



Morning Glory

"The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh" — I Thessalonians 5:8

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2008

Discouraged and Doubting Christians

"And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was three score furlong from Jerusalem. And they communed with each other of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, while they communed and questioned together, that Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What communications are these that ye have one with another, as ye walk? And they stood still, looking sad."

(Luke 24:13 – 17).

All hope vanished from the hearts of Christ's followers when the spear had pierced His side and the seal had been placed on the tomb. They were plunged into a night of despair. Jesus was dead and buried. The enemies had won, and the believers had lost.

They had followed Him voluntarily and had believed Him to be the Savior of their people. Courageously and faithfully they had proclaimed His name to the people and urged them to repent and believe the gospel, for the kingdom of heaven was at hand. In the face of mockery and derision they held fast to their faith and witnessed of Him wherever they went.

And now He was gone!

They had followed Him to the very end. They had been so confident that He would perform a miracle and escape from His captors. It didn't happen. They followed Him not only to Herod and Pilate, but also to Golgotha and the grave. He had lost, and they had been deceived. This was a hard

blow for them to receive. They had staked everything on him, and now He lay in a grave under Roman seal. This was more than enough to crush all hope and to shroud the soul in darkness.

Nor was this all; the enemies are now on their high horse. The deceiver has been liquidated, and those who were duped by Him will have to suffer the consequences. The disciples walk aimlessly about, hopeless and derided, afraid of themselves and afraid of others. The group is divided, and many go into hiding.

One can almost see these poor people in their great frustration. Some of them take to fishing to support themselves as formerly. Long nights they spend with their nets and catch nothing. Everything seems to be bewitched; all their luck is gone. With empty nets they stand, hungry, tired and frightened. There are battles within and enemies without.

It takes real men to suffer so much all at one time. Misfortune follows upon misfortune. Burdens increase while strength decreases. That "troubles come not single spies, but in battalions" is a rule of long standing.

However, it is precisely to these men that Jesus turns all of His loving attention. He seeks to help them in all possible ways. He comes to them through closed doors. He stands by the seashore at the dawn of the day and calls to these hungry and discouraged fishermen. He prepares food for them, and as fond mother He urges them to eat.

He walks mile after mile with them to open the Scriptures for them. He bares His side and lovingly invites Thomas to feel His wounds. Peter receives a special greeting, for he was doubtless in the greatest despair. He raises

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His hands in blessing and tells them not to fear.

What a blessed Savior!

My Lord and my God!

Who can fathom the depth of such love and compassion, or become weary of meditating upon it? Who would own Him as friend and helper without freely worshiping Him as Savior and King?

Is it to be wondered at that they should find Him after such a grave defeat, or that they should find the solution to the whole riddle – namely that He did all this for them? Is it so remarkable that they should give themselves joyfully to such a Savior for the rest of their lives? No king or military might, no cross or pyre, can match the power which grips such a people with such a leader and Savior.

Today there are many happy and liberated Christians who serve their Savior with joy and gladness. But there are also many discouraged and doubting Christians. The latter were also among the happy band at one time; but now peace and joy have fled, and it seems so impossible to recapture these. They struggle, hope and pray, but everything seems to become worse. Their prayers do not seem to reach the throne of grace, and God's Word has only messages of judgment for them. They are sore of heart and sick of mind. The heart which was once the seat of joy now trembles under a heavy load. While others are happy and praise God, these can only condemn themselves because they are not happy. Thus new burdens are added to that which was more than enough before.

*To be continued in the next issue of
the Morning Glory*

Taken from the book "Spirit and Power" by Ludvig Hope

The Worth of a Man

Someone has broken down the chemical content of the human body as follows: enough sulfur to rid a dog of fleas, enough fat for six bars of soap, enough iron for a six-penny nail, enough phosphorus for twenty boxes of matches, enough sugar for ten cups of coffee and enough potassium to explode a toy cannon.

Such is the worth – or should I say worthlessness – of the human body.

On the other hand, the Saviour declared that the soul was worth more than all the world and the fullness thereof. “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matt. 16:26

How foolish it is, then, for one to center all of his interest on his worthless body and neglect his invaluable soul. No wonder Jesus insisted, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: Matt. 6:33.

* * * * *

The Voice That Stills the Crowd

On the morning of Lincoln’s death, a crowd of fifty thousand gathered before the Exchange Building in New York. Feelings ran high, natural enough in the circumstances, and there was danger of its finding expression in violence.

Then a well-built man in officer’s uniform stepped to the front of the balcony and, in a voice that rang like a trumpet call, cried:

Fellow citizens! Clouds and darkness are round about Him. His pavilion is dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. Justice and judgment are the establishment of His throne. Mercy and truth go before His face. Fellow citizens! God reigns! And the government at Washington still lives!

Instantly the tumult was stilled as the people grasped the import of those sublime words. The speaker was General James A. Garfield, himself to become a martyr-president sixteen years later.

Moody Monthly

* * * * *

The Bible

No book in all the world’s literature has been so maligned and attacked. Its enemies in their fury have burned it and mutilated it and forbidden its publication. It has been

ridiculed and ignored. It has been covered with the mud of enmity and the dust of indifference. But there it stands, unchanged after all the centuries. Of course, one reason it carries on from day to day is that it is God’s Book and He has so willed. It is not in His purpose at all that it shall ever be destroyed.

Will Houghton

* * * * *

Preach Christ by Your Life

“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.” (II Cor. 3:2)

A blind man was found sitting at the corner of a street in a great city with a lantern beside him. Someone went up to him and asked why he had the lantern, seeing he was blind. The blind man replied, “I have it so no one may stumble over me.”

Where one man reads the Bible, a hundred read you and me. Paul said we were to be living epistles of Christ, known and read of all men.

I would not give much for all that can be done by sermons, if we do not preach Christ by our lives. If we do not commend the Gospel to people by our holy walk and conversation, we shall not win them to Christ.

D.L. Moody

* * * * *

What Is Faith?

Faith is the eye by which we look to Jesus. A dim-sighted eye is still an eye; a weeping eye is still an eye.

