



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • March 2022

LUTHER: Man of Prayer, Preacher of the Word

By Dr. Craig Jennings

Christ-centered preaching should be practical preaching; that is, it should always be directed to the needs of the average person in the congregation. (Martin Luther) also worked to make the sermon practical. In fact, he was not so much interested in preaching to the handful of scholars and professors in the audience as he was to the common people. If those parishioners of a critical, exacting, refined taste didn't like simple, down-to-earth preaching, “the door stands open.”

Indeed, straightforward, uncompromising preaching infuriates the Devil, who in turn plagues the preacher with “persecution, hatred, contempt, antipathy, and countless peril.” He stirs up opposition and persecution not only from the world in general, but also from friends and family.

No one believes how difficult it is for one man to oppose the common opinion of all other churches, to contend against the views of very good men and very good friends, to condemn them, and to teach, live and do everything in opposition to men.

Nevertheless, the God-called preacher must follow the example of Noah, that great preacher of righteousness, whose bold proclamation is “an everlasting example for his descendants, one whose faith, persistence and diligence in preaching his descendants might admire and

imitate”.

Once the basic educational preparation has been completed, then what? What principles should a pastor follow in his weekly sermon preparation (apart from earnest prayer)? For Luther, weekly preparation chiefly involved diligent study. If one pictures the Bible as a great tree covered with rich fruit, said Luther, then the task of preacher is to shake the tree in order to gather as much as possible. That does not mean he is simply to shake the tree in a general sort of way, but he must shake each branch individually so as not to miss any of the fruit in other words, in-depth study is a must. In a sermon from 1532 Luther noted that:

Some preachers are very well off and discovered an easy way to preach. They no longer need Scripture and study; for in all things, they can tell people: Dear folk, be satisfied; believe whatever Christ says He means; that is entirely enough. Who could not preach this way? Who would not be glad to be a pupil if we could be spared the labor of preaching and teaching, could commit this work to Christ and say: I believe what Christ believes, or, much better still, I let Christ believe for me, and I let Him worry about what I am to believe? Ah, what fine Christians and precious people we would be!

Morning Glory

Volume CV – Number 2
March 2022

MORNING GLORY (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, March, May, June, August, September, October, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 336 Prairiewood Circle S. #9, Fargo, ND 58103, and printed by Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Periodicals postage paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Morning Glory, c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland
336 Prairiewood Circle S. #9, Fargo, ND 58103
email: haugerep@gmail.com

Send Announcements, Contributions, and Subscription Renewals to:
Barbara Stueland, 336 Prairiewood Circle S. #9, Fargo, ND 58103

Internet Web Site: hauginnermission.com.
Facebook: [Facebook.com/Haugeinnermission](https://www.facebook.com/Haugeinnermission)

Electronic version available – Send email to: morningglorymagazine@gmail.com

PUBLICATION OFFICE:
HAGA PUBLISHING, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Wayne AlmlieDes Moines, IA
Vice President: Joel Zeltinger.....Bismarck, ND
Secretary: Jim HagaShoreview, MN
Treasurer: Paul Peterson.....Kenyon, MN
Vacant.....
Vacant.....
Marvin Jacobson.....Dundas, MN
Rodney StuelandFargo, ND
Vacant.....

CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is registered with the Department of Internal Revenue as a non-profit religious organization. Contributions for all phases of the Hauge Federation are deductible for income tax purposes.

Luther: Man of Prayer, Preacher of the Word.....	1-3
The Spiritual Formation Movement.....	3
Burden Casting • The Master’s Will.....	4
Editorial.....	5
From our Fellowship Circle • Ye Are Christ’s.....	6
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable.....	7
Increase and Decrease • The Trial of a Right Choice.....	8
What Grace is This? • Why God’s Word Can Be Trusted.....	9
Are Your Dependable? • Are You Discouraged?.....	10
Disabled • Thrice Holy • Things Are Different Now.....	11
The Lord’s Goodness • The Offense of the Cross • Only One.....	12
From the Beginning of the Creation • Grieving the Spirit • Save the World.....	13
The Fear of God • Preach the Word.....	14
Enoch Found it Pays to Keep Good Company • A Day of Small Miracles.....	15
UpDate • Missionary Candidate.....	16

*This is what the papists are saying nowadays; they believe what the church believes. And it is reported that the Pales say: I believe what our king believes. Why not? How could there be a better faith, a faith that requires less labor and care than this? **

With such a high regard for in-depth biblical study, it is not surprising that Luther believed that for sermon preparation, the time a pastor spends in the Scripture text itself is far more important than the time spent consulting commentaries. A pastor should not discard his commentaries, but Luther was fearful lest the Bible “be buried under a mass of literature about the Bible, and the text itself ... be neglected”.

Luther believed that sermon introductions should be brief and to the point. In his introductions Luther simply set forth the main theme of the text and then proceeded to preach the text itself. For example, Luther’s introduction to a sermon on Luke 16;19-31 is typical:

We have hitherto heard in our gospel lessons of various examples of faith and of love; for as they all teach faith and love, I hope you are abundantly and sufficiently informed that no human being can be pleasing to

God unless he believes and loves. Now in time this Gospel text the Lord presents to us at the same time and example of faith and of unbelief of the state of the godless, in order that we also may abhor the contrary and the opposite of faith and love, and that we may cleave to faith and love more diligently. For here we see the judgment of God upon the believers and the unbelievers, which is both dreadful and comforting. Dreadful to the faithless and comforting to the faithful. But in order that we may better grasp the meaning of this text we must picture to ourselves both the rich man and poor Lazarus. In the rich man we see the nature of unbelief and in Lazarus the nature of belief. *

Immediately following those brief comments Luther plunged directly into the first point of his outline. ... We lay the foundation for a soaring skyscraper of a sermon but then proceed to build nothing but a chicken coop upon it.

On one occasion when Luther's wife, Katherine, complained about the preaching of Pomeranus (John Bugenhagen), Luther replied,

Pomeranus preached the way you women usually told. He says whatever comes to mind. Dr. Jonas is accustomed to say, 'One shouldn't hail every soldier one meets.' And it's true Pomeranus often takes everybody he meets along with him. Only a fool thinks he should say everything that occurs to him. A preacher should see to it that he sticks to the subject and performs his task in such a way that people understand what he says. Preachers who try to say everything that occurs to them remind me of the maidservant who is on her way to market. When she meets another maid, she stops to chat with her for a while. Then she meets another maid and talks with her. She does the same with a third and a fourth and so gets to market very slowly. This is what preachers do who wander too far from their subject. They try to say everything at once, but it won't do.

As Meuser points out, Luther believed that the "text is to control the sermon; that is, the preacher must identify the central message in the text and then stick with it."

