



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • October 2019

The Call To Prayer

By Edin Raymond Anderson

It used to be somewhat of a marvel not so long ago to see the Lord’s Prayer skillfully engraved upon the head of a pin. That was something to see! But not today...

A machine company in one of our Midwestern states has recently succeeded in engraving the Lord’s Prayer upon the very point of the pin itself! 300 characters form the task, each of which is about .0002 of an inch and 1/40,000 deep; so shallow that the slightest rub of a finger will obliterate them.

This may be sort of a measure for the imprint of physical prayer. But in all seriousness, might it not be suggested that far too much of the Christian prayer life is about as thin and as shallow. How is one to apply the spiritual measuring line to the reality and to the genuineness of our prayer life; and what is the rule by which the Holy Spirit of God searches out those deep, deep places of our hearts therein?

The difficulty of an engineering task in engraving physical prayer lettering upon a physical object is nothing as compared with the difficulty – (yes, the difficulty!) which confronts the Lord Himself in seeing to impress upon the Christian the vital urgency, the absolute importance of genuine “praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 20). There is far too much of retreat from reality upon the part of many, and it alas becomes locked up, tight and fast, in the dim corner of theological abstraction. Our own lives, the thinness and the shallowness of it, furnishes more than enough proof if and when we are willing and ready to face up to it.

Prayer is all too often a vague something which is

preached to us but not practiced by us; a dim and hazy thing fit for the Sunday sanctuary but not seen as a driving force for the needs and circumstances of daily living. While it is believed in, it is hardly believed upon; accepted without being agonized over. It is found aplenty in the sermons and in the songs and in the services, but somewhere along the line the transmission has tapered away into tragedy and “all things continue as they were.”

Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to **“pray without ceasing”** (1 Thess. 5:17) in order to learn the value and the strength that comes of persevering prayer (Eph. 6:18) so that the Christian life might fully measure up to the divine standard. “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might” (Eph. 6:10).

We need to recall that striking word of the LORD, “without ME ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). What a word that is to strike across so much of our negative living! Apart from prayer, there is no perception and there is no power. There can be no communication because intercession is absent. We are truly nothing if we make nothing of the prayer life, and sooner or later we come to face our great loss, in the light of His grief and wounding. “Men ought always to pray and not to faint” (Luke 18:1) may well mark that measure of the genuineness of much that passes for prayer in the course of our Christian conduct.

One could no doubt add many more words; but they would only remain as words unless there is something to warm them and to work them forth, for His praise. It would be far better to read no further, and get alone with the Lord in some sacred corner and allow the Holy Spirit

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to search the deep things of our heart concerning this matter. It is high time to awake out of sleep and to press prayer into the place of passion and purpose which the mind of the Lord has always indicated it to be for us.

The Prayer Line, now reprinted from the Morning Glory, February, 1967.

ED. Note: When this situation was so serious over 50 years ago, think of TODAY!

TOO BUSY

*Too busy to read the Bible,
Too busy to wait and pray;
Too busy to speak out kindly
To someone by the way!*

*Too busy to care and struggle
To think of the life to come"
Too busy for a heavenly home.*

*Too busy to help a brother
Who faces the winter blast.
Too busy to share his burden*

When self in the balance is fast!

*Too busy for all that is holy
On earth, beneath the sky;
Too busy to serve the Master,
But – not too busy to die.*

Unknown

Is Forgiveness Automatic?

“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” (I John 1:8-10)

There is a teaching being promoted today that guarantees forgiveness for the believer in Christ. It goes something like this: “Christ has died for all your sins, past, present and future. Therefore all of your sins which you haven’t even committed yet are still forgiven before God. So your forgiveness before God is guaranteed and you need not be concerned about them. Therefore, even BEFORE you commit a sin, God HAS ALREADY FORGIVEN it!”

When this is taught and believed, then people don’t care if they sin or not. People have the impression that since their final salvation is set, they are now free to live any way they please. If something they happen to do is sin, it’s forgiven anyway through Jesus. This now frees people to live a life of love to Jesus and not worry about sin and condemnation and they can now have real joy and live in peace that all is fine between them and the Lord.

This is a half-truth. Jesus has died for all the sins of all people of all time – past, present and future. There are no sins which will ever take place for which Jesus hasn’t died. This includes all the unbelievers and everything they will do in this world. This is true for the Christian and the non-Christian as well. *“And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”* (I John 2:2)

The error in this teaching is to state that forgiveness is automatic for the Christian. Jesus has died for all your sins and made atonement before God of these sins. But without confession and repentance of these sins, there can be no forgiveness. The Scripture says, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (I John 1:9) To confess your sins to God means that you “say the same thing” as God says about it. You acknowledge that it is wrong before God and you consequently turn away from it. If there is no repentance of sins, there will be no forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness is not automatic.

Repentance is not just a one-time act, but a continual practice. Jesus Himself stated this in Luke 13:3 when He said, *“Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.”* The verb that Jesus uses in this instance is a command to be followed on a continual basis (present imperative). This means that Jesus tells us that repentance needs to be

an ongoing part of our lives.

Luther emphasized this in the first of the 95 theses he posted which said, “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’ (Mt. 4:17), He willed the entire life of believers be one of repentance.” The Lutheran Liturgy has always had a section on repentance of sin as part of our approach to God. Sadly, some modern Lutheran churches have removed this from their order of service.

Are we then to live in fear that we will commit a sin and die and not have forgiveness for that sin and go lost because of it? No, because God promises us that if we confess the sins we know, then He will cleanse us from not only those, but *“cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (v. 9) If we are living in repentance for all our known sin, then God promises that the Blood of Jesus is cleansing us from all our sins, even those which we don’t know. Psalm 19:12 affirms this to us when it says, *“Who can discern his errors? Acquit me from hidden faults.”*

So the crucial question we need to ask ourselves is one that is scarcely even mentioned today: Are you living in repentance? Repenting of our sins and coming to Jesus to forgive us is to be a daily life, not just a one-time act. This is the way that we can live in continual forgiveness because it is not automatic.

