



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2017

The Age of Rationalism

"THE PATH OF THE DESTROYER"

The account of this horrible age when the church of God sank down to the very lowest level since the dark Middle Ages, is an age, when not only the world but the so-called Christian church allied itself with hell.

The cry of "ratio" or reason as the great guiding line now went up from all over. This new age, an age of reason; a new theology, a theology of reason; a new interpretation of the Bible, human reason, the interpreter; a new God, reason.

We shall mention as briefly as possible a few of those who in each of the main countries followed the path of the destroyer and drew many after them. They proved that the carnal mind and the carnal reason is enmity against God.

IN England and Scotland, David Hume, (1711 – 76), an intellectual giant, speculated and reasoned himself far away from the living God. He wrote a book that is still popular among modernists, named "Natural Religion" with human reason as its guiding principle. He rejected the miracles of the Bible. He went further and further in the path of destruction till he ended up practically as a miserable atheist "without God and without hope." On his death-bed as he was sinking down into eternal night he trembled so much that the woman who took care of him declared: "***I hope to God I shall never witness such an awful death-bed scene.***" **GOD IS NOT MOCKED!**

Thomas Paine (1737 – 1808) spewed his poison out over three countries, England, France and the United States. Since he helped the movement for American independence, he is considered a great man by many

United States historians. But his infidel writings, especially his "Age of Reason," has led and is still leading many people to hell. He also lived a most miserable immoral life especially toward the end. "Dying Testimonies" says about his death-bed: "His cries when left alone were heart-rending. He would scream as if in terror and agony. "***It is hell to be alone,***" he said. Then again he would call Christianity a tissue of lies and Jesus Christ an imposter. The final words he uttered as he was sinking down into eternal darkness were: "***My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?***"

VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS

During this dreadful period of Rationalism... God had some watchmen here and there who cried out in the dreadful darkness, "***Watchman, what of the night?***" Is. 21:11.

To be sure, the rationalistic preachers and teachers had no use for foreign mission. Tolerance was one their watchwords, but they were most intolerant when it came to revival and spiritual life and lay activity.

England and the United States got out of this horrible period the easiest, for God sent them Wesley and Whitefield and many other wonderful men of God, so we had gracious revivals that kept the devil at bay. This wonderful revival in England over-flowed into the new daughter nation in America where we had that blessed man of God, Jonathan Edwards. Then, too, Whitefield made his even trips and died here among us and waves of spiritual life kept rolling... So the devil, rationalism and modernism, though strong, was largely kept at bay in the English speaking countries.

But in France, Germany and Scandinavia the devil

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practically had his own way, in the theological seminary, in the church and in the pulpit as well as in the pew. Still even in these countries we had some protesting voices, a few true watchmen on the walls of Zion who cried out into the night.

"In speaking straight out, I dare say that Christianity has never fallen so low as it is now. The walls of Zion have never been in so ruined a condition as they are today. The kingdom of Satan has never been so flourishing as it is now. True conversions have never been so few; faith and love have never been so hard to find; God and His Word have never been so mocked and sneered at, and the preaching of the true Gospel has never been so hard as in this century."

This, no doubt, is a true description. It might even fit our condition in ...

Excerpts taken from
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Federation.

Keep Smiling!

I have a friend who ends his phone calls with the advice and encouragement to "keep smiling." Isn't it interesting that every time he says it, I smile?

Selected

Thou Art My Strength

**"Pull me out of the net that they have laid
privily for me; for Thou art my strength"**

Psalm 31:4

OUR spiritual foes are of the serpent's brood, and seek to ensnare us by subtlety. The prayer before us supposes the possibility of the believer being caught like a bird. So deftly does the fowler do his work, that simple ones are soon surrounded by the net. The text asks that even out of Satan's meshes the captive one may be delivered; this is a proper petition, and one which can be granted: from between the jaws of the lion, and out of the belly of hell, can eternal love rescue the saint. It may need a sharp **pull** to save a soul from the net of temptations, and a mighty pull to extricate a man from the snares of malicious cunning, but the Lord is equal to every emergency, and the most skillfully placed nets of the hunter shall never be able to hold His chosen ones. Woe unto those who are so clever at net laying; they who tempt others shall be destroyed themselves.

"For Thou art my strength." What an inexpressible sweetness is to be found in these few words! How joyfully may we encounter toils, and how cheerfully may we endure sufferings, when we can lay hold upon celestial strength. Divine power will rend asunder all the toils of our enemies, confound their politics, and frustrate their knavish tricks; he is a happy man who has such matchless might engaged upon his side. Our own strength would be of little service when embarrassed in the nets of base cunning, but the Lord's strength is ever available; we have but to invoke it, and we shall find it near at hand. If by faith we are depending alone upon the strength of the mighty God of Israel, we may use our holy reliance as a plea in supplication.

*"Lord, evermore Thy face we seek:
Tempted we are, and poor, and weak;
Keep us with lowly hearts, and meek.
Let us not fall. Let us not fall."*

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

Editor's Note: "Therefore let him who thinks he stand take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:12-13) See also Rev. 12:7-12.

Lutheran Prayer Circle of Joliet, IL.

(Information by Mrs. Ole Erickson – Many years ago!)

These friends are few, yet they have not denied His name and they have kept His Word. Old Lydia in Acts 16 was one of the leaders of a prayer circle that the world paid no attention to – out by the riverside.

The present Prayer Circle in Joliet was started about 1925. The members were 5 or 6 to begin with:... When they come together they pray and sing God's praises and give of their means to God's work. In 1940 they sent \$31 to the evangelistic work of the Hauge Federation.

The friends have experienced that God has been true to His promises that, where there are two or three gathered in His name, there He is in the midst of them. God grant them special grace to carry on, like the widow who came again and again to the unjust judge. She obtained her rights at last. Shall God answer the prayers of His children who cry to Him day and night?—But when He returns, shall faith be found on earth?—May—God encourage ... But we certainly need the help of Aaron and Hur to hold our hands up in these last dark days. It would be wonderful if Jesus, when He returns, should find us at a prayer meeting.

Selected

* * * * *

Slumbering Potential

While rummaging through some seemingly worthless things in his attic, an Englishman found a small blue and white porcelain vase. Reckoning it of little worth, he put it in a box in the trunk of his car.