* Luther's Works

The Spiritual Formation Movement

By Carol Hoikkala Editor

The "Spiritual Formation Movement" (SFM) is the primary vehicle being used to incorporate into the Chris-

tian church the New Age ideology of Crème and Dailey. When infiltrating a church SFM subtly moves the unsuspecting away from the "truth of God's Word" to a "mystical" form of Christianity.

At the heart of this movement (both directly and indirectly) is the book *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster. Foster is said to be the "father" of the Evangelical Spiritual Formation Movement.

Richard Foster has a strong link to the mystics, especially Thomas Merton whose goal it was to awaken people to what he saw as the missing element within Christianity -- mysticism. Merton set out to bring mysticism (i.e. contemplative prayer) to the Catholic and Christian world. Before he died in 1968 Merton said, "I intend to become as good a Buddhist as I can be." Merton held to the belief that God dwells in "all people and that we are, in fact, all a part of God."

In 1978 Richard Foster picked up the mantle and began continuing Thomas Merton's goal of incorporating the mystical element into the Christian Church and its institutions.

Over the past decades the SFM has become widespread in our nation's Christian colleges and seminaries. The reason? To receive accreditation, most accrediting agencies are requiring that Spiritual Formation be incorporated into the school's curriculum.

Richard Foster once said that when he first began writing in the early 70's and 80's "Spiritual Formation" was hardly known. Today, he says, "Seminary courses in Spiritual Formation proliferate like baby rabbits. Huge numbers are seeking to become certified as Spiritual Directors to answer the cry of multiplied thousands for spiritual direction."

Crème's statement, "***the new world religion will be a fusion and synthesis of the approach of the east and the approach of the west,***" is TODAY, being carried out in rapidity via the Spiritual Formation Movement.

Taken from, *Hope For Your Heart*

**The Devil may tempt us, the
flesh may tempt us, the world
may tempt us, but it is we
ourselves who sin**

Burden Casting

“Cast thy burden upon Jehovah, and He will sustain thee.” (Ps. 55:22 ASV)

By Pastor Maynard Force

Burdens are common to all! If an average group of people were asked to jot down their ‘burdens’, we would have a long and varied list. The young as well as the old would be represented. Suppose you were asked, what would you put down?

One burden differs from another. It may be some sin you have committed in the past which is now pressing heavily on your conscience. It may be some worry that has lodged in your mind for which you can find no relief. Perhaps it is a fear of something that may come in the future. It may be some disappointment in life that has caused you bitterness. It may be something unique that bothers you, something unknown to anyone else. It may, even be some small, insignificant thing that you are ashamed to mention. It does not take much of a weight, if it presses in a sensitive place, to become a burden. A burden can be anything that you are carrying that depresses you.

There are many different ways in which people seek to get rid of burdens, for no one wants to carry a load that causes him grief. Many have found temporary relief in keeping themselves feverishly busy with all kinds of things. Some avoid being alone, for then their burden becomes unbearable. Others seek to lighten their load by indulging in worldly pleasures, hoping that relief will come that way. Still others turn to alcohol or drugs, for while they are under their influence, their burdens seem to lighten. Others, again, break down under their burdens and become sick and despondent in body, mind, and soul. Then there are those who can’t stand the pressure of their burdens, and hope to find escape by committing suicide. None of these methods effects cure. The poor burdened individual is far worse off after trying them than he was before.

Our text tells us to cast thy burden upon the Lord. This is the only remedy for troubled hearts. It is simple and free to all. People of different walks of life who have tried it can vouch for its effectiveness. Millions upon millions of people are carrying burdens they never should carry. It was never the Lord’s plan that any soul should carry even one burden, for even the smallest burden is too much. If you are carrying one burden, it is one too many. The LORD has given us many invitations to come directly to Him with our burdens. One such invitation is in I Peter 5:7: **“Casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you.”** There can be no doubt that the Lord is

inviting all burdened people to come directly to HIM with their troubles.

Our burdens are to be “cast” upon Jehovah, even as a stone that is cast into the depths of the sea. If the stone falls into the sea, it is gone forever, as far as we are concerned. The Lord invites men and women to treat their burdens in the same way. He wants them, in simple confession, to unload them on HIM, and HE in turn has promised that HE **“will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”** (Micah 7:19) This is God’s way of dealing with the burdens which cause us so much grief and unhappiness.

There is no better time to deal with burdens than right now. Now is the time to transfer them to the LORD. HE has asked for them, so let us honor His request. This is one time we can give Him something He actually desires. Pause as long as you must, but make the transaction. Remember it is a one-way affair —from you to the Lord. Don’t let Satan tempt you to believe your burdens are not safe there. IF you do, you will soon be doing as so many have done in the past — you will pick them up again and be no better off. When you are thus tempted, remember what you have given to the LORD no longer belongs to you. Each time you are tempted to retrace your steps, pray for grace to trust the LORD. Then the temptation can be turned into a blessing. You will be able to say with the Psalmist, **“Blessed be the Lord, who daily beareth our burden, even the God who is our salvation.”** (Psalm 68:19)

Article from *MY HEARTS DESIRE*

The Master’s Will

Some years ago in a Southern city, I saw a large group of people standing at a street corner. Going closer, I saw a Hound performing stunts so amazing as to be unbelievable!

At first, I didn’t see anyone giving commands to the dog. Then, as I looked around, I saw a boy whose *lips barely moved* standing nearby. He was speaking to the dog in soft undertones.

When the performance was over, the dog went with his Master. The boy caressingly stroked the dog’s head as he said “Good doggie!”

Tears suffused my eyes as I saw the performance. I prayed silently, *“Heavenly Master, make me as subservient to Your will as that dog is to his master’s will! May I so fully obey Thee that when I stand in Thy Presence, I may hear Thy, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant!’”*

Since that day, I have never ceased to pray that prayer. — *Dr. Lee Roberson, Sword of the Lord*

Editorial

RES

Please JESUS!

*“Instead, you ought to say, ‘IF the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.’”
(James 4:15)*

Definitely please read James 4:13-15 – first. Please also read Psalm 39:5-7,
Proverbs 27:1, Acts 18:21, 1 Corinthians 4:19.

Just the other day, on the telephone a person asked to speak to my wife and I asked what is the point of business; and he (*probably a telemarketer*) answered, “You are not human!” For many years I thought I was human as I have been entrusted with the FIVE basic senses and KNOW I am a soul that will spend for all eternity in either Heaven or Hell! – and so will YOU!

Many years ago, after the worship service, a professing Christian lady; told me in no uncertain terms, “I wish you would quit saying, ‘Lord Willing!’”

