



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • September 2016

The Precious Blood of Jesus

By Pastor Alvin Larson

It will be good to look into the Word of God and see some of the things that the shed blood of Christ purchased for us.

We immediately think of our redemption through Jesus Christ. First Peter 1:18-19 *“knowing that you were ransom from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”*

Yes, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice and the only way that man could be redeemed by God. As Christians we realize how truly precious the blood of Christ is, and yet how often do we think about that precious blood and what it bought for us? A number of years ago at a Bible conference time was given for testimony and Scripture to be shared. The pastor that was leading the meeting asked for Scripture that spoke about the blood of Christ. I still recall that there were very few that could share. Not that the Christians were not aware of how precious the blood is, but so few had memorized verses on it and I found myself guilty in this respect also. We need to take to memory much more Scripture for our own edification and strength.

Hebrews 9:22 *“Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”*

Revelations chapter 5:9 *“And they sang a new song saying, worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals; for you were slain and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”*

Just think of every kindred, tongue, people and nation

under the precious blood that was shed for all so that they could belong to the family of God. All who will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are redeemed by His blood. Acts 20:28 admonished the spiritual leaders to feed the Church of God which He has purchased with His own precious blood.

Forgiveness is also purchased by His blood. Ephesians 1:7: *“...in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”* Not only do we have the forgiveness of our sin in part, but the whole. All the sin debt is paid in full, the past sin, the present sin and the sin that is yet to be committed; even the sins we are not aware of as well as known sin. Now this does not mean that we can live in sin and expect a continual forgiveness – not by any means. Paul asked the question in Romans 6:6 *“What shall we do then? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound? God forbid! How shall we who have died to sin live any longer in it?”* Verse 16, *“Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin which leads to death or of obedience which leads to righteousness?”* To continue in sin would only prove that we are not truly walking in fellowship with God. For a Christian there is victory over a life of sin when we walk close to Jesus.

Deliverance was also purchased for us. What joy, what peace we experience when Jesus has set us free from a life in spiritual darkness to a life of spiritual life. We experience deliverance from the power of the devil. He may tempt us and at times cause us to fall into sin but then *“if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us*

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our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9). Because we can do as it states in Hebrews 10:19, *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus.* We are delivered from our sin by the washing of His blood and God no longer holds us guilty but we have full pardon. Praise His wonderful name!

Originally published February, 1993, now taken from *The Christian Fellowship Banner*, Summer, 2016

Benjamin Franklin spoke up!

The delegates of the Constitutional Convention (what became our Constitution) because they couldn't resolved their differences, picked up their hats and coats and started to leave. Suddenly Mr. Benjamin Franklin spoke up.

“Wait a minute, gentlemen,” he is reported to have said. *“This country was conceived in faith in God. Many of us here believe in prayer. Let us get upon our knees and pray to Almighty God and see whether God shall give to us the answer to our dilemma.”*

Upon their knees those men went, and out of that prayer meeting came the Constitution of the United States of America!

Abraham Lincoln once said: *“The strength of a nation lies in the people – in the homes of the people.”*

Ronald Reagan On America

“The Declaration of Independence mentions the Supreme Being no less than four times. ‘In God We Trust’ is engraved on our coinage. The Supreme Court opens its proceedings with a religious invocation. And the members of Congress open their sessions with a prayer. I just happen to believe the schoolchildren of the United States are entitled to the same privileges as Supreme Court justices and congressmen.”

“More than a decade ago, a Supreme Court decision literally wiped off the books of 50 states statutes protecting the rights of unborn children. Abortion-on-demand now takes the lives of up to one and a half million unborn children a year. Human life legislation ending this tragedy will someday pass the Congress, and you and I must never rest until it does.”

“There is sin and evil in the world, and we’re enjoined by Scripture and the Lord Jesus to oppose it with all our might. The glory of this land has been its capacity for transcending the moral evils of our past.”

“We will never compromise our principles and standards. We will never abandon our belief in God.”

“We’ll preserve for our children this last best hope of man on earth or we’ll sentence them to take the last step into a thousand years of darkness.”

“The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they’re ignorant; it’s just that they know so much that isn’t so.”

“No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. So government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we’ll ever see on this earth.”

“Our natural, unalienable rights are now considered a dispensation of government, and freedom has never been as close to slipping from our grasp as it is this moment.”

“The family has always been the cornerstone of American society. Our families nurture, preserve, and pass on to each succeeding generation the values we share and cherish.”

Excerpt taken from *The Vine and Branches*.

Editor’s Note: AMEN AND AMEN!

Ronald Reagan was the 40th President of the USA; 1981 – 1989.

* * * * *

SOMETIMES!

SOMETIMES life brings us to the point where we don’t see much hope for the USA and in the world at large. If you’re there right now – whatever the situation, whatever the reason – let me assure you that GOD cares, as there is no hurt, problem, gloomy future; but that earth

knows no sorrow that Heaven cannot feel; because of Him your future can be different.

Receiving JESUS as your personal Savior and being renewed in your first love unto Him, doesn’t mean all your problems will suddenly vanish.

Some of the problems we face are because of our own stubborn will; but there are also many things that can happen to us which are way beyond our choice or control.

Keep in mind and heart that God loves YOU, and even when life is dark and uncertain, that truth will bring you encouragement and strength. God loves me/you when I am good or bad, as His love (Agape) is unconditional: but that does not give us a license to SIN!

Jesus knows what you are going through, and... He is praying for you!

(Jesus) is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them Hebrews 7:25.

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses; but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16.

For those of you who are yet ‘unsaved’, keep in mind and heart that **JESUS loves YOU (not your SIN) to the very point of when you exit this life and enter into Everlasting/Eternal HELL!** There are those who say there is NO Hell to shun, but then why did Jesus die for your sin on Calvary’s Cross, and also talked frequently about Hell and those who are going to hell in His Word? *If this is not the Truth, then you are calling GOD a liar!*

Rodney Stueland, Editor

* * * * *

We aren’t hypocritical just because we don’t meet a person’s every demand. Would we really be helping them if we met their every demand, no matter how selfish? Instead, we might just be encouraging greater self-centeredness on their part – and that is not God’s will. Sometimes love says no, because that is what is best for the other person.

If you can fulfill someone’s request however, do so even if it involves sacrifice on your part. The Bible says, *“let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth”* (1 John 3:18).

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13.