When the vase was sold at an auction, it brought the fantastic sum of \$324,000. It was a perfect specimen of the fifteenth-century Ming dynasty of China.

Great potential often slumbers in the souls of seemingly worthless ones until

**Touched by a loving heart,
Wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken
Will vibrate once more!**

Fanny J. Crosby

Playboy founder Hugh Hefner died on September 27, 2017. He stated that he wanted to leave a legacy of unbridled sexuality upon society. I wonder what he thinks of his legacy now?

Henry (Henrik) Oftedahl

By Peder Fostervold

As old brother Oftedahl is at this writing 92, and Peder Fostervold has left quite a biography, I shall pick out a little from it:

Henry Oftedahl was born in Bakke parish near Flekkefjord, July 2, 1849, and was converted to God about 1875. He found assurance a little later as he read in a devotional book:

"When you surrender in a child-like way to Jesus, He will carry you through all struggles." This set him free. Henry's father had been a Christian teacher who had held meetings in the houses. Now Henry was led by the Spirit to follow in the same steps. He came to America in 1886.

Oftedahl continued to bear witness in this country. Many came to the meetings in the earlier days, and sinners, not a few, have been converted through the testimonies of Henry Oftedahl. He has been a strong factor in all independent laymen's work.

Oftedahl and the friends built a large chapel or prayer house in Viroqua some years ago. This undertaking has been much criticized. Brother Oftedahl is now too old to take any active part. May the brethren not grow tired in well-doing over there. The chief of all good works is to lead sinners to Jesus and to keep the holy flame alive in God's people.

Peder Fostervold has left a brief record of a meeting in Viroqua dated November 28, 1939, where he writes:

"Even Marking led and encouraged the friends to start the work up again. Peder Fostervold encouraged the brethren to continue. So did G. Vikemyr, Joseph Erickson, Jacob Sovde, Tom Ostrem, Theo. Hanson, and P. Eitland. They decided to start the meetings and the work up again."

This is now a voice from the grave, a voice from eternity, to encourage the brethren around ... to toil on to keep on doing the works of the Master, for the night is coming when no man can work.

The Hauge Movement in America, Published by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 1941

Personal Editor's Note: This was my great grandfather, a person I do not recall ever meeting in person, as I was a very, very young child when he went HOME to be eternally with JESUS! Thank God for such God-fearing men and women. There are NO grandchildren, or great grandchildren in the FAMILY OF GOD, only sons and daughters! There is only One door of entrance IN TO THE Blessed Little Flock that Jesus Calls His Own. Which side of this door are YOU on? John 10:1-10.

The Legacy of the Pilgrims

Dearly beloved, I implore you as aliens and refugees, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. 1 Peter 2:11.

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday. Its origins go back to the Pilgrims, who first gathered secretly in 1606 in Scrooby, England, when it was forbidden to read the Bible in public. When they formed their secret church, they made a covenant with each other. Fourteen years later, in 1620, that spiritual covenant was echoed in in a political covenant, the Mayflower Compact.

Historians agree that the Mayflower Compact served as the cornerstone of our Constitution. This charter for self-government was essentially the first compact between people and God to form a nation in three thousand years, since the Israelites demanded a king! In the Mayflower Compact, the Pilgrims declared their purpose:"... having undertaken a voyage for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith..."

During their first years in America, the Pilgrims struggled to survive, in great part because of their communistic (Ed. 'Socialism'???) economy. About half of them died; the rest neared starvation. Later, as the Pilgrims turned to a system of free enterprise, God blessed them with a tremendous bounty. On the thanksgiving days in their bountiful times, the Pilgrims put five grains of corn on their plates to remind them of the time five kernels of corn was each person's daily ration. But in both good times and in bad, the Pilgrims celebrated days of thanksgiving.

Let us, too, give thanks to the Lord, in good times and in bad, for He is good.

"By the time harvest was come, and instead of famine, now God gave them plenty and ye face of things was changed to ye rejoicing of ye harts of many, for which they blessed God, so as any general want or famine hath not been amongst them since to this day."

General William Bradford

New Every Morning, by D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, © 2016 D. James Kennedy Ministries.

Editorial

RES

Tailor Made!

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (methods) of the devil....”

(Ephesians 6:10-20)

Every true child of God knows that we have a **three-fold enemy** in this earthly-journey until faith becomes sight in that Eternal City whose Maker and Founder is GOD! Not one of these three-fold enemies ever give up until you take your last breath of oxygen. BUT the ‘arch-enemy’ is Satan who is a very wise schemer in fighting the ‘battle’ and specializes in his greatest ambition at our weakest point(s) in life here on earth. He is the ‘master of deception’ and comes in sheep’s clothing, an angel of light and as a roaring lion. This Spiritual BATTLE is very serious. No one can fight this battle for you; except the Holy Spirit who dwells within you as a child of God.

THUS GOD makes each ‘armour’ tailor made. As an example from God’s Eternal Word, the Shepherd boy, David, likely as a teenager, was willing to battle the giant Goliath. King Saul, well intended, wanted this shepherd boy to wear his armour (that was the best king Saul could offer) in this personal battle against the enemy. But David found that it didn’t FIT him personally.

As already mentioned, this battle is very serious as God’s Word informs us that we must count Satan as a real person (reality), who burns in anger because he lost the battle against Christ and who will stop at nothing in order to destroy the child of God. He is the father of lies and uses all possible means to cause God’s people to fall. As an angel of light and a wolf in sheep-skin, he performs the two fold deception found in II Timothy 3:10-17. (See also Matthew 24:4-14, 24).

There may be a few readers of the Morning Glory who think that Satan is an idea that simple-minded Christians have conceived, but you just choose Christ and the Cross and daily take up your cross and follow JESUS and you will learn that Satan is very real.

NO one who is dressed in his or her own righteousness be can victorious over Satan, the world or his own righteousness.

ACTUALLY, in this given text, the “battle” is so intense that it is likely hand-to-hand military-style with the bayonets sharp enough to shave with. The out-

come will either be Eternal Life or eternal death. Spiritual courage and strength are very necessary for our spiritual warfare. We have no sufficient strength of our own. *All our sufficiency is of God.*

Thus this ‘Tailor-made’ armor is provided by God; but WE must put it on!

