



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2018

The GOSPEL Starts With **CREATION**

By Henry M. Morris III,
D. Min.

Article Highlights: *The Genesis creation account is a controversial topic, even in evangelical churches. *What we believe about creation matters because our beliefs influence our thoughts, determine our actions, and become our lifestyle. *If the Genesis creation account is not true, it undermines the rest of Scripture – including the Gospel. *We must boldly present the full Gospel from Creation to Consummation.

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the LORD and there is no other.” Isaiah 45:18.

The opening words of Scripture are fairly simple: **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”** Genesis 1:1. Why is there often pushback on this truth among *Christians*? It’s not surprising in the academic world, where anything that resembles “God” is denigrated out of hand. It’s also relatively easy to understand why those Christian denominations that have long been influenced by secular and political pragmatism would slowly slide away from the reality of an omnipotent and omniscient Creator to whom they must one day answer.

But what about evangelical churches? Many insist that they believe the Bible and yet either avoid dealing

with the foundational message of a recent creation or brush the topic away like a pesky doctrine that doesn’t matter. Even some pastors resist identifying the Lord Jesus as the Creator (as the Scriptures absolutely and very clearly insist) while demanding that the gospel be boldly declared.

Interpreting Genesis. Why must we interpret the Genesis narrative literally? Those who ask this question believe science proved long ago that the early chapters of Genesis aren’t real history. After all, everybody knows that Earth is billions of years old and that natural selection caused life to evolve as we know it – right?

Many believers don’t see why the Creation account is so important. They would rather enjoy the beauty of a creation allegory and focus on the God who loves us and sent His Son to die so we might live with Him forever. Does the way we interpret Genesis really make a difference?

If Genesis is not true, then the rest of Scripture becomes an unworkable contradiction.

Ideas Have Consequences. If the world’s philosophers have agreed on anything, it is that what one believes determines how one thinks. Millions of words have been written on this truth. The ideas that a person embraces in their belief system – their worldview – will dominate their thinking process so completely that the

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out-flow of reasoning will be a seamless consequence of those beliefs.

What you believe controls how you think! In other words, your belief system dominates the way you reason. So, your conclusions are bound to be in agreement with what you believe. However sophisticated a counter-argument may be expressed, once you embrace a worldview, no amount of reasoning will shift your conclusions away from the core idea. And actions follow in harmony with the conclusions.

What you think controls what you do! The more often an action is repeated, the more automatic it becomes. Activity patterns, also known as habits, develop with ease! Certain behavior becomes comfortable and pleasurable. And soon we find rational justification for our habits from the association of like-minded friends who have either been drawn to us or us to them by that very behavior.

What you do controls your lifestyle? Now we have an endless loop. Our belief system controls reasoning and mental imagery; the mental concepts generate activity in harmony with the core belief; then the activity becomes ingrained as habitual behavior. Finally, the motivational encouragement of those with similar ideas reinforces and enriches our belief system.

To Believe or Not to Believe?

Many believers think creation is an irrelevant is-

sue, but the opposite is true. There are few things more important to our faith because if you believe the Genesis account is not true, then nothing in Scripture is dependable. Once you embrace the idea that the early chapters of Genesis are not historically accurate, then everything in the Bible is subject to personal preference. If God's Word is not a God-inspired record of God's words, then it's nothing more than man's words – and, therefore, just as viable as a Hollywood movie script, a *New York Times* bestseller, or a gossip piece on the evening news.

If, on the other hand, **“every word of God is pure”** (Proverbs 30:5), then **“all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”** (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Either Scripture is completely accurate and authoritative, or it is not. Even if we were to assign certain passages to a “suspicious” category that questions either the accuracy of the words or the historicity of the account, how would we determine which selections to accept and which to abort? Whose criteria would suffice for us to use as the standard of approval?

If Genesis is not true, then the rest of Scripture becomes an unworkable contradiction.

Genesis Matters. How we view Genesis impacts our belief system. The first three chapters clearly insist that an **omnipotent** and **omniscient Creator** brought a **“very good”** universe into existence by His word (Genesis 1:31; 2 Peter 3:5), and set Adam and Eve as stewards over that

Creation (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8:5-8), and then passed judgment on that creation when Adam rebelled against the Creator's authority (Genesis 3:17-19); 1 Timothy 2:14). That historical framework helps us understand all of human history and our desperate need for Christ's redemption.

As the whole of Scripture and the sweeping testimony of science confirm, the entire Universe **“groans and labors”** under God's judgment (Genesis 3:17; romans 8:22). This ongoing reality affirms that:

Adam's sin is the cause of God's judgment (Genesis 3:17).

Death is the end result for every human (Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27).

Death impacts all of creation (Romans 8:22).

Death is the last enemy to be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26).

On the other hand, if death has been around for millions of years, then sin is not the cause for death, and death becomes a part of the regular process that brings

about the “better” good because it's the mechanism that enables the “fit” to survive. In the Bible, death is an intrusion – a judgment. If, however, the Bible is wrong and death is nothing more than the means by which the inferior are weeded out, then

Death cannot be the payment for sin.

The death of Christ was unnecessary.

The Gospel is both foolish and irrelevant.

The entire Gospel message stands or falls on the historicity and accuracy of Genesis. This book of beginnings lays the foundation for the rest of Scripture. If you destroy the Bible's credibility, then it is easy to deny the Bible's Creator.

The Creation enables us to clearly see God's Eternal Power and His Divine Nature (Romans 1:20). God is the owner; we are the stewards. God is the source of all power; we only use or adapt what we are given. God is the only Holy One; all Creation and all created beings are under the curse of sin. God is the Omniscient One; we are finite and inferior.

GENESIS AND THE COMPLETE GOSPEL

The Gospel message depends on who JESUS is as much as what He did. The world began when He created it (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-2). Through His work on the Cross and subsequent Burial and Resurrection, the Lord Jesus opened the way through which fallen humanity can be redeemed (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). And His work will finally be consummated when He returns to claim His own and **“every knee (will) bow, of those in heaven and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue... confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”** (Philippians 2:10-11).

