



# Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • May 2024

## Love in the Past Tense

**C**HRISTIANITY is not a relationship to an institution or even a set of teachings or certain principles of conduct. It goes deeper than a relationship to the pastor, the order of service, the scheduled meetings, or the church building. Christianity is and always must be a relationship to a person. That Person is the Babe of Bethlehem, the Son of God and the Son of man.

To many, Christianity is just a performance of certain religious duties. It is to attend church for one hour on Sunday, to pledge a certain amount of money per week, to be active in one or two organizations in the congregation. Reading the Bible can become just a religious duty. Even prayer may become just a performance. We bow our heads but not our hearts. We speak words, but our thoughts are elsewhere. We have the form but often there is no power. A part of the performance is to try hard to live a clean life and measure up to certain standards of moral conduct. It is all a self-perpetual effort to rise higher in the sight of God.

What is the difficulty with such individuals? Christianity to them has become a performance and not an experience. To be a Christian is to have an experience with a Person. That Person is Jesus Christ. A personal relationship of faith must be a real experience. Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, the Savior on the cross, is a real Person. My relationship to this Person must be vital and real. What could be more definite than the words, “He that hath the Son hath life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (I John 5:12). Everything depends

upon your relationship to this Person - the Son. Jesus put it this way, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36). Is your religion an experience of faith with the person of Jesus Christ or is it just an empty performance of certain religious duties? Everything hinges on your relationship to the Person of Jesus.

This experience is an experience of love in the past tense. What do I mean? I can be in a saving relationship to the Person of Jesus Christ by faith only because God gave. “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son” (John 3:16). “Herein is love, that God loved us and sent his Son” (I John 4:10). When Paul describes Christ’s love for His own, it is by pointing back to His sacrifice. “He that spared not his Son” (Romans 8:32). Our victory, too, hinges on accepting His love in the past tense. “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37).

When Christ’s love for the church is described, it is again in the past tense. “Christ loved the church and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25), and again, “The Son of God loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). The preaching and teaching which always emphasizes only the present love of God for the soul as the great persuading power over the human heart falls far short. The liberal theologian generally uses love in the present tense. He is constantly emphasizing just the fact that God loves you. Such emphasis will cause people gradually to lose sight of two basic facts—first,

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that man is lost and condemned in sin and, secondly, that it is only the substitutionary suffering and death of Christ on the cross that can atone for man’s sin. The love of God was once and for all supremely set forth on Calvary’s cross. “He loved us unto death.”

It is this past tense of the gospel that the devil hates. It is the “word of the cross which is the power of God.” This past tense of God’s love is written over the manger in Bethlehem. This past tense of God’s love is written over the cross of Calvary. This past tense of God’s love is written over the empty tomb. It is your present tense experience of this past tense of God’s love that is the heart of Christianity. Everything hinges on your present relationship to this Person whom God gave when He loved you so much that He died for you and was raised again.

Where is this experience made possible? It is more than an emotional upsurge or a response to a human plea. It is an experience of the Person of Christ in God’s means of grace—the Word and the Sacraments. So many people make the sad mistake of looking in the wrong place for a deeper experience of Christ. The great temptation comes to look within ourselves. Once I had that good feeling inside, but now it is gone. Every day I look inside of myself for that good feeling of joy and peace again, but I cannot find it. I look to certain forms or to certain personalities who seem to have so much influ-

ence. But all is in vain.

The answer is to look into the Word. There I meet the Person of Jesus Christ. His personality meets mine. The words He speaks are life and power. His promises become a real experience because I accept them in faith. They become mine. The promises of Christ in the Word make my experience of Him in the sacraments very real. For a deeper experience with the Person of Jesus Christ - get into your Bible, not just once in a while but live in it. Christ says, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31). "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). Christ becomes a real person to you in your Bible. Meet Him often!

The apex, heart, and nucleus of all this experience is Calvary—the past tense of God’s love. Yes, surely God’s love is also in the present tense. God is love and He loves me each day. God is at work through His Spirit to call sinners to repentance and faith. Without His present love in which He calls, gathers, enlightens, preserves, and sanctifies, His past-tense love would not be real in my heart. His daily love also gives, provides, and sustains. He deals with me in love all the time. Surely the present tense of His love hangs over my head constantly. But His love in the present tense can become a real experience in my life only when His love in the past tense is accepted as His supreme gift of salvation to my sinful heart. Only in Christ am I in the position of His child where I can receive His present love. The cross, the blood, the suffering, dying Savior—God so loved—God gave. This is the heart of it all. My relationship to this Person of Jesus is all that counts. A performance? No, an experience daily of His love in the past tense.

From *March to Win*, Oscar Hanson,  
Bible Banner Press, © Copyright 1952

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### **Kildahl’s Testimony**

In my youth, I am sorry to say, I fell away from my baptismal covenant. But on account of the Word of God which especially Father and Mother had sowed in my heart, and on account of the uninterrupted working of the Holy Spirit upon me, I never found sweet peace in the worldly life but came, in the course of time, into deep anxiety for the salvation of my soul. I began then earnestly to want to reform and to attain to such an inward spiritual condition that I, as I thought, could be found worthy to accept faith and receive pardon. I had learned that a

man is justified by faith alone without works; but by works, I understood outward works, especially such as I had heard that the Catholics were engaged in to attain justification; and I did not understand that the contagion of self-righteousness had seized upon my soul and that all my striving was slavery under the Law. If there is anything that I in my life have been serious about, it is that I might create in myself remorse, repentance, and preparedness, or in other words, such a condition which I in my blindness thought was, in accordance with the Word of God, demanded of me as the condition in order that He could do something further with or for me unto my salvation. And if there is anything that has been a total failure for me, then it is this: to become such that I myself thought there was some hope or some probability that God could give me faith by means of which I could secure forgiveness of sins.

When I had worn myself out under the Law and had made no headway but had gone from bad to worse, and when it seemed to me more and more impossible for me to attain to conversion and my mouth was closed, then the Lord through His Gospel showed me that what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. (Rom. 8:3) Although I had heard as far back as I could remember that we are saved by grace on account of the merit of Jesus Christ by faith in Him alone, yet this came as a completely new revelation to me. I received grace to understand a little of that which, up to this time, had been hidden from me: namely, what grace is, and what it means to be saved by grace, and what it means to be justified by faith. It dawned upon me what is meant by the words all things are now ready. (Luke 14:17) And since that time, it has been a need and a joy for me to exalt the free, unmerited grace of God.