Let us take a closer look – piece by piece – at the perfect ‘Tailor-made’ whole armor provided by GOD .

1. “Waist with truth” TRUTH is our girdle. This is the strength of our loins and it girds all other pieces of the ‘armor’.

2. “Put on the breastplate of righteousness” The righteousness of Christ transplanted in our heart is the breast-plate to fortify the heart against the attacks of Satan against us.

3. “Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” OH ‘feet shod’! This is not dialog with the enemy nor compromising with the enemy, but being a ‘mid-wife’ and bringing the lost sinner to peace with God! BLESSED ARE the peace-makers. Matthew 5:9.

4. “Above all, taking the shield of faith.” A Living faith is like a sort of universal defense:. The breast-plate secures the vitals.

5. “Helmet of salvation.” Salvation means deliverance and without this HOPE, you are among the most miserable people on earth! Nothing else really satisfies! This hope is not a chance, but a trust in what JESUS did – **THE BLOOD ATONEMENT!** Hebrews 13:8, 1 John 2:1-2 – which includes you and me personally!

6. “Sword of the Spirit... the Word of God”

IF you are at the front lines of the battle-field where God intends you and me to be; you sense that *seemingly* Satan knows his ‘time’ is now short before he will be thrown into the eternal abyss with his host of fallen/sinful angels. IF you are not at the ‘battle-front’, Martin Luther states you are like a ‘weather-vane’! Today it seems that Satan is working overtime!

We are to be sharing, in love, both the Law and the Gospel to sinner and saint! God’s WORD is like a

'bayonet' (Sword) with very sharp edges and powerful as it cuts both ways (brings conviction). As you apply it – The Word cuts within yourself and in others that you share it with. IT IS THE ONLY PIECE OF THE TAILOR-MADE ARMOR YOU NEED – it is to be used as the ONE and only offensive weapon you need. Onward Christian Soldiers! Battles are **won** on **OFFENSE!** Burn the 'bridges' behind you and move forward as there is NO *covering* for the back. There is no retreat! IF at some point in our lives we rely on ourselves, we will be defeated.

The Apostle Paul asks for prayer, not in order to share his message, but **God's Message!**

7. "Praying always" **Saturated** with **PRAYER** for yourself and for fellow Soldiers of the CROSS!

Most certainly please include us of the Morning Glory and the Hauge Lutheran Innenmisison Federation in specific Prayer – Thank you! The REASON is found in verses **18-20**.

PRAYER MUST BUCKLE ON ALL THE OTHER PARTS OF OUR CHRISTIAN ARMOR!

By the GRACE and Provision of God ALMIGHTY, we make No Apologies for the Old Time Christianity and seek to practice the same.

AS AMBASSADORS!

Satan our arch-enemy likes to harass, nag, drive, etc., which the Holy Spirit will use when He convicts of SIN and then points us to and draws us to the Crucified and Risen ONE – in whose **BLOOD** *a repentant sinner* receives the forgiveness of all their SIN. At the foot of Calvary we receive the steel breastplate that no dart of Satan can penetrate.

Likely when the Apostle Paul was close to the end of his earthly journey, he stated: "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*" II Timothy 4:7-8. This tells us that Paul was one of those who not only had to battle in faith, but also for his faith.

How wonderful it is to have a faith that sees land, has a rest and sees HOME and the Eternal day! A living faith can make one rejoice that he soon will be completely VICTORIOUS!

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD!

It will be worth it all!

*What a Day that will be, when My Jesus I shall see,
When I look upon His face the One
Who saved Me by His GRACE*

God Knows

God not only knows what is going on in your life right now, but He knew all about you even before you were born. In fact, He gave you life and put you on this earth. You are not here by accident; you are here by His design!

The same is true of every human being; every person on this earth (even those not yet born) is important in the eyes of God. Don't ever scorn someone because they are different from you, or ignore them when they suffer. God calls them valuable – so valuable that His Son gave life for them.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

Ultimately our lives are in God's hands; even the next breath you take is a gift from Him. If He were to withdraw His hand from you, your life would end – despite the most strenuous effort of your doctors.

What difference should this make? First, it should remind us of our dependence on God. All too often we assume that our lives and our futures are in our hands. But they aren't – they are in His hands.

But this should also remind us that each day is a gift from God – a gift to be used wisely, joyfully, and for His glory.

No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the day of his death.

Ecclesiastes 8:8.

Selected

Editor's Note: ACTUALLY the amount of our earthly journey is in the Palm of His Hand! Each one of us has the privilege, choice and *responsibility* of what we do with the gift of life – our own personal lives!

SERIOUSLY, each person is either living to please GOD or to please self. You and I (and each person) cannot do BOTH! Which of these are YOU seeking to please? OF course, we cannot work or earn our Salvation! Titus 3:5.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Atheists Angry That White House Staff Conduct Regular Bible Studies

Atheists are upset that President Trump's staff is having regular Bible studies in the White House...

Washingtonpost.com (August 3, 2017) reports that "for months secular organizations say they have unsuccessfully lobbied the president to make an effort to reach out to America's nonreligious community.

"Now, revelations of a weekly Bible study group in the Trump White House, regularly attended by high-ranking Cabinet members, has free thinkers up in arms. The Freedom From Religion Foundation is calling the Bible study group disturbing, scary and maybe even an illegal use of taxpayer funds..."

"Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and CIA Director Mike Pompeo are reportedly among the regulars at the White House group."

The atheists want President Trump to stop the religious meeting in order to "represent all American."...

"Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association, said the president has an 'obligation to represent all American.'"

Not all Americans are atheists! The president is a person too. His staff is made up of people. They have rights too. These atheists need to get a real life and quit trying to run ours. They certainly don't speak for us when they cry out for a world free from God.

RETURN AMERICA, Dr. Ron Baity.

California Voted to Go Easy on Criminals – This Is How Crime Is Doing

In 2014 the voters of California went to the polls and approved a proposition that would ease the overpopulation in jails and prisons by loosening law enforcement standards on crime. They were told this would have little effect on crime itself. That's not what happened.