Faith is the hand with which we lay hold of Jesus. A trembling hand is still a hand. And he is a believer whose heart within him trembles when he touches the hem of the Savior’s garment that he may be healed.

Faith is the tongue by which we taste how good the Lord is. A feverish tongue is nevertheless a tongue, and even then we may believe when we are without the smallest portion of comfort, for our faith is founded not upon feeling but upon the promises of God.

Faith is the foot by which we go to Jesus. A lame foot is still a foot. He who comes slowly nevertheless comes.

George Müller

Honest Men Must Warn

"The wicked shall be turned into hell." (Ps. 9:17)

Let others hold their peace about Hell if they will; I dare not do so. I see it plainly in Scripture, and I must speak of it. I fear that thousands are on that broad road that leads to it, and I would fain arouse them to a sense of the peril before them.

What would you say of the man who saw his neighbor's house in danger of being burned down and never raised the cry of "fire"? Call it bad taste if you like to speak of Hell. Call it charity to make things pleasant and speak smoothly and soothe men with a constant lullaby of peace.

From such notions of taste and charity may I ever be delivered! My notion of charity is to warn men plainly of their danger. My notion of taste is to declare all the counsel of God. If I never spoke of Hell, I should think I had kept back something that was profitable and should look on myself as an accomplice of the Devil.

Beware of new and strange doctrines about Hell and the eternity of punishment. Beware of manufacturing a god of your own – a god who is all love and not holy, a god who has a heaven for everybody but a hell for none, a god who can allow good and bad to be side by side in time and will make no distinction between good and bad in eternity.

Such a god is an idol of your own, as really as Jupiter or the monstrous image of juggernaut – as true an idol as was never molded out of brass or clay.

The hands of your own fancy and sentimentality have made him. He is not the God of the Bible, and besides the God of the Bible there is no God at all.

Your "heaven" would be no Heaven at all. A heaven containing all sorts of characters mixed together indiscriminately would be miserable discord indeed. Alas for the eternity of such a heaven! There would be little difference between it and Hell.

Ah, reader, there is a Hell! Take heed lest you find it out too late.

Beware of being wise above that which is written. Beware of forming fanciful theories of your own and then trying to make the Bible square with them. Beware of making selections from your Bible to suit your taste – refusing, like a spoiled child, whatever you think is bitter; seizing, like a spoiled child, whatever you think sweet.

What is all this but taking Jehoiakim's penknife and cutting God's Word to pieces? What does it amount to but telling God that you, a poor, short-lived worm, know what is good for you better than He?

It will not do. You must take the Bible as it is. You must read it all and believe it all. You must come to the reading of it in the spirit of a little child.

Dare not to say, "I believe this verse, for I like it; I receive this, for you can understand it; I refuse that, for I cannot reconcile it with my views."

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?" (Rom. 9:20). *"By what right do you talk in this way? Surely it were better to say over every chapter in the Word, 'Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth'* (1 Sam. 3:9).

Ah, reader, if men were to do this, they would never try to throw overboard the doctrine of the eternal punishment of the wicked. *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."* (Matt.25:46)

By J. C. Ryle (1816 – 1900)
The Sword of the Lord

Belligerent Friendship

"Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?" (James 4:4)

No one can be a friend of God and of the world at the same time. There is no peace nor joy in such attempted compromise. God spoke of Israel in this manner, *"My people did not listen to my voice; Israel would have none of me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels."* (Psalm 81:11, 12).

There is no true comfort but that which brings new life and peace. For one who has strayed from the Father in friendship with the world, the Father's embrace is waiting. The merits of Christ are sufficient for him even though he were a thousand times more sinful. The Spirit is willing to confer life and to work living faith.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He beckons in loving compassion. He has said, *"Let him who is thirsty, come, let him who desires take the water of life without price."* (Revelation 22:17).

*"Merciful Saviour, come and be my comfort;
Vanish all idols in thy holy presence;
Come and establish in my heart thy kingdom.
Come, O Lord Jesus."*

(Katarina Elisabet Posse, 1818 – 1880)

PRAYER: Forbid, O Father, that I should claim a false peace in following my own counsel. Lead me in the way that is true and right, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Taken from *"Rosenius' Daily Meditations"*
by Carl O. Rosenius
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

Making No Apologies for the Old Time Christianity!

What is TRUTH?

TRUTH is conformity to knowledge, fact, or actuality; veracity! JESUS states that it is the truth that shall set you free! JESUS is the way, the truth, the life!

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 3) Salvation is by Grace Alone, the Word Alone, and Faith Alone IN the very Son of God! As a contender for the faith, Martin Luther threw down the gauntlet for believers of every generation. He proclaimed: *"If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point."*

Polycarp, too, is remembered as a warrior for truth. A disciple of the Apostle John, Polycarp was known leader among the early Christians. Wanted by the authorities, he gave himself up willingly, knowing full well that it would cost him his life. With a blood-thirsty mob in the arena, he was given opportunity to renounce Christ. Fortunately Polycarp refused, declaring, *"Eighty-six years have I served Him, and He never once wronged me. How then shall I blaspheme my King who saved me?"*

As a result of his stand for TRUTH, he was burned alive. How we need folk like YOU to stand with US (by God's GRACE) making no apologies for the old time Christianity! Pray that GOD will raise up soldiers of the CROSS in these days of Apostasy and stand with us for God's Glory! May we be 'soldiers' standing for the TRUTH and in sharing the TRUTH! Also please 'pray' for the receptivity of the Incorruptible SEED in both believers and unbelievers!

The High Price of Disobedience

Samuel's sons did not walk with the Lord. Therefore, the people wanted a king who would rule over them and fight their battles (1 Sam. 8:19-20). They wanted to be just like other nations. So the prophet Samuel, instructed by God, granted the request.

The first king of Israel was Saul, a promising, energetic man from a humble family in the tribe of Benjamin (9:1-2,16; 10:1). Yet his life is the story of a reign that began well but, because of disobedience, ended in tragedy.

Saul began his reign like a judge. He delivered the people of Jabesh in Gilead from the vicious Ammonites (11:1-13). After this victory, the Israelites loved him and renewed and confirmed his kingship at Gilgal (vv. 12-15).

