



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • September 2013

Ye Shall Receive Power

ACTS 1:6-9

By Pastor Lars Stalsbroten

These are the very last words Jesus spoke before He went back to the Father. "And when he had spoken these things, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."

These last words contained (1) a correction; (2) a promise; (3) a commission.

The disciples were all taken up with: "When will you restore the kingdom to Israel?" They were very curious, and He rebuked their curiosity. He said to them, "You have nothing to do with dates and days, calendars and predictions" (v. 4).

"Well, what are we to do then?"

"You are to wait, to tarry at Jerusalem."

"You are to be my witnesses, and I will equip you for this work; I promise to send you the Holy Spirit, and when He comes upon you, you shall receive power to be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth."

The body in which He began to do and to teach passed out of sight. It vanished to make way for the body in which He would continue to teach and to do, which is His church. A new training was now to begin. They were to believe on Him without seeing Him, so he vanished from their sight.

As He left He seemed to be concerned about one thing, that His disciples might become effective witnesses.

Is He concerned about this today? Indeed He is. His main concern after we have been saved, is that we should become good witnesses. That is His main purpose with our life. If it wasn't for this He would have taken us home the day He saved us.

"When the Holy Ghost power comes upon you ye shall be witnesses unto me." Not unto yourself. The more you get of the power of the Spirit the less you say about yourself, and the more you say about Christ. The Holy Spirit did not come to glorify Himself, or you, but Christ alone.

My, how important it was for Paul that the Christians had a powerful, clear testimony about Christ. When he writes to the Ephesian church he says: "Pray for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:18-20).

You know what happened to Peter when the Holy Ghost's power came upon him. That weakling, who before did not dare to testify to a common working girl, stood there on the day of Pentecost and testified boldly to thousands. What a wonderful manifestation of God's power in a weak vessel!

But Peter did not lose sight of personal work. We read about John and Peter who went to a prayer meeting, and they saw a beggar sitting outside of the temple (Acts 3). Peter said: "Look on us!" The beggar looked at them and began to expect something. The world is looking at us Christians today, and they are expecting something; they have a right to. They see you going to church and coming from church, but do you ever stop to speak to them.

Many people are standing outside of the church today, and they will never get inside to hear the Word of God unless someone helps them. That beggar would never have gotten inside of the temple if it had not been for Peter and John.

I say to every born again Christian today: "Don't miss the personal effort. Speak to that boy; speak to that girl; speak to that man; speak to that woman; concentrate on winning one soul at a time."

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Gypsy Smith said: "I remember well the morning I got saved as a boy. My heart was almost bursting to tell what Jesus had done for me."

When you get a good dose of real old-fashioned salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, and your soul is just flooded with joy unspeakable and full of glory, you simply cannot keep it for yourself.

You might just as well try to tell the sun to stop shining; or tell the mighty rivers to stop flowing; or tell the wind to stop blowing; or tell the birds to stop singing; as to try to tell a real Scripture filled and Spirit filled Christian to stop witnessing for his Saviour.

He cannot be stopped. The streams of living water must have an outlet. When God fills in, it must flow out through your testimony and life.

David says: "My cup runneth over." Is your cup running over? How much personal work have you done since you were saved? How many people have you honestly and sincerely tried to win for Christ since you became a Christian?

The unsaved are not going to get saved by great preachers. They will be won for Jesus by personal, individual testimony.

I want to underscore this truth by telling you about a great preacher in Scotland.

He had as one of his hearers a man with a very brilliant mind. He was a lawyer by profession. The minister longed to see this man come to Christ and join his church. So one winter he prepared a whole series of sermons for the specific purpose of striking home to the heart of this lawyer. He preached regular highbrow sermons a whole win-

ter with this object in mind. When the services were all over this man came to the pastor and said, "Doctor, I want to join your church."

"Thank the Lord," said the preacher, "Which sermon did it?"

"None of them at all; the sermons never interested me a bit."

"Well, what in the world ever influenced you to become a Christian?" the minister asked.

The man said, "Do you know that widow in your church, the one who has to walk with two sticks?"

"Oh yes, I know her," said the preacher.

"Well, she was going out of the church one morning and one of her sticks fell from her hand. I caught her just in time to save her from falling. When I held her up and gave her the two sticks again she said:

'Thank you, sir, I hope you love my Jesus.'

"Your sermons didn't do it, but that dear old widow's kind word did it."

It is not the great eloquent sermons that will do the miracle, but that personal, spirit-filled, love-penetrating testimony from an everyday Christian.

