



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • August 2023

## His Grace, Our Witness

By J. F. Strombeck

**W**hile grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, the witness of grace has been committed to man. *“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”* (John 1:6-8)

The fact that the witness was a man and that his name was John can hardly be without importance. It has been given to man to bear witness of the LIGHT! The name John means “God is gracious.”

It is most fitting that the name of the witness should so harmonize with his ‘message’. Is it not equally fitting that the one to whom was entrusted the writing of the Gospel which records the bringing of grace and truth should also be named John?

This man who bore witness was “*sent from God,*” a most essential condition for one who is to bear witness to grace. Such a one will be fully qualified to bear witness of GRACE. He came to bear witness of the LIGHT. It is of the Light and the Light alone! No other issues are involved.

It is in no sense a witness of anything that is good in man or the accomplishments of man. It does not expose the deeds of darkness. The Light itself will do that. It is not of the guilt of the world. That is the testimony of (God’s) Law (Romans 3:19)

So also, he who would bear to the world witness of the Light must center his whole message in Him by whom came grace and truth. It must tell of what HE is and what He has

done. There is no room here for a moral reform or social betterment program!

He came to bear witness of the Light that all men through him might believe. Here is the first mention in John’s Gospel of the word “believe” (Ed. the word ‘believe’ means to come to faith in action; not just head knowledge) This word includes within itself all that man must do in order to become partakers of grace and truth (Ed. As you know, repentance first).

It is used in its various forms about a hundred times in this Gospel.

JESUS SAID that it was God’s work to cause men to believe on Him whom God had sent (John 6:29) and the purpose of the writing of the GOSPEL was that men might believe and believing, might have life (John 20:31).

IF, anything more than believing were necessary to receive eternal life, then it most assuredly would have been mentioned in that Book which is especially written to show the way to Eternal Life!

“He (*John the Baptist*) was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light” (1:18). He was but a witness of the Light. HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS! Under GRACE man is not the light of the world. ONLY the WORD that was with *God* and was GOD is the Light of the world.

Grace is God’s infinite provision in love and that includes regeneration or the gift of Eternal Life, which is infinitely more than mere restoration of the life that was lost by Adam’s sin.

# Morning Glory

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*“He who is justified stands in grace and has access to that grace by faith”* (Romans 5:2) ALL that the believer is, is by GRACE (I Corinthians 15:10) and GOD’S GRACE is sufficient to meet ALL needs (II Corinthians 12:9).

*Gifts for “the perfecting of the saint, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come...unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ,”* are said to be grace given “according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:7-13)

Then there is “the grace that is to be brought ...at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (I Peter 1:13) This is the culminating provision of the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus.

In all this is grace not only to redeem and justify the sinner, but to take him through the vicissitudes of his earthly life and finally conform him to the image of the Son of God.

That is grace upon grace! This is the grace and truth that came by Jesus Christ. It is all of the fullness of Christ and in no way comes from the effort of man.

In bringing this message of grace upon grace, John realized that he was nothing in himself. He was but “the voice of one crying in the wilderness” (vs. 23). He was but an instrument used by ANOTHER! That is the true condition of man witnessing to the Grace. (Romans 6:13)

Sword of the Lord

# My times are in thy hand

Psalm 31:15

Every human being has a certain span of life! In this span of life there are certain periods which are especially bright and good, while others are filled with tribulation and sorrow.

Who decides what our days shall be like?

Sometimes it may seem that everything that happens is only accidental, without any plan. And behind the accidental the powers of evil *seem* to play an important part.

But this is not true! Nothing is accidental! And the powers of evil cannot decide what the life of a child of God shall be like. God stands behind all that happens. “My times are in thy hand.”

He who learns to see this receives a wonderful feeling of security. The burdens of life are not so hard to bear when we realize that GOD stands behind all that happens. And the future will not be dark and dismal IF we believe that all our times are in God’s Hands!

*Streams of Gladness* by Fredrik Wisloff,  
Augsburg Publishing House

\* \* \* \* \*

## Jesus has Scars

By Pastor Troy Tysdal

On July 9, 2020, a six-year-old boy and his four-year-old sister were at a friend’s house. After growing bored inside, the three children decided to play in the backyard. Upon entering the yard, the friend pointed to one dog and said, “That’s the nice dog.” He then pointed to a second dog, a German Shepherd, and said, “That’s the mean one.”

Immediately, the mean one trotted over to the little girl! Her older brother could tell the dog intended to harm her, so he stepped between them. The dog tried to go around him, but the boy refused to let it pass. He knew the danger. He later said, ‘one of us had to die, I thought it should be me.’

HE WAS SIX!

When the dog was blocked a second time from reaching the little girl, it bit the boy on his face! It grabbed hold of him, tearing him open below the eye to the corner of the mouth. Later, it would take ninety stitches to put his face back together! When the dog finally let go, the boy did not cry for help. Instead, he stood up, put himself between the dog and his sister

again, and took her to a place in the yard where he thought she would be safe.

My heart sank as the nightly news broadcast photos of the young boy’s face! It was as IF all the world’s brokenness was held in that one image! At that moment, my son’s voice cut through the room, reminding me of the Gospel! HE said, “That’s what Jesus did for us.” I asked him, “How so?” and he replied, “The devil wants to destroy us, but Jesus steps in front of him.” (*Isaiah 53:4-5*)

Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by GOD, Stricken by Him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

We are all helpless little four-year-olds, and the enemy of our souls is in the yard. The Apostle Peter tells us, “The devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”! (1 Peter 5:8). We appear defenseless to such a foe. Our sin has left us exposed! In our frailty, he *whispers that we are abandoned*. In our strength, he tells us that we are *gods!* When we are kind, he tells us that we are righteous!

What a clever foe! He crosses the yard, hell-bent to harm us! The power of his jaws is unmatched, but JESUS steps in. The enemy’s bite offers no mercy, Judas betrays Him with a kiss, Pilate washes his hands, the sun refuses to shine, Peter denies him as the rooster crows, until finally it is finished, and the lifeless body of Jesus is placed in a (borrowed) tomb! The punishment that brought us peace was on HIM!