It is the responsibility of all twice-born to present the complete Gospel Message. If we neglect the Creation, then we negate the Omnipotence of God and nullify His Omniscience. If we neglect the Cross, then we eliminate the sinless substitution of the only righteous man who can satisfy the Holiness of God and administer the Justice of the only ONE able to justify. If we neglect the consummation promised by the Creator who died in our stead on the Cross, then there is no hope of Eternal Life in absolute righteousness.

We are back to Genesis. It all starts there. If Genesis is true, then we can trust the rest of Scripture that **“there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12).

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The Autumn Years

By C. W. Arms

Cheer up! Be of good courage! Old age is neither a sin nor a dishonor.

Most of the folks who attain unto old age are in one of three groups.

First, there are some whom it makes bitter.

Next, there are some who try to fool themselves and their neighbors by pretending that they are not old, as though it were a thing to be ashamed of. They like to act kittenish and dress like they were sixteen, whereas they should show soundness and wisdom. They want you to guess their age, hoping you will make them ten years younger. You sense their desire and flatter them with a number you know isn't close. Old age cannot command the honor and the respect belonging in it if it acts insincere and silly.

Then there is the last group: those who accept the richness of their years and rejoice in them. As Julia Ward Howe said, "All the sugar is at the bottom of the cup." Robert Browning put it this way: "The last of life, for which the first was made."

There are many whose latter days have been their most fruitful. John Wesley preached until he was called Heavenward at eighty-eight. Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote some of his most brilliant judicial decisions at ninety. Thomas Edison gave us some of his best inventions between the ages of seventy and eighty.

Old age is the autumn of life. It can be made beautiful with the gold and crimson tint of Indian summer; or it can be made cold, cheerless and disagreeable, like dead leaves and a piercing wind.

Selected

Editor's Note: Not only is this very true physically/secularly, but also very correct biblically. Also, as a born-again sinner, (Scripturally) notice what God says in Psalm 92:12-15: "**The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the court of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.**" It is stated that some of the best fruit from the Palm tree is in its "old-age"!

When the Lights Go out!

By Viola Walden

A thunderstorm knocks out the lights in our house;

then we discover what slaves to gadgetry we modern Americans have become. We fumble for a candle we have laid away somewhere.

Food in the refrigerator might spoil. The electric clock stops. There is no TV tonight — and what greater calamity can befall an American! Here we sit, waiting for the power company to come to the rescue.

That thunderstorm would have raised no problems when you and I were young back home on the farm. Kerosene lamps were not bothered by lightning. The milk would have been safe in the spring. The meat was salted away. We wound up our clocks, and TV had not yet invaded our peaceful nights.

What a flimsy world of gimmicks we have constructed — one that can be thrown out of order by a simple thunderstorm!
Selected

* * * * *

Sweet Slumber

I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8).

By Evangelist Billy Graham

By any measure drug and alcohol dependence has become one of our greatest social problems. The issue isn't just illegal drugs; many depend on alcohol or over-the-counter or prescription drugs just to face each day or to get to sleep at night.

I'm not a doctor, of course, and I fully realize some drugs have a legitimate place under careful medical supervision. But in my experience far too many people turn first to drugs or alcohol instead of to God. Rather than face their problems and deal with them (with God's help), they use drugs or alcohol to escape.

But such "solutions" never work, and in fact only make things worse. No wonder the book of Proverbs warns that alcohol "**at the last... bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper**" Proverbs 23:22.

Don't let anything substitute for God (Ed. JESUS). He loves you and He wants to give you peace — the peace that comes from knowing Him. Jesus' promise to His followers is true: "**I will give you rest**" Matthew 11:28.

HOPE FOR TODAY. No place, product or person can bring us the peace and safety our souls desire. Only Jesus can satisfy our deepest longings.

HOPE For Each Day, © 2003, by Billy Graham

Editorial

RES

Grace Alone

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ...not by work of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

(Titus 2:11 & 3:5)

In essence, when was the last time you seriously thought that you and I could have been born in a location/country that hasn't yet received GOD'S Eternal Word and His plan of the 'gift' of Salvation????

This brings 'us' to the first point of this 'editorial': **God's Saving Grace.** Marvelous 'saving Grace'; considering the biblical fact that before I sought JESUS for 'Salvation' that God in His prevenient Grace" (by the Holy Spirit) was preparing my heart in 'convicting' me of my sin and prompting me of the need of my Savior – **Jesus!** This the Holy Spirit does by applying God's perfect LAW to show me my 'lost' sinner condition. God's perfect Law is the 'school-master' – Romans 7. ***“I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law then Christ died in vain,”*** but ***“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”*** For ***“But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus might be give to those who believe.”*** Titus 2:21, 3:24, 22. ***“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully”*** 1 Timothy 1:8.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8.

First God 'calls' and we become 'awakened' sinners in and through our conscience by the LAW of God; whereby we are lost sinners regardless with and in our old nature which rebels and actually is 'dead' towards GOD – Ephesians 2:1. So how we NEED God's Law proclaimed in LOVE personally and from behind the sacred desk!

During the times of God's awakening a 'lost sinner', the Holy Spirit empowers us to respond personally and positively to God's calling; but we still have the 'old nature' and can resist/harden our 'hearts' towards Him. Notice in our text though, that God's will is that ALL should be saved and ***“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out”*** John 6:37. ***“For this is***

good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” 1 Timothy 2:3-4. When a person 'resists' God's calling, they still are in the territory of Satan's domain and in his grip! GOD in His marvelous creation of humanity, gives each person a 'choice' at His time(s) of awakening/calling unto Salvation, for we are not puppets!

EVEN Adam and Eve, who were living in a sinless surrounding, had a choice.

GRACE – unmerited favor, undeserved, blessings – the opposite of Justice as it of HIS mercy.

God's Sustaining Grace: What we call the “Lord's Prayer” is actually Jesus' response to when the Apostles/disciples asked Him, “Teach us how to pray,” OR as the Disciples were being taught, found in Matthew chapters five and six. Actually the unsaved should not be praying this prayer unless they want to be converted or want to leave this earthly journey and be in Eternity lost Forever!

