



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • January 2013

The Believer’s Two Natures

By Pastor A. W. Knock, (Lutheran Pastor)

Most serious minded young people, if asked the question, “Are you a child of God?,” are likely to answer, “No, I don’t think so. At least I can’t see how one with such an evil heart as I have can be a child of God. And with that will usually follow a confession of lack of love to God and an inner desire, tendency, and love for that which is evil. They have realized their condition, they have tried to overcome it, and finally concluded that though they have tried to be Christians they have failed. All this talk about living an abundant, joyous Christian life was surely all imagination! How could this ever be realized?

EARLY EXPERINECES

Perhaps at a very early age you knew what sin was. You met the law in your parents and later in God’s Word. But sin as yet consisted mainly in deeds, in doing “naughty” things. If asked what sin was, you might have named “lying, stealing, murder and bad words” as sin. So far sin was limited to the actual sins, committed. Sins of omission were scarcely noticed during childhood. Later in your adolescent years you recognized that sin was not limited to merely “actual” sins, but that there were also sins called “original” sins, those of your own evil nature. You recognized you could sin while doing nothing at all. You began to see the sins of hated, pride, envy, jealousy, and evil desires. How all these distressed and confused you. How could one so evil be a child of God?

THE STRUGGLE TO BECOME GOOD

Perhaps you were shocked to find you had such an

evil heart. You may have hoped that the day would come when you would no longer be troubled by evil desires. And so you began to struggle against your sinful self. You made resolutions, “I won’t do such things any more.” But alas, they were soon repeated. You tried to be good. Instead of succeeding you found that you became angry, you nourished evil thoughts; you showed bitterness in speech. Surely you could not be a Christian and do that!

But worse than that, you felt that you did not love God, that you were indifferent to the Word and prayer, and that you even loved your sins. No, you did not dare commit such gross sins as you saw in the lives of others, for fear of the consequences, or because that would bring sorrow to your parents. However, the love for sin was there nevertheless.

AT ENMITY WITH GOD

You perhaps disliked very much the things of God. You did not want to go to church. It was so tiring. The pastor was boresome. He was always talking about sin. And your parents were just as annoying. They were all the time “harping at you,” telling you to read the Word and to pray. And you disliked doing those things. When the time came for family prayers you tried to find an excuse for staying away. You didn’t have your hair brushed or you “had lessons to do.”

Little by little you realized the truth of Paul’s words, “*the mind that is set on the flesh (the old nature) is hostile to God!*” Rom. 8:7. You knew now that there was something in you that did not want to serve Christ. But “how to get out of the whole mess, that was the difficulty.

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THE SEEMING DELUSION

The Word seemed so inconsistent. *“For in Christ you are all sons of God, through faith”* Gal. 3:26.

You certainly believed, you knew you did – and yet you were sure that you were not a child of God. But more difficult still, the Word said that *“They who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”* Gal. 5:24. And your flesh was not crucified at all. Instead it too often ruled your life, and that meant spiritual death. *“If you live according to the flesh you will die”* Rom. 8:13. And your lusts and passions were exceedingly active. Hence it was clear that you were not “of Christ Jesus,” that you were not a child of God.

Your friends did not seem to understand you or to help you. Some said, “Why be so serious, you are no worse than the rest.” Others said, “We can’t get away from doing sinful things. You will never be any better.” Surely there was no comfort in that. You thought of how your life was like the old penmanship books you used in public school. The top line was given as a model. It was perfect. You were to keep your eye on that and fill in the sheet trying to reproduce the model. The first line you wrote was pretty good, the second not so good. As – it was too unlike the model that you were to copy. Even so your life was too unlike your model, Christ.

THE DISCOVERY OF SINFUL SELF

Yes, you were now convinced of it. You not only did evil but you *were* sinful at heart. You had learned many thing about yourself. You could agree

with Paul, *"I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh"* Rom. 7:18. (Flesh here is not your physical body but your sinful nature dwelling within.) You learned to your dismay that your old nature is not good and never will do good nor be made good.

Further you had learned, *"The mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot"* Rom. 8:7. The old nature within did not want to serve God. Neither did it want to pray or read the Word. No wonder it sought to find so many excuses to get away from doing this. And you permitted it to rule you. You allowed your whole self to be ruled by your sinful flesh, and to do so meant death, *To set the mind on the flesh is death* Rom. 8:6. How dangerous it was to obey the flesh!

If you obey the flesh then you cannot please God. For those who are in the flesh cannot please God Rom. 8:8. No matter what pretense you made or are making, as for example going to church, doing church work etc., if your flesh rules your mind and life, what you do and what you are does not please God.

What a sad conclusion there is to such a life after the flesh, *"If you live according to the flesh you will die"* Rom. 8:13. There is no other alternative. Unless Christ comes to live within and becomes your life you will die eternally.

Taken from *The Way of Life*; original Copyright, 1938
(to be continued in next issue of the *Morning Glory*)

* * * * *

The Value of Thanks

By Pastor Jim Fugleberg
(St Paul's Lutheran, Fargo, ND)

Rudyard Kipling was a great British poet whose writings have been a blessing to many and brought a fortune to the writer. A newspaper reporter came up to him once and said, Mr. Kipling, I just read that somebody calculated that the money you make from your writings amounts to over one hundred dollars a word." The reporter reached into his pocket and pulled out a one hundred dollar bill and gave it to Kipling and said, "Here's a one hundred bill, Mr. Kipling. Now you give me one of your hundred dollar words. Upon receipt of the bill, Rudyard Kipling looked at the money, put it in his pocket and said, **"Thanks!"**

Did the reporter get his money's worth? We might think not.

But then, what, after all, is the word "Thanks" worth? If it's missing after you have served, after you have given, af-

ter you have gone out of your way, does it not bring many questions and concerns to mind? Questions such as: "Did he even notice?" "Did she think she deserved it?" "Was I out of line to do the good thing I did?" "Do they want me to keep doing what I'm doing?" "Maybe the person I helped didn't want help!" We might also wonder what that person's lack of gratitude is telling us about him. But a little word, *"Thanks,"* erases those thought. It encourages us to do more good.

"Thanks" was important to Jesus. We recall the time he healed the ten lepers (see Luke 17), and sent them off to the priests to be examined and declared clean. Only one of the ten turned back to give thanks to Jesus.

Jesus was glad he did. But he wondered about the other nine. *"Were there not ten cleansed?"* He said, "but where are the nine?" All had been given a significant gift. All had been given the SAME gift. Yet only one says **"Thanks,"** and the rest say nothing.