The Apostle Paul writes, “None of the rulers of this age understand it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” 1 Corinthians 2:8. The rulers of this age were bent on evil, but what they intended for evil, God meant for good! As Jesus gave up His Spirit, the chains of Hell were broken forever.

Do you have scars? I am sure that you do! Some are visible, and others remain hidden, so deep you dare not speak of them. Hear this: your scars will soon disappear. A day is coming when the only scars you will see will be those that belong to our Lord.

When your enemy attacks you with your sin, remind him of the One who scars mark the wound by which we have been healed, the One whose scars hold all the brokenness of the world. That will silence Him, until the day he is silenced forever by our Savior!

Faith & Fellowship

## *Crisis Among The Youth*

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Today, we are watching our beloved country sink to new lows as things *seem* to be getting darker and darker. For example, there was open satanic worship at the recent Grammy Awards ceremony, televised live. Other entertainment such as movies, cartoons, and video games all are seeking to influence our society (Ed. As we live in a sinful world, and sinners enjoy the pleasures of sin for the present time – NOT “*choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.*” Hebrews 11:25.) down a very dark path, especially targeting our young people. Progressives have infiltrated much of our public education system, influencing our children with their “woke agenda.” Starting at the youngest ages. Many, youth are walking away from the faith of their parents and grandparents. Politicians are seeking to destroy and rebuild everything our Country has been founded on. Addiction and suicide among the young are off the charts! This darkness confronts our senses and has the potential to pull us into despair and hopelessness IF we allow it to. IF we spend most of our time watching and listening to the secular media, it can weigh our hearts down, causing us to sink into a “slough of despond.” BUT that is not God’s will for us, and we must resist it with all our hearts!

### *YOUTH AWAKENING AS WELL*

It is also true that GOD is moving powerfully in our Country! IF we will look, we will find that there are many encouraging things taking place. A number of powerful Christian-themed movies are being released and are finding tremendous support (Ed. ??). Reports are being heard of student-led renewal of prayer, worship and intercession going on across our Nation..... We must also see that we still have a vital role to play in our day. God isn’t finished with us yet! We must grieve no longer over the thought of “*things will never be the way they were.*” ...

### *THE POWER OF FOCUS*

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (vs. 2).

We must not allow ourselves to be distracted or entertained into a state of apathy. We must focus first and foremost on JESUS. He is, and always will be, the focal point of our lives. IF we have allowed the enemy’s work to have more influence over our attitudes and disposition, we need to re-focus our hearts on the Lord until our hearts are lifted up in hope and faith. Through worship and being in the Word, we behold Him and are transformed into His image (11 Corinthians 3:18). The evidence of our having been with Jesus is when our hearts are overflowing with His love, joy and peace. This must be how we walk in these days of great change and great challenge. That is how we shine in the darkness.

### *THE POWER OF PERSEVERANCE*

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (vs. 1).

It is only keeping our eyes on JESUS that we will be positioned to “run the race marked out for us.”

We must not think that we are no longer useful to the Lord or for His working through us! We can continue to make a difference in the lives of those around us until we draw our last breath! It’s not over us, unless we give up! Our lives can (do) still have purpose and meaning, not the least of which are the prayers and intercession we make on behalf of that which we love: our families, our churches, our schools, and our Country. As we persevere, we are being changed from the inside out to be more like JESUS! This is part of our witness and testimony to our loved ones and beyond!

### *THE POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT*

“Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (vs. 3).

Weariness and discouragement are great weapons that the enemy uses against the people of God to try to hinder what God is doing in the world. These can only be overcome by believing and speaking the ‘Truth’ of GOD’S WORD. We can be a part of what GOD is doing IF we are willing. This is the time for us to come together, encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25) and unify around JESUS CHRIST and His Work on our behalf to bring Salvation and transformation. Times of refreshing will come! “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

Rick Barnhart, *The Vine and the Branches*.



# Editorial

## *By a concerned Grand & Great Grandmother*

*“Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.” (Isaiah 12:2)*

When I was a young girl, I heard the call to repentance several times. One evening at an Evangelistic Mtg. in our Church I was under much conviction of sin. I responded to an Altar call and gave my heart to Jesus. Old things passed away and behold all things became new.

Recently I received some free coasters in the mail. Inscribed on the back of the coaster were these words from Isaiah. Each time we sat down to a meal I read this verse and the Lord impressed on me that God is indeed my salvation. {God provides us with His Word in interesting ways.} I can trust Him and not be afraid. It is easy to be anxious when all around us things are falling apart in our society like rising prices, failing government promises, threats of wars and increased immorality on every side. Our Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren are faced with this on every hand. Only the grace of God can spare them from this influence. We need to be on our knees in prayer for the

coming generation. “...The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16) I can only come in His righteousness. “For the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

The song writer puts it this way:

“He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;  
To added affliction He added His mercy,  
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.  
His love has no limit, His grace has no measure,  
His power has no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in JESUS,  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!”  
*Praise be His name! He has won the victory!*

Barb Stueland

## **A Memorial to the Cross**

*Please read Luke 22:14-20*

“And he said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.’” (Luke 22:15)

IF you were to survey all of human history — every nation, every culture, every era — you would discover that crucifixion is about as painful a way to die as any form of torture ever devised in the hearts of sinful man. And yet, Jesus endured it for us! He suffered a greater form of agony and shame than most of us will ever know.

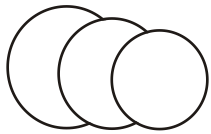
Even so, on the night before He died, with the cross just hours away, He said He was eager to enjoy one last Passover with His disciples (see Luke 22:15). Why? Because He wanted to prepare His friends for the horror and confusion they were about to experience. He wanted to establish a memorial to the Cross.

The Passover was always meant to serve as a picture of the Son of God’s sacrifice. The lambs who died that

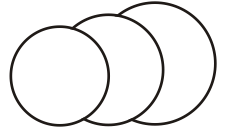
night were but a shadow of the true Lamb of God. The salvation the Israelites experienced as they escaped Egypt was but a preview of the greater salvation secured by Christ. And Jesus wanted His friends to be able to look back on that meal and know its true significance. He told them to remember Him each time they broke the bread and drank the wine (Ed. Grape Juice, as ‘wine’ is not the first-fruit of the vine).

