



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • May 2021

Your Days Are Numbered

By Pastor Gideon Johnson,
Kenyon, MN

Your days are numbered and mine. Depending upon your relationship with JESUS; those can be delightful sounding words to hear, are they?

Well, delightful or not, that the title of today’s message and those are the facts; in other words, either through death or Christ’s return, life as you know it will come to an end and for some of you – unexpectedly! Yes, life as we know it will come to an end and as much as we’d desire to escape this reality, we can’t. It’s inevitable.

Moses, the one attributed with writing Psalm 90, relays this reality when he writes Psalm 90:10, *“The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; ...they are soon gone and we fly away.”* So, again, your days are numbered; death is a reality.

Now, when it comes to this reality, it seems to me that there are three natural responses. The first response is to ignore this reality; to simply brush it aside as a non issue. That way we don’t have to think about it; that way we don’t have to deal with it or its implications. We can just live our lives in ignorance of it. The second response would be to fear this reality and, thus, live in such a way that death is always held at bay.

The third response is to try to fix this reality; to try and come up with a way to get rid of death on our own. Which, let’s face it, is something in high demand today! We’ll do or try anything these days in order to fix the issue or even potential, of death.

Yet, when it comes down to it – whether you ignore it, fear it, or seek to fix it –the reality remains. Death re-

mains. ***“Your days are numbered”*** remains. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 89, ***“What man can live and never see death?”***

So, what do we do? We focus on the reality of death; doing so, that we might gain a heart of wisdom. That’s what the Psalmist says here in Psalm 90:12, speaking to the LORD he says, *“So, teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”* In other words, Lord, make us ever mindful of our imminent end that you might teach us; that you might grant us wisdom from above. And that’s our prayer for today; as we draw ever nearer to Christ’s return, that the Lord would make us mindful of our imminent end that You might teach us; that You might grant us wisdom. What wisdom is imparted and gained?

First, the wisdom gained is that we are fragile creatures.

Looking at verses 3-6, Moses says, (God says through him), *“You return man to dust and say, ‘Return, O children of man! For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.’”*

Now, of course, God never intended us for such things; He never created us to be feeble and fragile, and we know this. Otherwise, we wouldn’t try to hide it, would we? And yet, it’s a reality. And it’s a reality, be-

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cause sin is a reality. Yes, our feebleness, our fragility is the result of sin in us and in our world. And this leads us into the next bit of wisdom we gain as we focus on death; on our imminent end.

Secondly, the wisdom gained is that we deserve God’s punishment and wrath for our sin!

In verses 7-11, Moses says, “*For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?*”

We maybe don’t hear it or ponder it so often, but did you know that GOD hates your sin? HE is absolutely disgusted and repulsed by your sin. You know I fear that we’re living in an age where we think that God is indifferent to our sin! That, ultimately, in the end it doesn’t really matter; because God will love me anyway.

THERE IS A DEADLY PROBLEM WHEN THE CHURCH’S MESSAGE IS ACCEPTANCE WITH NO REPENTANCE OF OUR OWN SIN! GOD HATES YOUR SIN. We deserve His punishment for our sin. And not just those big bold sins

that quickly come to mind like abortion, homosexuality, lying and murder. God hates the sinful thoughts you harbor in your mind and the wicked words you mutter under your breath. Notice what the Psalmist says, *“For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. For all our days pass away under your wrath.”* Then, still later, he says, *“Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?”*

So, do you see, GOD hates your sin! He eternally hates your sin. And the result is that we deserve eternal punishment from Him. You deserve death; eternal death separated from God. You and I deserve **“a day of wrath. A day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry...”** (Zephaniah 1:15-16) And that is what will come to all who slumber and sleep in their sin; who refuse to turn and find forgiveness in the ONE who died and suffered God’s wrath for them. This leads into the final bit of wisdom we can gain from God and His word as we focus on this reality of death; on our imminent end.

Thirdly and lastly, the wisdom gained from this focus on death is that someone took on God’s wrath for you, that in Him, by hiding in Him, you might be forgiven and your life might be made new.

Before speaking of God’s wrath over our sin before dwelling on the briefness of our days, Moses says in verses 1-2 of our text, *“Lord, You, have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

Then, after focusing on our sin and the wrath of God over our sin, the Psalmist writes, crying out for God’s Grace and favor, *“RETURN, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!”*

We are feeble and fragile because of our sin; death teaches us this. But not our death; the death of someone else. In other words, JESUS, was not fallen and fragile like us; even though He was tested and tried and tempted in points like we are. Yet HE died! And here’s the reason why, Peter goes on to say, **“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to**

righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

So, as we gaze upon that tree; as we focus on this death, we see the perfect Son of God hanging there – dying – for you and me, suffering the wrath of God for you and me – and that in Him – by repenting of our sins and trusting Him, you might be forgiven; that you may possess the assurance of your Salvation and as you remain in Him, you have possession of Everlasting LIFE with Him!

Therefore, for everyone who repents of their sin and is dwelling in Jesus Christ, we don’t need to ignore death, we don’t need to fear death, we don’t need to try to fix death. Because Jesus already did what we by no means could do; as the Apostle John states in John 3:36, **“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God remains on him.”**

See, your days and mine are numbered. So, stay awake and be wise; know that there is an end of your days in this life, know your sin, but more than anything else, know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Live and work for Jesus Christ. Rejoice and be glad in Christ. Hope in Christ. This is the wisdom that focusing on death ought to produce in us; a wisdom that leads us to dwell in Jesus Christ; even while dwelling in a world of sin and death. AMEN!

(This sermon was submitted by Paul Peterson of Kenyon, MN, and he writes the following: “This sermon was such a rich blessing to me, so I felt led to pass it on, so, it also would bless your heart.”)

Well Doing

“And Let Us Not Be Weary In Well-Doing: For In Due Season We Shall Reap, If We Faint Not.”

