## "The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh" — James 5:8 EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2019

# What is the definition of GRACE?

he Gospel message is the 'good news' of *God's Grace*, so it is important to know what grace is and to constantly seek to get a better view of what grace does in our lives.

Grace is an essential part of God's character. Grace is closely related to God's benevolence, love, and mercy. Grace can be variously defined as "God's favor toward the unworthy" or "God's benevolence on the undeserving." In His grace, God is willing to forgive us and bless us abundantly, in spite of the fact that we don't deserve to be so well or dealt with so generously. (ED. Martin Luther said, "IF we got what we deserve, we would be like a blade of grass." Personally, I don't believe we would fair that well, except for GOD'S GRACE shown to the saved and unsaved sinner).

To fully understand grace, we need to consider who we were without Christ and who we become with Christ (and even then we don't fully understand GRACE, but experience it). We were born in sin (Psalm 51:5), and we ARE guilty of breaking God's Holy Laws (Romans 3:9-20, 23; I John 1:8-10). WE are (by nature) enemies of God (Romans 5:6, 10; 8:7, Colossians 1:21), deserving of death... Spiritually we're unrighteous (Romans 3:10). A person outside of Jesus Christ is destitute, blind, unclean, and dead; whereby their souls (lives) are in peril of everlasting punishment.

But then came grace. God extended His favor to each one that is under the BLOOD of His Beloved Son!

Grace is what saves us! (Ephesians 2:8-9). Grace is essential in the message of the Gospel. Grace gives us victory over sin (James 4:6), Grace give us a good hope -(2 Thessalonians 2:16).

The Bible repeatedly calls GRACE a '**Gift**'! (Ephesians 4:7). This is a very important analogy because it teaches us some key things about grace:

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<u>First</u>, anyone who has ever received a gift understands that a gift is much different from a loan which requires repayment or return by the recipient. The fact that grace is a gift means that nothing is owed in return.

Second, there is no cost to the person who receives a gift. A gift is free to the recipient, although it is not free to the giver, who bears the expense. The "Gift" of Salvation costs us sinners nothing. But the price of such an extravagant gift came at a great cost for our Lord Jesus, who died in our place.

<u>Third</u>, once a gift has been given, ownership of this gift has transferred and it is now personally the recipients! I John 5:11-13.

<u>Fourth</u>, in the giving of a gift, the giver voluntarily forfeits something he owns, willingly losing what belongs to him so that the recipient will profit from it. The giver becomes poorer so the recipient can become richer. This <u>generous and voluntary exchange from the giver</u> to the recipient is visible in II Corinthians 8:9: "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

<u>Finally</u>, the Bible teaches that GRACE is completely **unmerited!** The gift and the act of giving have nothing at all to do with our merit or innate quality (Romans 4:4, 11:5-6; II Timothy 1:9-10). In fact, the Bible says quite clearly that we don't deserve God's Salvation. Romans 5:8-10 says, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for

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us...While we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son."

GRACE does not stop once we are saved; God is gracious to us for the rest of our lives, working within and upon us.

\*\* GRACE justifies us before a Holy God – Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:6; Titus 3:7.

\*\* GRACE wins for us a new relationship of intimacy with God – Exodus 33:17.

\*\* GRACE disciplines and trains us to live in a new way that honors God – Titus 2:11-14; II Corinthians 8:7.

\*\* GRACE grants us immeasurable spiritual insight and riches – Proverbs 10:22; Ephesians 2:7.

\*\* GRACE helps us in our every need – Hebrews 4:16.

\*\* GRACE is the reason behind our every deliverance - Psalm 44:3-8; Hebrews 4:16.

\*\* GRACE preserves us and comforts, encourages, and strengthens us – II Corinthians 13:14; II Thessalonians 2:16-17; II Timothy 2:1.

GRACE is actively and continually working in the lives of God's children. Paul credited the success of his ministry not to his own substantial labors but to *"the grace of God that was with me"* (I Corinthians 15:10). Grace is greater than our sin (Romans 5:20), more abundant than we expect (II Timothy 1:14), and too wonderful for words (II Corinthians 9:15).

As the recipients of

GOD'S GRACE, Christians are to be gracious to others. Grace is given to us to serve others and to exercise our spiritual gifts for evangelism (to evangelize) and definitely for the building up of the communion of Saints (fellow believers/Christians – See Romans 12:6, Ephesians 3:2,7; 1 Peter 4:10).

Excerpts that are paraphrased from *"What is the definition of Grace?"* 

*Editor's Note:* Keep in mind/heart/practice that GRACE is not a "pillow" to sit upon; as to SIN or do just as one pleases, but to serve our crucified, risen and coming again Savior, that HE might be glorified, in spite of our sin and failures!

## "The God of all grace" 1 Peter 5:10

**ALL GRACE** – Grace for all and for all sinners. We have a God who does not ask for merit and worthiness, but who has made it a law of His Kingdom that favor is bestowed upon the <u>undeserving</u>. He is a God who rules over an ocean of grace. Are you afraid that His Grace will not be sufficient? Just stoop down and drink of the water of grace freely. So far, you have only sipped a few drops; the whole vast ocean lies before you. <u>Drink</u>. See if you can empty the ocean. Who can ever be in want of grace if he goes to HIM who is the GOD *of all grace*?

All grace – all kinds of grace. Scripture speaks of the manifold grace of God. Grace is sufficient for everything. It preserves you, sanctifies you, strengthens you, causes you to rejoice, and gives you strength for Christian service. You shall lack nothing, for **He is the God of all grace.** He is your God who will enable, establish, and strengthen you.

Today you may count on all the grace of God!

"And when Herod would have brought him forth; the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and the keepers before the door kept the prison." (Acts 12:6)

What a strange night! Peter was to be put to death the following day. And he knew this. Recently his friend James, the brother of John, had suffered the same fate, having been put to death by the sword. And now it was Peter's turn. He was bound with chains and guarded by two soldiers, one on each side of him. Other sentries were standing guard at the door outside the prison.

Peter, however, <u>was sleeping</u>! No anxiety kept him awake. There was no unsettled account with God which required a struggle by night. He had perfect confidence and peace. If it was God's will to deliver him, it would come to pass in due time. On the other hand, if it was God's will that he should die, he was prepared. His soul was at peace. <u>He slept</u>.

What a wonderful peace! God grant that we might all possess this peace always, under all circumstances, in suffering, in loneliness, in the face of life's difficulties, and amid the dread of death – the peace that passes all understanding!