Well I most certainly realize that I am not infallible, and wrong many times over many years and if you do not believe me, ask my Spouse! I do know, Just up-front, personally I am not musically gifted; but I can and do discern Scriptural music; both in Hymns and Gospel Songs as long as they are scripturally sound! Martin Luther said, (paraphrase) “Satan hates nothing more than Word Centered songs; other than the BIBLE!” For example: ‘We are climbing Jacob’s Ladder’; the music part is fine; but I don’t want to be climbing a dream that someone had, but my Christianity should be anchored in the CHIEF CORNERSTONE! Another example is: ‘One Day at a Time, Sweet Jesus’. Since when did/do we have the time to tell Jesus that HE is obliged to give “ME” anything? Once again somewhat quoting Martin Luther; stating ‘If I received what I deserve, I would be like a blade of grass.’ We know a ‘blade of grass’ wants to survive as every thing that has life needs some *sun-light* to live. As we walk in the light of His Word; we will be more sensitive towards SIN in our lives. **“So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”** (Psalm 90:12) I want you to notice at least TWO things in this significant verse – the audience addressed is plural and there is a very clear difference between “teach” and “gain.” One is a ‘willing’ student and the other is an expression (*Likely*) of the ‘old-nature.’ There is no misunderstanding that worldly folk have a very definite influence in churches/congregations. Occasionally new members have brought some trash with them from liberal congregations and are very

willing to ‘fill-in’ vacancies.

Especially in the end-times, folk will very openly state that they are going to build, get married, etc., but we should be underlining it by saying ‘LORD WILLING.’ Actually, in our prayer lives we basically state ‘Lord willing,’ because our prayers can be self-centered and personal desires, etc.. **God knows best** and that is what HE wants to entrust you with!

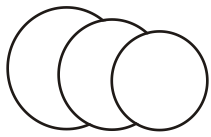
Discernment is needed in this sinful world. You see, if ‘liberalism’ cannot sneak behind the pulpit; it will begin with music, especially in the church. *Probably* with a ‘team,’ praise-band’ or ‘group’ as a ‘worship team’. We see this across the board with basically NO exceptions, or possibly very few!

It has been said, ‘Interruptions are divine appointments!’ Well, Barb and I have sought to carry this statement in our hearts for many years and of late it seems ‘interruptions’ (very small & some larger) are more frequent lately. But it helps to be flexible and some interruptions are good and maybe a few negative. As we go through the ‘school of hard knocks,’ are we learning to be FLEXIBLE??? The school colors in the ‘School of Hard knocks’ are black and blue!

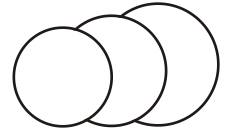
“And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.” (Luke 17:26-27, please read all of verses 26-37)

That’s enough constructive criticism in regards to music. The very air we BREATHE IS A GIFT OF GOD – even every single heart-beat! HE doesn’t owe me anything that is GOOD – it is all by **HIS GRACE!** – Titus 3:5

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
(James 1:17)



From Our Fellowship Circle



E. G. **Story ALBA, Canada**
Bless the Name of God for all the way you present Truth and stand against evil!

2 Timothy 3:1-5 says we are living in perilous times, Our only hope is in the Lord. We need revival for GOD to manifest HIMSELF to the world of His power and His will.

Keep up the good work!

K. & F. C. **Sebring, FL**
Really enjoy the *Morning Glory*, so please keep the good news coming and challenging us with the 'Truth'.
Lots of light and love of our God! Thank you, JESUS!

H. M. **Viroqua, WI**
I appreciate reading the *Morning Glory* so much as I read it from cover to cover and then pass it on – every good spiritual blessing – Here is trusting that you can keep on sending it out. Our world needs all this information.

J. R. **Lake City, IA**
I love the "*Morning Glory*" and read it from cover to cover more than once and then with regrets I pass it on! Such good reading, I think I need to keep it. But my dear friend loves it too! So much to feed on and enclosed please a check for the amount of \$... I wish I could send more.

Will remember you again in the New Year. Sincerely yours in Christ.

R. R. **Fergus Falls, MN**
We have been receiving ... *Morning Glory* since she died. Please change the name to ... as we are her daughter and son-in-law.

F. S. B. **Carpio, ND**
Please send a subscription to ... As I would like to begin this subscription ... for my Cousin as my wife and I share the same views/convictions on Christianity!

Your attention to this is greatly appreciated. Please find

a check for \$... to initiate this. Thanks Much.

“YE ARE CHRIST’S”

1 Corinthians 3:23

“YE are *Christ’s.*” You are His by donation, for the Father gave you to the Son; His by bloody purchase, for He counted not the price for your redemption; His by dedication, for you have consecrated yourself to Him; His by relation, for you are named by His Name, and made one of His brethren and joint-heirs. Labor practically to show the world that you are the servant, the friend, the bride of JESUS. When tempted to sin, reply, “I cannot do this great wickedness, for I am Christ’s.” Immortal principles forbid the friend of Christ to sin. When wealth is before you to be won by sin, say that you are Christ’s, and touch it not. Are you exposed to difficulties and dangers? Stand fast in the evil day, remembering that you are Christ’s. Are you placed where others are sitting down idly, doing nothing? Rise to the work with all your powers; and when the sweat stands upon your brow, and you are tempted to loiter, cry, “No, I cannot stop, for I am Christ’s. If I were not purchased by blood, I might be like Issachar, crouching between two burdens; but I am Christ’s, and cannot loiter.” When the siren song of pleasure tempts you from the path of right, reply, “Thy music cannot charm me; I am Christ’s.” When the cause of God invites thee, give thyself to it; when the poor requires thee, give thy goods and thyself away, for thou art Christ’s. Never belie thy profession. Be thou ever one of those whose manners are Christian, whose speech is like the Nazarene, whose conduct and conversation are so redolent Savior’s, recognizing in you HIS features of love and HIS countenance of holiness. “I am a Roman!” was of old reason for integrity, far more, then, let it be your argument for holiness:

“I am Christ’s!”

Morning & Evening by Charles Spurgeon, © 1991
Hendrickson Pub. Inc.

Believable...Yet Unbelievable

FDA drops rule over mail access to abortion pills

Decision likely to spur new flurry of state laws.

By PAM BELLUCK
New York Times

The federal government Thursday [December 16, 2021] permanently lifted a major restriction on access to abortion pills. It will allow patients to receive the medication by mail instead of requiring them to obtain the pills in person from specially certified health providers.

The decision by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) comes as the Supreme Court is considering whether to roll back abortion rights or even overturn its landmark 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* that made abortion legal nationwide.

The FDA's action means that medication abortion, an increasingly common method authorized in the United States for pregnancies up to 10 weeks' gestation, will become more available to women who find it difficult to travel to an abortion provider or prefer to terminate a pregnancy in the privacy of their homes.

It allows patients to have a telemedicine appointment with a provider who can prescribe abortion pills and send them to the patient by mail.

