



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2021

The Song of the Whole Heart

“Glory to God in the highest!” (Luke 2:14)

When sin burdens the conscience and makes it bitter and when you would like to be free from it a thousand times but you have no way of becoming free from it then and for the first time you will learn to evaluate the Savior and His birth.

You have really tried a self-improvement process. You have tried praying, struggling, battling. But in your pitiful helplessness you have only sunk deeper and deeper into your own sin and wretchedness. Perhaps you were ready to give up hope, all hope. But then you heard something about Jesus, that set your heart free; then for the first time you learned to rightly evaluate and appreciate the Savior and His birth.

When you have received the precious gift of faith so you can see your perfect redemption and your satisfying righteousness in Christ then and for the first time you will experience what it means to rejoice in Christ. Then you will evaluate aright the divine Child. There will be gratitude in your heart for Him. Then, from your heart, you will acknowledge the prophet's words, *“They joy before Thee according to the joy in harvest when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder thou hast broken as in the day of Midian.”* (Isaiah 9:3-4) *Not until then, but then* you can say from your whole heart, **“Glory to God in the Highest.”** He who has experienced such a release is a Christian; he has faith, he alone can celebrate CHRISTMAS aright.

BUT let none ever think that the believers always have such a joy and peace. No, no, just as other fruits of the Spirit have just begun so this also has just begun but

often broken off and hindered by different kinds of hindrances. The believers must at time experience much darkness, indifference, sorrow and many afflictions. Therefore, they need to be celebrating Christmas constantly returning to this fountain of comfort and joy, beholding GOD in the CHILD. Because of this constant need of the comfort and peace which Jesus only gives they also remain children -- never becoming graduates. They never become great and independent men spiritually such as have outgrown the meditations of childhood, in other words they always remain children.

WE always need the childlike heart and mind as we sojourn at the manger of JESUS.

The Song of the Heavenly Host

“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased.” (Luke 2:14)

Thus sang the angelic chorus sent from Heaven on the morning of Jesus' birth (Incarnation) when the message was proclaimed: **“For there is born unto you this day in the city of David a Savior.”** **“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased.”**

How much more then ought not we who are members of mankind and so wonderfully blest, we to whom the good tidings apply rejoice and sing this praise unto the LORD?

This theme brings joy to the faithful hearts; it is precious to them. Yes, it is in itself so great, glorious and full of joy that he who can rightly see and believe the Divine Miracle of grace and love underlying it, would hardly be

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able to live because of its great joy. Such a one filled with unspeakable joy should be praising GOD and constantly singing in his heart, “*Glory to GOD in the highest.*”

Surely there is none on earth who can fully believe and think this through! Because of this the believers are so rich in joy. They possess a type of joy that none else in the world can give them. It’s the kind of joy never possessed by anyone but he who believes.

Here you can put to the test the metal and the quality of your godliness. A true Christian joy as all other true joy in Christ is an unmistakable mark of a true Christian. True, there are many who at Christmas-time may be filled with glorious feelings of festivity. BUT to be so glad personally only because of the SAVIOR himself and His birth that one begins to love, praise and speak of HIM, this one cannot do unless he is a believer in Christ, not *even for half an hour.*

Thy Cross (A book of Daily Devotions) by Carl Olof Rosenius.

“It was good the day Jesus found me; better for each day He keeps me; best the day He takes me home.”

Pastor Lars Stalsbrotten

Always Rejoicing

By Dr. Oliver B. Greene

“Rejoice in the Lord always; and again, I say, Rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4)

Philippians is an epistle of joy. In it the word “re-joyce” or “rejoiced” is used eleven times and “joy” is used six times. Paul is not quoting what someone else has said; he is speaking from his own heart. And remember that at the time of this writing, he was in bonds, chained to a Roman guard.

But in spite of the fact that he was a prisoner soon to come to trial before the courts, he rejoiced. Regardless of what *might* happen to him, he counted it all joy to suffer for Christ’s sake.

This is the same man who, in the dungeon in Philippi, sang praises to God and prayed – a praise service which resulted in revival and the founding of the Philippian church.

Notice Paul (God, the Holy Spirit) says, ***“Rejoice in the Lord always!”*** It is easy to rejoice when everyone is saying nice things about us, when the sun is shining, when our names are listed in *Who’s Who* and we are “on top” in every respect. But Paul said, “Rejoice ...always.” To the Thessalonians he said, “Rejoice evermore.” (I Thessalonians 5:16)

It was Paul who said, *“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”* (II Timothy 1:12)

It was Paul who, inspired of God, penned the assurance that *“if God be for us, who can be against us?”* Romans 8:31. He goes on to ask, *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”* (vs. 35)

And the answer is given; *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* (vs. 37)

It is the privilege of believers to rejoice — not at certain periods under certain conditions and circumstances, but in all things at all times we can rejoice in God and in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Everything around us may change, but our ***Savior changes not — and He is our source of JOY.***

Necessity Of Expectant Prayer!

“So, Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses’ hands became heavy; so, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So, Joshua defeated Amalek.”

(Exodus 17:10-13a)

Most certainly the battle is not make-believe or a nightmare and it is furious and if you don’t think so, then you are not in the ‘front-lines’ where you ought to be!

Beloved, while Joshua was actively engaged in the battle, reinforcements were behind the line supporting; and that is not only a picture/story of TODAY, but very real! The enemy does not give-up easily and Satan knows his time is coming to an end. WE (you & I) are in a battle not only against sin, the old nature and the devil; but secularly, politically, and SPIRITUALLY! The forces of the evil-one are attacking on all fronts and they are out to strangle us. ***“For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”*** (Matthew 24:24)

The text deals with more or less a physical battle; but it was intense! While Joshua fought, Moses prayed. As long as Moses held up his hands in prayer, Israel prevailed in battle, but when his hands drooped, Amalek prevailed. (Now please think of this ministry as part of the forces (Israel) in the ‘front-lines’ and Moses as the Morning Glory reader-land). This battle was not won by Israel’s fighting ability, but the battle was really won through prayer. What a good reminder to pray for this ministry at least once a day. Maybe not everyone at this time can give/invest in this the Lord’s Work financially; but ALL can pray! Thank you.

Editor

Behold the throne of grace!

The promise calls us near!

To seek our God and Father’s face,

Who loves to answer prayer.