*Rest A While*, by Fredrik Wisloff, Nordstrand Books, Oslo, Norway

Editor's Note: "Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And put your trust in the LORD". "I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid ..." "I both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:4-5; 3:5-6a, 3:8)

#### Satan Hinders Christians

#### **By Billy Apostolon**

*"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."* (I Thessalonians 2:18)

When we are hindered from serving the Lord, who hinders us? When we give this matter serious thought, there can be only one answer. Satan! Yes, Satan hinders us more times than the majority of us would like to admit. W. Herschel Ford said, "All over the world the Devil has been able to cause men to doubt the old things which have been believed down through the ages. He especially brings doubts concerning the Person of Christ; he is constantly telling men that Christ isn't divine. He begins an evil work by planting a doubt in our hearts; then he is easily able to lead us on and on into sin."

Satan works industriously on a full-time schedule. The alarm of the early morning – that ding, ding, ding – never has to awaken him. He never slumbers. He never closes his eyes. He works three eight-hour shifts every day, seven days a week, month in and month out. He is super-active 365 days a year and 366 days on Leap-year. He never takes a vacation.

Christians, never let the Devil deceive you into thinking that he is not trying to ensnare you. *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* I Peter 5:8.

Peter's was the voice of experience. He realized that Satan had ensnared him into turning his back on the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore he speaks with authority. Yes, Satan seeks to stop the saints from successfully serving the Savior. — *The Sword of the Lord* 

## Wonderful Words of Life

## *"Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them."* (Psalm 119:129)

Modern liberals may ridicule Bible-believing Christians as bibliolaters, but the fact is that it is not possible to place the Bible on too high of a pedestal. *"Thy testimonies are wonderful,"* the psalmist says, for **"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor"** (Isaiah 9:6), whose testimonies they are.

Consider just how wonderful are the Scriptures. They were written in the heart of God even before the Creation. "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). Then, "at sundry times and in divers manners," this eternal Word of God was conveyed to men as God "sake in time past unto the fathers" by the prophets" Hebrews 1:1). Finally, it was complete, and the last of the prophets concluded it with an all-embracing warning: "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life" (Revelation 22:18-19). Critics who tamper with the words of the Bible are on dangerous ground, the psalmist said "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever" (Psalm 119:160). Jesus said "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

Eternal in the past; inviolable in the present; forever in the future! All we shall ever need for our guidance is to be found in God's wonderful testimonies: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable... That the man of God may be perfect" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

It is not possible to have too high a view of Scripture, <u>"for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy</u> name" (Psalm 138:2). — Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

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#### **BEING THANKFUL FOR GRACE**

### "Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound, But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." (Romans 5:20)

This is the day (Ed. What we call Thanksgiving Day) that Americans set aside to reflect on the blessings

of God that have been showered on us in the previous year. All other holidays, even Christmas and Easter, can be skewed into a non-Christian meaning, but not <u>Thanksgiving</u>. Historically, it was a time to give thanks to God for the bountiful harvest, and experientially, there are those to whom we should give thanks for particular favors, but there is only one to whom we can give thanks for the blessings of life. Nothing else makes sense.

Christians, of course, have much more for which to give thanks than the non-believer, or at least they have the eyes with which to see and the heart with which to recognize God's blessings. Indeed, Paul instructs us that <u>"in every thing</u> (we should) <u>give thanks: for this is</u> <u>the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"</u> (I Thessalonians 5:18), the tense of the verb implying a habitual, continual thanksgiving.

But specifically, we should be thankful for His grace, which, as explained in our text, completely overwhelmed our sin and instead brought salvation and freedom from guilt. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"* Ephesians 2:8.

Note that in our text the word "abound" appears three times. Both the offense and sin exist in abundance. But the abundance of grace comes from a different Greek word that means literally "to exist in superabundance." But there is more. It is further modified by the prefix "much more," implying a grace that is beyond superabundance.

On this special day of Thanksgiving, let us not fail to include in those things for which we are thankful the overwhelmingly superabundant grace of God

#### D. Morris, Ph.D.

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*Editor's Note:* MAY <u>YOU</u> and <u>yours</u> experience a true 'Thanksgiving Day' and on; as you count your many blessings which you have received, and pray for God's extended mercy upon our USA (provided it is in harmony with His Will). Pray that God does NOT give us what we deserve, along with other Countries, and that in His Grace, we may experience empowerment! (II Chronicles 7:14)

## **Editorial**

RES

Thanksgiving results in Thanks-living

"These all wait for You, that You may give them their food in due season. What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good." "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (Psalm 104:27-28 & James 1:17)

With 'Thanksgiving Day' just around the corner, some of you dear 'folk' have already celebrated 'Thanksgiving Day'! Just the same, I want to share some interesting facts about 'Thanksgiving Day', especially in the USA. (For example, this year in Canada it was Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>).

There are <u>many</u> claims of actually when and where 'Thanksgiving Day' began, but most accept the fact of **1621** in Plymouth Colony, Mass., *even* though it could be at <u>12</u> different locations!

President Abraham Lincoln declared that 'Thanksgiving Day' should be the last Thursday of the month of November and USA sanctioned that as a 'holy day' in the year of 1941.

Actually, the first 'Thanksgiving Day' was a three-day celebration and as such, was much more significant then eating, feasting and sports. (In regards to sports: the first national 'Football' game on 'Thanksgiving Day' took place in 1876.)

Actually, the first 'Thanksgiving Day' was 1541, when Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his expedition held a "Thanksgiving" celebration in Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas panhandle.

<u>ACTUALLY</u>, the early settlers realized there had to be a '*Source*' where the blessing came from – more than the four-winds or some Apes, Monkeys, etc.

Now for some interesting facts:

1. IN 1621 the 'thanks-giving' lasted for three days with app. 50 surviving pilgrims and 90 Wampanoags Indians.

2. The song, "Jingle Bells" was originally written as a 'Thanksgiving' song.

3. Cranberries are a staple food; but the Native Americans used cranberries to treat Arrow wounds and to dye clothes. You can tell IF a cranberry is thoroughly ripe; by seeing if it will bounce.

4. Sarah Josepha Hale (1788 - 1879) worked diligently to get a 'Thanksgiving day.' She was the first known person to advocate women teachers in public schools and purpose public playgrounds.