That’s why we celebrate the Lord’s Supper together. We partake of the bread and the cup to remember the gravity of our sin and the enormity of God’s amazing grace – to know that the Cross was never an afterthought in the mind of God. May we always remember just how much it cost for us to be saved!

*My Journal, Dr. Michael Youssef, April, 2023.*



# From our Fellowship Circle



**D. H.**

**Detroit Lakes, MN**

When I was around six years old, I was worried/concerned about what would happen to me IF I were to die! I was raised in a Christian home and attending church very regularly; so I (*much of an understanding of heaven and hell as someone that age could have*), was concerned about Eternity! I remember asking my Mother about it, and she “told me that IF I asked for forgiveness for my sins and placed my trust in Jesus, I would have peace, knowing that I would go to Heaven IF something happened to me.” As life went on, and I became a teenager, my desire to walk with the Lord became less of a priority. Soon thereafter I found myself taking less time to read Scripture and prayer, and attending church became an obligation, and I wanted nothing to do with Christians who were concerned about where I was headed spiritually. My life was filled with surrounding myself with friends, co-workers, music and hobbies that were not pleasing to GOD! I knew better, but was more concerned with pleasing others than pleasing God, contrary to Scripture. I thank God to this day that HE surrounded me with friends and family who continued reaching out to me, and praying for me.”

In October of 2002, Faith Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes, MN was hosting “Campus Days” for a Christian program which featured a variety of Godly speakers that would eventually lead classes in the school. Over the weekend, I became convicted of the sin that had taken over in my life. Philippians 2:5-11, in particular, reminded me one day, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess, that Jesus is Lord! It also reminded me of the sacrifice that Jesus made, so that through faith in Him, we are called His children! I turned from my sin that day and committed my life to Him. Although I still sin, I am so grateful that He forgives and is willing to ‘renew’ my relationship with Him. Thus, I have committed my life to Him! Although I still stumble and fail Him; He is so very patient and His promises in Scripture are absolutely secure and has surrounded me to keep me walking with HIM!

“Recently, I have been feeling led to serve my Savior more, however that may be! I’m anxious and excited to be more involved with His Work in ... with the others involved through prayer and actions. Thankful for opportunities!

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## *What Do I know of Calvary’s Love?*

There are times when something comes into our lives which is charged with love in such a way that it seems to open the Eternal to us for a moment, or at least some of the Eternal Things, and greatest of these is love.

It may be a small and intimate touch upon us or our affairs, light as the touch of dawn wind on the leaves of the tree, something not to be captured and told to another in words. But we know that it is our Lord. And then perhaps the room where we are with its furniture and books and flowers, seems less “present” than His Presence, and the heart is drawn into that sweetness of which the old hymn sings.

*The love of Jesus, what it is  
None but His loved ones know.*

Or it is the dear human love about us that bathes us as in summer seas and rests us through and through. Can we ever cease to wonder at the love of our companions? And then suddenly we recognize our Lord in them. It is His love that they lavish upon us. O Love God made manifest in Thy lovers, we worship Thee.

Or (not often, perhaps, for dimness seems to be more wholesome for us here, but sometimes, because our Lord is very merciful) it is given to us to look up through the blue air and see the love of God. And yet, after all, how little we see! “*That ye may be able to comprehend what is the breadth and length and depth and height and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge*”—the words are too great for us. What do we comprehend, what do we know? Confounded and abased, we enter into the Rock and hide us in the dust before the glory of the Majesty of love—the love whose symbol is the cross.

And a question pierces then: What do I know of Calvary love?

Love through me, Love of God;  
Make me like Thy clear air  
Through which, unhindered, colors pass  
As though it were not there.  
Powers of the love of God,  
Depths of the heart Divine,  
O love that faileth not, break forth,  
And flood this world of Thine.

*IF* by Amy Carmichael

# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

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## American Trans Dolls

The company American Girl used to be associated with sweet portrayals of dolls from different eras promoting positive self-esteem. It was bought out by Mattel and sells about 30 million dolls per year. NOW it is promoting transgender ideology to the children who play with dolls. Its new book *A Smart Girl's Guide: Body Image Book* is marketed to children ages 3 to 12 and tries to normalize being transgender. It tells boys they may feel like girls inside, and that is totally OK. It also discusses how to delay puberty with hormone blockers. It instructs on how to keep information from parents and provides a list of organizations the children can turn to if they don't have an adult, they "trust."

*Source: cbn.com, The Vine and the Branches*

## Jail Conversions

The Decatur County, Illinois, Sheriff's office announced that it has recently baptized 59 incarcerated men and women who came to Christ while in its detention center. Over the past 4 years, nearly 300 have given lives to Jesus Christ. Sheriff Dave Durant believes changing hearts is the way to stop cycles of drugs and crime. He stated, "Whether it be alcohol or drugs or poverty that are creating the cycle, we only have to change their hearts to stop the process." Durant, who lost his bid for re-election, has received both praise and criticism for being so open about his faith. Decatur County caught the attention of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, which has demanded they cease all Christian activities.

faithwire.com

## Teacher Fired

A California teacher was fired for not promoting same-sex marriage to children ages 1 – 5 years old. Nelli Parisenkova worked at Bright Horizons Children's Center in Studio City, California. She asked for and received an accommodation to not read any books to the children that promoted any messages contrary to her biblically held beliefs, such as *Daddy, Papa, and Me*. Later the school demanded that all staff celebrate and promote diversity including same-sex marriage. One day she was called into the director's office, placed on administrative leave, and escorted out of the building. The school refused to make any accommodation on religious grounds

and encouraged her to resign. They eventually terminated her.

worthynews.com

## Tik Tok and Other "Prohibited Technologies" Banned on All Texas State Devices

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has issued a statewide security plan that bans the use of Tik Tok on state devices, as well as prohibiting any state contractors from conducting state business using a device that has Tik Tok, the governor's office announced...