*Christian Dogmatics*-J. N. Kildahl, Published by  
Jonathan D. Anderson, 2017

### **A Prayerful Vote**

While every one of us should prepare to cast an intelligent, prayerful ballot at each election, the salvation of America requires far more than a Republican or a Democratic victory. It demands, first of all, a repentant return to God, national and individual, admission of our sins, and a humble trust in the saving Christ.

Walter Maier (The Lutheran Hour)  
From the sermon "Jesus Christ is Our  
Hope," October 1944

## Our Lord's Return

*"My brethren, if the Son of man should come this week, this month, or this year, would he find faith on the earth?"* (Lk. 18:8)

Would not the church itself be taken by surprise? Would not such an event now come upon the overwhelming majority of Christ's professed followers unawares? And yet, what guarantee have we that the chariot wheels of the coming King are not already rumbling over the distant worlds? Has he not said, "In such an hour as you think not, the Son of man comes"? "the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night"? and "as a snare shall it come upon all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth"? Who can say that we are not liable to have the great scenes of the judgment precipitated upon us at any moment? And shall we not be concerned to have our minds familiarized with what may any day occur, and which must occur sooner or later? Is there not something inconceivably dreadful in the thought of having that day come upon us at the very time we are saying, "My Lord delays his coming"? Would it not be better to be a little prepared with our anticipations, and to bear the taunts that may be heaped upon us for our concern, than to accommodate ourselves to the wisdom and sobriety of this erring world, and be finally taken by surprise and perhaps lose our eternal all? Jesus says, "that the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Of what avail will his worldly wisdom and his fruitless profession be to him then? What good will all his knowledge then do him?

Better that we had never known the way of righteousness, better that we had never been born, than amid all our high privileges this to come short of the ap-

### Morality

*"Let us with caution indulge the opposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."*

George Washington – Farewell address, 1776.

proval of the coming. Judgment first begins with us, and many professing Christians lose the honors of the kingdom, "what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear!" With what surprise and frustration shall the day of Christ's coming overtake them!

My dear friends, these are solemn thoughts. It will not do to trifle with them. Momentous issues are involved. And we know not how soon the irrevocable decision shall be made. Let us, then, enter upon the study of this mighty subject with serious and prayerful hearts, anxious to know what God has been pleased to reveal, and earnestly set upon preparing to meet our God. And especially let us carefully lay to heart those impressive words of the Lord Jesus himself: "Of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

Therefore, take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with overindulging and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Watch, therefore, and pray always, that you may be worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. For you know not when the time is. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and KNEW NOT until the flood came, and took them all away: so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. WATCH, THEREFORE, FOR YE KNOW NOT WHAT HOUR YOUR LORD WILL COME.

But know this, that if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore, BE ALSO READY: FOR IN SUCH AN HOUR AS YOU THINK NOT, THE SON OF MAN COMES.

Who, then, is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord, when he comes, shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler of all his goods."

EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS.

Joseph Augustas Seiss, 1823-1903  
Lutheran Theologian

# Editorial

Wayne Almlie

## *De-baptism/ De-conversion/ De-construction*

*“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.”*

*(Hebrews 10:26-27)*

Throughout church history there have always been apostates. We read about them in the Bible. People like Judas, Hymenaeus, Alexander, (1 Tim 1:20) and Demas, (2 Tim 4:10) people who at one time followed Jesus, but later compromised and went back to the world. It has happened throughout church history, when the going has gotten tough, and it always does, they have denied the faith and returned to the world.

The young are especially susceptible. There is kind of a running joke amongst Lutherans that goes like this. There was a church and cemetery where deer were coming in and eating all the shrubs, and the elders and deacons were at wit ends about what to do about it. The pastor told them not to worry, that he knew how to get them to leave. So a month goes by and lo and behold the deer disappeared. The Elders and Deacons asked the pastor how he did it, and the pastor said, “Well I just confirmed them”.

Sometimes the youth complain that the church is too legalistic, and that may be the case in some instances. But mostly, the Bible has a few “thou shall nots,” and it is within the human heart to rebel against those, especially if the young person is not saved. After all, it’s hard if you’re a goat, to act like a sheep for very long. I’m grateful that the pastor of my youth didn’t preach a lot of “thou shall nots” but instead preached “You must be converted.” And many of the youth were converted, and we read our Bibles and we discussed the Word together and we knew what pleased God and what grieved the Holy Spirit. It wasn’t just a list of do’s or don’ts.

Today there is a whole movement of de-baptism, de-conversions and de-construction. They all mean about the same. It is a walking away from the Faith. People brag about it on social media. It has happened with some big names within Christianity, pastors, musicians, and authors have abandoned what they say they used to believe. Using a hair dryer, some atheist groups have conducted tongue-in-cheek “de-baptism”

ceremonies. They should be reminded, “God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.” (Gal 6:7-8)

The scripture is full of warnings for these people. One of the strongest is from the Book of Hebrews. (Heb 10:26ff) “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?”

One of the things I remember about my confirmation was the Saturday night before Sunday. Saturday evening was when we would stand before the congregation and would be asked random questions, to be tested on our knowledge. Before we filed into the front of the church, the pastor gave us some words of admonition and even a warning. He said that we soon would stand before the congregation and profess our faith, we would repeat the words: “we renounce the Devil and all his works and all his ways,” and some of us wouldn’t mean it. He said that Judgment Day would be sad for him, he would look for familiar faces and some of us would not be there. He knew that some of us were not saved. We wouldn’t all make it.

That’s the message of Hebrews. The author was looking at the Jewish nation and those who left Egypt, and in almost disbelief, he said, “They didn’t make it”. The Jewish nation had the Law and the Prophets and all the spiritual advantages they could want, but yet most of them didn’t make it. He is telling the Jews of his day, if you abandon Christ you will not make it. The legalism of the Jews won’t save you. You will go

to eternal destruction. If you reject Christ, all that is left for you is a terrifying expectation of Judgment. If you reject Christ, you reject the only means God has provided to save you from the wrath to come.