Three years later, some local law enforcement officials are blaming Proposition 47 for a drastic increase in crime in California. According to KTTV-TV, arrests are down 30 percent since the new law, but violent crime is up an incredible 40 percent in Los Angeles...

Riverside police sergeant Sean Brown blamed the change in the law for the increase in crime.

Carlos Garcia, theblaze.com

Editor's Note: Here in the USA we adhere to the fact that people are "Innocent until proven guilty"! BUT notice what God's Eternal Word also states: "***Because the sentence against all evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.***" Ecclesiastes 8:11. As usual please prayerfully read Ezra 7:25-28.

** Senate Foreign Relations Committee began hearings (July 12, 2017) on S.474, known as the Taylor Force Act, which will defund the Palestinian Authority (PA) until they cease and denounce their "Pay to Slay" policy, which rewards terrorists and their families for acts against Israel and the United States. Liberty Counsel and Christians in Defense of Israel had been instrumental in encouraging legislators to hold this hearing.

Liberty Counsel

** A satanic monument is being installed on public property – a veterans' memorial park in Belle Plaine, Minnesota – for the first time in U.S. history... The Satanic Temple's monument – a black cube adorned with pentagrams and an upturned helmet is slated to go up in Veterans Memorial Park in Belle Plaine, Minnesota... The city is allowing the satanic monument after a religious freedom group threatened to sue in order to get a monument installed in the park – one that features a soldier on a knee appearing to be praying over a grave marked with a cross.

Dave Urbanski, (theblaze.com).

The most CRITICAL NEED of the church at the Moment is Men, bold Men, free Men. The church must seek, in Prayer and much humility, the coming again of Men Made of the stuff of which Prophets and Martyrs are made.

A. W. Tozer

Spiritual Drowsiness And Carnal Security

Continued from last issue of the Morning Glory

Here are a few illustrations: A God-fearing wife one morning said to her husband: "I never hear you speak of Jesus as you used to do in the early days of your conversion. Nor do you ever regret your shortcomings. Nor do you read the Bible. How is it with your soul? Do you never pray to God?" The husband's face flushed. He turned abruptly to his wife and said: "Please do not trouble yourself about my soul, my dear." He walked away, humming a frivolous song. Such is the way of carnal security. He repulsed his Christian wife's concern for his salvation, though he was slipping farther and farther away from God. He was fast joining the careless crowd of whom the apostle said: "*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*"

Here is another example: A young man, who had been away from his home community a long time, was awakened and became a sincere Christian. He returned to his home and talked with his brothers and sisters regarding their spiritual condition. He talked with his sister concerning the necessity of the new birth. He quoted the words of the Lord to Nicodemus; "*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God*" (John 3:3). He asked her: "Do you know in your heart that you have been born again?" She avoided a direct answer and sidetracked the question. An elder brother was very religious and generally regarded as a Christian man. When among Christian people, he was pious and unctuous. When among the worldly at social functions, he had a way of conforming smoothly with their ways and customs.

One day the younger brother said to the older, "Brother, I am afraid that you are leading many innocent souls astray. Among Christians you are regarded as a true believer, and among worldly people you are as worldly as any of them. I would advise you to give us the name of Christian, declare war on the believers, and conduct yourself consistently as a man of the world. Then you would deceive nobody, and nobody would be led astray by your duplicity. The Bible says, "*Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a Father to you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty*" (2 Corinthians 6:17-18). We also read: "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath*

Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-15). Again: "*Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever, therefore, will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*" (James 4:4).

The elder brother was somewhat offended, and said that he understood these Scripture passages in a different sense. He maintained that they referred only to the inner soul-life of a man. The younger brother now asked him if he had not by his double life encouraged the ungodly in their worldliness, while at the same time he had caused offense among all true Christians. Again there was the same evasion of the real issue, precisely as in the case of the sister. The religious elder brother repeated that he revered God's Word most highly, but placed a different construction upon the passages which the younger man had cited. "*There is no fear of God before their eyes,*" thought the young man, as he sadly walked away. His conclusion was, that the misinterpretation of God's Word is to be ascribed not so much to any lack of intellectual comprehension as to an unwillingness to obey the Word.

There are numberless examples of such hardness of heart. Perhaps the most striking one is that of Judas Iscariot. He was one of Jesus' disciples, one of the Twelve, one of whom the Lord might say He said to David: "*Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me*" (Psalm 41:9). Judas's hardness of heart began by his gradually habituating himself to sin, "*because he was a thief and had the bag*" (Luke 12:6). Judging by all the circumstances, his thieving was carried on very cautiously, gradually increasing as time passed on and opportunity offered. As in the case of the ordinary sinner, and especially in the case of a Christian, the retrogression usually begins with a minor sin before he is able to commit the grosser sins. So also with Judas. He had for three years had the best of opportunity to witness the fact that whatever Jesus foretold would most certainly come to pass. And yet we see him so hardened in his wicked purpose that he must hear these awful words addressed to him particularly: "*Woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It had been good for that man if he had not been born*" (Matthew 26:24).

We marvel that Judas could hear these awful words without falling to the earth dead. But he was quite capable of hearing them without fear, without altering his bloody resolution. He was hardy enough to greet his Master with a kiss at the moment when the deputies laid hands upon His sacred body. When the heart is hardened, neither reason nor intelligence avails. With seeing eyes, Judas could yet not see. With all his knowledge of

Jesus, with every opportunity for repentance and restoration, yea, with seeing eyes wide open, he walked with firm steps to his eternal doom – he went “*to his own place*” (Acts 1:25). What he lacked was a watchful and God-fearing heart. There is a word spoken by the Holy Spirit, which every one who has heard the Gospel should keep in mind: “*Woe also to them when I depart from them*” (Hosea 9:12).

Luther says: “He who fears not himself has the greatest reason to fear.” Not to fear oneself; not to suspect oneself; to live in secret sin not regarding it as perilous; to be content with one’s own piety – these are some of the signs of hidden spiritual death, the prelude to eternal misery. It is precisely an excellent mark of live Christians that they have the spirit of fear. They fear even when there is no danger. They suspect themselves. They are afraid of deceiving themselves. They are dissatisfied with themselves. Realizing that they are drowsy and forgetful Christians, they are fearful on that account.