5. Turkeys have two stomachs and the male turkey is the only one that 'gobbles.' In America, we will eat app. 535 million pounds of turkey. On Thanksgiving Day, no wonder why people say, "I feel like a stuffed turkey!" By the way, 'baby turkeys' are called 'pullets'.

6. WE are most privileged here in the USA to freely eat what we want, go wherever we want to, and 'we the people stand together' to support this great Independent Day. We are much more fortunate than in many parts of the world today! Please pray especially for the persecuted brethren!

7. WHEN we pray 'give us this day our daily bread'; Martin Luther stated that we are praying for the whole communion of saints' – the family of God.

8. 'Thanksgiving' results in 'Thanks-living' and 'thanks' is more or less an expression given unto the Giver for past and present blessings, Who is the only true god, GOD! YET in a land of Freedom, (for WE THE PEOPLE are the real makeup of this 'republic'), we also 'NEED A MIGHTY WORK OF GOD!

Because of our old nature; we have the attitude of 'give-me' and I deserve it! **OH!** It centers around our ego, called pride, and "I" is the center of sin. Thus, it is so easy to complain as even the children of Israel were ensnared with pride and complaining. God in His Infinite LOVE had to chasten the children of Israel. (By the way, 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem'.)

In these "Perilous Times," Scripture gives us again an insight of what GOD tells us people will become in 'these days.' People like you and me will become even more 'thankful'. (II Timothy 3) In Luke chapter 17, we are told of TEN lepers whose physical futures were very bleak. They were homeless, suffered sooner or later were in a lot of pain, shunned by their fellowmen and doomed to a horrible death. We can sense almost the disappointment from the 'Greatest Physician'; when He said, "*Where are the*  9. We are to rejoice always in Christ Jesus as HE is the <u>Pearl of Great Price</u> – and we are *challenged & commanded* to give *'thanks'* <u>always</u> through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4-6), for HE is the same yesterday, today, forever! (Hebrews 13:8) You know we *should be thankful* even for a headache that tells us something is wrong in our earthly body!

10. What a personal testimony Habakkuk has which is found in God's Inspired Book, the BIBLE; **"Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be** 

## You Can't Reach Everyone

According to recent estimates, almost <u>eight billion</u> people are alive in the world today! The number of people on the earth is so great that it is difficult to conceive of it. Preaching the Gospel to every person in the human race would be impossible.

If you could witness twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for seventy years, you would need to give the Gospel to 301,369 people per day. It is humanly impossible to witness personally to every person in the world during your lifetime. Also, it is unlikely that everyone witnessed to would listen, much less receive Christ as his Savior.

Although you can't reach everyone in the world, you can reach someone. You will probably not have seventy years of ministry to witness for the Lord, but you will have some time and opportunities and you should make the most of the time that you have.

You can't witness twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; but you can give many hours to witnessing. You cannot learn every language in the world, but perhaps you can learn an additional language or reach a person who has immigrated from another culture.

The cost may prohibit you from significant travel, but you can travel to some places to evangelize. The cost of evangelization is great and you probably cannot afford Bibles and literature for the world, but you can afford to pay for some of it. Evangelizing the world requires valuable time, and you can give significant time to it.

How can we fulfill the Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel? The Bible gave us this plan. We are to begin in our Jerusalem. God will direct us to a specific area and that will be our Jerusalem. Paul's burden was that Israel might be saved. He was also sensitive to the Macedonian call and responded.

God gives every person a burden to reach people in

on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fall, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls – Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation." (3:17-18)

P.S. CARINGLY, the Board of the Hauge Lutheran Innermision Federation and the *Morning Glory* wants the very best for you and yours, not only during the 'Thanksgiving Season', but always, along with the Editor and his wife, Barb.

specific places. It may be a small community or it may be a populous city; but God will give everyone a burden for someone, somewhere, to give him the Gospel.

Every preacher can have his sphere of influence. No man can reach every person in the world, but every man can reach someone. It can begin with your own family and children. Don't forget those closest to you.

Sadly, there have been some who, while trying to reach the world, have neglected those closest to them, their own children. Also, your young people can be challenged and trained to go to the mission field, thus expanding your sphere of influence.

Every church can support missionaries who go to places they cannot go, to reach someone they cannot reach. Over time a man's influence can be expanded to his Samaria and eventually in the regions beyond.

No man can reach every person in the world, but every man can reach someone that no one else can reach. Although you can't reach everyone, you can reach someone. By <u>God's grace</u> we must take advantage of every opportunity while we can.

"I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work" John 9:4.

Sword of the Lord

His grace is sufficient

No one can exhaust it;

Be strong in that grace

Abundant and true.

Draw largely, continually out of His fullness;

His grace shall be always sufficient for you.



# **From Our Fellowship Circle**



#### Ms. L. T.

## Viroqua, WI

May the Lord give you strength of Spirit, Soul and Body as you do this important work in getting God's precious Word out to so many! And may the joy of the Lord be your strength – Nehemiah 8:10.

Thank you for the Morning Glory and enclosed is a check.

Many years ago, I was working in the Stanley, ND area. A woman by the name of Melena Sanderson invited me to hear some Hauge Innermission speakers. I was so blest, that I also went to a Camp they held.

Editor's Note: Please send us a testimony of what the Lord is doing in your life. It blesses and encourages the readers and it also gives you an opportunity to share on a large platform. The Lord will bless you richly for so doing.

## Purpose-Driven Mandate: Those Who Focus on Bible Prophecy "Not fit for the Kingdom of God"

### By Roger Oakland

Many who were once looking for the return of Jesus have fallen asleep! We now live in a period of time where numerous prominent Christian (Ed.?) leaders are telling the Christian masses that paying attention to the signs of our times in light of the Bible is a waste of time. And many of them take it a step further and accuse those who believe what Bible prophecy says about the end of the age of being negative and self-centered.

In the still-popular Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren was actually laying ground-work for the emerging church's new reformation, a reformation that rejects thinking about the return of Christ and works more at convincing the multitudes that Christ is already in them as a *Global* (Emphasis added). As you will see in the following documentation, Warren has low regard for Bible prophecy. Perhaps this helps explain why so many who once were anticipating the return of the Lord have become occupied with worldly ambitions. Warren writes: *"When the disciples wanted to talk about prophecy, Jesus* 

quickly switched the conversation to evangelism. He wanted them to concentrate on their mission in the world. He said in essence, "The details of my return are none of your business. What is your business is the mission I have given you. Focus on that!" (Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven life...)