Jesus' personal prayer recorded in God's Eternal Book, the BIBLE is found in John 17; which is called 'Jesus' high priestly prayer'; in which He prays (verse 17) ***“Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth.”*** In layman's language, the word “Sanctify” means 'set apart and unto'; which is done by the 'truth' the Word of God (Bible). This is the one and only Road-Map that leads into HEAVEN! It is in love for Jesus and thus obedience to His Word that directs a 'forgiven sinner' (Members of the Family of GOD) in the 'sustaining Grace' coupled (Ideally) in Christian Fellowship. Thus a Christian must abide in God's Word and under the hearing of the same; for faith cometh by hearing and hearing the Word of God. As there seemeth a right way unto man, but the end thereof is the way unto death/destruction. Are you among those then that take 'human reasoning' captive in obedience to the Word of GOD, the Bible? The person who does not fear himself has the greatest reason to fear of all; for Jeremiah 17:9 &10 says: ***“The heart is deceitful***

above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” II Timothy 2:15. **“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only; but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works In you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”** Philippians 2:12-13.

Sufficient Grace: What a marvelous gift of GRACE and this ‘Grace’ is more than sufficient until walking by ‘faith’ becomes sight; when you and I are safe for time and Eternity, being in the very presence of the ONE who is the Giver and Sustainer of all and every good GIFT! In other words, we are not among them who draw back, but looking unto JESUS as the Author and Finisher of the gift of a ‘Living Faith’ and have arrived at that **Crystal City** whose Founder and Maker is God. Until then, His Saving Grace, Sustaining Grace and Sufficient Grace, and IF need be there is GRACE upon GRACE to be poured out; as this provision of GRACE is inexhaustible as long as I am the NEEDY SINNER! There is GRACE available **in & through Jesus’ BLOOD** to pardon, cleanse and Forgive! **“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call his name**

JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” Matthew 1:21. **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing”** II Timothy 4:7-8.

AMAZING GRACE!

What a privilege and responsibility to live in a Country of **We the People** & be united in caring for one another”, a Land of the Strong and Free; gathering under the flag that is Red, White and Blue, and to be citizens/although foreigners here in this sinful world and yet a Citizen of Heaven and wherever you may be that have the privilege of reading/listening to the Eternal Word of God, the BIBLE!

May you and yours truly experience a **Blessed Thanksgiving Season and on** and may the ‘goodness of God’ bring both saved and unsaved unto true godly repentance!

P. S. As you likely know, Christianity is the only ‘religion’ in this big, wide world whose emphasis is ‘done’ for YOU and held together by LOVE; while all the other ‘religions’ are held together by at least some ‘measure’ of You must do and fear FOR SALVATION.

IN & through Jesus Christ we are complete – Colossians 2:6-10.

Your Will and Where You Lean

Dr. Shelton Smith

When I asked a friend of mine how he felt about Calvinism, he said, “I’m leaning that way.” Someone else justified the “soft” contemporary music in his church saying, “We are leaning just a bit that way.”

It is true that a lot of folks are “leaning” today, but it is not **“the everlasting arms”** (Deut. 33:27) on which they are reposed.

In your personal life and in your church ministry, whatever direction you are leaning is where you will ultimately “land.”

You may not have announced the “destination” of where you expect your ministry to be in three to five years, but the “direction” you are headed today tells us in advance where you will be then.

Where you “lean” is always significant and noteworthy. Your “direction” prophetically tells the tale.

If you lean left, you will not land right. If you lean with a wrong crowd, you will not land with the right crowd.

Even a little bit of unwise leaning will take you fur-

ther than you might imagine or admit.

You may lean a little today and say you can handle it. But what about the next generation? They lean a little with you today, and when you are gone, they will lean a lot. What you tolerate in moderation, it is predictable that the next generation will do in excess.

I understand that leaning is often the easy way to survive the moment. “Easy” may take you someplace but whether it is where you need to be is a thought to ponder. It will be tiresome and it will no doubt be costly if you continue upright with no lean, no shift, no drift and no compromise.

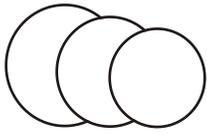
Thankfully some who came before us stood against the rising tide of their day. The question we face is: Will we do likewise in our time?

... all across the land is the need to awaken from slumber lest we fall into the abyss where any number of other groups have already fallen.

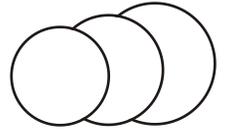
My brethren and my sisters in the Lord, let’s not falter in the day when we can make a difference!

No lean, dear ones, no lean!

Sword of The Lord



From Our Fellowship Circle



E. H. **Sisseton, SD**
David and I enjoyed being at your 80th Birthday Party so much! And so did Mabel, of course. It was so good seeing you and your family again. It sure brings back memories! ...

The check enclosed is from the ...Sunday School for the ministry of the *Morning Glory*. May the Lord continue to bless you and your ministry that the Lord has called you in.

Editor's Note: In reality, many years ago, I never thought I would reach this 'age' in my physical journey; because I thought that the 'Trumpet Sound' was going to take place before this time in history: but the ONE who changes not His 'timing' is most certainly different than ours!! As ALWAYS: but Jesus' 'Trumpet Call' will be exactly the right time and you and I must be ready for whenever! By the way' ONLY the 'saved' will hear the Trumpet sound!

The ONE who changes not is also very true to ALL of His Promises, as HE is so faithful and good!

Amazing Grace all the way HOME!

Mrs. E. S. **Saint Paul, MN**
To the Morning Glory Personnel: the enclosed \$... is for the work of the *Morning Glory* as a contribution.
I sincerely appreciate receiving each issue of the *Morning Glory*.

J. & D. B. **Strandquist, MN**
This \$... check is given in honor of Pastor Rodney Stueland's 80th Birthday for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God through the ministry of the *Morning Glory*, etc.!

G. R. **Kilideer, ND**
What is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal, NIV.
Thank you for the news; News of the *Morning Glory*.
I enjoy it so much and I would like to enclose more \$, but I believe every donation does help support and encourage this work of the Lord.
Keep moving forward and the Lord's blessings are in this paper.

