

Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • September 2021

The Great Omission

Pastor Bill King
Princeton, MN

The Psalms from Scripture are read with enjoyment by many people. Two verses by David have stood out for me. Psalm 119:30, ***“I have chosen the way of truth ...”*** And Psalm 73:25, ***“.....There is none upon earth that I desire beside You.”*** David had sought and experienced Someone that met his deepest need and wanted to be faithful and follow HIS direction. God’s Word has been assembled for universal application, and is a sacred BOOK! After all, we have entered this world made possible by the LORD. He is deserving of having HIS Message for each one of us to ***assimilate*** (Dictionary: “Absorb and incorporate into one’s thinking.”) I have found that it deals with issues such as Creation, good and evil, life and death. God reveals His plans for man, present and future. There are divine expectations for us mortals including our interaction with others and with God Himself.

Our sojourn in this world according to God’s plan, is phase one. Yet our existence, after physical death takes place, continues and will never end. The reason for this is recorded in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. It says that our being is comprised of our body, along with our soul and spirit. ...

One of the prominent angels in heaven was Lucifer. Due to pride, he wanted to become as great as God Himself, or greater? This led to his eviction. NOW he is heading up all the evil and godlessness in our sinful world. Having persuasive powers, he tempts people everywhere to disobey God. He is described as an enemy of all mankind, a LIAR perpetrating all that is sinful and wicked. We are told that a person who has chosen to be a follower of Jesus Christ, when this earthly life is over, will be taking

up residence in HEAVEN. Those not opting to do that will appear before God on JUDGMENT DAY – Revelation 20:1-8. Their future will be anything but bright.

This is why I am blessed to read in 1 Timothy 1:15; *“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ...”* How does this take place? From John 5:24 we have the answer, Jesus said, *“He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me, has everlasting life and shall not enter into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”* (Ed. Keep in mind that Satan also harasses, while the Holy Spirit draws)

What is the great omission? It deals with people of all ages who have had exposure to the Christian faith, but have failed to establish a relationship with the Lord. To do so is a God-given responsibility, and therefore is incumbent upon everyone to be addressed. It is no small matter to disregard this calling/duty, for we are privately answerable to GOD. Connecting with our Creator and Preserver is a blessed privilege afforded mankind. There is no benefit to be achieved by being remiss, or by ignoring, or omitting or shirking a time to be in touch with GOD.

YOU will find HIM so loving, kind, merciful and willing to grant ***forgiveness of sin.*** The question we all need to answer, is what are we going to do with JESUS who is called Christ. ...

In Ezekiel 3:19 the Almighty God equates sin as wickedness. God through the prophet declares, ***“...If you warn the wicked, and he turns not from his sin,He shall die in his wickedness.”*** Verse 18:20, ***“The soul that sinneth shall die,”*** speaking of spiritual death. Joshua

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The Great Omission	1
Pliable.....	2
In the Presence of the Lord • A Good Conscience Is Worth the Price	3
Holy is the Lord • The Preacher’s Dilemma • The Temple of God.....	4
Editorial • America Was Founded And Built On Faith In God.....	5
From Our Fellowship Circle • An Ongoing Revival	6
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable • Laborers.....	7
Is the Soul of Man Eternal?	8-9
Questions Answered.....	9
A New Reformation	10-11
Be a Blessing to your Nation.....	12
Encourage One Another.....	13
God is For Me • Prison Ministry	14
Truth Is Fallen in the Street.....	15
UpDate	16

who followed Moses, gave the people this challenge.

“...Choose you this day whom you will serve... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15) Thankfully, the Lord has granted to us a free will (when He awakens/calls) so that you have the grace and power to make that decision.

According to Romans 14:12 and 1 Peter 4:5, we are personally accountable to HIM... God’s Holy Spirit strives to link us up with Jesus. A person enhances his present life when settling the inquiry as to where his allegiances lie, be it for God or Satan. It cannot be both! This is not a trifling question to be dismissed. In James 4:8, *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...”* He will then give you assurance that all is well.

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” (II Corinthians 9:15) How blessed it is when one’s spirit engages with God’s Holy Spirit!

Pliable

Our loving heavenly Father specializes in taking the broken pieces of our lives and creating a masterpiece. Provided that I am pliable ‘clay’ in the Potter’s Hand!

“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” (Isaiah 57:15)

In the Presence of the Lord

Even in the Old Testament, prophecy was made of the time when ALL God's people shall be priests, and thus have access to the very presence of the Lord Isaiah 61:6. In the New Testament we are told how the Church of God was conscious of having experienced this time when not only one man from among the people, but the whole Church of God had been given the position and privilege of the priesthood. They were conscious that they were ALL "*a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*" (I Peter 2:5) Compare also Revelation 1:6 and Romans 12:1.

The privilege of being a priest in the presence of the Lord is so much more glorious now than in the Old Covenant – it is more glorious than the former dispensation. Therefore, Jesus could say that the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John the Baptist, although he in Jesus' own words, "*was the greatest of all the prophets.*"

We, who live in the New Dispensation, are privileged, through the blood of Jesus, in boldness (Ed. Like a child-like faith, come to GOD like a child comes to their parents knowing they are loved by them) to enter into the holy place itself, by the way which HE dedicated for us, a new and living way through the veil (Hebrews 10:19-20). It is our glorious privilege to live our whole life in the presence of the LORD. Let us now pause for a moment and reflect upon the blessed privilege of ours.

In the first place, it is our privilege to come into the presence of the LORD with our sins. It is a wonderful experience to be in the presence of the Lord and permit the clear, searching light of His truth to penetrate into every nook and corner of our lives – as the two-edged sword of the WORD pierces "*unto the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and reveals the thoughts and intents of the heart.*" Our quiet hours with the Lord should be spent in that way a little more than they are. They would then come to mean more in our daily lives and promote our sanctification to a greater degree. When we enter into our rooms for our quiet hours with GOD, most of us seem to think that we should talk as much as possible. We talk with God incessantly, from the time we come in and until we go out again. God appreciates no doubt that we desire to speak with Him, but HE would appreciate it even more if we would use a portion of our quiet hours to be still so He would have time and opportunity, by the light of His WORD, to show us all the unclean and unholy things which cling to our inner as well as our outward life.

Excerpt taken from the chapter *In the Presence of the Lord; The Christian Life* by O. Hallesby, © Copyright 1934, Augsburg Publishing House.