I find it simply astounding that a statement of this sort would be a <u>New York Times</u> best-seller in the present-day Christian book market. Jesus was telling the disciples they could not know the day or the hour, but nowhere does Jesus ever indicate that "<u>the details of my</u> <u>return are none of your business</u>". Rather than quickly changing the subject, we find in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 two of the longest passages in Scripture quoting Jesus' own words, as He details the signs of His coming. In essence, Jesus was saying, because you cannot know the day and hour of my return, you need to educate yourself in Bible prophecy and take heed of My words about the end times...

Jesus continually said to be alert and ready for when He returns. In both parables and straightforward talk, he spoke of this. In Luke 12:35-40, Jesus emphasized that it is essential to be prepared for His return: "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching... And this know, that if the good man of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

The Purpose Driven kingdom of God leaves no room for Bible prophecy, and in fact, condemns those who study it. The apostle Peter, inspired by the holy Spirit, had a different view. He writes: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts." (II Peter 1:19)

Christians are called to witness and be watchmen. NO Scripture exists that tells us to ignore the events that have been pointed out as signposts indicating the return of Jesus. If we do we might be the foolish virgins who fell asleep waiting for the bridegroom (Matthew 25:1-13).

Excerpts, from Hope for Your Heart

## **Dayton Shooter's Penchant for Sexual Violence a Factor**

The gunman in the Dayton, Ohio mass shooting...was the lead singer in "pornogrind" metal group, reports say; and their song celebrated sexual exploitation and violence.

(The gunman) who shot and killed nine people and injured 27...was a member of ...a three-person band that performed across the Midwest, according to BuzzFeed news.

The connection between the use and celebration of sexually violent porn and a mass shooting is not surprising for those who work to expose the harm of pornography and the social ills to which it contributes.

Bandon Showalter, christianpost.com

## New York City Mayor Calls Killing Babies in Abortions a "Sacred Choice" for Women

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio called abortion a "sacred choice"...while refusing repeatedly to say if he supports any limits on late-term abortions.

De Blasio ...appeared on Fox News ...Sean Hannity's show...to discuss abortion and other issues.

When Hannity questioned him on abortion limits, the mayor refused to answer the question directly, according to the *Washington Examiner*.

"Do you think a woman in the ninth month, putting aside health, putting aside life of the mother, do you support any restrictions until the baby is born? That's a simple question," Hannity asked.

"I believe it's a smokescreen, because it doesn't happen in America. Women make this choice; it's a sacred choice," de Blasio responded. "It's a sacred choice for women."

Lifenews.com

## Netflix Adds Transgender Storyline to Nickelodeon Children's Cartoon.

The online streaming platform Netflix launched a 45-minute special ... That serves as a follow-up to the popular 1990s children's cartoon series *Rocko's Modern life*, that features a prominent transgender storyline.

The series, which lasted four seasons on the chil-

dren's cable network Nickelodeon and ended in 1996, was known ...then to test the limit of adult humor in children's programming ....

Nick Adams, director of transgender representation at the LGBT activist group GLADD, consulted on the project. He called the special a story about accepting change.

Samuel Smith, christianpost.com

## China Removes "Bible," "God," "Christ," From Children's Classics

In efforts to bring Christianity further under government control, authorities in China have erased the words *Bible, God, and Christ* from classic children's stories including <u>Robinson Crusoe.</u>

China's Ministry of Education recently introduced a new school textbook to help fifth-grade students "*understand other cultures*," according to <u>Asia News.</u> Included in the textbook are four popular stories by foreign writers including <u>Robinson Crusoe</u>. ...However, each story is censored to remove any religious reference.

In Daniel Defoe's 18<sup>th</sup>-century classic novel, castaway Robinson Crusoe discovers three Bibles inside a shipwreck which he then uses as his moral compass while stranded on the island. However, the Chinese version eliminates the word *Bible*, instead noting that Crusoe happened upon "a few books."

Leah MarieAnn Klett, christianpost.com

## Gillette Promotes Liberal Social Agenda, Creates Major Backlash

First, Gillette tackled so-called "toxic masculinity" with a Super Bowl ad that angered many.

Now, the shaving supply brand giant is wading into the even deeper waters of social activism. It released a video celebrating a biological female's fit face shave – made possible by hormone treatments...

"We believe that advertising has the power to change mindsets," an executive for Procter & Gamble, which owns Gillette, told Quartz. She said Gillette wants to leverage "our voice in advertising and media: on behalf of its "gender equality effort."

Consumers aren't buying it.

"Get woke, go broke," Mike Huckabee tweeted af-

ter Gillette took a massive \$8 billion hit to its bottom line scler in its most recent quarter.

#### LIBERTY COUNSEL

*Editor's Note:* Interesting 'knowledge/observation' that 'liberals/liberalism' never 'give up', while 'conservatives' often do!

## **DEBATING A 'GOOD DEATH'**

Some say "assisted suicide," others "end-of-life options."

Minnesota lawmakers heard passionate testimony Wednesday [Sep. 11] on both sides of a hotly disputed proposal to allow people with terminal illnesses to end their lives with the help of medical professionals.

Many Democrats in the Minnesota House back a bill allowing medically assisted suicide, a practice that's been approved in eight other states and Washington, D.C. Assisted suicide has been legal in Oregon for more than 20 years, and lawmakers in other states, including Minnesota, have patterned similar proposals after Oregon's law.

But some religious figures and Minnesota lawmakers, including a key GOP leader in the Senate, warn that giving people say over when to end their lives would be dangerous for vulnerable people who have disabilities or are suicidal.

More than 200 people from Minnesota and around the country packed an informational hearing of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee, which could advance the proposal when the Legislature convenes next February. Testimony did not fall along clear partisan lines. Doctors on both sides of the issue, along with religious leaders and people with terminal illnesses and their families, took turns at the microphone and gave dueling opinions.

Marianne Turnbull of St. Paul, who has stage 4 ovarian cancer, testified that she is haunted by her mother's suffering at the end of her life. She told lawmakers she wants the option to choose to die on her terms.

"I want to live as long as I can. I want the medical care that can ease my pain and allow me to be in relationship with my children, my family and my friends. But when the time comes, I want a good death. I want to die at home. I want to be surrounded by people who love me," Turnbull said.