Would we have been the one, or among the nine? In daily practice how is it? How do we respond to what we have been given?

And what have we been given? In the Lord's Prayer we pray, *"Give us this day our daily bread,"* Luther explains that daily bread includes 'all that belongs to the wants and support of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, cattle money, goods, a good spouse and children, good rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, good friends'.

God has graciously supplied these things, and if he has withheld anything, it is because of his love and for a higher purpose than we might be able to see.

The natural human tendency is to grumble when we think we lack something rather than to thank God for what we have. The ... reminds us that we need grateful hearts. But where do grateful hearts come from?

The account of the healed lepers might serve to illustrate that grateful heart come from something called humility. Jesus notes something interesting about the leper who returned thanks. He was a Samaritan. The others apparently were Jews. Ordinarily you wouldn't find Jews and Samaritans together, but this group was brought together by their disease. Ordinarily the Jews despised the Samaritans, because they were a mixed race, descendants of Jewish and heathen intermarriage. The Jews were God's chosen people. They had the prophets; they had the promises; and they thought themselves special because of it. They looked down on others, and especially the Samaritans. The Samaritans knew it.

Who, then, of the lepers, do you suppose accepted the healing with the most humility? Is it possible that the nine Jews who were healed by a Jew felt in some way deserving, but that the Samaritan, who also received the healing, was

amazed that Jesus, being a Jew, would even give him the time of day, much less heal him? Could it be his humility that explains his gratitude?

But when it comes right down to it, who, in reality, WAS more deserving of the healing? Actually neither one. All ten were healed on the same terms – it was a merciful gift from God.

The difference was in attitude. And Jesus was glad for the gratitude He saw in the Samaritan, because it revealed humility, and it is so the humble that God can give His grace.

Isaiah 57:15 says, *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*”

Peter writes, “...for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5).

As we enter the ...(Ed. New Year) if we find we are having trouble being grateful, perhaps our problem is deeper than ingratitude. Maybe we need to ask God to reveal to us our sins of pride.

President Lincoln, April 30, 1863, put it so well in his Proclamation for a National Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer: “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, the many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us! It behooves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”

Lincoln spoke on the national level, but on the personal level too, may we in humility be reminded that we are nothing more than recipients. My God give us heart to better recognize the bounty with which He has blessed us, and in humbleness of mind, may our hearts overflow with gratitude.

Jesus is glad when He sees a grateful heart, because it reveals a humble heart, and a humble heart is a heart God can bless. That’s worth much more than a ‘hundred dollars.’

Editor’s Note: Notice what GOD says especially in regards to the ‘perilous times’ ‘we’ are living in: “***But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For***

men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy” II Timothy 3:1-2.

EVEN though there are heavy laden, boistorious clouds over the horizon remember: “**if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will from hear heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land**” II Chronicles 7:14. Notice this ‘spiritual receipt’ begins with ‘us’ – no doubt as ‘individuals’! REMEMBER ‘we’ have a GOD who specializes in the *impossible!* When ‘we’ *Let Go* – than trusting IN **Him**, very likely ‘we’ have a miracle (from ‘our miracle working God) awaiting ‘us’ just around the *corner!* **Hebrews 11:6 and James 1.**

* * * * *

From Head to Heart

(Please read *Psalm 119:9-16*)

My childhood piano teacher was a sticker for memorization. Being able to play a piece without error was not enough. I had to play several pieces flawlessly by memory. Her reasoning was this: She didn’t want her students to say, when asked to play, ”I’m sorry, I don’t have my music with me.”

As a child, I also memorized Bible passages; including Psalm 119:11. Due to my limited understanding, I believed that simple memorization would keep me from sin. I worked hard at memorizing verses, and I even won a *Moody Bible Story Book* as an award.

Although memorizing the Bible is a good habit to develop, it’s not the *act* of memorizing that keep us from sin. As I learned soon after my winning efforts, having the words of Scripture in my head made little difference in my behavior. In fact, instead of victory over sin, knowledge alone generated feelings of guilt.

Eventually I realized that the word of God had to spread through my whole being. I needed to internalize Scripture, to hide it “in my heart” the way a musician does a piece of music. I had to live the Bible as well as I could quote it. As God’s Word spreads from our heads to our hearts, sin loses its power over us. - Julie Ackerman Link

*O Lord, my God, may Your Word become so much
A part of me that obedience comes naturally
and cheerfully from my heart. Change me and
mold me into You image.*

**Let God’s Word fill your memory,
rule your heart, and guide your life.**

Taken from *Our Daily Bread* RBC Ministries;
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Editorial

RES

LET GO(D)!

“But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.” (Isaiah 64:6) – (Prayerfully read Jeremiah 18)

An older ‘youth’ was seriously seeking God’s Will for his life and sought the Lord upon his knees in prayer beside his bed. He received no clear answer to his prayers in regards to the same! A plaque hung nearby his bed stated, ‘**Let God**’. Being frustrated, he got off of his knees and slammed the door as he left his bedroom. Later, upon re-entering his bedroom he found that the vibration shook the letter **D** loose, falling to the floor and the plague read ‘Let Go’.

The above scripture verse, Is.64:8, zero’s in on the following words: **But, You, Our and We**. When ‘we’ find the word ‘*but*’ in Holy Scripture, we need to sit up and take notice, especially when it states **but God**, a ‘*miracle*’ is just around the corner.

Before ‘we’ go any further in this ‘editorial’ we need to make sure that we are of the seed of Abraham, adopted in the family of God.

‘**Our Father**’. The Lord’s Prayer was given by our Lord and Savior JESUS Christ in response to the disciples’ request: Teach ‘us’ to pray! So it is a wonderful example for the Believer’s Prayer Life.

Now, reread: Jeremiah 18 – please.

As an example when you purchase a ‘vehicle and the ‘keys’ are placed in your hand, YOU are now responsible for the upkeep and maintenance, right? When we know Jesus as ‘our’ personal Savior ‘we’ are rightfully HIS, for HE is ‘our’ Creator & Redeemer, thus twice rightfully belonging to HIM. Remember Jeremiah 18. *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple (dwelling place) of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s”* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. It is not in ‘man’ to direct your path Jeremiah 10:23, Proverbs 16:9; BUT = Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 16:11, 25:4,27:11 & Isaiah 45:13. YES **God loves ‘us’ so much** (unconditional LOVE – **Agape**) that He even ‘chastens’ ‘us’. *“... ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.’”* This is for ‘our’ benefit. Hebrews 12:5a – 6.