Author's Preface: I am enjoying the unmerited privi-

lege of living my life in the light of the Cross. It is my desire that I may see everything that I experience in that light. That has been my desire also in lectures which I herewith send forth. That I have not succeeded well I see better now than when I delivered them. However, after many requests I venture to publish them nevertheless, with prayer to God that I also in this way might comfort others with the comfort wherewith I myself have been comforted. — O. Hallesby

A Good Conscience Is Worth the Price

By R. C. Cunningham

Some things are a bargain at any price! That includes a good conscience. As someone said, "A bad conscience embitters the sweetest comforts; a good one sweetens the bitterest crosses."

What is conscience? One minister said it's man's capacity to react either with pleasure or with pain in response to some standard of conduct human or divine. Someone said, "Oh, yes, I know what my conscience is. It's a three-cornered thing in here" (and pointed to his heart) "that stands still when I'm good, but when I'm bad it turns around and around and the corners hurt a lot. But if I keep on doing wrong, the corners wear off and it stops hurting."

It's not always a safe guide. The apostle Paul, before his conversion, put Christians to death for their faith and pleaded conscience as his guide. Conscience is not reliable unless it is properly trained (Which is in harmony with GOD'S Infallible Word the BIBLE!) It works something like a computer; the answers it gives depend on the data you feed it. Fill your mind with Scriptural teaching and conscience will stab you when you do wrong. Base your actions on situational ethics and it may let you do all kinds of compromising.

How is your conscience? Is it trained in the Word and sensitive to God's revealed rules? Does it trouble you when you stretch the truth? Can you laugh at an off-color story without blushing? Some ignore the voice of conscience until it ceases to function. The apostle Paul said that in the latter times some people would have consciences "*seared with a hot iron*" (I Timothy 4:2). A tongue that is seared with hot food loses its ability to taste. A conscience seared with perpetual wickedness loses its ability to sound an alarm.

If you have a tender conscience, be thankful. Listen to it. Paul said, "*Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men*" (Acts 24:16). He had to pay a price for that kind of conscience but felt it was worth the price, for he had his eye on an eternal crown of glory.

A good conscience never comes cheap! How is your conscience?

Holy is the Lord

**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts:... Then said I,
Woe is me! For I am undone.** (Isaiah 6:3,5)

When confronted with the blazing holiness of God, Isaiah concluded that he was undone. When we view ourselves in honesty, we must rapidly come to the same conclusion. Paul's assessment regarding himself was that he was the "chief of sinners". But writing to the Ephesians, he states that because of Calvary we have graciously been made to be partakers of the Beloved. "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Eph. 1:6). It took a mighty work at Calvary, but guilty sinners are made acceptable to a thrice holy God. Let us remember His person and work today. — Ken Gross

*Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by
the blood of the Lamb;*

Redeemed by His infinite mercy, His child and forever I am.

— Fanny Crosby

* * * * *

The Preacher's Dilemma

Shallow preaching, like shallow water, soon loses its freshness. And perennial freshness is essential to perennial effectiveness. The average minister realizes this and he might have little difficulty keeping his pulpit ministry fresh if that were his only responsibility.

But in the degree that his ministrations prove helpful, the demands upon him are multiplied, so much so as to threaten the very sources of his power.

Here is the lifelong dilemma of the conscientious minister. More time spent in the study, drawing upon his devotional and intellectual resources, will help to keep him fresh. But how can he refuse the increasing demands for his service?

Many a minister who at twenty-five was regarded as exceptional in attainment and promise, is quite mediocre at forty-five. The early success which brought him into prominence has become his undoing. Finding it hard to decline the many calls to service, he has not taken the time necessary to feed his own soul.

He had not, through study and unhurried communication with God, kept the ever-flowing fountain of his ministry replenished with a sufficient inflow of fresh experience. Instead of a growing store of spiritual resources to share with others, there has been a progressive spiritual impoverishment.

And with this there has come a corresponding de-

cline in opportunities to minister. Thus a brilliant beginning has run out in futility and frustration.

In a recent conversation between two men, one was eagerly inquiring about the progress of a mutual friend in the ministry. "I am very much afraid," replied the other, "that he is doomed to mediocrity."

What was wrong? His exceptional popularity as a minister had so widened his field of service that he had spread himself too thin. His wider ministry had not compensated for the forfeiture of the deeper ministry with which he had begun.

As with the stream that was said to be three feet deep, three miles wide, and dry most of the time, his increasing breadth had not compensated for his increasing shallowness. Gradually he was losing his freshness, his material was becoming stale, and its effect was becoming superficial.

The minister can give abundantly only as he receives abundantly. And in his busy life he is never free from the urge to give beyond that which he has received. Eager to serve, he can hardly find time to prepare. Yet upon that preparation depends the fruit of his service.

The student minister, impatient to get into the full-time service, may well remind himself that God was not wasting time when He kept Saul of Tarsus in Arabia for three years and Moses in the wilderness for forty years. — Charles Koller

The Temple of God

"Or do you not know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have of God, and ye are not your own? For you were bought at a price: therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

The sacrifice of God's Only Begotten Son was given in your behalf, with the very 'life-giving-blood' of JESUS! The value of that shed blood is founded on the Divinity of the GIVER as stated in the "pearl of Great Price". It is pure and marvelously powerful from the LAMB who was without spot or blemish. This should certainly bring from our hearts worship and praise, as we ponder the marvel of mystery of it all!

*'There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in.
Oh dearly, dearly has He loved and we must love Him too,
And trust in His redeeming blood and seek His will to do.'*

— C. Alexander

Editor

Editorial

RES

UNBELIEF & DISOBEDIENCE

‘But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe me, and because you did not honor me as holy before the people, you will not lead them into the land I will give them. These are the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites argued with the LORD and where he showed them he was holy.”’ (The Everyday Bible)

Moses was denied the privilege and blest challenge of leading the children of Israel into the promised land; because of disobedience, unbelief and a failure to present GOD as HOLY and to give God the Glory! Yet three times in Deuteronomy we read that he blamed the children of Israel for his denied entrance into Canaan (1:37, 3:26, 4:21). “So, we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” (Hebrew 3:19) “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘LORD, I BELIEVE; HELP MY UNBELIEF’” (Mark 9:24 Emphasis mine). “***He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.***” (Romans 4:20)

Keep in mind and heart that Moses was just as ‘human’ as you and I (are) or visa versa. Now notice that Moses first thought great of himself (*thinks he is somebody*) and then to learn 40 years back of the woods (*that he is a nobody*) and then learning what **GOD can do** through somebody who then becomes a nobody – for one who thinks himself as a nobody! How most of us have to go through the school of hard-knocks and the school colors are black and blue!