Oh, I wish we had many witnesses like that woman with the sticks in our churches.

Will you be one?

Taken from *We would see JESUS*

* * * * *

THUS SAITH THE LORD

IS HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF?

By M. H. Reynolds, Sr., 1952

Look at this passage in Jeremiah 5:30-31 and see: *A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land, The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"*

Certainly history is repeating itself! False prophets are on every hand, beguiling unstable souls and preaching their false messages from within the church (2 Pet. 2:1-21). The ministry has been degraded into a "profession" rather than a "calling," and those who should be "undershepherds" have become "overlords" (1 Pet. 5:2-3).

"*And My people love to have it so.*" How true today! The masses of people are content to have the false prophets tell them what they want to hear (2 Tim. 4:3-4) even though they do not speak the truth. And perhaps worse yet, many of God's ministers who know the truth are

afraid to "cry aloud and spare not."

A church that has grown "lukewarm" (Rev. 3:16-17) and ministers who have become "*dumb dogs that cannot bark*" (Isa. 56:10) need to be awakened by the certainty of God's coming judgment. God's true servants will be sounding the alarm and crying aloud, "*Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord:* (2 Cor. 6:14 – 18).

Selected

* * * * *

**"Seek ye Jehovah while He may be found;
call ye upon Him while He is near!"**

Isaiah 55:6

THE Lord may be found as long as the time of grace lasts. The door that He opened for us in Christ stands open for all. As impossible as it is for anyone else to open the door, so impossible is it for others to close it. He has the keys of death and of hades, and only He opens and closes.

But He has also told us that the day will come when He will close the door. And so He impresses on us that he who would be saved must seek Him "while" He may be found. No one can determine the time for his own conversion. Those who desire to get to heaven must redeem the acceptable time. Not a single person would have the slightest thought of seeking God if He did not seek us first. If the Spirit of God did not disturb us, we would surely be permitted to walk comfortably in our sins. Only when He knocks can we open the door, if we will.

You who no doubt wish to go heaven, but who yourself want to determine the time of your conversion, you forget that this is Satan's deception. Many, many who thought as you think were never saved. It is when the Lord seeks you that you can seek Him. Today is our day, God alone owns tomorrow.

You and I too who found salvation, we too have gotten our "while." We too must redeem the acceptable time. If we draw back from the grace of God danger stands also at our door.

*E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.*

Taken from *Thy Kingdom Come* by Ludvig Hope. Published by Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted.

Editorial

RES *Priorities* (Sports??)

“...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” (II Tim. 3:4a)

IN the third chapter of 11 Timothy, in God's inspired WORD we have a graphic listing of ‘outstanding’ SINS during the time that God calls ‘Perilous Times’, which likely could be **present RIGHT NOW!** Let me give you a realistic example: A ‘congregational leader’ told me when a certain ‘sport’ comes around you will not see me in church and/or leaving the Worship Service early! No question about the decision as that already had been made! NOW is this pleasing to God as a Christian man, as this was; to put ‘physical’ (sport) above and beyond worshiping GOD in ‘spirit and truth’??

NOW on ‘another’ occasion a somewhat ‘religious’ man told me that he could ‘worship’ God as thoroughly out in ‘nature’ as in ‘church’, fishing OR hunting! This same ‘individual’ would ‘stomp’ out of church and ‘slam’ the door IF the worship service was not over at such a time. Well, going back to the earlier statement I tried to ask him in a direct and loving way IF he wanted his ‘sons’ to be like him and *tears trickled down his cheeks*.

Before we go any further in this ‘editorial’, I clearly want to state that I am not against ‘sports’ at all; as long as they are in the correct order of priorities! Most important IS SCRIPTURE! Actually ‘sports’ have likely been a part of humanity; since Creation, app. 6,000 years ago. Let me give you a few examples where different terms of sport are used in the Scriptures: Fight a good fight: I Timothy 6:12, II Timothy 4:7; Run the race – Hebrews 12:1-2; Beating the air (boxing) – 1 Corinthians 9:26; wrestling – Genesis 30:8, Ephesians 6:12.

A couple of definitions of ‘sport’ is: 1) An activity involving physical exertion and skill that is governed by a set of rules or customs and often undertaken competitively, 2) An active pastime, recreation.”

Any type of ‘sport’ can become a ‘god or idol’. In my words what’s an ‘idol’? ANY one or thing that keeps you from putting God first! Martin Luther’s Small Catechism puts it this way: “Anything that man worships, fears, loves, and trusts in instead of the one true God.”