Earlier this year, for the duration of the pandemic, the FDA temporarily lifted the in-person requirement on mifepristone, the first of two drugs used to end a pregnancy.

The decision to make this change permanent is likely to deepen the already polarizing divisions between conservative and liberal states on abortion. In 19 states, mostly in the South and the Midwest, telemedicine visits for medication abortion are banned, and these and other conservative states can be expected to pass other laws to further curtail access to abortion pills.

Yet other states, like California and New York, which have taken steps in recent years to further solidify abortion rights, are expected to increase the availability of the method and provide opportunities for women in states with restrictions to obtain abortion pills by traveling to a state that allows them.

So far this year, presumably in anticipation of such a decision, six states banned the mailing of pills, seven states passed laws requiring pills to be obtained in person

from a provider, and four states passed laws to set the limit on medication abortion at earlier than 10 weeks' gestation, said Elizabeth Nash, interim associate director of state issues for the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights.

The current practice is that women who live in states that don't allow telemedicine for abortion must travel to a state that does – although they don't have to visit a clinic. They may be in any location within that state for their telehealth visit, even a car, and may receive the pills at any address in the state.

But legal experts said they expected supporters of abortion rights to try to find ways to make the pills available without requiring a patient to travel, including possibly filing legal challenges to state laws banning telemedicine for abortion.

In data released last month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 42 % of all abortions - and 54 % of abortions before 10 weeks – occurred with medication in 2019, the most recent year for which CDC data is available. (The report represents most of the country, but does not include data from California, Maryland and New Hampshire.)

In some states – including Indiana, Kansas and Minnesota – the method accounted for a majority of abortions in 2020, according to state health department reports.

The CDC also reported that 79% of all abortions occurred before 10 weeks' gestation, suggesting that there are many more women who might choose abortion pills over an in-clinic procedure if they could.

Taken from the *Star Tribune*
December 17, 2021

Editor's Note: Please pray with me that *Roe vs. Wade* be overturned and sending abortion pills through the mail be banned completely in our nation.

**My wonderful salvation carries only
the fingerprints of Jesus Christ. My
guilt ridden fingerprints were found
in the lust of my flesh, lust of my
eyes and on the pride of my life.**

Toby Knutson

Increase and Decrease

“*He must increase, but I must decrease.*” (John 3:30)

JESUS says of John the Baptist that he was the greatest of all the prophets. And the little that we are told about him reveals him as a monumental figure indeed.

He was great as an *ascetic*, subsisting in the loneliness of the desert on locusts and wild honey.

He was great as a *revivalist*. Remarkable indeed, for he did not go forth to the people; they streamed out to him, away there on the edge of the desert. Even the capital city came out to hear him.

He was great as a *witness to the truth*, with fidelity proclaiming it to both the Pharisees and the publicans, even to the rulers, one of whom he rebuked for immorality.

He was great when they came from the capital city to acclaim him as the *Messiah*. I am so insignificant in comparison with the Messiah, he said, that I am not worthy to render Him the service which the most menial of all servants performs, that of unloosing the latchet of His shoes.

But he was greatest of all when he spoke the words contained in our text. His disciples had come and told him that Jesus, whom he had recently baptized, had now begun to preach and baptize farther down the river. And now all men were going to Him, they said.

Then John answered: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” He is the Messiah, and the people should follow Him. I am only the voice which preceded Him and called upon the people to gather about Him.

John was indeed permitted to see the fulfillment of his prophetic words. He was in truth to decrease. First he was torn away from his God-given task and thrust into a lonely prison-cell. Then he was hurled into the darkness of doubt and uncertainty.

But John was great also in his doubts. He took them to Jesus and was saved from them. Then he died for the sake of his faith and his God. After honoring God by his ascetic life and his brief but mighty labors, he was permitted to honor God by a martyr’s death.

Taken from *God’s Word for Today* by O. Hallesby,
© 1937 by Augsburg Publishing House, used by
permission.

The Trial of a Right Choice

“*But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” (Joshua 24:15)

A young man, James Taylor, had lived a worldly life

and was a leader in opposing a revival that swept his neighborhood.

The morning of his wedding day he awoke with the words of Joshua 24:15 on his mind. In earlier years he had memorized that verse.

Unlike our modern customs, he put in a full day’s work before his wedding that evening. As he went about his labors, the Holy Spirit convicted his heart, and he accepted Jesus as his Savior. Then he said, “Yes, we will serve the Lord!”

At first his bride was dismayed by this decision, but soon became a believer and a Christian home was established.

You say, “What’s so unusual about that story?”

Well, that young man was the great-grandfather of J. Hudson Taylor, who spent years in China as a missionary. Nor has the influence of that first decision been without present-day consequences.

Though saving faith cannot be transmitted from parents to children, God does use the holy influence of fathers and mothers upon their offspring and upon successive generations.

What IF James Taylor hadn’t come to Christ? What IF his decision had been different? It is *possible* that a company of dedicated missionaries would not be serving in Asia as a direct result of that man’s conversion.

The trial of a right choice in your home may lead to great blessings many years down the road! – P.R.V.

Sword of the Lord

Many Christians estimate difficulties in the light of their own resources and thus attempt little and often fail in the little they attempt. All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His power and presence with them.

J. Hudson Taylor

What Grace Is This?

(Read Zechariah 4:1-14)

Israel has been in captivity for a number of years in a foreign land. They sinned and were taken captive to Babylon. Zerubbabel is head of the tribe of Judah as they return from captivity to their own land (Israel) to rebuild the temple of the Lord. Worship to the true and Living God is to come before all else! (Ed. John 4:23-24). It was so for the returning captives. It is true for Bible-believing Christians. The Lord and things pertaining to the LORD are to have first place in the believer's heart and life. IF this disciplined obedience to the Lord is neglected in Christian living, the life can no longer be called Christian in the true sense of the Word. When the Hebrew people (children of Israel) forsook the true and living God, Jehovah, for the false gods of their heathen neighbors, they ceased, indeed, to be God people and rightly came under the judgment of God.

Now they are returned from the judgment in Babylon to their own nation. Under Zerubbabel's leading, the first order of work was to rebuild the Temple to honor and worship Jehovah the Lord. Can you feel their hunger for true worship after being in captivity for so many long, dry years? Have you allowed a captivity to come between yourself and the Lord Jesus? Has your prayer and Bible reading slacked off or ended entirely? Return, O captive one, to Jesus! Zerubbabel sees a lampstand and two olive trees. *I suggest* it is a vision of the triune God described in earthly terms. The lampstand tells of the seven attributes of Jehovah God. The ones anointed, standing on either side, speak of the Son of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. They are subordinate to Jehovah but share equally in God's authority. All the opposition Zerubbabel was experiencing to rebuilding God's Temple is called a mountain. God assures him the opposition will become a plain (level, straight path), no hindrance at all. The Temple will be completed. The headstone will be placed by the (Holy) Spirit of God through Zerubbabel. The work will be completed. What gracefulness the temple will have. "GRACE, GRACE unto it."