‘Lord, melt these icy hearts of stone, make us Your counsel seek.

And sacrifice to You alone, with humble hearts

and meek’ — Richard W. Adams

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5)

“But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities like the wind have taken us away.” (Isaiah 64:6 & then read-on!)

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God” (II Corinthians 3:5)

*“I’ll thank Him today that He came to earth
To suffer and die for me;
For He paid the price for my sin that day
When He died on Calvary.”*

— Janet Fleming

***Yes, He Died For Me, As My Perfect Sacrifice
He Rose For Me For My Perfect Justification,
And He Is Coming For Me, For My Perfect Sanctification.***

How about you?

In Conclusion Of This Article, Please Read **Isaiah 55:1 -9.**

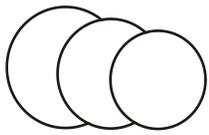
AMERICA WAS FOUNDED AND BUILT ON FAITH IN GOD

Declaration of Independence — July 4th, 1776

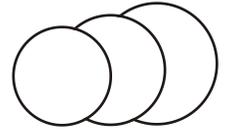
“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

John Adams, America’s Second President.



From Our Fellowship Circle



E. L. **Bismarck, ND**

Dear Pastor & Barb,

Enclosed is \$... to help defray some of your expenses.

I thoroughly enjoy your truthfulness about things happening in our sinful world's turmoil today.

May God continue to bless your work and efforts to keep on the 'firing-line' for Jesus and His righteousness.

Praise the Lord! Be not afraid to speak up and tell it like it is – standing on His Promises. We must all stand up for Jesus and remember He cares for His Own. – II Timothy 2.

I'm praying that this Pandemic has brought people closer to the LORD.

G. & T. H. **Walla Walla, WA**
THANK YOU!

We enjoy and are blessed by your Newsletter and thus find \$... to help keep this ministry going.

Pastor T. R. **Wahpeton, ND**
Thank you for your faithful witness! Well done! Please find enclosed \$...

AN ONGOING REVIVAL

Beginning in 1925, in Bethesda congregation, and continuing for decades in the Newfolden, MN area.

INTRODUCTION

This book is published in an attempt to preserve the spiritual and historical impact of revival in the Newfolden, Minnesota, area. The GOD sent – Holy Spirit – inspired revival, considered in this work, began around Easter time, 1925, at Bethesda Lutheran Church (ELC), seven miles west of Newfolden, and continued intermittently for several decades, even into the 1960's.

I would like to explain how it became my lot to undertake this important task. For several years, during the time Pastor Larry Haagenon and Family were with us at Westaker, Newfolden, Pastor Larry and Deacons, Jerry Olson, Emory Flaten and I were meeting on Thursday mornings for prayer-fellowship and Bible study, also using "God's Word for Today" by O. Hallesby. We

continued this after interim Pastor DeBoer, Emory and I met for Bible study. We also talked about the revival that began in 1925, which promoted me to tell of my conversion to JESUS that Summer. I suggested that someone should write about the revival. 'You are the one to do that.' was the quick response from Pastor DeBoer.

At about the same time, and without my knowledge, our friend, Lowell Hogberg, when in conversation with our daughter, Faythe Thureen, and talking about the same revival were agreed that I, who had witnessed much of the spiritual awakening in this area, should write about it.

With the whole-hearted help from concerned Christians, I have taken the responsibility to gather and edit testimonies from some, who were converted during the time of continuing revival in this area. At the same time, other areas in Minnesota and border states, numerous souls were converted to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. ***"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."*** (John 1:12)

THE REVIVAL BEGINNING IN 1925

By Arnold Windahl

The spiritual life in the community had ebbed out. There were lights that continued to burn; lay people met occasionally for prayer and meditation. Among these were August Rokke and John Westlin. Some of the older leaders had passed away ...had long since passed to their reward. But there were still those who were converted in the revival around the turn of the century, who were still praying. In our community there were few Christian young people. After the First World War, worldliness had entered in. The revival fire that had produced Bethesda congregation had waned. August Rokke once said, "After the revival had once more gone through, we had almost given up hope."

Much has been written about the history of revivals. Usually, the burden is laid on some individual or family, such as in the time of Hans Nielsen Hauge and the Wesley brothers. The travail for souls may begin in the heart of a mother for her children or a Sunday School teacher, or pastor. Beside the burden still being borne by the older Christians in the community, a special burden was laid on my brother, William. ...

Compiled by Harvey Dyrud,
Newfolden, MN., July – 1990.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Texas Legislator Claims There Are Six Sexes

An Ivy League educated Democratic lawmaker in Texas claimed recently that “modern science” recognizes many more than just two biological sexes.

“In fact, there are six,” said Texas state Representative James Talarico, a former English teacher who holds a master’s degree in education policy from Harvard University.

Talarico made the stunning remarks during a committee hearing on Texas House Bill 4042, a measure which aims to ban transgender athletes from competing in girls’ K – 12 sports, the Washington Times reported.

Phil Shiver, The Blaze.com

Editor: Listen to what GOD and JESUS say in regards to this: *“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them.”* (Genesis 1:27)

“And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female.’” (Matthew 19:4)

Planned Parenthood By The Numbers

Planned Parenthood’s annual report (2019-2020) is out – and it’s more of the same from America’s leading abortion provider. Abortions are up. Legitimate health-care is down. And the abortion chain is awash with cash.

\$2,040,500,000 – Planned Parenthood’s net assets.
\$55.4 million – dollars spent to influence public policy

\$681.1 million – Taxpayer dollars received – 38% of total revenue

Defund the Police – Despite receiving hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer funding, Planned Parenthood calls for defunding the police and redirecting funds to ... “community based solutions, educations and health care.”

354,871 – Number of abortions performed (up nearly 10,000 from 2018-2019).

200+ – Planned Parenthood facilities spanning 31 states provide hormones to stimulate a “sex change” for clients suffering from gender dysphoria.

510,000 – Donors Planned Parenthood lost since 2018-2019.

45 – Laws, policies or regulations changed around

the world as Planned Parenthood lobbyists pressure pro-life countries to embrace abortion.

1,100,000 — People – many of them children – reached by Planned Parenthood affiliates’ perverse sex education programs.

38% – Decrease in adoption referrals from 2018-2019

Sources: Planned parenthood 2018-19 and 2019-20 annual reports. Taken from *Day 41. A publication of 40 Days for Life*, Summer 2021.