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

“I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.” Ex. 19:4

No bird has wings as strong as the eagle. While the wings of a sparrow grow tired, the wings of an eagle lift the bird high above the loftiest mountain peaks and carry it across the wide expanses of the desert.

God’s wings are like the wings of an eagle. The wings of my soul are small and frail. They easily grow tired, and then I sink to the ground where I remain helpless and discouraged, glancing upward to the place where I was appointed to live my life.

God, however, has taken account of my weakness. Therefore He has promised to bear me on eagles’ wings. *He never grows weary.* On His strong wings He lifts my soul from all earthly things, up toward a high and open heaven, above all bleak deserts, past all steep mountains. On His wings, I am safe. He will carry me all the way home.

Lord, I thank Thee for Thy strong arms. I rest confidently in Thee. Lift me higher. Carry me farther. Hold me firmly until I am safely at home in heaven.

Rest Awhile, by Fredrick Wisloff

Christ's Comfort in Your Crisis

By R. G. Lee

Chapter 14 of John's Gospel comes to us drenched in the tears of multitudinous contrition's warm with the finger of agony and death and fragrant with the faith of the young and old. This book comes to us filled with echoes of those who have overcome the world, and their voices testify to His saving and keeping power.

This wonderful Book with this wonderful chapter stands as a lighthouse for storm-tossed Christians mariners, stands as an undiminished reservoir of consolation, stands as a shadow of a great rock in a weary land, stands as a commissary of fond to the spiritually hungry.

It is a fountain of refreshing to those who thirst after righteousness, a chest of medicines for the wounded on life's battlefield, an army of weapons for those who would fight the fight of faith. This wonderful chapter is the panacea for all heart trouble.

However, only those who have a genuine belief in Christ are warranted in claiming the comfort of this chapter.

We find that it is a comfort to those who are in trouble. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble," says Job 14:1. "yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward" (5:7).

No one is exempt from trouble. There is no back, but has its burden, no soul, but has its sorrow, no heart, but has its ache and no life, but has its troubles. **Trouble** is one word in every man's dictionary.

Dr. Rush used to say to young doctors, "You will need two pockets: One for your fees and a bigger one for your troubles."

Trouble is one reality that makes all the world akin. No bars or bolts or doors can keep trouble out or away.

But let us thank God for the balm He gives in troubled hearts, for the comfort and gladness He brings to those who are in grief.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:1-3, 27

Selected

* * * * *

Round and Round We Go

By James L. Carter

A man decided to ride a merry-go-round at a fair. When the ride was over, his wife sized him up with her hands on her hips then said, "Now look you! You've spent your money. You got off where you got on. And you haven't been anywhere yet!"

This could be the summary statement of life for many people. Round and round life goes. But when it all stops, where have they been?

Oh, time has been filled, all right. The hours have been packed with all kind of activities. There have been meetings, clubs, organizations and societies galore. But where has it taken them?

Have they moved a world or a family or even one life toward higher standards and greater achievements?

Have they realized some goals?

Have they deepened their spiritual lives, broadened their understanding of God, heightened their appreciation of biblical truths or lengthened their perception of spiritual truths?

Things continue to go round and round. Sometimes life goes around at such a speed that we can hardly keep up. One of our biggest tasks as Christians is to see that there is continual advancement toward our goal of Christlikeness. We cannot afford to get off where we got on without going anywhere.

Selected

A Simple Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred ...let me sow love

Where there is injury ...pardon

Where there is doubt ...faith

Where there is despair ...hope

Where there is darkness ...light

Where there is sadness ...joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek:

To be counseled ...as to console

To be understood ...as to understand

To be loved ...as to love

For it is in giving ...that we receive

It is in pardoning ...that we are pardoned

It is in dying ...that we are born to eternal life

Poem from St. Francis

Editorial

RES

God Seeks Also those . . .

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipper will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”

(John 4:23)

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”

(2 Chronicles 16:9a)

God is looking for folk who truly want to know Him and serve Him!

One of the greatest privileges in this earthly journey is to assemble publicly and truly WORSHIP HIM as **Satan is working ‘overtime’ in seeking to accomplish the same and we can’t serve two masters!**

Thus, ONE of the greatest tasks and privileges we have in this earthly journey is to bend our stubborn knee (spiritually) before HIM and admit our greatest need(s)! Coming into His presence, where two or three believers are gathered; HE has promised to be in the midst of them. Notice what takes place in a perfect atmosphere found in the fourth chapter of Revelation.

I am not asking for public confession of our multitude of SINS; even I remember very clearly in one of the congregations that I was privileged to serve as an ‘under-shepherd’ stating in effect: “I have never heard in the many years that I have been a member here, of anyone of the professing Christians ever asking for forgiveness from the congregation!” (I could add; there isn’t ANY perfect congregation on the face of the earth).

Anyway, getting back to the central thought/conviction of this ‘editorial’ is, admitting ‘our’ (my) need before the LORD truly from ‘our’ hearts.

Today many professing Christians are thriving on their ‘emotions’ in assembling together with other believers: like raising hands, clapping their hands, singing ‘songs’ that appeal to the flesh in making a person feel good. YES, I know there is a little amount of ‘Scripture’ that encourages that; but as I read God’s Word, I find numerous individuals bending or falling prostrate before the LORD, because they not only sense HIS presence but are on *holy ground*.

“O come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: Do not

harden your hearts, as in the rebellion. As in the day of trial in the wilderness” Psalm 95:6-8. *“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”* (loving childlike fear) Hebrews 12:28.