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

A Faithful Guide to Peace with God, by C. O. Rosenius, Augsburg Publishing House, Copyright 1923, Permission Granted

He that overcometh, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go out thence no more.

Revelation 3:12

PILLARS are a supporting power. They hold a house together and make it strong. They are also used to ornament an edifice.

In our Word today Jesus says that He will make of him that overcometh a pillar in the temple of His God. This surely is not only a promise that he that overcomes shall have a place of honor in the temple at home with God: but here and now in the temple of God on earth the conquering Christian shall be permitted to be a pillar. The people of God are God’s temple. “*Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*”

And if there is any place that the temple of God needs supporting power it is here on earth. If God’s building among us is to stand and be intact, it must be upheld by victorious Christians.

And God be praised, we have them among us yet. From year to year, for many of them through their whole lives, they are supporters in prayer and responsibility and

work, though often they get only hostile criticism and ingratitude as rewards. In some places many friends carry the load together, in other places just a few, and occasionally only one.

Let us appreciate the pillars God has given us, and let us pray that the Kingdom of God in our midst may always have such Christians. Then those who follow us will also succeed.

And you who are a bearer now, hear what God says to you, and rejoice at what awaits you at home with God!

**To Thee, Thou bleeding Lamb, I all things owe;
All that I have and am, and all I know,
All that I have is now no longer mine,
And I am not mine own; —Lord, I am Thine.**

Thy Kingdom Come, by Ludvig Hope, Copyright © 1939, Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted

Editor’s Note: No doubt you can tell that Mr. Ludvig Hope was a staunch believer and definitely of the biblical Hauge Lutheran follower! His meditations are the fruit of many years of Bible study and Christian experience. They are Christ-centered and cross-centered, are sound and a rich blessing!

* * * * *

It’s easy to become cynical about government or feel that our vote is insignificant. But what would happen if everyone had this attitude? What kind of leadership would we likely get then? We need leaders who are men and women of integrity and wisdom, and we should thank God that we live in a country where we have the privilege of choosing our leaders. We must never take that responsibility lightly.

The Bible tells us to pray for “*all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness*” (1 Timothy 2:2).

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Proverbs 14:34.

Wisdom for Each Day, © 2008 Billy Graham, Mfd. for © 2011 Day Spring Cards, Inc.

Editor’s Note: It could be that God is extending to our present Administration undeserved mercy as “we the people (USA)” have the choice for a period of time of returning back to God. Marvelous GRACE! From God’s Eternal Word, the BIBLE, which is relevant for all people for all times: “**If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**” II Chronicles 7:14

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, answered and said... Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods." Daniel 3:16, 18

THE narrative of the manly courage and marvelous deliverance of the three holy children, or rather champions, is well calculated to excite in the minds of believers firmness and steadfastness in upholding the truth in the teeth of tyranny and in the very jaws of death. Let young Christians especially learn from their example, both in matters of religion, and matters of uprightness in business, never to sacrifice their consciences. Lose all rather than lose your integrity, and when all else is gone, still hold fast a clear conscience as their rarest jewel which can adorn the bosom of a mortal. Be not guided by the will-o'-the wisp of policy, but by polestar of divine authority. Follow the right at all hazards. When you see no present advantage, walk by faith and not sight. Do God the honour to trust Him when it comes to matters of loss for the sake of principle. See whether He will be your debtor! See if He doth not even in this life prove His word that "*Godliness, with contentment, is great gain,*" and that they who "*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, shall have all these things added unto them.*" Should it happen that, in the providence of God, you are a loser by conscience, you shall find that if the Lord pays you not back in the sliver of earthly prosperity, He will discharge His promise in the gold of spiritual joy. Remember that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of that which he possesseth. To wear a guileless spirit, to have a heart void of offence, to have the favour and smile of God, is greater riches than the mines of Ophir could yield, or the traffic of Tyre could win. "*Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and inward intention therewith.*" An ounce of heart's-ease is worth a ton of gold.

Morning & Evening, Charles Spurgeon, © 1991
Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

* * * * *

Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15, 16

OUR chief joy must always be the great grace that we have received the forgiveness of sins and sonship with God.

But even though all this is of God so that he that glories must glory in the Lord, and we must nevertheless not forget that this glorious inheritance has also placed responsibility on us. There is no nobility and honor in the

kingdom of God either, without responsibility. If we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and acknowledge that we are heirs of eternal life, we must also walk as children of light. It is an honor to father and mother that children are good: it is an honor to God that His children live as is proper for saints. Jesus said to His disciples: "*Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.*"

Truly God is always glorified in Himself; in that sense no one can make Him greater than He is. But a Christian can make Him small or great here on earth by his manner of life.

What should be more important for us Christians than to walk carefully so that we with our lives can thank and honor Him who gave us the right to be His children? "For God called us not for uncleanness, but in sanctification." The days are evil, that is true, but the grace of God is also great, and He is great enough so that we today can honor God with our life.

*I need Thee every hour;
Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises
In me fulfill,
I need Thee, oh! I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now my Savior!
I come to Thee.*

Thy Kingdom Come, by Ludvig Hope, Augsburg Publishing House © Copyright 1939, Permission Granted.

God ...cause His face to shine upon us – Psalm 67:1

There is a beautiful thought, full of comfort, in this expression which Scripture uses in several places. God's face will shine upon us.

For this expression shows us something of God's mind and feelings toward us. If His face is stern, reproaching, and dark, it does not shine. If it is to shine, it must be friendly, and loving. When the face of God shines, it means that He takes pleasure in us. And that He does for the sake of Jesus Christ. We who live in the New Covenant know this. Christ reveals God's loving smile to men.

God's face will shine upon you today, if you desire to live in the light of it. At this moment He meets you with His smile. And with that smile go in God's grace and God's peace.

'The Lord let His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.'

Streams of Gladness, by Fredrik Wisloff, © 1958
Augsburg Publishing House.

Here I Stand

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
(Eph. 6:13)

This is the tenth in a series of articles about the conversion of Martin Luther. The year 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and we want to emphasize how Luther was converted, for you will see elements in Luther’s conversion that are lacking in most Christian circles today.