Editor: Please join with me in praying for Roe vs. Wade to be overturned.

Laborers

“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, That he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

(Matt. 9:38)

The door for the Gospel is open in many lands today, but there are few who are willing to go to tell the story of Jesus and His love. The fields are white unto harvest in the home land and in the foreign lands. It is time to get the Gospel out for the days are increasingly evil.

A missionary was telling the children at home, about the children of Santal, India. He told them that the children had to work; they had few things to enjoy; they had not Christmas and no songs about Jesus. They needed someone to tell them about Jesus, for they did not even know that Jesus loved them. If they were going to send someone, they would have to have money to pay the traveling expenses.

A little boy sat and listened carefully. He decided to pray, but while he prayed, he thought of the money that was needed. He had three dollars toward a watch. If he did without the watch, he could give that money for the mission. It was not easy to make this decision. He talked it over with his parents, and they encouraged him. After this he found that it was much easier to pray. And while he continued to pray, the thought came to him that maybe he should be a missionary and go to India when he grew up. This he did, and is today a missionary in that country.

Do you want children in other lands to hear about Jesus? Then give of your money and pray for people to go, and if you can go, do not wait. The time is short, and there is much to be done.

Altar Steps by Pastor R.P. Haakonson

Is the Soul of Man Eternal?

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

(Genesis 2:7)

This is the third in a series of messages on the denials of Hell by the modern church, some of their reasons behind them and a biblical response to each one. Last month (August) we showed the false teaching that people are annihilated in hell, which forces the belief that the soul of man is NOT eternal since it ceases in that annihilation. Since this is so prevalent today, we need to look at this as well. In the October issue, we will resume the denials of Hell by the modern church.

False Ideas Presented Today: The Soul of Man is not eternal

In the Scripture at the top of the page, it tells us of God’s creation of man. His creation of mankind is distinct and separate from the rest of the animal world. God simply said “Let there be” and all things came into existence, but with mankind God did something unique: He breathed into him the breath (or spirit) of life. Since God is Eternal, so this part of man will be eternal as well, because God created mankind in His image, which means that He imparted to him some of His attributes. This is further demonstrated in what takes place shortly thereafter.

What is Death?

God told Adam in no uncertain terms that death would come to him if He disobeyed God’s directive. *“But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”* (Genesis 2:17) Notice how exact and emphatic that God states this: In the day you eat (not later) you will surely (emphatic) die. Is this what happened?

When Eve and Adam were deceived by Satan in the form of a snake, they ate the forbidden fruit. Did they die on the spot? Absolutely they did. Did they fall over dead and their souls cease to exist? No, but they surely died as God emphatically promised. This is seen in what took place immediately following. *“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”* (Genesis 3:8) They were now separated from God and would later be banished from the Garden of Eden and from God’s presence. This is spiritual death – separation

of the soul from God, but not the end of the soul. Adam and Eve’s soul continued to function afterward. *“So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.”* (Genesis 5:5) This is physical death, which is the separation of the soul from the body, which is the first death. The second death is the ultimate separation of the soul and body from God in the Lake of Fire. *“And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.”* (Revelation 20:14) Does the soul cease to exist in either of these two deaths?

Those who promote the death of the soul look to verses like Ecclesiastes 9:5, *“For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.”* They say the phrase “the dead do not know anything” proves that the soul ceases at death. But this is simply looking at the activities of the physical body that the soul provided to it while it was still present. When the soul departed at death, those functions ceased. They also claim that Ezekiel 18:20 in the KJV states this. *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”* But it is clear from the context of Ezekiel 18 that it is using the word “soul” to represent the person, because if that “soul” turns around and does not do wickedness, it shall instead live. *“But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.”* (Ezekiel 18:21) The righteous person will still die a physical death, but his soul will not cease or be separated from God. It will instead live and be with God.

Jesus Himself stated this difference between physical death and spiritual death. *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’*” (John 11:25-26) The person who has faith in Jesus will still die physically, but their soul will still live when they die. The soul does not cease. Everyone who lives and has faith in Christ will never die spiritually. The soul never ceases or goes to sleep. So Jesus shows us the difference between physical death and spiritual death. In neither case does the soul cease.

A Living Soul

Jesus also said in Matthew 22:31-32, *“But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”* Jesus said that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are alive, even though they physically died centuries prior to that time. The same is true at the Transfiguration of Jesus, for with Him

appeared Moses and Elijah. *“And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’”* (Matthew 17:3-4) These two great men of God had departed this life centuries before as well, but they were very much alive. It is clear that Peter’s statement to Jesus that he even wanted to build them a tent to stay in. Their souls did not cease to exist or function.

In Matthew 16, Jesus told about 2 real people (a rich man and Lazarus) who both died, but neither of their souls ceased to exist or function. This was the rich man’s statement, *“And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.’”* (Luke 16:24) The rich man had full use of his soul and was tormented in the flames. He also asked for Lazarus to help him out, so that Lazarus’ soul was very much alive as well.

The Apostle Paul related this to us as well. *“We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”* (2 Corinthians 5:8) Here you see a clear distinction between the soul and the body. When the soul is “absent” from the body in physical death, it does not cease to function. For the believer it goes immediately to be with the Lord.

In the Book of Revelation we see references to people who have died in the Great Tribulation. *“And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.”* (Revelation 6:9-11) These people’s souls were conscious after death and prior to the resurrection. They are robed in white and are crying out to God! They were martyred and after death are very much alive in heaven. God tells them that more of their brethren will join them after they are killed. So the souls of those martyrs will be alive in heaven as well.

The soul of man IS eternal, everyone who is conceived has a soul that will live forever and never die. (Gen. 2:7) This is true of everyone, regardless if they are godly or not. The question is: Where will your soul live forever?

Pastor Jim Haga
Hagapublishing.com

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Dr. John R. Rice

Does Jesus now have a body that also has blood?

Yes, I think so. It was a physical resurrection of physical body, digesting physical food as Jesus did after His resurrection; and though flesh and bones, then it would properly and, I think, necessarily have blood.

All the functions of the body, including repair of tissues, digestion of food, require blood. God made Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden perfect the first time and their bodies had blood. The pure and sinless JESUS had blood before HE was crucified.

It is true that HIS blood was poured out on Calvary; but it is also said that *“he hath poured out his soul unto death”* (Isaiah 53:12). Jesus received His soul again in the body and in the glorious resurrection of the body there is every reason to believe the blood was restored.