These people who are de-converting are playing with fire, literally. How about you my friend? Are you

looking at the world and being tempted to abandon Christ? In the future, I believe it will be a lot harder to be a Christian. You see it in the world already. People are losing their jobs, losing their businesses, being mocked by the world just for having a Biblical worldview. Are you ready? Will your anchor hold?

## Hauge Movement—Guiding Lines

1. Be awake to the difficult days we live in. The falling away in church and state is increasing, the appearance of the personal Antichrist, Satan's masterpiece, is at hand and the great tribulation has no doubt already begun in certain countries and is drawing nearer us every day. May our meekness be known unto all men, for the Lord is at hand.

2. Our movement should be a continual returning to the old fountains. Ask for the old paths and walk in them. Jer. 6:16. All our fathers in lay-activity, Peter Valdo, Spener and Hauge drew inspiration, power and instruction from the great fountain of life opened on Pentecost and in the early New Testament Church.

"O Holy Spirit, we pray for you night and day; oh, give us the same spirit and power our fathers before us have had" (Brorson). If we leave the landmarks set down by Spener, Pontoppidan and Hauge we shall lose our identity, develop into a loose, superficial movement and be lost in the tide of worldliness, sectarianism or mere outward churchianity.

3. Our movement must cherish and watch over the three Haugean principles as enunciated and handed down by our early Haugean fathers in this country. They are:

a. Christianity is a living experience of awakening, conversion, and life in God.

b. Apostolic simplicity and liberty in all meetings and worship as opposed to formalism and ritualism.

c. To encourage the gifts of grace, lay-activity, the fellowship of the saints, the Christian testimony, and the prayer meeting.

These constitute our spiritual heritage our fathers cherished, sacrificed, and suffered for. Through these – souls were brought to Jesus and God's people wonderfully edified and blessed. May they be precious to us.

4. We must endeavor to keep the backyard of our lives clean. If we grow careless as to honesty, truthfulness, paying of just debts; if we lack in mercy, helpfulness, proper keeping of the Lord's Day, to say nothing of open sins and conformity to the world. If we do not watch, pray, and shine as lights in the world, we shall

soon be like salt that has lost its savor and is good for nothing. Pray for victory in your daily life.

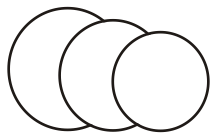
5. Keep the home fire burning in brotherly love, encouragement, and helpfulness. Keep up the prayer meetings and fellowship meetings. How we need to draw close together, confess sins and misunderstandings to one another, and keep ourselves in the love of God and brotherly love.

6. Our attitude, as a movement toward the organized congregations and church bodies should be conciliatory, prayerful, and helpful, yet standing firmly on our God-given privileges. Wherever we have an opportunity we should be willing to serve in the Sunday school, young people's work, giving to good causes or in whatever church activity we can be of help, speaking the truth in love. To those among us who feel they have reached or are nearing a point where they neither can be blessed nor be of a blessing in a local church, we have no definite common guiding lines set down by our fathers. Let such a sad condition call you to self-searching and prayer and waiting upon God. Keep yourself in the love of God. Let us not condemn each others' views. What is best for one individual or one group in one place, may not be the best for others in other localities. Be of help to such pastors and church leaders where there is spiritual liberty. "Let us look up and lift up our heads for our redemption draweth nigh."

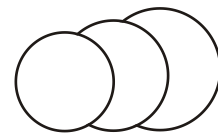
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## What Is Happiness?

John Bunyan penned these thoughts on the subject: "*The truly happy man was born in the city of regeneration, in the parish of repentance. He owns the largest state in the country of Christian contentment yet wears the plain garments of humility. He has 'meat to eat that the world knows not of.'* He has gospel submission in his conduct, due order in his affection, sound peace in his conscience, and sanctifying love and joy in his soul." — Excerpt



# From Our Fellowship Circle



**R.A**

“Enclosed is a check in memory of Pastor Rodney Stueland. He served the Lord faithfully as pastor and as editor of the Morning Glory for many years together with his wife Barbara. Blessed be his memory.”

**M. & K. B.**

**Ossian, IA.**

“Dear Brothers in Christ,

Thanks so much for another Morning Glory issue full of great articles and spiritual food. God is still actively building his kingdom and drawing sinners to himself through faithful preaching of the word in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our little country church is rejoicing with the angels over two souls in our midst who recently came to faith. One a pre-teen boy and the other a man in his 70’s. I enjoy giving books to people. Please send four copies of Spirit & Power, with the remainder please renew our subscription and that of my in-laws. I believe it is my father-in-law’s favorite periodical. Grace and Peace in Jesus.”

**J. & P. M.**

“We still enjoy reading the Morning Glory! We also have your ministry on our prayer list. May God continue to bless and use your witness to His glory!”

**B. I.**

**Sisseton S.D.**

Gift in Memory of Rod Stueland”

**B. R. Lacrosse, WI**

“Hello, I am enclosing a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the cost of one copy of Spirit & Power to be sent to the following person: \_\_\_\_\_. I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

**E. B.**

**Fertile, MN**

Send one copy each of Altar Steps, Mirror of the Heart and Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the above. The rest is a donation to Morning Glory. Thank you.

**M. T.**

**Apple Valley, Mn**

A gift In memory of Rodney Stueland

**D. M.**

**Dubuque, IA**

“Dear Brother or sister in Christ:

Would you please send me one (1) copy of the book Spirit and Power by Ludvig Hope. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_. We express our gratitude to the anonymous donor who has taken on himself or herself the postage costs. May our Savior bless the ministry,

witness, and outreach of the Hauge Lutheran Inner-mission Federation. God’s peace through the merits and wounds of the Savior.”

**B.N.**

**Bismarck, N.D.**

The Morning Glory is under new leadership. The old and the new. Both are special people doing well. I enjoy the paper. Please continue the format, the variety it contains.

**L. H.**

**Piedmont, SD**

I have been reading the Morning Glory regularly for almost 60 years. It is always a blessing and dependable – not compromising.

The Lord began a personal faith within me as a young man on the farm. We left the farm to study for the ministry. I attended Waldorf, Augustana, Free Lutheran Seminary and Lutheran Brethren Seminary and was blessed to have opportunities to share the Word of God in many places. Now retired, I drive school bus and fill in for Faith and Eagle Butte occasionally. I also have a weed spraying business in the summer.