After the posting of the Ninety-five thesis, a lot of opposition escalated between Luther and the officials of the church. Initially, Luther wanted only to reform the church to a Biblical view. This tension escalated to where Luther was officially “excommunicated” from the church by a decree from the pope called a “Bull,” and his books were burned. In retaliation, Luther burned the bull against him. This all came to a head when Luther was summoned to an official assembly (Diet) at Worms, Germany. In Luther’s first defense of his works, he said:

“The books are all mine, and I have written more.” He was then questioned, “Do you defend them all, or do you reject a part?” Luther reflected aloud, “This touches God and His Word. This affects salvation of souls. Of this Christ said, ‘He who denies Me before men, him I will deny before My Father.’ To say too little or too much would be dangerous. I beg you, give me time to think it over.”¹

Luther took another day to consider what he might say. On April 18, 1521, Luther returned to the official assembly. He said,

“When Christ stood before Annas, He said, ‘Produce Witnesses.’ If our Lord, who could not err, made this demand, why may not a worm like me ask to be convinced of error from the prophets and the Gospels? If I am shown my error, I will be the first to throw my books into the fire. . . .

“Luther was then asked directly, “I ask you, Martin – answer candidly and without horns – do you or do you not repudiate your books and the errors which they contain?” Luther replied, “Since then your Majesty and your lordships desire a simple reply, I will answer without horns and without teeth. Unless I am convinced by Scripture and

plain reason – I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other – my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”²

It is obvious that Luther stood upon the Scriptures as the very Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and life. This was one of the cries of the reformation: Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone. Luther recognized that no manmade council or decrees from church bodies can take the place of Scripture – they must simply reflect what Scripture alone says. He was willing to stand upon that to his death and renounce his very life, reputation and writings if he could be shown that they were contrary to the Scriptures.

Dear reader – is that your conviction today? Are you convinced that the Bible is the very Word of God and that the words they contain are the very words that God would speak if He were standing before you? Do you believe that they have the authority to demand unqualified obedience from you? Are you willing to base your life now in this world on what they say, and place your eternal destiny on what they predict the future will bring? Are you willing to defend them unto the death if necessary? Will you, like Luther, stand on the Scriptures?

This was the conviction of the Church of Jesus Christ until fairly recently. Worship services were centered about the reading and preaching of the Word of God. When liberal men brought doubt into the world about the inerrancy of Scripture, then people began to doubt that the Bible was true in everything it addressed. Modern Science came along and most people believed the lie of evolution instead of the truth of creation that the Bible presents.

As a result of this and other factors, the worship service in a number of churches is centered on the music, and not on the faithful exposition of Scripture. Some modern preachers are experts at just quoting certain passages which favor their self-centered emphasis. Where the Scriptures clearly point out sin, those portions are often not even discussed. Thankfully, we have the Scriptures available to us. Will you be dubbed by the modern emphasis, or will you study the Scriptures yourself so that you walk in the fulness God wants for you?

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

1 *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* by Roland Bainton. Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 1978, pg. 141.

2 Ibid, pgs. 143-144.

President Trump's National Day of Prayer

Dear ...

9/1/2017

... President Trump has also declared a National Day of Prayer for this Sunday September 3 (2017). Here's ... Tony's statement about President Trump's call for prayer.

"We are very thankful President Trump is calling the nation to prayer in response to the enormity of this disaster. The challenges facing our nation are far beyond anything we as a nation are capable of overcoming on our own. As a nation, we must acknowledge our need and dependence on God. We need leaders who recognize and understand the true source of our hope and strength.

"A Day of Prayer is a recognition that the only way America comes through all of these challenges is by the hand of God. Our nation's problems are so vast and so complex that there can only be a God sized solution.

"Our nation's history records these times of national prayer. The First Continental Congress called for a day of repentance, fasting and prayer throughout the Colonies on July 20th, 1775 just after the War for Independence broke out. In following that example, we will join with President Trump in taking a day to seek God and pray for Him to bring restoration and healing to our nation.

"On Sunday, I will lead my own church in prayer asking God to move in the hearts of people to bring about the unity that will enable our nation to stand and overcome. I pray the people of Texas and Louisiana will know that they aren't alone.

"Together we must pray and then act upon those prayers. The Church must be a part of the solution and move the hand of God and then we will see the results of those prayers," concluded Perkins.

Standing for Faith, Family and Freedom, Dr. Kenyn M. Cureton, ... Family Research Council.

Editor's Note: Please pray daily for "we the people" who make up the USA – for genuine repentance and specific prayer. Also, please pray regularly at the Prayer Meeting and worship Service of your Congregation. Thank you and may our Living God be permitted to bring us once again to the motto: "**In God We Trust**!"

"The unsearchable riches of Christ." Ephesians 3:8

MY Master has riches beyond the count of arithmetic, the measurement of reason, the dream of imagination, or the eloquence of words. They are **unsearchable!** You may look, and study, and weigh, but Jesus is a greater Saviour than you think Him to be when your thoughts are at the greatest. My Lord is more ready to pardon than you to sin, more able to forgive than you to transgress. My Master is more willing to supply your wants than you are to confess them. Never tolerate low thoughts of my Lord Jesus. When you put the crown on His head, you will only crown Him with silver when He deserves gold. **My Master has riches of happiness to bestow upon you now.** He can make you to lie down in green pastures, and lead you beside still waters. There is no music like the music of His pipe, when He is the Shepherd and you are the sheep, and you lie down at His feet. There is no love like His, neither earth nor heaven can match it. To know Christ and to be found in Him – oh! This is life, this is joy, this is marrow and fatness, wine on the lees well refined. My Master does not treat His servants churlishly; He gives to them as a king giveth to a king; He gives them tow heavens – a heaven below in serving Him here, and a heaven above in delighting in Him forever. **His unsearchable riches will be best known in eternity.** He will give you on the way to heaven all you need; your place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks, your bread shall be given you, and your waters shall be sure; but it is there, **THERE**, where you shall hear the song of them that triumph, the shout of them that feast, and shall have a face-to-face view of the glorious and beloved One. The unsearchable riches of Christ! This is the tune for the minstrels of earth, and the song for the harpers of heaven. Lord, teach us more and more of Jesus, and we will tell out the good news to others.