What does the blood have to do with the body of Jesus going through doors? Flesh and bone, perceptible, physical, material body, would be just as much hindered in going through a door without the blood as with the blood.

However, the simple truth is, Jesus could have done that in His body before He died. He walked on the water and was Master over all physical matter. He could create new matter in feeding the five thousand, supplying the loaves and fishes.

Jesus could work any kind of miracle before His death just like He could after His resurrection. You are not to suppose that Jesus got some miraculous power after His resurrection that He did not have before.

It is true the Scripture says that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (I Corinthians 15:50). But that would refer to the flesh just as much as to the blood.

What it really means is that physical inheritance from father to son is not the way people get saved. Children are not saved because their fathers and mothers are saved. A Jew is not saved because he is a Jew. That has nothing to do with the kind of resurrection body!

In the resurrection bodies people will eat and drink in the Kingdom of GOD. They will digest food. The body will have veins and arteries, nerves and glands, as a perfect body ought to have and as bodies of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden had. So, I see no reason why it should not have blood.

Sword of the Lord.

Editor’s Note: *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come mind.”* (Isaiah 65:17)

A New Reformation

By Pastor David R. Barnhart, Melbourne, FL

THE FIRST REFORMATION

504 years have passed since Martin Luther ignited the Protestant Reformation by nailing his 95 theses to the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Luther would be shocked if he could see the deplorable spiritual state of the church that now bears his name. In many ways, the spiritual condition of the whole Church today is worse than it was when Luther made his courageous stand for the Word of God. Surely the Church in the 21st century desperately needs a new Reformation.

In Luther's day, the contested issues centered around grace, faith, and the imposition of ecclesiastical authority above Scripture. While these same doctrines are still being challenged, the very essence of Christianity is also being questioned and denied by vast portions of the Church. The authority of Scripture, the virgin birth, and the resurrection of Christ, as well as his deity. Theologians in our day are attempting to convince church members that the Bible is no longer relevant when it comes to deciding issues of doctrine, ethics, and personal morality. Sadly, because many church members are biblically illiterate, they are easy prey for those whose intent is to deceive.

THE MODERN CHURCH OF ANYTHING GOES

Today, theologians and church organizations are rushing to embrace an ecumenical movement that equates other religions with Christianity. Universal salvation for all who believe in anything has become the politically correct message of the apostate churches. Ecumenical services that include Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and a host of other religions are all too common, even in small communities.

Unbiblical teachings and the most perverse human behavior are being sanctioned and tolerated by one church body after another. Who could have imagined even 40 years ago that churches would be ordaining practicing homosexuals? And conducting ceremonies to bless the unions of same-sex couples. Who could have imagined that practicing homosexuals would be installed as bishops? Or that clergy would openly deny the divinity of Christ?

Clergy and liberal theologians, schooled in Bible-denying seminaries, are re-writing the Scriptures to conform with their own perverted opinions. Others have set aside the sacred writings of Scripture in order to proclaim the myths and fantasies of their Satan-inspired beliefs.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is being set aside and watered down in evangelical churches. In order to draw

crowds and not offend anyone, a cross-less gospel that knows nothing of sin and repentance is being offered up each Sunday as a substitute for the real thing. Such practices are leading multitudes away from biblical Christianity and straight into hell.

Those who espouse false doctrines and countenance the acceptance of sin within the Church are instruments of Satan. We are instructed by God's Word to turn away from them. Their dangerous and unbiblical teachings lead only to (eternal death, separation from God) death. When is the last time you heard of people being born again after hearing perverted teachings? When is the last time you witnessed a genuine revival breaking out in a Bible-denying church? You never have. And you never will. (*Editor: Check it out in the New Testament how many Sadducees got genuinely saved!*)

IS A NEW REFORMATION POSSIBLE?

What will it take for a new reformation to begin in the 21st century? That is a question worth pondering. Even if everything to bring about such a reformation were fully understood across the Church, how many Christians have the courage and the will necessary to bring it about? Christians who think they can experience reformation and revival while supporting denominations that have embraced immorality and abandoned biblical doctrines are sadly mistaken!

The Scriptures are clear: "Come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord." (2 Corinthians 6:17). "Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting." (Rom. 16:17-18)

SCRIPTURE – THE WATERSHED ISSUE

The Reformation in Martin Luther's time was grounded upon the inspired infallible and inerrant Word of God. The whole Church of the 21st century is divided between those who believe and accept the Bible as the very Word of God, and those who insist that it is a human book filled with myths half truths and contradictions. . . .

Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and other reformers believed in the infallibility of Scripture, not in the infallibility of the Popes or church councils. They accepted at face value what (God said through) Paul declared: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. That the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

When Paul visited believers in Berea, "they received

the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and scribes for “teaching the precepts of men as doctrine, neglecting the commandments of God, you hold to the traditions of men” (Mark 7:7-8). ...

THE GREAT ECUMENICAL DECEPTION

Like Luther, we too must stand on Scripture alone, not on the traditions of man or the traditions of churches. As the Lutheran Confessions affirm, the Bible is the only source by which all doctrines and teachers are to be judged. Christians must return to the word of God if they desire to be a part of the one holy, Christian, and Apostolic Church. ...

Let it be stated for the record: Not a single doctrine with-in the Roman Catholic Church that brought about the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century has been rescinded. ...

As for other world religions, let it be stated that the whole of the Old and New Testaments refutes any notion that the God of the Bible will coexist with gods of other religions. There is but one true God. He is the God of the Bible. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The ecumenical movement today calls upon everyone to lay aside doctrines (Ed. Martin Luther says: *Doctrine is just an explanation of a fact*) and come together in Jesus. But under which Jesus are we to unite? Is it the Jesus Christ of the New Testament, whose atonement covers our sins without any merit on my part? Or is it the Jesus whose atonement still requires our personal works and sufferings to achieve our salvation? All come together under the banner of the apostate church’s Jesus who denies sin, judgment, and hell?

If we are willing to close our eyes to revealed truth in the written Word of God, if we are willing to compromise foundational doctrines, then an unbiblical type of Christian unity will not be far off. If we want to be unified with the truth, we must search the Scripture and obey God’s every Word. The Apostle Paul warns us, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” (Col. 2:8)

According to the Bible, ‘true Christian unity already exists among those who embrace and obey God’s Word.’ Jesus prayed, “Father, sanctify them in the truth. Thy word is truth.” (John 17:17)

Each year, it seems that fewer Protestant churches celebrate Reformation Day. Instead, observances are often marked by ecumenical services and apologies for divisions caused by our forefathers. It is a sad day indeed

when Lutheran leaders feel that they must apologize for the Reformers’ courageous stand on the Word of God. ...