We have eight kids, 22 grandkids and 13 great grandkids, so family keeps us busy. Lillian and I are both quite healthy yet.

I was well acquainted with Rodney Stueland for many years. He was faithful to the Lord, and is well in eternity.

Enclosed is a gift to Morning Glory and some names you have already (some names were listed to put on the Morning Glory mailing list if they were not already on it).

God bless!

In Jesus,

**E. G.**

**Parkland County, Alberta**

Dear Brothers in Christ

Please mail me the book, “Spirit and Power”.

Please pray for me, for like Jeremiah, I have been persecuted for saying that God’s people need to repent. It has been going on for a long time, even among leaders.

God’s last words to me, Jer 15:15-16: “You who know, O Lord, Remember me, take notice of me, And take vengeance for me on my persecutors. Do not, in view of Your patience, take me away; Know that for Your sake I endure reproach. Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.”

I love these words from Luther: “Each believer has access to God directly, apart from human interference.” And today do we feel compelled to go to our Christian superstars instead of learning to seek God? My Fault, I trusted the leaders.

Thank you.

In Christ,

**R. & C. H.**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for continuing to send us the “Morning Glory”. We appreciate the many encouraging and teaching articles.

We were saddened to learn of Pastor Stueland’s passing, but not for him, but for those he left behind.

God bless you as you continue in His service.

In Christ,

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### My Heritage

I recently had someone ask me if the family I grew up in had always been Christians. I shared the following of what I remember.

My father was a workaholic. He shelled corn in the Badger and Fort Dodge area for farmers during the day and farmed the land many times at night. He and two brothers worked together to farm several farms, so we 3 kids, Dale, Don and I were always busy walking beans, helping with the hay harvest and driving tractor. I don’t remember my Dad spending much time with the family or myself. However, Sunday afternoons were usually a time to rest and visit relatives and Holidays were always important to all of us.

Mom, who had come from a strong religious church background made sure we were in Sunday school and in the Jr. Choir on Wednesday evenings. We didn’t always go to church, so Sunday morning Mom and Dad often talked to decide if we were staying for church or going home right after Sunday school. We kids were always happy when we could go home.

One week my grandpa and grandma Thompson invited Dad and Mom to attend some special evangelistic services that were being held in the Badger Lutheran Church, where we sometimes attended. My Dad’s response was “someone better appear”, so Mom and I went. The Evangelist Joseph Erickson spoke every night on sin, salvation, and the need to accept Christ personally in our lives. By Wednesday evening, Mom was so convicted she told my Dad she didn’t want to go. She said, “That man makes me feel as if I am not a Christian”, and Dad

said, “You’re not”. Mom had been baptized, confirmed, and took communion while regularly attending church, but did not have a personal relationship with Christ.

On Sunday morning, the last day of the special services, all of us went to church. As we walked out, the evangelist was at the door shaking hands. As he took Mom’s hand, he asked, “Have you accepted Christ into your heart?” Mom began to cry and he invited Mom and Dad into the pastor’s study to visit with him. We kids waited on the church steps. When Mom and Dad reappeared, Mom was a new person in Christ, Dad was angry.

Monday came and Mom received a phone call from a Christian neighbor. She told her how excited the Christians were that Dad and she had been saved and asked if a few Christians could come to their home that night to visit. Mom had no idea what to say, but said she’d ask Dad. When Dad heard about it he responded, “They can come, but don’t expect me to be here.”

That evening Dad milked cows and Mom baked a cake for her guests. Uncle Ole and Aunt Sol arrived early, parked behind the garage and consequently blocked Dad from using the car to leave. Mom had me carrying chairs from all over the house as families began arriving filling both the dining room and living room. I was on my way down with a chair when Dad was going up to change after showering. I was so excited I exclaimed, “Dad, have you ever seen so many people?” His answer was a sharp, “shut-up!” We kids had a great time playing in the basement while the adults sang, read scripture and shared testimonies. After the meeting was over, I remember seeing Dad standing in the kitchen with a couple older Christian men talking to him. (Bert Chantland and Knute Haugen) He did not accept Christ that night, but shared later he was so under conviction, he was fearful he would go to hell before being saved. He told us the devil worked on him all week trying to convince him he was too ignorant to be a Christian. He told him he was too bad, he needed to know the Bible better, should go to Bible school etc. Then one night, as he lay awake wrestling with the Spirit’s conviction, a verse came to him as if it was almost written on the ceiling “Unless you are converted and become as a little child, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of heaven. Dad realized then that a little child knows nothing, so he too could come to Christ with his sin without knowing anything. He was immediately released from his sin and bondage and received peace in his heart. He told us the next day that even the cows looked different. I remember he asked Mom to call the Christian neighbor so he could find out if that verse was in the Bible. She came over immediately to show it to him from Matthew 18:3.



From that day on, our home changed. My Dad continued farming with a proper perspective and church and special services became a priority. Dad started daily family devotions, we attended church and Sunday school and weekly prayer meetings and I saw a difference in their lives.

Within a year, I too, accepted Christ into my heart and thus began my walk with Him. I praise the Lord for bringing salvation into our home, for the changes it brought and for my parents strong Christian example all of my life. I look forward to seeing them in heaven.

Written by Carol Thompson Kleveland, August 2012

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### Introduction to “Infant Baptism and Adult Conversion” By O. Hallesby

THE relation between regeneration in Baptism on the one hand and awakening and conversion on the other is a problem which has produced great difficulties through the history of the church. This comes most clearly to light in the preaching. Some preaching keeps baptismal grace clearly in view and speaks of it both often and fervently. But is unable to find an organic place for them in connection with baptismal grace.

Other preaching speaks clearly of awakening and conversion. But it never mentions Baptism, not because it rejects the regenerative effect of Baptism, but because it is unable to provide a place for Baptism in connection with awakening and conversion.

One who is somewhat well informed will know how much of both these kinds of preaching there is in our day. And both will work harm by suppressing such important phases of the Gospel’s saving truth. It will be of great importance both of preaching and for the care of souls to have placed awakening and conversion in the right relation to baptismal grace. It will be of importance both in dealing with the God-fearing child that has remained in the grace of Baptism, and with the backslider who is awakened and led to conversion.