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

For Good Works

Let us also consider the phrase, “*for good works.*”

This new creation of God in Christ is to be transferred to us; we receive it by faith, and it is to be built up in us. The foundation was laid in us when we were born of God. As time goes on, and God’s power is made perfect in weakness, God works in us so that we live not after the flesh but after the Spirit. All that a Christian does as the love of Christ constrains him is the work of Christ in us; indeed it is Christ in us.

A Christian becomes a servant of Christ, a channel through which God’s power flows, a candlestick which carries God’s light of salvation, and an agent for the works before prepared that we should walk in them. All that is done out of such a life with Christ in God is done by God in us. Since it is of God it shall never perish, but follows the Christian into eternity. All else will burn as straw in the day of judgment; only that which is of God shall abide.

Two people can be engaged in identically the same activity; in our eyes their deeds may be exactly the same. Yet the one may be done in and for self and the other done in Christ. The first shall not stand because it is not done in God, while the other shall abide because it is done in God.

“*Yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them.*” Revelation 14:13.

“And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Daniel 12:3.

The halo of glory which they shall receive who have turned many to righteousness is not the basis of their salvation, but the fruit of a life in God’s grace. It *seems* that there shall also be those in heaven who will not shine with brightness. All who believe in Christ shall be saved, but there shall be a difference in glory according to the faithfulness with which we have served God. We are saved on the basis of Christ’s merits; but it is God’s will that we shall be obedient servants and present ourselves as an offering to God. As Christ gave Himself completely for us, so ought we to give ourselves wholly to Him; this we should do, not only for salvation, but also for service.

We are created for good works. May no Christian ever forget this.

Then we have the great hope that one day all our work shall be perfect. We shall not only be saved by faith in what another has done; we shall one day stand before God with a soul and body that is a perfect work of God. ***We shall be like Him.***

Even the earth with its myriad forms of life shall whirl through space as a perfect work of God. Death, and the fruits of death, shall have vanished away. Instead of tears and lamentation eternal life shall rise up in every soul. Every flower and blade of grass shall proclaim the glory of Him who bought us with His blood.

The Christian hope is truly great. All suffering and strife is as nothing compared to the glory that awaits us.

It will be a great day when we shall see this work of God and realize fully that we are also a part of it. It is small wonder that heaven itself shall resound with living echoes in praise of Him who made us, sinful and wicked though we were, to be a complete and perfect work of God.

*O blessed thought! Speak thou to fill my heart
With hope each time the road seems hard and long;
And sweetly mellow every bitter smart
Of sin, and fill my weeping soul with song*

Excerpt taken from *Spirit and Power*, by Ludvig Hope, © Copyright 1959 by Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation

Editor’s Note: “‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’” Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “‘You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things and by Your will they exist and were created.’” (Revelation 4:8b-11)

* * * * *

A book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name. Malachi 3:16.

Through all of history, there has always been an emphasis upon gathering in the Lord’s name. Thus how we should prize our ability to gather today in the name of the Lord Jesus! This is not to exhibit any exclusive spirit, but rather with a view to acknowledging His supreme worthiness. May we ever put far from us that we have come to a place. We are gathering to a *Person!* Our ***Lord’s presence*** is what makes our gathers so precious!
Mark Fenn

*O Lord, where’ver Thy people meet,
There they behold Thy mercy seat:
Where’ver they seek Thee, Thou art found,
And every place is hallowed ground.*

William Cowper

Selected

Editorial

RES

DISTURBING WITH A CONCERN/BURDEN!

*“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”
(Matthew 24:12)*

HOW TRUE THIS WAS IN THE REALITY OF NOAH’S TIME and it is manifesting itself once again!

When I was privileged, and with the responsibility of standing behind the ‘sacred-desk’ on a regular basis for a long period of time; I would try to (as the Holy Spirit led) tell the flock as an ‘under-shepherd’ some of the “signs” of the times that would take place before the Rapture.

BUT at that time, I shared it as a ‘coming-event’; now it is at our very front-door! I didn’t think I would live to see these ‘signs’ fulfilled and now it is present-tense. **Coming:** “*And then the lawless one will be revealed.*” *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders*” 2 Thess. 8a, 9.

To say the least that some of these ‘signs’ are disturbing with concern (a burden) and I ask myself if it is true in my own life! There is a definite lack of taking seriously God at His Word, even among ‘fellow-believers’. Sobering but true; today, there are even numerous good things that hinder actual Christian Fellowship.

There is a difference in translations of God’s Holy Word, the BIBLE, but ‘iniquity’ appears in place of ‘lawlessness’. Iniquity (sin) is not always boldly out-front; but hidden to fellow-believers within the ‘heart’.

For example: When we are privileged to have a Hauge Bible Conference in a given area; the door of opportunity is ‘open’; the Host Congregation is with encouragement making plans for the same: BUT when the actual time comes – the local members of the congregation are absent! Why??? Is there a misunderstanding of what the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation intends to be to the local host congregation and community?

We, by the GRACE of God, want to be an encouraging and blessing and nurturing ‘ministry’ in the Lord’s Kingdom Work’! What’s wrong? Is it lack of communication/understanding/indifference, complacency or what? How can a person be blest and an ‘encourager’ by their absence? Don’t we really care?

According to God’s Word, we are to assemble even more frequently around and under the hearing of God’s Word as we see the DAY APPROACHING! (Hebrews 10:24-25). Not assembling is direct violation/disobedi-

ence of His Command! Now, very likely some of you readers are not going to like what I just exhorted you with; but give me a Bible verse that states otherwise! (God knows our limitations and looks upon our naked heart and motivations) Not taking advantage of the same; does that tell us we are committing the SIN of Omission? Does neglecting the privilege and responsibility show our LOVE for JESUS, His Word and fellow-believers? You know when it comes to assembling/gathering with fellow-believers, it is not only what am I receiving spiritually; but am I also encouraging others?