(Hebrews 12:2)

Focusing on man is the path to discouragement. Jeremiah 17:5 tells us that *“cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.”* One of our adversary’s strategies is to wear down believers. (Galatians 6:9; 1 Peter 5:8). The apostle Paul urges us to run this race (and a race is certainly wearying), *“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”* (Hebrews 12:2)

The Berean Call

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (I Corinthians 15:57-58)

SENSE VS. SENTIMENT

By Pastor T. C. Horton

THIS IS A SUPERFICIAL AGE when there is grave danger of losing our balance. We are drifting from our moorings. The Word of God gives us our precepts and our examples. We are taught in the WORD that we should love all men. No man should be beyond the reach of love of our hearts, and this love should be manifested in our relation to him by our lives. But true love never thwarts justice. We should love our children and be willing to suffer for them, but this demands that we should punish them when they are guilty of violation of law. Violation of law demands righteous punishment. Love is not a sentiment. It is a principle, a principle unchanging with God, always exemplified by Him in His Word. Punishment (discipline) should not be inflicted in anger but in tears, though it should be inflicted after God's own pattern. God's love is a principle shown in His grace, His mercy, His longsuffering. His anger is shown in His severity. He is angry with the wicked, but it is a righteous anger, a holy anger. God hates sin and exemplified His hatred of it by pouring out His wrath on His own Son. But His love is also manifested in the sacrificial gift of His Son.

Our country is suffering intensely today by reason of laxity both in the enforcement of law and in the punishment of lawbreakers. Justice is a joke with the law violators. One excuse given for the failure to impose a just sentence for violation of law is that jails and penitentiaries are overcrowded, and it is impossible to accommodate the criminals. If penalties were adequately administered, this would put fear into the hearts of men, and sentiment would give place to common sense. Sentiment breeds weak, effeminate characters.

We are charged sometimes with being too severe in our editorials, in our position toward enemies of the truth. We are told that we should be more loving toward them, that we should treat them as brethren. Such of this that is purely sentiment and leads to compromising spirit. We love all men (As each person will spend ETERNITY in one of two locations). We love bandits, and with this same love we love the deniers of the truth; but we want to call men by their proper names. We do not call a man a brother, in the light of God's Word, who denies the deity and blood sacrifice of our Lord and yet who pretends to be His disciple and draws his salary from deceived people. We bid him no God-speed any more than we would the devil, for we know that he is the devil's instrument and the worst kind of a deceiver, for he wears the royal robe as the ambassador of Christ while serving Satan.

Trifling with truth, smoothing down sin, condoning false preaching, calling a Bible-bandit a brother, pussy-footing with perjured professors, is purely silly sentimentalism. It evidences a lack of Bible sense. Worldly and ungodly men respect the man who reproveth and rebukes their sinful ways because they have a conscience concerning their wrongs. And these false teachers have more respect for those of us who love the Lord and His Word and who make no compromise with them but condemn their unholy position. We propose to expose error, not to excuse it. We will continue to love these destructive critics with a godly love but will not fail to let the light shine in on their dark and dangerous teaching. We will pray for them as enemies of the truth but will not participate in their pernicious teaching. We prefer to be sensible rather than sentimental, to be loyal rather than traitors. We can shed real tears over their sinful doings, but we will also seek to tear away the mask behind which they hide and let the light of God's Word illumine the devilish sophistry of their teaching. Those of us who love the Lord and His unimpeachable Word ought to be willing to make no compromise with sentimentalism of any kind.

Editorial in 1921 *The King's Business*;
Fundamental Evangelistic Association.

Editor's Note: AMEN and AMEN; and please notice when this was written – 1921.

Every Believer

Every believer needs regular Christian fellowship and should be accountable to the leadership in some (Bible believing, practicing) church. We won't find the perfect church, so we must be willing to settle for something less than that. We shouldn't try to impose our burden upon them, but should go there for fellowship, prayer and spiritual food. We can minister outside of that church until they accept us and ask us to minister there: we shouldn't force ourselves upon them. In the meantime, we must make certain that our personal walk with the Lord is pleasing to Him, that we are praising, loving and worshipping Him; and that His joy is our strength. We are to be examples to others, not only in our concern for and opposition to the seduction in the church and the world but also in the victorious lives we have in Christ.

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. — The Berean Call

Editorial

RES

Will We Know One Another When we get to HEAVEN?

Well, let us start with the Old Testament for a little while! As you read/mediate on God's Word; have you noticed that GOD appeared before in 'human-flesh' in the form of Angel(s), so much so that the Individual(s) thought it was a man. Now when God can appear in the form of an angel, why can't HE transform a human-being in Christ's own appearance! Just a few examples from the Old Testament, Moses, in a sense in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve disobeyed; as they heard God (*as though a human-being*) walking in the Garden. Gideon, Lot, ...

Now as we move into the New Testament era, one of the first examples that comes to my mind is on the Mount of Transfiguration. How could Peter, James and John identify Moses and Elijah who lived centuries before their time of journeying here on Earth?

Then there are several proofs following the Resurrection of Jesus: Mary; The Gentlemen as they walked together on the road to Emmaus and breaking of the bread; the gathering after Jesus crucifixion in the 'Upper room' and Thomas commanded to put forth his finger and feel the scars in Jesus' hands and side; John after the resurrection and Jesus telling him indirectly, "... to be more concerned about first yourself following Me;" Peter, James and John at the 'shore-line' likely having 'breakfast-together;' the 'twelve' and the 'five-hundred' together at one time and the Apostle Paul, as in order to be an apostle, you had to have seen JESUS personally.

The testimony is Crystal Clear *Of our physical bodies:*
Examples & Bible References

Adam & Eve had a personal physical body: Even before SIN was committed by them and that was in a perfect environment.

Job 19:25-27 – 'in my flesh I shall see God'

Psalms 16:9-10 – 'my flesh also shall rest in hope'

Isaiah 25:8-9 – 'will wipe away tears from all faces'

Matthew 5:30 – (figuratively) 'that one of your members perish' also not figuratively – "your whole body be cast into hell"

Matthew 26:6-13 – 'oil on my body' (WE know it is speaking of Jesus' burial in a borrowed tomb; but HE

rose again with a BODY!)

