



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2010

The Path Behind The Gate

By Pastor H. Van Someren
Princeton, MN

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.”

Matthew 7:13 NASB

Soon the ...Minnesota State Fair will open and many will be attracted to its activities. When I was a young boy our family would go to the fair. My dad being a farmer would go to what was called ‘Machinery Hill’ and drool over all the latest in farm equipment. My mother would go to the areas displaying the ladies’ exhibits of pies, canned goods, and other foods. As for me, I wasn’t interested in pies or tractors. I headed for what they called the ‘Midway.’

Above the entrance to the Midway there was a large sign about 50 feet wide that spanned the opening to the Midway with advertisements and photos of what was behind the gate covering the sides and top of the gate from one side to the other. On the other side of the gate you could hear the hawkers, music, and all kinds of sounds to attract people to come in.

When I read about the “broad gate” in the Scriptures, I’m always reminded of the Minnesota Fair Midway gate. Behind the biblical broad gate we have all the sounds, temptations, and enticements of the world to attract us away from Jesus and off the narrow path which is behind the “narrow gate.”

I would like to have you now use your imagination as we take a tour down this broad path. One of the first signs we see is of a church which reads, “All religious faiths

welcome, a personal relationship with Christ not necessary.” Then we see signs advertising taverns, porn shops, rock music, shock movies, recreation of all kinds. Now picture this broad path winding back and forth through the world finally ending by going down a slippery slope into eternal hell. The guide on this path is the devil. He will do his best to ensnare you and lead you down this path. Those who walk on this path do not realize what is in store for them until it is too late.

Behind the narrow gate there is a narrow path that also winds back and forth through the world and often crosses the wide path. The guide on this path is Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God. Picture this path crossing the broad path. You will hear all the sounds and view all the enticements of the devil and the world that appeals to the flesh. He will try to get you to take your focus off of Jesus who is guiding you on the path of “righteousness” that leads to eternal glory with Jesus in heaven.

Perhaps it is time for you to examine the path that you are walking on. Is it the broad path with all of its worldly amusements and enticements that lead to hell or is it the narrow path that is devoid of all worldly snares and traps and leads to eternity in heaven? There is no allowance to walk with one foot on the broad path and one foot on the narrow path. You are either on one or the other.

I pray that you are walking on the path of “righteousness” as defined in the following verse.

“But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full

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day.” (Prov. 4:18 NASB)

When a person accepts Christ and is “born again,” he sees a glimmer of light and as he matures in the faith the glimmer of “Light” (Jesus) becomes brighter and brighter (more meaningful) in his life and as he approaches the end of his life, (full day) he will then see the full glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven.

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. (1 John 3:2 NASB)

When we get to the end of the path behind the narrow gate we will meet Jesus face to face. What a glorious day that will be.

Don't let the world or devil distract you. Keep your focus on Jesus and let Him guide you to the glories of heaven.

Have you asked Jesus into your heart?

Taken from 'Revival Tidings'

LIFE is like a coin: You can spend it any way you wish; BUT you can spend it only once!

Contemporary Compromise

Standing for Truth in an Age of Deception

By Dr. John Goetsch

In a time when compromise is an accepted reality in so many places and with its unrelenting encroachment upon Christians in Bible-believing churches, Dr. John Goetsch sounds a needed warning in his new 214 - page hardback book entitled *Contemporary Compromise*. (Dr. Sheldon Smith, Editor of 'Sword of the Lord' review).

As the executive vice president of West Coast Baptist College in Lancaster, California, and as an evangelist who travels nationwide, Dr. Goetsch has a grasp on the issues calling for compromise from all of us.

This is significant work that Dr. Goetsch has written. It exposes the contemporary issues and establishes the scriptural foundations that equip us to react and to resist.

Consider these quotes:

"In dealing with the subject of compromise or change, it is impossible to be comprehensive. There is no way to be exhaustive or complete, because the minute I stop typing, the Devil will unveil a new scheme. But there is Some one who never changes, and He has given us Something that is 'forever settled'" (pp. xiv, xv).

"If we are going to 'stay straight,' we must set our attention on a fixed position. Too many people today are allowing themselves to look at that which is moving around them" (p.9).

"Scholasticism and intellectualism, however, are killing us. We are allowing education to elevate us to an elite status of enlightenment" (p. 58).

"So often the argument for intellectualism and scholasticism is made on the basis of gaining credibility with the world" (p. 59).

How can you best equip your children to resist anti-God teaching in the classroom? The most important thing is to be very sure your children are intimately acquainted with the truth. They need to know what the Scriptures alone teach if they are to have a foundation that will withstand the disruptive intrusions of man.

If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore. Psalm 132:12.

'Apples of Gold' by The Berean Call

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers' (II Cor. 11:23). The words 'false' and 'deceitful' are connected to the words 'apostles' and 'workers.' As stated earlier, Satan is using religion to destroy religion - ministers to destroy ministries" (p. 79).

"The Devil is good at making the wheat and the weeds look the same" (p. 85).

"False teachers look good and sound good, but it is impossible for them to do good. They think they are accomplishing good things, but the standard is God and the Truth of His Word. They reject the God of the Bible and the Truth He declares; thus, nothing eternally good can come from their ministry" (p. 91).

"We have a very serious choice to make. Relativism is in vogue today. Tolerance is the buzzword of our culture. Our world has accepted what I like to refer to as 'designer' truth. It's popular, fashionable, trendy and acceptable to all. The Bible speaks of what I will refer to as 'discovered' truth. It's old-fashioned because it's been around forever - literally. It is absolute, fixed and eternal. It doesn't need to be changed, altered or tweaked to fit anything or anyone, because it's perfect. We need to conform to it, rather than it conforming to us" (p. 106).