But another woman with a terminal illness diagnosis, Stephanie Packer, traveled from Orange, Calif., to tell lawmakers that there are unintended consequences of legalization. She has pulmonary fibrosis as a result of diffuse scleroderma.

After assisted deaths were legalized in California, Packer said her insurer told her several of her expensive medications were no longer covered. She said she asked what the cost would be for assisted suicide medication and was told her copay would be \$1.20.

Insurance companies are not in the business of healing, Packer said, "So if there are other options out there to save them money, they are good businesspeople, and they are going to do it."

Rep. Anne Neu, R-North Branch, said she had been contemplating that exact possibility – that insurance companies are the ones to benefit financially from this change.

Neu was one of many lawmakers who shared personal stories about the deaths of family and friends. Her husband, who had ALS and died, received love and care from his family until the end of his life, she said.

"How many people, in fear of being a burden on their families, make that decision to end their lives?" Neu asked.

Neu and other opponents of assisted-suicide legislation also raised concerns about the difficulty of predicting exactly how long someone has to live. The current bill would allow people to request the drugs if they have less than six months to live. Two health care providers would have to sign off on the lethal dose.

Backers of the bill pointed to the specter of needless end-of-life suffering. Rep. Heather Edelson, DFL- Edina, shared how a close friend "withered away" from bone cancer. She said the woman was villainized because she wanted the pain to be over and died with-out options.

Rep. Mike Freiberg, DFL-Golden Valley, chief sponsor of the bill, struck a Libertarian tone. "At the end of the day this is about the patient," he said. "This is about what patients are going through and the government not telling them what they have to do and how they should live the end of their lives."

... But it appears unlikely the bill will get a hearing in the Senate. Sen. Michelle Benson, R-Ham Lake, chairwoman of the Senate's Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee, issued a statement saying suicide of any sort is tragic. People with mental illness or disabilities are "at the greatest risk of outside influence clouding their personal judgment," she said, adding that the Legislature should focus on palliative care.

"If physician-assisted suicide becomes law, it may be easier for some to remind those with a high level of care that it is cheaper for them to die than to keep them alive," Benson said. "... Physician-assisted suicide is a dangerous policy and we will not hear it in the Senate."

Under current Minnesota law, those who assist a suicide can face felony charges. In 2015, a jury in Dakota County found the corporation Final Exit Network guilty of helping an Apple Valley woman end her life.

As the debate continues, the two sides even disagree about the terminology. Opponents at Wednesday's hearing wore "no assisted suicide" stickers, while supporters argue the term "suicide" is not always accurate. They wore yellow stickers with the phrase "I support end-of-life options."

Taken from Star Tribune, Sep. 12, 2019

Editor's Note: This highlights just how barbaric people have become. Once abortion was legalized, then allowing older people to end their own lives (or being persuaded or forced to do so) was the next step. The next step will be the elimination of people who are not beneficial to society: Those with severe handicaps or mental issues. The next step is to eliminate those whom society deems as undesirable, which would include the Bible-believing Christian, since they are against these and other actions which are against God's Will. In essence, society has become like the Nazis. They blatantly murdered people simply because they were Jews and were viewed as an inferior race. In like manner, people today blatantly kill babies because they are deformed or unwanted and older people because they are sick!

## **MY SUBSTITUTE GUEST**

BY Vanessa Winfield Gibbs

For God so loved the world, That He gave His only begotten Son, That whosoever believeth in Him Should not perish but have everlasting life.

I heard it said over and over again, But not enough to repent of my sins. I said, "Jesus loves me" and I kept on going And yet he spared me to live another morning.

I saw the Bible sitting there, On the table, by the chair, I'd read other books but let it lay On the table, day by day.

Story by story, I read on and on Until finally the last novel was gone. Then I picked up my Bible and I wiped off the dust I said, "In God, I should put my trust." Deep down I knew I'd known Him once before And He always seemed to be knocking at my heart's door.

But I closed my mind and I closed my heart; Jesus was calling but I sought him not.

I kept on reading as my Bible lay: And said to myself, "I'll read it one day." Never thought, "What if that day had come?" For I knew I'd have only me to blame.

Then one day as I lay down to rest I stumbled upon a novel, THE SUBSTITUTE GUEST.

It was about a family who believed in God And I read this book with a nod.

This Christian family, their love and trust – I knew for me – it was a must When the stranger asked how this perfect love was so

They told him of Christ, who'd so long ago

Died on the Cross for our very sins That we might open our hearts and let him come in.

This stranger accepted Christ; and so did I And because He lives, I shall never die.

For God knew my heart but I didn't know the rest; It was He who came as my Substitute Guest. And now I read my Bible every day, I try to live in a Christ-like way.

I never have to wipe my Bible for dust, For reading God's Word is a daily must. I thank Him for being so patient with me And for destroying my sins at Calvary.

For dying that I might live. His only begotten Son Is What God had chosen to Give.

For God so loved the world, That He gave His only begotten Son That Whosoever believeth in Him Should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Pilgrim Tract Society, Inc. Reprinted from *Hope For* Your Heart.

## The Attributes of God

This is the fifth in a series of articles about the character and nature of God. The church today has brought God down to a human level and consequently people view and relate to Him through strictly human terms and we have forgotten Who it is "*with whom we have to do*." (Heb. 4:13)

The next attribute of God is that He is Merciful. "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear Him." (Psalm 103:8-1) God knows who we are as sinners and the sinful nature we all possess. God's mercy means that He doesn't give us what we deserve. If God gave us what we deserve, every person would be killed instantly and thrown into hell to pay for their sins. Everyone is sinful by nature and sins every day in thought, word and deeds. But God is merciful to mankind and restrains His judgment against them for a season. Even in my own life, I lived without Jesus for 26 years and there were a number of times when I could have died. Even when I had no time or interest in God, He still spared me. This was the Mercy of God at work toward mankind.

Included in Mercy is that God feels what we feel and has mercy upon us in our situation. "Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust." (Psalm 103:13-14) The reason that God is intimately acquainted with all our ways is that He Himself has been here and personally experienced everything we experience, except the effects of sin. "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16) On top of that, Jesus DID experience the effect of sin when He took our sins upon Himself and suffered the wrath of God.

So Jesus knows all about our lives in this world and has Mercy and Pity upon us. Many of the miracles which Jesus performed were motivated by His Mercy upon people in their affliction. "And when He went ashore, He saw a great multitude, and felt compassion for them, and healed their sick." (Matthew 14:14) Jesus' miracles do attest to His deity, but they are also a reminder of the Mercy that God shows to us.