Saul provided impressive military victories for the Israelites, who wanted a king to right their battles. Unfortunately, he behaved like the kings of other nations. He also failed to obey the Lord with his whole heart. In the end, he became yet another example of how God fulfills His promises, including the judgments.

The events in I Samuel 13-15 record King Saul's transgressions. His first was offering an unlawful burnt sacrifice. "What have you done?" Samuel asked him (I Sam. 13:11). He replied, *"When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal and I have not made supplication to the Lord.' Therefore I felt compelled and offered a burnt offering (v. 11-12).*

Since many pagan kings viewed themselves as priests of their religion or cult, Saul may have thought he also headed the national faith. But Israelite kings were forbidden to be priests (cf. 2 Chr. 26:18). Because of this sin, Samuel told Saul, *"Now your kingdom shall not continue"* (I Sam. 13:14).

Another transgression was Saul's failure to "utterly destroy" the Amalekites, as God had commanded (15:3). *"But Saul and the people spared [King] Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed"* (v. 9).

So God was finished with Saul. Through the prophet Samuel, God told Saul He rejected him as king: *"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king"* (vv. 22-23). Even though Saul lost the kingship and the kingdom, his judgments did not come immediately. He reigned 40 years (Acts 13:21). His acts of disobedience occurred when he was fairly young, early in his reign. It is possible that 20 to 25 years may have passed between the time of his illegal sacrifice and his disregard of God's command concerning the Amalekites.

Some scholars suggest that at least 28 years may have elapsed between God's rejection of Saul and David's ascension to the throne at Saul's death. God will keep His promises, even His impending judgments: *"For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil"* (Eccl. 12:14).

Taken from *Israel My Glory*, July/August 2008

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

“Restful alertness” Meditation allows ‘lightness of living’

Vidya Anderson is the president of the American Meditation Society and she says “The only place joy can be found is within ourselves.” This is totally contrary to the Holy Scriptures as God’s Holy Word tells us to ‘rejoice’ in His Beloved Son, Jesus. True lasting “joy” is not found in ourselves nor in our circumstances!

We are to ‘meditate’ on HIS WORD day and night. We are to take our mind captive in obedience to His Word. (II Corinthians 10:4-5.

Dead Sea Scrolls to be put on Web (Jerusalem)

Scientists using American space technology have started a tremendous and huge project to digitally photograph the Dead Sea Scrolls; yes, the oldest known version of the Hebrew Bible, and post it on the Internet for all to see, Israeli authorities have said. These scrolls are approx. 2,000 years old, thus High-tech cameras using infrared photography are being used to uncover sections of the same that have faded over the centuries and become indecipherable, said the Israeli Antiquities Authority. The project is expected to take about five years.

Oprah Winfrey’s “church”

Oprah Winfrey’s “church” is the fastest-growing in America, and it is BLINDING and increasing number of souls to the Gospel!

What does Oprah teach and preach?

- God is everything: people, rocks, blades of grass – it’s all God .
- Jesus was just trying to teach us that we are God – you are “I am.”
- There are many paths to God besides Jesus.
- As a divine being, you create your own reality and morality – including your own gender. A man can call himself a woman – and he is!
- Being “born again” means discovering your own “God consciousness,”
- Or “Christ consciousness” – your own inherent divinity.

Apostasies Attract

The Berean Call says that extreme charismatics are increasingly adopting emerging pagan practices and getting into yoga, Latter Rain and Kingdom Now camps that are attracting all kinds of would-be worshipers – especially night-club dancers. Weird!

Selected

Bible Publishers Being Sued Over Anti-Gay References

According to *Newsmax*, 7/10/08, Thomas Nelson and Zondervan are being sued by Bradley LaShawn Flowler of Michigan, who claims his constitutional rights were violated by the two companies that published references to “homosexuals” as sinners. Zondervan is being sued for \$60 million, while Thomas Nelson is only being sued for \$10 million.

Fowler says the deliberate changes made in 1 Corinthians 6:9 have caused him “or anyone who is homosexual to endure verbal abuse, discrimination, episodes of hate, and physical violence including murder.” U.S. District Judge Julian Abele Cook Jr., who will hear Flowler’s case against Thomas Nelson, says the court “has some very genuine concerns about the nature and efficacy of (Fowler’s) claims.”

Editor’s Note: Before you dismiss this article as absurd, understand this case is an example of “hate-crime legislation” now being considered in various states and by the federal government. If such legislation passes, (and I believe it will) this type of lawsuit will send cold chills down the backs of Bible-believing Christians throughout the nation.

“The Vine and Branches”

Evangelical Liberal Wants to Redefine Marriage

An evangelical liberal says the controversy over gay marriage could be settled by doing away with civil marriage altogether.

Tony Campolo says states should only unite couples in civil unions and let the churches perform marriages according to their beliefs.

That way, he says, the government could guarantee legal rights for both gay and straight couples while churches retain responsibility for marriage as a sacred institution.

OneNewsNow.com

Why Are So Many Public Schools Awash In Islamic Instruction?

Public schools throughout the United States, Canada, Britain and Europe are now instructing children in the teachings of Islam. In addition to the instruction about the religion, children are being indoctrinated into Islamic practices.

According to *Worldnetdaily*, 7/04/08, two seventh grade boys in England were punished for refusing to kneel and pray to Allah during a religious studies class.

In June, Principal Robin Lowe brought all 900 students at her Houston, Texas school and had them instructed for 40 minutes by a representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), an organization that has been linked to terrorist organizations. The CAIR representative told the students that Adam, Noah and Jesus are prophets, and there is but one god, his name is Allah. Houston school officials took care of the problem by transferring Principal Lowe to another school.

Children in Minnesota and California public schools have been forced to watch films on Islam, dress in Islamic attire and offer prayers to Allah.

"The Vine and Branches"

Sex OK at 9 says Saudi Cleric

Worldnetdaily, 6/27/08: Age, or lack thereof, is no hindrance to marriage under Islam, according to Ahmad Al-Mu'bi, an officiant for marriages from Saudi Arabia, who says sex at 9 years of age is just fine.