Luke 14:14 – 'YOU shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just'

Romans 8:11, 23 – 'give life to your mortal body', 'the redemption of our body',

Philippians 3:21 – 'who will transform our lowly body, that it may be conformed to His glorious body'

II Corinthians 5:1-10 – tent – temporarily, clothed, 'that mortality may be swallowed up by life'

Colossians 3:4 & 10 – appears with him in glory

1 John 3:2 – 'children of God', "when He is revealed, we shall be like Him"

1 Corinthians 15:37, 42, & 44 – 'the body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption'.

Exactly when the Rapture takes place, we can only seek to read the signs and signs are not the EVENT! AND IF our physical body distinctly is dissolved OR IF it will remain and gradually return unto dust; I don't know. BUT that matters very, very little, because those of us who are included in Jesus Christ's Blood-bought bride will receive a brand-spanking new body that has NO defects! IN GOD'S GRACE, are YOU ready for that event?

V. 42. "So, also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption. It is raised in incorruption" Then **VERSE 49**

Revelation 21:9, 21-28 – "I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife", tabernacle, wipe away, no more pain, to him who thirsts, 'be My son',"

Revelation 22:4 – "**They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads**"

For the time being; I shall share with you a story that has been a rich blessing to me. An Elderly Christian Lady was asked if we would know one another in heaven. She replied "do you think I would be dumber in heaven than here on earth?"

Personally, I believe that we (the Blood-bought bride) will be somewhat very similar to Adam and Eve before they yielded to temptation; but totally and absolute safe and secure for all Eternity; Because Of What **Jesus Did/Does On our behalf** – truly **100% Grace!**

Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

Big Tech Censorship Unleashed; Churches (Especially Bible-believing/practicing Congregations) could be next

Big Tech companies have now proven that they will silence (almost anything) any voice they do not like. How long before they silence your congregation; our pastors and churches, Bible Schools, etc.

In January (2021) seemingly the true-face of “Big-Tech” – the massive online companies which serve as the platforms (should be as one of the basic sources of the First Amendment of the USA Constitution for ‘We the people’ of America is at the present time; closing the hangmen’s rope around the neck of FREEDOM!)

One by one, social media companies like Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Google, Apple, Amazon and even Pinterest banned not only our previous President; but hundreds IF not likely thousands of law-abiding USA citizens.

Viewpoint censorship is similar to Communism, Hitler and Satan being the real source. It is not the policy of a free Society. The USA way is clearly delineated in the FIRST AMENDMENT of the **USA Constitution!**

Editor

Six Ontario Church Leaders Charged with Exceeding Worship Limit, Face \$10K Fines

Six elders of a church in Ontario, Canada, have been asked to appear in a criminal court for holding in-person services in violation of COVID-19 related restrictions. The elders, who face a fine of up to \$10,000, say the action is “a violation of God-given rights.” ...

The elders of Trinity Bible Chapel are not the only religious leaders in Ontario to have faced similar charges...

The WRPS appears to be “trying to make an example of us,” (the elders said).

Chief of Police Brian Larkin, the elders pointed out, “publicly endorsed much larger public gatherings in June.”

At a time when outdoor gatherings were restricted to not more than five for the people of Ontario, Larkin offered the “full support” to a protest in which the “crowd may have been between 12,000 and 20,000 strong.”

Anugrah Kumar, christianpost.com

Abortion Was the Leading Cause of Death Worldwide in 2020

Statistics compiled by Worldometers indicate that there were over 42.6 million abortions worldwide in 2020. The independent site collects data from governments and other reputable organizations and then reports the data along with estimates and projections based on those numbers. It reveals 42,655,372 people died from abortions in 2020.

When contrasting the abortion numbers to other causes of death, including cancer HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents and suicide, abortions far outnumber every other cause.

lifefew.com

“PRAYER” at the Opening 117th Congress a Disgrace

Representative Emanuel Cleaver closed his opening prayer at the 117th Congress with a controversial expression that included the words “monotheistic God,” the Hindu creator deity “Brahma,” and the “God known by many different names and many different faiths. Amen and A-Women.” ...

CHRISTIAN NEWSWIRE

Methodist Pastor Who Advised Bush, Obama Sentenced to Six Years for Fraud

Prominent Houston pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell, who served as a spiritual adviser to former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush was sentenced to six years in prison (January 13), just under a year after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud in a multimillion-dollar investment scheme.

...In addition to serving six years in prison, Caldwell, who formerly led the Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, will also serve one additional year of supervised release.

He was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,588,500, as well as a fine of \$125,000.

“The defendants in this case abused the trust that the victims had placed in them,” Acting United States Attorney Van Hook said.

Leonardo Blair, christianpost.com

Bayer Gives \$80,000 Grant to Planned Parenthood Abortion Business

The pharmaceutical giant Bayer has given an \$80,000 grant to the nation's largest abortion business. According to the Arkansas Family Council, the drug-maker provided the grant to the Planned Parenthood abortion center in Little Rock, the state capital...

Bayer claimed Planned Parenthood provides "high quality" services even though it kills more babies in abortions than anyone (else) in the United States and has a long history of injuring women in botched abortions.

Lifenews.com

Liberals' Doublespeak on Abortion

In the doublespeak that liberals use to get their wicked agenda in place, when they say "planned parenthood," they mean abortion! When they refer to the "health of the mother," they're still talking about abortion! It is the devious juggling of jargon to get their hypocritical way!

Dr. Sheldon Smith

Heaven's Angels:

A biker with a stormy past finds eternal life in Christ

Billy Ray never expected he'd need help from Christians to recover from a hurricane. He led a motorcycle gang for decades, and folks in DeRidder, Louisiana, knew to keep away from him. "I lived a hard life. I did drugs and alcohol. I got in trouble a lot, and I was always running from the law," he said. "I was in jail about every other month."

Then last year, hurricanes Delta and Laura ripped through his hometown. His house was flooded, and his yard was littered by trees too big for him to move. "Laura came with a roar," Billy Ray said. "The whole house was shaking. You could hear the wind and the trees cracking – it was the most awful sound." He saw one large tree fall, just missing his house. "It would have killed us all," he said.

Billy Ray suffers from lung cancer, and his wife Karen is disabled, so there was only so much he could do. "We had no one to help us," he said.

Then a team of volunteers from Samaritan's Purse went to work on his home, cleared the debris, made emergency repairs on the little front porch where Billy Ray spends most of his time, and presented him with a signed

Bible. "They went out of their way to help me," he said.

One of our volunteers shared the Gospel with Billy Ray, and then chaplains led him in prayer as he surrendered his heart to the Lord, "I was tired of my life," he said. "I just turned it over to God. It's not all about me – not anymore..."