Grace alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone. A reformation in the 21st century is possible if Christians will find our voices and reaffirm our glorious heritage of faith and stand where our forefathers stood – upon the unalterable Word of God.

BACK TO THE BIBLE

The Bible stands regardless of all efforts to discredit its Truth. God’s Word is a personal word, a practical word, and a powerful word! It is our guide for all of life and even eternity. It is a book of comfort for the broken in heart, a book of hope, for those in despair. God’s Word convicts of sin and leads the repentant sinner to heaven by the road of calvary. Only through the inspired Word of God will the church ever find the pathway in revival and reformation.

(ONE of the purposes of the HLIF/Morning Glory is a means of bringing/experiencing a Heaven-sent revival)

BACK TO PRAYER

We have our instructions from the LORD; “Hold on to what you have until I come.” Revelation 2:25. It is not easy to hold on when the vast majority around us are joining hearts and voices with the enemy of men’s souls. It is not easy to hold on when we find ourselves the objects of ridicule for believing what the Church has declared for nearly 2,000 years. But hold we must.

Holding on is not something we do in our own strength but in the power of God’s Holy Spirit, who indwells every true believer. Hold on through prayer. ...

BACK TO GODLY LIVING

It never ceases to amaze me when people set out to pray for revival but make no effort to see that their lives are purified from sin. God may use a broken vessel, but He will not use a dirty vessel (Matthew 23:23-28.) Sin and spiritual decay in America’s churches are the primary reasons revival tarries. Only as we humble ourselves, pray, and turn from our wicked ways will the power of God fall upon us. We must be willing to cast out of our lives and our churches all that is contrary and offensive to God if we expect to experience revival and reformation.

Our Lord still walks in the midst of His Church. He loves and cares for each one of us beyond all measure. And we must love Him too. Our love for God is forever connected with our obedience to His Word. Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:15) ...

Taken from *The Vine and Branches*,
Issue two, Summer 2021

Be A Blessing To Your Nation

A Call to Unite for REVIVAL

By Dr. Michael Youssef

This month (July, 2021) we celebrate the 245th birthday of our nation.

Almost two and a half centuries ago, fifty-six good and decent men signed their declaration of dependence on the might of God. “With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our fortunes and our sacred Honor.” Those were not idle words. These fifty-six men knew that if they succeeded, it would mean many years of hardship and struggle. And they knew that if they failed, they would face the hangman’s noose as traitors. Though our nation’s history hasn’t been perfect, these brave souls and so many others throughout history sacrificed tremendously to give us a nation founded on FREEDOM.

But today, as morality is scorned, sin is glorified, and TRUTH is reviled, many are saying this is not the America envisioned by the Founding Fathers. Historians have described the great decline of great civilizations; They go from bondage to faith, from faith to courage, from courage to liberty, from liberty to abundance, from abundance to selfishness, from selfishness to complacency from complacency to apathy, from apathy to dependence, from dependence all the way back to bondage. I fear we are in the stage of apathy. But apathy should not define those of us who are Christ-followers. We should not stand with those who hate this nation and wish it harm. Nor should we give up hope like those who believe America has sinned too deeply for GOD to intervene. We must stand boldly and bless our nation.

WE ARE COMMISSIONED

We have a model for this posture in the book of Jeremiah. The LORD — after years of pleading with His people to turn from worshipping false gods, of warning them that compromise results in consequences — brought judgment on Israel through the King of Babylon. God allowed the most vicious nation on earth at that time to terrorize His own people and take them into captivity because of their refusal to turn to him, the one true God. Then through Jeremiah, He commissioned His exiled people living in Babylon: ***“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers you too will prosper.”*** (Jeremiah 29:7) The LORD tells Israel to bless the land they live in. He’s telling these faithful people to be good citizens. He calls them to be good stewards, even though they are in a foreign land, held

captive and exiled. God told them to pray for the peace of Babylon.

“We should not stand with those who hate this nation and wish it harm. Nor should we give up hope like those who believe America has sinned too deeply for God to intervene.”

Like the Israelites, we Christians are also exiles waiting for the Day when the Lord will bring us Home. As we wait, we too are to seek the blessing of our earthly home. We are to pray for God’s mercy on America. We are not to wring our hands but fold them in prayer and get on our knees — ready to pay any price required to speak the TRUTH lovingly, carefully, and thoughtfully and lead men and women to *Jesus*. We are to pray for a genuine Holy Spirit awakening so that lost people and wayward believers may repent and return to the living God.

THE HOPE OF REVIVAL

We can seek the peace of America with hope. Our God is the God who loves to answer the prayer of His faith-filled people. He has done it in America before. On September 23, 1857, a layman from the Old Dutch North Church in the financial district of Manhattan invited people to join a lunchtime meeting to pray for America. The first meeting drew six people, a minuscule percentage of New York’s million residents. But the following week there were twenty. The week after, there were forty. So, they decided to start praying daily. By early 1858, there were 5,000 prayer groups meeting in neighboring churches, public halls, and adjacent buildings. This one man’s desire to pray and bless his nation resulted in a REVIVAL. Ten thousand a week were coming to Christ in New York alone. Church bells would ring at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and people would show up and pray. The revival spread largely by changed lives, going from up the Hudson River and down the Mohawk River, crossing the Appalachian Mountains and spreading into the West, and in one year more than 1 million people came to Christ. The revival crossed the Atlantic, touching Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and parts of England, even reaching south India. The effect of that revival was felt for forty years.

This is why we pray for the peace of the city and of the nation. We pray urgently, we pray diligently, we pray intentionally. Because **only** GOD can *transform hearts*. Only God can heal political divisions. Only God can release captives from their chains. And only God can bring awakening both to our Nation and to the nations of the world. So today, **let’s pray for AMERICA**

MY JOURNAL, July, 2021.

Encourage One Another

By Pastor Roger Viksnes, East Hartland, CO.

“Encourage one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

I saved a kid who was drowning once, while I was at the ocean! At least I think that I saved him. I may have just interrupted his pleasant afternoon. Whatever the case, I vividly remember, in the middle of that experience, feeling that I was possibly not going to make it. I was exhausted and then nervous, as I struggled to get the two of us to solid ground. To be honest, in a figurative way, this past year has felt very similar, and I am guessing that I may not be the only one who feels like that. For me, in my time as a pastor, there have been a few seasons where I felt “in over my head” and God has provided in wonderful and often unexpected ways. During two of those seasons, God provided a person to do what might seem a very insignificant thing, but which meant the world to me.