Moody's Love for the Fallen

By Dr. W. E. Hatcher

One afternoon when there was some confusion a little way from the pulpit. Mr. Moody stopped preaching instantly. A man under the influence of liquor had become restless and was talking to those around him. As the disturbance went on Mr. Moody stood quiet, without a word or gesture.

Presently the man arose and climbed awkwardly over the feet of his neighbors in the pew and walked out into the aisle.

For the moment the audience lost sight of Mr. Moody and watched the man with uncertain step shuffle down the aisle.

Just as the door shut behind the man, Mr. Moody said with the most inexpressible sadness, "There goes our brother, our imperiled brother, and who can tell where he will go and what his end will be? Must he go alone? Does no one care for his soul?"

The words were gentle and moving. Instantly several men ran down the aisles and out through the door in loving pursuit of the wonderer.

Mr. Moody went on with his sermon and made no further reference to the episode. So great was his mastery of the service that I forgot all about the poor drunken fellow.

I lingered in conversation with friends until the house was almost empty. Then walked down the aisle. Between two of the pews I saw two men on their knees. One had his arm around the other who was sobbing brokenly.

It was Mr. Moody and the poor drunkard, who had been brought back, and Mr. Moody was praying earnestly.

I do not know what became of that man, but it is something to know that he felt the embrace of Mr. Moody's strong arm and that Heaven heard Mr. Moody's plea that there might be mercy for him.

From that afternoon I have had a hopefulness about the salvation of that drunkard that I never had before.

Selected

Editor's Note: First of all, but for the Grace of God, you and I could be enticed and captured by the drink of 'liquor'! Most certainly keep in mind and heart that a 'drunkard' became such by taking the 'first' drink!

Isn't it wonderful to know that our Almighty Miracle GOD is able to deliver those who are so bound?

Believable...Yet Unbelievable

Ninety Percent of Pomona College Students Say Climate Chills Free Speech

A survey conducted by Gallup and the Knight Foundation found that many students at the liberal arts college in Claremont, California do not feel comfortable expressing their political views with their professors or peers.

Eighty-eight percent of students agreed that the climate on campus prevent students and faculty “from saying things they believe because others might find them offensive.” Slightly more than half of all college students nationwide said the same. Among the Pomona College faculty, 63 percent agreed the climate has a chilling effect on potentially offensive speech.

A... sophomore at Pomona College who wished to remain anonymous said he was afraid of being “socially shunned” for going against the “campus culture dogma” at Pomona ...

Self-identified “very liberal” students expressed the least anxiety with sharing their political views. Seventy-two percent said they are comfortable discussing their political beliefs with their professors, and 85 percent said they have no trouble talking about politics with their peers...

gopusa.com

Tennessee Schools Posting “In God We Trust” in Every School

Starting now with the opening of school all public schools in Tennessee are required by law to post the national motto “prominently” in the school.

The bill passed in March with overwhelming support of both the house and the senate and was signed by the governor in April.

One can't help but wonder how quickly this will get the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Freedom From Religion Foundation. They will undoubtedly try to stop this in the courts.

SWORD PRESS SERVICE

Animus Toward Country and Free Market Capitalism Begins in Elementary School

As author William J. Federer explains, animus to-

ward their own country and free market capitalism among many younger Americans – even Christians – is no accident but the result of a conditioning process that begins in the elementary and secondary schools and goes into overdrive in universities.

“There is actually a socialist-communist tactic called ‘deconstruction’ where you separate a people from their past, get them into a neutral position where they do not remember where they came from; then you can easily brainwash them into whatever future you have planned for them,” he writes in his book, Who is the King in America and Who Are the Counselors to the King? (Amerisearch Inc, 2017).

The dovetails with the socialist credo to build the “new socialist man” on the ashes of previous societies. It's why the left tears down statues and recast great figures of the past like Christopher Columbus and Thomas Jefferson as monsters – if they mention them at all in the history textbooks.

In fact, the most influential history text of the last several decades is Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States. This essentially Marxist book prints a picture of America as an evil empire...

A major problem for those trying to counter cultural Marxism is the leftward tilt of social media. Facebook and Twitter, plus Google and Vimeo, have been caught suppressing conservative viewpoints and boosting progressive posts and videos.

Gopusa.com

Canada's Largest Private Christian University Drops Ban on Same-Sex Relationships

Trinity Western University, Canada's largest privately funded Christian University, will no longer require students to sign a community Covenant agreeing to abstain from same-sex and other relationships outside marriage between a man and a woman.

The ...university, which enrolls about 4,000 students annually, announced ...its decision to scrap mandatory agreement to the covenant as part of the admissions process...

The decision comes some two months after the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the denial of accreditation to the university's proposed law school due to concerns about the covenant and discrimination against

LGBT students...

(President Robert G. J Kuhn said the school’s mission will remain ‘biblically based’ despite the change in the university’s admissions policy.

Leonardo Blair, christianpost.com

Healthiest amount of alcohol may be none

To minimize health risks, the optimal amount of alcohol someone should consume is none. That’s the simple, surprising conclusion of a massive study, co-authored by 512 researchers from 243 institutions, published Thursday in the Lancet.

The researchers built a database of more than a thousand alcohol studies and data sources, as well as death and disability records from 195 countries and territories between 1990 and 2016. The goal was to estimate how much alcohol affects the risk of 23 health problems. The number that jumped out, in the end, was zero. Anything more than that was associated with health risks.

“What has been underappreciated, what’s surprising, is that no amount of drinking is good for you,” said Emmanuela Gakidou, a professor of global health at the University of Washington and the senior author of the report.

“People should no longer think that a drink or two a day is good for you. What’s best for you is to not drink at all,” she said.

The report found that 2.8 million people across the globe died in 2016 of alcohol-related causes, which is about the same proportionally as the 2.0 million who died in 1990. For people ages 15 to 49, alcohol is the leading risk factor for experiencing a negative health outcome.

This is a sobering report for the roughly 2 billion people who drink alcohol. The report challenges the controversial hypothesis that moderate drinking provides a clear health benefit. That notion took hold in the 1990s after news reports on the “French paradox”: The French have relatively low rates of heart disease despite a fatty diet. Some researchers pointed to red wine consumption among the French as potentially protective.