Samaritan's Purse

Editor's Note: We have no record whatsoever in knowing how many people have come to know JESUS as their personal Savior, by someone who gave them a Gospel tract! The same is likely true about this ministry – Evangelistic Meetings, Bible Conferences, Morning Glory, etc. How about you distributing the MG to someone you have been praying for and prayerfully and financially contribute for the furtherance of HIS Kingdom! For example, putting on one or two folks on the mailing list, or making available sample copies of the *Morning Glory* – Partnering together – TEAM WORK! ***Prayerfully planting HIS Incorruptible SEED!***

Exploits

"And such as do wickedly against the covenant, shall be corrupt by flatteries but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." (Daniel 11:32)

(The word 'exploit' means an act or deed, especially a brilliant or heroic one.)

While the contemporary scene may sometimes dismay us and be cause for fervent prayer, it is also a call to Bereanship and personal diligence in scriptural study, prayer, and obedience to those things we do understand from God's Word, for therein lies growth in discernment. Through it all, we can find the Lord giving us opportunity and challenge for growth as well as intercessory service and the ability to admonish each other daily.

The Berean Call

GOD is the Supreme Judge of the Universe, and HE alone will have the final word on Planet Earth, JESUS CHRIST, comes to rule and reign. May HE find each one of us faithful at HIS glorious coming!

A Heaven-Sent REVIVAL

The Christians of our day are very busy people.

“Before bringing to a close this section on prayer as work, I would like to underline the fact that it is a labor for which there is no substitute in the kingdom of God.

...I, would like to say a few words also about how we should pray for awakenings.

If the Spirit of prayer can give us real zeal for souls, we will want to have a part in praying for awakening in the widest sense of the term, a world-awakening. We see that that is just what the world needs now more than anything else. Many of us are asking almost despairingly, ‘Where will it all end; the bitter class hatred and class conflict; the steadily mounting competition between the nations for money and power, brought on by their greed for plunder; the secret building up of competitive armaments among the world powers; the public and private disregard of the Law of God and the gospel of our Lord.

Prayer for a spiritual awakening in the midst of our present needs will formulate itself as a prayer for a nation-wide awakening. Our national life is a living organism, an unbroken continuity from one end of the country to the other. Mammonism, the dance craze, pleasure-madness, immorality, drunkenness, lawlessness and disrespect for the Word of God are sins which are leavening our entire population, in the city and in the country, from top to bottom.

There is no way in which this unholy tendency can be arrested and our nation saved from atheism, rationalism and skepticism except by means of a quiet, sound and yet powerful spiritual awakening, reaching all levels of society in every city and rural community.

However, an all-inclusive prayer for a general awakening must always be accompanied by prayer for an awakening in our own neighborhood, our own city. Here, too, we must remember to “begin in Jerusalem.”

Our prayer for a spiritual awakening will without question be most effective if we take up the work of in-

“If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed.”

Thomas Jefferson

terceding for certain individuals in particular.

We find that most of us who have been converted have had some one praying for us, some one who carried us personally to the Throne of God while we were unconverted.

Ask the Spirit of prayer to assign to you the individuals for whom you should pray.

A spiritual awakening cannot be brought about by force, and not by magic either. In some places the battle is long and hard, and the opposition cannot be overcome except “*by prayer and fasting*” as Jesus says in Mark 9:29.

We should thank God for awakenings no matter in what form HE sends them. But it appears to me that they give promise of being especially fruitful if they come like a gentle breeze.

It is, therefore, necessary for the Spirit of God to burn into our hearts this mystery, that the most important work we have to do is that which must be done on our knees, alone with God, away from the bustle of the world and the plaudits of men.

This work is the most important of all, because it is prerequisite to all the rest of the work we have to do in the Kingdom of God: preaching, pastoral work, meetings, societies, administrative groups, organization and solicitation of funds. IF the labor of prayer does not precede, as well as accompany, all of our work in the kingdom, it will become nothing but a work of man, more or less capably done and with more or less effort and agitation as the case may be, but resulting in nothing but weariness both to ourselves and to others.

The work of praying is prerequisite to all other work in the Kingdom of God, for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple the powers of Heaven to our helplessness, the powers which can turn water into wine and remove mountains in our own life and in the lives of others, the powers which can awaken those who sleep in sin and raise up the dead, the powers which can capture strongholds and make the impossible possible.

There are no doubt many believers who have not given much attention to prayer as work. Prayer is looked upon mainly as a means of sustaining our life in God from day to day in the midst of an atmosphere which is so worldly that it almost chokes to death our weak frail, spiritual life.

Excerpts from the book *PRAYER*, the chapter titled *Prayer as Work*, by O. Hallesby, Copyright 1931, Augsburg Publishing House with permission granted.

Humble and Contrite

“I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit.” (Isaiah 57:15)

No one can become a Christian without first having been made contrite of heart

It is *God* who makes us contrite. But it is a difficult task, even for Him. In fact, it must be considered a mighty miracle when God makes the hard-hearted contrite.

How God does it, I cannot say. This is the miraculous element in spiritual awakenings, their mysterious content.

Although we cannot explain the miraculous element in spiritual awakenings, we can nevertheless experience it. And we all experience it in the same way. We experience what the prophet puts in these words: “The Lord is at hand.” The Lord lays hold of the sinner and quickly brings him into His holy presence.

So divine is God that a sinner needs only to experience God, to be in the presence of God, to have his heart of stone crushed.

In the nearness of God we become *isolated*. Though we sit in a large audience, we cannot hide ourselves in the multitude. God is speaking to me. In God’s presence we become *small*.

We feel how far we are away from God. Here at last is One speaking to me with whom debate is out of the question and with whom there can be no compromise. All I can do is to listen and to give heed.

In God’s presence we feel *sinful*.

We have come into the super-light of heaven, which, to begin with, seems absolutely un-endurable. We see our past sins, the lesser as well as the greater, in a painfully clear light. We see our *inner* sins, a bottomless and boundless sea of impurity and iniquity.

Behold, our hearts are now contrite. We have no excuses to offer; we make no objections to what God has to say to us.

Moreover, now we sinners *surrender* to God. Unconditionally, making no demands of any kind.

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Angels Round About

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.”