According to a video of the Saudi official, recorded and translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute, Al-Mu'bi has confirmed that marriage contracts are appropriate for girls as young as age 1. And he said the model for marriage continues to be Muhammad, who married one of his wives when she was but six, but did not consummate the marriage until she was nine.

College presidents seek drinking age debate

They are calling on lawmakers to consider moving age back to 18

RALEIGH, North Carolina — College presidents from about 100 of the best-known U.S. universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, are calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, saying current laws actually encourage dangerous binge drinking on campus.

The movement called the Amethyst Initiative began quietly recruiting presidents more than a year ago to provoke national debate about the U.S. drinking age, which is

among the highest in the world.

"This is a law that is routinely evaded," said John McCardell, former president of Middlebury College in Vermont who started the organization. "It is a law that the people at whom it is directed believe is unjust and unfair and discriminatory."

Other prominent schools in the group include Syracuse, Tufts, Colgate, Kenyon and Morehouse.

But even before the presidents begin the public phase of their efforts, which may include publishing newspaper ads in the coming weeks, they are already facing sharp criticism.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving says lowering the drinking age would lead to more fatal car crashes. It accuses the presidents of misrepresenting science and looking for an easy way out of an inconvenient problem. MADD officials are even urging parents to think carefully about the safety of colleges whose presidents have signed on.

"It's very clear the 21-year-old drinking age will not be enforced at those campuses," said Laura Dean-Mooney, national president of MADD.

Injuries, deaths from alcohol abuse. Both sides agree alcohol abuse by college students is a huge problem.

Research has found more than 40 percent of college students reported at least one symptom of alcohol abuse or dependence. One study has estimated more than 500,000 full-time students at four-year colleges suffer injuries each year related in some way to drinking, and about 1,700 die in such accidents.

A recent Associated Press analysis of federal records found that 157 college-age people, 18 to 23, drank themselves to death from 1999 through 2005.

Moana Jagasia, a Duke University sophomore from Singapore, where the drinking age is lower, said reducing the age in the U.S. could be helpful.

"There isn't that much difference in maturity between 21 and 18," she said. "If the age is younger, you're getting exposed to it at a younger age, and you don't freak out when you get to campus."

McCardell's group takes its name from ancient Greece, where the purple gemstone amethyst was widely believed to ward off drunkenness if used in drinking vessels and jewelry. He said college students will drink no matter what, but

*For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and
He ponders all his paths. His own iniquities entrap the
wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. He
shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his
folly he shall go astray.*
(Prov. 5:21-23)

do so more dangerously when it's illegal.

The statement the presidents have signed avoids calling explicitly for a younger drinking age. Rather, it seeks "an informed and dispassionate debate" over the issue and the federal highway law that made 21 the de facto national drinking age by denying money to any state that bucks the trend.

But the statement makes clear the signers think the current law isn't working, citing a "culture of dangerous, clandestine binge-drinking," and noting that while adults under 21 can vote and enlist in the military, they "are told they are not mature enough to have a beer." Furthermore, "by choosing to use fake IDs, students make ethical compromises that erode respect for the law."

Shifting burden to high schools

But some college administrators sharply disagree that lowering the drinking age would help. University of Miami President Donna Shalala, who served as secretary of health and human services under President Bill Clinton, declined to sign.

"I remember college campuses when we had 18-year-old drinking ages, and I honestly believe we've made some progress," Shalala said in a telephone interview. "To just shift it back down to the high schools makes no sense at all."

Another scholar who has extensively researched college binge-drinking also criticized the presidents' initiative.

"I understand why colleges are doing it, because it splits their students, and they like to treat them all alike rather than having to card some of them. It's a nuisance to them," said Henry Wechsler of the Harvard School of Public Health.

But, he added, "I wish these college presidents sat around and tried to work out ways to deal with the problem on their campus rather than try to eliminate the problem by defining it out of existence."

Selected

On-Going Prayer

It will be a great comfort to us if trouble, when it comes, finds the wheels of prayer a-going, for then we may come with the more boldness to the throne of grace. Tradesmen are willing to oblige those that have been long their customers.

Matthew Henry

Gone Under

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

—President Ronald Reagan

Even so there shall be joy in heaven over one sinner that repented. Luke 15:7

GOD loses human souls every day.

He Himself says that one single soul is worth more than the whole world.

This is hard for us to grasp. We do not look upon souls in that way, at least not unless they are very close to us—such as our children, our spouse, our parents, our brothers or sisters.

God, however, feels that way about every soul. To Him each one is worth more than the whole world. This means that nothing can compensate for the loss of a soul.

Hear this, you who have wandered away from God. He misses you.

As long as you are away, there is one missing from the flock. Therefore He seeks you. He tells us today how happy He will be when He finds you again. Indeed, He says all heaven will be glad. You have someone there waiting for you. No doubt you remember your father's last words to you. You will never forget your mother's tear-filled look before she closed her eyes in death.

You fathers and mothers whose children are out in the wilderness of sin, you who weep so often and sigh so deeply as you see the wildness of their ways: do not forget that Jesus is seeking them. He tells you today that He searches for His lost sheep *until He finds them*.

Friend of Jesus, do you help Jesus seek after the souls that have gone away from Him?

There are some souls that He will not find unless you come along and seek them.

Are you living your life in your home and doing your daily work with the purpose in mind of winning souls for Jesus?

God bless you! They who seek shall find.

Taken from '*God's Word for Today*', by O. Hallesby
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Satan's Attack on Our Minds

By Dr. Richard Jonas, Th.D.

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (II Cor. 4:4)

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (II Cor. 11:3)

Satan can and has corrupted minds of both unbelievers and believers since the creation of man. Though unbelievers are blind to the working of Satan on their minds, believers are called to be knowledgeable of Satan's thinking and tactics. *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices"* (II Cor. 2:11)

In his continuing quest to dethrone God and Christ, Satan wishes man to think and act as he does (rather than as God wants one to think and act).

The essence of Satan's fall was his pride, his self-centeredness and self-ambition, and this is the driving force behind every sin of mankind, inspired by Satan upon man's fallen nature. *"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he (the young, inexperienced pastor) fall into the condemnation of the devil".* (I Tim. 3:6, c.f. Isa. 14:13, 14; Ezek. 28:17).