"The security risks associated with the use of Tik Tok on devices used to conduct the important business of our state must not be underestimated or ignored," said Governor Abbott...

Any device that is connected to the internet is included in the ban...

"Owned by a Chinese company that employs Chinese Communist Party members," the governor continued, "Tik Tok harvests significant amounts of data from a user's device, including details about a user's internet activity."

Federal lawmakers are also proposing a national ban on Tik Tok for any device in the United States, after passing the No Tik Tok on Government Devices Act in December 2022.

Andrew Chapados, theblaze.com

## Justice Speaks The Truth

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito recently made a speech for the Notre Dame Law School's Religious Initiative. Alito described the dire state of religious liberty. He stated during his keynote address, "Religious liberty is under attack in many places because it is dangerous to those who want to hold complete power." The Justice said there is a "great turning away" from religion. This indicates a significant part of the population is rejecting religion and thinks it's not important, so "it is hard to convince people that religious liberty is worth defending if they don't think that religion is a good thing that deserves protection." ...He further stated there is a necessary battle to help protect religious liberty.

Faithwire.com

## Disney's "Firebuds" Character Has Two Moms

Many parents have already found out that Disney Junior is no longer safe for young children. Now Disney's animated series *Firebuds* has added a same-sex couple to the program. One of the main characters, Violet, has two moms in the Vega-Vaughn family.

The creator of the show, Craig Gerber, tweeted, "After I sold the firebuds pitch, my 1<sup>st</sup> detailed show overview included Violet's 2 moms. Disney gave us 100% full support from day one. Thrilled to be making an inclusive show that reflects the diverse world we live in w/folks who care as much as I do..."

IMM is concerned with the normalization of a sinful lifestyle choice during a children's animated show designed for preschoolers. This type of sexuality should never be included in a children's cartoon, much less praised.

American Family Association

## Most Extreme Abortion Law in the Nation

After passing the house, the abortion bill named "The Protect Reproduction Options (PRO) Act" was sent to the Minnesota Senate. After a 15-hour debate, the bill was finally passed by a 1 vote majority! Opponents of the bill have said it is the "most extreme" abortion law in the Nation, on par with China and North Korea in its lack of restrictions. The Republicans attempted to add numerous amendments to the bill, *but without success*. All 35 amendments were rejected, including amendments to prohibit the sterilization of girls under age 14, and requiring parental consent for abortions or sterilization involving minors. This bill makes any type of abortion legal up until birth, available to anyone for any reason.

Prolifeupdate.com

## IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE

*"In the cover of his tabernacle will he hide me; he will lift me up upon a rock." (Psalm 27:5)*

It is not easy to live in this world of ours. It is full of people who, according to the Scriptures and our own experience, are wicked. These wicked people cannot, of course, avoid being wicked toward one another! As a result, the world is full of suffering, inflicted by one person upon another. Married folk upon each other. Brothers and sisters upon one another. Friend upon friend. Neighbor upon neighbor. Acquaintance upon acquaintance. Stranger upon stranger.

Can we then expect to get through this world without experiencing evil at the hands of some one? NO, that is quite impossible, unthinkable.

If we would reconcile ourselves to this fact, it would undoubtedly be easier for us to endure misunderstanding, to bear with patience the envy, the cutting words, the affronts, the slander, the opposition, and the persecution of men.

Not even among devout Christians can we avoid trouble of this kind. ...

Believers, too, can be exceedingly mean to each other, both in thought, word, and deed...

When David had sinned against the LORD by numbering the people and was to be punished for doing so, GOD permitted him to choose whether he wanted to flee three months before his foes while they pursued him or that there should be a three days' pestilence in his land.

To which the old, experienced king replied, "*I am in a great strait; let us fall now into the hand of Jehovah; for his mercies are great; and let me not fall into the hand of man.*" (II Samuel 24:13-14)

Sorrow and adversity and tribulation can be hard enough to bear. BUT when men neither sympathize with us nor understand us, then we experience a choky feeling, as when we cannot get air...

Job's worst experience, too, was when his friends treated him the way they did. At such a time we turn away from men and to the Living GOD!

*Under His Wings*, by O. Hallesby, Ph.D.

The BIBLE'S CRITICS HAVE OFTEN DECLARED IT DEAD AND OFFERED TO SERVE AS PALLBEARERS TO CARRY IT TO THE GRAVEYARD OF HISTORY! THOSE PALLBEARERS LIVE AND DIE WHILE THE CORPSE LIVES ON. Strangely, the much - maligned corpse outlives every single one of the pallbearers!



## Discovering AMAZING Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.*

When John Newton, a former sea captain, wrote the lyrics of “Amazing Grace” for a sermon on New Year’s Day 1773, he could see the “prodigal son” in his early life! His own Father tried on several occasions to help him, but Newton was a hardened prodigal, a self-confessed “wretch” (a word he borrowed from Romans 7:24), distant from the heart of his father as well as the heart of God. Still, John Newton discovered that God in Christ’s deep and abiding love does not give up on anyone. In his opening stanza, he lifts up the story of the prodigal restored to sonship (Luke 15:11-32) and the blind man who received his sight (John 9). Both aptly describe his being blessed in the mercies of Christ saving grace!

*’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

John Newton had been through a lot of trials over the years, so for his sermon on New Year’s Day 1773, he selected the text from David’s phrase, “brought me thus far” for his hymn, adding only the word safe – for he knew the dangers and dire straits of the Sea, BUT he also trusted the God who would see him home. That is why the original title of “Amazing Grace” published in print was I Chronicles 17:16-17, Faith’s Review and Expectation.”

*The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.*

Newton inscribed two verses from Scripture over his fireplace to remind him of God’s providential and freeing grace. The first of these is Isaiah 43:4. It speaks of God’s election of his chosen people. Newton believed, in spite of all his many sins, that he was chosen by the Grace in Christ. The second text over his fireplace was Deuteronomy 15:15, which is about setting slaves free. Later in his life, he would work for the abolitionist movement. Newton published against slavery in his, Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade (1788); and through his friendship with the politician William Wilberforce, he addressed the House of Commons on the Slave Trade Act,

which abolished the slave trade in May 1807, seven months before he died. The Slavery Abolition Act was passed on July 22, 1833, one week before Wilberforce died. The 2006 major motion picture *Amazing Grace* chronicled the interlacing lives of Newton and Wilberforce and the parts these two men played in ending slavery in the British Empire.