Clay in the potters hand; it is the ‘Potters’ privilege to

shape/design as HE sees fit. Now when the sun (SON) seems to beat down on ‘us’; the clay either softens or hardens, as the choice is ‘ours’.

LIFE is like a ‘tapestry’ As each stitch is important; especially as you see the pattern from the correct view.

When born of God we will see His guiding hand and give Him the credit and God will not lead ‘us’ contrary to His Word. Luck is not part of the Christians vocabulary. It is ‘our’ privilege and responsibility to walk in compliance to His Word, out of LOVE. In so doing, ‘we’ will encourage others of like mind & spirit to worship & obey HIM! *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* Ephesians 2:10. *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”* Matthew 5:16. *“By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;”* Hebrews 11:8. For example of a ‘living faith’ in the life of Abraham found in Genesis 22:2 *“Take now: not later, but now = YES I (we) need to exercise the gift of a ‘living faith’ in taking ONE STEP at a time in obedience to the Potter’s design, out of Love to HIM. “Then He (God) said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” V.3 - SO. SO often ‘we as individuals’ know what is right, but we try to find excuses, for not doing it NOW even though ‘we’ definitely know and believe that GOD has only the best in store for ‘us’.*

The truest test of a saints life is not successfulness, but faithfulness. We tend to set up success in Christian Work as our purpose, but our purpose should be to manifest and glorify GOD! After all re-consider the **price** HE paid for you and me and that we are **Complete IN HIM!** Colossians 2:6-10, Ephesians 1:7 ((Why not read the entire first chapter of Ephesians 1)), 1 Corinthians 1:29 -31.

Another story: A traveler to arrive at his even ‘destination’, to let go of the ‘reins’ on the mule he was riding in the dark; to ‘let go’ of the reins of the mule, the last leg of his journey to arrive safely to his destination. Later in the daylight; seeing the ‘trail’ he had rode, found the ‘trail’

was very 'narrow' and very deep canyons below: AND the 'owner' knew for certain that a 'mule' is very sure footed and leaving the 'reins' in the 'rider' hands; could have easily spelled certain death!

NOW prayerfully read **Proverbs chapter three and**

Malachi chapter three!

WHAT A BLESSING TO KNOW THAT I BELONG IN THE FAMILY OF GOD AND THAT 'Our/My' FATHER KNOWS BEST!

DANCING

Is it wrong to learn how to dance y just dancing with girls if we do not actually go to a dance? Our coach said if it is against our religion we should not go to a dance, but there should be nothing wrong with girls learning to dance with girls. Do you think there is anything wrong with school dances? What about square dancing?

These are a few of the many questions that have been asked in different letters regarding the dance. I have grouped several of them in this way since they all have to do with the dance.

Remember, we should obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29) regardless of what a coach or anyone else might say. I cannot see that you would glorify God by learning to dance with girls, because there is danger that once you learn to dance, you will want to dance with those of the opposite sex. *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him"* (Col. 3:17).

School dancing inevitably leads to other kinds of dancing. The same is true of square dancing. I know of homes which have been broken, because the husband or wife, as the case may be, fell in love with some other man's wife at a square dance. Dancing is a very great issue in these days, and we know that many Christians are battling with questions about the dance. Do you think square dancing, school dancing or dancing with those of like sex can be done in the name of the Lord Jesus with thanksgiving to God while doing it? ...

Taken from a booklet *How Danny Orlic Would Answer* by Back to the Bible Broadcast, Copyright – 1961.

Editor's Note: I know that this is a 'sensitive' issue in our day; but, what does the BIBLE say? WHY do Christians ask: "Can I do such and such and still be a Christian witness? INSTANT it should be; "How can I show/manifest my love for JESUS more clearly, being HE has done so much for me"? 1 Thessalonians 5:22, 11 Timothy 2:19 & 22, John 7:24, Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13, Psalm 96:13, Romans 12:2, 11 Cor. 4:4, Titus 2:12-15, Hebrews 11:25, John 15:19, Galatians 5:13-26, James 1:27 & 4:4 & Revelation 3:4.

Our Christian Heritage

(Henry Melchior Muhlenberg) – *Patriarch of Organized Lutheranism in America*

One does not have to be a Lutheran to admire Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the patriarch of Lutheranism in America, as well as an American patriot who contributed much to the enrichment of our nation. Born in Einbeck, Germany in 1711, Muhlenberg came to America in 1742. He married Anna Maria Weiser, daughter of Conrad Weiser in 1745, and together they raised 11 children. Their son Frederick, a Lutheran pastor, became the first speaker of the U.S. House of representatives, while son Peter, also a Lutheran pastor, became a Major General in the Revolutionary War. Later, he was made a member of the United States Senate.

Converted to Christ

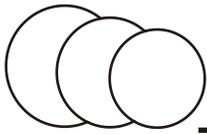
Henry M. Muhlenberg attended Goettingen University in Germany, where he received not only a degree but also came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior through the teaching and witness of one of his professors. He later wrote of his conversion:

As I learned to recognize sin as sin, there followed sorrow, repentance and a hunger and thirst for the righteousness of Jesus Christ. In this state of mind I was directed to the crucified Jesus, who had been wounded for my transgressions and bruised for my iniquities. The wounds of Jesus healed my wounds; the merits of His death gave me life; my thirst was quenched in Him, the living spring.

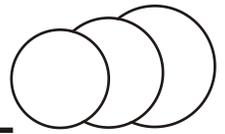
A Living Faith

Muhlenberg came under the influence of the pietistic movement at Halle University, where he studied theology and prepared for the ministry. Halle was known for its emphasis on a living faith in Christ, in contrast to the dead orthodoxy that had overtaken so many Lutheran churches at that time. Muhlenberg's pietism was evident throughout his ministry, including those times when he chastised congregations, laity and pastors for closing their eyes to unrighteous living.

Excerpt taken from *Vine and the Branches*; article entitled 'Our Christian Heritage.'



From Our Fellowship Circle



J. & J. H. Ames, IA
Thank you for your ministry, reach as many with the good news of salvation.

We look forward to receiving the *Morning Glory* and reading the articles.

May the Lord bless you in this very wonderful Work.

Enclosed please find \$....

M. B. Bagley, MN
Please continue publishing the "Good News: in the *Morning Glory* and find enclosed \$... for the Ministry.