*"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, **proud**, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, "Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, "Traitors, heady, **highminded**, lovers of pleasures more than loves of God."* (II Tim. 3:2-4)

*"Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness malice; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, **proud**, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful."* (Rom. 1:29-31)

Peter and Ananias are vivid New Testament examples of Satan's appeal through the mind of believers to self-centeredness.

*"But he turned, and said unto Peter, 'Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou **savourest** (mind with one's affections) not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.' "* (Matt. 16:23)

*"But Peter said, 'Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine **heart** (this includes the mind, as well as one's will and affections) to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the*

price of the land?'" (Acts 5:3)

Satan stirred Peter's pride and misfocused his mind on the prominent place Christ was giving him of promoting the kingdom of God during this dispensation (Matt. 16:15-20) and led him to oppose the Son of God in his plans to pay the price for entrance into that kingdom (Matt. 16:21, 22).

Satan stirred Ananias' pride and misfocused his mind away from a selfless promotion of the cause of Christ (Acts 4:34-37) to self-centered desire for both monetary profit and public recognition (Acts 5:1,2).

This satanic self-centeredness, or self-love, that opposes every commandment of God, is countereacted by Christ's summary of the divine commandments – loving God with all one's being, as well as loving one's neighbor as oneself, which includes proper focus of the mind.

*"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and **with all thy mind**. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* (Matt. 22:37-39)

The solution to counteract Satan's battle for the mind is a transformation of the mind through regeneration and putting on the love and humble mind of Christ as taught by the Scriptures.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5)

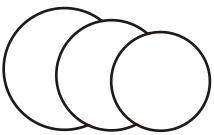
"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:22-24).

Taken from "The Sword of the Lord"

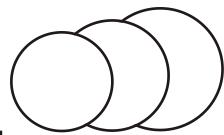
Alive!

"Soon you will read in the newspaper that I am dead. Don't believe it for a moment. I will be more alive than ever before."

D.L. Moody



from our Fellowship Circle



D. B.

Fairbanks, Alaska
Thank you for the Morning Glory and keep up the good work. We have had the Morning Glory for many years and when I am through reading it I give it to my daughters and they love reading the newsletter also. God Bless the work you have done.

M. L.

Story City, IA

Enclosed is a gift of \$..... in memory of my sister Phyllis J. Johnson of Story City, Iowa, who died on August 25, 2008 from a year-long struggle due to a malignant tumor on the brain.

Also I appreciated your prompt reply earlier in the year to my question regarding ...Currently in the pulpit in the ELCA. Many parishioners where I have my church membership had their eyes opened to what is transpiring in the ELCA and which goes against the Bible.

Editor's Note: Keep passing on and out Bible based material (under girded in believing prayer; as together we sow the In corruptible SEED). Ecc. 11:1

Hardy, IA

Enclosed is a \$..... check given in memory of Marion Birkland and also a check in the amount of \$... by Mr. & Mrs.

R. & A. C.

Coon Rapids, MN

Sorry, I misplaced your offering envelope.

Thanks for your work on behalf of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

B. & A. H.

Snohomish, WA

Again, your magazine is great Thanks for telling us like it is. Our donation is enclosed.

E. W.

Story City, IA

Thanks for the messages in Morning Glory. They are so encouraging.

L.

Beme, IN

Please continue my subscription and also add the following couple to the mailing list. Thank you.

M. H.

Radcliffe, IA

Find enclosed a gift to the Morning Glory. Keep the Gospel coming.

Please send the Morning Glory to ... She was very inter-

ested in the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation movement and I promised her I would send in her name.

M. L.

Clear Lake, IA

Since I didn't order this publication, I would appreciate your removing my name from your subscription list. Thank you.

Mrs. ...G.

Fergus Falls, MN

Please cancel this subscription.

N.K.

Milwaukee, WI

Thank you for sending the Dec. 07 issue of the Morning Glory received today. ...And thank you for [the] article "The Valley of Slaughter," excellent. Today's church and religious 'music' is sick noise indeed. True music is vertical, not horizontal. Please send the Sept. 07 and Nov. 07 issues and any other issues on rock 'music' appreciated. Thank You.

Editor's Note: Back issues of the *Morning Glory* are available free of charge. Simply use the envelope in the center to order. You can also contact us through our website: haugeinnermission.com

George Müller on Prayer

George Müller of Bristol became a legend in his own generation. He was the builder of schools, a supporter of missions, and a father to some 10,000 orphans.

The amazing issue of his life does not lie in what he did, but in how he accomplished it. He operated by faith – relying solely on God to meet all of his needs and those of the ministry he founded. He refused to accept any donations from unbelievers, and when he started his Scriptural Knowledge Institution (SKI) to accomplish these tasks, he and his partner possessed no more than one shilling – or twelve pence – together.

He refused to tell anyone of his needs, mentioning them only to God, in private, on his knees. In stark contrast to many "faith ministries" of today, all of this was accomplished without fund-raising appeals, emotion-driven crusades, or modern technology.

George Müller's testimony is a pure example of God's grace through "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availing much." (James 5:16)

Editorial

RES *Eternally Grateful!*

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable (unspeakable) gift! (II Corinthians 9:15)

Way too often we take ‘blessings’ for granted; until for whatever reason they are taken away – then missed! Thanksgiving or gratitude is the memory of the heart! Isn’t it true that we have gotten so used to the Cross that we’ve become numb to the horrors thereof? The Roman populace thought of crucifixion as a cruel, inexorable, horrible punishment. The Roman leaders agreed that the ‘cross’ should never come near the person of a Roman, nor enter even his thoughts or eyes or ears; it was contemptible and to be used only on slaves and foreigners.

The Jews despised the ‘cross’ as well. God shares, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*”(Galatians 3:13).

Even though the Jews hated the cross, many of them hated JESUS even more, as they cried out, “Let Him be crucified!” Matthew 27:22-23. YES, JESUS is to each of us either a stumbling block of offense OR a haven of Refuge! The Apostle Paul declared “*God forbid that I should boast except in the ‘cross’ of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Galatians 6:14). We all glory or boast in something! Is it the flowers you grow, the car in your driveway, the old trophies, your bank account, style of clothes you have or your track record OR even your shame? We ALL glory in something! Maybe you ‘glory’ in your nationality, education, position, abilities, or intelligence; But Scripture states “*And what do you have that you did not receive?*” (1 Corinthians 4:7).