Numerous peer-reviewed studies found evidence that people who have a drink or two a day are less likely to have heart disease than people who abstain or drink excessively.

But the new study, while noting the lower risks of heart disease from moderate drinking, as well as a dip in the diabetes rate in women, found that many other health risks offset and overwhelm the health benefits. That includes the risk of breast cancer, larynx cancer, stroke, cirrhosis, tuberculosis, interpersonal violence, self-harm

and transportation accidents.

Taken from *The Star Tribune*, August 25, 2018

* * * * *

Watchful Care

“Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.”

Jeremiah 23:24

(Please read also: Jeremiah 23:20-24)

Before he raced out the door to school, I asked my son if he had brushed his teeth. Asking again, I reminded him of the importance of telling the truth. Unmoved by my gentle admonishment, he half jokingly informed me that what I really needed was a security camera in the bathroom. Then I could check for myself if he had brushed his teeth and he wouldn’t be tempted to lie.

While the presence of a security camera may help remind us to follow the rules, there are still places we can go unnoticed or ways we can avoid being seen. Although we may evade or trick a security camera, we fool ourselves if we think we are ever outside the gaze of God.

God asks, *“Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?”* (Jeremiah 23:24). There is both an encouragement and a warning in his question.

The warning is that we cannot hide from God. We can’t outrun or fool him. Everything we do is visible to Him.

The encouragement I find is that there is no place on earth or in the heavens where we are outside the watchful care of our heavenly Father. Even when we feel alone, God is with us. (Ed. Provided that we know JESUS as our personal care provider and to know HE knows/sees even our thoughts AND HE sees the thoughts of both the saved and lost sinner!) No matter where we go today may the awareness of that truth encourage us to choose obedience to His Word and receive comfort – He watches over us.

Lord Jesus, thank You that there is nowhere I can go that is outside of Your loving gaze. Knowing You see me, help me to honor You with my words and actions.

We are never outside the watchful care of our heavenly Father.

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The Burning Bush – Part III

This is the third in a series of articles about the encounter of Moses with God at the Burning Bush in Exodus chapter three. This encounter will show us the character and nature of God. This should be the goal of every true Christian – To know God for Who He is in His fulness – as expressed in John 17:3, “*And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.*”

I saw a documentary of a village of people. I didn’t recognize where they were from, but they lived near a volcano. They gave offerings and sacrifices down the throat of that volcano. The thought was that they would appease the god of the volcano so that it wouldn’t erupt against them. You see, the god of this volcano was far away and he wasn’t very happy either. If they didn’t bring these sacrifices – he would become angry and erupt against them.

God the Transcendent

I wonder if we perceive the Lord God that way. As we study the character and nature of God, we might come to the same conclusion that these village people did – that God is far away in heaven. We can look at the heavens and the galaxies – especially now with high-powered telescopes – and see the vastness of the whole created order. We realize that God is on His throne SOMEWHERE DISTANT ruling over all of this.

In fact, He is transcendent over time itself (v. 6). He states that He is the God of the Patriarchs. These people lived over 400 years ago, yet God speaks about them in the present tense – “I am the God” not “I Was the God.”

As such, God is distant and not connected with us. It’s not like you can walk up to Him and have a conversation with Him here on earth. Even when we go to church we don’t actually see Him or hear Him audibly. God can seem like just a distant person, or perhaps just a philosophy of life and morality, and not a personal living God. In fact, 56% of people polled believe that God is just a non-personal force.

In addition to this is God’s Holiness (v. 5). When Moses tried to come near to God, he was told to stop. God’s Holiness and our sinfulness means that there is a separation between us. Even if we wanted to come up close to God, we are not able to do so. It’s almost like God has a sign posted stating: “KEEP OUT!”

When we consider these things about God, we might come to the same conclusion that the people in the village did about the volcano god. He is distant from us and you can’t approach directly. If you don’t appease

Him with offerings and sacrifices, He will erupt against you. Part of this belief is true to a point. God is distant from His creation. He is transcendent above all things and therefore remains distant. As a Spirit being in heaven, He is separate from all creation and all people.

But the Lord is also very different from this:

God the Imminent

God is also up close and personal with people. This is what we see in this encounter with Moses. **God Hears (2:23; 3:9)**. When the Pharaoh of Egypt died, the people cried out to God. When they cried out to God, He heard them. They weren’t just crying out to thin air or just the wall inside. They were crying out to God, and when they did, God heard them. God is now hearing what human people have to say to Him, and He is hearing in a way that He understands the dilemma they are in and knows what’s going on. Isn’t that nice to know when we cry out to God?

God also Sees (2:25; 3:7, 9). After God heard their groaning, He looked down upon the people (2:25). God not only sees what’s going on, but He sees in a way that He is going to do something about their problem. (3:7, 9) Here you see the mercy and compassion of the Lord for His people. In other words, it’s not only that God can see what’s going on in people’s lives, but His seeing is connected with His heart for His people. This is further demonstrated when:

God Comes Down (v. 8). The transcendent God who is removed from His creation is suddenly in the here and now. He is no longer just an impersonal God sitting on a throne off somewhere in heaven. God is now present on the earth, specifically among His people. When He comes down, God acts on behalf of His people **TO DELIVER!(v. 8)**. God not only comes down to dwell, but He also comes to be a Warrior on behalf of His people.

God Will Be With His people (v. 12). God promised Moses that He would be with Him personally. How much more up close and personal can you get than this? Can you think of any greater thing than to have the Almighty accompanying you on your journey? Think what a relief this would be to the ears of Moses as he is getting ready to go against Pharaoh. Pharaoh might be the greatest in the land, but God is the greatest of all – Period!

God is concerned about His People personally (v. 16). God does not sit in heaven aloof of all the evil that takes place in the world. He has a concern for people and for all the injustice that takes place in the world. I get the impression that God knew all along what was happening in Egypt, and that He was concerned about it.

But He didn't decide to act UNTIL the people cried out to Him (2:23). It makes you wonder why the people waited so long to cry out to God for help. Perhaps this was their last resort and not their first.