The first was when I started my first full-time job as a pastor. I was just out of Seminary, 26 years old (while looking more like 16), and I was the pastor of 59th Street Lutheran Brethren Church in Brooklyn, New York. Prior to that, the biggest town I had ever lived in was Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Now I was living in a city of nine million people, pastoring my first church, serving multiethnic community — which I knew very little about — and on top of all, my wife and I were about to have our first child. To say that I was in over my head and feeling like I was drowning is an understatement. But unlike one struggling in the water, I’m not sure I would have been able to articulate exactly what help I needed. Thankfully, however, God knew exactly what I needed. He always knows. And what God provided was an incredibly caring church elder name Lloyd Lister, who every Tuesday morning at exactly 9:05 a.m. would call the church office, ask me how I was doing, and then read a word of Scripture and pray for me.

There is a line in a Dr. Seuss book that says, “They weren’t that big, they were really small. You might think such a thing wouldn’t matter at all.” It would be easy to have that same sentiment toward a little five minute call of encouragement. But you would be wrong! It meant everything to me. Lloyd read the Bible and prayed, trusting both the power of God’s Word and the power of the God he was praying to. Too often we can second-guess ourselves, thinking that we don’t have some incredible words or wisdom to share with each other. Other times we mistakenly think that we do have the perfect words. The truth, however, is that the Word of God is always the perfect thing to share as we simply trust the Holy Spirit to work through His Word.

Fast-forward almost 20 years, to the bountifully

stressful year of 2020. This past year has been hard. And I don’t say that in an attempt to measure my challenges against yours. It has been hard for everyone. And again, like my first-year pastoring, I have felt “in over my head.”

What I knew how to do, I was no longer able to do; and I was struggling mightily to keep up with the immediate move towards digital ministry and distance caregiving. I tried. I worked hard. Once again, however, I felt like I was drowning. But again, God knew what I needed.

This time God called upon Elroy Vesta to care for me. Pastor Elroy is the pastor of Liberty Lutheran Brethren Church in Fargo, North Dakota, and has been for years. I have known of Elroy for a long time, but I would not say that I have ever had or taken the time to really get close to him. So, I wasn’t really expecting nor would I have probably chosen for it to be him that God would see as my new encourager. But that is exactly what he has become. Monthly throughout this last year my phone has rung, and I get excited when I see that 218 number pop up because I know that there will be that sweet and cheerful voice on the other end of the line saying hello, asking me how I am doing and what specifically I need prayer for, and then reading God’s Word to me and praying for me.

Now at first, I thought, “I wonder how I got so blessed that Elroy would think to call me?” And then I heard other pastors bring up his name and the same number calling them. Many other pastors, in fact, and all of them saying the same thing: “Elroy has been such a blessing to me during all of this.” Again, you might think such a thing wouldn’t matter at all. It is only a three- to five-minute phone call. But it does matter. It matters so much! While people were wondering what they could and couldn’t do during a pandemic and social distancing. Elroy has reminded me that simply reading the Bible and praying for others is still the perfect option, Be it face to face or over the phone.

If I can tip my hand, I have wanted to write this article for months now, partly because I wanted a platform to be able to say thank you to these wonderful men of God and let them know that their “little” act of ministering to me has meant so much. But I also want to share this to encourage you never to doubt the power of God’s Word and prayer, nor doubt that you can be the one God is raising up to deliver them to someone in need. In I Peter 2:9 we are told that as children of God we are a royal priesthood. That can sound intimidating, but part of what that means is simply ministering to others by listening and by administering God’s Word and prayer. So don’t get so caught up wondering about what big thing you can do for someone that you overlook the power of the “little.”

Faith & Fellowship, July/August, 2021.

God is for Me

“When I cry unto Thee, then shall mine enemies turn back; this I know; for God is for me.”

(Psalm 56:9)

IT is impossible for any human speech to express the full meaning of this delightful phrase, “*God is for me.*” He was ‘for us’ before the worlds were made; He was ‘for us,’ or He would not have given His well-beloved Son; He was ‘for us’ when He smote the Only-begotten, and laid the full weight of His wrath upon Him – He was ‘for us,’ though He was against HIM; He was ‘for us,’ when we were ruined in the fall – He loved us notwithstanding all; He was ‘for us,’ when we were rebels against Him, and with a high hand were bidding Him defiance; He was ‘for us,’ or He would have brought us humbly to seek His Face. He has been ‘for us,’ in many struggles; we have been summoned to encounter hosts of dangers; we have been assailed by temptations from without and within – how could we have remained unharmed to this hour if He had not been ‘for us’? He is ‘for us’ with all the infinity of His being; with all the omnipotence of HIS love; with all the infallibility of His wisdom; arrayed in all His divine attributes, He is ‘for us’ – eternally and immutably ‘for us;’ ‘for us when your blue skies shall be rolled up like a worn-out vesture; ‘for us’ throughout eternity. And because He is ‘for us,’ the voice of prayer will always ensure His help. “*When I cry unto Thee, then shall mine enemies be turned back.*” This is no uncertain hope, but a well-grounded assurance – “*this I know.*” I will direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up for the answer, assured that it will come, and that mine enemies shall be defeated, “*for God is for me.*” O believer, how happy art thou with the KING of kings on thy side! How safe with such a PROTECTOR! How sure thy cause pleaded by an ADVOCATE! **If GOD be for thee, who can be against thee?**

Taken from *Morning & Evening*, by Charles Spurgeon, ©1991 Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

P. S. I trust that this ‘article’ has been a special blessing to you as was for Barb and Myself as part of our devotions!

Prison Ministry

By Pastor David R. Barnhart

“... I was in prison, and you visited me.”
(Matthew 25:36)

GAIL’S STORY

I remember some years ago, I visited a 40-year-old woman I will call ‘Gail’. She was incarcerated in the Brevard County Detention Center in Florida. Gail wanted desperately to change but didn’t know how to begin. She told me she was a drug addict, a thief, and a prostitute who had been in and out of jail and prison many times.