It is the CROSS that reveals the fact that our goodness is not good enough! The very best we can produce before a thrice Holy God appears before Him as ‘filthy rages’. Isaiah 64:6. “*For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before Me, says the Lord GOD.*” (Jeremiah 2:22).

There is no true SALVATION for a godly, repentant sinner than at the CROSS: here such a ‘sinner’ NEVER graduates from on this side of eternity! Singularly, what does a person like you or me NEED from a ‘thrice Holy God’ the most? “*Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool*” (Isaiah 1:18).

Not far from New York City there’s a small cemetery wherein may be found a most unusual grave and headstone. There is no name on that headstone; there is no date of birth nor date of death; there is no epitaph, no fulsome eulogy; there is no embellishment of the sculptor’s art. There is in fact but one word, one single solitary word, one all-encompassing word of three short syllables – the word FORGIVEN!

But that is the most important word that can be recorded about any human being (sinner) who has ever walked upon the face of this earth.

An individual had journeyed several hundred miles beyond civilization, into the far northern reaches of Canada. What misfortunes had befallen him we are not told, but his journey had come to its end. He was found seated in a small hut that he had built and in his skeleton hand was a letter he had been writing to

his mother when death overtook him. He wrote there was only one thought, one all-engrossing thought, that filled his mind night and day: Would God forgive his SINS?

The CROSS provides the all - sufficient answer to this vital question.

The Apostles’ Creed declares, “I believe in the forgiveness of sins.” The great glory of the Christian faith is its affirmation of the forgiveness of sins and this is not because the sinner is worthy or merits the same; BUT the amazing mercy and GRACE of God proclaims ‘forgiveness’ BECAUSE of His Name Sake! Isaiah 43:25, 44:21-22. What a MARVEL! May we never loose the wonder and marvel of it all – May WE never tire of THE BLOOD SPRINKLED WAY WHICH LEADS HOME! “There is pow’r, pow’r, wonder-working pow’r in the precious blood of the Lamb”. “There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Immanuel’s veins, And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.” “As we are obligated to be sorry for our particular sins, so was He grieved for the sins of us all.” — Matthew Henry. “Consider for a moment the characteristics of God’s forgiveness: God forgives fully and completely. He says, “*For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*” (Jeremiah 31:34b). “*So great is his mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us*” (Psalm 103:11b-12). What a marvelous, merciful, ALMIGHTY, ALL-KNOWING, SOVEREIGN, THRICE HOLY GOD! “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:9). Do you know Jesus Christ as your very own personal Savior? IF so, you are to use this ‘bar of soap’ continually! Not that we are to sin intentionally. Some folk presume on the grace of God. They think, If I sin, God will forgive me. After all, He’s in the forgiveness business. So I may as well sin.” Thus using GRACE as a “pillow” to Sin Upon; but that shows they do not understand God’s Grace, or the cost of that GRACE.

Repentance is part of a Christian’s life, as we all sin; but contrast a pig and a lamb. When a pig falls in the mud, he likely stays there. When a lamb falls in the mud, he wants to get clean. When a truly regenerate person sins he confesses his sin and thus seeks forgiveness – because of the CROSS of JESUS CHRIST.

The word ‘indescribable or unspeakable’ does not mean that we are not to ‘speak’ about our SALVATION (Gift); but that ‘words’ are inadequate to explain the richness and depth of the same – but we are to speak about it : LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO!

“Let us go to Calvary to learn how we may be forgiven. And let us linger there to learn how we may forgive.” — Charles Spurgeon.

HEAVEN will consist of sinners from the whole human race who have individually and personally been forgiven by Almighty God who is worthy of our eternal gratitude and praise!!

REPENTANCE

"As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live." (Ezekiel 33:11)

When the city of Nineveh was threatened, God changed his course of dealing with the inhabitants when they fell at his feet in repentance and in prayer for mercy. A comparison of God's warning to Nineveh is that of his warning to a sinner with the admonition that he humble himself in repentance. When the sinner comes to repentance God stands ready to pardon.

The sorcerer Simon who "was in the bond of iniquity" was given opportunity to hear the Apostle Philip proclaim the way of truth in Christ. The result: "*Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip*" (Acts 8:13) The door of grace was standing ajar for him.

Such examples show how God desires that the sinner repent and seek his grace. It is impossible to have sinned so grievously that the blood of Christ could not counter-balance and cleanse away a person's sin. Then all can be well again.

"We've a message to give to the nations,
That the Lord who reigneth above
Hath sent us his Son to save us,
And show us that God is love."

(Colin Sterne)

PRAYER: How great is Your grace, O Lord, that no sin can overbalance the weight of Christ's atonement through Calvary. Make my life what it ought to be in responsive living, recognizing such love and mercy offered freely. Amen.

Taken from "*Rosenius Daily Meditations*"
by Carl O. Rosenius
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

WATER OF LIFE

Imagine you are on a sinking ship in the middle of the ocean, and only have time to take one thing with you — would you take food or water? I hope you chose water, because the average person can survive for *several weeks* without food, but only a few days without fresh water. Water is essential for life; we drink it, wash in it, and use it to grow our food.

It is therefore most fitting that water should also be the symbol of man's greatest spiritual need. The Creator of physical water uses it thus in offering "living water" to needy, dried up, thirsty souls. The dry, cracked ground and the withering corn ... portray the dried up hearts and lives of

every man and woman, boy and girl in this world without Christ. Their lives may be filled with business, pleasure, sports, friends, hobbies, lusts, and folly, but without God there is spiritual drought, barrenness, and death.