In that temple, God would give grace until the Giver of all Grace, JESUS CHRIST, would come into the world. "HE (God) shall bring forth the headstone (Christ) out of it with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it." There no doubt were shoutings and celebrations there in Jerusalem when this temple was completed and the headstone laid in place. Heaven rejoices, also, when the wandering believer repents and returns to Jesus Christ to walk in GRACE!

Jesus Christ is the headstone of the Kingdom that will rule in Eternity. In Daniel 2:44, He is shown as the mountain (stone) that fills the whole Earth. HE is called the rejected stone in Matthew 21:42, and the headstone of the corner in Luke 20:17. In Ephesians 2:20, He is called the

Chief Cornerstone. Peter writes of Him "*I lay in Zion (Jerusalem) a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he that believeth in Him shall not be confounded*" (I Peter 2:6-7). The stone disallowed by some but, nonetheless, the head of the corner.

At His birth (Incarnation), the angels in effect were shouting "Grace, Grace unto it"! Yes, grace, grace unto the world of lost sinners because the Savior is born. What gracefulness is this. Reader, have you strayed from this grace? Come back to JESUS! Rebuild your worship of the Lord. This undeserved favor we own as sons and daughters of the Triune God. God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit. What grace is this?

**Grace comes from God alone
Or it is not Grace at all.**

A Devotional by James A. Peterson,
HOW GREAT THIS GRACE

Why God's Word Can Be Trusted

And How to Engage the Skeptics in Your Life

... These days we're seeing church leaders and Bible teachers drawing a hard line between the Old and New Testament, and then you have an outside culture that is constantly casting doubt upon God's Word. How do we navigate this attack coming from both inside and outside the church?

... Some of the bigger crises in the church have been internal — heretics, false thinkers, people who claim to be Christians but undermine the faith. One way this is being done today is what you hinted at — cutting down the Old Testament. That may sound all good and well except for one little fact, which is that JESUS loved the Old Testament. HE believed it was true. HE believed it was inspired, and beyond that — here's the bigger problem people don't think about — if Jesus is Yahweh, then He wrote the Old Testament. It's actually His words. You can't say, "Well, I want Jesus and not the Old Testament," because that's not an option ... *In fact, in order for you just to be saved, the Old Testament has to be true ...*

IF WE can help (people) step back and see the big picture of SCRIPTURE, they'll realize the Bible really does cohere together *like no other book*. How does a book get formed over thousands of years with **40** different writers and still have that kind of unity? The only compelling answer is that it's written by an ultimate AUTHOR — namely, **God** Himself ... (and) once you realize that the whole Bible is about JESUS, suddenly that opens up all kinds of doors.

Excerpt taken from *Why God's Word Can Be Trusted*,
found in My Journal by Michael Yousef

Are You Dependable?

“The children of Ephraim being armed, turned back in the day of battle.” “... Forgot about the wonderful miracles that God had done for them” (Psalm 78:9 & v. 11 *Living Bible*).

Ephraim was the second son of Joseph. His name in the Bible is used for the whole ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom. What caused these fighting men to *withdraw* from conflict? Had they stopped trusting GOD? To beat a retreat for a soldier, while not a surrender, is most dishonorable. Perhaps drawing back and disengaging was done for strategic reasons.

From what we are told, cowardice caused their apprehension. Lacking confidence can produce qualms and cold feet. Timidity and faint heartedness do not belong in battle. Furthermore, living with dread and fear reflected negativity on their God Jehovah.

As followers of Jesus, the Word says in I Timothy 6:12, ***“Fight the good fight of faith...”*** We have been drafted into the Lord’s so called salvation army (Ed. That is ALL true believers), all of us! In II Timothy 2:14 Paul also wrote about those who are engaged in warfare. I Timothy 1:18 described it as a ***“good warfare.”*** Paul concludes his thoughts by declaring in II Timothy 4:7, ***“I have fought the good fight....”*** In Ephesians 6:17 our choice weapon along with prayer is, ***“... The Sword of the Spirit ...”*** GOD’S HOLY WORD, THE **BIBLE!** Our cause for engagement is a righteous one, thus very worthwhile.

CARE must be given as we contend with Spiritual darkness! As combatants, Ephraim’s troops backtracked, failing to show up. When serving JESUS, may we not find ourselves fearful, intimidated, or ready to quit. Queen Esther took a stand declaring, ***“...If I perish, I perish.”*** Courage is a believer’s trademark. When representing Jesus, a person has the Holy Spirit’s assistance. The Apostle Paul “kept the faith,” but not to himself. He spread it! Some of Jesus’ disciples shrink from duty today by abandoning opportunities God gives them. They decline saying they are too young or too old, assign it to someone else, or committee, or postpone it, or it won’t be easy, being too demanding. Paul himself had no regrets.

It is well to consider what we are up against. It is generally agreed that the world is living in the last days of the church age. This is based on an evident decline in spirituality, as well as in conditions found in the following passages. 1 John 5:19 tells us, ***“...The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one!”*** In Matthew 24:12 these words of Jesus could well point to present-day conditions! ***“Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”*** In Galatians 1:4 Paul spoke of Je-

sus, ***“Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age...”*** In I Peter 4:7 the Apostle writes, ***“The end of all things is at hand...”*** And in II Peter 3:3 we’re told, ***“knowing this first, that scoffers will come in the last days...”*** Paul notes another end time sign in I Timothy 4:1, ***“In latter times some will depart from the faith...”*** And Jude 18 reveals, ***“...There will be mockers in the last time....”*** Paul defines our days I believe in Philippians 2:5, ***“A crooked and perverse generation...”*** I believe these BIBLICAL passages reveal what GOD’S people are dealing with.

In addition to these prevailing conditions, we should also be aware of the ringleader and troublemaker God’s people contend with, Satan. He has a lengthy rap sheet. This wily serpent is wicked, being the father of lies. He deceives, tempts, slanders, ensnares, is subtle, crafty, and as an angel of light, perverts God’s Word. In I Timothy 3:7 Paul cautions us not to, ***“... Fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”*** He adds in II Timothy 2:24 ***“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all....”*** While not looking for a fight, but being on the offensive for JESUS, we may have to mix it up with our adversary at times. Philippians 4:5, ***“Let your gentleness be known to all men....”*** In Colossians 2:5 Paul adds, ***“... Put on mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.”*** This is GOD’s kind of warrior! While the devil is no PUSHOVER, WE COMBINE OUR EFFORTS WITH THE **HOLY SPIRIT!**

We are not to grow weary in well doing. Unlike Ephraim’s frightened troops, Hebrews 12:28 urges us to ***“Serve God with godly fear.”*** Be reliable and dependable when called upon to clash with the other side!