*Morning & Evening, Charles Spurgeon, © 1991
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**GOD'S PRECIOUS
INCORRUPTIBLE SEED NEVER
GOES TO WASTE!**

Gunder O. Vik

Gunder O. Vik was born in Hardanger, Norway, and was converted to God before he came to this country (USA) in 1883. About the great passage from death unto life he wrote: "As a lost sinner I sank down at the foot of the Cross and cried to God for salvation, and in the Blood of Jesus that cleanseth from all sins, my famished heart found peace." He graduated from Red Wing Seminary and became pastor of Roseni congregation near Beresford, SD, in 1892. He labored here for 19 years. The three last years of his life he labored at Ruthton, MN. God called him home June 14, 1915. Age only 53.

Brother Vik was a genuine Haugean and thoroughly low-church. From his heart brotherly love flowed like a steady stream. There was peculiar sweetness and unction that flowed from his testimony. "Grace was poured into his lips, like a precious ointment." His very presence breathed out the comfort of the Holy Ghost. "If I had the choice," an old Christian said, "I would rather have G. O. Vik conduct my funeral than any other minister." He could bind the ties of Christian love in this ice-cold world, and often ice-cold church, as very few have ever done. His home was in the prayer meeting and laymen's work which he always encouraged. He walked among us in peace, equity and true humility, and he turned many from their iniquities.

The Hauge Movement in America, Published by
The Hauge Innermission Federation, 1941

Hate Groups!

TODAY, likely you already know that anyone or any group that stands for and with God, who is TRUTH, is being labeled by liberals as *supposedly* lacking love. This includes individuals, congregations, Christian organizations, and anyone else who identifies sin by name.

If we of the *Morning Glory*/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation were a much larger group numerically, we would be known as a 'hate-group,' and one that lacks compassion – which could not be further from the truth. We do not hate people, regardless of the color of their skin, national origin or religion, but we hate what God hates – that which is EVIL and SIN!

This is particularly disheartening and infuriating in a time when Americans have witnessed, and also some have even suffered the kind of despicable violence that we expressly and unequivocally condemn. Tragically, news outlets and even some liberal religious leaders go running to the widely discredited "hate map".

This organized ministry was officially begun in the year 1920 and we strive faithfully to follow our Lord's command to love our neighbors as ourselves. We try to seek the welfare of others, when it is in our means and opportunity to do so. We try to show the love of God to a watching and listening world. We try to live by Christ's teaching and to bring honor and glory to His blessed Name.

ALSO, we are a non-profit ministry whose deeply held Christian convictions energize our mission to faithfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our aim is to help others find the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in and through Jesus Christ. He offers this to all who will come by the way of the **Cross** as heart repentant sinners – as Jesus Christ came to seek those who are LOST! By NO MEANS have we forgotten the great privilege, challenge and responsibility of seeking to strengthen, nourish and admonish the LAMBS and SHEEP, because we love JESUS and want to be a 'trumpet-bearer' to ALL who are willing to listen – both lost sinners and saved sinners! First of all, we are accountable unto GOD! Please PRAY for us and this ministry of which our Living Savior has Placed into our midst: that we might be found faithful unto HIM. Jesus commanded His followers to "**Occupy till I Come!**" (Luke 19:13)

Editor and Part-time Field Manager.

WHY IS THE **CROSS** SO OFFENSIVE?

First, the Cross of Jesus Christ is an offense because it condemns the ungodly – anyone and all outside of personal faith in JESUS! The Bible clearly states that we (personally) are either forgiven sinners or un-forgiven sinners. You see, we don't like anyone pointing out our personal SINS – sins of omission and sins of commission. Unless we are under the Royal Blood Shed of Jesus Christ as our LORD – then we are not forgiven.

The Cross also offends an unbelieving world because BLOOD was shed, and in a sense blood is repulsive. BUT **JESUS'** blood provides redemption for the honest sinner who truly repents of his or her sin and finds forgiveness in Jesus' Name; for His sake (1 Corinthians 1:29-31, Isaiah 43:25), as you and I are totally unworthy.

ALSO, not only because of His shed blood, but we also find release from the guilt of sin. Colossians 1:19-20.

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18.

UNSOLICITED ADVICE

BY Fred Willis

Someone said: "Unsolicited advice is seldom heeded and often scorned," but the Bible says, "**A wise man will hear, and will increase learning**" Proverbs 1:5

Chapter 19 of the Book of Genesis records one of the most dramatic events in all of history. It records the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, an event that is nearly as well known as the Flood in the days of Noah.

Even biblically ignorant people have often heard of this great brimstone and fire spectacular. Were it not for the reason that this happened, it might have been something that we all would have wanted to see.

The solar eclipse on August 21 (2017) made many headlines. Parties were thrown and crazy prices were charged in connection with the event. Since the prime view in line was right over the top of my house, I just stepped into my front yard.

It appears that Abraham had a front-row seat at the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: "And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace." Gen. 19:27, 28.

So why did God destroy these two cities? It was because of the exceeding homosexual wickedness of a large part of the population and because there were not even ten righteous men to be found there (18-33).

"And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous." Vs. 20.

Abraham knew that his nephew Lot, lived in Sodom; and he interceded with the Lord on behalf of Lot and his family that the Lord would spare them. But there was no stopping the judgment of God on so vile a sin. Lot and two of his daughters escaped the overthrow of Sodom, and his wife was turned to a pillar of salt.

God is long-suffering and very patient, but when He sees *"the wickedness of man (is) great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart (is) only evil"* (6:5), we can be sure that judgment is coming. In Noah's day, *"the earth was filled with violence...for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth"* (vss. 11, 12).

I have just returned from a small college town in Tennessee. We set up a soul-winning booth at a county fair. The crowds were not large, but the Lord blessed us with almost fifty salvation decisions.

While we often have to deal with homosexuals that come by our booth, this year was a first. The homosexu-

als had their own booth; and it was parked right in front of ours, hardly ten feet away.