John Newton

Keep on Praying till the Light Breaks Through!

The Teaching of Scripture is Clear and Decisive

(Excerpt from *The Bondage of the Will* by Luther)

But because we have been so long persuaded of the opposite, by that pestilent dictum of the Sophists, that the Scriptures are obscure and equivocal, we are compelled to begin by proving this very first principle of ours, by which all else must be proved (a procedure which to philosophers would seem irrational and impossible!).

First, Moses says in Deuteronomy 17:8 that, if a difficult matter comes into, men must go to the place which God has chosen for His name, and there consult the priests who are to judge it according to the Law of the Lord. *‘According to the Law of the Lord’, he says; but how will they thus judge, if the Law of the Lord is not, externally, as clear as can be, so that they may be satisfied about it?* Else it would have been enough to say: *‘according to their own spirit!’* Why, under any and every government all issues between all parties are settled by the laws. But how could they be settled if the laws were not perfectly clear, and were truly as lights among the people? If the laws were equivocal and uncertain, not only would no issues be settled, but no sure standards of conduct would exist. ... If laws need to be luminous and definite in secular societies, where only temporal issues are concerned, and such laws have in fact been bestowed by Divine bounty upon the world, how should He not give to Christians, His own people and His elect, laws as and rules of much greater clarity and certainty by which to adjust and settle themselves and all issues between them? (Ed. Then the book, *The Bondage of the Will* quotes the following verses: Psalm 19:8, Psalm 119:130, Isaiah 8:20, Zech. 2, (Micah 2:7, Psalm 119, 143:10, Romans 1:2, 3:21, II Corinthians chapters 3 & 4, II Peter 1:19, etc.,...) In a word: if Scripture is obscure or equivocal, why need it have been brought down to us by act of GOD? **II Timothy 3:16**... I am sure that I have already made myself burdensome, even to slow-witted readers, by dwelling so long and spending so much strength on a point that is as clear as can be. But I had to do it in order to overthrow that shameless blasphemy that the Scriptures are obscure... Those who deny the perfect clarity and plainness of the Scriptures leave us nothing but darkness. If part of the lamp does not shine, then it is a part of the dark place rather than part of the lamp! When HE enlightened us, Christ did not intend that part of His Word should be left obscure to us, for HE commands us to mark the WORD; and this command is pointless if the WORD is not clear.

So, if the doctrine of *‘free-will’* is obscure or ambiguous, then it is no concern of Christians, nor of the Scriptures, and should be left alone entirely and classed among the fables which Paul condemns in contentious Christians (I Timothy 4:7). But if it is a matter of concern to Christians and to the Scriptures, then it ought to be clear, open and plain, just like all the other articles, which are perfectly plain. All the articles (Ed. doctrines) which Christians hold should be both fully certain to themselves, and also supported against opponents by such plain and clear Scriptures as to stop all their mouths, so that they can say nothing in reply. This was the burden of Christ’s promise to us: ‘I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries shall not be able to resist.’ But if our mouth is weak at this point, so that our adversaries can resist, HIS statement that no adversary should be able to resist our mouth is false. On this doctrine of ‘free will’, therefore either we shall have no adversaries (which will be the case if it is not our business) or, if it is our business, we shall have adversaries, certainly, but such shall not be able to resist us.

Excerpts from Martin Luther on *The Bondage of the Will*, © Fleming H. Revell Co.

The Remedy

By M. R. DeHaan

What is the remedy? Israel found it easy if they would simply observe their rules of diet – clean and unclean foods. They simply could not go where unclean foods were served. And therein lies our remedy. It is a matter of diet.

The child of God, to maintain fellowship, must eat clean food, clean *spiritual* food. First on the list is the manna of God’s Word. That must be the main course. Side dishes should consist of good Christian literature and books. Prayer provides his beverage; and for desert, psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

I don’t want to be considered a prude or an antiquated fossil; but when I look over the average believer’s menu, I do not wonder why we have lost our witness and power.

“One touch from Heaven brings us to our knees, sets us on our feet, opens our lips and strengthens us; to will and to do that which is good.” — Matthew Henry

Editorial

RES

SEEN AND UNSEEN, HEARD AND UNHEARD

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (II Corinthians 5:7)

“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” (Hebrews 9:24)

There is only one great High Priest, our Lord Jesus Christ. His work is unique and infinitely superior to that of the Aaronic priests who entered the holiest of all only once a year (with blood of a sacrifice). The Holy of Holies was a sacred place beyond the last curtain and a place to place the blood upon the Mercy Seat. A rope was tied about waist of the High Priest so that if he did not return unto the people, they could pull his dead body out of the Holy of Holies. A cloud of incense covered the mercy seat (Lev. 16:13). Our Lord is in the presence of GOD now! HE has an unbroken communion with the Father (& Holy Spirit) and HE ever lives to make intercession for us. (Hebrews 7:25) This work is **“for us.”** It should humble us to think and know that HE labors (Intercedes at the right hand of GOD) on behalf of each and every child of GOD). **“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men: The Man Christ Jesus.”** (I Timothy 2:5) “My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (I John 2:1-2) IMAGINE the **King** of kings, sending forth His Only Begotten Son sent forth from a perfect atmosphere & surroundings to a sinful world that would at large reject HIM; yet becoming the one and only **PERFECT SACRIFICE** for your sins and mine that you and I are saved by **FAITH ALONE, WORD ALONE & GRACE ALONE!** What a **GIFT**; the gift of all gifts, the **PEARL** of Great Price; as JESUS was born to die and you and I are born to live. As the saying goes; ‘born once – die twice or born twice and die once’! What are you doing with this priceless Gift or is the sign still up saying, **“No Room”?** “And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21) What a **HIGH**

PRIEST! Our risen Savior (deliverer) was seen by many (**1 Corinthians 15:1-11.**)

Most certainly do not add nor subtract what Scripture states; for God says what He means and means what He says. You know, the Old Testament and the New Testament are in total compete harmony. The BIBLE is kind of like photography with the Old Testament being the negative and the New Testament being the “developed picture.” *(A little thought/question: How many wise-men/kings came to worship JESUS when he was approx. Two years old? Scripture doesn’t really say!)* Revelation 22:18-19.