By Pastor Bill King,
Princeton, MN

Are You Discouraged?

“And (Elijah) said ... ‘and I, even I only, am left’ ...And the LORD said unto him... ‘Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal.’” (I Kings 19:10, 15, 18)

Elijah had spent his life serving God and was devastated by the seeming lack of fruit. Depression struck! The Lord reminded him that unknown to him, there were 7,000 in Israel who had refused to bow the knee to Baal. Were they the result of seeing Elijah’s courageous stand for God? IF you are *discouraged*, press on. Remember that there is much we do not know of how GOD has been working through us. May we be, ***“always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”*** (I Corinthians 15:58)—David Croudace

Disabled

“But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man left-handed.”
(Judges 3:15)

James Strong, in his excellent concordance, indicates that one way of translating “left-handed” in this text is “impeded”. Probably Ehud was disabled in that he had a *weak* right hand. Do you have some physical or other deficiency and feel that it limits you in the Lord’s service? Remember that the Lord can use what appears to be a weakness as an amazing tool to do His work! For example, Fanny Crosby’s blindness resulted in her memorizing much of the BIBLE *and writing many outstanding (today) old-fashioned Gospel songs and hymns that are very clearly Scripturally based. It’s not so that Jesus is looking for your ability, but your availability!*

Selected

Thou knowest Lord how very weak I am, and how I fear to stray;

For strength to serve I look to Thee alone, the strength Thou must supply!

James McGranahan

Thrice Holy

God the Father is HOLY, God the SON is HOLY, God the Holy Spirit is HOLY! – Trinity

“God has spoken in his holiness” “But thou (you) art holy, Enthroned on the praises of Israel”.
(Psalms 60:6a & 22:3)

The Tabernacle – Temple – and church Building

Were never intended to be a place entertainment, play-ground; but was and still is (should be) a place of holy worship as GOD IS HOLY! **HIS** Personality has never changed and will NEVER CHANGE! **GOD IS HOLY and** if there is any ‘question or doubt’ look it up in your concordance in the light of HOLY SCRIPTURE! GOD is not to be made ‘light-of’ nor to use HIS Name in vain; swearing or slang for HE is Holy! He reveals holy wisdom, acts in holy power and speaks with holy words. Yet at Calvary He spoke in holy salience. As our sins were placed on Him, in our behalf, as God’s Son; IT IS FINISHED! He also demonstrates His holiness by judging SIN and remaining silent to the Lord’s anguished cry. At the same time, He displayed holy mercy, grace, and Divine Love towards you and me! YES, today we may

commune with Him through His Holy Word and the privilege of prayer, as we can worship Him in the beauty of HOLINESS! At our congregational assemblies; should we begin by singing, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY??? — RES
“Only Thou are holy, there is none beside Thee, Perfect in power. In love and purity.”

R. Heber

Things Are Different Now

By Dan Reed

“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17)

After I trusted Christ as my Savior, a number of things changed for me.

My music changed. Nobody told me, but I just didn’t care anymore for things like “Back in the USSR, boy. You don’t know how lucky you are. Boy. Back in the US, back in the USSR.” “Jeremiah was a bullfrog. Was a good friend of mine” simply lost all its meaning!

Now I liked “The Lord’s our Rock; in Him we hide – a Shelter in the time of storm.”

My clothing changed. I didn’t like the bellbottom breeches anymore. I got me some good church breeches! My hair began to get shorter. I quit desiring to look like George Harrison and Ringo Starr and wanted to look like what the BIBLE says a man ought to look like.

I picked some new heroes. My heroes had been rebels; that’s why I acted like a rebel.

My reading material changed; my viewing material changed. Hey, I’m not a Christian because I changed what I read. I changed what I read because I became a Christian. My heart changed; my desires changed.

YOU don’t become a Christian because of what you put around you! You put the right things around you because you have become a Christian and that’s what you want.

In the final end, you are going to do what you want to do. Somebody said, “You Christians must be miserable – all the things you can’t do.” If I am miserable, don’t wake me up because this is a good dream.

Now there is a stronger pull in me that began to pull me away from the old way of living into a **new way** of living.

The moment I was saved I received new honor, a new home, a new household and a New Heart. YES, IT IS TRUE, THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW!

Sword of the Lord

The Lord's Goodness

“O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men” (Psalm 107:8)

IF we complained less, and praised more, we should be happier, and GOD would be glorified. Let us daily praise God for *common mercies* — common as we frequently call them, and yet so priceless, that when deprived of them we are ready to perish. Let us bless for the eyes with which we behold the sun, for the health and strength to walk abroad, for the bread we eat, for the raiment we wear. Let us praise Him that we are not cast out among the hopeless, or confined amongst the guilty; let us thank Him for liberty, for friends, for family associations and comforts; let us praise Him, in fact, for everything which we receive from His bounteous hand, for we deserve little, and yet are most plenteously endowed. BUT, beloved the sweetest and the loudest note in our songs of praise should be of *redeeming love*. God's redeeming acts towards His chosen are forever the favorite themes of their praise. If we know what redemption means, let us not withhold our sonnets of thanksgiving. We have been redeemed from the power of corruptions, uplifted from the depth of sin in which we were naturally plunged.

We have been led to the Cross of Christ — our shackles of guilt have been broken off; we are no longer slaves, but children of the Living God, and antedate the period when we shall be presented before the Throne without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. EVEN now by faith we wave the palm-branch and wrap ourselves about with the fair linen which is to be our everlasting array, and shall we not unceasingly give thanks to the Lord our Redeemer? Child of God, canst thou be silent? Awake, awake, ye heritors of glory, and lead your captivity captive, as ye cry with David, **“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.”** *Let the new month begin with new songs.*

Morning & Evening, by Charles Spurgeon. © 1991
Hendrickson publishers, Inc.

* * * * *

The Offense of the Cross

“And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offense of the cross ceased.” (Galatians 5:11)

The Cross is profoundly offensive to the natural man, for it brands him as a hell-deserving sinner. It

makes his only hope of salvation a humbling acknowledgement of Christ, the rejected Creator, as his personal Savior, who died for his sins.

It is especially sad when Christians seek to escape this offense of the Cross by accommodating their preaching of the ‘cross’ to the opinions of those who reject it. In the case of the Galatians, legalistic Christians were insisting that Christian converts from paganism be circumcised, in order to avoid offending the Jews. When Paul, instead, preached salvation by grace alone, he was persecuted for it.

This particular compromise has long been forgotten, but a multitude of others have arisen during the ensuing centuries to take its place. Whenever some new philosophy or practice becomes popular in the world, a Christian party will soon be found advocating its adoption in the church, ostensibly to promote easier acceptance of the Gospel, but in reality, seeking to mitigate the *offense of the cross*.