ON another ‘occasion’ after a blest Worship Service, refreshments were served and a lot of ‘chatter’ took place; thus I asked a fellow Christian gentleman sitting next to me, “Do you think they are talking about the LORD”? In essence his answer was: NO, likely ‘sports’ (that’s their

idol) and IF they were talking about our Lord things would be different!

YES, **Scripture clearly** instructs ‘us’ at times to ‘come apart and rest’ awhile. I believe ‘we’ need these ‘breaks’ Spiritually, Physically & Emotionally. For example: Hebrews 4:9-16. Definitely on a daily basis, ‘we’ NEED to feed and refresh the ‘soul’ that ‘we’ in – bathing, reading, meditating, Memorizing, etc. the WORD OF GOD. “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path” Psalm 119:105. “*Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You*” Psalm 119:11. “The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple” Psalm 119:130. **“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers”** 3 John 2. **COLOSSIANS 2:1 – 10.**

And then enter into God’s PANTRY/STOREHOUSE: Matthew 6:6.

You know that it used to be that the ‘Public School System’ felt they were ‘fortunate’ IF they could have an activity/practice one night a week and now notice how the ‘tables’ have turned to include Wednesday night and even Sunday; and then some wonder what has happened to our country!

EVEN in church ‘activities’ what gives way FIRST when the schedule is full: **the Prayer Meeting! NO wonder JESUS** in LOVE had to cleanse the ‘temple’ in His earthly missionary journey and clearly state:

“My house is a house of PRAYER! (How about today, what does HE SEE?). God says: “*For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?*” 1 Peter 4:17

As already referred to this chapter depicts ‘signs’ of what could be called ‘almost the midnight hour’ or shortly before the Lord’s return or ‘perilous times’ which means very difficult times! These (today) ‘very difficult times’ certainly are prevalent today and that is not only religiously/spiritually but also ‘physically’. BUT in spite of the conditions of our day, we must not give up or forfeit but continue to press on in **contending for the faith** and keeping ‘our’ eyes fixed upon the Author and Finisher (Captain) of the faith and the high calling in Christ Jesus focused on the ‘eternal goal’ of Heaven and Home. Thus

'we' of the HLIF/MG persevere in 'contending' for the old time Christianity and making no apologies for the same as it will be worth it all. (Jude & Philippians 3).

Regardless IF it 'sports' or anything else in your 'Christian life' in-relation to priorities; WE each need to recognize not only who we are, but who I am and that is a needy sinner (daily) in need of GOD'S mercy & grace and that I am a 'sinner' to the very core of my being. "*The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?*" Jeremiah 17:9. (Please read also Jeremiah 17:5-8). "*that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created ac-*

cording to God, in true righteousness and holiness" Ephesians 4:22 – 24. YES I NEED JESUS as my personal Savior every day or else I am LOST! Praise GOD my SINS are under the **blood of the crucified and risen ONE**, lest you and I experience the following: "*But there shall by no means enter it (Heaven) anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life*" Revelation 21:27. (Psalm 25). "You will guide me with your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory" Psalm 73:24. NOTICE the person who is **HOLY SPIRIT filled (controlled)** will be ever more sensitive toward SIN. "**But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day**" Proverbs 4:18.

Abominations Are Abominable!

John Hamblin

J. Wilbur Chapman told of a preacher who often spoke on the subject of sin, mincing no words but calling it "the abominable that God hates."

One from his congregation came to him and urged him to stop using that ugly word. "We wish you would not speak so plainly about sin. Our young people hearing you will be more likely to indulge in it. Call it something else, such as inhibition, error or mistake."

The preacher would then produce a small bottle of strychnine which had a red label marked "poison" and ask, "Would you suggest that I change the label and put one on it that reads 'wintergreen'?"

"*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him.*" Prov. 16:6.

"*Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.*" – 16:5.

"*The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination; how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?*" – 21:27.

"*Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.*" – 20:23.

"*The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment; for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.*" – Duet. 22:5.

"*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind. it is abomination.*" – Lev. 18:22.

"*He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.*" – Prov. 17:15.

Preachers who turn their guns on sins in any form, on transgressions in any dwelling place, on iniquity in the

heart, will in eternity receive the accolades of a pearly white city.

"*The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.*" – 24:9.