*Yes, when this flesh and heart fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.*

This fifth stanza of (rarely, if ever, sung today) speaks of the time of our death as time of hope. Hope takes on the symbol of an anchor, a solid mooring that a ship would need, especially on rough waters! Newton the sea captain would certainly have had plenty of experience with the importance of an anchor. His own hope is anchored, or grounded, in Jesus, the priest who has taken his place at the Throne of GOD in the Holy of Holies “within the veil” Hebrews 6:19.

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.*

The first two lines of this stanza referring to dissolving earth and a sun refusing to shine are from John Newton’s reading of the end times in 2 Peter 3:10: “*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.*” BUT near the end of his own life was, by the Grace of God in Christ, shielded, cared for and guarded as a precious child of God.

*When we’ve been there  
Ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Then when we’d first begun.*

This final stanza was not part of Newton’s original hymn. The lyrics are actually from “Jerusalem My Happy Home” (1790), reproduced in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s own representation of the hymn in her novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852). By 1910, it became affixed to the hymn “AMAZING GRACE” as a fitting doxology to God’s ever abundant grace.

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# The Plagues of Passover

By David Ettinger

*The plagues represent God's assault upon false gods of Egypt; His declaration that He is the superior ruler of the universe.*

*The God of Power*

One of the major components of the Passover story is the 10 plagues with which GOD afflicted Egypt. Sometimes the account of the plagues get glossed over as mere high drama, but the account is crucial to 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians' understanding of just who God is.

Yes, the Passover is a glorious display of God's mercy and redemption: as He redeemed Israel from Egypt, so Christ (*symbolized by the slain Passover lamb*) redeems all who believe in Him from the bondage and eternal consequences of sin.

But in the plagues, another attribute of GOD was revealed: His power. In the 10 plagues, God's might and sovereignty over ALL Creation was on full display. And as it was so long ago in Egypt, so it will be again at the end of the age when our all-powerful God will pour out His fierce anger upon a wicked, unrepentant Earth during that time the Bible calls the Day of the Lord.

## Quick Background

The background, of course, is Israel's 400 years of Egyptian bondage, and how God chose to terminate it. For the God of Israel, it was not enough to simply emancipate His people, but to show both them and the Egyptians – particularly Pharaoh – exactly who He was: the Sovereign Creator of the Universe who is God over all – including Egypt.

By way of identifying Himself this way, He instituted a series of plagues to bring home His point. These plagues were: blood, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and the death of all the firstborn.

## *The Word "Plagues"*

The Hebrew word for "plagues" used here is *nega*, which can be translated "disease," "affliction," and "wound." But there is another sense of *nega* which means "to strike" or "afflict." In modern English, the word "plague" carries with it the sense of communicable disease and epidemics. This is not necessarily the sense here.

Rather, when we read of the 10 plagues, we should think more in term of "judgments." These are not so much the 10 plagues of God," but the ten judgments of God."

## *The Target*

Furthermore, these were not just some haphazard

concoctions of afflictions being hurled at the Egyptians. The God of Israel had a very specific purpose, including an assault upon the false gods of Egypt. GOD would not only display to the Egyptians He was the superior ruler of the universe, but that their false deities were worthless, powerless, and pointless.

*For the God of Israel, it was not enough to simply emancipate His people, but to show both them and the Egyptians - particularly who He was: the Sovereign-Creator of the universe who is God over all - including Egypt.*

*...when we read of the 10 plagues, we should think more in terms of judgments."*

The God of Israel had a very specific purpose, including an assault upon the false gods of Egypt. These were, in essence, an attack on the entire Egyptian worldview.

Everything which helped the Egyptians make sense of the world came crumbling down around them. Also, these attacks on Egyptian deities would be much more obvious and specific to Egyptians living at that time than at any other time of history.

Let's take a brief look at the 10 plagues and the deities the plagues targeted.

## Blood (Exodus 7:14-25)

More than one deity was targeted here: Hapi, the god of the Nile, and Khnum, the god of the water and life. As blood filled the Nile, many Egyptians were no doubt wondering why Hapi and Khnum were not rectifying the situation.

## Frogs (Exodus 8:1-15)

*As frogs consumed the land, the god Heqet was in view.* Heqet was the wife of the above-mentioned Khnum, and was usually depicted as a frog. Heqet was the goddess of childbirth, but she was ineffective in stopping the spread of all those reeking amphibians!

## Gnats (Exodus 8:16-19)

God told Moses to "Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt" (v.16). The gnats were *probably* mosquitoes, and an attack on Geb, the god of the land, specifically the dirt.

## Flies (Exodus 8:20-32)

The Hebrew word for flies literally translates into "swarms." This was an attack on Khepri, the Egyptian god of creation, the movement of the Sun, and of rebirth. Khepri had the head of a fly.

## Livestock (Exodus 9:1-7)

The plague of livestock was an assault on the credibility of Apis, the male god of fertility, often represented as a bull. This plague also could have targeted Nut, a sky

goddess depicted as a cow.

Boils (Exodus 9:8-12)

This was an attack on Qudshu, goddess of sex, indicating that the boils likely afflicted the genital area.

Hail (Exodus 9:13-35)

This was an attack on Seth, god of wind and storms.

Locusts (Exodus 10:1-20)

This plague was an attack on Serapis, the god of protection on the land; Isis, the goddess of life associated with flax and making clothes; or Min, the god of fertility and vegetation, whose job it was to protect the crops. Most likely, the attack was on all three false deities.

Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29)

This was an attack on major deities associated with the Sun and Sky: Re, Ra, Amon Re; Atum, and Horus.

Death of the Firstborn (Exodus Chapter 11)

This terrible plague was an attack on Pharaoh himself, who was regarded as not just a human king, but a god, as well. That his firstborn son died proved he was no match for the God of Israel.