Scientists say that we often mistake our body's thirst for water as a need for food, and thus eat rather than drink. Sadly, many people also mistake their soul's desire for God's "living water" as a need for more of what this world can offer, and end up in a hopeless pursuit to quench their spiritual thirst with things that can never satisfy. Absolutely nothing in this world, including religion with all of its ceremonies, ritualism, and empty forms, can quench the soul's thirst — it can be satisfied by *God alone*. It is a solemn fact that one who refuses God's offer of life and satisfaction will spend eternity in hell, "*the fire that never shall be quenched,*" saying "*dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame*" (Mark 9:45, Luke 16:24).

Listen to what He offers you now: "*I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely;*" and "*Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely*" (Revelation 21:6,; 22:17). God is telling you this in the tenderness of infinite love. He desires you to realize your vital need and turn to Him to receive the "water of life" in order that you will not perish. The personal knowledge of God, as revealed in His eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is what you need.

As Jesus told the Samaritan woman in John 4, so He says to you, "*Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life*" (verse 14).

This water is *free*. It quenches our soul's thirst, it cleanses us from sin, it feeds us spiritually, it gives *everlasting life!* Thank God, it can never be infected, muddied nor polluted. *The danger for you, however, is not to avail yourself of it in time before Christ comes again, or death overtakes you.*

One who drinks from a spring of water must first notice his thirst, then stoop down and drink. Likewise, you must realize your need of forgiveness of your sins, come to Christ in repentance, and drink in faith the "living water" which He freely offers you. Drinking is taking the offered salvation and making it yours by believing that Christ died for you and rose again, and trusting Him as your Saviour.

Stop trying to quench your soul's thirst with things that can never satisfy. Drink the "water of life" that Jesus offers to you. Then, instead of being like cracked, barren ground, you will be as well-watered ground, having eternal life and satisfaction, and bringing forth fruits of righteousness for the glory of God.

D.T.J.
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Bush declares U.S. Solidarity with Israel

Below are excerpts from U.S. President George W. Bush's speech to the Israeli Knesset in May to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary. Speaking of God's promise to give the Jewish people the land, he praised Israel and pledges America's friendship.

Shalom! Laura and I are thrilled to be back in Israel. We have been deeply moved by the celebrations of the past two days. And this afternoon I am honored to stand before one of the world's great democratic assemblies and convey the wishes of the American people.

We gather to mark a momentous occasion. Sixty years ago in Tel Aviv, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed Israel's independence, founded on the "natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate." What followed was more than the establishment of a new country. It was the redemption of an ancient promise given to Abraham, Moses, and David – a homeland for the chosen people of Eretz Yisrael. [The Land of Israel]

Eleven minutes later, on orders of President Harry Truman, the United States was proud to be the first nation to recognize Israel's independence. And on this landmark anniversary, America is proud to be Israel's closest ally and best friend in the world.

The alliance between our governments is unbreakable, yet the source of our friendship runs deeper than any treaty. It is grounded in the spirit of our people, the bonds of the Book, the ties of the soul. When William Bradford stepped off the Mayflower in 1620, he quoted the words of Jeremiah: "Come let us declare in Zion the word of God" The founders of my country saw a new promised land and bestowed upon their towns names like Bethlehem and New Canaan. And in time, many Americans became passionate advocates for a Jewish state. ...

We believe that religious liberty is fundamental to a civilized society. So we condemn anti-Semitism in all forms – whether by those who openly question Israel's right to exist, or by others who quietly excuse them.

We believe that free people should strive and sacrifice for peace. So we applaud the courageous choices Israel's leaders have made. We also believe that nations have a right to defend themselves and that no nation should ever be forced to negotiate with killers pledged to its destruction. ...against terror and extremism is the defining challenge of our time. It is more than a clash of arms. It is a clash of visions, a great ideological struggle. On the one side are those who defend the ideals of justice and dignity with the power of reason and truth. On the other side are those who pursue a narrow vision of cruelty and control by committing murder, inciting fear, and spreading lies.

This struggle is waged with the technology of the 21st century, but at its core it is an ancient battle between good and evil. The killers claim the mantle of Islam, but they are not religious men. No one who prays to the God of Abraham could strap a suicide vest to an innocent child, or blow up guiltless guests at a Passover Seder, or fly planes into office buildings filled with unsuspecting workers. In truth, the men who carry out these savage acts serve no higher goal than their own desire for power. They accept no God before themselves. And they reserve a special hatred for the most ardent defenders of liberty, including Americans and Israelis.

And that is why the founding charter of Hamas calls for the "elimination" of Israel. And that is why the followers of Hezbollah chant "Death to Israel, Death to America!" That is why Osama bin Laden teaches that "the killing of Jews and Americans is one of the biggest duties." And that is why the President of Iran dreams of returning the Middle East to the Middle Ages and calls for Israel to be wiped off the map. ...Some seem to believe that we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along. We have heard this foolish delusion before. As Nazi tanks crossed into Poland in 1939, an American senator declared: "Lord, if I could only have talked to Hitler, all this might have been avoided." We have an obligation to call this what it is—the false comfort of appeasement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history.

Some people suggest if the United States would just break ties with Israel, all our problems in the Middle East would go away. This is a tired argument that buys into the propaganda of the enemies of peace, and America utterly rejects it. Israel's population may be just over 7 million. But when you confront terror and evil, you are 307 million strong, because the United States of America stands with you. ...

Over the past six decades, the Jewish people have ...raised a modern society in the Promised Land, a light unto the nations that preserves the legacy of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. And you have built a mighty democracy that will endure forever and can always count on the United States of America to be at your side. God bless. ☘

Taken from "Israel My Glory," July/August 2008

Editor's Note: God has promised He will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel! Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

It is estimated that there are 10,000 born again "Jews" in Israel!

Preaching the Whole Counsel of God

“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27)

When Bill Hybels was starting what is today referred to as the “seeker-sensitive” church, he polled the community for the reasons they weren’t coming to church. One of the reasons given was, “I don’t like to be preached down to.”¹ This has led to preaching that is positive, happy, and tells about all the good things that God has in store for you. It is not wrong to talk about these things, but it is not the whole message from Scripture. People who listen to this are only being given one side of the coin and do not have a balanced view of God. They are not being told the whole counsel of God. This emphasis is great for drawing a crowd, but not for making true converts and disciples.