The ‘time’ may not be too far in the distant future, there may be a heavy price to do the same! *May this ‘firm’ and yet strong admonition be a warning to the wise who have a caring and loving heart!*

Again notice what the ‘agape’ God says in Malachi 3:16-17: “**Then those who feared** (Ed. A godly ‘child-like’ fear, out of LOVE) **the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. ‘They shall be Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him.’”**

I know that the following Bible verses have been fulfilled; but I believe it also is a (even now) coming event/experience: Amos 8:11-12: “**Behold, the days are coming.**’ Says the LORD GOD, **‘That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it.’”** God has created us for **NEED for Fellowship; first to have fellowship with Him and then also with other fellow-believers!**

CASUAL CHRISTIANITY. Today, there is much of ‘casual Christianity’. There is much talk about Freedom, but it is a freedom to sin; rather, it should be Freedom to serve our risen Savior and being removed from the Law’s Condemnation. Hans Neilsen Hauge stated that we are removed from the Law’s condemnation, not compliance to obey it. (See Romans 8:1)

There is a FINE LINE between ‘legalism’ and ‘pietism’. The first one states what you have to do, the other states what you do by love in obedience. The Roman Catholic Church (which is not a *Christian church*) is held together by fear, while the Christian church by love!

Since there is a fine-line, how is a believer is to walk in obedience to the Word of God; but not under the Law?

By the way: WHY is it that almost 100% of born-again folk believe we are not too steal, kill or commit adultery; but practice disobedience to the Third Commandment? Where did we get the privilege to pick-and-choose? Yes, the Law that GOD gave through Moses was very good, but it is inadequate to provide SALVATION as James 2:10. Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:10-20, 6:23, 5:12. Once again let us go back to Matthew 5:17 – where Jesus states that He came to fulfill, but not bring to an end to the Law. WHEN we live and fail the Law, AND God’s Law is much more than just the Ten Commandments, then we need Matthew 3:19, which literally express godly repentance. Without repentance there is NO salvation, 1 John 1:7-2-2. Notice the promises in II Chronicles 7:14, as God always keeps His Promises, but not when we become ‘casual Christians’. We are to walk as Christ walked – 1 John 2:6: **“He who says he abides in Him ought myself also to walk just as He walked.”**; as we are little “ambassadors”, II Cor. 5:14-21. 1 John 2:7-11. How about the very first part of this wonderful and tremendous Hope for our day and country; but when we are indifferent/careless/complacent, it doesn’t apply. God says, ‘**If my people**’... II Chron. 7:14.

This is the only real hope for the USA and the world, which is in turmoil. If we are casual in our Christianity, then we are stumbling-blocks (bait) to those we offend. 1 Corinthians 8:9-12.

Some believe Jesus came and did away with the Law –

Matt. 5:20. They misunderstand John 1:17. It is clear that Jesus did not abolish it, as He states in Matt 5:17. We cannot ignore the Law just because we are under grace – Rom 6:1-2. But Christ has fulfilled the Law for us – Rom. 8:3-4. With the Holy Spirit in us, we follow His commands **out of love** and let the Light shine through us as we **are** light/salt to a darkened/sinful world.

Among my burdens/concerns is that we so often take Christian Fellowship for granted and that the First Amendment to the great USA Constitution will always be there!

It should touch our hearts more — the news that some of our brothers and sisters in Christ are now being persecuted, tortured, and killed for their love of Jesus.

It has been estimated that more Christians have been killed for their faith during the last one hundred years than in all the other centuries combined since the time of Jesus Christ’s Incarnation. One reason is the great expansion of Christianity in the last few centuries – often into places of great unbelief and hostility. Another reason is the rise of militant people and political governments which are anti-Christian.

“Let brotherly love continue. Remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also.”

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” Hebrews 13:3, II Timothy 3:12.

God created us with a **need**, both for Himself and fellow-believers. You can try to swim across the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, or take a boat with fellow passengers.

See John Chapters 14 & 15 and remember **how they loved one another.**

An Excellent Quote On Dancing

Years ago I was given a booklet which, inside it, had this following excellent quote on the evils of modern dancing.

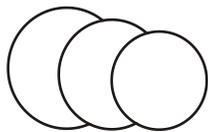
“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revelings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries.”
1 Peter 4:3.

Revellings comes from the Greek root word meaning ‘will jumpings,’ and banquetings comes from the word meaning ‘wild parties.’ It is not the typical banquet such as we have in our churches where one eats a meal. What Peter is saying is that salvation saves a man

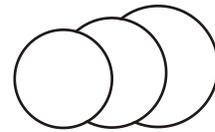
from the lustful pleasures he once enjoyed when his lifestyle centered around the satisfying of bodily appetites, including lusts, sex, liquor, wild parties. The wild jumpings took place similar to modern dancing where the victims shake their torsos at one another connotating sex.” Copied.

I wish that we could hear and read more things in this day and age denouncing the evils of the modern dance and how sensual and evil it really is! That verse, 1 Peter 4:3, sounds like the typical dance hall of our day and age!

Pastor Warren “Chip” Roy, Stephens City, VA



From Our Fellowship Circle



C. D. **St Louis Park, MN**
 I am so pleased and blessed with the very thoughtfully composed publication of *Morning Glory*. Keep up the good work.
 I am enclosing a gift as a thank you to you & the Lord!

E. D. **Des Moines, IA**
 Enclosed is a check for thanks for your ministry. I am fortunate in that I can get access to the *Morning Glory* on the Internet; therefore I don't need to be on your regular mailing list.
 Thank you so much.

L. H. **Fergus Falls, MN**
 Thank you for your ministry which has been a blessing to many believers. My parents had it, so I grew up with it. *Morning Glory* was/is an important influence in my life, and I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior early in life. (Ed. Praise the LORD, to whom the credit belongs)!

Thanks too for your letter encouraging me to attend your recent Bible Conference in Fargo. It wasn't possible for me to be there, but I can still write a check which is enclosed.

God bless your efforts to keep your readers alert to dangers as well as God's remedy for facing these days of danger and apostasy to our physical and Spiritual life.

J. N. **Elk Mound, WI**
 If I were to keep just one subscription that comes to my home, it would be the "*Morning Glory*"!

D. L. **Windsor Hts., IA**
 Thank you for this publication that helps to keep us informed to the things going on in this sinful world and also gives us good spiritual food.

I read and re-read it several times until the next one comes. Thank you for putting it together and getting it out to us each month. I'm still able to read, but is becoming more difficult as I continue to lose my eyesight to Glaucoma. I hope the Lord will take me home before I am completely blind. At my age, my hearing is going too; but our dear Lord is coming soon and that is our greatest hope. (Ed. This hope is definitely more than

just-a-hope-so; but an absolute certainty as it is anchored in God's Eternal Word, the Bible, and God always keeps His promises).