R. C. Millington, IL
I receive your publication and some articles are valuable. I am from the Midwest.

J. W.
Enclosed is a note of expression through poems.

*"Our Lord has written
The promise of resurrection
Not in books alone,
But in every leaf in springtime."* Martin Luther

*My garden beautifies my yard and adds fragrance to the air,
It's also my Cathedral and fruit Place of prayer,
So little do we realize the glory and power
Of He who made the universe lies hidden in a flower.
We are the Caretaker of the earth.*

E. M. E. Moorhead, MN
I am sorry you are having a *major* medical problem Barb; but JESUS knows all about it - It has made me sad, but I pray constantly for your recovery and miss you as a dear friend.

*"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!"*

If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee." Psalm 139:7-8.

Editor's Note: At the time of this compiling of the *Morning Glory*, Barb is on the 'road' of complete recovery for which we most certainly thank the LORD and who have so faithfully upheld 'us' in the arms of PRAYER! The LORD is always good; but 'we' are so fortunate again in receiving 'healing' (through the Medical world) from the great Physician.

H. D. H. Forest City, IA
Greetings in the Lord.

Man has no greater need then Jesus Christ our Lord. God bless you all working with the *Morning Glory*. A \$... gift is enclosed.

J. M. H. Palmyra, PA
Greetings!

In the November issue of *Morning Glory* on page 3 the poem "Before the Throne of God Above" is credited to me. It is a very good poem but I did not write it. If possible, I would appreciate if you would find the name of the correct author and give them credit.

I thank you for the many poem's printed that I did write. Also for the excerpts used from my newsletter with credit give to the direct source.

Thank you for any consideration you give this.

I. & P. Field Nora Springs, IA
Please add to your subscription mailing list to the *Morning Glory* the following couples:...

Editor's Note: Why not prayerfully add to the mailing list of the *MG* a LOVE subscription as a valentine's gift!

"Posterity: you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

John Quincy Adams

“Thus Far Has The Lord Helped Us”

1 Samuel 7:12

The words “thus far” are like a hand pointing in the direction of the *past*. It had been “*a long time, twenty years in all*” (v. 2), but even if it had been seventy years, “*Thus far has the LORD helped*”! Whether through poverty, wealth, sickness, or health, whether at home or abroad, or on land, sea, or air, and whether in honor, dishonor, difficulties, joy, trials, triumph, prayer, or temptation - “*Thus far has the LORD helped*”!

We always enjoy looking down a long road lined with beautiful trees. The trees are delightful sight and seem to be forming temple of plants, with strong wooden pillars and arches of leaves. In the same way you look down a beautiful road like thus why not look back on the road of the years of your life? Look at the large green limbs of God’s mercy overhead and the strong pillars of His loving-kindness and faithfulness that have brought you much joy. Do you see any birds singing in the branches? If you look closely, surely you will see many, for they are singing of God’s mercy received “thus far.”

These words also point *forward*. Someone who comes to a certain point and writes the words “thus far” realizes he has not yet come to the end of the road and that he still has some distance to travel. There are still more trials, joys, temptations, battles, defeats, victories, prayers, answers, toils, and strength yet to come. These are then followed by sickness, old age, disease, and death.

Then is life *over* after death? No! These are still yet to come: arising in the likeness of Jesus; thrones, harps, and the singing of psalms; being “*clothed in white garments*” (Rev. 3:5 NASB), seeing the face of Jesus, and sharing fellowship with the saints; and experiencing the glory of God, the fullness of eternity, and infinite joy. So dear believer, “*be strong and take heart*” (Ps. 27:14), and with thanksgiving and confidence lift your voice in praise, for:

*The Lord “thus far” has helped you
Will help you all journey through.*

When the words “thus far” are read in heaven’s light, what glorious and miraculous prospects they reveal to our grateful eyes! Charles H. Spurgeon

The shepherds of the Alps have a beautiful custom of ending the day by singing an evening farewell to one another. The air is so pure that the songs can be heard for very long distances. As the sun begins to set, they gather their flocks and begin to lead them down the mountain paths while they sing, “*Thus far has the LORD helped us! Let us praise His name!*”

Finally, as is their beautiful custom, they sing to one

another the courteous and friendly farewell “Goodnight! Goodnight!” The words the begin to echo from mountainside to mountainside, reverberating sweetly and softly until the music fades into the distance.

Let us also call out to one another through the darkness until the night becomes alive with the sound of many voices, encouraging God’s weary travelers. And may the echoes grow into a storm of hallelujahs that will break in thundering waves around His sapphire throne. Then as the morning dawns, we will find ourselves on the shore of the “*sea of glass*” (Rev. 4:6), crying out with the redeemed hosts of heaven, **To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!**” (Rev. 5:13).

*This my song through endless ages,
Jesus led me all the way.*

AND AGAIN THEY SHOUTED: “HALLELUJAH!”

Revelation 19:3

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* (Updated Edition by James Reimann) by L. B. Cowman, Original text - copyright, 1925

Editor’s Note: What a ‘day’ that will be! By the way, in the mean time: ‘We’ all have many reasons to thank and praise God and ONE reason ‘we’ have for praising God is YOU ... Thanks for your Prayers & Support for Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation in laboring with ‘us’ in God’s Kingdom’s Work!

Thus Saith the Lord

Prophets are almost extinct in the religious world today. The modern church is a “non-prophet” organization.

Vance Havner

Entertainment Evangelism

“... and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” (Lk. 24:47)

There is a church in the area that is advertising a comedy skit. They have little signs all over the area promoting this event. They will gather a crowd together and tell them jokes to make them laugh and have fun. Through it all, people will be able to see that the church is a fun place full of fun people. Smiles and joking will be the order of the evening.

This only reflects the popular attitude of many in the church today regarding outreach to the lost. “We will do anything that will attract the people to the Lord, regardless of what it is.” This is what you call “Marketing the Church.” If you offer the people what they want, they will come. If you eliminate anything that might offend them, and offer them everything that will appeal to them, then they will come to church.

This line of reasoning has led to churches doing everything under the sun to try and attract the lost. I have seen churches sponsor rock concerts, block parties (with alcohol), racing events, carnivals with pony rides and “dunk the pastor for \$1.00.” I even read of a church that cleared out the chairs in the sanctuary and set up a wrestling ring! Are they going to get the unconverted in a head lock to get them saved? With this kind of approach, is it any wonder that the churches are little or no different from the world?

Isn't it interesting that when you read the Scriptures, you see nothing of this sort happening. When Jesus was here, people flocked to hear Him because of the miracles that He performed. When people's lives were transformed, they then brought others to see and hear this Man who did all things well. Jesus didn't seek to resort to amusing people so they would come to be entertained, rather, He told them the words that ministered life to their souls. They came to Him because there was no one else who ever said or did such amazing things as this Jesus.