In the meantime; we are saved to serve our great High Priest (as ambassadors) by HIS Grace; what a privilege and “responsibility”! Ephesians 2:10: **“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before-hand that we should walk in them.”**

“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me; ‘write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on,’ ‘Yes,” says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” Revelation 14:13 – (underlining mine).

WHAT a day it will be when in HEAVEN we enjoying sitting at the banquet table, celebrating both Christmas and Easter’s reality! Will you be there? **WORTHY IS THE Lamb THAT WAS SLAIN BUT IS ALIVE EVERMORE!**

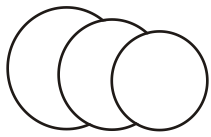
In the meantime, may you and yours have a truly blessed CHRISTMAS SEASON, perhaps sitting at someones’ banquet table, AND a joyous and blessed New Year!

‘Great are the offices He bears, and bright His character appears,

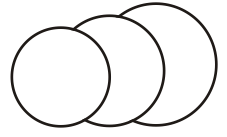
Exalted on the throne; in songs of sweet untiring praise,

We would be everlasting day, make all His glories known.’

S. Medley



From Our Fellowship Circle



B. N. Bismarck, ND
Please add the name of ... to the mailing list of the *Morning Glory*.

Have you considered a subscription fee?

I enjoy the *Morning Glory* with the variety of news worldly items.

The name that I requested, just added, is a newly converted Catholic; please pray for him.

Editor's Note: Yes, we of the HLIF Board consider setting a fee every so often; but as a ministry operating by faith; the LORD has honored the same and the subscription list has grown noticeably, as a whole. The actual cost for us (as a whole) runs around twenty-five dollars a year.

N. F. Rudd, IA
I really appreciate your efforts to spread the GOOD NEWS in our confused and hurting world.

C. H. Inver Grove Heights, MN
Please find enclosed a gift toward my subscription of the *Morning Glory*.

My husband ... passed away in May – I am so thankful that he knew the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and I am trusting in this same person, Jesus and seeking to let the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me each day! Our GOD is **FAITHFUL!**

Please change the address name too... Thank you and God Bless You!

R. N. Flaxton, ND
Please send the *Morning Glory* to... Enclosed please find a donation of \$...

For the Lord's Work, also.

Crisis After Crisis Threatens the USA

By Dr. Sheldon Smith

Just when you think you've seen and heard just about everything, you are alarmed to discover that another crisis has hit.

One of my greatest concerns is that the American people will not be alarmed. Especially am I concerned to see so many churches cave in to the pressures and buy into whatever cultural issues are trending at the moment.

The so-called "woke" culture is nothing more and nothing less than a wicked attack on our faith, our families and our freedom. We should know by now that "woke is no joke." It is not funny, but very, very serious.

Right alongside the "woke" revolutionaries you'll find the "cancel" culture. If you do not agree with them or if you dare to exercise your First Amendment free speech rights, they will shut you off and shut you down in order to shut you up!

Big Tech and any number of large corporations have now charted a "woke" agenda for their companies. In their thinking it is not enough for them to be "woke," but they also are on the attack against anybody and everybody who doesn't go "woke" with them.

I've said for years that many liberals are mean. They are intolerant and vicious. They may play nice when they get their way, but let them get full charge and they will show their tyrannical and totalitarian instincts.

Building on a foundation of atheism, humanism, hedonism and socialism their Marxist ideals demand that they get control of the government, the media, the schools and even the churches.

This a war but it is a war from within. Outside forces are not storming our shores (at least not yet), but they have crept in among us. In a stealthy manner they have gained access and positioned themselves in many places. They are in the government, the media, the schools, and YES, the churches. They are revolutionaries who hate us and they want to destroy all we know and all we treasure.

IF this nonsense is not stopped, our country (USA) will implode from within!

With the weak leadership we now have in the White House, the rest of the world is mocking our country.

Could China or Russia undertake an all-out effort to overrun us and invade our Nation?

Could Iran, the Taliban and other such groups send their terrorists through our southern border to go about their deadly assignments?

Well, I don't think you have to be an international expert on foreign affairs to figure out the answer to both of those questions.

Are we in a mess? I mean, is the country in real trouble? **Yes, we are!**

EXCERPT from *Sword of the Lord* – Dr. Sheldon Smith is the Editor of *Sword of the Lord*.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

What Are The Children Watching?

A recent report by the *Insider* made it clear that LGBTQ producers are hard at work at influencing children's programming with their LGBTQ agenda. Transgender and nonbinary characters and storylines are on the rise in children's animated shows. There are currently 259 LGBTQ characters trying to find their way into your home via animated kids' shows. As parents and grandparents, we need to be aware of the increase of such programming attempts to influence and desensitize our children to this ungodly agenda. ...The Walt Disney Company, once considered family friendly entertainment, has been doing its part to help normalize and promote the LGBTQ lifestyle for a number of years.

Source: cbn.com

Editor's Note: Remember, we live in a very sinful world around us and also battle against the world within us!

Street Preacher Arrested

Ryan Schiavo was preaching in the streets of London this past summer and was arrested. His "crime" was stating that homosexuality was a sin. He also talked about how the transgender agenda that is being taught in the school is actually damaging children. One young woman who heard him was offended and called the police, who arrested him. He was in custody for ten hours. They did a mental health evaluation and eventually released him. Schiavo, who is an American, stated, "It's time for the Church to wake up and be prepared for persecution. Freedom of speech and expression are very much under attack in the Western world, and I'm concerned that many of these Western countries are becoming communist."

Christianpost.com

Liberals Climate Scare, Unscientific, Silly

A British Vogue article ... ask(ed) the question, "Is having a baby in 2021 pure environmental vandalism?" The author suggested that people should consider the "current climate emergency" before procreating...

"For the scientifically-engaged person, there are few questions more troubling when looking at the current climate emergency than that of having a baby," Nell Frizzell

wrote in the fashion magazine...

Political commentator Liz Wheeler reacted by tweeting, "This is crazy. If you don't have a baby, that won't do a THING to impact the climate. But you'll deprive yourself of the greatest joy you've ever known..."

Emily Domenech, senior policy advisor for House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, lampooned the article, "...This is unscientific trash, much like the rest of this deeply silly article, ... Don't let them scare you – this beautiful planet full of innovative people will continue to survive and thrive... Don't waste your chance to be a parent because of unscientific fearmongering."