Thanks again for *Morning Glory* and I will let you know when I can no longer read it. ...

God bless you all – Morning Glory Staff.

Saved In Prison

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

I escaped from prison last May, but I turned myself in in November. I realized that I could not do it alone. I took God as my Saviour, my Master. Without the Lord I would not be able to stand it. Alcohol, crime, jail and drugs will no longer be part of my life, if I follow God, pray and read my Bible. Praise the Lord. Pray for me. If you wish you may print my poem in your ...

Our Father In Heaven

Our Father in heaven
 Is also with me here in jail;
 On December 24, '83,
 I asked Him into my heart;
 From Him I shall never depart.

Oh, how He does help me,
 Oh, how much He loves me!
 I love and fear Him,
 I will never more mock Him
 I know that Jesus does care,
 For He answers my every prayer.

Without my Lord and Saviour
 I could never take it!
 I could never make it!
 Jesus loves me! God is love!
 This is my final jail term.

I now read the Bible and pray
 And I'm learning to follow Him
 To be a good Christian.
 I thank my Lord Jesus, I thank my Father in Heaven.
 God is love, oh, how very true.

Doug N. Ayer, Regina, Sask.

Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

VOTING

IF you need any reminder why believers, united by the conviction of our faith, must decide to vote this coming November, Lord willing, and actively participate for our democracy, this is it:

Thus far we are a “Land of the Free” – as millions around the world would like to have this privilege and responsibility! FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE (some ONE had to give their ALL for our Freedom!)

AS believers we are to *prayerfully* cast our vote; not only for our personal benefit, but what is the best for our communities, states, nation and the world!

People of good faith can have *disagreements*, but where does this stop? At this point, I definitely encourage you to vote, as not voting is a choice for the worse!

So the purpose of this little article is to make certain to inspire and motivate believers to act out your faith by casting an informed vote based on a biblical, local and national worldview. 25 million people (*supposedly Christians, who were registered to vote*) DID NOT do so in 2012, and every day we are living with the consequences. Is it not a God-given privilege and responsibility to VOTE in our beloved Land, as our country is comprised of “WE THE PEOPLE”?

Rodney Stueland, Editor

**“They are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.”
Zech. 4:10**

Would you do wrong, if you thought no one would find out? People who are unscrupulous in business dealings, and also in their social dealings, have this thought. God sees all things; He sees the evil deeds, and hears the evil words. He reads our hearts, and knows our thoughts. We cannot escape His all-seeing eye.

A rich Roman had two slaves. One was a Christian, and the other an unbeliever. One day the rich man went on a journey. As soon as he was gone, the unbelieving slave said,

“Now our master is gone, let us have a free day. We don’t have to work. Let us eat and drink and do as we please!”

But the Christian slave answered, “My Master is not away. I am serving a living God who looks at my heart and my hands even though my Roman master is away. I intend to attend my duty today the same as if my master were at home.”

The Christian was aware of the eyes of the Lord. He knew that the Lord could see him even though his master was away. Maybe you think that God cannot see your evil deeds. Maybe you think He cannot see your evil heart. But He does. Hear His invitation: “*Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast Out.*” Come to Him now.

Dear Lord Jesus, make us conscious of Thy all-seeing eye. We thank Thee that Thou art watching over us in love and mercy. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Let, O my soul, thy God direct thee.
And trust in Him through all thy days;
In every danger He’ll protect thee,
And crown thy years with peace and grace.*

Altar Steps by Pastor R. P. Haakonson,
Copyright Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.

Editor’s Note: This great/wonderful Devotional Book for the entire year is available through the HLIF for a donation of eight dollars and two dollars for handling and shipping. This is especially a family devotional book to assist you in your Family Altar. Why not take advantage of it and let God enrich and bless you through it – for a donation (total) of ten dollars?

* * * * *

Who Needs God???

When Socialism is on the horizon and the Government will supply everyone’s need at someone else’s expense – who needs God?

Let us be found faithful not only to God – but our work together to restore to our country to a respect for Biblical Values!

“How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.” They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house (Ed. presence), And you give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light” Psalm 36:7-9

Do You Have A Family Altar In Your Home?

Richard Baxter was one of England's greatest ministers. In early life, he went into a large parish and a community which was composed almost entirely of rich, cultured people.

He found the congregation cold, and all was not as he had expected it to be in the ministry. He was disappointed and disheartened.

The young pastor determined that the way to save the church and this community would be to establish religion in the homes of the community and to build the family altar. Thus Baxter spent three years in his visitation and in his determination to establish a family altar in every home in that community.

He succeeded amazingly, and this condition in the homes was the fountainhead that filled his church to overflowing and started that magnificent ministry and life.

Fundamentally, religion must involve the family relationship. You cannot even build a church altar that is an attractive center without the family altar. Baxter was right and proved it.

Now I will take you to the opposite side. Thomas Boston was likewise a great minister; but, unlike Baxter, he spent the years of his early ministry in the slums of a city among the poor people. There he discovered the same condition – the church was cold and empty. He had no influence. He was disheartened and discouraged.

He said that the only way to save the church was to save the family; so he went all through that poor community and established family altars where they worshiped God in the home every day of the week. He built up the altars, and he says he spent three years doing it.

Then Thomas Boston's church started to revive, and the community was filled with spiritual power and influence.

Family Altars and Missionaries

One of the noblest missionaries was John G. Paton. No man evidenced more heroism and sacrifice than did that kingly, wonderful soldier of the cross.

Read the biography of this devoted missionary. You will find on the first page the secret of that life of service, the one memory around which all the rest of Paton's ministry centers. That recollection is of his father with his old family Bible twice a day at the family altar, children all around him hearing the message of God, then down on their knees together.

Paton says that in that old home his father's mighty religious influence made him all he was and started his mis-

sionary life and work. As you read the rest of his biography, you will find this spiritual influence in operation all through his life.

Henry W. Grady visited Washington, D.C.; and when he went back to Atlanta, Georgia, he wrote an editorial about the Capitol at Washington, described it beautifully and called it "the home of this great nation, the center around which the nation moves."

Some months passed, and he went back to his old home in Athens, Georgia; then when he returned to Atlanta, he wrote another editorial, and in it he said that he made a tremendous blunder when he wrote that first editorial. He said that "the center of this country is not in the United States Capitol – it is in the hovels and in the cottages and in the old farmhouses and in every home in this land in which there is a family altar."