*Lessons of the Plagues*

The 10 plagues, or judgments, of Egypt prove GOD is the Creator of all things and that all of His Creation is at His disposal to do with as HE pleases. May we stand in awe of the God who created us, and acknowledge His power, glory, and goodness!

*Zion's Fire*, (Portrait of Passover). © 2023 publication of Zion's Hope Inc.

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## **My Purpose ...To Serve and Follow the Lord**

Fernando Oliveira

In 1986 when I was 6 years old, I went to live in South Africa. During that time my parents came to know the Lord as their Savior in the Rhema Church. I grew up knowing about God, but when we came back to Portugal in 1999, my father left church, and later my parents got divorced. I was 15, and I rebelled against my father for leaving home. I lived then with my mother and things were very difficult financially for us! In my rebellion, I lived a sinful life and was out to please myself. One night, while watching the news and listening to a report about a boy with Cancer, I took a very serious panic attack. I didn't realize what was happening to me, I just knew that I couldn't breathe and felt that my heart was going to stop beating. Thinking I was going to die, I ran home frantically to say goodbye to my mother. I survived that night, but from day on I had panic attacks constantly normally at dawn. This

condition lasted until 2002.

I started working with a 31 year old Brazilian man and he spoke to me about the Gospel in a way I had never heard before. I was eager to learn more and so I began to read the Bible for myself and always prayed before reading saying "God if this is really your Word, show it to me, make me understand it." One night while I was reading Psalm 91 it seemed as if God was talking to me through His word, and it said in verses 9, 10, 14-16 "if you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Suddenly I became aware that the Lord loved me and He wanted me to entrust my life to Him. I was so afraid of dying and in the Psalm, I saw that the Lord wanted to satisfy me with LONG LIFE!!! Was I able to believe that He was capable to do this, that He was able to rescue me, protect me, answer me, be with me, deliver me, save me, and keep my life until I got old? Eventually I fell asleep and I had a dream, and in that dream I was in a classroom in a very high building where the walls were all glass. I was seated like the rest of the people there and suddenly there was a massive roar of thunder. We all knew that the building was going to collapse and we were all going to die. I was so scared, I thought about God, and I cried out "Lord have mercy on me." As I said this I felt something grabbing me and picking me up and taking me to a safe place on solid ground. When I woke up I knew that it had something to do with what I had read in God's Word, about putting all my trust in the Lord Jesus.

That morning I decided to give my life to the Lord Jesus and received Him as my Saviour. I repented from my sins and I put all my trust in Him.

Days passed and I soon realized that the panic attacks were gone and I was completely healed from the depression that I was also suffering. Soon I started going to church, got baptized, got married to Tania, and I had a hunger for the Word of God. I started reading more and more and listening to as many sermons as I could. Now my purpose in life is to serve and follow Jesus and it is such a blessing to be involved along with my wife and family in the ministry in Santo Andre Church with Pastor Aroldo, Emmannuelle and Jeffrey.

Acre International, *INSIGHT*



## Humility

“All of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” (1 Peter 5:5,6)

It is amazing how few people admit to having problems with pride! They prefer to think that they are more humble than proud, and some may even be proud of their humility. The Scriptures have so much to say about pride and humility. Twice in the New Testament, it is stated, “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” (James 4:6)

While humility is one of the highest spiritual virtues, pride ranks first among the seven deadly sins in Proverbs 6:16-17: “*Six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him; A proud look ...*”

There is no doubt that humility is supremely exemplified in the life of our Lord Jesus who humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. It was also seen in the life of Joseph who was humiliated by his brethren, falsely accused by a woman, and forgotten in prison before he was exalted to the highest office in Egypt.

*Humility is revealed in our relationships.* It is easy to be humble in a vacuum or when we are alone. “*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*” (Philippians 2:4) To be clothed with humility is the picture of our Lord taking a towel and washing the disciples’ feet!

*Humility is revealed in our attitudes!* Humility is a mind-set. “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 2:5)

*Humility is required before GOD.* The prophet Micah asked, “*What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*” (Micah 6:8) Humility is an acknowledgement of all that GOD is and who I am, an appreciation of all that HE has done and the availability for all that HE wants from me.

Humility is rewarded by God. God honors humility with a boundless supply of His Grace!

Holiness and humility are twin virtues

*A Light for Your Way,*

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### Changed and Charged

“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Romans 1:16)

Belfast’s urban redevelopment undoubtedly provided many new houses to replace the streets of two-up-two-down small terrace houses. However, the once familiar name of “... Street” were transformed into “...Gardens’, ...Close” or “...Court”. In this regeneration programme not only did street names change, but also communities lost their local “corner shop,” and many small mission halls became extinct.

Among those halls that closed was Banbury Street Mission Hall. It had a remarkable beginning. In the early 1920s, a group of fellows gathered on Sunday afternoons to play cards and gamble their money on a plot of spare ground on Banbury Street. One day in 1923 a brave and zealous Christian dared to invite these young men to attend an evangelistic Mission at a church on the Newtownards Road. The evangelist was William Patterson Nicholson from Bangor, but the name meant nothing to the lads. However, they agreed to go.

During that mission over 1,000 people professed faith in Christ. On that Sunday afternoon five young men were converted: ... These were the lads who had gambled their money at Banbury Street every Sunday.

After their conversion, Jimmy White involved his chums in serving the Lord and between them they acquired the spare ground on Banbury Street where they formerly had wasted time and money. Instead, they invested their meagre funds in purchasing and erecting a wooden hall for evangelistic meetings in this area. This was a forerunner of the more permanent brick building that was constructed some years later.

Out of remarkable beginnings, the Banbury Street Mission Hall was a Gospel Beacon in that part of East Belfast until urban development transformed the community.

*Fret not because the place is small,  
Thy service need not be,  
For thou can’st make all there is  
Of joy and ministry.*

*The dewdrop, as the boundless sea,  
In God’s great plan has part  
And this is all He asks of thee;  
Be faithful where thou art.*

**ACROSS THE STREET OR ACROSS THE  
WORLD, THE GOSPEL IS THE SAME!**

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## *The joy of Easter is Special for Folks of all Ages*

The Day we call Easter, has disappeared for time and invested in Eternal realms! How are you investing each day; just for yourself OR for others? The 'Easter' has come and gone, never can it be reclaimed as of 2023! Yesterday is gone forever, tomorrow may not come your way; so, we need to occupy for and with JESUS today! But even though Easter is a very special time of the year as it is a day we are humbled by HIS sacrifice for you and me on the Cross that we might become a child (children) of GOD! It is Amazing Grace and becoming children of the KING! YES, JESUS did this for us.