The other side of the coin is a God of absolute holiness and justice, and will avenge Himself against all who offend His righteous standards. It is to tell people of what God will do TO you, in addition to telling what He will do FOR you. One graphic example is listed in the Book of Hosea, 13:7-8, “*So I will be like a lion to them; Like a leopard I will wait by the wayside. I will encounter them like a bear robbed of her cubs, And I will tear open their chests; There I will also devour them like a lioness, as a wild beast would tear them.*” This hardly represents God as a kind, loving shepherd who tenderly cares for precious, feeble sheep. Rather it depicts Him as a vicious, devouring, wild animal who spares no one when offended. This is precisely the aspect of God that is lacking today.”

When we realize the fierceness of God’s Wrath against the sin of mankind, then preaching the whole counsel of God also tells people of the Fear of the Lord, not just the Love of God. “*The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true, they are righteous altogether. ...Moreover, by them your servant is warned; and in keeping them there is great reward.*” (Ps. 19:9, 11) Part of the fear of the Lord is that you are afraid of what God will do to you if you disobey His commands, therefore you refrain from doing evil. Christians who only focus on the love of God will have a warped concept of who God really is and what He does.

To not preach the whole counsel of God is to not convert people. True salvation only comes to those who are convicted of their sin and broken over it, as the Scriptures say, “*The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.*” (Ps. 34:18) People must first experience conviction of sin, contrition of heart, and realize that they are lost and under the wrath of God; THEN will they repent and turn to Jesus in a true conver-

sion. You can get people to “ask Jesus into their hearts” by telling them how much God loves them, but they will not repent and turn FROM sin and then turn TO God as Lord of their lives. I believe this is precisely what is happening in most of Evangelism today.

Consider the following examples from preachers in the Scriptures when they dealt with people:

JOHN THE BAPTIST told the people of the day, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” (Matt. 3:2) To those who would not repent and still wanted forgiveness of sins, this was his reply, “*You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*” (v. 7) He went on to warn them what Jesus would do to them, “*And His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*” (v. 12)

STEPHEN told the unconverted Jews of His day, “*You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you have become betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.*” (Acts 7:51-53)

PAUL reasoned with Felix the governor, and he didn’t say, “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!” Rather, “*he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come.*” (Acts 24:25) When Felix heard it, “*He trembled.*” Paul knew that this man needed to come under conviction if sin.

All of the above preachers were martyred to death for what they preached!

It is as the people said to the prophets in Isaiah’s day, “*Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.*” (Isa. 30:10) In spite of this, the true servant of God will still proclaim the whole counsel of God, both Law and Gospel, Sin and Grace, and Fear and Love to God. Luther maintained the proper balance in understanding the whole counsel of God. In his explanation of the Ten Commandments, each one starts with these words, “We should fear and love God ...”

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

1 wikipedia.org/wiki/bill_hybels

PRAYER GRASPS ETERNITY

Excerpt from *Why Revival Tarries*

No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. The pulpit can be a shop window to display one's talents; the prayer closet allows no showing off.

Poverty-stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray'ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.

The two prerequisites to successful Christian living are vision and passion, both of which are born in and maintained by prayer. The ministry of preaching is open to few; the ministry of prayer — the highest ministry of all human offices — is open to all. Spiritual adolescents say, "I'll not go tonight, it's only the prayer meeting:" It may be that Satan has little cause to fear most preaching. Yet past experiences sting him to rally all his infernal army to fight against God's people praying. ...God is not prodigal with His power; but to be much for God, we must be much with God.

This world hits the trail for hell with a speed that makes our fastest plane look like a tortoise; yet alas, few of us can remember the last time we missed our bed for a night waiting upon God for a world-shaking revival. Our compassions are not moved. We mistake the scaffolding for the building. Present-day preaching, with its pale interpretation of divine truths, causes us to mistake action for unction, commotion for creation, and rattles for revivals.

The secret of praying is praying in secret. A sinning man will stop praying, and a praying man will stop sinning. We are beggared and bankrupt, but not broken, nor even bent.

Prayer is profoundly simple and simply profound, "Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try," and yet so sublime that it outranges all speech and exhausts man's vocabulary. A Niagara of burning words does not mean that God is either impressed or moved. One of the most profound of Old Testament intercessors had no language — "Her lips moved, but her voice was not heard." [1 Sam. 1:13] No linguist here! There are "groanings which cannot be uttered."

Are we so sub-standard to New Testament Christianity that we know not the historical faith of our fathers (with its

implications and operations), but only the hysterical faith of our fellows? Prayer is to the believer what capital is to the business man. Can any deny that in the modern church setup the main cause of anxiety is money? Yet that which tries the modern churches the most, troubled the New Testament Church the least. Our accent is on paying, theirs was on praying. When we have paid, the place is taken; when they had prayed, the place was shaken!

In the matter of New Testament, Spirit-inspired, hell-shaking, world-breaking prayer, never has so much been left by so many to so few. For this kind of prayer there is no substitute. We do it — or die!

Leonard Ravenhill

UpDate

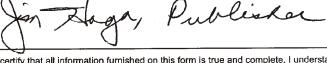
As the return of our Lord becomes nearer, the need is urgent that we seek to reach the lost, and nourish and strengthen fellow believers AS JESUS is not willing that ANY should perish! It is our privilege and responsibility to ensure that we do OUR part to reach precious souls that God wants US to reach! It may be that we have to set aside the pleasures of this world, IF that is what is required, to follow the command of Jesus that says to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Having the pleasures of this world for a time is very little in comparison to accomplishing what God's will is for us.

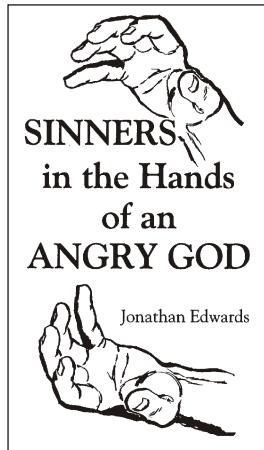
How we need 'prayer support'. Please pray also about what God would have you DO concerning your participation. Remember, God uses individuals to do His work with Thanksgiving AS God loves a cheerful Giver! THANKSGIVING RESULTS IN THANKSLIVING!

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