**Editor:** We have reprinted this classic, it is now available. Go to the back page to see the details, and request your copy today.

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### What is God like?

The first Chapter of A.W. Tozer’s book, “*The Knowledge of the Holy*” says it perfectly. He writes: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of man-

kind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God.

“For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at any given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God.

“Were we able to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, “What comes into your mind when you think about God?” we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man. Were we able to know exactly what our most influential religious leaders think of God today, we might be able with some precision to foretell where the Church will stand tomorrow.

“Without doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God, and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God.

“That our idea of God corresponds as nearly as possible to the true being of God is of immense importance to us.

“I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God. It is my opinion that the Christian conception of God current in these middle years of the twentieth century is so decadent as to be utterly beneath the dignity of the Most High God and actually to constitute for professed believers something amounting to a moral calamity.

“Low views of God destroy the gospel for all who hold them. Among the sins to which the human heart is prone, hardly any other is more hateful to God than idolatry, for idolatry is at bottom a libel on His character. The idolatrous heart assumes that God is other than He is - in itself a monstrous sin - and substitutes for the true God one made after its own likeness.

“The first step down for any church is taken when it surrenders its high opinion of God. Before the Christian Church goes into eclipse anywhere there must first be a corrupting of her simple basic theology. She simply gets a wrong answer to the question, “What is God like?” and goes on from there.”

A.W. Tozer had his finger on the heartbeat of Christianity. What was true in his day, 60 + years ago, is even more true today.

# Believable, Yet unbelievable.

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## Man And Woman

“Gov. Kim Reynolds’ new attempt to enforce conservative values in Iowa, introducing a bill that would define the words “sex,” “man” and “woman” in state law, has raised the hackles of civil rights and LGBTQ groups.”

From the *Des Moines Register*

**Editor:** Science is like truth today, you can define it anyway you want. For 6,000 years all cultures knew the difference between a man and woman. The scriptures are clear, there are not hundreds of genders. Our feelings don’t determine our gender. Our minds are broken. Biology determines gender.

When answering a question about marriage, another issue our pagan culture gets wrong, Jesus says: “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.” (Math 19:4) Jesus being God, knows that your biological sex is determined at conception, the moment you are created. It is not determined by your kindergarten teacher at the age of five.

## A Man in Women’s Clothing

“The coach of a high school girls basketball team in Massachusetts forfeited a game at halftime earlier this month after a biological male playing for the other team had injured three of his players during the physical game.

The coach for Collegiate Charter School of Lowell called it quits during a Feb. 8 game after watching a third girl get hurt against the KIPP Academy team, which featured a 6-foot player with facial hair, according to Fox News.

It is permissible for biological males to play on girls’ teams in Massachusetts, per the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), the governing body for high school athletics. Regardless, KIPP refused to confirm the bearded player’s gender identification.”

Newsmax Feb 2024

**Editor:** J. D. Unwin wrote a book in the 1930s about “Sex and Culture”. I will write an article about that next month. But one of the things he writes, (and he never professed to be a Christian, he was a secular anthropologist) after studying 86 cultures over the course of 5,000 years he determined that there was a confusion of reason

that would set in after a culture abandoned monogamy as the sexual norm. A type of insanity would set in, a mental confusion, and we are seeing that today.

God is clear about the distinction between male and female. They are created equal in the eyes of God, but they are not the same. At least up until a few years ago, it was agreed that they were different physically, mentally, and emotionally, and this distinctiveness was to be guarded, protected and celebrated.

Deut 22:5 “A woman shall not wear man’s clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman’s clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.”

This is not so much about clothing, but it is about the distinction between male and female. Men need to dress like men and women need to dress like women. It doesn’t identify what that clothing looks like. It does not say men should wear pants and women dresses. So my contention is that it is determined by culture. You should be able to look at a man, in the day in which you live, and even apart from his build and his facial hair, know from what he is wearing that he is a man. Same with women, you should be able to look at a woman and aside from the obvious feminine physical features, you should know from how she is dressed, that she is a woman — even today when a lot of the clothing is what they call unisex. If you put a T-shirt and blue jeans on a woman and a T-shirt and blue jeans on a man, usually the way that they are worn makes it evident at a glance that one is a woman and one is a man. Now if an effort is made to confuse or deceive by the way the clothing is worn, then that is an abomination. God made men and women different and that is to be celebrated, not confused.

To put a biological male, who thinks he’s a girl, on a women’s basketball team and allow him to go out and physically injure the girls he is playing against is an abomination. We are witnessing the decline and death of our culture. Apart from the Grace of God and a revival, the American experiment may have less than 50 years left. More on that next month when I write about Unwin’s conclusions.

## Abortion

Brothels were common place within antiquity and were often placed between houses of respected Roman families.

Far from being perceived as taboo, brothels were one of the most common gathering places for Roman

men. It was seen as antisocial for men not to engage in activities with prostitutes.

There are two ways archaeologists know whether a building discovered is a brothel or not.

The first is by signage — with names and prices on one side and “occupata” (“occupied” in Latin) on the reverse. Or obvious inscriptions like “cellae meretriciae” (prostitute’s cot) which marked out the purpose of the location.

The other way is the discovery of the mass graves of children.

In Roman Antiquity children were not considered real people until they were at least two. Fathers were legally allowed to kill their children without legal repercussion.

This made infanticide rampant in the ancient world. The presence of fetal and newborn skeletons in mass graves give archaeologists an indication that what they’re excavating could very well be a brothel.

There was no ethical dilemma in the ancient world with these situations because children had been fully dehumanized in antiquity. They “looked human”, but were “non complete personas” (not fully persons yet), as one ancient writer put it.

Infanticidal practices were considered acceptable, justifiable, and necessary due to the lack of contraception and the adult who was (unlike children of course) a “full person” and therefore within their rights to do as they pleased.

The concept of intrinsic human value — that you have dignity, worth, and purpose by nature of simply being human — is foreign to the vast majority of human history.

It has only recently been broadly accepted, and only due to the Judea-Christian ethic, that the value of the human being no matter what size, stage, situation, race, gender, etc., etc., came into fruition as a societal norm.