Paul Sacca, theblaze.com

Doctors Forced To Do Surgery?

The Biden administration reinstated a policy known as The Transgender Mandate, which requires medical facilities to perform gender-transition procedures and abortions, even if it goes against their religious convictions. Thankfully, a judge has blocked enforcement of the mandate, stating that it violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Attorney Luke Goodrich, who is representing a religious hospital and over 20,000 healthcare workers in this case, stated, "No doctor should be forced to perform controversial, medically unsupported procedures that are contrary to their conscience and could be deeply harmful to their patients."

cbn.com – through *The Vine and the Branches*,
Autumn 2021

Miraculously Saved

Christian Professor Oleg Korotkyi and his wife live in an apartment near the Gaza border in Ashkelon, Israel. He teaches at the One For Israel Hebrew Bible School. Rocket warnings are not new to them, and he says that during previous attacks he would just continue working. He recounts that this time he was working on a research paper, and then, unexplainably, he and his wife stood up and walked out of the room and stood behind a protective wall. Two seconds later, a rocket fired from Gaza hit their apartment building and destroyed most of their apartment, except where they were standing. They reported they had no injuries from the attack. They gave glory to God for protecting them from certain death.

Source: godreports.com, from *The Vine and the Branches*, Autumn 2021

I Did Exactly As I Promised

Dr. John R. Rice

When I was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Shamrock, Texas, I think it was in the fall of 1925, I held revival services in the First Baptist Church of Wellington, Texas, thirty miles south.

After the first week of meetings, on a Saturday afternoon, I was driving from Wellington back to Shamrock. I must secure the promise of a dear retired preacher, Brother Baird, to preach for me Sunday morning while I was away.

I must get out the little church paper, must get fresh clothes and return to Wellington for the Saturday night meeting.

We had had many saved at Wellington in that week and I had preached very earnestly on soul winning. Whether or not others took it to heart, I surely did. I had made God a vow that from that time on, every time He would move me to speak to someone about his soul, I would do it, anywhere.

As I drove along, I passed a farm wagon. On the spring seat was a man, a girl twelve, I suppose, and a boy about ten. The Lord seemed to press on my heart to stop and speak to those people.

But I thought, I have *so little time! I must rush through the work at home and be back in Wellington to preach tonight! It would be fine to stop and talk to them another time, but how could I spare the time now?*

While I argued with the Lord, I had driven three-quarters of a mile beyond the wagon; and God spoke accusingly to my conscience, "But you vowed that the next time I moved you to speak to anyone, you would do it. Did you lie to God?"

"No, I will do what I promised!" So, I turned the car about and went on up the road to meet the farm wagon. I stopped the car under a tree; and as the wagon came beside me, I hailed the man. He stopped the team. I put one foot on the doubletree and reached up to shake hands.

"I am Brother John R. Rice, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shamrock. I felt I must stop and ask you if you are a Christian man."

His face was deadly serious, "No, I am not," he said. "None of us are but Mama. My wife is in the hospital. The doctor is afraid she will not live. We have just been to town to the hospital to see her. She is the only Christian in the family."

Then he looked at the children and then to me and he said, "We have just been talking about it. If Mother dies, who will there be left to pray for us!"

I told him that in this time of trouble God was call-

ing him to be saved. I went into the plan of salvation, simply. How earnestly he believed! Soon he was glad for us to bow our heads and pray as the Texas sun beat down on our uncovered heads. Then he trusted the Lord before his children.

Then the girl and then the boy also trusted Christ. They promised me that when they went back to the hospital to see mother and wife, so desperately ill, they would tell her that now the family were all Christians.

The Sword of The Lord

Editor: Be careful what vows you make, especially unto the LORD, and secondly to fellow-believers! A vow is a promise. "When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed – Better not to vow than to vow and not pay." (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5) Personally, I believe the word 'vow' here means not only finances but promises! God shouldn't have to tell us, who are professing Christians, for lying is of the devil; but He does: "*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.*" Colossians 3:9-10. If we who in the family of God do not stand for truth and righteousness, who will?

A Time

"A time to be born, and a time to die."

(Ecclesiastes 3:2)

By Donald L. Lorbie

There was a time when you were conceived. Your life began and you grew in your mother's womb. After nine months you were born and eventually grew into adulthood. You married and had children. Life was busy and happy. But death is coming; it is as sure as birth. There will come a time when you must leave this life. Are you ready? How have you prepared? Are you sure you are saved and ready to face God? If not, repent of your sins and turn to Christ in simple faith and receive Him. He died to pay the penalty for your sin. If you are saved, live a wise and holy life, ready to meet your Lord! Your life will be judged. Do not waste it!

My faith has found a resting place, not in device nor creed,

I trust the ever living One, His wounds for me shall plead.

Lidie H. Edmunds, *Choice Gleanings*

The Heart: Man's Most Central Part

By Carol Hoikkala, Editor of "Hope for Your Heart"

No matter what one's belief may be, for the most part, the heart is seen as the most central part of man. Some words pertaining to the heart that are commonly used are: *heartfelt, kindhearted, heartsick, tenderhearted etc.* Scripture also makes it evident that the heart is the innermost center of man. The Apostle Paul says, **He who stands steadfast in his heart ... has power over his will...** God's Word also tells us that the heart is the place of understanding (Proverbs 8:5), joy and sorrow (Isaiah 65:14), and a good and evil treasure (Luke 6:45). For the Christian, the heart is a dwelling place for Christ (Ephesians 3:17), a field to the Seed of God's Word (Luke 8:15), the place of peace (Colossians 3:15). In Romans 5:5 it says, **"The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."** It is in our heart that we have fellowship and communion with GOD.

While most people recognize the heart to be the center of man, not all view the heart in the same way. For some the heart is seen as basically "good." For others it is seen as "totally depraved", and another group views the heart as having an "inclination toward good" and an "inclination toward evil." The following are the different views.

The Good Heart

Because Secular Humanism denies the existence of the Creator God it believes that there is no such thing as sin and as a result, they view man's heart as basically "good." They believe that all values are relative, there is no right or wrong hence anything goes. For the humanist, the Judeo-Christian beliefs and values stand in the way of their utopian society and must be eradicated. Their belief is that if this heart is left to itself to do as it "feels right," then people will live harmoniously and be at peace with each other – there will be no wars, etc. This is what has been instilled in children through our public schools for the past several decades. As we look around it doesn't seem to be working out very well.

