is anxious to save his (own) soul will soon discover that.

The hours of wickedness arrayed against the Christian can possibly be separated into two groups. The one group is described in our text as principalities, powers, and world rulers of this darkness. This *must* be those people who live outside of fellowship with God.

It is still true that in most places on this earth true Christianity has not penetrated very far into the life of the people. They have the power in this age, and it is likely that we shall have no change until Christ returns! Only rarely do they rule in harmony with God’s Word and Holy Spirit. The spirit of the world is like a boa constrictor that is ready to rush its victim; Christians meet it on every hand. As long as there is a spark of spiritual life in your and my heart we shall have to battle against this evil spirit, if we do not, our Christianity will soon be a thing of the past.

The Christian needs to be clad in the full armor of God at all times; his battlefield is in the worldly home, the worldly business places, in worldly (as we live in this sinful world) society, in town halls or the halls of Congress. Briefly, a Christian must be prepared for war wherever he is!! He who thinks himself spiritually secure will soon discover that the world is a strong and dangerous enemy of *everything* that is from God.

Christians of a generation or two ago were very much afraid of keeping too much company with worldly people; *possibly* (?) they went too far in that direction. They forgot that it was not human beings they were to turn away from, but the spirit which dominates in the world. Christianity has been made to fit into the scheme of things in the world. Christians of the present day are not afraid of being associated with worldly people in business or politics. When worldly people are reasonable in their attitudes, as they frequently are, it is so easy

for the Christian to lay the Sword aside. BUT then he does not have to go much further before he is a friend of the world and an enemy of God.

The friendship of the world is enmity with GOD!

It appears so innocent to be friendly with the world, it looks so refined too! BUT it is not long before the ‘friendship’ is found to be delectable than the company of Christians. When that happens, we are on ‘slippery ice’; only God’s Grace can keep us from falling! As a fly is caught and loses its life in a web of exceedingly fine threads woven by the spider, so have many Christians been caught in the web of worldliness and have lost their lives! They died *quietly*, yet so surely. They forgot that they were at WAR; this is the tragedy that spelled their doom.

Here — precisely here — many present-day Christians are in great danger; many have already been deceived, perhaps even without knowing it? While they are boasting of having progressed far beyond the gloomy spirituality of the pietists they have landed in a veritable black death; they have pinned a Christian badge on the lapel of a worldly spirit. They still want to be known as Christians. This humbug is frequently paraded as Christianity that has been liberated from ignorance and superstition; it is Christianity that has grown to maturity!

“Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

**To resist with all might
On every hand
Is both proper and right
For him who will stand.
But it takes more than this wreath to win,
Persistency alone will conquer sin!**

Excerpt taken from *Spirit and Power* by Ludvig Hope,
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Federation.

*“If you can’t come to Christ
in brokenness, come to Christ
for brokenness.”*

C.H. Spurgeon

Keeping Up

By Pastor Bill R. King, Princeton, MN

As a Christian, a person makes an intentional long-term decision, applying Biblical Truths to their daily life. This commitment is dynamic and life changing, growing in Grace. Turning one's life over to JESUS involves forgiveness from 'sin' and being a recipient of the Gift of Salvation. Faith in Jesus is the basis, as He imparts peace, hope, joy, and a future in Eternity! The Holy Spirit of the Lord causes Biblical truth to impact one's life-style, world view, decision making and habit development. Then a person is following the Holy Spirit's leading (Obedience) and it will have 'influence' upon others and trustingly some will come to Jesus as their personal Savior, which is Divine Redemption.

Having received possession of "new-life", a convert will desire to avoid any of the negative experiences that some Bible characters had. An initial example is the 'sin' of Adam & Eve disregarding (disobeying) GOD's instruction; which was only for their 'benefit/good'. His son Cain had a wrong (bitter) spirit, taking his brother's life. One of King David's sins was of a moral nature, planning his neighbor's decease so he could then marry the man's widow to cover his adultery. His son Solomon followed him on the throne. In 1 Kings 11:9 it says, "*The Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel...*"

New Testament incidents include Peter, one of Jesus' disciples who on one occasion when questioned denied it. We could add Ananias, a believer who was untruthful, and God dealt severely with him! Others could be cited who yielded to temptation, or as it says in Revelation 2:4, "Left their first love" and in verse five are advised to "...Repent and do their first works..." Spoken to people in the Ephesus church. To willfully serve JESUS, one need not **DETAIN** in their association with God!