All of these promises are now ours in Jesus!

What God promised to be for Moses is now ours in Jesus. Jesus is this God of Moses made flesh, "And the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). The transcendent God of the Universe is now here as a real live human being – **God Came Down (v. 8)** God is now up close and personal and present to us. People could then see and touch God directly and converse back and forth with Him. God Himself is now Up Close and Personal with People directly – as a human Himself. Everything that God promised to be for Moses is what Jesus is to us now.

1) Just as God saw all that was happening in Egypt to His people, Jesus now sees what is happening in your life. He is not ignorant to the things that you are facing because He sees. Jesus could see into places He had not been and even into people's hearts, so He sees you.

2) Just as God Heard the cries of His people, so Jesus hears when you call upon Him. He could hear when people called upon Him, even when they were far away. So every time that you call upon the Lord, He will hear.

3) Just as God dwelled Personally With Moses, so Jesus dwells personally with Us. "Christ in me, the hope of Glory" (Col. 1:23). Jesus is now Up Close and Personal to us. He not only lives with us, but He desires to Live INSIDE Us. That's why we talk of Jesus being your own PERSONAL Savior.

4) Just as God was Concerned about His People, so Jesus is concerned about what is happening in your life. When Jesus was called to the death of Lazarus, He loved Mary and Martha and was moved with compassion for them and the others and "Jesus Wept" (John 11:35). This is the concern that Jesus has for you. Do you believe this? Jesus is concerned for you and the oppression you are experiencing.

Now that Jesus has ascended back to heaven, we now have the Holy Spirit. God is now up close and personal to us all the time. All the blessing of the Up Close and Personal Savior can now come to each one of us. When Jesus was here physically, He could only be in one place at a time, and deal with those people there. But now the Holy Spirit is given to all who receive Christ as their Savior, and the up close and personal God is with Us all the time

He is ever present to Help you, because that is one of His titles – The Helper (Jhn. 14:26).

What do we learn about the character and nature of God from this encounter?

God is distant in His Office as Ruler of the Universe. He is also up close and personal to people.

He comes to be the personal Helper to your life – To be ever present and concerned about you and your problems of life. This He has done in Jesus – God Has Come Down to this world to be present with People.

The Holy Spirit now resides in the heart of all believers and He brings all those blessings of Jesus to us all the time. Have you availed yourself of the presence and help that the Lord wants to bring to your life? Or do you go to Him only as a last resort?

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

God's Rest

*It is the evening hour;
And thankfully,
Father, Thy weary child
Has come to Thee.
I lean my aching head
Upon Thy breast;
And there, and only there,
I am a rest.
Thou knowest all my life,
Each petty sin;
Nothing is hid from Thee,
Without, within.
All that I have or am
Is wholly Thine;
So is my soul at peace,
For Thou art mine.
Tomorrow's dawn may find
Me here, or there;
It matters little, since Thy love
Is everywhere!*

John Willis

**“O come let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.”
(Psalm 95:6)**

There is something symbolic in kneeling before God. It typifies the heart's relation to Him.

First, it signifies respect. True, we come to our Father when we pray. But He is the almighty Father who dwells in heaven. We have broken His Law and deserve His wrath. We can demand nothing. But He has in His mercy told us to come. Therefore, we seek Him. But we approach Him with respect. We kneel.

Next, the bended knees signify the bended will. When we pray we do not try to assert our own will. We confidently bring our petitions to God. But we leave the answering of our prayers to Him, and always add: Not my will be done, but Thine.

“O come, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.”

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” (Psalm 96:9)

Adoration is the highest rung on the ladder of prayer. From that rung it is not far to heaven's blessedness.

Prayer begins with a sigh, *“God be merciful to me a (the) sinner.”* It continues as the soul brings its *petitions* to God. From petitions prayer advances to thanksgiving. Joy follows thanksgiving. The more we give thanks the more we find for which to be thankful. The greatness and the goodness of God increases as we consider them. After a while the thanksgiving proceeds to adoration. The soul is filled with praise of God's love and majesty. The bands of the tongue are loosed, and the heart overflows. *“Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.”*

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

**“Ye that love the Lord, hate evil.”
(Psalm 97:10)**

In the story of Creation we read: *“And God saw the light that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness”* Genesis 1:4.

As in nature, so also in the world of the spirit: there is a division between light and darkness, between good and evil. We cannot choose the good without at the same time rejecting that which is evil. We cannot turn to God without at the same time turning our back upon sin. *“The friendship of the world is enmity with God”* James 4:4.

“Ye that love the Lord hate evil.”

Try no compromise. Good and evil cannot be

united.

True, we are to love all men, even those who are evil. But we are to hate their sinful acts and never share their wickedness. Love for God gives power to forsake all evil.

“The Lord our God is holy.” (Psalm 99:9)

One of the truths most often set forth in the book of Psalms is this: *“Gracious is the Lord, and righteous: yea, our God is merciful”* Psalm 116:5. The heart that hungers for grace needs to hear it over and over again.

But if we are not going to receive the grace of God in vain, it is also necessary to hold fast to the thought which God's Word for today holds forth: **“The Lord our God is holy.”**

We cannot flirt with sin in the hope that God will show mercy. God is holy. Nothing unclean can stand before Him. We must not play with temptation. We must never harbor sin in our hearts. God forgives sin, which so often takes us by surprise; but we must never remain in sin. In the power of God we must honestly fight against it, and never forget that *“the Lord our God is holy.”*

**“My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread.”
(Psalm 102:4)**

The grass may be luxuriant and green, but suddenly it begins to turn yellow, and after a little while it is withered. Spreading weeds have taken all the moisture out of the soil. The grass does not get its daily and needed nourishment, and therefore it withers.

The same may happen to the soul. *“My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread.”*

It is dangerous to neglect the daily care of the soul. No life can continue without nourishment. Do not forget “to eat your bread.”

And beware of all that would hinder you from taking your daily, spiritual nourishment.

Live in the presence of God, so that your soul may be like the luxuriant, green grass.