Whenever the pagan world follows after a new dress trend or a new music form, new philosophy or a new life style, many Christians are sure to follow. Witness the widespread compromise with pantheistic evolution and its so-called geologic “ages” by Christian accommodationists, for example. Or, consider the current acceptance of Eastern or Freudian thinking by ‘biblical counselors’ or the common sanction of divorce for trivial reasons.

Instead of fleeing from the offense of the Cross, we need to say with Paul, **“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”** (Galatians 6:14)

* * * * *

Only One

There are many bridges over the Mississippi River, but one Bridge spans the chasm between a sinful man and a Holy God and that is Jesus.

There are many roads from New York to Los Angeles, but there is only one Road to Heaven and Jesus is that Road.

There are many ships that ply the waters from New York to London, but there is only one Ship that will take you to Heaven and that is JESUS.

W. Herschel Ford

From the Beginning of the Creation

“But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.” (Mark 10:6)

These words of the Lord Jesus Christ ought to settle once and for all, for those who take His Words seriously, the controversial question of the age of the earth. The earth was created essentially at the same time, HE said, as the creation of Adam and Eve. Christ was quoting from Genesis 1:27: “...**male and female created He them.**” This greatest of God’s creative works was “from the beginning of the creation,” not 18 billion years after the beginning of the creation, as modern old-earth advocates allege.

One can understand why atheists believe in evolution and an almost infinitely old universe, for they really have no other alternative. One who believes in a personal God, on the other hand, only dishonors God if he believes such humanistic speculations rather than GOD’S WORD. God is omniscient and omnipotent, as well as loving and merciful, and HE would never do anything like this. The great ages assumed by evolutionary geologists supposedly involved billions of years of suffering and dying by billions of animals before man ever evolved. Surely this would have been the most inefficient, wasteful, and cruel method that ever could have been devised for creating ‘human beings’. Since man’s creation was GOD’S main purpose, there is no conceivable reason why HE would waste billions of years in such a meaningless charade as this before getting to the point. In fact, the only reason HE took six days was to serve as pattern for man’s work week (Exodus 20:8-11).

In fact, the Lord Jesus Christ was not only a Creationist, but was, Himself, the CREATOR of all things (John 13; Colossians 1:16; etc.). Therefore, HE is the best possible witness as to *when* HE created man and woman, and HE said it was “**from the beginning of the creation!**”

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God, Dr. Henry Morris, © Copyright 1997

* * * * *

Grieving the Spirit

“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

“(We) ourselves ... groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. (Ephesians 4:30 & Romans 8:3)

To purchase and then set free are the two ideas that

define redemption. God’s beloved Son became flesh and entered Satan’s domain to deliver us from judgment and eternal death. He took the deserved punishment and has set us free from the law of sin and death. HE paid the price with His precious blood. “**a lamb without blemish and without spot**” (I Peter 1:19). We now, indwelt by His (Holy) Spirit, await the completion of that purchase, the redemption of our bodies and our transformation into His likeness. — Drew Craig

Editor’s Note: When I read this portion of God’s Holy Word, I think of nature, not our bodies!

* * * * *

Save the World

The world needs saving more than it needs anything else today! Those who think they have found a remedy for individual, social, national and world ills in new laws or new forms of government err by the whole extent of human nature. Social conditions will never be right until the people are right.

President Taft put it this way; “There will never be an honest horse race until there is an honest human race.”

Moody expressed it in the homey phrase, “If you want clear water, it is not enough to paint the pump; you must clean out the well.”

The greatest terror in the world today is spiritual terror. The supreme need of the world today is revival. This need is evident in the condition of our present world.

The world is filled with hatred, violence and bloodshed. Pillage and plunder occur everywhere in the land. The nations are looking at each other over gun barrels. Civilization is threatened. A bewildered world, with fear in its heart and darkness in its mind, cries out, “**is there no hope?**” To this cry of despair, we must say there is HOPE! The GOSPEL speaks its timely message to man’s eternal hunger. **Christ, and Christ alone, is the answer.** — G. B. Lawrence.

**Our people do not so much need
to have their heads stirred as to
have their hearts touched!**

Jonathan Edwards

The Fear of God

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for His good pleasure.”

(Philippians 2:12-13)

THIS is a profound and deep saying. And far be it from me to think that I am capable of sounding its depths or expounding its riches. But that part of this passage which I *am* able to grasp makes it exceedingly precious to me.

The clearest part of this profound saying is the conclusion: ***“It is God who worketh in you both*** (Ed. Notice ‘both’) ***to will and to work.*”**

Listen to this, in particular you who have begun to convert yourselves, but have not succeeded. You have learned that conversion is a change of heart, which is just what you have not been able to accomplish.

Your heart is as full of selfish, vain, begrudging, bitter, and unclean thoughts as ever. Your desire is toward sin, even though you struggle against it. Your desire is *not* toward GOD. You must compel yourself to pray and read the Bible. And when you occasionally do what you think is the will of God, you do so very unwillingly.

Listen to the secret which the Apostle has to confide to you: ***“It is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.”***

This is a great secret and of decisive importance in connection with the salvation and the peace of your soul.

God does *not* expect you to have the power to change your heart by the power of your will, thus enable you to hate SIN and LOVE GOD.

HE does *not* expect you to be able to press out of your own heart a desire to pray or read the Word of God, nor does He expect you to be able with a willing mind to serve Him and sacrifice and suffer for Him.

Of you HE expects only this one thing, that you tell Him the truth, tell Him the situation as it is with reference to the attitude of your heart and the life you are living!

Moreover, you cannot even do this of yourself.

It is GOD who must work also this. HE it is who tells you this TRUTH. Of yourself you cannot even see the truth about yourself. It is He who by His (Holy) Spirit must convince you in such a way that you not only *know* the truth, but also are inwardly, personally convinced that you are as sinful as the (Holy) Spirit says you are.

That you DESIRE to be converted — that, too, God has worked within you.

The Scriptures says that God *gives*. (*“Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”* Acts 5:31) He gives repentance by working in your will until you

freely and without compulsion desire to become penitent.

That God succeeded in making you penitent was no easy task either, as far as that is concerned.

When HE began to work in your will, you would not yield. You resisted Him — perhaps for a long time. You tried in many ways to rid yourself of the influence which the will of God had begun to exert upon YOU!

But GOD did not give up. He continued to work in your will until its opposition ceased. The victory was won the moment you yourself voluntarily began to *will* to be converted.

From that moment it was easier for GOD to work in you. From then on, you were with Him; before you were against Him.

Excerpt, taken from chapter *The Fear of God, Under His Wings* by O. Hallesby

Editor’s Note: Oh, what ‘prevenient GRACE’! Marvelous the Holy Spirit behind you to prepare you not only for an awakening, but the empowerment to receive/accept JESUS as your personal SAVIOR! Thank GOD for ‘prevenient Grace’!