"One day as IK was pulling out of my driveway, I noticed that one of our trees in the yard had blown over. I didn't have time to do much about it, and fortunately it wasn't in anyone's way, so I drove to the campus and later phoned my wife to make some plans as to what to do. By that time, a man had stopped by and inquired if he could have the wood. I went home, met him and arranged for him to clean everything up in return for the wood. I was concerned that he should saw the trunk off as close to the ground as possible so that we would not have an ugly stump in the yard. As we walked over to the base of that tree, we were both shocked. I had never seen anything like it in my life. The tree had sheared off right at the surface of the ground, and there were literally no roots. We pulled the few pieces of wood that remained out of the ground with our bare hands. That tree went down because, while it had some growth on the surface, it never went deep into the earth where the nourishment and water for growth could be found. When the winds blew, it fell!

"When God instituted the local church, He provided men to that church that could teach us Truth. The winds are going to blow, and the wise Christian sinks his roots down deep in the preaching and teaching of God's Word so that he can withstand the storm" (p. 127).

"Compromise is rampant, and the world is seemingly on a one-way commute to destruction" (p. 152). ...

Sword of the Lord

Editorial

RES *PRESENCE*

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (II Corinthians 3:17)

No doubt many of you have heard: “Two is plenty, three is a crowd!” Well that is not true SPIRITUALLY!”

Isn't it marvelous that the LORD has promised that HE will be in the midst where two or three are gathered in HIS Name! Stop and ponder on that gracious promise: Just think that the King of kings and LORD of lords, is in the midst of two or three gathered in His Name! *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them.”* Matthew 18:20. Not only because of ‘our’ desperate NEED does HE promise His **presence**, BUT He promises because of His gracious GRACE. WE certainly experienced the same at ‘our’ Hauge Fall Bible Conference at St. Paul’s Lutheran in Fargo, ND.

Granted we would have liked to have seen many more in attendance under the hearing of His Word; but I believe those who were in attendance were richly blest and we thank and praise our crucified and risen Savior for the same.

In these days of ‘falling away’ (apostasy) I fear that there are and will be many who have just a form of ‘godliness’ but lack the power thereof and many not knowing the difference because they say the right words and live a form of godliness. HOW TRAGIC! The same goes for a multitude of ‘sermons’ as the ‘words’ are right, but there is something lacking; which is the **presence** of the Holy Spirit. Scripture is very clear also in that we are not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit and for example ‘compromise with SIN’ will do exactly that! No we don’t have a special corner on the Holy Spirit, but that does not void the fact of ‘our’ concern. *‘We’ need* to be sensitive to the **presence** of the Holy Spirit OR if He is missing! *“Do not quench the Spirit”* which can ‘easily’ be done by making ‘light’ of sin which results in the hardening of our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 5:19). *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* Ephesians 4:30. **“So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”** Romans 8:8-9.

Now as I am writing this ‘editorial’ I am thinking of two classic examples in Scripture. First of all, let me

bring the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 to your attention. ALL TEN of the ‘virgins’ were together with the same intent in mind; and that was the looking forward to meeting the ‘Bridegroom’.

Notice they all had lamps, slumbered and slept together, heard the cry, intending to meet Him, arose, trimmed their lamps, BUT the foolish took no ‘oil’ with their lamps. Yes, the lamps of the ‘foolish’ virgins were once lit because v. 8 tells us *‘for our lamps are going out.’* They even had the right ‘words’ and came to the right door; but it was too late! How about YOU my friend, at the present is your ‘lamp’ lit and burning’ or do you just have a form of ‘godliness’, a lamp WITHOUT ‘oil’ (The Holy Spirit & joy thereof)!

In order to *‘drift’ spiritually* a person doesn’t have to do anything! *“Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”* Acts 20:30.

In Hebrews 2:1-3a, which is often used in witnessing to the unsaved (which is fine); but in its context I believe it is an admonition to especially the ‘believer’ to be careful and awake. Notice *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.”*

The second example that I want to bring to your attention is the Laodicean church which had lost out with the Head of the ‘church’ and it was not because of what they were doing; but what was ‘lacking’ in their midst; **the presence of the Holy Spirit!** These folk thought every thing was alright between them and the Lord; but were sadly mistaken! It was not doctrine that was wrong, nor their programs, organization, & activities; BUT they were *just* missing the **presence of the Holy Spirit**; who was seeking re-admittance! It was not the ‘challenge’ IF you have never asked Jesus to be your Savior before; but what **is your relationship with JESUS right now?** Scripturally you and I can ‘fall away, back slide, leave our first love’ etc., SO the ‘question’ IS what is your ‘relation’ with JESUS right now? **Matthew 24:24 & 2 Thessalonians 2:3.**

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiv-

ing spirits and doctrines of demons,” & “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season,. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” 1 Timothy 4:1 & II Timothy 4:2-5. (John 16:7-15).

This is a very serious matter, because **eternal souls** are at stake – yours, mine and everyone else! May you and I begin with the question that the Apostles asked in the ‘upper room’; *Lord is it I?*

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and

where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit”. John 3:8. “*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper; that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you*” John 14:16-17.

Many years ago a telephone call was made to a Pastor asking if he thought the President of our great USA would be in church on Sunday. The Pastor responded that he didn’t know; but the Lord’s **presence** would be in their midst.

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” Romans 8:16-17.

Revived and Restored and Sent

By Clara Gunderson, Cambridge, MN

It was Sunday morning - again. Automatically, I began the day making coffee, dressing, going about my routine of preparing to go to church. But I felt a sense of restlessness within, a stirring I couldn’t put into words.

As was my habit, I sat down at my desk and opened my Bible, turning first to the Psalms where I always began my quiet time “Lord, my Lord,” I prayed, “what would Your Spirit say to me this morning? Open my eyes, open my ears, open my heart to Your Word. I feel restless. I feel needy. I feel hungry to hear you. Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in

A quote from President Theodore Roosevelt:

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, because there is not effort without error and shortcomings, but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst; if he fails, at least he falls while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

the everlasting way.”