So often, I think we are like the child who was being chastened by its’ father who had told the child ‘sit-down’, which the child refused to do. So, the Dad put one hand on each of the child’s shoulders and crunch the child sat-down! Under his ‘breath,’ the child said: “I’m sitting down on the outside, but I am standing up on the inside.” JUST check in the Scriptures, when the person or persons were in the midst of JESUS/GOD; they either bowed-down or fell at His feet. This is a sign of contrition and humility!

I believe ‘simplicity in worship’ here would be a good experience and practice, which is one of the ‘pillars’ of this free, pietistic, Lutheran, biblical movement – the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation emphasis – admitting before GOD that we are undeserving and symbolically a *worm*.

GOD is still seeking those who will ‘worship Him’ in spirit and truth, that HE may show HE is strong towards them whose heart is perfect, loyal, singular, loving toward HIM! For where

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

Closing thought: Many years ago a staunch Lutheran ‘Haugean’ shared very clearly in stating that when and where ‘personal testimonies’ in a ‘worship service’ are no longer permitted, that church/congregation is going down! That is something to think about TODAY TOO!

Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

Christian Doctor Faces Losing Medical License for Praying with Patients

A Christian doctor is under investigation after a complaint was filed accusing him of praying and “evangelizing” patients.

Dr. Richard Scott, 58, a general practitioner at Bethesda Medical in Margate, Kent, England, is the subject of a fitness to practice inquiry launched by the Gospel Medical Center after a complaint was filed by the National Secular Society...

The National Secular Society said in the complaint ...that Scott, who has worked as a doctor for more than 20 years, made a “vulnerable” patient feel “discomfort at the use of prayer.”,....

Tim Dieppe, head of public policy for the advocacy group Christian Concern told Premier that Scott always asks patients if they are open to discussion before bringing his faith into consultation. When they’re not open to discussion, Dieppe said that Scott respects their wishes.

Samuel Smith, christianpost.com

Appeals Court Protects Life Again

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 7 – 4 (July 11) lifting injunctions that previously blocked enforcement of the Trump Administration’s Title X Protect Life Rule. This Rule cuts off federal funding to organizations that provide abortions in the same facilities as other services financed by taxpayer dollars. The Rule can now go into effect.....

This regulation will stop federal funding flowing to Planned Parenthood by approximately \$60 million.

LIBERTY COUNSEL

Population Ways In The USA

Statistics now prove in the USA, there are now more deaths (per year) in the USA than infants who are being born in the same time period (per year). Indirectly, our population is decreasing!

Over 200,000 People Demand Disney Stop LGBT Indoctrination

The International signature gathering campaign from the CitizenGO citizen platform “Disney: STOP LGBT indoctrination around the world” has been signed

by over 200,000 people so far. With it, those citizens want to show the entertainment multinational firm how strongly they disagree with the indoctrination track record on values promoted by the LGBT groups that this mega-corporation has been endorsing for a few years, against (the views) of their founder, Walt Disney...

Last July, almost 400,000 people asked Walt Disney’s directors via the platform led by Arsuaga not to allow the celebration of the gay pride in their amusement parks for children.

Christiannewswire.ccsend.com

Clergy Bless Abortion Clinic, Claim “God Is Present in This Space”

Calling killing unborn babies “sacred work,” a group of Clergy gathered July 9 to bless an Austin, Texas abortion facility.

The Huffington Post reports the *Religious* Coalition for Reproductive Choice and Texas Freedom Network organized the event at the Whole Woman’s Health, an abortion chain known for numerous health and safety violations.

Amelia Fulbright, a campus minister in Austin, told the news outlet ...they organized the “blessing” to encourage the patients as well as the abortion workers.

“...It’s not that we think we’re bringing God to this place; we believe God is already present in that space, Fulbright told the news outlets. ...

Lifenews.com

EDITOR’S COMMENTS: Whatever blessing these so-called clergy gave to the abortion workers, you can be sure it wasn’t from the LORD. For a group of clergy to salute such a heathenistic, barbaric practice as abortion is absolutely tragic and totally pathetic.

Sword of the Lord.

*Woe unto you who call evil good, and good evil...therefore. as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy one of Israel.
(Isa. 5:20,24)*

Bound By Sin

Please read Genesis 18:20 - 33.

Sermon Outline given by Pastor Paul Larson, Detroit Lakes, MN.

INTRODUCTION: The outstanding outward SIN of Sodom and Gomorrah was 'Homosexuality'. With the destruction of these cities, God made a very strong statement as to how HE feels about this sin.

- I. God has spoken clearly about this sin.
 - A. When He gave the Law. Lev. 18:22, Lev. 20:13.
 - B. Through the prophets, He reminded the Israelites why the cities were destroyed. Ezek. 16:50.
 - C. In the New Testament, this is confirmed as sin. 1 Cor. 6:9-10. 1 Tim. 1:9-10, Jude 1:7, 2 Peter 2:7.
- II. Judgment will come
 - A. God's patience has a limit. Gen. 6:3, Num. 14:18, Ex. 34:7.
 - B. Everyone will have to answer for the choices he or she has made. Rev. 20:13.
 - C. God knows what the LGBTQ agenda is.
- III. There is hope through godly repentance.
 - A. Like any sin we commit, there is forgiveness when we repent. 1 John 1:9.
 - B. **Jesus** can change us. 1 Cor. 6:11.
 - C. So how should we deal with this issue/sin?
 1. Don't be a name caller, by calling names.
 2. Be sympathetic but not condoning.
 3. Understand what the BIBLE teaches.
 4. Share the love, forgiveness and power of CHRIST.
 5. If they repent, disciple them in true Christian living towards maturity.