Taken from 'Sword of the Lord'

* * * * *

Relocate the Spring

I have heard somewhere of a spring whose waters had certain medicinal properties so that those who drank from it were helped in the case of various infirmities. In the course of time, homes sprang up around the spring. Then there was a hotel, followed by stores and, eventually, a town that grew into a city.

There came a day when visitors would ask, "By the way, where is the spring from which this grew?" Dwellers in the city would rub their hands in embarrassment and say, "I am sorry that I cannot tell you. Somehow, in the midst of all our progress and improvement, we lost the spring; and no one knows now where it is."

There is a sad application here for our churches. Under all our ecclesiastical superstructure today, we have lost the Spring. We have been lost on the circumference and need to get back to the Center. We are out on the periphery and must needs find the Person by whom all things consist. We are majoring on the minor and minoring on the major. We need to relocate the Spring.

Vance Havner

Spiritually: IF you have been entrusted with the answer to a person's greatest NEED(s) and do not share it; isn't that a form of "treason"?

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Abortion

ABORTION is the Root of America's *ills* as at least **52 million** babies have been 'murdered' in their Mother's Womb: today 'many' of them would have been 'tax payers'! By the way IF a gun were 'used' in 'abortions' would that make more of an impression on us?

NOW IS THE TIME to be on our knees and Pray for America!! (Can we count on you in being 'faithful')?

DOMA

USA Supreme Court strikes down 'Defense of Marriage Act' and Dismisses California's Prop. 8 Ban *as unconstitutional* as the 'news media' (at large) wants us to think that all is cut and dried.

Two-thirds of "Worst Violators of Religious Freedom" Are Muslim Countries

Ten out of the 15 countries with the worst religious freedom abuses are Muslim nations, according to the recently released U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) 2013 Annual Report, which identifies the status of religious freedom throughout the world and cites countries that are the least tolerant of religious freedom. ...

Bethan Blankley for ChristianPost.com

Voter ID

President Obama is okay with voter ID in Kenya, but not in USA! (*Inconsistencies!*)

The moral and spiritual blindness of many of our Nation's political leaders and judges is clearly stunning! BUT we should not be surprised by this darkened understanding (Ephesians 6:18, Romans 1:18-23); it is the by-product of a people who have forgotten (left out) GOD! And as true as that is we should not be discouraged, but rather PRAY (Luke 18:1-14).

There is a higher Court of Appeal whom our nation's Founders address as the "**Supreme Judge of the world.**" That is where we are appointed to serve as advocates, under the Authority and Name of our Chief Advocate, our Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Proverbs 21:1-6)

Finally Some Good News:

Appeals Court Sides with Hobby Lobby: The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower Court ruling on 6/27/13; and that is that Hobby Lobby doesn't have to start paying a \$1.5 million daily fine for defying the Federal Government's Abortion- funding mandate.

Armed Teachers

South Dakota becomes the First State to Allow Armed Teachers! (but must get permission from their School District to do so with the local law enforcement agencies to properly train 'teachers' how to handle firearms.)

Granting Amnesty

Granting amnesty to illegal immigrants would cost \$6.3 trillion, according to a new report by the Heritage Foundation The report by Robert Rector and Jason Richwine, Ph.D. (states)... "Over a lifetime, the former unlawful immigrants together would receive \$9.4 trillion in government benefits and services and pay \$3.1 trillion in taxes... They would generate a lifetime fiscal deficit (total benefits minus total taxes) of \$46.3 trillion."

CNS News.com.

Texas Governor Will Sign "Merry Christmas Bill" Despite Atheist Protest

Texas' "Merry Christmas Bill," which is intended to defend free speech on the issue of "traditional holidays," reached Governor Rick Perry's desk on (May 22); and he is expected to sign it despite critics saying that the bill violates the separation between church and state.

The bill would permit officials like teachers in public schools to say "Merry Christmas" and put up religious symbols, so long as they do not constitute a state preference for one particular religion...

State Representative Dwayne Bohac ®. 138), the bill's original sponsor, told the Christian Post,... "The bill received the full support of every Democrat and every Republican in the Senate," and a very large majority in the house.

"It's freedom of speech," he explained, "and it's a religious liberty issue as well."

Tyler O'Neil for ChristianPost.com



From Our Fellowship Circle

W. & S. L.

Byron, MN
Trust you are doing well and that you were able to attend the Hauge Annual Conference at Westby, WI. We were not able to be there, due to other commitments. I hope it was a good turnout. (*Ed.* YES, the LORD gave us a wonderful time and also ‘encouraging’ in His Work).