I’m seeing a lot of very relevant conversations that both sadden and worry me. Worry me about the state of how we view human worth, dignity, and value - concepts which only have a leg to stand on via historical biblical grounding. As a historian, I spend a lot of my time reading the writings of ancient pagans and sometimes their arguments justifying their dehumanization’s and sacrifices (literal sacrifices in many cases) don’t sound nearly as ancient as they ought to be.

The ancients had no qualms with child sacrifice because they had utterly dehumanized babies. Another reminder that societal assumptions do not equate with truth, morality, or justice.

Wesley Huff, Central Canada Director  
for Apologetics Canada, WesleyHuff.com

## Read your Bible!

The Center for Bible Engagement conducted an impressive study exploring the impact of Bible engagement on 400,000 Christians in North America.

When you spend only 1-3 times a week reading the Bible, it has next to no impact on you.

As soon as people in the study passed the number three threshold and went into their fourth engagement with the Bible each week, they saw a significantly positive difference in how they felt and how well they dealt with hard times.

Feeling lonely dropped 30%

Anger issues dropped 32%

Alcoholism dropped 57%

Relational issues (especially in marriage) dropped 40%

Pornography and other sexual sins dropped 62%

Feeling spiritually stagnant dropped 60%

This explains why so many people are hurting.

Hebrews 4:12 says, “The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

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## NOT GOING YOUR WAY

*“You’re just out of date,” said young Pastor Bate,*

*To one of our faithful old preachers,*

*Who had carried for years in travail and tears*

*The gospel to poor, sinful creatures.*

*“You still preach on Hades, and shock cultured ladies*

*With your barbarous doctrine of blood.*

*You’re so far behind you will never catch up:*

*You’re a flat tire stuck in the mud.”*

*For some little while a wee bit of a smile*

*Enlightened the old preacher’s face;*

*Being made the butt of ridicule’s cut*

*Did not ruffle his sweetness and grace.*

*Then he turned to young Bate, so suave and sedate*

*“‘Catch up,’ did my ears hear you say?*

*Why, I couldn’t succeed if I doubled my speed;*

*My friend, I’m not going your way!”*

-American Christian Review-

Reprinted from March 1959 *Morning Glory*

## Communion Taken Unworthily

Is it not peculiar how the streets of a large city, so noisy throughout the day, become quiet and desolate at two o'clock in the morning? There stand the houses, mere silent and dark masses. The streetlights are shrouded by fog.

Shivering, I turn the corner of a street which leads to the hospital. A telephone call awakened me in the middle of the night. A dying man is calling for the pastor.

Light is streaming from one window, quarreling voices disturb the silence of the night. How can they be so stupid as to dispute over there while at the hospital a soul is at the brink of passing into Eternity!

It is astonishing! I should be accustomed to death! How many I have watched on battlefields and on hospital beds pass from life into death. Nevertheless, the fact remains that I am always disturbed when someone hears the call of the living God, "Son of Adam, return to dust."

I must hurry! Soon I am before the large edifice. After notifying the doorkeeper of my errand, he points out the way and I arrive at the door indicated. I enter. On the bed lies a young man. His anxious wife is seated close beside him. Seeing me, she runs toward me: "Reverend, quick, give my husband Communion!"

I look at the patient. Death is already written on his face. He seems to be unaware of my presence.

Give the Holy Sacrament to that dying man? No! On the other hand, I am persuaded that a dying person still understands what we say even when he seems to be completely unconscious. Thus, I am going to accompany him right to the threshold of Eternity with prayer and the Word of Grace.

His wife clutches my hand. "Reverend, quick, give him Communion!"

I put her aside by a gesture. Her distress is painful to see. I lean over the sick man and slowly repeat these words: "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Slowly he opens his eyes and looks at me. His wife seizes my arm: "Quick! give him Communion."

If only that woman would keep still! I hurry her out into the corridor and seek to make her understand the folly of her request: "Your husband is very low. To give him Communion would simply make matters worse."

She breaks down in sobs and replies: "But just the same my husband must get to Heaven!"

What should I reply to that? "Madam," I say impatiently, "do you believe that just an outward ceremony can cause him to escape the judgment of God? If your husband knows the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior and

believes on Him, then he is saved, even if he does not now receive the Sacrament. Outside of Christ, Holy Communion cannot help him in the least!"

But she will not listen. She tries to persuade me how much her husband has desired Communion.

Alas! I was at that time at the very beginning of my ministry. At school no one had prepared me for such cases as this. Undecided, not knowing what to do, I gave in.

We re-enter the room. Hastily I prepare for Communion. Our coming and going has awakened the patient. Silently, but consciously so far as I can tell, he follows what goes on about him.

"This is my blood of the New Covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins." These powerful words resound in the great silence of the night. They are like a rock of eternal salvation.

The guardian of the sick room turns aside and prays. I recognize him as a fervent believer.

Communion was given. The patient, apparently relieved, lay back on his pillows. The guardian and I went from the room, leaving the couple alone together for their final farewell.

But I did not leave the hospital yet. The guardian began a conversation which I did not care to break off. I had the impression too that all was not settled in the patient's room. A half-hour passed. All was quiet. "Let's go to see how the sick one is," I suggested. I opened the door. An astonishing scene met my eyes. The patient, sitting up in bed, greeted us laughingly: "I came back to life; all's well now!"

His wife threw her arms about his neck, laughing and crying at the same time. What a surprise! But why doubt it? How often we meet people on the street who at one time or other have been given up by doctors? The joy of those two beings was contagious; one had to rejoice with them. I took the patient's hand: "How happy I am to witness such a turn of events."

Just at that moment the change of the situation impressed itself upon me with force. I had to add still another word: "My friend, when you found yourself at the threshold of Eternity, the Lord Jesus came to you even there with His grace. Don't separate yourself again from this Savior."

A frightful grimace spread over his face. It was like a reflection of Hell. With the smile of a mocker he said, "Pooh! I have no more need of all that now that I live again."

Floored, I stood there unable to say one word. All of a sudden the patient put his hand over his heart and slowly sank backward. He was dead.

I slipped out into the night.

“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died” (I Corinthians 11:27-30).