The "Totally Depraved Heart"

The doctrine of "total depravity," holds to the belief that when Adam and Eve sinned, man's entire being – his thinking, emotions and his will – were permeated by sin. Man is so totally enslaved by sin that he can only choose evil – he cannot choose good. He is unable to choose God and His Salvation. Included in this belief is what is

called "unconditional election" which means some people are chosen to go to heaven and some to hell – they have no choice – man has no free will.

A doctrine that gives a different view from that of "totally depravity" is the doctrine of 'free will.' This doctrine holds to the belief that, while it is God Who works within man's heart to show him his need for salvation, man ultimately has the freedom and the capability to accept or reject salvation (Editor = It is when God/Holy Spirit calls unto repentance & SALVATION; then empowered by the same the capability to accept or reject, which is the biblical basis of the *Morning Glory & HLIF*). Those who support the doctrine of "free will" say, "Election deals with the selection for service, not salvation. In fact, it couldn't be talking about salvation. Jesus and the angels were part of the elect, but they didn't need to be saved. The Nation of Israel was part of the elect, but not all were saved."

The Heart Inclined Toward "Good" And "Evil."

Foundational to Hebrew thought is the belief that, while man's heart has an "inclination toward evil" it also has an "inclination toward good," thus being capable to chose or reject the gift of salvation. From a Jewish understanding, the inclination toward evil accompanies man's birth. He is born with a "... natural survival instinct that is wholly governed by self-interest. While it (heart) is the element in the human entity that produces evil, it like everything else that God created, has some good. Without it one would not work, create a family or otherwise develop."

The "Shin" And Man's Heart

The "shin" the twenty-first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, has been used throughout Judaism to represent the name of God. Dr. John Garr has included in his book, *Bless You*, a picture of an echocardiogram of the human heart, which reveals some new evidence to consider.

Dr. Garr writes, "When an echocardiogram of the human heart is made, the tissues that separate the chambers of the heart are aligned in such a way as to manifest the Hebrew letter *shin*." Is this merely a curious coincidence, or is it possible that GOD has left the imprint of his Name on the very heart of every human being? Though the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked so that only GOD can know it (Jeremiah 17:9), the Eternal has maintained a spark in the heart of all men that can become a torch of enlightenment through the word of faith." (Note: this should not be taken to mean that God is in everybody, as the mystics believe.) The picture included in Dr. Garr's book clearly reveals the Hebrew letter "shin" (שׁ) – God's Name. (Editor: A little of this

significant article is taken from the book *Bless You* by Dr. John Garr.)

Hebraic theology "... acknowledges God's Absolute Sovereignty with the power to predetermine all things. On the other hand, it also recognizes that if man is to love God freely, he must do so out of free will. In order to permit man, the power to choose out of his own free will, God limits His own Sovereignty in much the same way in which He limited His Deity to the faculties of humanity when HE became man in the Person of JESUS. In this case, God predetermines His will for mankind but permits individuals to exercise free-will to choose what counsel they will follow."

Hope For Your Heart

* * * * *

Walking on the Water With Jesus

By Antoinette Frank

(If we are not mistaken; at one time we knew this writer by correspondence, who at that time was in prison)

"Lord, if it's You, tell me to come to You on the water." (Matthew 14:28)

Just like the other eleven disciples cowering in the boat in the early morning darkness, Peter was in sight of the solitary ghost-like figure that was walking towards them on the lake. **"Lord if it's You, tell me to come to You on the water."** Peter cried out!

When we seek clarity of the presence of God in our lives and Jesus says to us "come," it is thrilling to walk upon the waters with HIM, to master the incredible, and know that He is God. But will we keep our eyes on Jesus, while persevering through the wind and the waves – the hardships and adversities that threaten to sink us under their tremendous weight? Or will Jesus say to us, "You of little faith?"

Peter was an impulsive man, and he desired proof that it was really Jesus Who was walking upon the waters. But once he got down out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus, fear penetrated his being when the fierce hateful wind whirled around him, flailing his tunic wildly about his trembling body. Shivering, afraid, and entranced by the ambience of the moment, Peter grasped the insensible reality that he was walking on water. Then, with irrepressible apprehension, he took his concentration off the face of Christ Jesus and focused on the violent wind, and thus, he began

to sink. As the ferocious waves crashed against his flesh and the choppy waters swallowed him up, he was rendered beside himself with dreadful astonishment. In the shadow of utter helplessness and vexing fear, he cried out to Jesus, **"Lord save me!"** (Matthew 14:30)

After they were safe in the boat, with anguish thick in His voice, Jesus said to Peter, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31) Indeed, Peter had faith, but it was distorted and unfocused. He had forgotten that he was in the radiant presence of the One who had on an earlier occasion rebuked the storm with the words, "Peace be still." (Mark 4:39) He had doubted because he had permitted fear to pervade his overactive thoughts. The assurance of the Lord, **"Never will I forsake you,"** (Hebrews 13:5) had slipped his mind as peril raged all around him.

The winds that battered Peter were a frightening distraction. One moment Peter was walking on water – experiencing the miraculous wonders of GOD and then, the next moment, after taking his objective focus off of Jesus, he found himself descending into the ravaging waves. As we, too, press towards Jesus, life will turn up distractions, and our 'faith' will be challenged. But Jesus says that if we believe, we will **"see the glory of God."** (John 11:40) We will receive from God what we ask of Him, according to His will. (John 16:23) Jesus beseeches us to believe that God will meet our needs, heal our hurts, cure diseases, deliver His beloved children from the miry pit of abuse, addiction and oppression, and protect us against the enemy, because our God is Loving and Almighty.

Our Lord, Christ Jesus, wants to trust in the power of God and rest in the perfect peace of GOD whenever the menacing devices of trouble and affliction come our way! HE wants our faith to rise up to the occasion and stand the test, so that we may be strengthened and receive from God **"exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think."** (Ephesians 3:20)

Hope For Your Heart

"If ever a time should come when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in government, our Country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin."

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote, that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society, for which he is accountable to God and Country."

Samuel Adams

What About Hell? – Final

“For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

(2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)

This is the final article in the series about Hell and what people today think about it versus what the Bible says about it.