The most astonishing thing about the whole situation was that far more people walked up to their booth than came to our booth. They offered a perverted lifestyle, misery, disease, guilt, and the judgment of God in the lake of fire everlasting.

We offered God's forgiveness, love, peace, joy, happiness, and life in Heaven everlasting. It seems like a no-brainer to me, but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil (John 3:19).

It is a well-known fact that homosexuality, in all of its devious forms, is spreading like the wild-fires out west. Pushed by the Hollywood and television crowd, it is engulfing our nation as the plagues of yesteryear.

Parents must protect their children by every means available. Even the seemingly most innocent situation can prove to be highly destructive to a child. Our president seems to be taking steps to curtail the tsunami of perverted sin, but only Jesus and His return will put a stop to it.

If you have been pulled into this perverted lifestyle, it is not too late for God to forgive you. Turn to Him with a repentant heart and ask Him to deliver you. Your sin for a few days on earth is not worth an eternity in Hell. Why not do it now? – Sword of the Lord.

You Are Not Under Law but you Should Still Keep It Clean

Liver B. Greene

"But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication and from things strangled, and from blood." Acts 15:20.

James suggested that a letter be written to the Gentile believers in the various churches so recently set up, and in that letter they would make known what had been discussed in the council in Jerusalem as well as state the decision reached concerning those things under discussion.

They would also admonish the Gentiles to abstain from indulging in unchristian practices or any action that might bring offense to the Jewish believers. Paul explains it to us:

"Wherefore if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." 1 Cor. 8:13.

"Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake. "For the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. "If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake. "But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake" for the earth is the

Lord's, and the fullness thereof: "Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? "For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks? "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God" "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit but the profit of man, that they may be saved." 10:25-33.

There are many things which believers could (Ed. Possibly) do which would not hurt them as individuals but which might prove harmful to others.

There are, for instance, some places where Christians could go without harming their own (Ed. Possibly) spirituality; yet if a weaker Christian saw them entering that particular place, that weaker brother could be hurt and caused to stumble, and perhaps be influenced to do something that would bring the guilt of sin upon his conscience.

Therefore, for the sake of weaker Christians, we must be careful where we go, what we do, what language we use and what attitude we display.

You will notice Paul said that when we wound a fellow believer, the injury is actually to Christ Himself. Churches are one body made up of many members; and when one member suffers, the whole body suffers. Christ is the Head of that body; and when a weak Christian is hurt, the Head of the church is hurt.

Paul is not setting forth the idea that we are to try to please all people – it would be impossible to accomplish such a feat even if we tried. He was simply stressing the fact that Christian liberty should not be used in a way that would give offense "to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." This is the principle James is suggesting. For the sake of peace and unity in the churches, lest the stronger Christian offend the weak, the Gentile believers would be asked to abstain from meat which had been offered to idols and to eat meat which would not be counted morally wrong by Jewish believers. Thus would they avoid an occasion for division and offense between Jewish and Gentile believers.

They would also be asked to abstain "from fornication." The word used here is applicable to any and all illicit sexual practice. The question is often asked, "Why is this inserted in the middle of an admonition to abstain from practices having to do with the ceremonial laws, since fornication has to do with moral law?"

I believe it is mentioned here because of the fact that in those days illicit sexual practice was prevalent among the Gentiles. The cities where Paul and Barnabas had traveled and preached the Gospel, and where many Gentiles were converted, were cities of sin and lust.

Since fornication was practiced in those cities – and practiced without shame or remorse – the Gentiles did not regard it as being disgraceful and sinful. But to the Jews, such indulgence was strictly forbidden.

Fornication was connected with heathen religion, and as a part of many of their temple rites it was practiced in some of the heathen temples. Females devoted themselves to the service of the temples and were used in connection with the order of pagan worship.

Historians have penned down sickening and sordid records of that which went on in the name of "religion" – in some of the heathen temples between the priests and priestesses who were leaders in idolatrous worship.

Many of the Gentiles now knew salvation through the finished work of Jesus, but they had been accustomed to the practice of fornication without guilt of conscience. They would be surrounded by and exposed to the unsaved people who would still indulge in such practice.

Jesus believed it necessary and extremely important to impress upon these new converts their obligation to abstain from fornication and to oppose it as sinful and degrading.

This subject was discussed also by the apostle Paul in dealing with the Corinthian church. Corinth was an idolatrous city, and the Corinthian believers were still carnally minded. Therefore, Paul found it necessary to admonish them about some of their worldliness.

"Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body."

"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." 1 Cor. 6:13, 15-18.

Paul also warned Gentile believers in other places where he had converts.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness." Gal. 5:19.

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints." Eph. 5:3.

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication." 1 Thess. 4:3.

So you see, while fornication was accepted among the Gentiles without too much disturbance being made over it, it was quite unacceptable to the Jews; therefore; the Gentile Christians were not to fall back into the sin which their previous lives had taught them to regard in a very different light. — *Sword of the Lord*

UpDate

This issue contains a special appeal in the center. We want Blood-bought cleansed vessels to know what will take place in the immediate future for the *Morning Glory*.

This decision was made by the Board members of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation as definite financial obligations of this portion of the Lord's Work on Earth have to be met!

We know this is a very frank appeal for specific prayer intercession and the response of the *Morning Glory* concerned readers!

Naturally, any and all gifts (donations) are truly appreciated on this end and may our Crucified Living and Risen Savior, who is coming again (maybe soon), richly bless YOU in your Holy Spirit directed response, and may GOD BE GLORIFIED as it is a portion of His Kingdom Work. So may HE richly bless you in order that you may become a richer blessing unto OTHERS!

Thank you so much as ALL prayer support and all donations are truly appreciated.

Hold the Fort for I am Coming – JESUS!

Most certainly let the Holy Spirit lead you in your decision. Truly, donations are appreciated from Congregations as well as Individuals – including personal wills!

September income for the *Morning Glory* was app. \$1,511.00. This does not include the offerings received for the Hauge Conference in Garden City, Iowa. The offerings received at the Conference are applied to the Conference expenses of speakers.

It takes about \$3,600 per month to keep the *Morning Glory* and the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation alive financially. (Hauge Bible Conferences not included)

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Just use the envelope at the center to order.