When Jesus sent His disciples out to make disciples of all the nations, He gave them the charge in the Scripture at the top of the page. These men had to go about and preach to people that they were sinners and needed to repent and come to Jesus in order to have their sins forgiven.

This is precisely what the disciples did. When Peter preached to the people gathered in Jerusalem on Pentecost, he said, “... Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38). He later addressed another crowd and told them, “Repent

therefore, and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

When Paul and his companions came to different towns on their missionary journeys, did they go to the town square and have a neat song and dance routine to get an audience? Absolutely not! “*And it came about that in Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a great multitude believed, both of Jews and Greeks.*” (Acts 14:1) Paul's own testimony of his mission was this: “*How I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*” (Acts. 20:20-21)

Consider the example of John the Baptist. He preached publicly out in the wilderness. He preached a fiery message of absolute repentance and the dire consequences of not doing so (Matt. 3:1-12). He openly accosted some of his listeners (the Pharisees and Sadducees, even calling them a brood of vipers), he had no pleasant appearance, no entertainment or anything outward to draw people to come out and hear him. Yet the Scripture says, “*Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him.*” (Matt. 3:6). This is because he was God's man at God's time and God drew the people in. God still blesses the proper preaching of His Word.

Many in the church today think that they can entertain people into the kingdom of God. They think that anything goes that will gather a crowd and get people to say the sinner's prayer. Yet God still says that true life-changing conversion takes place when the Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin through the preaching of repentance and the Holy Spirit brings true faith in Jesus through the preaching of the Gospel.

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

When the church resorts to entertainment that tickles the fancy instead of proclaiming repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ, they have lost the very mission that Jesus has commanded them to do.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Proposals To Divide The Temple Mount Being Made In Israel

Angered over Jews not being allowed to pray on the Temple Mount, several members of the Knesset have proposed it be divided so the Jews may pray there whenever they desire. Others have suggested that specific hours and and/or days be established for Jews and Muslims to pray there. It is unlikely the Muslims would ever willingly agree to these proposals. However, Revelation 11:1-3 describes such a division at the close of the age when portions of the Temple Mount are given to the gentiles.

The Vine and Branches, Fall, 2012

Canadian Church Votes To Boycott Israel Exports

The United Church of Canada has voted to boycott products exported by Israel from Judea and Samaria. The church body also issued its “regrets” for previously asking the Palestinians to acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state. This is part of an organized campaign, led by liberal main-line churches worldwide, to demonize Israel.

Selected

Lesbian-Themed Show Blasted by One Million Moms for Promoting Sin

A new TV dramedy about a diverse family of biological and adopted children being raised by a lesbian couple is in the works with Jennifer Lopez as the executive producer. This had led a group of moms who monitor the media to conclude that ABC ‘has lost their minds.’

“While foster care and adoption are wonderful things and the Bible does teach us to help orphans, this program is attempting to redefine marriage and family, by having two moms raise these children together. One Million Moms is not sure how the explanation will be given on how the biological children were conceived,” the group said in a statement. “None of this material is acceptable content for a family show.”...

One Million Moms, which is part of the conservative American Family Association, is trying to warn families that despite its network title – ABC Family – the channel is “anything but family-friendly.”

“Hollywood is continuing to push an agenda that homosexuality is acceptable when Scripture states clearly it is a sin,” the group says. “As Christians, the Bible also

says that we must speak up against sin. If we remain silent, then we are guilty of sin also.”

Before the show is picked up for a series, One Million moms is hoping to stop it “dead in its tracks.”

(Another show) that the group is protesting is [The New Normal](#), an NBC program about a homosexual couple who hire a surrogate to have their baby. The show premiered in September.

ChristianPost.com

JC Penny “Starting Fresh” With Advertising

A project of the American Family Association is claiming victory in the changes JC Penney is making to its advertising.

In monitoring JC Penney’s website and advertisements over the last few months, One Million Moms executive director Monica Cole tells One News Now what her group has found.

“They have changed what they’re promoting, and instead of lifestyle, they’re promoting their brand names and products, which is what they should be promoting,” she states.

Earlier this year, JC Penny launched an ad campaign with television personality and homosexual activist Ellen De Generes. The chain also featured Mother’s Day and Father’s Day ads depicting homosexual couples with children. But as Cole points out, De Generes has been absent from the campaign since April – without reason.

“There’s been no word, but we have noticed there’s been a significant difference,” the One Million Moms executive notes. “And since Michael Francis, the president of JC Penney ...left abruptly, there has been a huge change in what they are promoting. [The Advertising Age](#) article stated that the CEO, Ron Johnson, said he scrapped all July advertisements and started fresh.”

Even so, Cole asserts that One Million Moms will continue to monitor JC Penney and its advertisements and will alert members if there are any changes.

OneNewsNow.Com

Desalination Plants Could Soon Supply Israel’s Drinking Water

Israel’s water shortage may soon end. Since 1964 the Jewish state has had one national water carrier, flowing from North to South. It supplies water for drinking and ir-

rigation from the Sea of Galilee to the rest of the country. Now a second water carrier is about to flow from East to West bringing sea water made fresh from 5 plants. By the end of 2014, Israel expects 85% of its drinking water will come from this new carrier, and within a few years, 100% of Israel's drinking water may flow from the desalination plants. After years of shortages, Israel may have a surplus of water for drinking and for irrigation.

Selected

Death Sentence for Insulting Islam

Seven Egyptian Christians have been sentenced to death for their role in *The Innocence of Muslims*, reports Reuters. The defendants, including the film's Egypt-American creator, Nakoula Bassely Nakoula, were sentenced in absentia for "insulting the Islamic religion through participating in producing and offering a movie that insults Islam and its prophet," Judge Saif al-Nasr Soliman said. Nakoula is currently imprisoned in the US.

(NEWSER), Nov. 29, 21012

Editor's Note: Who is it that is intolerant?

* * * * *

Instant Creation

"Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created." (Psalm 148:5).

Certain Christian intellectuals today are promoting the concept of what they call "process creation," a euphemism for theistic evolution. This is a contradiction in terms, however, for creation by definition is supernatural and instantaneous. The Bible makes this plain.

Our text is in one of the beautiful "hallelujah" psalms in which the entire creation is exhorted to praise the Lord. The sun, moon, and all the heavens are included, and then the testimony of our text is given. As soon as God commanded, they were created, not over long ages, but immediately! God said "Let there be ..." and it was so.