When have I ever prayed this prayer and not had it answered, and that quickly? My thoughts immediately went to James 4:8 where the invitation to draw near to God is immediately followed by the assurance that in doing so He will draw near to me.

Personal sin confessed and my heart open to the Spirit, I turned to Psalm 85, my portion for the day. Immediately I noticed the pronouns “us” and “our.” Here was the whole congregation, the people of God, crying out to Him with one voice for His attention. What had caused this national cry for help? A disaster?

Or was it something more subtle? Something like unconfessed sin? Or an ignoring of the Lord and His holy ways? “Wilt Thou not Thyself revive us again, that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?”

They cried.

This was not a passive “forgive us our sins” prayer but an impassioned voice of the people seeking revival and restoration with their God. How swiftly the reassuring words come in verse 8: “...He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones; but let them not turn back to folly.”

Restoration! Through forgiveness and a turning away from sin, we have peace with our God. King David wrote in Psalm 51 that after his restoration with the Lord he would then “...teach the wicked Your paths, and sinners will return to You.” Like David, my “going to others” can only take place within the context of my own revived, restored heart.

Taken from ‘Free Lutheran Bulletin Service,’
Used by permission

Is God Finished With the Local Church?

Camping Says Yes; We Say No!

By Dr. Don Jasmin

Harold Camping is a prominent religious radio host. His "Family Radio" network has more than 150 stations and translators in the USA. In recent years, Camping has been telling his listeners to abandon all local churches because the "church age has ended" and Satan has supposedly taken control of all organized assemblies of professing believers. Therefore, believers should exclusively "worship private in their homes" with "no leaders, no baptism and no communion." In response, we would note the following biblical truths.

1. **The church age has not concluded, since the rapture has not yet occurred.** The present church age will consummate with the rapture of the saints in the air, the next prophetic event on God's time clock (I Cor. 15:51-58, I Thess. 4:13-18).

While the rapture is an imminent (any moment) event, it had not yet occurred at the time this article was being penned. Until then, believing saints should expectantly look for that blessed occurrence in the skies (Titus 2:11-13) and continue to meet in united assemblies (Acts 2:47).

2. **The local church is still God's central organism in this age (1 Tim. 3:15) for the fulfilling of the Great Commission mandate (Matt. 28:19, 20).** The responsibility of (a) evangelizing - "go ye therefore, and teach all nations"; (b) baptizing - "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and (c) catechizing - "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" requires the ministry and presence of local churches.

3. **Satan has not captured control of all local churches.** God is still saving souls through the ministries of faithful local New Testament assemblies. While the Laodicean church represents the apostate state of modern Christendom (Rev. 3:14-19), the Philadelphian witness continues by means of scattered congregations that are steadfastly adhering to God's preserved Word (vs. 9), as well as fervently "holding forth the word of life" (Phil. 2:16).

4. **Our Lord is building His ministry outside the structure of the organized ecclesiastical world** (Heb. 13:13; Rev. 3:20) via the proclamation of the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The Scripture distinctly states there will be a great apostasy in the last days (I Tim. 4:1-2; II Tim. 3:1-7;

4:3-4) and that organized Christianity will be permeated with false prophets who will deceive the masses of humanity (II Pet. 2:1-3).

This massive apostasy does not negate the Great Commission labors for New Testament churches.

5. **Legitimate local New Testament churches can meet in homes for worship, fellowship and instruction (I Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philem. 2),** but bishops (overseers, pastors) and deacons (servants, helpers) still constitute God's operational plan for New Testament assemblies (Phil. 1:1). In apostolic times, when there were no buildings available, churches assembled in the homes of believing saints.

Hundreds of healthy New Testament congregations today trace their origins to godly homes where local light-houses began their witness. There are small pockets of believers today across America who gather in homes, praying for the day when a strong New Testament witness can be established in their area.

6. **The ordinances of the local church, baptism (Acts 2:41) and the Lord's Table (I Cor. 11:23-32),**

That should be observed until Christ's return (Matt. 28:18-20; I Cor. 11:26). As burdened Christians fulfill Christ's command of the Great Commission (Mark 16:15), new believers continue to obey our Lord's injunction concerning baptism, as well as experience intimate communion with the Lord and other saints around the Lord's Table.

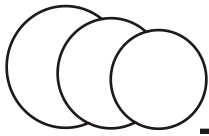
7. **Christ is still building His church today, and the gates of Hell cannot prevail against it** (Matt. 16:18).

While the apostasy will greatly mount and more churches than ever will capitulate to the Devil's counterfeits, all satanic attempts to crush and exterminate the church will fail. Until the rapture, there will always be assemblies of New Testament saints who stand for the Faith. Some assemblies are small and struggling, while others are larger and thriving, but New Testament churches, in totality, cannot be extinguished.

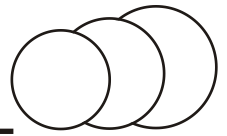
Harold Camping is tragically mistaken! With grateful praise to His name, it can be factually stated that God is not finished with the churches, at least not the ones that continue earnestly to contend for the Faith (Jude 3) and to disseminate the gospel message around the globe (Mark 16:15).

P.S. Ever since my conversion over fifty-five years ago, I have been associated with New Testament congregations of saints, a practice that I do not intend to abandon.

Fundamentalist Digest (Taken from
'Sword of the Lord')



From Our Fellowship Circle



C. K.

Roland, IA

We certainly enjoy receiving the *Morning Glory* each month. Thanks for selecting these thought - provoking articles for us to read and heed.

We also share some of the articles with our brothers and sisters and their families. Please continue to keep us on your mailing list.

Enclosed is a donation.