CONCLUSION: As Christians, we must firmly oppose the LGBTQ movement. We must recognize the leaders of this movement are out to destroy our Christian roots as a Nation. Don't let their defective reasoning change what you know to be true according to **God's Word**.

**YOU CANNOT DO ABROAD WHAT YOU
ARE NOT WILLING TO DO AT HOME!**

Tempted

"Each man is tempted, when he drawn away by his own lust and enticed." (James 1:14)

WE have what is known as **wish-thinking**.

By that, we mean thinking which does not follow the laws of logic but the impulses of our whims and desires. To strengthen or defend our **wishes**, we try to provide them with a foundation in logic.

There is a great deal of this thinking in daily life. Undoubtedly it is this which makes many a private and public debate so spirited.

It is not so much a matter of ascertaining the TRUTH but of defending one's own **wishes**.

In the hour of temptation, wish-thinking occurs it contemplates one's own **wishes**.

If we cannot defend our actions from a **moral** standpoint, we become more zealous to defend them on logical grounds.

The process of inner corruption has set in.

That falsification of character begins which consists not only in committing sin in the hour of temptation, but also in being untrue to oneself afterwards in lying oneself away from one's evil motive. By saying that things went so badly in the hour of temptation, not because you wanted to sin but because of the circumstances, because of other people, or because of your inherent nature. You blamed it all to these things.

By so doing, you lied yourself away from the deepest thing in sin; namely, its guilt; that you sinned willfully, that it was your act.

The hour of temptation becomes the hour of our life's **great humiliation**.

No doubt we all have memories which cause our faces to blush with shame.

We failed. The metal in us was too soft. We were capable of longing, hoping, thinking, and talking, but not of **living**. For to live is to be tempted.

God's Word for Today by O. Hallesby, Copyright © 1994, Augsburg Fortress, Permission Granted.

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done." Psalm 78:4

And this is most certainly true of and desire and intent of all the Hauge Board Members and the Editor!

Taking GOD at His Word

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things and in Him all things consist” Colossians 1:16-17

Science Agrees with God’s Word

The work of the Institute for Creation Research begins and ends with the firm conviction that the **Bible** is wholly true. As followers of Christ, we trust him above all else. His Word communicates to us with great purpose and clarity, and we proclaim all of it and reject any compromise. (So WE seek to follow the ‘ministry in/of the Morning Glory? Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation; by the Grace of God)

ICR’s particular focus is on the science that affirms the Bible. That’s why after almost 50 years of ministry, we took the extraordinary step of building the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth history.

With our particular expertise in the fields of science, we can bring to the table what no other organization can—far-ranging, in-depth evidence that science agrees with God’s Word.

The Discovery Center will immerse people of all ages in the scientific evidence for biblical creation. ICR’s Mission includes teaching the entire biblical message—beginning with Christ’s work at creation—and this new state-of-the-art facility will allow us a greater reach to bring God’s creation truth to those who need to hear it.

Creation Matters

The message of creation is needed more now than ever before. Our world is saturated with evolutionary humanism. It affects everything from the education of our children, to the news reported in our media, to the movies and shows we watch, to even—unfortunately—the training offered in Christian universities and seminaries. Many Christians mistakenly think the creation-evolution debate is irrelevant and unnecessarily divisive. They couldn’t be more wrong.

An understanding of the gospel requires an understanding of Genesis. It is the foundation of the Bible’s history and message that God created us in His image for a special purpose, and that although this purpose was derailed when Adam sinned, we can be redeemed and our relationship with God restored through saving faith in the work of Christ.

But evolution negates this message. The Bible states that the curse of sin is death, and this is why Christ came to defeat death on the cross and then rise again to give us the life with Him we lost in Eden. But if evolution is true, then death existed before Adam’s sin. Billions of life forms died long before humans arrived on the scene. Death wouldn’t be the penalty for sin, and therefore, Christ’s sacrifice becomes meaningless, and our hope is lost.

If God’s Word is authoritative in all areas, then picking and choosing isn’t an option. If it’s from God, how can it be authoritative in some and not in others? The creation message enables people to see the truth about God and His universe and helps establish their faith on the foundation of the whole of Scripture.

The Creation Movement

Only one reliable account of origins exist, and it was written by God Himself in Genesis. A normal straightforward reading of the Genesis account depicts six-day creation with 24-hour days occurring about 6,000 years ago. If this is true, then science should find substantial evidence supporting special creation as well as other historical Genesis events such as Noah’s Flood and the dispersion at Babel.

Last month’s feature article was “For Such a Time as This,” describing how God raised Dr. Henry Morris to be a catalyst for the modern creation movement. In 1950, Dr. Morris used his keen scientific mind to earn a Ph.D. in hydraulic engineering at the University of Minnesota.

God also gave him a deep interest in the Genesis Flood. He combined these passions to formulate a Flood model based on the Genesis narrative and found abundant evidence for it. In time, he realized biblical creation was the best scientific explanation for the world in which we live. He also realized that no scientific evidence truly supports evolution.

Together with theologian Dr. John Whitcomb, he wrote the groundbreaking book *The Genesis Flood*, which led to many opportunities for him to speak and write on biblical creation, and eventually to the founding of ICR itself. God gathered a formidable team from many disciplines to support Dr. Morris’ vision and has used them and others in this ministry to reach multiple thousands of people with God’s creation truth.

Many of today’s biblical creationist believed at some point in their lives in evolution and /or the deep time presented by secular science. What changed their minds? God’s Word. Scientific evidence contradicting evolution and deep time may have introduced doubt, but it was the Word that drew them to the truth. Creation

scientists have discovered over and over, year after year, that their work in the scientific disciplines demonstrates the veracity of God's Word—including Genesis. The scientific evidence they uncover refutes evolution's empty philosophy that Earth, life, and the universe developed randomly over vast amounts of time, that humanity is here by chance, and that life offers little or no basis for a meaningful existence. Creation research affirms the value of life and the authority of God's Word.