The Christian home is the center of American life from which all the rest of it moves and radiates. And Henry Grady was justified in apologizing for his mistake.

A Precious Heritage

I know two men who lived in a country home in their boyhood, who became rich when they went away from home. They went occasionally to visit their father and mother living in the old home.

Finally the father and mother went to Heaven. The sons did not know what to do with their old home. One of them said to the other, "IF you'll sell out your interest to me I'll tear down the house, build a summer home there and let you come out to it when you want to."

Accordingly, they took a trip out to the old homestead to tear it down. Around that spot there swept many sacred memories. Then these two brothers, past middle life and rich, went into the house and looked around through it. One walked up and down in front of the old fireplace, and the other sat down.

Finally one said to the other, "You know, Bob, what I'm thinking about? I've changed my mind since I've been here. We're not going to tear down this old house. This house is going to stand here; it's not going to be torn down."

"That's a strange thing," the other brother said, "for when I was walking up and down in front of the fireplace, that is the same thing I was thinking about."

He looked over to the chair in which his father used to sit. "Here is the old chair that Father sat in when he read the Bible, when we had family worship – the chair around which we knelt as Father lifted his heart to God."

They stayed there two hours to talk things over. They both got down on their knees by the old chair, repented and poured out their hearts to God. They went back saved men and gave their money to God and lived for Him.

And the old house stands. Not a single thing was moved out. It was too sacred to touch, because the family altar had stood there.

It is a great thing to go back to the old house. If you cannot go back any way but in memory, go back.

I can make such a journey tonight. I am back there now, on the banks of the Hudson River, in that old farmhouse, in that kitchen, round that great fireplace – father, mother and children, twice a day, the old family Bible and the wonderful prayer lifted to God! I am remembering that old house, that old center, that marvelous influence.

Do not be surprised when I tell you that every one of those children was saved by the grace of God. Four of them became preachers of Jesus Christ; all the rest of them, Sunday school teachers and God's chosen men and women; and they all found that inspiration and life at the family altar when Father opened the Bible and then lifted his heart to God. That is the greatest heritage in this world.

The greatest influence is the influence of Christian blood and life, moral character and spiritual, uplifting power. Now if your old home gave you that, you do not need to have a dollar. My father and mother never left me a dollar, but they left me the greatest riches in the world.

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6.

Author unknown

Sword of the Lord

Assembling – Congregations!

At the very start of this article, I know that not all true believers are going to agree with me, but please read on and consider the following:

The purpose of this article is to inform you why all believers do not choose to clap during our Worship Service, as there are times in our lives we believe it is essentially necessary to be quietly worshipping (in holy reverence) the Lord and meditating on His Word with our Hearts focused on Jesus and God and nothing else. *“But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.” Habakkuk 2:20.*

Keep in mind and heart and experience that on certain occasions, we are on Holy Ground! Look at Moses for example! It is a thrice Holy God we are worshipping! Isn't it in a sense holy-ground that most of our church buildings came about as a result of a revival, as people of God; prayed, sweat, gave and sacrificed to make such a reality?

Also, there are some who prefer that we do not ap-

plaud. *“Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”* Matthew 6:2.

So-called Christian MUSIC can become seductive in the ways of the world. For example: type of music, volume, body movements, scanty attire on women, etc. The Bible tells us that each of us are accountable, one day, before a Thrice Holy God. Remember Lot's wife as she looked backed after being enticed, and chose rather the pleasures of SIN for a season. – Hebrews 11:25.

Singularly, maybe when we assemble together as believers, our NEED is the conviction of sin, lifting up Jesus, drawing closer to God, and being blessed by God. This is the best expression, to figuratively sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to what He has to say and glorify HIM. Thus, a worship service should not be built around our emotions and feelings, but our need! IN my knowledge, as I read God's Eternal Word, the BIBLE, people fell (prostrate) at the feet of JESUS as they sensed being in the presence of the Holy ONE! (Example: Peter, when he cried, “Lord, depart from me for I am a sinful man.” Another example is Mary and Martha).

Besides, when clapping takes place, there is a real *danger* of competitiveness, instead of pointing to the Almighty ONE! As we all know, there are variations of talents, and when we get interest on our talent(s) as we use them to glorify GOD! (Example: Special music or testimony – these should not bring attention to ME, but pointing to and glorifying GOD). Should we not have a desire to treat all those who serve the Lord equally? Do we clap for the greeters? Do we clap for the servers? Do we clap for the ushers? Do we clap for one who gives us the bulletin? Do we clap for the janitor? Do we clap for the preacher sharing the Law and the Gospel? The list could go on. *“On the contrary, it is much truer that members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentably, whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”* 1 Corinthians 12:22-25.

As you are more certainly richly blest by certain individuals in your personal life, take the time and put forth the effort to personally go to that person and thank those for being willing to be vessels in the worship of our Living SAVIOR!
RES

An Open Letter To The Leaders Of The ELCA

FROM (Pastor) **DAVID R. BARNHART**

Dear ELCA Leaders,

I left the Lutheran Church in America, where I had served as a Pastor for 20 years, over false doctrines and unbiblical practices prior to the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Along with fellow pastors and laity in the early 1980s, I worked tirelessly to influence the development of the new Lutheran church that eventually came to be called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (**ELCA**). (Ed. Actually the ELCA left him). Every one of our concerns regarding the absolute authority of Scripture was put off or rejected as outdated theology, as was the removal of an unalterable article in the American Lutheran Church's constitution that stated the Bible is: "the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God."

You may think having left your church, I have no right to address any concerns to you, but I still have family members and numerous friends who belong to the ELCA, and I care about their souls and yours.

My remarks here are not the words of an idealistic pastor whose time has come and gone I build what I say on the changeless Word of God, and in the hope that at least some of you will heed my pleas. Furthermore, by expressing these concerns, I am living up to the ordination vows I made in 1964 to preach and teach the whole counsel of God.

A press release from the ELCA News Service, dated March 14, 2016 stated: "The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is discerning the denomination's future directions and priorities in new process known as 'Called Forward Together in Christ.' The conference is an advisory body of the ELCA that includes 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and secretary ... The process is designed to invite more than 3.7 million-member ELCA into a discernment about the church's future."

With no ill will intended, I assure you that the ELCA has no future, unless you repent! As Jesus said to the Church in Ephesus, "Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place – unless you repent" (Revelation 2:5).