(Psalm 34:7)

Since God’s angels are normally unseen, we have lit-

tle appreciation of how intimately they are involved in our lives. *“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation”* Hebrews 1:14. As in our text, there may well be a protecting angel embracing and delivering us in times of danger. *For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone”* Psalm 91:11, 12.

Angels are sometimes called on to rout the enemies of God and His people. *“Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul...and let the angel of the LORD chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them”* Psalm 35:4-6.

Angels are intensely interested in the salvation and spiritual growth of believers, *“which things the angels desire to look into”* 1 Peter 1:12. *“For we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men”* 1 Corinthians 4:9. There are even occasions when *“some have entertained angels unawares”* Hebrews 13:2.

There is *“an innumerable company of angels”* Hebrews 12:27; beings of great power and wisdom (II Kings 19:35; II Samuel 14:20). They are not omnipotent, omnipresent or omniscient, of course, since they – like us – were created by God, simply to obey God. *“Bless the LORD, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His Word”* Psalm 103:20.

FINALLY, we shall be *“carried by the angels”* (Luke 16:22) **into GOD’S presence**. Then we can better understand and thank them for all the many services rendered to us here on earth.

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God,

© 1997 Dr. Henry M. Morris

Editor’s Note: Very good biblical article but keep in mind and heart we are NOT to worship angels! ALSO, a word to the wise should be sufficient. Don’t play-around with the angelic spirit world, as Satan has many fallen evil angels just like him and they will not only harass you but IF permitted indwell you.

ADONAI – The Sovereign Master

There are three primary names for God and a series of compound names. The three primary Names of God are: ELOHIM, meaning “the strong, faithful one”; ADONAI meaning “Master,” or “Lord”; And Jehovah, or more accurately, YAHWEH, meaning “the self-existent One” – “the great I AM.” — Marvin J. Rosenthal

Does God Love People Unconditionally?

“And the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them; And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore, He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.” (Isaiah 63:9-10)

There is much talk today about the Love of God and that is a great Biblical truth. John 3:16 states that God does indeed love the entire world with no exceptions. But many today take it to the point to where they state this is all that God is in His relationship to mankind. “God is Love and everything He does toward us is Love and nothing else. There is no condition to that Love because God is Love and loves us because that is who He is.”

This leads to people believing, “God loves me just the way that I am. I don’t need to change anything – I don’t need to repent and come to Christ – I don’t need to leave my life of sin and pursue a life of holiness. There are no conditions to that love because God is Love and that is what He does to people.” Preachers today state, “There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more than He does. Regardless of who you are and what you do, God still Loves you and will never do otherwise.”

This is a vicious half-truth. God does Love mankind because that is one of His attributes – that He is Love (I John 4:8), but that is not all that He is. Another attribute of God is that He is Holy (I Peter 1:16) and as such has Wrath as a result of that. This means that when people sin, it incurs God’s Wrath against them. *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”* (Romans 1:18) We might read this Scripture and come to the conclusion that God hates the sin but loves the sinner. But we need only look to other Scriptures to see that God hates the sinner himself because of the deeds he does. *“There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.”* (Proverbs 6:16-19)

This lists seven classes of sinners which God hates. He hates them because of the evil they practice and the resulting evil it brings to those with whom they deal. If you find yourself involved in any of these things, then God hates you for what you are doing. To make sure that we

don’t miss this crucial Biblical truth, let Scripture stand for what it proclaims. *“Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.”* (Psalm 5:6) The word “abhor” is awfully strong language that reflects how God feels about people who practice evil. *“God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”* (Psalm 7:1) These Scriptures don’t say that God loves the sinner but hates the sin – they say that He actually hates the very people who are doing these things. God doesn’t send sins to hell, He sends unrepentant sinners to hell.

We see this even in the life of Jesus in the New Testament. Read Matthew 23 and you will see Jesus addressing the Pharisees with absolutely scathing words. He told them, *“You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?”* (Matthew 23:33) Notice that He said “You!,” not “What you do.” In fact, eight times in this chapter, Jesus said, *“Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”* Jesus wasn’t so kind and gentle and loving toward people who were steadfast in their evil.

Notice that these Scriptures don’t say that God simply hates what these evil people do, but he hates them personally. People are held accountable for their evil actions before God. When the evil men ran the planes into the Trade Towers on 9/11, did God look upon them with a pleasant smile and say, “I Love You?” It is ludicrous to think this is how God reacts to overtly evil men. Even people who are Christians will incur God’s Wrath against them if they turn to do evil. *“But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”* (Ephesians 5:3-6)

So what are we to do with passages like John 3:16 where it says that God loves the entire world? It means that He loves even the most vile people to offer them salvation, while still hating them for what they do. The key thing that makes the change in our lives is repentance of our sins. That is why it is so crucial for there to be brokenness and repentance that lead to salvation in Jesus for the unbeliever and for the Christian to live in daily repentance before the Lord. This is the very thing missing in many circles today. We must maintain a healthy balance between Fear and Love to God.

Pastor Jim Haga
Hagapublishing.com

God's Plow

“God's tilled land.” (1 Corinthians 3:9 R.V. margin)
“God's farm.” (Translation)

THE ploughing and harrowing are painful processes. And surely the Divine Ploughman is at work in the world as never before. He ploughs *by His Spirit, by His Word, and by His providences*. Though painful be the processes of cultivation, they are essential.

Could the earth speak, it would say, “I felt the hard plough today; I knew what was coming; when the plough-point first struck me, I was full of pain and distress and I could have cried out for very agony for the point was sharp and driven through me with great energy; but now I think, “This means the blade, the ear, the full corn in the ear, the golden harvest and harvest-home.””

When the plough of God's providence first cuts up a man's life, what wonder if the man should exclaim but a little and if he should give way to one hour's grief! But the man may come to himself, ere eventide, and say, “Plough on, Lord! *I want my life to be ploughed all over, that it may be sown all over, and that in every corner there may be the golden grain or the beautiful flowers.*” Pity me that I exclaimed when I first felt the ploughshare. Thou knowest my frame; Thou rememberest that I am dust. But now I recollect; I put things together; I see Thy meaning; *so, drive on, Thou ploughman of Eternity!*” He does not use the plough and harrow without intention, Where God ploughs, He intends to sow. *His ploughing is a proof He is FOR and not against you.*

“For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown.” (Ezekiel 36:9)

Let us never forget that the Husbandman is never so near as when He is ploughing it. This can be the very time when we are tempted to think He hath forsaken us.