H. & LV. K.

Kandiyohi, MN

We are enclosing a gift for *Morning Glory* which we love to read and which we need in our day. We also miss the "Hauge" days when we were young.

May God help our country to turn back to the days of revival - May God help us all!

M. L.

Cartwright, ND

Thank you for the *Morning Glory*. I enjoy reading the same for it helps us in our walk with Jesus as Psalm 23 is my favorite chapter in God's Holy Word, the Bible.

I am enclosing a check for the amount of \$... and may God bless you.

M. T.

Lakeville, MN

Thank you for being there. Check enclosed.

H. B. J.

Blue Earth, MN

Enclosed is a check for \$... for the continuation of the *Morning Glory* arriving at our mail box.

Thank you for letting us know the real story of what's going on in the name of religion. Doesn't seem to be much true spiritualism today.

Editor's Note: We need to hear from YOU! Share what Jesus has done for you lately!

VACANCY FILLED!

It is with real joy we have the privilege/responsibility to report to you that after specific prayer and searching we secured a godly man who is of a like mind and spirit to fill the vacant position on the 'Board' of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. It is with 'thanksgiving' unto God we share this gentleman's name and address: Mr. Joel Zeltinger of Bismarck, ND. We ask that you pray with and for Joel as he fills in this vacancy; but that you pray for each fellow board member and their family by specific name; and also each worker involved in this the Lord's Work. Not only pray for them in the 'spiritual realm', but also physically and temporally.

May God richly bless you, Joel, as you help to carry this 'mantle' in and through the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory.

P. S. *We not only NEED your consistent **Prayer Support**, but also your financial support for this "free-movement" that is Pietistic, Evangelistic, Bible centered and sound in Lutheran Doctrine.*

Do you find it difficult in finding 'another' Lutheran newsletter that is 'pietistic, evangelistic, trumpet sounding and nurturing'? We are not saying that we are the 'only' one; but it is slim picking! So why not 'support' this the 'Lord's Ministry' on a regular basis; both in **prayer and financially!** ***Thank you for being obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading and may God richly bless YOU!*** If there be any 'praise' to be given - GIVE IT to our **Almighty God** as we water and plant and HE gives the increase. In other words give 'credit to whom credit belongs!'

Please pray that precious Souls are being genuinely 'converted' through this ministry and God's Lambs and Sheep are being nurtured and edified through the same. *Thank You so much!!*

P. P. S. Remember *now* the Morning Glory is scheduled to be published each month of the year!

We make no apologies for the 'old time Christianity' and seeking to practice it!

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

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Pastors Tend to Be Less Healthy Than Others

A study by the Duke University Divinity School says compared with other North Carolina residents, United Methodist (Ed. Lutherans, etc?) pastors alone had significantly higher rates of obesity, high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes and arthritis.

Researcher Rae Jen Proeschold-Bell lays out the percentages. “They literally take years off of the pastors’ lives,” she says. “Their rates of obesity are ten percent higher, their rates of high blood pressure are four percent higher, their rates of asthma are four percent higher, their rates of diabetes are three percent higher, and their rates of arthritis are almost three percent higher.” ...

Proeschold-Bell adds that “while people in the pews might think their pastor(s) are superhuman, they are only human after all – even if they are doing God’s work.”

OneNewsNow.com

Editor’s Note: I wonder what the percent of those truly ‘called’ by God into Pastoral Ministry are God fearing; godly men, who take their ‘calling’ very seriously??

Religious Left Calls Ground Zero Mosque Opponents Bigots

Led by the National Council of Churches (NCC), the religious left is backing the proposed Ground Zero Islamic center while denouncing the mosque’s skeptics as “hateful.”

The statement endorsed by 40 religious voices is comprised of top NCC officials, left-wing Catholics, Muslim groups and mostly second-tier Jewish groups. Not listed are mainline Protestants clerics, Eastern Orthodox and prominent liberal Jewish voices typically found on NCC-organized political statements. No prominent evangelicals are signatories.

“We are deeply troubled by the xenophobia and religious bigotry that has characterized some of the opposition to a proposed Islamic center and mosque near where the World Trade Center towers once stood,” the letter reads.

IRD President Mark Tooley commented: “The NCC is embracing the Ground Zero mosque full throttle, ... and denouncing all who are less than zealous for the Islamic center as bigots...”

Institute on Religion and Democracy

Goddess worship at “Rite of Reception”

Recently, three active ELCA bishops and two former ELCA bishops participated in a worship service in San Francisco that welcomed seven avowed homosexuals into the church, including a transgendered pastor.

Bishop Mark Holmerud of the Sierra Pacific Synod opened the service with this prayer of confession: “We have not respected the gift of homosexuality... We have not honored faithful and loving promises, marriages and covenantal relationships... We have not acted quickly enough... We have betrayed fellow members of the body of Christ because of cultural prejudice... We have misused Scripture as a tool of discrimination... We have forced celibacy on too many... We have promoted invisibility and dishonesty... We have intimidated and disciplined, censured and expelled.”

A prayer used in the reconciliation service was directed to the goddess Sophia: “O Sophia, Wisdom and Mother of us all, you are One with many names and images. May we see in all who are gathered here today your multiplicity of blessings. Today we honor your unlocking systems and practices that devalued and demeaned us for so many years and by putting your way of honoring people in its place. Most Holy One.” A perversion of the Lord’s Prayer printed in the service bulletin began: “Our Mother who is within us, we celebrate your many names...” These two prayers, incorporated into a service in which three active ELCA bishops participated, should enable every ELCA member to understand the issue before them is not merely the ordination of homosexuals but false teaching and apostasy. The primary issue before members of the ELCA is not homosexuality but its rejection of the authoritative Word of God.

Excerpt from the article

“The Other Shoe is About to Drop on ELCA”

—“The Vine and Branches,” Fall 2010, Pastor Barnhart

United Nations Treaty Used to Threaten Home School Families

(The week of September 7) the fate of four homeschooling families was decided in Botswana. The families, adherents to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, have been ordered by a judge to send their children to public school.