The aforementioned report went on to address concerns about how the ELCA might become more "inclusive and diverse." From its very inception, the ELCA abandoned the principle of "SCRIPTURE ALONE" in

matters of faith and practice and, instead, opted to make church assemblies a consensus of your assemblies the final authority within your church body.

Interestingly, the March issue of *The Lutheran* was devoted to the theme "All are Welcome." But only a cursory reading of the magazine was required to realize that you are not only advocating that your congregations welcome sinners, but clearly you are advocating that they welcome their sins as well. Welcoming all sinners into our churches is right and proper according to the Scriptures in order that they may come to a knowledge of the truth. Welcoming their sins as acceptable behavior is not, according to the same Scriptures.

Yet you have opened your doors to deviant sexual behaviors that are condemned by the very Scripture you claim to follow. You have chosen to ordain into the gospel ministry homosexuals and transgendered individuals whose sins defy and defile the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. For years you have sanctioned and allowed same-sex marriages to be performed in your churches. Furthermore, you tolerate goddess worship, as well as teachers who even deny the substitutionary atonement of Christ and other foundational doctrines of the Bible. This includes the foul-mouthed, tattooed, ELCA pastor who was referenced positively in the March issue of *The Lutheran* and who is often a featured speaker at ELCA youth events.

In your news release, you mentioned the purpose of your latest effort was to plan your future through the influence of your 3.7 million members. Point-in-fact, when you started in 1988, you had 5.2 million members. Your denials and defiance of God's Word, as well as your evil practices that you accepted and embraced, caused over 1.5 million of your members to flee for their spiritual lives, people whose consciences were bound by the Word of God. In addition, you have lost more than 1,500 congregations. Many of those who left were your finest member in their loyalty to Christ and in their stewardship.

In the March issue of *The Lutheran*, there was an article entitled "Sin," by Peter W. Marty. He rightly pointed out, "The Bible does not depict God forgiving mistakes, poor judgment or lapses of one kind or another. God forgives sin. And sin is what keeps us from becoming the people God wants us to be." That is a sound and biblical statement.

But let me tell you this – **You, the leaders of the ELCA, do not get to decide what is and is not a sin!** God alone decides that, and sin is clearly defined in His Word. In the ELCA, sin has become whatever the consensus of the ELCA says it is, or whatever your church assemblies decides it is. Thus, I tell you again – the ELCA has no fu-

ture until such practices are stopped, repentance is forthcoming, and you walk in obedience to God's inspired, infallible and inerrant Word.

GOD'S WORD DECLARES

"...For You have exalted above all things Your name and Your Word." (Psalm 138:2).

"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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). **"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But continue thou in the thing which thou has learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom thou has learned them; And that from a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ."** (2 Timothy 3:13-15).

The Vine and Branches, Spring, 2016

"What do You Know?"

(Radio Sermon by Pastor R. Norheim)

When people ask the above question they could be in for a longer session than they asked for. Long before Christ died and rose from the dead, Job said, **"I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."** Job 19:25. He didn't know him by His name; his bible was much smaller than ours, but still he knew that the One we call the Lord Jesus Christ was his Redeemer. He also knew that he, and all people, needed a Redeemer, because all were sinners. He did not worship dead idols; His God was alive! By divine inspiration he said more than he knew, namely, that the Redeemer would come to this earth, live here, die and rise again from the dead and live forevermore. Hundreds of year later, when Jesus died and ascended into Paradise, Job could "say it again" – "He lives – He is alive forevermore!" What do you know?

If We Know Him:

(1) We know all things. *"But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.* 1 John 2:20. Really, we know more than we know we know. We know what I called the "body of truth", centered in the person of Christ. He did not contradict this when, in Acts 1:7, He said to His disciples, *"It is not for you to know the times and seasons the Father has put in His*

power". You see, they knew the One that knew all things. When asked to prove something, we reply that we have the facts in our files; we have all the facts in the person of Christ. "Talk to my attorney!" Christ is the answer!

(2) We know where He is; not only in heaven, but *"hereby we know that He abideth in us by the Spirit which He has given us."* 1 John 3:24. The ever-living, ever-present Lord Jesus Christ is never *absent*. "Out for lunch"? – NEVER! Appointments need not be made to speak to Him.

(3) We know who we are. *"And we know that we are of God...and we are in Him"* 1 John 3:24. We are VIP people – Very important Persons – His children, citizens of heaven; but we don't go there in order to be with Him-not yet. 1 John 3:19.

(4) We know where we are. *"Seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"* Ephesians 2:6. Because of the limitations of our earthly bodies we *exist* on earth, but because of the new birth we were grafted into the "True Vine" (John 15), and we are spiritually *living* in heavenly places. Nothing unclean enters heaven, we know. But Christ is our holiness, and we are, "in Him", accepted there. We don't need to feel it to know it. It's revealed by the Holy Spirit through the Word, and we know it.

(5) We know we are saved. Many religious people hope they are saved. But God's children know it. *"These things have I written unto you who believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life."* 1 John 5:10-13.

(6) We know We Shall Be Like Him. *"We know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him..."* 1 John 3:1-2. Read 1 Cor. 15:41-57. John the Apostle, who knew the Lord Jesus so well, used the word "know" **42 times** in the five chapters he wrote by divine inspiration. Surely we should know! It's all related to, first of all, knowing Christ as our Redeemer and Savior.

The Lamplighter, April, 1984

Faithlessness

Faithlessness has ruined more nations, destroyed more churches, ruined more homes, crippled more businesses, condemned more souls than any other sin we care to mention. "Faithlessness is but an empty name," wrote Ovid; and in every realm such a condemnation stands proven. Yet loud is the voice of Scripture as it calls the saints to be faithful at all times and in all things. — Herbert Lockyer

Let Your Soul Be Exposed to the Glory

If you would bear the image of your Lord, you must expose your soul to the light of His presence.

It is like photography. Your soul, like the photographers film, takes on the image of that to which it is exposed; and the longer the exposure, the clearer the image.

Spend your time reading worldly magazines, watching worldly TV shows, mixing with worldly people, and soon you will be bearing the image of the ungodly. You will talk like them, act like them, even look like them.

But expose your heart to opposite influences, and you will see an opposite effect. Keep company with Christians, pray, worship, read your Bible; and the Holy Spirit will be able to trace upon your life the beautiful marks of Christian character.