It Begins and Ends with the Word

God spoke the universe into being with the words "Let there be." Christ healed and exorcised demons with His words. God's Word has the power to create and the power to save. We must take God's description of reality seriously. He alone witnessed His own creation—we did not.

Many Christians today compromise the Word of God in one respect or another. ICR rejects any interpretation of Scripture that denies or undermines God's work of creation as taught in Genesis. We cannot compromise because we take God at His Word. He never lies.

The Word is clear. Genesis 1-11 describes God creating the universe in six 24-hour days about 6,000 years ago. At ICR, we write, publish, speak, and have built the Discovery Center to proclaim God's creation. We will continue to proclaim His Word in its power and purity, and the Word will not fail to do its work.

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There's Still More to Be Had

"And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah" 1 Kings 17:16.

In this, the barrel and cruse were like the Word of God itself, whether we think of the Scriptures as a whole or any separate passage or text. No matter how often we may have read it, there is always more to be discovered as we ponder it anew under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Evangelist Gibbud, the New York missionary of more than one hundred years ago, used to like to tell of the uncouth lad who attended a school in the lower east side district of that great metropolis.

He was very fond of his teacher because of the kindly interest she had taken in him. One day he approached her desk after school was in session holding out a very dilapidated-looking orange in his dirty, grimy little hand.

"Here, Teacher," he said, "is an orange I've brought you. It's been squeezed some, but there's lots in it yet!"

So it is with every portion of the Bible. No one has been able to exhaust the priceless treasure it contains. There is always more to be obtained from it for the refreshment of the soul.

Sword of the Lord

There Is A Time

*There is a time, we know not when,
A place, we know not where;
Which marks the destiny of men
To glory or despair.*

*There is a line, by us unseen,
Which crosses every path,
Which marks the boundary between
God's mercy and His wrath.*

*To pass that limit is to die,
To die as if by stealth;
It does not dim the beaming eye,
Nor pale the glow of health.*

*The conscience may be still at ease,
The spirit light and gay;
And that which pleases still may please,
And care be thrust away.*

*But on that forehead God hath set
Indelibly a mark;
Unseen by man, for man as yet,
Is blind and in the dark.*

*He feels perchance that all is well
And every fear is calmed;
He lives, he dies, he walks in hell,
Not only doomed, but damned!*

*O, where is that mysterious line
That may by men be crossed,
Beyond which God himself hath sworn,
That he who goes is lost?*

*An answer from the skies repeats,
"Ye who from God depart."
TODAY, O hear His voice,
TODAY repent and harden not your heart.*
-Joseph Addison Alexander

The Rapture and the Revelation

Phase One and Phase Two of Christ's Second Coming

Dr. John R. Rice

The second coming of Jesus Christ is in two places. First, He comes for His Own – that is the **rapture** of the saints. ('Saints' are all those under the Blood of JESUS, by faith – Old & New Testament era, which includes you and me of today!). Later He comes back with His own to fulfill His promise to Abraham and to David – that is the revelation.

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments." Revelation 16:15

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him and they also which pierced him." Revelation 1:7

The Rapture

First, the rapture of the saints. Now the word rapture is not in the Bible. However, it does describe a Bible experience.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. "For this say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15

The living Christians will go up after those who are asleep, that is, the dead, as described here:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (Vss. 16, 17).

When Jesus comes for His own at the rapture, there will be a shout (the voice of the archangel), then the sounds of a trumpet (Ed. Personally, I believe only those who are IN Christ Jesus will 'hear' the "Trumpet" sound), then the dead in Christ will rise first, then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them (those who have been resurrected), to meet the LORD in the air.

Jesus Christ could come back for His own at any time. No signs precede His coming. (Ed. Personally, I believe/think there are many 'signs' of His coming at any time, AND personally, I don't know of any 'sign'

that has not been fulfilled at least once).

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ" Philippians 3:20.

So we are to look not for signs, but the Saviour!

Then in Titus 2:13 we are told to be "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

His coming has been imminent since New Testament times. The apostle Paul expected Jesus to come in his lifetime; for he said, *"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord" 1 Thessalonians 4:17.*

After Jesus comes for His own, the Antichrist will then be revealed on earth and have a successful reign for seven years call the Seventieth Week of Daniel, the day of Jacob's Trouble, or the (Great) Tribulation period. While the Tribulation is taking place on earth, the saints are being judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ in Heaven. Later they will be wed to the Lamb, described as the marriage (feast) of the Lamb.

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true saying of God" Revelation 19:7-9.

The Revelation

At the close of the Tribulation period the saints, along with Christ, will come back to this earth and Jesus will sit down on David's throne and rule the nation with a rod of iron. We call this coming of Christ back to earth the revelation, which is the second phase of His coming.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds; from one end of heaven to the other" Matthew 24:29-31.

Revelation 1:7, "Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him," is speaking of the revelation, not the time when He comes back as a thief in the night for His own.

First, there is the Tribulation (Matthew 24:29) – “Immediately after the tribulation of those days...” Second, Christ comes at the revelation (vs. 30) —” ... and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

Jesus Christ is coming back to the earth literally and visibly to fulfill His promise to Abraham and to David: “The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David, he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne” Psalm 132:11.

He will return this time to gather His own together, not in the air but on the earth from whence He went.

“*And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem*” Zechariah 14:4.

Jesus will literally, physically return to this earth and sit down on David’s throne. The great society, dreamed about for years, will then become a reality. The curse brought on nature because of sin will be removed. Wars will be no more. Righteousness will prevail, and happiness will be universal.

Satan will be chained and bound and Christians will reign with Christ.