May the Lord Bless you richly – keep you in His loving Care at all times.

We are thankful for the *Morning Glory* and are blessed by the articles written in this magazine. It is one of the very best magazines we get. The Lord Bless your work in His Ministries.

B. O.**Viroqua, WI**

It was good to see you and be under the hearing of God’s Word at the Hauge Annual Bible Conference; but sorry we didn’t get to visit more.

I forgot to give anyone my check when I left this afternoon as I was in a hurry to get ...

“Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice” Psalm 105:3.

E. L.**Fergus Falls, MN**

Enclosed please find a check for the amount of \$.... to be used in the Lord’s Ministry.

I enjoy *Morning Glory*.

With Prayers.

I. & P. F.**Osage, IA**

Keep up the good work. Hope we will see some results in these very difficult days as sometimes look hopeless as far as this life is concerned.

Please note: We have a change of address as we have moved ...

Editor’s Note: Two things I want to mention here: First of all, ‘we’ love to hear from you (readers) and it is an encouragement to ‘us’. Wouldn’t you like to share a brief ‘testimony’ with ‘us’ of what our Living Savior is doing in your life and community/church and thus be a ‘testimony’ in glorifying our Savior with hundreds of ‘readers’, who thus would be blest also!

Secondly, when you move from one residence to another;

please let us know the change of address; by which you definitely save us money on ‘return postage’.

* * * * *

A High Look

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I destroy: Him that hath a high look and a proud heart will I not suffer. Psalm 101:5

OF all the sins that have sent their roots deep down into our personality, envy, suspicion and slander are among the worst. As Christians we can be victorious over much of our folly, but to master the desire to speak evil of others seems to be very difficult. Strong characters that are wise and firm may bridle their tongue; but their heart may be just as evil as that of those who have not sense enough to control their tongue and to conceal their passion for honor.

Some of the greatest difficulties that arise, also among Christians, have their source in suspicion and evil tongues. The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and the tongue is a fire, the world of iniquity; it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the wheel of nature, and is set on fire by hell.

Something great has happened, also in the life of a Christian, when he no longer secretly speaks abusively of his neighbor, and when he thinks more highly of others than of himself. May we as Christians be given a deep desire for such a mind, and then in the strength of Jesus Christ be enabled to speak well of others. Then much of the evil among us would disappear.

*Mightily strengthen my spirit within me,
That I may learn what Thy Spirit can do;
O take Thou captive each passion and win me,
Lead Thou and guide me my whole journey through!
All that I am and possess I surrender,
If Thou alone in my spirit mayst dwell,
Everything yield Thee, O Savior must tender;
Thou, only Thou, canst my sadness dispell.*

Taken from *Thy Kingdom Come* by Ludvig Hope.
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Those Who Have False Assurance

By Pastor Maynard A. Force

Jesus said, (Matt. 7:21-23) “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*”

Notice first of all that this group numbers “many.” “Many will say to me in that day.” How sad that there are “many” that are in the class of those who have false assurance. Is it any wonder that Jesus pleaded, (Matt. 7:13-14) “**Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**”

What sobering words: “many” and “few”! Many lost and few saved. Surely these words should arrest the attention of every one of us. Could it be possible that anyone reading these lines is in the class of those who have a false assurance?

Notice also that these people with false assurance were even preaching. “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name?” In other words, “Lord, Lord, did we not preach?” Not only did they preach – they preached in Jesus’ name, yet they were not saved. The name of Jesus was often on their lips. They had the head knowledge to be sure, but not the heart knowledge. Any person with the gift of speech and a normal mind can stand up and talk in religious terms, but that does not prove he is saved. The apostle John warns us to try the spirits because “**many false prophets are gone out into the world**” (1 John 4:1). Remember, Jesus warns us there will be “many” such “workers of iniquity.” One of the signs of the last days is that (Matt. 24:11-12) “**Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**”

These “false assurance” people were very active in religious work. Their very results helped to deceive them. Even the demons were subject to them. What a feeling of satisfaction must have been theirs when they by Jesus’ name cast out demons. It would have been foolish of the devil not to have been obedient to the demands of these “many” if he could thus deceive them and keep them in false assurance. Satan will do anything to deceive people. Remember, he is known as the deceiver.

This group of “false assurance” people are deceived into believing that they have done “many mighty works.” Their joy evidently was in their own accomplishments. They failed to see that their rejoicing should be in what Jesus had

done rather than in their own works, “**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**” (Eph. 2:8-9).