### **Further and Further away**

The longer time went on, freedom from addiction began to feel further and further away – like a distant dream Gene couldn't quite grasp.

Gene had been trapped by addiction for 30 years. Yet he desperately wanted to escape. He tried several times to get help; but could not find it. Life on the streets didn't give him many options.

By God's Grace, the Fargo Police Department came across Gene at the right place, at the right time and it changed his whole life!

Gene states "I was at rock bottom. I was overwhelmed." Gene finally received the help he'd wanted for so long. He began to heal physically and emotionally from his addiction and that opened the door for him to come to Jesus!

He says, "I've always known that JESUS loves me, as JESUS is the sinners best friend!"

Selected

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### **The Sufferings of a Housewife**

A young mother asked how on earth she is to learn to love the Lord, grow in grace, and be truly holy in the midst of general chaos – hard work, very limited means, little chance for fellowship, and her own children disobeying, screaming, and fighting!

It is tempting to imagine that, given a different lot in life, circumstances other than those in which we find ourselves, we would make much greater strides in holiness. The truth is that the place where we *are* is God's school-room, not somewhere else. *Here* we may be conformed to the likeness of Christ.

It takes adversity of one kind or another. There is no

other way. "it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him but also to suffer for him" (Philippians 1:29). This dear woman had not thought of the word "suffering." To her it was just the awful "dailyness of husband and children, the same dishes and clothes to be washed the house to be cleaned a thousand times, the monotonous repetition of "Do this," "Don't do that," the sheer unmanageability of it all.

"God is asking you simply to be what you are," I told the young mother, and to be just that with love with her heart's acceptance, and without fretting. How comforting to know that the Lord who made us never forgets that we are *dust!* Our love will fail, our heart will balk, we will fret. But our very powerlessness is the place where *His* power is manifested, where His all-sufficient grace is given.

*The trivial round, the common task,  
Will furnish all we ought to ask —  
Room to deny ourselves, a road  
To bring us daily nearer to God.* (John Keble, 1822)

Hannah Whitall Smith said, "He does not need to transplant us into a different field...He transforms the very things that were before our greatest hindrances, into the chiefest and most blessed means of our growth. No difficulties in your case can baffle Him...Put yourself absolutely into His hands, and let Him have His own way with you."

*Secure in the Everlasting Arms* by Elisabeth Elliot

\* \* \* \* \*

*Joy also in this—  
That your sufferings,  
Your losses and your persecutions  
Shall make you a platform from which  
The more vigorously and with greater power  
You shall witness to Christ Jesus*

*Morning and Evening* by C.H. Spurgeon

\* \* \* \* \*

*Therefore, I live for today —  
Certain of finding at sunrise  
Guidance and strength for the way.  
Power for each moment of weakness,  
Hope for each moment of pain,  
Comfort for every sorrow,  
Sunshine and joy after rain!*

Anonymous

## The Greatest Security

*“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”*

(Psalm 91:1)

Someone has said that the only certainty in life is uncertainty – that is true. Governments collapse, stock markets plummet, wars destroy, disasters strike, relationships end. As the writer of Hebrews put it, *“Here we have no continuing city”* Hebrews 13:14.

Yet deep in the human heart is a yearning for security – a yearning that will not go away. We know we need a solid foundation to life, a foundation that cannot be shaken. Where will it be found?

Only God never changes. His love does not change, nor do His promises! That is why we can look to Him for the security and stability we all seek. King David knew the secret: *“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”*

Salvation is not an occasional, vague feeling of God’s presence. It is actually dwelling with GOD, secure in His presence forever. Is your security in Christ?

## In Giving, We Receive

*“Love one another as I have loved you.”*

(John 15:12)

St. Francis of Assisi had discovered the secret of happiness when he prayed:

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life!*

Tears shed for self are tears of weakness, but tears of love shed for others are a sign of strength. I am not as sensitive as I ought to be until I am able to *“weep o’er the erring one and lift up the fallen.”* And until I have learned the value of compassionately sharing other’s sorrow, distress, and misfortune, I cannot know real happiness.

The opposite of love isn’t hate. It’s selfishness. Will you ask the Holy Spirit to free your life from selfishness and fill you instead with His love?

Both articles are from *Hope for Each Day* (Words of WISDOM and FAITH), by Billy Graham, © 2002,

## Let Us Focus Our Attention On The Power Of The Cross, Even If It Is Folly To The World

By Dr. Michael Youssef

In my life, I have never witnessed a time when the Cross of Christ has been more abused and misused, undermined and ignored, rejected and despised! YET the power and the riches of the Cross are beyond anything we can imagine.

Let us focus our attention on the power of the Cross, even IF it is folly to the world! For throughout history, the Cross of CHRIST has brought about civilization, reigned victorious over evil, and breathed hope into hopeless situations! It is the only way for human beings to experience redemption, atonement, reconciliation, and justification. And as Christ Himself told us, is only through Him and His Cross that we can come to God the Father and have Eternal Life in Heaven! John 14:6.

We will examine the Cross in the past, the Cross in the present, and the Cross in the future. As we do, we will discover that the CROSS did not happen in a vacuum. In reality, the cross was the plan of God from before the foundation of the world (see Revelation 13:8).

The Cross has always been and will always be God’s answer to humanity’s sin and rebellion! This Sunday and every day, may we all know more deeply and rejoice more fully in all that Christ won for us on that CROSS.

*My Journal, April, 2023*

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## God’s Faithfulness

*“Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep.”* (Psalm 36:5-6)

The psalmist praises the greatness of God. He considers His mercy, His faithfulness, His righteousness. Or to say it in other words, God’s love, God’s unchangeableness, God’s holiness, and God’s wisdom.