Instead of being victimized by Satan's pitfalls, our Heavenly Father has offered us sufficient Grace for the hour(s); thus, we can have 'victory' over him. A convert to CHRIST can experience and MAINTAIN a faithful journey with HIM! The 'key' in remaining 'faithful' unto HIM, is to be in personal fellowship with Him each day! This includes daily Bible reading and prayer, as well as living by its precepts. Then it is possible to live in a maturing of faith. Paul the Apostle wrote in Colossians 1:23 "...Continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast and are not moved away from the Gospel ..." This means not wavering or given to change, but being resolute.

To **SUSTAIN** your commitment (fellowship) to the SAVIOR requires perseverance, setting your heart to do God's Will, not your own! No longer merely going with

this sinful world's flow, but be earnest as you take your stand for JESUS! In spite of difficulty, persecution and opposition, one must be persistent even if tenacity is necessary, down the road, but with the indwelling Person of the Holy Spirit. In this way a person can **RETAIN** A godly, overcoming, victorious life. Endeavor to endure and not let down, but with God's help withstand. HE is willing to restore, revive, renew and refresh YOU as you WALK **WITH JESUS**, by Faith alone, Word alone & Grace alone! This is a spiritual upkeep, giving you vitality, invigorating the soul. Hebrews 3:14 says, "**For we have partaken of Christ if we hold to the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.**" It is well to keep your relationship renewed daily with JESUS Up – to -Date!

The Night Watch

"Behold, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who by night stand in the house of the Lord!"
(Psalm 134:1)

There was a constant change of hours for the priests who kept watch in the temple!

Some kept watch in the daytime which was a festive service. The temple was full of people and a certain glory attended the service, even for the priests.

Others had the night watch when everything was silent. No one saw them. Their job was to clean the temple and to prepare everything that was for the daytime. The hours dragged on! Discontent and sleep moved in so easily!

There are those who also today keep the night watch in God's temple. They are so utterly alone. At home or among others there are so few that relate to them. No one will listen to what they have to say! Worst of all, it seems so often that God is far away! There is night!

Some are called into the night watch of sickness. You are set aside and feel so useless. Your future plans lie crushed. You feel that you cannot accomplish anything.

BUT the night watch is also a holy service. You are to prepare what others will need in their service. Perhaps this is a call to intercessory prayer. God has called you into this type of service to test your faithfulness.

Fill the 'night watch' with songs of praise. God is listening for this melody in the stillness of the night.

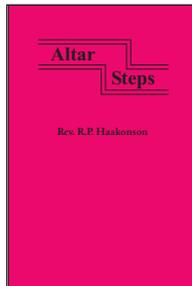
Quiet Moments On the Way Home, by H. E. Wisloff,
Faith & Fellowship Press.

The Hauge Library

We have the following publications available for you. They can be ordered using the envelope in the center. Postage will be paid by an anonymous donor.

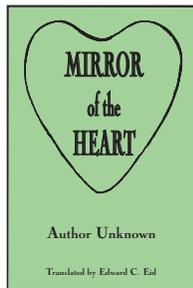
Altar Steps

This daily devotional was written by Pastor R.P. Haakonson and was published in 1947. It is suitable for families with children. It has illustrations from daily life, and a strong salvation emphasis. Suggested offering: \$8.00.



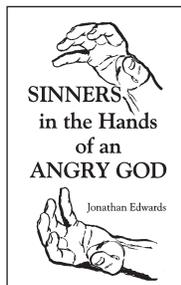
Mirror of the Heart

This book was published in 1900 by an unknown author. It contains some very earnest meditations and fervent prayers. It also contains ten very graphic pictures of the human heart. Inside the heart, the devil is visualized and also seven animals representing some of the most prevalent sins found in the heart of the impenitent sinner. These pictures show how these animals are driven out of the heart when the sinner is converted to God, but how they re-enter the heart when a person falls away from grace. One picture visualizes the fearful death of the ungodly, and another shows the blessed death of the righteous. Suggested Offering: \$3.00.



Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Jonathan Edwards preached this remarkable sermon at Enfield, Conn. on July 8, 1741. It was at night while he was reading it to a large congregation, that the lights became dim and he read with difficulty, and the influence was so great on the congregation that strong men and women cried and screamed for mercy and even grabbed their seats for fear they would slide into hell that very moment. Suggested Offering: \$1.00.



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Mark Your Calendar!

Plan to prayerfully attend:

The Hauge Lutheran Bible Conference
Liberty Lutheran Brethren Church in Fargo, ND
October 21-23, 2022

Pastor Elroy Vesta as Host Pastor.

Details will be in the September issue of the *Morning Glory*

WELCOME!

Welcome to Mr. Ronnie Nelson of Flaxton, ND as a new member the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. He is a new 'vessel' in this part of the Lord's Kingdom Work, here on Earth. May you experience many rich blessings from the ONE who changes not. As you serve Him in this capacity, may our Living Savior be glorified as we work together!