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CO – WORKERS WITH GOD

By Ludvig Hope

**“For we are God’s fellow-workers; ye are
God’s husbandry, God’s building.”
(1 Corinthians 3:9)**

*(Editor – “For we are His workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared be-
forehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians
2:10.)*

The first truth that we learn from this verse is that God is working. Secondly, we see that God has arranged His work in such a manner that we may work with Him. He has lovingly taken His children into partnership with Himself; He has made us full-fledged workers with Him. It appears that God’s work on earth cannot be fully done without our co-operation. These two truths should fill every Christian with gratitude and joy.

From the very beginning of time – and even earlier – God has been working for us. He created the universe for us and our use; through which He serves us today. In Christ He came down to earth and walked among men, not to be served, but to be of service. His whole life was a continuous chain of loving service. As the victor over the kingdom of Satan, Jesus now appears before the Father on our behalf; He intercedes for us and will serve us there until the end of time. The Holy Spirit goes from soul to soul of those who have heard the Word night and day, year after year and generation after generation, He never once becomes weary of winning men for Christ. When a soul has been won for Christ, the Spirit continues His loving care; He protects him from danger and wards off all evil until we have safely reached our true Fatherland.

The Father is solicitous for our welfare throughout our life. He has asked us to cast all our cares upon Him, and He will care for us.

The angels stand before the face of God, ready to do His bidding; at His command they go forth to serve the saints or to pour vials of His wrath upon the stubborn race. They brought Lot out of sinful Sodom into the safety of Zoar. They took coals from the altar and touched the lips of Isaiah; then his iniquity vanished and he volunteered his service to the Lord. They came to Daniel to comfort him and to reveal to him God’s plan of work until the end of time. They opened the gates of the prison in which Peter sat, loosed the chains from his hands and brought him out. An angel appeared to Paul during the storm and revealed to him that there would be no loss of life in the storm.

John stands on the island of Patmos while God

through Christ and His angels draws aside the curtain which hides the future. There he is permitted to see in broad outline the battle which the race must fight before all seals on the Book of Life can be broken by Him who has taken the Book in His hand. He sees that the prince of darkness is bound, and the Prince of Life stands as the eternal light in that celestial city; God is all in all.

These same ministering spirits walk among us today to do God’s bidding. Many a seaman has been guided through storm and treacherous breaker in a pitch-black night to a haven of safety. Angels hold our children by the hand as they play by the edge of the cliff. It is wonderful to know that God thus cares for us. If our eyes could be fully opened to the greatness of these things, our hearts would overflow with gratitude.

At times I am overwhelmed by the greatness of the thought that God would stoop to be our servant as Father and Savior! We marvel and rejoice when we see God’s work in creation; but when we one day shall see His work of salvation completed, and realize that we ourselves are a part of that perfect work, then we shall not only wish to thank Him, for all that is in us shall praise His Name.

Paul had a vision of his when he was caught up into the third heaven. He was so moved by the greatness of the idea of being God’s co-worker that he broke forth with these words: **“But I hold not my life of any account as dear unto myself, so that I may accomplish my course, and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”** Acts 20:24. This was Paul’s evaluation of the privilege of being God’s co-worker.

SPIRIT AND POWER, by Ludvig Hope,
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VOTE!!!

There is NO question that ‘we’ as citizens in the **USA** have a GOD-GIVEN privilege and responsibility to VOTE! After prayerful consideration, be sure to vote. The ‘choices’ you have to make for “we the people” might not be your preference, but very, very likely there is a ‘*difference*’ in the choice of who you are to vote for; vote for the best choice in your prayerful consideration. YES, each ‘vote’ does make a difference! So, please prayerfully vote for ‘we the people’, vote your ‘conscience’, not your pocketbook!

ARE YOU LOVED?

I don't know how many times people have come to me asking the question "Does God love me?" or "Why doesn't God love me anymore?" I find most of the time when people are asking these questions they are looking at their circumstances. I take them to the Bible in 1 John 4:16, and let them read: God is Love!" Next we go back to the book of Genesis and see how God created Adam and Eve in the beginning because He was lonely and wanted someone to love and share life with. God's nature is LOVE. God's kind of love always seeks the very best for a person. God will never give you second best, nor will He lead you wrong. His nature will not allow it.

When we begin to question God's love, we need to look at the Cross. It is here that we see God demonstrating His deep love for us in a unique way. John 3:16 tells us "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.*" When we know He loves us, we can believe and trust. When you trust Him you can obey Him. Someone who really loves you would never hurt you. God loves you and wants to guide you step by step.

Suppose we are trapped in enemy territory. We find ourselves surrounded by a mine field. We don't know where the mine's are located because they are buried underground, but we have to get out of this place. Wouldn't it be great to have someone who knew where the mines were located and could lead us thru the area safely? They could direct us step by step. ***I rather think you would...!***

Life has many mine fields or troubles; we need someone to direct us and show us the way. God does not want you to miss out on His best. He does not want your life to be wrecked or blown up. We need to look to God for direction and help. He is there to direct our steps down the path and to keep us off the things that would destroy or harm our lives path and to keep us off the things that would destroy or harm our lives. God wants us to have life and have it more abundantly. See John 10:10.

Thought: God's commands do not restrict us; rather they free us to grow and mature.

One Hundred and Three Devotions
by (Pastor) James (Jim) Mizell,

THE GRACE OF GRATITUDE

By Evangelist Billy Graham

It is good to give thanks to the Lord (Psalm 92:1)
The Pilgrim Fathers who landed at Plymouth in

America in 1620 knew nothing of the bountiful prosperity that so many people enjoy today. During that first long winter, seven times as many graves were made for the dead as homes were built for the living. Seed, imported from England, failed to grow, and a ship that was to bring food and relief brought thirty-five more mouths to feed, but not an ounce of provisions. They caught fish, hunted wild fowl and venison. They had a little English meal and some Indian corn.

Yet their lives were marked by a spirit of constant thankfulness. On one occasion William Brewster, rising from a scanty Plymouth dinner of clams and water, gave thanks to God "for the abundance of the sea and the treasures hid in the sand."