This is especially emphatic in the 33rd Psalm: *"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth... For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast"* (Psalm 33:6, 9). This is also the testimony in the great "faith" chapter, Hebrews 11. The very first object of faith is the following: *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear* (Hebrews 11:3). That is, the things which are seen (sun, moon, stars, etc.) were not made out of preexisting materials (things which

appear), but by the spoken word of God.

There is not any need at all to compromise either God's omnipotence or His inerrant Word by such devices as theistic

Evolution, progressive creation, or process creation, for no natural "process" could ever generate the complex and beautifully organized systems of the creation. Compromising evangelical scientists and theologians who are intimidated by the ungodly philosophy of evolution should be corrected, not accommodated. Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Taken from *Days of Praise*, Institute for Creation Research, Copyright, 2012, Permission Granted

* * * * *

SIX-WORD TESTIMONY

(Please read: *John 9:1-11, 24-25*)

Over the past 15 years, Dan Smith's name and face have appeared on fliers in coffee shops, laundromats, and small businesses across New York City. The six-word slogan on each flier says: Dan Smith Will Teach You Guitar. The result is that Mr. Smith stays as busy as he wants to be, teaching his students how to play the guitar. Many enthusiastic students hang his fliers in new places. It's their way of saying, "Dan Smith taught *me* guitar. He can teach you too."

The pages of the Bible are filled with accounts of people telling what God has done for them. One of the most vivid appears in John 9 where Jesus encountered a man blind from birth and miraculously enabled him to see (vv. 1-7). After repeated questioning by skeptical local religious leaders, the man could only say, "One thing I know: that though I *was blind, now I see*" (v. 25).

If you had six words to express what Christ has done for you and can do for others, what would you say? Perhaps, "Jesus Christ will forgive your sin," or "...give you hope" or "...save your soul." When Jesus has changed our lives, we affirm His power to do for others what He has done for us.

"I was blind, now I see." — David McCasland

*It is no secret what God can do,
What He's done for others, He'll do for you,
With arms wide open, He'll pardon you.
It is no secret what God can do. - Hamblen*

We are Christ's "Letters of recommendation" to all who read our lives.

Taken from *Our Daily Bread*, RBC Ministries, Copyright - 2012, Permission Granted.

Soul Winning With Dr. Smith

*Teaching Scriptural Soul Winning Illustrated
With Real Life Experiences*

Dr. H. A. Ironside was visiting a sheep ranch in Texas. He saw a little lamb that looked deformed. He said that instead of having four legs, it looked like it had eight. He couldn't figure it out.

Dr. Ironside said to the sheep rancher, "That is a funny-looking thing. It looks like it has two heads and four front legs and four back legs. It looks like a freak of nature. Can you explain that to me?"

The rancher said, "This is a strange thing. When that little lamb was born, its mother died. Another ewe gave birth to a little baby lamb, and the little baby died. So we had a little lamb without a mother and a ewe without a baby."

He went on to explain, "We decided to take that little baby and give it to that mother. She would nurse it, and that would make everything all right. We put that little orphan lamb in with that mother. She butted it away and wanted no part of it.

"We went out there where the little dead lamb's body was, took off its skin and tied it around this little body. Its little legs now look like they hang down just with skin and the hoof. Then we put it back with the ewe. She loves it and has adopted it. She is raising it, and it is healthy, and it is hers."

What a picture! God could not tolerate one of us without the righteousness imputed to us from the Son of God. Every Christian has had a covering for his sins. "Atonement" in the Old Testament means "a covering over," a looking forward to the coming of Jesus when He died to take away our sins.

Discovering God's Will

Here are some simple, easy-to-follow, daily disciplines to *prepare you* find God's will for your life:

- Seek His presence in specific intercession (Prayer)
- Determine by the Grace of God to follow the leading (controlling) of Holy Spirit
- Definitely be open to God's Word, the Bible, as you prayerfully read the same
- Seek the counsel of godly people - checking to make sure it is 'Scriptural', etc.

Selected

God looks upon Christians – upon me and every other believer – as if we had never sinned one time. When God looks upon me, He sees Jesus. When God looks upon me, He sees me as righteous. When God looks upon me, He sees me as just. Why? Because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Human Cover - Up Fails!

And that's exactly what guilty sinners so often do. They deny they are (Ed. Lost) sinners. They imagine themselves not as bad as other men are. They brag on themselves. It is a fool's ploy, a futile effort to cover up the truth of their circumstances. We are "all" sinners (Rom. 3:23).

Christ's Atonement Covers It All!

When Jesus died on the cross, He shed His blood to purchase our salvation and to pardon our sin. When the Lord justified us and regenerates us, He redeems us and covers up with the blood of His Son the awful mess we created.

His atonement covers it all! You can't do for yourself with our frail human efforts what He, by divine fiat, can do fully and satisfactorily.

Convincing a Sinner That He Is a (Ed. Lost) Sinner!

You must get a sinner "lost," or you can't get him saved.

"I'm okay!" says the sinner. No, you're a guilty sinner!

"I live a good life!" No, you don't! You're a wicked sinner!

"I think God and I are okay!" No, no, no! He is infinitely holy, and you are a dirty, rotten, no-good sinner!

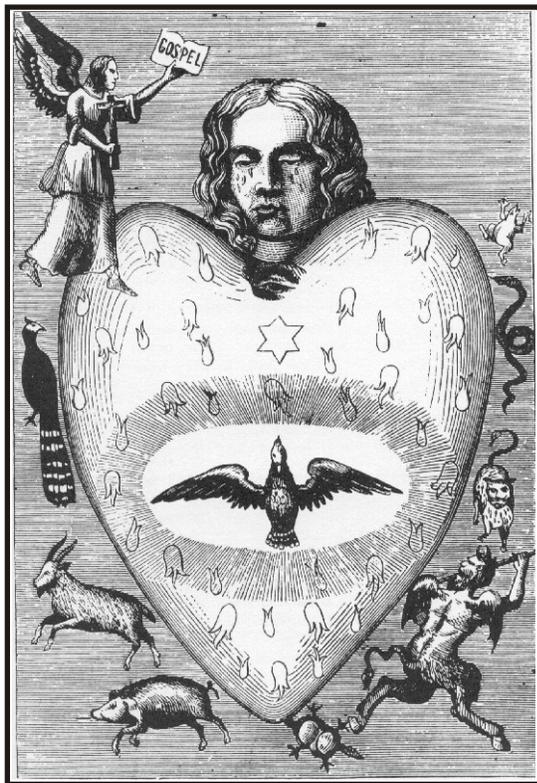
We must get it through our thick skulls – we are sinners, and we need a Saviour.