The preaching about Hell is the Law in all its sternness. It is designed to convict us of our sins and lead us to fear the wrath of God. This is necessary to prepare a person’s heart to receive the Gospel. When people realize their condition before the Lord and their absolute helplessness and hopelessness of doing anything about it, then the Law has done its work. When the Gospel in all its sweetness is presented to people like this, then the Holy Spirit has a heart that is ready to “flee from the wrath to come.”

The preaching about both Heaven and Hell keeps a balance of Fear and Love to God. If we only talk about God’s Love and never about His Wrath, then we have an unbalanced view about the nature of God. We can end up viewing God as a kind old “Grandpa” who plays with his grandchildren and would never lift a finger against them. When we look at the whole counsel of God, we see He is filled with lovingkindness, mercy and grace, but we also see that He has fierce wrath. We see that He is nothing less than a Divine Warrior and will do nothing short of conquering those who are against Him. *“The kings of the earth take their stand, And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed: ‘Let us tear their fetters apart, And cast away their cords from us!’ He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury: ... Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware.”* (Psalm 2:2-5, 9)

What about all the preachers who claim that the Love of God doesn’t allow for such punishment and say they

just can’t reconcile God’s Mercy with this view of punishment? Well, who are you to tell Almighty God what to do? As the Lord told Job, *“Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me. Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?”* (Job 40:7-8) After all, God judged angels who rebelled with hell presently, just waiting the final judgment. *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.”* (2 Peter 2:4) Would God do any less for humans since they are a little lower than the angels? (Psalm 8:5)

Not many people realize that Charles Darwin, author of *The Origin of the Species* and the Theory of Evolution was once at Cambridge University studying to be a priest of the Church of England. His statement upon entering the priesthood was this, “...and as I did not then in the least doubt the strict and literal truth of every word in the Bible, I soon persuaded myself that our Creed must be fully accepted.”¹ He even related the effect that Christian singing had on him at that time. “... I acquired a strong taste for music, and used very often to time my walks so as to hear on week days the anthem in King’s College Chapel. This gave me intense pleasure, so that my backbone would sometimes shiver.”² One of the things which drove him to unbelief was the doctrine of Hell. “I can indeed hardly see how anyone ought to wish Christianity to be true; for if so the plain language of the text seems to show that men who do not believe, and this would include my Father, Brother and almost all my friends, will be everlastingly punished. This is a damnable doctrine.”³

People today who deny this same doctrine are starting on the same road that Darwin traveled, because even Darwin said that “the plain language of the text” tells us this. So those who won’t believe this must try and explain away why the plain language doesn’t mean what it plainly states. Once you start down this road, then the door is wide open to explain away any other doctrine which men find objectionable. This is already happening by some in regards to what the Scriptures teach about same-gender sexual relations. The plain language of the text openly condemns this act, regardless of how it is practiced. But now we have certain people and ministries which tell us that it is alright for this to be practiced within the Christian faith. So they take the plain reading and make it say what is not plain by reading *into it* certain conditions which

1. *The Autobiography of Charles Darwin, 1809-1882.* With original omissions restored. Edited with Appendix and Notes by his granddaughter, Nora Barlow. Copyright © 1958 by Nora Barlow. pg. 57.

2. Ibid, pg. 61.

3. Ibid, pg. 87.

seem to make it alright. Darwin was at least consistent in that when he couldn't believe what was plainly stated in the text of Scripture, then the only other position is to reject Christianity outright. Christianity stands alone on the strict and literal truth of every word of the Bible, including what it says about Hell.

The Good News is that God has graciously provided a way for anyone to avoid this place called Hell, have forgiveness of all their sins and everlasting life with Him in a place called Heaven. It is not God's Will that anyone go to this place called Hell, as God desires (wills) that all men be saved. *"This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* (1 Timothy 2:3-4) God has done this in His Son Jesus our Lord. The sin that separates us from God and incurs God's Wrath against us is what Jesus came to deal with. When Jesus died on the Cross, it was for the sins of all mankind. *"The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."* (Isa. 53:6) There is no sin that God cannot forgive because Jesus has paid it all. The reason that people go to Hell is that they won't come to the Savior Jesus to be saved. Regardless of who you are and regardless of what you have or haven't done, Jesus can save you and forgive you of all your sins.

Have you come to the Lord Jesus to be saved from Hell and granted Heaven instead? In order to come, it must be in repentance of your sins. Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God? Are you willing to turn away from them? Are you broken hearted of your sins? *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."* (Psalm 51:17) You must have faith in Jesus that He is your Savior and believe that He is Who He claimed to be. He is the Lord and Savior as the Scriptures declare. *"For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you."* (2 Peter 1:11) So faith in Jesus is to receive Him as both Savior and Lord. He saves you from your sins and you now follow Him as Lord of your life. Many people miss this aspect of salvation. Jesus Himself said, *"And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"* (Luke 6:46)

The path of Life that Jesus gives that leads to Heaven is for repentance and faith to be your daily life, not just a one-time act. *"For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it."* (Matthew 16:25)

Pastor Jim Haga
Hagapublishing.com

Return To Me

We have failed to apply God's prescription for revival given in Joel 2: ***"Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments."*** Now return to the Lord your God. For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness. (Joel 2:12-13.) What if they saw the power of God manifested as an undeniable force moving through the church of Jesus Christ as she preached the Gospel unashamedly?

In our nation's past, God sent Great Awakenings and Revivals to activate and awaken His Church to both return to devotion to Christ and to rise up and lead our Nation back to God. We desperately need another Awakening in America! There *will probably* always be prodigals in the family of God, but God's ending to the story is that the prodigals come to their senses and return to the Father's House. What will it take to awaken them so they realize the Father's House is so much better than the pigsty? I believe it will only come as this generation has a true revelation of the Father's Love that comes only through a true knowledge of **Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Excerpt from *The Vine and the Branches*,
Autumn, 2021

Resist the Devil

We have come to a time today when we are continually on the defense. We dig our little spiritual foxholes and pile up our sandbags and shoot over the sandbags with our little spiritual peashooters and try to keep the Devil from getting us, when we ought to be marching out like an army and having the Devil run from us.

There is not a verse in the Bible that says, "Run from the Devil." BUT there is a verse that says, **"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"** (James 4:7).

We have such a cheap, weak, flimsy, whimsy brand of Christianity today that the Devil can go to sleep on top of the average church and never wake up.