According to today's standards, they had little; but they possessed a sense of great gratitude. Gratitude is one of the greatest Christian graces; ingratitude, one of the most vicious sins. Ask God to open your eyes to all the blessings He has bestowed on you, and to give you a fresh spirit of gratitude – not just at this season of the year, but always.

HOPE FOR TODAY: An ungrateful heart minimizes God's blessings and focuses on what is not provided. The grace of gratitude is that we no longer see what is lacking and, instead, are in awe that we've been given so much.

HOPE for Each Day, © 2003, by Billy Graham.

Editor's Note: One of many 'sins' clearly stated in God's Eternal Book, the Bible, by specific name is ENVY – "Be ye not envious," both for the Christian and the non-believer!

PRAYER is not just asking God for 'forgiveness' and things we want; but also should include thanksgiving and praise unto GOD for whom HE is and what HE has done for us!

As I am writing this I am reminded of a gentleman (acquaintance) that has told me, "GOD hasn't given or done anything for me!" Then I 'reminded' him the 'gift' of life; which he admitted, but stating that is all! How tragic and sad; as it appears unto me not only yet 'lost' in his 'sins' but bitterness has set in!

GOD inspired through the psalmist the following: "*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever*" Ps. 107:1. Another example is James 1:17.

JESUS gave 'thanks' before HE miraculously proved for the crowd after HE gave 'thanks'. (Matt. 15:36) Even while instituting the "Lord's Supper"; before facing the CROSS for you and me: HE gave "thanks". (Luke 22:17, 19, Hebrews 12:2 – 4).

The Death Penalty – Yes or No?

Dr. Shelton Smith

For years the use of the death penalty (capital punishment) has been a subject of debate with passionate advocates on both sides.

In the political arena, most conservatives, though not all, have favored the death penalty for what are typically called capital offenses. At the same time, most liberals, though not all, are totally opposed to it.

In ‘Christian’ circles the divide is quite similar. Those who identify as conservative Bible believers are more likely to say yes to the use of the death penalty while those who are more liberal will likely say no.

At this moment right here in Nashville we have a big brouhaha going on about the pending execution of a criminal. In this case, the stalling tactic being employed centers around whether or not lethal injection is a humane way to do it.

Then on July 27 there was a big announcement from the Vatican in Rome. Catholic doctrine for many years had allowed the death penalty in extreme cases, but the current pope now says that it should not be used in any case. This announcement made news because it changed Catholic doctrine; but it really is not a surprise, because this pope is by almost any standard of measurement a liberal.

But the real issue here is not what the Catholics, the Baptists or anyone else has to say! The questions we should be asking are:

1. Has God said anything on this;
2. If He has, what did He say;
3. Does the Bible address the matter?

Well, the fact is, yes, the Lord has addressed it. Although I’m not going to be exhaustive here, let’s look in the Bible and see.

In the Old Testament:

“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man” Genesis 9:6.

“But if any man hate his neighbor, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and fleeth into one of these cities: Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him unto the hand of the avenger of blood that he may die” Deut. 19:11-12.

In the New Testament:

“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that

which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid, for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil” Romans 13:3-4.

We need Christians to stand up tall on stuff like this instead of caving in to the political correct, culturally palatable nonsense flowing around us.

Based on Bible precedents and principles, we believe that society is absolutely justified in the use of capital punishment for capital crimes.

The Sword of the Lord

Editor’s note: Innocent until no doubt whatsoever proven guilty! **“Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil”** Ecclesiastes 8:11. *“Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment”* Ezra 7:26. Naturally this ‘command’ is to be ‘followed’ provided it is not contrary to Scripture. *“He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness”* Psalm 9:8.

Therefore I live for today –

Certain of finding at sunrise
Guidance and strength for the way,
Power for each moment of weakness,
Hope for each moment of pain,
Comfort for every sorrow,
Sunshine and joy after rain!

Anonymous

LOVE

We sometimes fear to bring our troubles to God because they must seem so small to him who sitteth on the circle of the earth. But if they are large enough to vex and endanger our welfare, they are large enough to touch His heart of love. For love does not measure by a merchant’s scales nor with a surveyor’s chain. It hath a delicacy which is unknown in any handling of material substances.

R. A. Torrey

UpDate

Seven Scriptural Standards for Successful Stewardship

*Please read **II Corinthians 8 & 9***

In II Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9, the Scriptural standards for successful stewardship are recorded. We recognize them and report them to you in this brief study. Scriptural stewardship, successful stewardship is to be done

1. Personally – “*As ye abound in every thing...see that ye abound in this grace also*” – II Corinthians 8:7. “*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give*” – II Corinthians 9:7.

2. Purposefully – “*As he purposeth in his heart, so let him give*” – II Corinthians 9:7. “*And beyond their power the were willing of themselves*” – II Corinthians 8:3.

3. Positively – “*...not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*” – II Corinthians 9:2.

“*Their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality*” – II Corinthians 8:2.

4. Patiently – “*How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded*” – II Corinthians 8:2. “*He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully*” – II Corinthians 9:6.

5. Proportionately – “*A ye abound in every thing ... See that ye abound in this grace also. It is accepted according to that a man hath and not according to that he hath not. He that had gathered much had noting over; and he that had gathered little had no lack*” – II Corinthians 8:7, 12, 15. “*He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully*” – II Corinthians 9:6.

6. Practically – “*that s there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind...But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want. Providing for honest thing... Show ye to them...the proof of your love*” – II Corinthians 8:11, 12, 14, 21, 24.

7. Presently – “*But first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us...abound in this grace also. Now therefore perform the doing of it. ...now at this time*” – II Corinthians 8:5, 7, 11, 14.

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Stewardship is a Scriptural mandate. “*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful*” 1 Corinthians 4:2. Faithfulness in stewardship cannot be determined by any other standard than the one found in God’s Word, Scripture.

Why not determine now to be a success in this area for which such defined instruction is provided.

Selected

Editor’s Note: This ‘article’ is very adequate to challenge and encourage any ‘believer’; but just make sure you are supporting Christian ministries that are Biblical and in harmony with your Biblical convictions.

The approx. income for the month of September was \$ 1,782.00.

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