They could well remember “many mighty works.” How different this is from the attitude of God’s children, who will someday say, “**Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?**” (Matt. 25:27-29).

The “false assurance” group has a horrible ending. Jesus will profess to them, “I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.” Notice, He did not say, “I knew you when you worked in my name; no, “never knew you.” Any work done for Jesus by anyone who is not His child is worthless, for “**they that are in the flesh cannot please God**” (Rom. 8:8). No one with a false assurance, regardless of what he does in the name of the Lord, can please God. He is a worker of iniquity. He is living in sin. He has refused to walk the way of repentance. He has despised the way of the cross, which is the way of confession and dealing with sin. To all such the Lord has but one answer, “Depart from me.” They deceived themselves with a false assurance; they deceived others with their “mighty works”; but Christ they did not deceive. Therefore they hear the most fearful words that can ever come from our Saviour’s lips, “Depart from me.”

I know of no better way to sum up false assurance than by the answer Jesus gave to the question, “**Then one said to Him, ‘Lord, are there few who are saved?’ And He said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.’**” (Luke 13:23-27).

What a blessing if those with false assurance could wake up before “the master of the house is risen up, and has shut the door.” That day may be very near at hand. It’s important for every one of us to check so we are certain we do not have a false assurance. Let us not forget that the devil is a deceiver and has “many” in this snare. Let us beware lest we take ourselves for granted and eventually be lost.

Taken from *Assurance* by Maynard Force; submitted by Wayne Almlie and Compliments of Hauge Lutheran Church, Goldfield, Iowa

Some Principles for Christian Music

The world is now dictating the church's standards for music. The very style of music that appeals to the unregenerate has become increasingly appealing to professing believers and has crept into thousands of churches. The question we must ask is this: How can the very music that moves, energizes and fuels the fleshly appetite of the old nature of the unbeliever edify the believer who is a "new man: and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God?

Believers hear from numerous sources that music is amoral, that the form or style of Christian music is inconsequential and that Christian music does not need to be reverent or respectful. Both "Christian" and secular musicians freely admit that today's "Christ" rock, "Christian" hi-hop, "Christian" metal and contemporary "Christian" music (CCM) is hardly distinguishable from secular rock music in its various forms. The popular "Christian" rock band Audio Adrenaline, when asked to define the difference between secular rock music and "Christian" rock music, answered, "The only difference is the lyrics, and even then, the difference is sometimes subtle." (Pensacola News Journal, 3-1-98). CCM musician Michael Card admitted that the lyrics of Christian rock music are "the only unique, defining characteristic feature of Christian music: and added, "Stylistically, there is nothing that sets it apart (from secular rock music)" (CC magazine, 5-96). How is the faithful, obedient believer to respond to the music that is becoming so prevalent with Christendom today? The church must embrace some Biblical principles concerning true, God-honoring Christian music.

1. The Bible reveals that God's people use music to glorify Him and that those who involve themselves in the act of worshiping God through music are ministering to the Lord (1 Chron. 16:1– 43, Psa. 95:1).

2. The Word of God clearly states what the role of music ought to be in the life of the Christian. Music is a means by which believers communicate with God, worship Him (Eph. 5:19) and even teach and admonish one another (Col. 3:16). Thus, it plays a vitally important role in the life of the local church as well as in the personal life of every individual believer. The psalmist wrote, "*It is good to sing praises unto our God*" (Psa. 147:1). In fact, the entire book of Psalms contains songs written for the purpose of worshipping and communicating with God. Therefore, the music to which God's people listen and in which they participate must be music that honors God, glorifies Him and edifies other believers through instruction and admonition.

3. Because God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor.

14:33) but is the author of "*every good gift and every perfect gift*" (Jas. 1:17), the music to which believers subject themselves should be orderly and appropriate. The melody should be pleasant and easily discernible. The harmony should create a sound void of tension and discord. The rhythm should be predictable. God-honoring Christian music should always emulate the orderliness of the Creator.

4. While the melody, harmony and rhythm of the music to which believers listen must be orderly and edifying, the words, or lyrics, of the music must be theologically correct and centered on the person and work of the Creator. Any lyrics that focus upon the individual in a self-centered manner or do not agree with the doctrinal truth of Scripture must be rejected as being not only unprofitable but even harmful to the spiritual life and growth of the believer. The child of God must consent to "whole-some words," described in Scripture as "the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: and "the doctrine which is according to Godliness" (1 Tim. 6:3).