Dr. Curtis Hutson

Obedience = hear under
Disobedience = hearing along
side

“That They May All Be One”

“That they may all be one, even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us; that the world may believe that thou didst send me.”

(John 17:21)

Life must be seen from more than one viewpoint if we want to gain a proper perspective of it. It unfolds itself according to the laws God has laid down in nature and such as we have experienced it to be. It is unfortunate for the individual and for the group if we insist upon one single viewpoint. Then it is so easy to insist that all others shall be and do as we.

There are over ... billion people on earth today (USA alone, appr. 330 million people), and no two of them are exactly alike. Not even two of the billions of leaves are exactly alike. Yet precisely because of this difference there is in all creation a harmonious interplay of life which has in it something so inexpressibly beautiful for our sight and artistic sense.

Creation is as a choir of many thousand voices; each one sings his part to produce a harmonious whole. The harmony is often broken today; but when life one day shall reach its goal we shall sing without a single discordant note.

Let this sublime thought have a prominent place in your mind. It is not a thought of man, but of God; it is a divine law that is operative.

For many people it is embarrassing that not all Christians have exactly the same views. They look upon it as a tragedy that there are so many denominations and organizations. Such a view may be correct enough if we have in mind life as it shall be in Heaven; but here on earth, where each one understands only in part, it is inadequate.

Before I discuss the reason for the many and varied denominations and the various views of God's Truth, I should like to underscore the truth that *all true Christians are united in Christ Jesus*. God sees only a single denomination, a living and united body, a perfect organism, one building constructed of living stones, one family – the children of one Father. God does not ask to which church we belong; all that are truly born of God are one in Christ Jesus! Their theme-song is of the Lamb that was slain and of redemption in His Blood. ...He is more interested in that “we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another.” (Romans 12:5) ...

Someone may misunderstand what I now have said, I shall there have to make a further statement.

There is one point on which all Christians must teach and believe alike. That point is our view of Jesus Christ, both what He is in Himself and what He has done for us. On this point there can be no division among Christians.

Those who do not believe that Jesus was true God and true Man, and deny that HE died to atone for our sins and rose again for our justification, cannot be counted as Christians. We cannot be tolerant on this point because this is the heart of Christianity. One can lose a finger, a hand or a foot and still be very much alive, but no one can live without a heart. He is then but a corpse. Those who rob us of Christ as He is pictured to us in the Bible have no Christianity.

The Christ of the Bible existed before all things, and all things were made by Him. He is the Word that was with God and was God, and who became flesh and dwelt among us. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He gave Himself as an offering for our sins, was made sin for us, suffered and died for all, rose again for our justification and ascended into heaven where He now appears before the Father to intercede for us.

There is no room for difference of opinion on these points. They are merely delightful variations in a harmonious whole, but the main theme of the gospel harmony here on earth and in Heaven forever.

Christian people: Here we meet as one people and are united as drops in an ocean. On this foundation we build the church of Christ on earth, each from his scaffolds will be removed, and God will be all in all.

By Ludvig Hope, *Spirit and Power*, © 1959 by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.

Godly Jealousy

“For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy.”

(II Corinthians 11:2a)

We speak sometimes of loyalty, and then we speak of blind loyalty. The former is good, the latter dangerous. The same can be said of jealousy. Protective, guarding jealousy is one thing; selfish, fearful jealousy is another. (The Apostle) Paul combines the two positive qualities of loyalty and jealousy in the first six verses of this chapter. It could be described as a “zealous protection” of some very important elements of the Christian life. In Paul's case, he was jealously loyal to the church of God, (vv. 2-3); the truth of God, (v. 4); and the ministry of God (vv. 5-6). Like Paul we too should strive to keep the church pure, as well as ensuring that it never leads away from the simplicity that is found in Christ.

Norman Craig Funston

Faith must obey its Father's will, as well as trust His Grace; A pardoning God is jealous still for His own holiness. — Isaac Watts

NAMES!

Excerpts of Dr. Michael Youssef's – PEN

Throughout SCRIPTURE, names hold deep significance. That's why God often changed a person's name, like Abram to Abraham and Jacob to Israel; it was to show that HE was giving them a new purpose. If names are important for created beings, think of the weight they must hold when they describe God!

The divine names of the Almighty reveal His nature, His identity, His sovereignty, and His will.

“Yahweh Rohi” – GOD OUR SHEPHERD

“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”
(Psalm 23:1)

In our modern world, most of us are far removed from sheep or shepherding so when we hear that God is Yahweh Rohi, we maybe don't realize that He is our Shepherd for everything. Without a good shepherd, a sheep is liable to be picked off by a predator, wander off into dangerous terrain, or succumb to the elements. Our Good Shepherd not only supplies all our needs, God's Word tells us He *“is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”* (Ephesians 3:20). With God as our Yahweh Rohi, we are always in good hands.

His Grace is perfect, and His peace is enduring. His leading is thoughtful and personal, and His comfort superior to all others. His companionship is eternal (Ed. As we obey His Word, out of Love) and He banishes all our fears. He provides so abundantly that our enemies

***When I was young, I said to God,
“Lord, tell me the mystery of the universe.” God seemed to say, “That knowledge is reserved for Me alone.”
So, I said, “God, tell me the mystery of the peanut.” God seemed to say, “Well, George, that's more nearly your size!”
And the Lord told me!***

George Washington Carver

will see His blessings and flee. He has anointed us for future glory, and His goodness and mercy overflow in the present.

Praise Yahweh Rohi, our Shepherd! Whatever you're going through, know that HE cares for you. He loves you with an everlasting Love. Draw near to Him, and He will refresh your soul. Listen to His voice, and He will lead you along the right paths. Even in the darkest valley, He will not abandon you.

If you were to ask Isaiah 43:21 he would answer, *“That I might proclaim God's praise”* (see Isaiah 43:21). Or if you were to ask the same of Peter after his repentance and restoration following his denial of Christ, he would profess, *“That I might bring praise, glory, and honor to Christ Jesus my Lord”* (I Peter 1:6-7). And Paul would undoubtedly respond, *“My life is for the praise of His glory”* (see Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14).

How do I Know if my Worship is Pleasing to God?