The other side of Mercy is that God is Gracious. God's Mercy means that He doesn't give us what we deserve. His grace means that He gives us what we don't deserve and have not earned. God's Grace is that He shows undeserved kindness and is willing to forgive. "Then the LORD passed by in front of [Moses] and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin..." (Exodus 34:6-7) Mercy is the withholding side of God and Grace is the giving side of God. Everything that we need in this world is given to us as a gift of God's Grace. The greatest gift that God's Grace gives to us is our forgiveness and salvation. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." (Eph. 2:8) We did not save ourselves, but God's grace gave us salvation as a gift. That means that everything that pertains to our salvation was God's Grace given to us: Conviction, Repentance, A Broken and a Contrite Heart, Faith, Acceptance of Christ and full remittance of all sins committed are all what God's Grace accomplished within us. This is what the little word "it" entails in the above quoted verse of Ephesians 2:8, "It is the gift of God."

The only reason that God can extend His Grace to us is because Christ has come and atoned for the sins of the world. Some people have defined Grace with this acronym: God's Riches At Christ's Expense. When we are in Jesus, God can now freely give us all things. "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." "For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace." (John 1:14, 16) In Jesus, we see God's grace in fulness (Full of Grace) and even heaped up on top of each other (grace upon grace). We find in Jesus everything we need for acceptance with God, we find everything we need for our physical, emotional and spiritual lives in this world. In Jesus we find the hope of everlasting life and an eternity of God giving us all we need. This is God's Grace that will never end.

> Pastor Jim Haga Shoreview, MN

## Hans Nielsen Hauge

(Continued from last issue of the Morning Glory)

(Editor: In a sense in these articles we are traveling a little with Hans' journey in life)

Five years passed, alternating between sorrow and joy, honor and dishonor. It seemed to me now that it would be better, in addition to my spiritual endeavors, to concern myself also with physical employment. It is true that in years past I had worked at binding books and at farming, as the opportunity presented itself. But many of my fellow believers wanted to be free from earthly occupations. Some had no desire to work, possibly due to laziness or deceit. The result was that unbelievers or those unacquainted with my basic teachings got the chance to deride and blame me for being the cause of these disorders. I also thought that by the establishment of more industries and factories, it would be possible to shine before men with good works (Matthew 5:16) and in addition make some money in order to have something to give to others rather than being forced always to receive (Acts. 20:35).

I established legal residence in Bergen as a merchant in order to advance and undergird the aforementioned aim through business... Here I wish merely to call attention to something that I have noticed in connection with such things. Namely this, that man is always inclined to wander off the right path so that even the most noble aims may end in failure. ...

I hated laziness and maintained that one could not please God with idleness. But in the case of a few, activity was joined with a worldly mind, perhaps with love of earthly things. Only the <u>Omniscient One</u> knows whether I was free from fault in this respect, although it was contrary to my desire to own much in a material way and it was spiritually distasteful to me to be placed in the position of an administrator.

The many tears which a few fellow believers know I shed in Bergen during the year 1804 will testify to the truth of this statement. For I feared that men would exchange a godly mind for love of the world. I saw some go off to one extreme and some to another while only a few followed the right road. That made the outlook for the future of the church of Christ seem very dark to me. This year was especially a year of tribulation, both inwardly and outwardly, although few people realized it.

In the fall of the same year, 1804, I was arrested and arraigned before a royal commission. I was charged with seeking my own advantage, leading many away from their work, and diverting for my personal gain the greatest part of the rightful wages of the simple minded. Then too, it was said that I taught doctrines harmful to the common welfare and therefore deserved punishment.

Even though my own conscience acquitted me of such charge, since the feelings of my heart and the intent of my actions had been the exact opposite, still I was tempted with doubt...

All the more so since some of my trusted friends had now turned against me. Still, what happened? Conscience drove them to tell the truth, yes, even to lament their defection from me and to deplore these false rumors about an innocent person.

As regards to my earthly possessions, I had surely given away fifty times as much as I had received in gifts. When what I owned was deducted from the value of my property, I had little riches left. But I wished that I had owned nothing, so that there might not have been any grounds upon which to base these false accusations...

It is remarkable what an excellent opportunity a man who is alone, as I was in this prison, has to clarify his thinking regarding many things and to profit by his mistakes. But many temptations also harass one at such times. Such temptations plagued me also, now from within, now from without.

Inwardly, I was troubled with evil thoughts and doubts regarding the Christian faith. Outwardly, it bothered me that I was in captivity to strangers. It was a bitter experience to see a brother or a friend without being able to speak a confidential word with him. Besides, time passed slowly at first. But little by little, it went faster, partly because I occupied myself with knitting mittens and other things, and partly because I secured books to read. Some of these books I borrowed and some I bought with what I had earned by knitting.

I found few books that agreed with my point of view. Still, I read all I was able to secure in order to become informed in various fields. I read ethical, philosophical and juridical books, as well as plays, and in time learned something from them all. In fact, the more I read the more interested I became. The letters of Voltaire and others of the same-mind held the least interest for me.

The books that did me most harm were those that perverted the truth of the Bible, explaining the miracles of Jesus according to natural laws and denying His divine nature, His ascension, and other doctrine. Even though I did not believe such teachings, the devil found opportunity through them to tempt me. I must admit that by reading this material hostile to religion I was finally led so far astray that I found less interest in the simple Christian writings, the catechism and the Bible. For even though I desired to live according to these canonical writings, my mind became so puffed up that it seemed to me that I had heard it all before. Consequently, I took little interest in them.

But God in His goodness did not leave me. By His (Holy) Spirit He reminded me that all was not well with my soul. Therefore, I sought to return to my former simplicity of faith and to regain a desire to search the Holy Scriptures as before. But that was a slow process to get back to my previous attitude of obedience to God's Word and my former love to Him. For even though I occasionally spoke about God's Word to others, I missed the light of the Lord's Spirit and Word in my soul and the power which I had sensed earlier.

Two years passed. The Lord was good to me and by His grace, the Holy Spirit and His Word worked in my heart. After I had for some time diligently considered the Holy Scriptures and other godly writings and laid hold of God in prayer certain Bible passages came to mind that more and more quickened my soul. *(to be continued in the next issue of the Morning Glory)* 

Autobiographical Writings of Hans Nielsen Hauge, Copyright 1954, Augsburg Publishing House.