“*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and set down with my Father in his throne*” *Revelation 3:21*.

Many other wonderful things will happen, but I hope this explains the second coming of Christ and the two phases – the **rapture** and **revelation**.

Sword of the Lord

* * * * *

The Watchtower Versus the Bible

By Ted Dencher

Jehovah’s Witnesses have changed but little in the past years. As a warning to unsuspecting persons, some of them Christians, who may be enticed into having a “home Bible Study” at the invitation of these heretics, the following I offered to what they teach in comparison with the Bible teaches.

Jesus Christ. They deny that the Christ-child was born; that is why they will not celebrate Christmas. Quoting the book, Things in Which It Is impossible for God to Lie, page 211: “When did he become Christ or ‘Anointed One’”? “After the prophet John the son of the priest Zechariah baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.” This doctrine was taught as early as the eighth century and is called “adoptionism.” The teaching is that Jesus neither became the Christ nor was even the Son of God until this baptism.

The Bible teaches that Jesus was Christ (or Messiah) at His physical birth: “Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). IF He was not the Savior at His birth, why does the Bible say He was?

Jehovah’s Witnesses deny the deity of Jesus. The above-quoted book states on page 231: “The apostle John does not call Jesus a ‘God-man,’ and neither does any other Bible writer do so. Jesus in the flesh was not a mixture of earthly and spiritual, flesh and spirit.” With regard to this, I refer the reader to the following texts of the Bible which affirm the deity of Jesus Christ: Isaiah 48:12-16 (the Lord God sends Jehovah His Son); Zechariah 2:8-11, (Jehovah sends Jehovah) Deuteronomy 32:39 proves that Jesus is not another god than Jehovah (as Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Him to be), for in this text the Father makes clear there is no god of any kind with Him. – John 1:1.

Compare Isaiah 44:6 and 48:12 with Revelation 1:17, 18 ... Compare Revelation 1:7,8 with 22:12-16, where ALPHA AND OMEGA is identified with God (1:8) and Jesus (22:16). See also Colossians 2:9 and Hebrews 1:8, where God the Father calls Jesus [in Greek] ‘ho theos’, “the God”; John 20:28, where Thomas calls Jesus ‘ho theos’ and is commended by Christ for doing so.

The 144,000. The Witnesses believe that only 144,000 persons will go to heaven, and the rest of those who are redeemed will inhabit the earth forever. But note this in the Scriptures: in Revelation 7:6 the “great multitude” stands “before the throne!” In Revelation 14:3 the 144,000 are also before the throne! So according to the Bible both groups are in the same place! Where are they in heaven or on earth?

Excerpt from *Alliance Weekly*

Editor’s Note: They do not believe in the bodily resurrection as the Bible teaches, and, Christians believe! Also, when they ‘knock’ at your door, they like to speak about the ‘end times’, etc.

But not inviting them into your abode, tell them you would like to discuss this with them; but first, pray together, but they won’t because they do not believe in the ‘Trinity’ as we do!

They will not agree that JESUS CHRIST IS ETERNAL, BUT state God ‘created’ Jesus later. Then how can they agree with ‘OUR FATHER’ in which God is Eternal?

BEWARE as there are many, and I say many false “*Cults*” in the USA and around the world, lest you be deceived.

The Apocalypse

By Theo Knutson, Norma, ND

(Editor's Note: I would like you to realize this 'article' appeared in the 1967 issue of the Morning Glory: now the challenge is up to YOU to 'up-date' it!

What insight and discernment GOD gave to this godly farmer along with others; who exercised the gift of 'discernment': as every Christian has some 'discernment' and it is up to us to exercise the same!!!)

“Behold he cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen”

It may seem foolhardy for a layman to attempt to deal at all with the Book of Revelation. It would perhaps even seem superfluous for seasoned theologians to comment any further on this book, since we not only have books and commentaries by the score but multiplied charts and diagrams as well; some by authors who would even indulge in dates and dubious details, with a “yea verily” and an “amen.”

At a time, however, when the clergy in the main church are prone to glibly refer to the visible church as a “communion of saints,” it could perhaps be well to consider what the Holy Spirit saith to the churches.

How does the average church of today compare with the church at Ephesus? I know thy works – yes much works. And thy labors – oh yes, long arduous. Perhaps even some patience. And that thou canst not bear them which are evil – or can we? Had the editor of *The Ansgar Lutheran* read Bishop Oxnam's book A Testament of Faith when he honored him with bold; “Bishop Oxnam, the Lutherans salute you”? Should not a man who says the Christian doctrine of the vicarious atonement of Christ is an offense to him as does Bishop Oxnam in the book be classed as an evil man? The church at Ephesus could not bear evil men who said they were apostles and were not, but we bar men who introduce and advocate the reading of the blasphemous interpreter's Bible which in volume 1, page 817 reads: “From the earliest records of primitive sacrifice man has been obsessed by the efficacy of innocent Blood to save from disaster. Both the Roman Catholic and the Protestant churches have perpetuated this primitive tradition in all their ritual, in their hymns and sacred books. Realistically, shed blood is horrible beyond words.

Protest, by calling your pastor's attention to matters such as these, and he is very apt to answer, “I don't share your alarm”; and he might hasten to add “Whether it be books or such men, there is so much good in them, it far

out-weighs the evil.” Or as a teacher from one of our Christian schools put it: “You must remember, there is not only the white and the black there is also the gray” (Ed. Where, in what “camp” do you find ‘gray’ in the Bible – spiritually?) In other words, as long as a thing is not all evil, for peace's sake, we must try to go long! To do evil that good may come is not only permissible, but commendable.

Well, these are some of the answers Neo-Orthodoxy is coming out with as they re-think and re-vamp the old and proven path.