W. Busch, *Morning Glory*, Sept. 1960. Taken from REVEIL, a French Christian Publication, translated from French to English by Rachel and Leslie Stennes.

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### Behold the Lamb of God

“Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

Sin is the great calamity for us men, yes, for the whole creation. Sin is the cause of all the sorrow and distress in the world. If sin were banished, all evil would disappear as dew before the sun. Sin has separated us from God, and has brought upon us sorrow and sickness and death. The entire world is sunk down in blood and tears. Generations come and go, but their ways and goings look so hopelessly much alike.

But in the midst of all this dark night, heaven is opened to us in grace. God comes down to us and becomes man. Out over the sin-ravaged generation sounds the voice of God’s prophet: “Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.”

A wonderful word! Can anything greater be told us, and can anything more comforting reach our ears?

What we were in duty bound to bear, the Lord laid on Christ, and “He removed the iniquity of that land in one day.” When He tasted of death for every man, He took away our sin and debt; and when you and I repent and believe that we are saved in Him, then He cleanses us by faith, and God regards us in Christ as if we never had sinned.

Repentance and forgiveness of sins shall be preached in the name of Christ unto all the nations, because the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins. And when the believing sinner leaves his body to be at home with the Lord, he is freed from sin forever.

In that way the Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world.

*“I will sing of my Redeemer  
And His wondrous love to me:  
On the cruel cross He suffered  
From the curse to set me free.”*

By Ludvig Hope, Reprinted from  
the April, 1943 issue of the *Morning Glory*

### What Happens to Sins of Saved People?

*“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” (Isa. 43:25)*

The sins of the world are laid on Jesus Christ. He paid the penalty of sin in His death on the cross. Isaiah 53:6 tells us, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” In God’s divine plan of making the believing sinner fit for Heaven, He does away with sin by the blood of Jesus Christ.

In Psalm 103:12 and Isaiah 38:17 the words “as far as the east is from the west” and “for thou (God) hast cast all my sins behind thy back” are figures of speech showing that the sins of the world were laid on Jesus and that all who trust Him will never again have to answer to God for sin. (Ed. Please prayerfully read Psalm 66:18, Jeremiah 5:25, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:5 – 2:2.)

What happens to the Christian’s sins? They are blotted out, done away with, cast into the deepest sea, removed in others words, they are no more. Jesus’ death paid for them.

A little fellow asked his mother, “Where are my sins?”

She answered, “They are gone.”

“I know,” said he, “but where are they?”

Then she asked him, “Where are the words that were on your chalkboard?”

“They’re gone.”

“I know, but where are they?”

“They’re blotted out,” he answered; “they’re nowhere!”

Mother said, “That’s where your sins are. They are blotted out. They are nowhere!” Selected

### My Wonderful Salvation!

**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**

## Scripture and the Gay Christian Movement

This is the fifth in a series of articles about the movement to accept the gay lifestyle within the Christian church, including same-sex marriage and ordination of openly gay clergy. Scriptural texts will be looked at first from the Gay movement's analysis of them and then from the exegetical approach of what the verses are saying.

### Natural and Unnatural

*“For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.” (Romans 1:26-27)*

### Gay Response

How we understand this passage hinges in large part on how we understand the meaning of the “natural” and “unnatural.” It's commonly assumed by those who hold to the traditional interpretation that these terms refer back to Genesis 1 and 2, and are intended to define heterosexuality as God's natural design and homosexuality as an unnatural distortion of that design. But once again, closer examination does not support that interpretation. ...

The idolaters are without excuse because they knew the truth, they started with the truth, but they rejected it. Paul's subsequent statements about sexual behavior follow this same pattern. The woman, he says, “exchanged” natural relations for unnatural ones. And the men “abandoned” relations with women and committed shameful acts with other men. Both the men and the women started with heterosexuality – they were naturally disposed to it just as they were naturally disposed to the knowledge of God – but they rejected their original, natural inclinations for those that were unnatural: for them, same-sex behavior. Paul's argument about idolatry requires that there be an exchange; the reason, he says, that the idolaters are at fault is because they first knew God but then turned away from Him, exchanged Him for idols. Paul's reference to same sex behavior is intended to illustrate this larger sin of idolatry. But in order for it to have any force, in order for it to make sense within this argument, the people he is describing must naturally begin with heterosexual rela-

tions and then abandon them. And that is exactly how he is describing it. But that is not what we are talking about, Gay people have a natural, permanent orientation toward those of the same sex; it's not something that they choose, and it's not something they can change. They aren't abandoning heterosexuality – that's never an option for them to begin with. And if applied to gay people, Paul's argument here should actually work in the other direction: If the point of the passage is to rebuke those who have spurned their true nature, be it religious when it comes to idolatry or sexual, then just as those who were naturally heterosexual should not be with those of the same sex, so, too, those who have a natural orientation toward the same sex should not be with those of the opposite sex. For them, that would be exchanging “the natural for the unnatural” in just the same way.<sup>1</sup>

### Biblical Response

These 2 verses tell us very clearly mankind's twisting of God's design and plan is for human sexuality. From the very beginning, God's plan was for a man and a woman to come together in the estate of marriage and leave father and mother and cleave to one another and become one flesh through the sexual union. There is no place in the Scriptures where any other design is presented as acceptable.

Because sin has twisted the thinking of people, they have a distorted view of God. *“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” (Romans 1:21)* Because they persisted in this delusion and would not repent, God gave them over to their lusts since that is what they wanted and would not change. *“Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them.” (Romans 1:24)* Notice that it says that the result of God doing this to them was that their bodies will be dishonored among them. So what they are going to do is going to be a dishonor to their very creation as male and female.

Because when God gave them over, this meant that now the passion that would normally drive people to normal sexual relations is inflamed to where it now becomes a degrading passion, not a natural desire. *“For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural.” (Romans 1:26)* Contrary to what the Gay Argument states, it is not turning for what someone perceives as “natural” to their inclination, but rather it is what nature itself teaches us about male and female sexuality. It is ob-

1 The Gay Debate: The Bible and Homosexuality by Matthew Vines on You Tube.

vicious from nature that a male must mate with a female. There is no other way that this can work and there is no other way that offspring will come. When the Scripture here says the “natural” use, the literal meaning is “according to nature,” not according to personal preference.