Not that Christian character is formed by environment alone. Environment is important, but first we must become children of God by the new birth. There are those who teach, “Learn to act like a Christian, and you will be one.” But who can turn a tiger into a household kitten?

The newspaper told of a family that took a little cub of a wild bear for a household pet. The children loved it. They trained it carefully and enjoyed playing with it.

But as the cub grew older its savage nature asserted itself. Frightening things began to happen. The parents barely managed to get the animal safely behind bars in time to save the children’s lives!

So it is with unregenerate human nature. The old savagery of the human heart cannot be trusted. It will assert itself in spite of the best training.

It is not culture but conversion that we need first; not education but transformation; not new knowledge but a new nature. We must become new creations by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit before we are ready to live Christ’s life and bear His image.

Something happened to Moses when he went into the mount and talked with God. There was a super-natural radiance from his face when he came down.

Something happened to Jesus when He was on the Mount of Transfiguration with His Father. His face shone with the brightness of the sun.

Something happened to Stephen after that prayer meeting recorded in Acts 6. God clothed him with power and glory, and his face shone like the face of an angel.

And something happens to us as we, with open face, expose ourselves to the glory of the Lord by gazing into His Word. We are changed into His divine image, from one degree of glory to another, by His Word and by His Spirit (II Cor. 3:18). Selected

Editor’s note: When we spend time in God’s Word, prayer and in fellowship with Jesus, our friends will find a likeness to Him in our conduct, and even the world will notice our conduct: even though they do not like it! *1 Corinthians 1:18.*

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America: A Christian Nation

If the foundations are broken, what can the righteous do? Psalm 11:3

TO any honest observer of our history, there can be no doubt that America is a Christian nation. The advancement of the Christian faith was the intention of the early settlers who came ashore upon the New England coast. Before stepping foot off the Mayflower, the Pilgrims drew up America’s first contract of government, the Mayflower Compact. It clearly states the Pilgrim’s purpose of their historic voyage:

“...Having undertaken for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith.”

In the writings of the founding fathers of this country who framed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the Bible was their most oft quoted book. Because they believed the biblical doctrine of man’s sinfulness, they built a political system with checks and balances. In 1892, after a thorough review of all of America’s foundational history, the Supreme Court declared that this is a Christian nation. America was founded upon Christ and His Word.

But the very foundation of this nation is under siege. The history books have been rewritten, and God has been erased. The Bible and prayer have been removed from the classrooms, only to be replaced by policemen and metal detectors.

I urge you to pray for the leaders of this nation – not only on the 4th of July, but every day. And pray that we as a nation might return to Him. Pray and work as if our very future as a country depends on revival – after all, it does.

“The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the precepts of Christianity.” — John Quincy Adams

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

Why Didn't I Return His Love?

One year ago today I sat at my desk with a month's bills and overdue accounts before me, when my bright-faced young son rushed in and impetuously announced, "Happy birthday, Dad!"

Mom says you're fifty-five today, so I'm going to give you fifty-five kisses, one for each year."

He began to make good on his word when I exclaimed, "Oh, Andy, not now; I'm too busy!"

He became silent, and when I looked up I saw that his big blue eyes were filled with tears. Apologetically I said, "You can finish tomorrow."

He made no reply, but he was unable to conceal his disappointment as he quietly walked away.

That same evening I called to him, "Come and finish those kisses now, Andy." Either he didn't hear me, or he wasn't in the mood, for there was no response.

Two months later, as a result of an accident, he was so quickly taken from us and ushered Home to Heaven. His body was laid to rest in a little cemetery near a place where he loved to play.

The robin's note was never sweeter than my son's voice, and the turtledove that cooed to its nestlings was never so gentle as the little one who left unfinished his love-imposed task.

If only I could tell him how much I regret those thoughtless words I spoke and how my heart is aching now because of my unkind actions.

Instead, I sit here thinking, *Why didn't I return his love? Why did I grieve his young heart that was so full of tenderness and affection?*

A Neglectful Father

Editor's Note: Too busy??? Now think of Eternity, as Jesus gave His very Life's Blood for our sins. Do you truly love HIM? Then demonstrate it by your words and actions. "**We love Him because He first loved us.**" 1 John 4:19.

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Confusion in Babylon, and in America

By Dr. Michael Youssef, PH.D.

The confusion in our culture today is akin to a similar time, thousands of years ago, when the people of God had abandoned Him. Out of their arrogance and defiance of God, Nimrod led them to build a tower to the worship of the Zodiac, another form of self-gratification. God on His part sent them a spirit of confusion. Their speech became unintelligible.

Today, I am compelled to write this post out of sheer

frustration at "babbling" of our own culture. Nothing highlights this spirit of confusion and brings it to the surface more than what we are seeing now at this latest chapter in Islamic terrorism, the Orlando tragedy.

(Ed. – Now the Terrorism in Dallas, Texas is one sign of the times: Nation against nation is also race against race. An attack on the people who protect us is an attack on all of us!).

All of the fingers of blame are now pointing everywhere except where they should be pointing.

In response to the Orlando tragedy, we see fingers pointed at God, pointed at Islam as a whole, or in the one of the more bizarre accusations from a Planned Parenthood offshoot, pointed at a "toxic masculinity and global culture of imperialist homophobia."

And to top it all, an ACLU staff attorney blamed conservative Christians. Directing his comments to Christians on Sunday, Chase Strangio tweeted: "You know what is gross – your thoughts and prayers and Islamophobia after you created this anti-queer climate."

However, it is the Christian Bible that can actually tell us what is going on. Throughout Scripture, we clearly see that whenever God is out, confusion is in. When God is abandoned, bloodshed reigns.

That is as simple as when you flip the light switch to the off position and the light goes out. Pointing fingers, or trying to analyze how the light went out and who caused it, is no different than mass hysteria.

Our courts, our government, and our society have long since convinced themselves that biblical morality, or biblical absolutes, have no place in modern "civilized" society. The "*absolutes are obsolete.*"

But whether they know it or not, by rejecting God's moral absolutes, they also reject the very God who authored those absolutes. And when God is rejected, His Spirit departs our shore. It's like flipping that switch to the off position. Only in this case, the Light of the World goes out.

God does not sit in heaven, thinking, *How can I hurt these people?* Instead, we are only experiencing the natural result of our rejecting Him.