The church at Ephesus had left her first love, and was warned by “***Him whose head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow; and whose eyes were as a flame of fire: Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do thy first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place except thou repent.***” But we have churches filled with men who have never experienced this love, who are so often referred to as a communion of saints.

But where are these saints when the pastor once a year calls for a week of Bible study? Only a fraction of them show up and that at such irregular attendance that it would be hard for them to glean anything good, even though it was there.

And the prayer session? But why should saints be expected to pray in public when each has their private prayer closet? Our witness is in paying our dues and giving generously to the church. It is the preacher who should pray and preach publicly; so say the twentieth century saints!

Paul does not agree however: “*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation.*” (Roman 10:9-10)

It seems as if most people would rather pay through the nose than permit confession or testimony to escape through the mouth. These twentieth century pancake-supper saints will, however, make material for the World Church, the Great Babylon, which is also called ‘The Great Whore.’ Since many of these so-called saints have never experienced this love, they naturally cannot have left it nor know what is meant by having left the first love. Let me humbly confess here and now that it is through no foresight, goodness or piety on my part that I have experienced this love. I was pulled as a firebrand out of the burning, and it is only because God's grace has been great toward me that time and time again, I have been “jerked up” through sickness, a hailstorm, accident, or otherwise for having left my first love.

Chastisement, coupled with eye-salve to see God's loving providence, has restored me time and again. It is the one who has been forgiven much who loves much (Luke 7:36-47). Is it any wonder that those of us who find all our comfort, all our joy, and all our hope in the shed Blood cannot bear those who ridicule and scoff at the blood atonement?

The time has come when the *"three camps"* are fast shaping up: The camp of the beast Communism (today Socialism/Muslims), which by the help of, and through the U.N., will soon have erected its one-world government. The camp of the whore – The Apostate church through which the WCC will soon have erected the one world church, which is the Great Babylon. The camp of the bride – the blood bought twice-born saints, who shall overcome their accuser by *"the blood of the Lamb; and by the word of their testimony, for they love not their lives unto death."*

A Legacy of Faith

(Please read 2 Timothy 1:5-14)

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice" II Timothy 1:5.

Long before the decisive moment when Billy Graham came to faith in Christ at age sixteen, his parents' devotion to Jesus was evident. They both came to faith while growing up within a family of believers. After their marriage, Billy's parents continued that legacy by lovingly nurturing their children, including praying and reading Scripture and attending church with them. The solid foundation Graham's parents laid for Billy was part of the soil God used to bring him to faith and, eventually, to his calling as a bold Evangelist.

The apostle Paul's young protegee Timothy also benefitted from a strong spiritual foundation. Paul wrote, ***"Your sincere faith ...first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice"*** 2 Timothy 1:5. This legacy helped prepare and steer Timothy's heart inward to faith in Christ.

Now Paul urged Timothy to carry on this faith tradition (v. 5), to *"fan into flame the gift of God"* within him through the Holy Spirit, who *"gives us power"* (vv.6-7). Because of the power of the Spirit, Timothy could fearlessly live for the Gospel (v. 8). A strong spiritual legacy doesn't guarantee we'll come to faith, but the example and mentoring of others can help prepare the way. And after we receive Jesus as Savior, the Spirit will guide us in

service, in living for Him, and even in nurturing the faith of others.

*Who or what did God use to help to lay
the foundation for your faith?*

Can you help to do this in someone's life today?

***Lord, thank You for the believers who helped shape
my faith. Help me to rely on Christ's Spirit for the
strength to boldly witness for You.***

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Hans Nielsen Hauge

Religious Experiences

The portions of Scripture most offensive to flesh and blood were the most precious to me; for example: he who would be Jesus' disciple must deny all he has, even his own life (Luke 14:26-27) and sell what he owns; we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22) and suffer persecution for righteousness sake (Matthew 5:10). This I did not believe any hypocrite would be able to duplicate.

After I had labored thus for more than half a year, I met a group of people who had been spiritually awakened three years earlier. They tried to gain my confidence with a view to having me join forces with them. I reciprocated heartily and inwardly assented; but my judgment, conscience and the call I had received were all against it. Therefore, I hesitated and was not willing to make such a decision. It is possible that pride over the honor shown me as well as other sins may have clouded my discernment. Still, the Lord guided and admonished me by His Spirit. For such an association would have hindered my calling. Therefore, I considered Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 7 worthy of being followed. It is true that one cannot apply these passages to all or else the world would become uninhabited. From Paul's statements, it is clear that both the married and the unmarried state may be without blame.

So, I traveled about as usual and talked with people; but I had lost something. My talks took the form of parables, richer in pictures than in spirit. For a year there were no results to speak of. But the second autumn I found a history of Tauler's conversion. This book taught me the depth of the well from which one can draw spiritual water to cleanse his own heart. It seemed to me now that a clearer light shone in my heart and the Holy Scrip-

tures became more living to me. And if I did not so often experience God's special speaking (Daniel 9) and sublime feelings, still I was aware of the Holy Spirit's admonitions and working – He who witnessed within me that I was a child of God (Romans 8:6).

Beyond that, it was my duty to walk by faith and not by sight. My all-powerful Master was going on a journey into a far country and it behooved me to be a true and wise steward. Even though returning at midnight, He would find me awake giving his servants their portion of meat in due season (Luke 12:42).

I was humbled and amazed at the efficacy of the grace God revealed in me: 'That it pleased my good Father to give me, such a miserable and weak person as I, the power to influence more and more people with the desire to go on in the way of Salvation.' Still, I did not indulge in many such thoughts for spiritual pride would have resulted. Rather I proceeded for the most part like an outsider. That is to say, without allowing my sense and understanding to judge these things or my left hand to know what my right hand was doing. For I noticed that things turned out best when my heart burned with concern for the salvation of my fellowmen. I felt it was my duty to preach and did not think about the wages. Moved by love's filial fear, I tried to work with all my strength.