His ploughing is a proof that He thinks you *of value*, and *worth chastening; for He does not waste His ploughing on the barren sand.* He will not plough continually, but only for a time, and for a definite purpose. Soon will He close that process. “Doth the ploughman plough continually to sow? Doth he continually open and break the clods of His ground?” (Isaiah 28:24) VERILY, *No!* Soon, aye soon, we shall, through painful processes and by His gentle showers of Grace become *His fruitful land.*

“The desolate land shall be tilled, and they shall say, This, land that was desolate is become the *garden of Eden,*” (Ezekiel 36:34, 5) and thus we shall be a praise unto Him.

*Come ill, come well, the cross, the crown,
The rainbow or the thunder –
I fling my soul and body down
For God to plough them under.*

A Prince of the Captivity – John Buchan,
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Forgetting God

“If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god; Shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart.” (Psalm 44:20-21)

By Mrs. Charles E. Cowman

A Missionary from India made the statement that if Christ had started out to preach the Gospel to every village of India, devoting but one day to each one He would still be in India and would not yet be even nearly through (This statement was made years ago).

Today we face a task unfinished! But we can face it with the fullest assurance of faith, knowing it can be done! Millions of souls wait to be evangelized. Tolstoy laid a few days before his death, and it seemed indeed like the word of a prophet, “The modern world has temporarily lost God, and without Him cannot live.” Is not this the root cause of the suffering in our broken, bleeding world at this moment? A world that has lost God! Many are crying with Job, “O that I knew where I might find Him!” (Job 23:3)

Remember, men are still God's method for reaching men. Men who are utterly yielded to God, men like Gideon. Who was he? The word says, “the spirit of the Lord clothed (himself) with Gideon.” “And Gideon was nothing in the fray, but just a suit of working clothes the Spirit wore that day.” God is today looking for people so small and insignificant that when God uses them people exclaim: **GOD IS WORKING THROUGH THAT MAN!** Used of God, ordinary instruments become extra-ordinary. Remember Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David! “The sword of the Lord and —men! Think of Spurgeon, Moody, Luther, Wesley (Hans Nielsen Hauge)! These were men for their generation and their hour. You can be the person for this hour – this portentous hour, this momentous hour before the return of our Lord Jesus Christ for His Bride! “Christ alone can save this world, but Christ can't save this world alone!”

Springs in the Valley, compiled by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, Copyright ©1939, 1968, by Cowman Publications, Inc.

Editor: This is where the important ministry of the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is needed today more than possibly in the **100** years of existence: the HLIF – basically helping to start at ‘home/Jerusalem’ – the USA and beyond.

God's Faithfulness

By H. M. Draper

Once, long ago, God gave a promise: *"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease"* Genesis 8:22. On the strength of that promise the farmer sows his seed. He may not always think of that promise, but is in accordance with that promise that his crops grow and mature. (Promises are made not to be unbroken and God never breaks any of His Promises)

He must sow in faith, whether that be a blind faith or an intelligent faith. He can only fulfill certain rules and conditions; and when he has done that, he can only wait. He is in the hands of an Almighty God. Lo, God unfailingly gives a yearly harvest in keeping with His promise. It is true, in some districts there may be occasional scarcity; but plentiful harvest in another region will give opportunity for the exercise of Christian charity.

Let us remember that God's faithfulness in the realm of nature is only an illustration of His love and faithfulness. Every Christian is a husbandman, whether he works the land, labors at the workbench or is engaged in a profession. To each one, as well as to the farmer, He extends His promise of providential care and unfailing faithfulness.

To teach man about God is nature's greatest work and purpose. She tells of His attributes. The nightly panorama of the starry heavens speaks of His power, the tiny floweret His skill. But if there is one chord in nature's song which is sweeter than the rest it is the "goodness of God."

And God's goodness is especially manifested in the harvest. The harvest is, as it were, the crowning point of God's goodness; *"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness."* (Psalm 65:11) What shall be our response? What shall we give Him in return? Shall we not give Him our life, our all?

Sword of the Lord

REVERENCE!

"And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:12)

The Second Commandment states: "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes His Name in vain." Do we as sinful human beings pick and choose

which Commandments we want to follow?

What does this mean according to Luther's Small Catechism? "We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving."

I recall, many years ago, a Youth Pastor on his radio ministry, would occasionally use slang in his radio-message! (Please look up in your dictionary what the word 'slang' means) I repeat for emphasis; be sure to know what the word "slang" means! Now seriously consider today the language of many and among some professing-Christians!

YES, consider the language employed today in society compared with that of the Jews, who regarded the name of God (Yahweh) so holy that they would not dare to pronounce it. Modern Americans, etc., see no problem in using it as an adjective to emphasize a statement. The Name of God is no longer revered.

I think of Moses for example in the Old Testament standing before the burning-bush. God told him to take off his sandals for he was standing upon holy-ground. As you follow through Holy Scripture, the Bible, we find that frequently when one or more were in the presence of Jesus Incarnate; they didn't shout or clap their hands, but fell-down and prostrated at His feet and 'worshipped' Him! (By the way: when the assembly claps their hands after a good message in music; why isn't the same expression shared when the Law And Gospel is shared in vocal words?) As our **"reverence"** toward **God** rises or falls; our private or public worship will follow like a Shadow. How about "Promises are made to be kept; not broken?" When You or I make secret promises to God and then break them, then God says in His Book that "vows/promises are **not** to be broken" and He says we are better off to have not made a vow than have it broken. For a Christian, sin should be dealt with like the waste products of the human body! The sooner it is acknowledged and confessed before Our Holy/Righteous God, the better, as forgiveness of our sin is the most desperate need of our whole human being!

That being said, as Christians; it should be our goal to help others sense that it is a HOLY GOD that we are privileged to serve and One Day we will be giving an account before the one and only true God that there is! The Great Physician does not treat just symptoms; but seeks to cure the root. (II Corinthians 5:17)

Editor

The Gospel of Peace

“Having shod your feet with a preparation of the gospel of peace.” (Ephesians 6:15)

When a soldier has put his shoes on, and has laced them tightly then he is ready to go. Without shoes it is difficult to walk any great distance; especially is this so for a soldier.