Despite the judges’ findings indicating that the chil-

dren were cared for and that the parents took steps to provide for the education of their children, they still need to go to public school because Botswana has acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The legal standard under the UNCRC is the “best interests of the child.” In other words, the state has the authority to determine how children should be raised and educated.

“...The UNCRC...gives almost unlimited powers to judges to decide how children should be raised,” said Mike Donnelly, Director of International Relations for HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association)...

The Botswana families are determined to continue homeschooling.

Christian Newswire

USA Today Reports

Judges Require Dress Code in Courtroom

By Dr. Sheldon Smith

More and more judges are cracking down on “attire that’s just plain inappropriate,” according to a feature article by the Wilmington, Delaware *News Journal* reporter J. L. Miller and carried in the August 7, 2010, *USA Today*.

Flip-flops, jeans and short shorts are among the no-nos when you have a day in court in various jurisdictions around the nation. If you dress in skimpy, sloppy or otherwise “inappropriate” attire, you can be cited for contempt and pay a fine.

According to the report, the dress codes help to maintain “order in the courtroom” and establish “the appropriate respect and dignity (the courtroom) should deserve.”

Well, well, well! What is this? Obviously these judges haven’t gotten the message that the contemporary church-growth gurus are preaching! Is it possible that the narrow-minded fundamental Baptists (Editor - Lutherans & others) who haven’t ditched their standards could actually have a point?

With the influence of Rick Warren, the charismatic movement and other contemporary “hang loose” advocates, the pressure of maintaining a standard of decency has been intense – so intense, in fact, that a lot of good men and good churches have just given up and caved in.

It seems that a lot of folks who clamor about “making a difference” do not want to maintain a difference (Jude 22). Can we not see that the Lord has always required of His people something greater than the world’s standard?

“His workmanship” in Ephesians 2:10 does not connote the hang-loose, be-sloppy and do-my-own-thing attitude of much of contemporary theology.

The “peculiar people” of Titus 2:14 are not modeling

themselves after Hollywood!

The “without spot, and blameless” scenario of II Peter 3:14 raises the standard about the carnality of common contemporary behavior!

The “not be ashamed . . . at his coming” of I John 2:28 surely challenges the current status quo in Christian circles.

The “hating even the garments spotted by the flesh” of Jude 23 causes us to avoid even getting close to the worldly lifestyles!

The “modest apparel” of I Timothy 2:9 is not rocket science!

The “abstain from all appearance of evil” of I Thessalonians 5:22 leaves little room for negotiation.

Dear friend, if you are serious about your faith, if you value your testimony, and if you want to make an impact for Christ, why on earth would you continue to clamor and resist cleaning up your act?

Do you not want to be a strong Christian?

Are you not concerned about how you are perceived?

Are you not willing to do whatever you can do to be at your best for Christ?

“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 many, that they may be saved.” - I Cor. 10:31-33.

Please review those three verses closely. Ask the Lord how they apply to you right now!

The judges in some of our courtrooms seem to understand what many Christians and churches are not willing to admit! How you present yourself, including how you dress, does matter!

Remember just a few short years ago when business leaders began to reject the “casual Friday” policy? Studies revealed that the so-called casual approach in the workplace resulted in casual results. Thus, that idea has been shelved in most offices.’

Men need to dress in masculine attire, and women should dress in feminine attire. Even at a distance, you should be able to identify “him” from “her” without difficulty.

It is not often these days that we can commend our judiciary, but in these cases, some judges are getting it right.

Taken from ‘Sword of the Lord’

Tax Dollars Going to Rebuild Muslim Mosques Around the World.

According to the Associated Press, the Obama administration will give away nearly \$6 million of American tax

dollars to restore 63 historic and cultural sites, including Islamic mosques and minarets, in 55 nations.

This is an outrage! Our country is broke. And can you imagine what the ACLU and others on the secular left would say if these monies had been spent to repair Christian churches? They would be screaming “separation of church and state!” Funding Islam on foreign soil with American taxpayer money? Not a whimper.

The latest taxpayer giveaway includes \$76,000 for a 16th century mosque in China, \$67,000 for a mosque in Pakistan, \$77,000 to restore minarets in Nigeria and Mauritania, and \$50,000 for an Islamic monument in India. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the U.S. program to restore Islamic and other cultural sites in other countries is taxpayer money well spent.

American Family Association

* * * * *

The Perfect Plumbline

Amos 7:1-9

Faithful servants are needed in every generation of every dispensation. Their selection, however, is never based on the same criteria the world uses to determine potential greatness. Man naturally looks for credentials that conform to the external and carnal standards set by a Christ-rejecting world. God, on the other hand, looks at the heart. In Amos we see the qualities of one whom God could use for His glory. Amos was resolved to speak the Word fearlessly and without compromise.

The vision of the plumbline (a weighted string used to determine if a wall is perfectly vertical or upright) was God’s way of instructing Amos concerning His Word being the absolute standard (vv. 7-9). The thoughts or opinions of Amos or anyone else were irrelevant. The understanding of God’s Word (and its proper application) is man’s only mandate. The Bible is the divine plumbline whereby we are to scrutinize the uprightness of all things pertaining to our walk and witness. A faithful servant of Christ will not call straight what the Word of God has clearly deemed to be crooked.