5. All music to which the believer listens must be reverential in both word and style. The believer must reject any music lacking a profound attitude of respect and reverence to God, for such music does not fulfill its purpose of honoring and glorifying the Lord. Our Savior is worthy of utmost respect and reverence, and He alone is to receive all honor and praise (Psa. 18:3; Rev. 4:11). Because music is a means by which we honor and glorify Him, all music must be reverential and respectful.

6. The purpose of Christian music is not to entertain the listener or bring glory to the individual participating in the ministry of music. To do so is to distort the very purpose for which music was created and is to be used in the life of the Christian and in the local church. Believers should be changed by the message brought forth through the music, not conformed to the world as a result of it.

Taken from *Foundation* by
Fundamental Evangelistic Assn.,
Tel. # 805-528-3534, Permission Granted.

Editor's Note: Over the last 'generation' Christian music has been the source of much controversy & division. For example: Many are not 'aware' of the fact that 'drums' used in the Old Testament were to 'drown out the cries and screams of infants and young children being sacrificed to false gods! (Almost all the time, IF not most of the time).

Secondly: Most of the time when music is referred to as being 'loud', it was when an 'out-door' worship service was to OR taking place.

Thirdly: When 'clapping' takes place it usually is with

enthusiasm as to how richly blessed the ‘congregation’ is; BUT could it also encourage ‘performance’ and ‘competition like a ‘talent show’? Do these same ‘clap’ for ‘sermons’ according to how they are blessed?

This ‘editor’s note’ is ‘food for thought and for Scriptural Challenge!

P.S. Personally I believe some ‘secular’ music is okay for a ‘believer’ also to enjoy.

The Shepherd and the Supply

“*The LORD IS My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want.*” Psalm 23:1

THE SHEPHERD

The word “shepherd” has in it the thought of rule or authority. Some of the translations of these words are very interesting. Fenton, in his beautiful translation, makes it, “My Lord attends me.” The Arabic is, “The Lord feeds me.” The Vulgate, “The Lord ruleth me.” Adam Clark quotes the Scotch, “The Lord governs me.” Moffatt translates it, “The eternal Lord shepherds me.”

Our Savior is a Shepherd. He is a Provider, A Protector, a Preserver of His sheep. He is a true Shepherd for He never forgets, never fails, never forsakes one of His own. He knows His sheep; He knows their needs and is able to supply them. He understands the dangers that threaten. He became the tenant of a body like ours. He understands us. He was tempted in all points like as we are; He remembers our frame that we are dust; He knows all about your heart-hungers and sorrows. His shepherd heart is moved by our need.

He has a shepherd’s heart pulsating with love; He has a shepherd’s eye that is always upon the whole flock; He has a shepherd’s voice and we hear that voice and know Him; He has a shepherd’s memory, for He calleth His sheep by name; He has a shepherd’s knowledge, for He understands all our needs better than we do ourselves; He has a shepherd’s nearness for He is about us and among us day and night; He has a shepherd’s strength and so is able to keep us; He has a shepherd’s faithfulness so that we may fully trust Him; He has a shepherd’s tenderness, carrying the little ones in His bosom and nourishing life from feebleness to strength.

Probably the most striking word in the whole Psalm is **MY**. It is true that the Lord is A Shepherd, but what a difference it makes to be able to say, He is **My Shepherd.**” He might be A Shepherd and not be **MY** Shepherd, but He is mine. This is not the song of the flock. It is the song of the individual sheep in the flock.

What a difference it makes when we can use that pronoun of personal possession – **MY!** A group of women are gathered around the cradle. In that cradle is a beautiful,

healthy, kicking baby, trying to swallow now its fist, now its foot. All the women are interested, but there is one woman in that group who looks upon that little bundle of life with eyes different from the rest. The other women say, “He is some baby!” But the one woman, with eyes lighted up with the radiance of mother love says, “He is *my Baby.*” When you were a little child you talked about “my toys”; a little later about “my bicycle” still later about “my sweetheart; then about “my wife.” What that personal pronoun means...

THE SUPPLY

“*I SHALL NOT WANT.*” In the passing of the years the meanings of words change. Today the word “want” means desire, but three hundred years ago when our Bible was translated it meant just what we mean today by the word “lack.” This statement does not mean that I shall have whatever I want, but that I shall have every needful want supplied. What the little girl said might not always be true – “The Lord is my Shepherd, I’ve got all I want.” Sometimes we want things we do not need. No real need will be left unsupplied. One translation puts it, “Therefore can I lack nothing.” According to the Arabic it is, “He will not suffer me to want anything.” Briggs translates it, “I have no want.”