I led a lady to Christ who had said, "I'm too bad to be saved." She thought it would be hard to be saved, but it was actually easy, because she was quick to admit her sinful state.

I led a guy to Christ in Texas who had tried to convince me that he was a really swell guy and that he had no reason to be saved. It took several minutes before, after some very frank explanations with scriptural references, he said, "I think you are right; I am a sinner after all."

Folks, when you witness, you have got to get them to stop covering up for themselves and to receive the cover provided by the blood of Christ.

The Sword of the Lord



The Third Picture

The heart condition of a sinner who believes in Christ and His Gospel, and is filled with the Holy Spirit.

The sinner, who has become aware of his misery and has been led by the goodness and patience of God to repentance, has become humble in heart. He is deeply disturbed and broken and sheds bitter tears over his condition. It pains him in the innermost of his soul that he so often and so shamefully has offended, forsaken, and despised God's great love and patience and served the devil so long.

When the sinner is now prepared for the offered mercy, then is fulfilled the Scripture which says: "*The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as are of a contrite spirit*" (Psalm 34:18). "*God healeth the broken hearted*" (Psalm 47:3). The angel in the picture, representing God's grace, now steps forward and holds up before him Jesus Christ, the Crucified. The saving Gospel is declared to him—that Jesus Christ came into the world to save just such helpless sinners, that He died for all sinners and purchased for them forgiveness of sins and eternal life. God, through Christ, offers to the broken and contrite heart grace, forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation.

If the sinner now accepts this offer in true faith and sincere confidence, lays hold of Jesus Christ and His merits, and in a living faith believes that all this is bestowed upon him purely out of mercy and grace, then he receives the witness of the Holy Spirit that all his sins are forgiven and that

he is a true child of God (Rom. 8:16). The Holy Spirit enlightens the heart with righteousness, peace, and joy. Then verily the kingdom of God has come.

Tears may still fall, but now it will be only tears of gratitude, affection, and joy, because he has been cleansed from sin and filled with the Spirit. In body and soul he now rejoices in the living God. The star will beam in his heart because of a living faith.

The enemies of his soul, the horrid animals, Satan and his hoard, have disappeared from the heart. Now it re-echoes in his mind: "*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God*" (I Cor. 6:11).

Oh how happy, how blessed, how joyful such a pardoned heart. He feels like singing one song of praise after the other. He cannot rejoice enough in his Saviour and His grace, admire His mercy and grace, and thank Him enough.

Though filled with this joy, he must continue in watchfulness and fear and never grow weary. The horrid animals, the defiling sins, are now outside of the heart. Satan has lost his power over him, but he is not far away. He seeks night and day to return. The greater his loss, the greater his bitterness. Therefore, watch and pray.

PRAYER

Divine Saviour! I cannot rejoice enough over Thy grace and love! I cannot thank Thee enough for Thy glorious saving Gospel! Thou hast given me redemption through Thy blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of Thy grace. Thou hast sealed me with that "*Holy Spirit of promise,*" and given me "*the earnest of our inheritance.*" Oh, quicken my faith more and more, and enlighten my soul so that I may better know Thy gifts, all the heavenly blessings which Thou hast bought for me by Thy suffering and death, which Thou art now offering me through the Gospel.

How Thou hast wonderfully pardoned, enriched, and blessed me! I, who formerly was an abode for Satan, am now a temple of the Holy Spirit. I, who formerly was a slave of sin, am now a free child of God. I, who formerly was a gathering place for the unclean spirits, am now the joy of the angels. I, in whom sin raged and Satan ruled, am now filled with joy, righteousness, and peace in the Holy Spirit which God has given me. The enemies of my soul have been routed. The shackles which held me bound in sin and the devil's slavery have been broken, and I am free. Mercy has been shown me; I have obtained grace.

How can I thank Thee enough! Thy praise shall always be upon my lips. Only one thing do I beg of Thee, dear Saviour: do not withdraw Thy sustaining hand from me, and

blot me not out from Thy presence. Thou art the rock of my salvation. Preserve my heart that I may fear Thy name. Let me never feel secure, but always be on the watch that I may not be enslaved by the enemy and deceived by sin. May Thy grace fortify my heart so that I will always hate sin and flee from every temptation as from hell itself. Thou hast set me free; do not ever let me become a slave again. Thou hast sanctified my inner life; do not let it become desecrated. May my heart always be a temple of the Holy Spirit, a home for peace, joy, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

I Could Not Do Without Thee

I could not do without Thee
 O Saviour of the lost,
 Whose wondrous love redeemed me,
 At such tremendous cost;
 Thy righteousness, Thy pardon,
 Thy precious blood must be
 My only hope and comfort,
 My glory and my plea.

I could not do without Thee,
 I cannot stand alone,
 I have no strength or goodness,
 No wisdom of my own;
 But Thou, beloved Saviour,
 Art all in all to me;
 And weakness will be power
 If leaning hard on Thee.

I could not do without Thee,
 For O the way is long,
 And I am often weary,
 And sigh replaces song:
 How could I do without Thee?
 I do not know the way;
 Thou knowest, and Thou leadest,
 And wilt not let me stray.

I could not do without Thee,
 O Jesus, Saviour dear;
 E'en when my eyes are holden,
 I know that Thou art near.
 How dreary and how lonely
 This changeful life would be,
 Without the sweet communion,
 The secret rest with Thee!

I could not do without Thee,
 For years are fleeting fast,
 And soon in solemn loneliness
 The river must be passed;
 But Thou wilt never leave me,
 And though the waves roll high,

I know Thou wilt be near me,
 And whisper, "It is I."
 —Francis R. Havergal

Taken from *Mirror of the Heart*, author unknown. Copyright Hauge Innermission Federation. Available from the Hauge Innermission for a suggested offering of \$3.00 + 75¢ for shipping.

Two Little Words

LISTENING TO THE WORD – ISAIAH 55:10-12

A Christian, traveling on a steamboat, handed out leaflets about the Lord Jesus and salvation - Gospel tracts, as they are often called. They were received and read by many people.

One man, after seeing what it was, took it, folded it, cut it with a pocket knife into small pieces, then holding it up in derision, threw it away.

One piece, however, stuck in his coat and he picked it off. Looking at it, he saw only one word: "God." Turning the piece over, on the other side he saw the word "Eternity." Those two words stood out as living words in his mind - "God", "Eternity." Later, the man went into the lounge and, walking up to the bar, ordered a brandy to drink to make him forget what just happened. He couldn't put it out of his mind. Those two words haunted him wherever he went, until he was brought in penitence to the Lord Jesus.