The gospel of peace is shoes for the Christian, and the laces with which to fasten them to his feet. It enables him to go into battle in the right spirit. For us who are Christians there is much to be learned from this verse. If we can discover its great teachings and make them our own, we shall have learned a great deal concerning the method of fighting the good fight.

The first teaching is this that if we are to fight our battles successfully, we must first have found peace with God in a good conscience. The truth concerning the peace which Jesus acquired for us must have reached into our hearts; nothing must be permitted to disturb our communion/fellowship with God. ...

Christians never have a right to fight for the sake of a battle. Such warfare ill befits the Kingdom of God. Satan often tempts the Christians to use the sword against each other rather than against a common foe. ...

He who fires the first shot is not always the one who is guilty of disturbing the peace. A Christian may be led by the Holy Spirit of God to do that which is right according to the Word of God. ...

We must remember, though, that it is wrong to go into the fray with the cudgel of the law. It is possible to be on the side of truth and right, and still to carry on in a cold and critical spirit. When parents punish their children in a fit of temper rather than in kindness, or when preachers proclaim the Word without genuine love their feet are not shod with the gospel of peace. ...

When the gospel gets power over a human heart it makes the Christian keen in discerning the truth as well as intensely in love for the truth. ...

In Norway we have also had a man who exemplified this side of true Christianity. ... This man was Hans Nielsen Hauge ... his feet were shod with the gospel of peace.

Hauge was on the way from Oslo to his home at Tune. In the evening he went to a farmstead and secured lodging for the night. Later in the evening the local school teacher also came; he had heard rumors of Hauge's presence. In a fit of temper, he called Hauge an ignoramus and a heretic. Hauge said little. After a while he said that the Bible, with which the teacher undoubtedly was very familiar, teaches that we ought not to treat one another thus.

The teacher sprang to his feet and strode toward

Hauge, “I am going to show you how heretics ought to be treated,” he said, directing a powerful blow right at Hauge's ear. The latter lost his temper, he arose, broad-shouldered and strong. A strange fire flashed in his blue eyes. But he regained his self-control and said quietly, “*You ought not to do thus.*” He glanced at the lady of the house; the poor woman was both embarrassed and frightened. The teacher clenched his fist before Hauge's face; he went to the door and opened it. “*Get out at once,*” he screamed; *You have no business here.*” ...

“*I have fists also,*” said Hauge, “*but I do not use them to strike my brothers.*” ...

Hauge turned to him and said quietly, “That I shall, but first I must pay for my lodging.” ... She accepted it hesitatingly.

Hauge buttoned his coat slowly, turned to the teacher and said in a clear voice, “It is good to be well dressed when it is cold outside, likewise, it is good to be clothed in the love of Christ so that we can pray for those who strike us. God's peace and farewell.” ...

Something strange happened. The teacher, who until then had been watching the peaceful man with increasing astonishment, began to weep violently. “God help me,” he cried as he dashed out after Hauge. He called out into the darkness. “Yes,” replied Hauge. “Can you possibly forgive me?” His voice failed.

“Yes,” came the reply. “God has forgiven us all.” He continued walking down the road.

“No, please do not leave us.” “Yes, it must be so.”

The teacher remained standing and peered into the darkness. “Where are you going?”

“Where the Lord leads,” came the reply.

“Farewell, then, and Godspeed.”

“Thanks, and to you likewise.”

Nothing further was heard. Hauge disappeared into the darkness. He was shod with a preparation of the gospel of peace.

Editor's Note: In order to make this a true experience, I have taken excerpts from this chapter.

Spirit and Power, by Ludvig Hope, Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, © Copyright 1939.

A political party cannot be all things to all people. It must represent certain fundamental beliefs which must not be compromised to political expediency, simply to swell its ranks.

Ronald Reagan

Calloused by Degrees

Charles H. Spurgeon

I shall never forget standing by the bedside of a youth who had been in my Sunday school class. He had received very little good training at home, and though he was but a Lad of seventeen, he became a drunkard and drank himself to death at one debauch.

I saw him, talked to him, tried to point him to the Savior, heard at last the death rattle in his throat; and as I went downstairs, I thought everybody a fool for doing anything except preparing to die.

I began to look upon the men who drove the carts in the street, those who were busy at their ships and those who selling their wares as being all foolish for attending to anything except their eternal business. I thought myself most of all foolish for not pointing dying sinners to a living Christ and inviting them to trust in His precious blood.

Yet, in an hour or so, all things took their usual shape, and I began to think that I was not dying after all. I could go away and be as unconcerned as before. I could begin to think that men were after all, wise in thinking of this world and not the next. I mean not that I really thought so, but in fear I acted as if I thought so, for the impression of the deathbed was so obliterated.

It is sadly true that even a Christian will grow by degrees so allowed that the sin which once startled him and made his blood run cold does not alarm him in the least.

I can speak from my own experience. When first I heard an oath, I stood aghast and knew not where to hide myself; yet now, if I hear an imprecation or blasphemy against God, though a shudder still runs through my veins, there is not that solemn feeling, that intense anguish which I felt when first I heard such evil utterances.

By degrees we get familiar with sin. I am fearful that even preaching against sin may have an injurious effect upon the preacher. I frankly confess that there is a tendency with those of us who have to speak upon these themes, to treat them professionally rather to make application of them to ourselves; thus, we lose our dread of evil in some degree, just as doctors soon lose their tender nervousness in the dissecting room.

We are compelled in our office to see ten thousand things at first which are heartbreakers to us.

In our young ministry, when we meet with hypocrisy and inconsistency, we are ready to lie down and die; but the tendency after years is to take these terrible evils as matters of course.

Worldliness, covetousness and carnality shock us most at the outset of our work. Is not this a sad sign that

even God's ministers may feel the hardening effect of sin?

I daily feel that the atmosphere of earth has as much a tendency to harden my heart as to harden plaster which is newly spread upon the wall. Unless I am filled anew with the Spirit of God and constantly stand at the Cross, reading the curse of sin in the crimson hieroglyphics of my Savior's dying agonies, I shall become as steeled and insensible as many professors already are.