When Gail entered the visitors’ booth, I could see the effects of sin reflected on her face. With hardly a hello, she began to pour out her heart, including details of her drug-addicted life. She had been using drugs since she was eight years old. Because of other addictions, she had lost her husband, home, job, and any meaningful relationship with her two children. Gail was at the end of her rope, both physically and emotionally. When she finally paused, I shared the Gospel with her. I then asked, “Gail, isn’t it time that you surrender your life to Jesus Christ and receive God’s gift of eternal salvation?”

“Oh, Pastor Barnhart,” she responded. “If only I could, but you don’t understand what I am. Or what I’ve done. God could never accept me. I’m a thief, a drug addict, and a prostitute.” “Gail,” I interrupted, “Jesus loves thieves, drug addicts and a prostitute. He died for you on the Cross to take away every sin you’ve ever committed.” Then it was her turn to interrupt. “But you don’t understand, Pastor Barnhart. I’ve got AIDS. How could God ever forgive me?” “Gail,” I replied, “God loves people with AIDS. There is not a sin in your life that could not be covered by the Blood of Jesus Christ. It is not your place to tell the Lord what He can or cannot forgive. It’s your place here and now to receive the gift of life that He is offering by inviting Him into your heart.”

With some effort, I squeezed my hands under a small opening beneath the glass panel that separated us in the visitor’s booth. I placed my hands on Gail’s hands and led her in the sinner’s prayer. With tears flowing, she confessed her sins and asked Jesus to save her.

When the prayer ended, I said, “Gail, GOD must love you very much. He had me drive 45 minutes today to meet you and lead you to Christ! Now even here in this jail, you must share your new life in Christ with others.” She held on to my hands for a moment and said, “Pastor Barnhart, even my own mother won’t hold my hands anymore. She’s afraid of getting AIDS.”

Gail was subsequently transferred from the county jail to the state prison. Her letters to me were filled with expressions of love for the Lord and stories of how she witnesses the Gospel of Christ to other inmates.

Taken from *The Vine and Branches*,
Issue two, Summer 2021

Truth is Fallen in the Street

(And Equity Cannot Enter)

By Dr. Shelton Smith, Editor

“And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.”—Isa. 59:14

In the not too distant past, truth was the primary commodity upon which churches were founded. Truth about things temporal and eternal was considered to be so vital that it was given priority status.

Families taught their children to be truthful. Businesses advertised themselves as honest and trust-worthy. When you went to church, you knew that a man of God would open the Word of God to proclaim the truth on every page of the Bible.

But my, oh my, how times have changed! Truth is no longer absolute with many people. If you add two plus two these days, some educators believe you can decide what you want the answer to be. If you don't like four, you can choose whatever you would wish it to be. The same pseudo-philosophy is being applied in history, science and religion.

That same game, the manipulation of reality, the downgrading of the truth, is now being played by young and old alike all over America.

The political arena is awash with their claims of transparency while laughing behind our backs and hiding the truth from us.

The educational scene is now so corrupt that they are rewriting the textbooks to accommodate the cultural revolution, the woke mobs and those who hate America.

The entertainment industry (film, TV, internet, music) is polluted with filth that defies decency. Utilizing drama, comedy and music, they are selling immorality every hour of the day.

Where news was once reported with some degree of accuracy, most of the networks are now leftist propaganda machines.

The religious crowd has also faltered and forfeited its hold on truth. Entire denominations are coming apart at the seams because their leadership has sold them out. The gathering of what I will call our imperfect storm has replaced the thunder in the pulpit with winds of change.

Truth is now viewed through the lens of relevance which means it can be twisted to fit whatever the societal demands require. “Contemporary” ministry is built on what men are thinking rather than what God has said.

“Contemporary” ministry is built on what pleases the culture. “Contemporary is by and large a negative term when it is attached to church. It is in reality a fad that

leaves a vast amount of God's truth in absentia.

Without Truth, Equity Cannot Happen

“...and equity cannot enter.”—Vs..14

The demands for “judgment...justice...equity” (vs. 14) are all front-page news in 2021, but they remain elusive because truth has been set aside.

In its place we have the indoctrination of evolution, the scams of socialism, the hoax of humanism, the pursuit of pleasure, the reasoning of revisionism, the lunacy of lies and forfeiture of the Christian faith.

These seven devastating realities are a foundation of sand. (Matt.7:26,27) They are a glaring reflection of the character of far too many people in our present society. Until there is a recognition of the fact that “sand: is not solid, the desired results will not come. Jesus told us (vss. 24,25) that the man who builds on “the rock” is the one who will survive the storms.

When God's truth goes missing, “equity cannot enter.” Men who do as they please will not only displease God but they also will not please their peers. Evil proliferates where truth is not present. When the truth of God is not welcome, pride, prejudice and perverseness parade pompously through the streets.

Is it any wonder that America is teetering on the brink today? Well, let's not forget

1. Truth is the Cornerstone of Our Freedom

Jesus said,

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”—John 8:32.

2. Jesus is the Personification of Truth

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”—John 1:14,17.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
— John 14:6

When you are looking for the truth, whom do you ask? In one word: Jesus.

3. The Holy Spirit Teaches Us the Truth

“Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”— John 16:13

4. The Christian Lifestyle is Built on Truth

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
John 17:17

“Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine

heart.”—Prov. 3:3

“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”— Prov. 23:23

“But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”—II Cor. 4:2

5. We look to the Word of God for Truth

“For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.”— Ps. 33:4

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”— II Tim. 2:15

Marxism is not the source of truth. Socialism is a pseudopolitical fallacy devoid of truth. Humanism is a truthless philosophy. The one infallible, totally reliable source for truth is the Bible, the God-inspired Word.

God’s Truth is Eternal

“For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” Psalm 100:5.

“Thy word is truth from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.” – Psalm 119:160

The Truth Should Be the Substance of Our Witness

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another.” – Ephesians 4:23.

Here are the Nuggets, the Details

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philipians 4:8.

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.” Ephesians 6:14

But truth can be offensive so you can expect that some family and friends will not like truth.

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” Galatians 4:16

CONCLUSION

Truth is one of God’s major commodities. It should also be major for us.

Sword of the Lord

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UpDate

“And they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

(Ed. Please prayerfully read Acts 4:12 and then complete reading verse 13)

At the time of compiling this issue of the *Morning Glory*, as Editor; I am somewhat at a loss for words! The financial situation of our income for the month of July, 2021 is very poor or even desperate!

Guess that is enough said at this point because God has laid upon hearts and they know what they should do.

May the LORD bless you and lead you!

Income for the Month of July was \$1,050.00

Monthly expenses for the *Morning Glory* are approx. \$3,500.00.