This is the design that the women in verse 26 are doing. They exchanged the use “according to nature” of mating with a man to engaging in a sexual fashion with another female. This is the result of “degrading passion.” The men do the same thing. They abandon the use “according to nature” of mating with a woman to engaging in a sexual fashion with another man. Verse 27 does not describe this as just a free choice that anyone can make. It describes this in very strong terms of wickedness. It is the result of “burning in their desire” for this act. It is inflamed passion that they won’t be able to control unless they turn to God in repentance.

It is not just an alternate form of sexuality in God’s eyes. It is described as committing “*indecent acts*,” not righteous, Godly acts. It is even stronger in the Greek text because it is called “The Disgraceful Deeds.” In other words, from a sexual standpoint, this is as bad as it gets.

Because of this, they will receive “*the due penalty for their error*.” It is not right in God’s eyes, and He calls it an error that will incur His judgment. He is perfectly just in so doing this because they blatantly engage in that which is a complete perversion of God’s plan and design. For the Gay Movement to state that God approves of same-sex relationships which are within a loving, committed relationship (like Gay Marriage) is nowhere stated or even alluded to in the Scripture. Rather, it is clear from this New Testament passage that all forms of same-sex behavior are sin in God’s eyes, regardless of how they are practiced.

Does this mean that there is no hope for those who are caught up in this life style? It says that “*God gave them over*” to their lusts.” (vv. 24, 26) He gives them over to their passions and lusts, and His judgments upon them are real and true in this life and in the next if they continue this way. Fortunately, God did not give up on them. The Holy Spirit is at work in all sinners, including those caught up in this particular sin. He can show even the most hardened and calloused sinners the error of their ways, but He uses His Word to do this. When certain people pervert the Scriptures so that this doesn’t appear as a sin, then there would be no reason to look upon it as a sin in God’s eyes. But when we let the Scripture stand as it is written, it is clear that this is blatant sin in God’s eyes. When we come to that realization, then God now has the remedy for this and all sin. “*My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for*

*ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*” (I John 2:1-2) The Blood of Jesus can cleanse anyone from all sins. If you will repent of your sins, confess them to God and forsake them, and then come to Jesus as your Lord and Savior, anyone can be forgiven of any sin, including sexual ones.

Pastor Jim Haga

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## The Word of the Cross

***“For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.”*** (I Corinthians 1:18)

God has spoken many times and in many ways to us in the prophets. “At the end of these days,” He has spoken to us in His Son. And a mighty speech it is, both in word and in deed.

However, the cross is beyond all comparison His mightiest speech.

The cross of Calvary is the center of history of the world.

It is the most terrible and the most glorious place on earth.

There God unveils the two mightiest and most mysterious realities in the universe: *sin* and *grace*.

No man knows what sin is until he has stood at the cross of Christ.

And because most people will not pause at the cross, they have such a thoughtless and frivolous view of sin.

What does the cross tell us about the sinfulness of man?

It tells us that man is at *enmity* with God. It tells us that man is not merely *evil*, but that he is *so evil* that he will not tolerate the good. Our race put to death the Only Good One that ever lived. Not by accident, but deliberately, by a well-planned judicial murder.

And the most religious people of that generation did it.

The cross of Christ tells us further that sin is so terrible that not even our almighty and all-loving God can forgive it *without atonement*.

However, He does not require this satisfaction of others. He becomes man Himself, to suffer and die for His enemies.

Dear children of God, let us take note of the appalling seriousness of sin! Let the pleas of Jesus and His cries of distress pierce us to the very bone and marrow, that the sufferings of Jesus may impart to us that fear and trembling with respect to sin which will preserve us from *misusing* the grace of God.

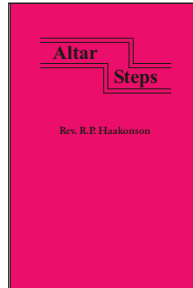
*God’s Word for Today* by O. Hallesby, © 1937 by Augsburg Publishing House, used by permission.

# The Hauge Library

We have the following publications available for you. They can be ordered using the envelope in the center. Postage will be paid by an anonymous donor.

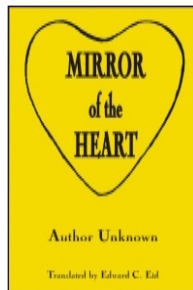
## Altar Steps

This daily devotional was written by Pastor R.P. Haakonson and was published in 1947. It is suitable for families with children. It has illustrations from daily life, and a strong salvation emphasis. Suggested offering: \$8.00.



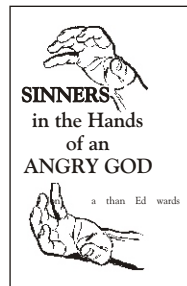
## Mirror of the Heart

This book was published in 1900 by an unknown author. It contains some very earnest meditations and fervent prayers. It also contains ten very graphic pictures of the human heart. Suggested Offering: \$3.00.



## Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Jonathan Edwards preached this remarkable sermon at Enfield, Conn. on July 8, 1741. It was at night while he was reading it to a large congregation, that the lights became dim and he read with difficulty, and the influence was so great on the congregation that strong men and women cried and screamed for mercy and even grabbed their seats for fear they would slide into hell that very moment. Suggested Offering: \$1.00.



## Spirit and Power

Ludvig Hope was a Norwegian lay preacher, writer, teacher and organizer. This book is filled with solid Biblical meat for those who want to walk in depth with the Lord. It is written from a Lutheran pietistic perspective and contains 40 chapters of exposition on different aspects of how God works to



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bring a lost sinner to be saved and then to follow Jesus in the Power of the Holy Spirit. This is not casual reading, but earnest direction for anyone wanting to take up their cross and follow the Lord. Suggested Offering: \$12.00

## Infant Baptism and Adult Conversion

This work by Ole Hallesby is much needed in our Lutheran circles today as salvation solely through baptism is proclaimed far and wide and people are given assurance at a funeral that the deceased is in heaven because they were baptized as an infant, even if they had no faith at all. Hallesby answers the needed questions: Is Infant Baptism Biblical?; Do all those baptized need to make a choice to repent and follow Christ?; Is Conversion needed for everyone, including those who were baptized?; Can the baptized go lost? Suggested Offering: \$10.00.