It Is I

*It Is I; Be Not Afraid
When the storm was fiercely raging,
On the Lake of Galilee
And their helpless bark was tossing
On the wild, tempestuous sea,
Walking on the raging waters
In a robe of light arrayed,
Jesus came, Oh, hear Him calling –
“It is I; be not afraid!”*

*When the storms of life are raging
And the night is long and drear;
When our strength is spent with toiling
And our spirit sinks with fear,
Oft again we see Him coming,
Swiftly hast'ning to our aid;
Often still we hear Him calling –
“It is I; be not afraid!”*

*When the night of death shall lower
And the Jordan's surges roll,
When the hour and power of darkness
Overwhelm the sinking soul,
Then above the raging billows
And night's deepest, darkest shade
We shall hear Him calling to us –
“It Is I; be not afraid!”*

A. B. Simpson

Sword of the Lord

Training Of The Children In The Home

“How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, Who walks in His ways. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, You will be happy and it will be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine, Within your house, Your children like olive plants Around your table.” (Psalm 128:1-3)

In Psalm 127 the arrows are in our hands, needing direction. As the songwriter continues his thoughts regarding the family in Psalm 128, he says that everyone who fears the Lord will be blessed or happy. The context is the family, remember – specifically the children God gives. As the progression continues in Psalm 128:1-2, we see how each arrow is to be carefully directed: (1) in the fear of the Lord, and (2) walking in His ways. Again, you will notice, happiness will continue to be the surrounding atmosphere (“HOW BLESSED”).

Parents who train their children according to biblical principles have the hope of ultimate happiness. As a matter of fact, verse 2 says your investment will allow you to “eat of the fruit of your hands” and “it will be well with you.” The picture is, again, the hands (as it was in 127:4). Parents’ hands enjoy the product of their labor as they “pick the fruit” of the domestic garden they have cultivated. As submission is caught, obedience taught, and understanding sought, the dividends come rolling in!

Verse 3 is such a pleasant picture. The father looks around the supper table. He sees his dear wife (“a fruitful vine”) and children (“olive plants”). I notice the children not called “branches” but plants. This seems to emphasize that each offspring is independent, unique, one who will reproduce his own kind in later years. And the difference is also seen in that the mother is pictured as a vine, but the children as olive plants. This is a good and necessary distinction.

We, as parents, are unwise to assume that our children are put together exactly like we are. The father, for example, who is athletic has a strong tendency to want that same tendency to emerge in his son, even to the point of forcing it. The same is true of a mother who is artistic. She persistently urges that talent in her daughter, but frequently that isn’t the daughter’s interest. Why? To answer with the songwriter’s symbols: we are vines, but our children are olive plants. However, regardless of a child’s talent (or lack of it), athletic ability (or lack of it), the training we give him or her must be that of spiritual instruction (“fear of the Lord”). A child **must be directed toward faith in the Lord Jesus Christ** and given an enor-

mous amount of training in the principles of Scripture.

On occasion I have heard well-meaning young couples say that they are going to “let the children choose for themselves” when it comes to their spiritual lives. For fear of “warping their children” and “making fanatics out of them, some parents take a hands-off policy – an unfortunate mistake. As soon as the child’s independent self-will emerges, he or she (dominated by a sinful nature) chooses to ignore the Lord, the local church, the instruction of the Scriptures, and the godly life. Remember, Solomon’s warning? He declared that “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.” (Proverbs 22:15) And also, as we saw earlier, David tells us that depravity – that inward undertow of evil – is part of the makeup of every child. My point is that a young child cannot make up his own mind correctly. His inner nature counteracts and overpowers godliness. Now I certainly do not believe in fanaticism. That is not our goal, but a balanced, victorious, growing spiritual life is. Without direction, a child will seldom (IF EVER) choose the path of obedience on his own.

If you think the grind of family life is a tough challenge, try to imagine the attitudes and atmosphere in your home if each child were told to just make up his (or her) own mind. The grind would become so severe, no one could endure the pressure!

Living Beyond the Daily Grind, by Charles Swindoll,
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My Pastor Aims at Me

*My pastor shapes his sermon
From A to final Z
In clear and forthright language
And aims them straight to me.*

*And when he gets to preaching,
I look around to see
If there might be another
Deserving more than me.*

*But every soul looks saintly –
Their hearts to Heaven turn –
While I, in my conviction,
Can only sit and squirm.*

*You know, I often wonder,
If I should miss a day,
Would he, without his target,
Have anything to say?*

Selected

UpDate

MONEY TALKS!

As rude as it may sound; there are those who state verbally or by pen, "I really am in favor of your stand on Scripture and trying to help keep us alert in the events of Today; but it is just talk encouragement!" It is somewhat like 'hoof and mouth disease.' NOT ONLY do *some* Politicians promise to represent 'we the people.' but there are those of us who should have opened their mouths, but the 'hoof' gets in the way! JESUS encountered the same as He walked here on earth. HE said in LOVE, "They honor ME with their lips, but their hearts (hypocrites) are far from Me." (Matt. 15:8) I am not at all speaking about those who are very, very limited in their financial need; and there is the true 'story' of the 'widows-mite'. BUT you know *sometimes* there are those who have it good, or even plenty, but it is more difficult for them to let the fantastic BOOK KEEPER lead and obey. The LORD knows much more about 'finances' than you and I will ever know in our '*earthly journey*'.

At the present-time, you know our Need to keep Occupying in the Lord's Kingdom Work in and through the *Morning Glory* and the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. I have been frank and rude enough in order for YOU to realize that we have a NEED!

Please prayerfully support as the Savior leads, Thank You and may God Richly Bless Your Obedience!

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Hauge Annual Meeting and Bible Conference

Bethesda Lutheran Brethren Church

Westby, WI

June 25-27, 2021

We will have our Annual Conference of the Hauge Innermission Federation in Westby, Wisconsin on June 25-27. We want to extend an invitation for you to attend. The schedule for the conference will be printed in the June issue of the *Morning Glory*. Make plans now to attend.

If you are unable to attend, would you please remember us in prayer and for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be upon each messenger and for the Lord to meet each need spiritually, emotionally and physically. He is more than able to do this, and we look to our Great God to provide. If you would like to send an offering to help meet the financial needs, that would be much appreciated.