There is one thing that GOD looks for in the heart of the worshiper: humility/need. True worship involves total surrender that says with John the Baptist: *He must become greater; I must become less”* John 3:30. If Jesus is not increasing and we are not decreasing we have not yet learned to be true worshipers. This was John's clear mission for life; this is why Jesus called John the greatest among men. (see Matthew 11:11)

None of the things we often strive for in life were what made John a true worshiper of the LORD. He did not seek people's approval or acceptance or admiration. After 400 years without a prophetic voice in Israel, John could have allowed all the attention to go to his head, but because his motives were pure, he humbly pointed to Jesus: ***“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*** (see John 1:19-29).

A clear mission for life and pure motives — keep these two things at the forefront of your life and witness, and I promise you, you will be great in the eyes of God (see Matthew 11:11). You will be a true worshiper of the Living God.

Excerpts taken from My Journal (*Praise His Name*),
Leading the Way

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24) *“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”* (Hebrews 12:28)

Timeless Love

By Pastor Troy Tysdal

It would be the last time the young pastor would visit the old man, and there was something heavy on the old man's heart. He had spent the last few months in physical pain, but that was not what troubled him now. Now he seemed at peace with the pain, and even to accept his impending death. There was no more resistance, at least not for himself. What troubled the old man now, what kept him hanging on, was the one he would leave behind! He had been caring for the woman who had cared for him for so many years. The woman who had made sure there was a meal waiting for him when he worked overtime at the office. The woman who had read stories and rocked their children to sleep. The woman who had shown him both love and forgiveness for over 60 years. He had been hiding her dementia, not that people noticed, but that he had done his best to care for her and to keep them together in their home. That was over now, and he knew it. In the old man's final moments, the young pastor had hoped to talk about Jesus, but the old man had only his wife on his mind.

When people have the opportunity to share their last words, you can be sure of this; the subject will be one of extreme importance to them. We often think of the Great Commission as the final words of JESUS CHRIST. They were given to us after His death and resurrection – just before His ascension into Heaven. Jesus had called His disciples to Galilee, and He had told them to go – to make disciples of all nations. HE told them to baptize and to teach, and HE promised to be with them always. His words mattered. They were of the utmost importance.

But they are not the only final words we have from our LORD.

JOHN 19:25-27

Near the Cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The words of Jesus to the Apostle John, the disciple whom He loved, show us Jesus' humanity. They show us, that is His darkest hour, He looked beyond Himself to care for the woman who had cared for Him. It is a tender, intimate moment in which we can feel the love of Jesus for His mother. He has bigger problems to worry about than Mary. He has been nailed to a cross.

HE is bleeding and in pain. HIS Father in Heaven has forsaken Him, yet He charges the disciple whom He loved to care for His mother.

Can you feel it?

This was someone of extreme importance to Jesus.

Perhaps that moment of tenderness should be the lens through which we read the Great Commission! Jesus speaks with an intimate love, as with the love of a son for his mother, a husband for his wife, a grandfather for a grandmother, as He charges His followers to go into the world to make disciples of all nations – Jesus was telling them, "Bring my children home."

When I sat with the old man, many years ago, I told him, "God loves grandma more than you do, and He has not forgotten her."

Perhaps that is the message you need to hear today?

You are not forgotten. You are someone of extreme importance to Jesus, and you are not alone. Let the 'Truth' find a place in your heart, and may the God of peace fill you with the love of HIM who calls you home.

Faith and Fellowship

Editor's Note; I remember very clearly, as one of my brothers-in-law was laying on his 'death-bed', I trust that I shall never forget as long as I am with you in this earthly journey – WE HAVE TO GET THEM IN, speaking of family members in particular. Will there be any family members 'missing' when you and I reach that BANQUET table, by the Grace of GOD?

The Greatest Gift

"Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling ... according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." (II Timothy 1:9)

Most gifts we receive from others are given to us during our lifetime! But the greatest gift ever offered to us was given to us in Christ before the world began. That glorious fact speaks to us of the greatness of the gift and the love and commitment of the Giver. There is nothing we could do to earn or deserve it because the gift was given before we were even born. **Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable GIFT!** — Ken Gross

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul; thank you Lord, for making me whole;

Thank you, Lord, for giving to me, Thy great Salvation so rich and free. — S. & B. Sykes,

Choice Gleanings, 2014

UpDate

“I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3)

IT PAYS TO PRAY & GIVE!

A family of three (Father, Mother & oldest son) rode together to get the son enrolled in a higher school of education. When the son (which we will call “Todd”) got his dorm room in his freshman year, the room was furnished with just the bare essentials, but by the time Todd brought along his favorite treasures, the dorm-room was indeed more inviting.

Right before the parents left, the father dropped off a copy of the *Morning Glory* on his desk. The son would not miss it. In the middle of the *Morning Glory* Dad had placed a \$... bill.

When Christmas time came, there was a break at school, father, mother and youngest son rode to a given destination to pick up Todd. On the way back, the youngest son asked Todd, ‘Did you find the currency that Dad had put in your copy of the *Morning Glory*?’ ‘\$...? I discarded the *Morning Glory*, I mean, it was a mistake. Boy I could have used that cash! These two sons now are a number of years older and they now continue to read the *Morning Glory*. In Reading the *Morning Glory* from cover to cover, they both say that they find ‘new worthy information’ and/or some of the old truths that they had already known, became fresh once again being it is based on the Bible and concerned that others may get saved or nourished in their life for the future.

Isn’t this a good biblical motivation to seriously consider giving the *Morning Glory* subscription to loved ones, neighbors and friends for a CHRISTMAS GIFT, Anniversary, Graduation, etc? Just send in their names and addresses with a donation and we will seek to accomplish the rest.

Thank you for your concern for us.

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Altar Steps

The Hauge Innermission is looking into reprinting the daily devotional entitled “Altar Steps.” This is a daily devotional written by Pastor R.P. Haakonson and is suitable for families with children. It is evangelistic in nature.

We printed 100 copies of this devotional about 10 years ago and we have sold all of them. We are thankful for everyone who obtained a copy. We are wanting to know if there is interest in reprinting this work again. If you are interested in getting a copy of this, please just drop us a note expressing your interest in this. Just use the envelope in the center of the *Morning Glory* to express your interest. You are not committing to buy a copy, just that you are interested in obtaining a copy if it were available.

Thank you in advance for your help and interest in this ministry.