In splendid poetic pictures he describes God’s attributes. God’s unchangeable love is high as the heavens with its distant clouds. God’s righteousness and holiness are immovable like the great mountains. God’s wisdom is like a mighty deep.

We make our conceptions of God too small. We form Him in our own image. We do not see Him as He really is until we have caught sight of His greatness.

*Streams of Gladness* by Fredrik Wisloff

## While We Were Still (lost) Sinners

Father Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish priest imprisoned in Auschwitz, the Nazi concentration camp. When a number of his fellow prisoners were selected for execution, one of them cried, "Sir, I have a wife and many children." At this time/moment, Kolbe stepped forward and asked IF he could take the place of this gentleman. His offer was accepted, and he was placed in an underground cell and left to die of starvation.

We marvel at such a sacrifice – his death saved a single life. How much more we should admire the holy, sinless Son of God, who died on the Cross for you and me, and whosoever may come and taste that God is Good! Yes, anyone, anywhere, may come and taste that it is JESUS ONLY that really satisfies! AND to realize that this was done for you and me and that JESUS made Heaven poor that we might become rich. And to realize HE suffered not only for the self-righteous, But for you and me! Our sin, our disobedience, our rebellion, sent JESUS to the CROSS! If YOU are a saved sinner, don't forget to continue thanking Him. And remember, each day you and I are closer to our Eternal HOME – by GOD'S GRACE! — RES

### Questions & Answers

By Dr. Bill Rice Answers: *Are J.W.s' a Cult?*

Dear Dr. Bill:

*I have a question: Are the Jehovah's Witnesses an occult religion? IF they are considered to be so, why? I would most deeply appreciate all the information that you can send me.*

I believe you intended asking If Jehovah's Witnesses are a cult rather than an "occult" religion. By occult is generally meant mysticism, magic, perhaps astrology; and we usually think of it as originating in the East.

Cult, on the other hand, means a system of religious worship that is not based on biblical truth. It may use Scriptures – usually taken out of context and perverted – to "prove" its beliefs. Often a cult is originated by a strong personality who is almost worshiped by his followers. *Jehovah's Witnesses* are definitely a cult. They are not to be trusted.

**Charles Taze Russell** — For many years Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs were known as Russellism, named for the founder, Charles Taze Russell. Russell was a promoter who could have made P.T. Barnum jealous! Barnum is credited with the saying that a sucker is born every minute. Russell acted on this belief before anyone ever heard of the famous Barnum and Bailey Circus! Once Russell sold wheat for \$60 a bushel to many of his followers. (None but the "faithful" could buy this wheat.) The reason for the

high price was his promise that his wheat would grow five times as much as average wheat.

It's too bad he wasn't more "faithful" himself. His wife sued him for divorce and in court he admitted his guilt. But in spite of his crooked business practices and his wicked life, thousands of his followers today believe him to be the greatest Christian who ever lived!

Of course, the name of his cult has changed a number of times. From Russellism it was changed to *Millennial Dawn*. Later the name was changed to *Watchtower and Tract Society*. Yet later the name was changed to the *International Bible Students Association*.

When Russell died in 1916, Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford became the head of this cult and he changed the name to *Jehovah's Witnesses*. The judge died in 1942 and the name of the cult has not been changed since.

**Aggressive** — The followers of this wicked cult work with admirable energy and zeal. When I was a little boy people would come to ranches in West Texas and try to sell pamphlets by Judge Rutherford.

If a rancher could not buy the pamphlet, the J.W. would swap it for a dozen eggs or a jar of jelly. If all else failed, he would let him borrow the pamphlet until he came that way again! But these "witnesses" simply would not take no for an answer if they could help it.

It is tragic that Christians do not help get out the Gospel of Christ with the same zeal with which these false witnesses spread their heresy. "Heresy" it is. They are wrong on virtually every Bible doctrine. As a matter of fact, they put more trust in the writings of their leaders than they do in the Holy Scriptures...

**False Doctrines** — Jehovah's Witnesses use Scriptures in such a way that the late Dr. H. A. Ironside said of them, "This is indeed a sect of perdition; and its teaching is rightly labeled 'damnable heresy.' *From such turn away.*" ...

**The Trinity** – Russell said, "This view suited well the Dark Ages, which it helped to produce." He also said this; "theory is as unscriptural as it is unreasonable" – this in spite of the fact that the Bible plainly teaches the Trinity. In Genesis 1:26 the Bible says, "*And God said, Let, us make man in our image, after our likeness.*" Notice the plural pronouns. ... In the Great Commission we are commanded to baptize people in the name of the "*Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost* (Spirit) Matthew 28:19. First Corinthians 12:4 through 6 mentions the Spirit, Lord and God. Jehovah's Witnesses are certainly wrong about the TRINITY! ...

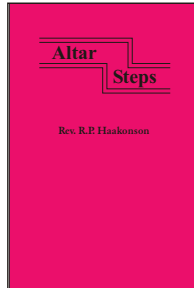
**The Deity of Christ** — Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus was "chief of the angels and next to the Father." They believe that "God the Father created Jesus and God has two sons — Jesus and Satan."

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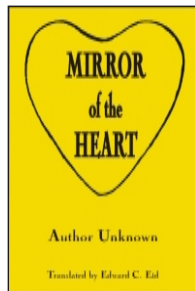
## Altar Steps

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.



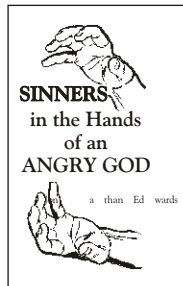
## Mirror of the Heart

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 as sins are driven out of the heart when the sinner is converted to God, but how they can re-enter the heart if 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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## God's Joy and Love

There is joy, joy found nowhere else,  
When we can look up into Christ's face  
When He says to us,  
"Am I not enough for thee, Mine own?"  
With a true "Yes, Lord, Thou art enough!"

More and more I feel that love is the golden secret of life. The very air of heaven is love, for God is love and love never fails. So go on loving not only the loveless but the unlovable, the difficult, the perplexing, the disappointing—unto the end.

*Candles In the Dark* by Amy Carmichael