#### **Be Filled**

By Vance Havner

#### *"Be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18)

In the early church it was surprising to meet disciples who were not filled with the (Holy) Spirit; today it is a surprise to meet one who is. (Editor: 'filled' also means to be controlled by; you cannot have just a portion of the person of the Holy Spirit; but the opposite can be true).

In the New Testament wine and the Holy Spirit are connected in three different passages. John the Baptism was not to drink wine but be filled with the Spirit (Luke 1:15). The early Christians at Pentecost were accused of being drunk on new wine (Acts 2:13). And in Ephesians 5:18 we are told, "*Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled* (controlled) *with the* (Holy) *Spirit*.

There is a close parallel between the physical effect of wine and the spiritual effect of the Holy Ghost. Wine changes the face; so does the Spirit. Wine changes the talk; the Spirit-filled man will speak in a different tongue in that his conversation will be edifying and full of grace. Wine changes the walk; the Spirit-filled man walks a godly walk, worthy of his heavenly vocation.

A man filled with wine creates a stir, and so does a Spirit-filled man who follows in the steps of those early Christians who upset a world. The power of the Spirit is a stimulant, not a sedative.

The same passage that tells us to be filled with the Spirit tells us to sing and make melody in our hearts to the

Lord (Ephesians 5:19). God's statutes should be our songs in the house of our pilgrimage (Psalm 119:54).

A popular prejudice against emotions has crowded our feelings out the back door of our spiritual experiences. Emotions may be dangerous, but so is anything worth having. Man has intelligence, a will and emotions. A genuine experience of grace will affect all three.

We 'sit on the lid' today and smother our joy until "amens" would not be scarcer if they cost ten dollars apiece. Finney said that there was no revival when Mr. Amen and Mr. Wet-Eyes could not be found in the audience.

## TRANSFORMED

#### By Hyman Appelman

God wants to transform us. The world reforms people. God seeks to transform them. God knows nothing of reformation. Reformation leaves a man as bad as he was before. Transformation gives a man a new character, a new life, a new nature. The Gospel is a Gospel of transformation, not of reformation. The Gospel is a Gospel of re-creation. "Behold, I make all things new" Revelation 21:5. "I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh" Ezekiel 36:26. "I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me" Jeremiah 33:8. The Lord alone knows how to transform a soul.

#### The Lake of Fire

I wouldn't want my worst enemy in Hell! I wouldn't want the worst sinner and infidel there.

I certainly wouldn't want you there – nor your friends, nor mine. I wouldn't want to go there myself.

I am sure that GOD does not want any man in Hell. He proved that when He went to the Cross and died that men might be saved from Hell.

Hell is a real place and men (Ed. Anyone not under the Blood of Jesus Christ, or anyone outside of knowing JESUS, by faith) will really go there, because Christ would not have died to save men from a place that did not exist.

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15)

Ralph Neighbour

*Editor's Note:* You cannot <u>blame</u> GOD for anyone going eternally lost, without hope; as HE paid the price for each one and for the whole world! For JESUS is the <u>only</u> way to HEAVEN!

## The Proof is in the Pudding

## "If we know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him." I John 2:29

The little book of I John provides a treasure trove of "proofs" that demonstrate the reality of the invisible spiritual change brought about <u>by the new birth</u>. There are two emphases: proofs based on personal experience and proofs based on intellectual awareness.

Here is a short list of proofs we experience:

\* Obedience to God's Commandments - I John 2:2-5

- \* Experience of God in our lives I John 2:11-14
- \* Obvious "antichrists" in the world I John 2:18
- \* Worldly ignorance of Christianity I John 3:1
- \* Sinners ignorance of righteousness I John 3:6
- \* Our love for fellow Christians I John 3:16 -18
- \* The indwelling Holy Spirit I John 4:13
- \* Our love for godly behavior I John 5:2.

Here are proofs we have intellectual confidence in:

- \* The Holy Spirit's anointing I John 2:20
- \* The holiness of Jesus Christ I John 2:29
- \* The Father's love for you I John 3:1
- \* Our eternal bodies to be like Christ I John 3:2
- \* Hating a brother is like murder I John 3:15
- \* Scriptural message of eternal life I John 5:13
- \* Assurance that we belong to God I John 5:19
- \* Assurance that Christ has come I John 5:20

These evidences are primarily for the believer – that is, they are intended to assure the believer's heart and mind of his security in Christ. John's list is not intended to be complete but only to focus our thoughts on the obvious. *When you count your blessings, remember these! Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.* 

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#### He Did It for Us!

#### By Dale Crowley

His sacrificial death means that atonement was made for our sins. His resurrection means that the repentant sinner stands justified before God. He "*was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*" (Romans 4:25)

In His death He assumed our guilt; in His resurrec-

tion, He declared our acquittal.

In His death He bore the penalty; in His resurrection He proclaimed our pardon. In His death our sins were judged; in His resurrection our freedom is pronounced.

On the Cross our condemnation was transferred to Christ; and from the empty tomb our complete redemption is assured. The dying Savior suffered the agonies of the Cross to rescue us from eternal damnation; the risen Savior brings triumphant liberation to every trusting soul.

The dying Savior displayed the forgiving love of God; the risen Savior gives us the power to show our love for Him. The crucified Savior revealed to us the hope-lessness and doom of sin; and the risen Savior gives us a living hope, both for time and eternity.

#### **GOD UNDERSTANDS**

Al Smith

This song "God Understands" was born out of deep bereavement and sorrow. I'll let the author, Dr. Oswald J. Smith, tell it as he told it to me.

"My youngest sister, Ruth, and her husband, Clifford Bicker, were finishing their first term as missionaries to Peru, South America. During their stay, God had blessed their home with two happy boys. We had received word that their first furlough tickets had been purchased for the boat passage and all that remained were a few last-minute details. Soon we would have the joy of being united with them and seeing the boys for the first time – this after several years of separation. We could hardly wait.

"Then came the tragic news – Ruth's husband, Cliff, had been killed instantly in an auto accident! Our jubilation was turned to sorrow. Along with this was the deep concern for my little sister of twenty-six and her two fatherless boys, alone now in a foreign land. Far from loved ones – yet not alone; for I reasoned it is for times such as this that God has said, <u>'I will never leave you.</u>'

"It was that moment – and I am sure directed by the Lord – that I wrote a poem especially for my sister Ruth. It began:

God understands your sorrow, He sees the falling tear And whispers, "I am with thee"; Then falter not, nor fear.