What an encouragement to the Christian who puts out Gospel tracts (Editor: *Morning Glory*) And, before putting them out (Editor: Sending in names & address to receive the MG), during and after, pray – ask God to use His Word to touch hearts, minds and wills with the power and love of the Gospel and to draw men and women, boys and girls to the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

God will use tracts (*Morning Glory*) you put out to reach people for Jesus!

Taken from not 'our' Morning Glory; but "Morning Glory" a ministry of the Morning Chapel Hour, copyright 1997.

When people go looking for hidden messages in the Bible, they need to know that it's a revelation, not a puzzle.

Selected

For Such a Time As This

By Dr. Jeff Amsbaugh

Why Worry?

My wife, Karen, and I are in the Atlanta airport today, returning home to Providence from a speaking engagement. In the air on our way to Atlanta, we overheard a lady near us talking about her recent missions' trip with the United Methodist denomination.

After bragging about her missions endeavor, the lady proceeded to purchase a white wine; and the more wine she drank, the more boisterous she became. Eventually, she had enough wine in her to inform half the plane that she liked the Old Testament better than the New Testament because it was "filled with adultery, violence and sex." The more she talked, the more I was reminded of how much I hate liberalism.

I recently heard our president debate Governor Romney, and, again, I was reminded of how much I hate liberalism. Both religious and political liberals bother me. I have to be candid. As I see our religious and political landscapes erode, I am worried about the future of America.

As I was starting to stress, I was reminded that my worry is no less a sin. We should not be unconcerned about political affairs, but we can rest assured that higher hands are leading us.

Jesus, in the most famous sermon ever preached, the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6), gives us four solid reasons why we should refrain from worry. Notice His advice.

First, worry brands us as practical atheists. When we worry about our economic future, we are acting like the unregenerate. "*After all these things do the Gentiles seek*" (vs. 32). How does a lost man face the world when he has no belief in God? The answer is that he worries himself to death. Each time we stress out, we are acting as if there is no God.

Second, worry denies God's Omniscience. The Bible is clear that "*your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things*" (vs. 32). We are convinced that God knows everything there is to know about the needs of our friends, but when calamity hits home, we are not so sure. God is intimately aware of all that is going on in our lives. Worry denies this omniscience.

Third, worry misplaces priorities. Believers should not be predominantly concerned about the economy. They should predominantly be concerned about evangelism. We need to "*seek ... first the kingdom of God*" (vs. 33).

We live in a different arena. Our citizenship is in

Heaven. We should be more concerned about advancing the kingdom of God than the kingdom of the Republicans or Democrats. If righteousness exalts a nation, then our ills are better solved by visitation than voting. This is not to say that voting is unimportant. It is to say that the kingdom comes first.

Finally, worry borrows trouble. Jesus said, "*Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof*" (vs. 34). There is enough to occupy our plate today without borrowing trouble. Mark Twain, I believe, said, "I am an old man and have known many worries, few of which have ever materialized."

When we waste time by worrying, we are frequently enamored with that which is pure fantasy.

The antidote to worry, of course, is appreciative prayer. Paul said that we should not be full of care about anything. We should rather make our requests known unto God with thanksgiving. In return, God will send His peace to garrison our hearts (Phil. 4:6-7)

Taken from *Sword of the Lord*

OPPORTUNITY!

Looking For: the 'opportunity' of having 'our' Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation Annual Conference this coming June, 2013, Lord willing.

Either a congregation OR a group of concerned 'individuals' who would 'host' the same in a church building, town hall, school building, etc.; with comfortable seating, (tentative; speaker system) with meals and lodging within a reasonable distance. *Interested?* Please contact 'us' in the near future and we will discuss the details.

The HLIF provides the speakers and almost all the actual financial expenses – Free Will Offerings – greatly appreciated & encouraged!

P. S. PLEASE prayerfully consider having a series of Evangelistic Meetings, Gospel Tent Meetings, Weekend Bible Conference, etc. (For Gospel Tent Meetings: Please contact Mr. Paul Peterson, of Kenyon, MN.

God has **richly** blest such in years gone by and will do the same in 'our' day as we obey and trust Him! "We" (Team Work) water and plant and **God gives the increase!**

IF we can assist you, by the Grace of God, please let us know which of the 'opportunities' you would be most interested in! TIME is fleeting and don't let 'opportunities' become regrets.

Remember GOD is the same yesterday, today and forever!

UpDate

We are *dependent* upon God working through you!
“For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills” Psalm 50:10

We are dependent upon God working through you! YES, **GOD** is much more than ‘able’ to provide; but almost ‘all’ the time His has & still does; chooses to work in and through *vessels* that are cleansed through His Son’s very **own Blood!** Where do many of your biblical convictions come from, on which you firmly stand; but through His called *vessels*, *be it*: from behind the sacred ‘desk’, Bible Study, personal testimony, life style, etc. (YOU are a candle, light, salt) = II Timothy 2:15.

The following ‘account’ took place many years ago, but is *relevant for today ALSO!*

The Missionary Hen

In Gloucester, England, there is an old-fashioned garden and orchard, in one corner of which is a little tombstone. On it are these words:

Dec. 21, 1869

Here lies Tidman’s missionary hen,
Her contributions, four pounds, ten;
Although she is dead, the work goes on,
As she has left seven daughters and a son
To carry on the work that she begun,
So be it.

A man called Tidman lives in a village near by. He longed to do something for the London Missionary Society. His money was scarce; but he decided one of his hens should belong to the Society, and all the eggs she laid should be sold and the money given. Before she died, the money amounted to four pounds ten shillings – about twenty-three dollars.

But that is not all. She sat on eight of her eggs. They were hatched. These, too, belonged to the Society, and in time brought in a large amount of money. When the hen died, the old man had her body embalmed, and buried it in the garden, and erected a little monument. He thought many others would be inclined to do something similar, so that the hen would still be helping the Society.

A Word to those Whom GOD calls ‘Wise’ should be sufficient! As HE is permitted to lead!

Notice What GOD says in Luke 6:38: “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you”.

BUT don’t ‘give’ with the intention of “getting”!

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PRAY & PLAN NOW – *Lord Willing:*

Hauge Spring Bible Conference

At Rural Oakasis, MN, April 5 - 7, 2013
Main Guest Speaker: Pastor David Barnhart, Canal Winchester, OH

(Founder of *Abiding Word Ministries* and Editor of *The Vine and Branches*)

More information forth coming

Pray specifically for the Bible Conference, please;

The LORD gave ‘us’ a special conference last Fall
Expect great things from (Our) **Living Heavenly FATHER!**