I know that doesn't make sense to the spiritually blind! For them, unfortunately, it makes no difference whether the light is on or off. But the children of the light need to understand that our actions have consequences.

Long ago, Israel had likewise persisted in compro-mising their faith in Yahweh. They worshipped self-serving gods and left God no choice but to depart. And when God's Spirit departed, the Babylonian terrorists showed up.

Then, as with now, confusion ensued. Even prophets pointed fingers and blamed each other for the disaster.

All the false prophets who opposed the prophet of God, Jeremiah, wanted to kill him because his prophecy had come to pass.

Now during this tragic time when so many of our fellow citizens are bereaved, we must earnestly pray for them and offer our deepest condolences. In the midst of their loss, we should pray that they will know God as their Comforter.

Above all, we must rend our hearts in repentance on behalf of our Nation. We need to cry out to God, in that well-known song, "Come back to our land... come back to our land!"

I have no assurance if God will answer our prayers and bless us with His presence once again. But we must keep asking. As Scripture says, "**A contrite and broken heart, God will not despise.**"

Selected

Editor's Note: "**BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD.**" Psalm 33:12

"*For God is not the author of confusion but peace,*" 1 Cor. 14:33.

"*For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*" James 3:16.

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GOLD – In Those Troubles

By Armor D. Piesker

Crises and calamities are always laden with rich opportunities. Each of us should, therefore, be an opportunist – one who, according to a current definition, meets the wolf of adversity at the door and appears the next day in a fur coat.

The man who has a vital faith in Christ is very definitely able to meet the problems of life in that positive way. He is assured that the Eternal God who rules the affairs of men stands with him. One devoted Christian demonstrated that attitude, when going through severe trial, he was asked, "Don't you feel you're liable to break?" He replied, "Yes, but not until the Fiftieth Psalm breaks at the fifteenth verse – 'Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.'"

Such a man is confident that all things – the difficult and unpleasant as well as the easy and delightful – must work out for his ultimate good. In desperate times he is able to lay fast hold of life's abiding values and come through better than he was when he entered.

Everyone of us will have our share of trouble. There is no escape, and often those troubles may raise the heavy-hearted question, "Why must this come?" Faith in Christ will not give us the intellectual ability to answer that ques-

tion but it will give the spiritual strength to overcome the difficulty.

A woman who had met with a brutal tragedy related how she had wasted much precious time asking herself, "Why must these things happen to me?" But when she began to ask how she could put them to positive use she laid hold of the faith that always masters trouble.

When struggling to surmount the bleak, forbidding hills of trouble, we need not despair. We need but open eyes of faith to see the vein of gold.

Selected

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Hell Has Its Good Points!

We've been a little unfair about Hell! We've talked all about how bad it is but there are some good points about it:

1. There won't be any hypocrites in Hell. A lot of people stay out of church for this reason but there won't be any there. There, all souls will act just alike. (All hypocrites here go there, but there they won't be hypocrites anymore.)

2. There won't be any churches there. All the people who cuss the church, get mad when invited to attend, even hate the church, will never be bothered again.

3. There will be no preaching. Those who hate the words: salvation, born again, repentance, joy, Jesus, will be free from ever hearing them again.

4. There will be no more Christians witnessing, no more religious programs to listen to, no Bible.

5. But to those who think that "religion" is "social" only let me point out this: you fight noise pollution, it's nothing to be compared to the *weeping and wailing*" in Hell! Over population? Man, you don't know anything. Isaiah 5:14 says hell had to enlarge itself to take care of crowds!

It must be pretty bad for Jesus to come and die to keep us out of it. Copied.

Editor's Note: First of all! Hell was prepared for the Devil and his angels, but because ...Rest assured, YOU don't want to go there and there are NO unbelievers in Hell, after being there 10 seconds! Billy Sunday shared, "they will not be serving booze on gold-platters in hell!"

JESUS shed His own life-blood that you and I may be forgiven and HE made Heaven poor that you and I may become rich! IN Scripture, JESUS spoke more about hell than Heaven, because HE LOVES YOU SO MUCH. Sa,d but true, that many will go to hell, even though they were loved – John 3:16, 18, 36.

What a horrible Place to spend all Eternity with no sight of relief . . .

HAUGE BIBLE CONFERENCE

*Faith Lutheran Church
Detroit Lakes, MN*
Pastor Paul Larson, Host Pastor

October 7-9, 2016
(Friday Evening through Sunday Noon)

THEME: Pressing on in Light of Christ's Return
Luke 19:13, I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

FRIDAY – Service at 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker:
Pastor Jim Haga, Shoreview, MN. Coffee and Re-
freshments following

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. – Prayer Time
9:30 a.m. – Coffee/Refreshments
10:00 a.m. – Circuit Judge: Timothy Tingelstad,
Bemidji, MN
11:00 – Mr. Jerry Olson, Newfolden, MN
Noon Meal at the Church (Free Will Offering)
1:15 - 2:15 p.m. – Pastor Jim Haga
2:15 - 2:45 p.m. – Testimonial/Singspiration
2:45-3:45 p.m. – Timothy Tingelstad
3:45 – Fellowship and Refreshments
7:00 p.m.– Pastor Jim Haga

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – Worship Service: Pastor Jim Haga
10:30 a.m. – Closing Session: Judge Timothy
Tingelstad

Pray For: Presence of the Holy Spirit, Christian Fel-
lowship, Special blessings on the Hospitality and
that our Triune GOD might be glorified!

***Welcome to all those who hunger
for Spiritual Food!***

PRAY, WELCOME, PRAY,
INVITE, PRAY, ATTEND!

For Refreshment Times: Please bring
home-made goodies, IF feasible!

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UpDate

Personally: Heart Searching Questions???

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.” Hebrews 2:1, 3a.

Do you believe that the ministry of the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is a portion of God's Kingdom's Work on earth?

Do you believe that the Morning Glory/HLIF is a blessing to you, personally?

Do you believe that this ministry is not only of the LORD, but a blessing and a challenge to others, both as a trumpet sound and pointing others to JESUS as the only vital answer to our very basic needs?

Are you being obedient, as the Holy Spirit lays upon your heart, to specifically pray for, encourage and financial support in the Holy Inspired Scriptural challenge to OCCUPY UNTIL JESUS COMES for you?

July's Income for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* is \$795.00.

The cost of publishing and mailing the *Morning Glory* each month is approx. \$2,000.