* * * * *

Preach the Word

Every true pastor (under-shepherd) is aware of the problems of the loose, careless, lukewarm member of the congregation — sort-of-window-shopping. Usually, they are not regular attenders of the ‘old-fashioned-prayer meeting’, and thus they go in ‘spurts’ or ‘seasons’ as different activities take place in their family activities. In other words, family activities take first place on their daily calendar and church worship services come in barely a second on their agenda! *They need something and it is not easy to tell whether it is conversion or rededication.* The under-shepherd is not sure IF they need an evangelism message (Law & Gospel) or some good solid food — the milk or meat of God’s Word! YES, they need to be ‘fed’!!! Maybe it is partially a lack of preparation and prayer! Maybe it’s carnality in the pastor!

The remedy for this problem is the same plain preaching Paul advised Timothy: ***“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”*** (II Timothy 4:2) The WORD includes God’s LAW & GOSPEL, in caring love and concern! (Lacking in many sermons is naming sin as GOD names it, by name!)

Editor

Enoch Found It Pays to Keep Good Company

By R. C. Cunningham

EVERY DAY you live, you are getting nearer to the time of Christ's return!

When HE comes, will you be ready to leave the world and go be forever with Him, like Enoch?

Enoch disappeared one day, and the BIBLE says it was because GOD took him. Why did God take him? Because he kept good company! The Bible says, "**Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.**" (Genesis 5:24)

It will pay you to examine your situation and make sure you are keeping good company. The Apostle (God through, as always) gave sound advice when he exhorted the believers to separate themselves from the lawless, the people who walk in spiritual darkness and the people who make idols of earthly things. To those who separate themselves from these people, God says, "**I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**" (II Corinthians 6:16)

The apostle Paul asks five rhetorical questions to show why you should separate yourself from certain kinds of people.

1. What partnership have righteousness and lawlessness? Can oil mix with water? Can goodness be mated with evil?

2. What fellowship has light with darkness? Binding believers with unbelievers are like trying to combine day and night. These opposites can never be united.

3. What harmony has Christ with Belial? Worthless persons (*ungodly, worldly, unsaved*) are called "*children of Belial.*" (Judges 20:13) God's children and the Devil's children simply do not belong together.

4. What has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Can a believer be a close friend of an unbeliever for long without losing his faith?

5. What agreement has the temple of God with idols? You are a living temple of the living God. How can you give place in your life to those things that are idolized by unregenerate people?

Paul posed these questions to the Corinthians but did not answer them, for the answer is self-evident. You may say, "But we have to work together and live in the same neighborhood. We have to be friendly and cooperative!" YES, but we don't have to be intimate.

What Paul is opposing is the yoking together of believers and unbelievers. This would include the marriage yoke, the business yoke, the social yoke — any voluntary binding of oneself together in intimate association with

unbelievers. He calls it an "*unequal yoke.*" It can be a very galling yoke.

How different *is the yoke of CHRIST!* Jesus said,

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Enoch was a wise man. He walked only with those who walked with God. He was yoked with the Lord, not with unbelievers, and he went to Heaven without dying. "*And was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*" (Hebrews 11:5)

WHEN the LORD comes to catch away HIS people, it will pay us to be found keeping good company and walking with GOD, *like Enoch!*

A Day of Small Miracles

One day a friend and I went to a city about 20 miles from our home to shop. The day was dreary and when I got out of the car, I forgot to shut off my car lights. Coming out sometime later, I discovered my car would not start. I was frustrated with myself, but decided to call my son for advice as I have no automotive assistance. I knew he was working construction somewhere in the area, but was quite sure I was many miles away.

He answered his cell phone immediately and when I explained my dilemma, there was a long pause as I waited for him to respond. "Would you believe," he said, "I am here in town, at a store just two blocks away from you." (*God's first answer*).

Then he added, "But I have no booster cables." I remembered that my husband who had passed away, always left cables in the trunk, so I hurriedly checked. Sure enough, there they were. (*God's 2nd answer*).

We waited about a half hour while he finished his shopping and the loading of his supplies. But, interestingly enough, although the lot was full of cars coming and going, the parking space in front of us remained empty until he came to start us with the help of his pick-up. (*God's 3rd answer*). The car started immediately and we were soon on our way home.

As we drove, a verse from Scripture came to me, "**Before you call, I will answer. And while you are yet speaking, I will hear**" Isaiah 65:24. I had not uttered a prayer aloud, but GOD heard my heart's cry.

By Carol Kleveland, Forest City, Iowa

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)

Letting C. H. speak for myself/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation & Morning Glory Board;

IT IS INTERESTING to remark how large a portion of Sacred Writ is occupied with the subject of prayer, either in furnishing examples, enforcing precepts, or pronouncing promises. We scarcely open the Bible before we read, “Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord;” and just as we are about to close the volume, (the BIBLE) the “*Amen*” of an earnest supplication meets our ear. Instances are plentiful. Here we find a wrestling Jacob, – there a Daniel who prayed three times a day – and a David who with all his heart called upon his God. On the mountain we see Elias; in dungeon Paul and Silas. We have multitudes of commands, and myriads of promises. What does this teach us, but the sacred importance and *necessity of prayer*? We may be certain that whatever GOD has prominent in His Word, HE intended to be conspicuous in our lives! IF HE has said much about prayer, it is because He knows we have much of it... A prayerless soul is a Christless soul. Prayer is the lisping of the believing infant, the shout of the fighting believer, the requiem of the dying saint falling asleep in Jesus. ...Pray that thou mayst be an example and a blessing unto others, and that thou mayst live more to the *glory* of thy Master.

Morning & Evening by C. H. Spurgeon

Editor's Note: How wonderful it would be, if each Morning Glory reader would faithfully read the above devotion in praying also for the benefits and blessings of the *Morning Glory* ministry; both in prayer and financial investment, as has been said ALL can *pray* and ‘*many* can *give*!’ Let us work even more together to the Glory of God and in nurturing Christians and Evangelizing the lost, as we “**Continue in prayer,**” Colossians 4:2 & Ephesians 6:17-20 in ‘contending for the faith’, Jude 3.

The monthly expenses of the Hauge Innermission are approx. \$3,500.

January offerings were \$2,170.00.

Thank you for your concern for us.

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Hauge Lutheran Innermission
c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center
1026 West Alcott Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Volume CV • Number 2 • March 2022
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Missionary Candidate

A one-legged schoolteacher from Scotland came to J. Hudson Taylor to offer himself for service in China.

“Why do you, with one leg, think of going as a missionary?” asked Taylor.

“Because I do not see those with two legs going, so I must,” replied George Scott.

He was accepted!