Amos was unrelenting in proclaiming the Lord’s message of reproof, yet he was still tender-hearted and burdened for the brethren to whom he spoke (vv. 1-6). He knew Israel was still God’s chosen people, that they had covenant promises yet to be fulfilled and that he was given the difficult task of calling disobedient brethren to repentance. Our sincere desire in sounding forth a “Thus saith the Lord!” to an erring brother should be for his restoration, not his condemnation. May we faithfully apply the

perfect plumbline - the standard of God’s inerrant Word - to all situations. DWC

Taken from “Feature”
Fundamental Evangelistic Assn., Inc.
Telephone 805 - 528-3335

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Grace, Mercy, and Peace

By Adeline Haugen, Snohomish, WA

Grace, Mercy, and Peace

All are gifts from God

Each is something we don't deserve

As on life's path we tread.

It's by His Grace we can endure

As He forgives our sin

It's through His Word

We can be sure

Of the battles we can win.

Mercy is something He withholds

From something we deserve

It's only because of His Love and Grace

We don't throw a sinful curve.

Peace is what God gives to us

When our life is upside down

He hears our prayers

Turns us around

And wipes away our cares.

So thank you Lord for Your Grace

And thank you for your Mercy

Because of these

We have Your Peace

And these can make a life more worthy.

Give Thanks to God Today!

Psalm 108:3-5

Many psalms express thanks to God for his countless blessings. Much of the noise we hear (and make ourselves) throughout the year is not the music of thankfulness but of whining and complaining. Today, express your gratitude to God for who He is and for all He has done for you. Here are some helpful verses to meditate upon today: “Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of His name; make His praise glorious” (66:1-2). “O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever” (107:1). “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations” (100:1-5).

“Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul” (66:16). “Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy: (107:2). “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who foregiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things. ...For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him” (103:1-11). PNF

Taken from ‘*Feature*’
Fundamental Evangelistic Assn., Inc.
Telephone 805 - 528-3335

In everything give Thanks. I Thessalonians 5:18

The day before Christmas became a thanksgiving day for my family. The station wagon was packed with kids and travel stuff for the 400 - mile trip to Grandma’s. As is our custom, before leaving we asked God to protect us on the road. He did, but in an unusual way.

As we were cruising down I - 75 in Ohio, we ran over some debris in the road. It made a lot of noise, but did no damage – or so we thought. With every passing mile we figured that the crisis had passed. When we pulled off the

expressway for gas a few miles later, though, we were in for a deflating surprise. I felt a sickening, sloppy feeling in the front of the car. Both front tires had gone flat.

We weren’t happy with having to replace the tires, but we were thankful for God’s care. Thankful that we didn’t have an accident. Thankful that the tires stayed inflated until we got off the expressway. Thankful for the tow truck sitting at the gas station. Thankful that a repair shop was open. We were thankful for God’s answer to our prayer.

Our trials are nothing compared with what the apostle Paul endured. Yet he gave thanks to God, and he said we should be thankful “in everything.” Any day can be thanksgiving day, even when things go wrong.

J. David Branon

*We should be ready to give the Lord thanks
For blessing as well as for test;
Hearts that are thankful is all that He asks;
Let’s trust Him to give what is best. – Bierema*

**If you pause to think,
You’ll have cause to thank.**

Our Daily Bread

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Grand Rapids, MI. (Reprinted by permission)

Editor’s Note: Every day should be a ‘*thanksgiving day*’ for a Christian!

Abundance is no guarantee of gratefulness or thanksgiving. Prosperity may possibly turn our hearts away from the Lord. “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches - Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, “Who is the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.”

Proverbs 30:5-9.

Sow in Tears

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Ps. 126:5-6

There are many hearts whose soil is hard. The seed remains on the surface; the soil is not receptive, and as a result the seed yields no fruit.

The hard soil, however, can be made mellow – through *tears*. Love is the rain which causes the parched field to open up and receive the seed. But, alas, there are so few who weep.

Blessed are you if you have sown your seed in tears. You shall reap in joy. In the great day of harvest you shall bring your sheaf rejoicing. Tears here – joy yonder. Seed sown in tears always bears fruit.

Pray God to give you more love. Let Christ Himself enfold you into the fellowship of His suffering.

But keep your suffering to yourself. Hide your tears. Do not trouble others with them, and least of all those for whom you weep. Bestow upon them the sunshine of love, and let your secret tears make the ground receptive. Then, in due time, you shall reap in joy.

Taken from “*Rest A While*” by Fredrik Wisloff

The Unconverted Minister

Is a blind man fit to be a guide in a very dangerous way? Is a dead man fit to bring others to life? Is a madman fit to give counsel in matters of life and death? Is a leper or one that has plague of sores upon him fit to be a good physician?

Is an ignorant rustic that has never been at sea in his life fit to be a pilot to keep vessels from being dashed to pieces upon rocks and sand banks?

Isn't an unconverted minister like a man who would teach others to swim before he has learned it himself and so is drowned in the act and dies like a fool?

Gilbert Tennent, 1740

* * * * *

Don't Wait to Say, “Thank You, Father”

Dear God:

I want to thank You for what You have already done.

I am not going to wait until I see results or receive re-

wards; I am thanking You right now.

I am not going to wait until I feel better or things look better; I am thanking You right now.

I am not going to wait until people say they are sorry or until they stop talking about me; I am thanking You right now.

I am not going to wait until the pain in my body disappears; I am thanking You right now.

I am not going to wait until my financial situation improves; I am going to thank You right now.

I am not going to wait until the children are asleep and the house is quiet; I am going to thank You right now.

I am not going to wait until I get promoted at work or until I get the job; I am going to thank You right now.

I am not going to wait until I understand every experience in my life that has caused me pain or grief; I am going to thank You right now.

I am not going to wait until the journey gets easier or the challenges are removed; I am thanking You right now.

I am thanking You because I am alive.

I am thanking You because I made it through the day's difficulties.

I am thanking You because I have walked around the obstacles.

I am thanking You because I have the ability and the opportunity to do more and do better.

I am thanking You because, Father, You haven't given up on me.

ChristianVoicesWorldwide.net.
(Sword of the Lord)

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I Deserve Better?