"I sent it off to her immediately, and God in a wonderful way used it to lift the burdens and sorrows and prepare her heart for the trip home.

"I later sent the poem to Mr. B.D. Ackley, who wrote the beautiful and strong musical setting which God has used to send it around the world." — Selected

## **Full Inclusion**

(Editor's Note: I received the following from a caring/concerned Christian brother in and through Jesus Christ; truly appreciated. According to the 2010 Census the population of Northfield, MN is app. 20,000 and also the location of St. Olaf (Lutheran) College.)

## Welcome Anew to the United Methodist Church of Northfield (advertisement).

The United Methodist Church of Northfield conclusively voted to embrace people of any gender identity or sexual orientation in full participation and inclusion in all aspects of church life including marriage and ordination of clergy. We are now a Reconciling Congregation. Our decision was one of many defiant responses to action in February by the global United Methodist Church to go in the opposite direction.

In 1739 the founder of the Methodist Movement, Rev. John Wesley, took to preaching in the open air in southwest England to invite people who did not regularly attend church to accept the grace of God through Jesus Christ for their salvation "free in all, and free for all." By his encouragement and organization, groups of "Methodists" formed in many parts of England to study and grow spiritually and "*do good*" with home-grown and itinerant leaders. This approach also worked particularly well in the newly independent United States, where Methodism expanded with the frontier and adapted to the frontier to reach and assist people anywhere. Methodism developed a reputation for its vibrant mix of personal holiness and social justice...

We are committed to full inclusion. That starts us on a path to some important changes. We will meet you where you are and accept you as you are. *We will continue to "do good" in the larger community, walk with you on your faith journey, model and build healthy relationships, and help you raise your children to be the people God created them to be.* 

We believe "There is nothing love cannot face," ...

The Northfield News, Sept. 4, 2019

#### M. M. Northfield, MN

*Editor's Note:* I want you to notice particularly that smaller cities and rural areas are not at all immune to Satan's far-left (Scripturally) influence with subtle "liberalism". Again, Thank You for Your dedication to the *Morning Glory.* Its importance is becoming more and more evident as the subtle delusion is <u>SO</u> close!

## The Unvarnished Truth About Hell

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32) "Thy word is truth." (I John 17:17)

If you are a student of the Bible, you know right well that Jesus left no doubt as to the reality of hell, no matter what anyone says to the contrary. No matter how hard you try, you are unable to persuade yourself that there is no hell. You are in constant fear, and rightly so. Not only for yourself, but for fear that at the judgment bar of God you will face those who say, <u>"I am here because I believed you when you said there is no hell. I loved the ways of the world. I was not greatly concerned as to the consequences. I said, 'What difference does it make? I may not get into the kingdom of heaven, but if I am annihilated, it will be a perpetual sleep forever, and so, why worry.""</u>

If you are a no-hell teacher – BEWARE. You will surely be held accountable for all those who are in hell because they believed what you taught.

When our fathers read the Bible, they believed what it said. When they read what Jesus said about hell, they believed what He said and so they taught their children the truth. But all that has changed. The Bible and truth are flung to the winds. Man, in his vanity and conceit, has exalted himself <u>above</u> Jesus Christ. When the devil did that, God said to him, "*Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit*" (Isa. 14:15).

As long as our children were taught the truth according to the Bible, it went well in our land; but since our people have given ear to the wise-acres instead of the Bible of the Bible truths, we have gotten into a mess from which we cannot extricate ourselves.

But what did Jesus say about hell? HE said much! For lack of space we quote only a few of His declarations. Matthew 13:49 – 50: "So shall it at the end of the world. The angels shall come forth and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire. There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Mark 9:43: "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off. It is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched."

Now, be wise. Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and not to the false teachers, Revelation 22:17: "And the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."

The Evangelist

## IN SPITE OF, WHOM GOD USES!

When <u>you</u> are 'deceived' thinking that God can't use <u>you</u>, just remember... \*\*\* Noah became intoxicated at least one time, even though was a total abstainer \*\*\* Abraham and Sarah seemingly were too old to have children \*\*\* Isaac was accused of being a daydreamer \*\*\* Jacob lied \*\*\* Looh was not good looking

\*\*\* Leah was not good-looking

\*\*\* Joseph was falsely accused and imprisoned

\*\*\* Moses reasoned that he was not good in speaking/preaching

\*\*\* Gideon thought he was the least of his family and somewhat afraid

\*\*\* Samson had long hair and was a womanizer

\*\*\* Rahab was a prostitute

\*\*\* David had an affair and saw to it that an innocent soldier's life was taken

\*\*\* Elijah became very discouraged and considered sacrificing his life at one time especially

\*\*\* Jonah was perplexed, discouraged and failed to see that GOD loves unsaved sinners AND tried to 'out-run' GOD

\*\*\* Naomi was a widow

\*\*\* Job lost earthly possessions, children and health \*\*\* John the Baptizer lived on Grasshoppers and Honey at one time

\*\*\* Peter openly denied that he knew & loved JESUS as a disciple

\*\*\* The disciples fell asleep at a very crucial hour

\*\*\* Martha became overly concerned and zealous in regards to Christian Hospitality, even though JESUS very much encourages Christian Hospitality

\*\*\* The Samaritan woman was divorced several times and was living in immorality

\*\*\* Zacchaeus was a tax-collector and likely had cheated tax-payers

\*\*\* Saul who became Paul, was very, very religious without knowing & experiencing genuine CHRISTIANITY

AND no-doubt the 'list' could go on and on and on...

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

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## Up Date

## <u>GIVING!</u>

AS a semi-retired 'under-shepherd', I am lost for 'words' when it comes to 'challenge' folk to give unto the Lord, after specific prayer to ministries like the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation that are diligently seeking to comply in harmony with God's Eternal Word, the BIBLE! EVEN though **JESUS speaks much** about 'giving' unto God, seek ye first, lay up treasures in Heaven, stewardship, etc. Jesus spoke much about 'money 'because 'money' matters!

Basically, this is all I am going to say in this 'specific' "Up Date"; other than after specific prayer about what's entrusted to you in your 'earthly journey'; money matters in the Lord's Work in and through the Morning Glory/HLIF as the need is real and 'money' makes a difference.

Income received in September was \$1,400.00.