I was singularly driven by the power of the Spirit of God to speak to people. For even though at times I was tempted to remain silent for fear of persecution by wicked men, still that was only to bring upon myself the experience and cry of the prophet in Jeremiah 20:9. It was as if a fire burned within me and I could not keep still, especially when many people were present.

At such times I was not always conscious of what I said, because I was carried away by my emotions. Later when I thought back, wondering whether I had spoken rightly, and in my doubt asked my most enlightened friends, not only they, but even my opponents, asserted that I had spoken well and upheld the teachings of Christ.

At times it would happen that I had made up my mind on a Sunday to go to a certain house or place where people were assembled and there tell the unbelievers the truths that I was meditating upon in such a way that they accept them as God's Word and not foolishness. I intended to share with them their ungodliness and to edify the believers. But when I came to the specified place, I was able to say very little and found myself very helpless.

In this way, I learned not to put confidence in my own plans. Recognizing my own insufficiencies and dependence on God's grace, I asked the Lord for power.

I found that when I surrendered myself to Him, asking Him to direct my speech and believing that He would do it in that very hour (Matthew 10), it was always easy for me to speak of the way of life.

I traveled about the country more extensively from year to year, confessing the name of the Lord. My mind was occupied with godly thoughts as well as with the Holy Scriptures, and temptations lost their power. For though I was tempted outwardly by evil desires and inwardly by evil thoughts, especially in dreams, I regarded them only as the birds that flew over my head but found no resting place in me. The most important thing was to keep humble and always realize that I was so only by the grace of God. When Satan tempted me, I called upon God for help and was able to conquer.

I was plagued by unbelief born of human reasoning and at other times by foolish superstition. But I withstood unbelief by arguing that the life I had was the happiest. For God's Spirit in the heart, the Holy Scriptures, reason and temporal experience together teach and confirm that he is the happiest who has faith in God and lives a vicarious life. I was set free from superstition by these same four witnesses, so that I joined spiritual and physical forces in seeking to use the world and not to abuse it. (Editor: *Likely continued in the next issue of the Morning Glory*)

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

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“I would rather have fifty people on their knees, on a Saturday night praying for the salvation of souls in my services on Sunday, than have a page in the Saturday New York Times.”

William Ward Ayer

ANOTHER GODLY PERSON SAID:

I WOULD RATHER BE THE MEANS OF SETTING 10 SOULS ON FIRE FOR THE LORD, THEN THE MEANS OF 100 CONVERTS!

Editor: How about you specifically praying in like-manner for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* and the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation?

The Attributes of God

This is the fourth 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 that we will look at is that **God is Just**. This means that He is Fair and Impartial. Deut. 32:3-4 declares, *“For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! “The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”* God shows no partiality of people, meaning that He doesn't regard physical or intellectual differences between men to their advantage or detriment. All of God's dealings with mankind are perfectly just from God's perspective. It does not always appear this way to men when they view it from our perspective. I once saw an episode on *Animal Planet* on the Amazon River where a young boy fell into the water and was eaten alive by piranhas. This seems totally unfair and unjust when people consider this. “How could God allow this to happen to an innocent child?” We don't necessarily know the answer to this, but remember that, *“there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”* (Ecclesiastes 7:20) There is no one who is innocent before God, and why God chooses to allow fewer days to some people versus others is part of His infinite plan and wisdom, which is always perfect. When we hear of things like this it is better to ask the question, “Why has God *NOT* taken me because of my sin?” God's dealings with people are not influenced by what people are by birth or intellect or any other human trait. *“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him.”* (Acts 10:34-5)

Another attribute is that **God is Faithful**. This means that He always Keeps His Promises. *“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.”* (2 Timothy 2:12-13) When we read of the promises of God in Scripture, we can be assured that they remain true to us for all time because God remains faithful to His promises. God has promised to forgive our sins if we confess them to Him. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9) Think how revolting it would be if we confessed

our sins to Him and He were to reply to us, “No, I will not forgive you.” You would be left utterly helpless and lost. But this won't happen because God is faithful to His Word to us, and He has promised to forgive us when we confess and repent and come to Jesus. God will stand behind His promises forever and with His Almighty Power. *“For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.”* (2 Cor.1:20)

God is also Benevolent. This means that He is good, kind and desiring our welfare. *“Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”* (Psalm 136:1) Since we are God's creation, He desires that we live in Him and have communion and faith and obedience with Him. Since God is all-knowing, He knows that we can't believe in Him or come to Him on our own. Therefore, He reaches down by His grace to move us to Himself. It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance, as Romans 2:4 states, *“Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”* When any sinner repents of their sins, it is because the Spirit of God has first worked conviction and the desire and ability to repent. We simply respond to what God's goodness is prompting us to do. Apart from Him, we would remain spiritually dead and separated from God forever.

God does not delight in the death of the wicked. Even though their sin brings about God's wrath, His goodness desires that they repent and turn to Him, not that they would remain in sin and be under His wrath. *“Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord God, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?”* (Ezekiel 18:23) God wills that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. *“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 Tim. 2:3-4) God's goodness is for all people in the world, not just for a certain group of people. *“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”* (2 Pet. 3:9) This is God's desire for you today.

Dear reader, have you personally experienced the Goodness of the Lord? *“Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have **tasted** the kindness of the Lord.”* (1 Pet. 2:2-3)

Pastor Jim Haga
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13. Publication Title: **Morning Glory**

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **September, 2019**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1285	1203
b. Paid (Distribution outside the mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3541 (Exclude paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	1210	1158
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3541 (Exclude paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	45	42
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f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1270	1217
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #1 page 903)		15	15
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1285	1232
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15h times 100)		100%	100%

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