The epitome of pride is thinking, *I deserve better. I deserve a better house. I deserve a vacation. I deserve a better job. I deserve a better husband, a better wife, better kids, better parents.* No, “It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed” (Lam. 3:22).

You know what will keep you back from this sin of pride? A grateful heart. Look what the Lord has entrusted me with! Oh, the sin of ungratefulness; it leads to the sin of entitlement!

I deserve; I deserve; I deserve. No, look what I have. Look at this marriage God has entrusted me with; look at these children. Never dote on what you don't have; always be thankful for what you do have!

Dr. Dan Reed, *Daily Manna*

The Things Most Surely Believed

Luke 1:1-4

Humanly speaking, Luke wrote this account with the purpose of setting “in order Those things which are most surely believed among us” so that Theophilus “(might) know the certainty of those things” (vv. 1,4). We must remember, however, that Luke was one of four men directed by the Spirit of God in recording accounts of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. It is important to realize that “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet. 1:21). The word *moved* in this text means “to bear, to carry; be driven.” The same word is used in connection with the shipwreck endured by Paul in Acts 27, when he and 275 others were cast upon the island of Melita while journeying to Rome. The ship was caught in the clutches of a tempestuous east wind and eventually, in desperation, the sailors simply allowed the ship to be driven (“borne along, carried”) by the wind. Just as that ship was moved and controlled by the wind, holy men – clean, separated, set apart saints of God were *moved* or “borne along” by the Spirit in composing the written Word.

Whenever we approach the Word of God, we must keep in mind that it is exactly that – *God’s Word*. In I Thessalonians 2:13, Paul thanked the Lord for how the Thessalonians received the message that he and Silas had preached to them. The believers accepted the apostle’s message “as it (was) in truth, the Word of God.” That same Word had not only redeemed them, but it was continuing to “effectually (work) ... in them.” Every time you read your Bible remember that it is God’s Word to you. JED

Taken from ‘Feature’
Fundamental Evangelistic Assn., Inc.
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“All Thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made Thee glad.” Psalms 45:8

Procter and Gamble is a familiar name. One Sunday, Harley Procter listened to a preacher speak from Psalm 45 where ivory palaces are mentioned. As a result, he decided to call his soap Ivory. Many people think that good works or a moral life, superficial cleanliness, will merit them entry into God’s heaven. But our problem goes

much deeper than that. Thank God for Him who came from the ivory palaces to accomplish what no soap could do! Christ washed us from our sins! R. E. Surgenor

*Though thy sins are red like crimson,
deep in scarlet glow;*

*Jesus’ precious blood can make them,
white as snow.*

F. R. Havergal

‘Choice Gleanings’, Gospel Polio Press

Editor’s Note: “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.

* * * * *

“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.” 2 Cor. 12:7.

What a difficult time God has to keep us in our proper place! We easily become puffed up, but how difficult it is to keep humble! Even a blessing God, a glorious experience, a special manifestation of grace may cause us to feel superior. And the fact that we can become proud because of something which we have received as gift of grace is the clearest evidence of how corrupt our nature is.

Nevertheless God does not abandon us, but deals with us in His mercy, and wisdom. Sometimes He even deals severely with us. Even Satan must serve Him in making us humble. He places a thorn in our flesh, causing us to experience how weak and frail we are; and in spite of our prayers for deliverance He permits the affliction to remain; for through it He will bestow upon us the true blessing: His grace. Yea, He will show us that His grace is sufficient, and that it is only when we are weak that we are strong.

Therefore do not become discouraged if the thorn causes you pain. The pain is necessary in order to keep you humble.

Taken from “Rest A While” by Fredrik Wisloff

CONCERNED FRIENDSHIP

"Ye are my friends" John 15:14

To what height does Jesus in these words lift his disciples! Poor, common, sin-stained men, does he, the only-begotten Son of God, call his "friends." And not the eleven disciples only does He thus honor, but others, for example Lazarus and Mary, and Martha. May it not, my Christian young people (older as well), also include you?

Let us consider what Friendship is. We apply the words "friends" to many who in reality are not such. In the world it is sufficient, in order to be known as friends, that people have enjoyed long acquaintance with each other, perhaps have gone to school together, or by some chain of circumstances have been thrown into more or less constant contact in life. But such relationship does not constitute friendship. Let the friendship between David and Jonathan furnish us with our definition *"Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul."* (1 Sam. 18:3). True friendship is a communion of hearts, an exchange of soul! Such is the friendship in which Jesus bestows himself upon those who give their hearts to him. May we count ourselves among his friends? If so, then in his friendship we have the test which should govern all our other friendships. Friends of Jesus may never form friendships with those whose hearts belong to the world. There is an old saying which runs in this wise: "Tell me whom you go with, and I will tell you who you are." No, the friends of Jesus can never form friendships with those whose hearts are divided between God and the world. And yet, how lightly do young people (older also) often form their friendships. If he to whom you give your heart in friendship is a worldling, depend upon it, he will draw you away from Christ.

Whom will you choose, Christ or Barabbas? Ought you find any difficulty in answering? Choose for your friend one whose heart has been given to Christ. In that fact you will have the best guarantee, both that your friendship will be true, and that it will be one which will bless you both.

*Our best Friend's gone to heaven,
True friends on earth are few;
The world is false, and its honor
Fleeting as morning dew.
And so this faith my heart commends,
That Jesus is the best of Friends.*

Taken from the booklet "Follow Me" by Benevolus,
copyright 1908 by R. Neumann.

(Published 1905 with especially youth in mind,
but includes 'everybody').

Blood on Our Hands

"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." Ezekiel 3:18.

Ezekiel had been called as a prophet and "watchman" (Ezekiel 3:17; 33:7) to warn the sinning Israelites of impending judgment because of their persistence in compromising their worship of the true God with the pagan pantheistic evolutionism of the Canaanite nations around them. Soon they had adopted the immoral lifestyles that almost invariably develop from diluted confidence in God as Creator/Savior.

One could easily draw a sharp parallel between ancient Judah and the apostasy and moral degeneration of modern Christendom. The wicked (that is, "the nations that forget God") are surely going to be "turned into hell" (Psalm 9:17) if they do not soon repent, whether or not they hear the warning of any watchman. They have already rejected the evidence ***"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power"***

Abraham Lincoln spoke of God in creation and conscience, so they are "without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

Nevertheless, the Lord does call us who have His Word to do all we can "to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life" (that is, in the present context, to tell them that their Creator and Judge has died for them, to become their Savior). If we fail to do this, then we become, in effect, their executioners with blood on our hands. Even the "righteous" need to be warned, *"that the righteous sin not"* (Ezekiel 3:21). *"Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked"* and he ignores or rejects the warning, *"thou has delivered thy soul"* (Ezekiel 33:9). We have a great responsibility, as well as a wonderful privilege, to warn men of impending judgment, and then to tell them of the Savior.

Henry M. Morris, PH.D.

Taken from 'Days of Praise'
Institute for Creation Research - Copyright 2010
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"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

Abraham Lincoln

Concerning Love Toward Enemies

Then came Peter unto him and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. (Matthew 18:21-22)

There is perhaps no duty in life so hard, and yet for the Christian so indispensable, as that of forgiveness. The world will hear to nothing of the kind. Its principle is retaliation, which according to its reasoning is not only no sin, but often a duty. A person who attempts to live up to the teachings of Jesus, and instead of avenging suffers and forgives, it pronounces at the mildest a weakling. Nor is it only the world about us, but also the world within us, this natural heart of sin, that rises in rebellion against this duty. The old self recoils from such a demand, exclaiming, "I cannot and dare not allow myself to be insulted."

But if men laugh at you for forgiving an enemy, you may calmly ask, Was he who commanded this, and practiced it, a weakling? Was it not almost the highest revelation of his divinity, when he prayed for his executioners, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do?"

Yes, replies the old, unforgiving self within us, that was an act divinely great; but can you expect from us who are so unlike him, us mere men, such heights of graciousness? To which it may be replied, that there have been hundreds in whom the spirit of Christ has dwelt, and who by that spirit have been delivered from the world and its reasoning, so that they have realized this grace of forgiveness and have thereby proven themselves Jesus' disciples. God, thou who wouldst become his disciple, go thou and do likewise. For the disciples of Jesus there is but one model, even he whose name they bear.

But suppose it should some time happen that a person grievously wronged me, not only seven times, but oftener, repeating the injury again and again, must I time after time forgive him? That is what the Master requires of us, and this is the plain teaching of that parable which he spoke in this connection, the parable of the unmerciful servant, from which we are to understand that if we are willing to forgive those who offend us, even to seventy times seven, neither may we expect the forgiveness of our far heavier account with God.

But suppose the offender should spurn my forgiveness, and it have no effect upon him. In such a case we may fall back upon the words of St. Paul, "*As much as in you lieth, live peaceably with all men,*" (Rom. 12:18). We, at least, are clear of blame. However aggravated the case may be, if we mean to be true disciples of Jesus we dare

not forget the words and the example of the Master: "*Love your enemies, bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.*" (Matt. 5:44-45)

*Ever patient, gentle, meek,
Holy Savior, was thy mind;
Vainly in myself I seek
Likeness to my Lord to find.
Yet that mind which was in Thee,
May be, must be formed in me.*

Taken from 'Follow Me' by Benevolus
Published 1905, copyright 1908

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Sow in Tears

"*They that sow in tears shall reap in joy*" (Ps. 126:5). Sad to say, we see very few Christians weeping over lost souls. One morning, A. B. Simpson was found with his arms wrapped around a globe and tears falling down on it as he prayed for a lost world.

Oh, that the born-again believers would get under the burden where God could trust us to wet our pillows weeping over lost souls! We should never expect the bed of a sinner to become uncomfortable as long as ours is comfortable. Too many churches are doing nothing more than marking time.

One of the major causes of our barren churches and joyless services is a tearless ministry. Looking at Paul's ministry, we see him serving the Lord with many tears. "*Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears*" (Acts 20:31).

John Hull

*Editor's Note: **Absolutes!** A Christian must experience 'forgiveness of sin' and express *forgiveness!* Forgiveness is not necessarily an expression of "feelings", but an act of the heart.*

When the going gets too easy,
you may be going downhill!

UpDate

“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice. Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.” Isaiah 35:1-2.

To the best of my knowledge “Israel” (Agriculturally) is *experiencing* phenomenal growth. Water from the ‘Dead Sea’ is being used for irrigation; after proper reprocessing. The ‘nation’ is noticing a definite ‘rain-fall’ increase and is today producing some of the best fruit and finest flowers in the world! And as you ‘know’ God promised exactly that in the ‘last days’ and so we have more ‘reason’ than ever to be *looking up* and scripture admonishes us to pray for ‘the peace of Jerusalem’. *As we wait for the trumpet sound* (you & I) are to be ‘occupying till HE comes’!

The ‘Dead Sea’ has a fresh inlet of water; but lacks an ‘outlet’. While here at the *Morning Glory* the OPPOSITE is true. At the present, the ‘financial inlet’ has noticeably decreased in the last months; but the ‘outlet’ remains the same. IF the ‘inlet’ does not change for the better soon; likely some definite decrease of this ‘ministry’ will have to be ‘curtailed’.

Notice what is happening in ‘these last days’, ‘*Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it.*’” Amos 8:11-12. **YET God’s Word states:** “*Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.*” Ecclesiastes 11:1. **Psalm 125:5-6 & I Peter 1:22-25**

At the present the concern is not only to maintain but also to ‘catch up’.

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