George Henderson puts it this way: “I shall not want rest, for He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; I shall not want refreshment, for He leadeth me beside still waters; I shall not want preservation, for He restoreth my soul; I shall not want guidance, for He leadeth me; I shall not want peace, for I will fear no evil; I shall not want companionship, for Thou art with me; I shall not want comfort, for thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me; I shall not want sustenance, for Thou prepares a table before me; I shall not want joy, for Thou anointest my head with oil; I shall not want anything, for my cup runneth over; I shall not want happiness now, for goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; I shall not want glory hereafter, for I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

“I shall not want.” That is an absolute negative. The little boy who was not very much interested in memorizing Psalm Twenty-Three expressed it in our twentieth century slang. He forgot the words, but he had the thought when he said, “The Lord is my Shepherd. I should worry.”

“I shall not want.” Why? Because I have a bank balance? Because I have a good job? Because I have influential friends? I shall not want because the Lord is my Shepherd.

...

Taken form *The Psalm of Psalms*, R. L. Moyer, D.D. Copyright 1945 by Wilson Press, Submitted by Paul Peterson, Kenyon, MN

Note: This article is continued from the August issue of the *Morning Glory*.

THE LIE ABOUT THE TRUTH and THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LIE

Let's allow the Holy Spirit to show us what conversations took place in the Garden of Eden.

"And the LORD God commanded the man saying, 'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof THOU SHALT SURELY DIE.'"

"And the serpent said unto the woman, YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE." Gen. 3:4

Our Heavenly Father, in His merciful grace, lays out a "do not" to Adam. God did not say "IF thou eatest" but He said "for in the day that thou eatest". We see that in God's omniscience, He knew that in the weakness in Adam's free will there would be eternal consequences. Choices have always been a friend or an enemy to mankind. Choose obedience and rejoice in God's blessings, choose disobedience and groan in servanthood to sin.

THE LIE ABOUT THE TRUTH originates with Lucifer. Let our hearts be reminded that God talked to Satan, but Satan dared not talk back to God in the Garden of Eden. He talked to Adam and Eve. Why would he not argue directly with God? Isaiah 14:12 gives us this answer: "How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning? How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" The pattern of the lies of Lucifer has often been such as, if He can't go after the godly, he will lay doubts and temptations at the feet of their children. Lucifer talks to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, knowing full well that he is the defeated enemy of God. So, he says, THOU SHALT NOT SURELY DIE as he tempts God's created beings. Well, did Adam and Eve die when they rebelled against the "do not eat" command of God? Physically they did not die the day they ate thereof, however, each one of us are seeing and experiencing the death that our Heavenly Father warned about - spiritual death came immediately. Physical death came later on as the effects of original sin destroyed the very created makeup of the human body. Satan wants mankind to only look to the physical life and ignore that God's warning is truth. THIS IS THE LIE ABOUT THE TRUTH and it has not changed as of today.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LIE originates with our Heavenly Father. Jesus Christ is Truth as written in John 14:6 "...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life...". From the first act of disobedience of Adam and Eve until "the end of time", mankind's free will, or should we conclude, tainted free will, is to live out Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is

deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it." As unregenerate man looks only to please the lusts of the flesh and ignore his spiritual death condition, Satan continually lays out his original statement, as he did to Adam and Eve, THOU SHALT NOT SURELY DIE. Remember now what Jesus said to the Jews in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." THIS IS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LIE.

Townley (Toby) R. Knutson

The Downward Look

Leon Maurer

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." 1 Cor. 11:31, 32.

We are not to be like the world. Jesus tells us that the world will hate the believer because it hated Him. The Bible says, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*" (1 John 2:15).

The Word of God warns that Christians are not to be worldly; they are not to be carnal. God does not want weak Christians. I know we are babes in Christ when we are first saved. I have experienced that. In some ways we are still somewhat babes.

But, beloved, we are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. We are to grow Heavenward. We are to grow up. Spiritually, we are to grow up and not be children anymore.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child. I did things like a child. But when I grew up, I put off those things which I did in my childhood, those childish things done in my childish ways.

God wants His children to grow up.

Selected.

Compromising churches are ideal settings for hireling preachers, as churches and preachers complement and accommodate one another.

Living the Resurrection Life!

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above." Col. 3:1

This is as much as to say, "You have professed faith in Christ; you have taken your stand in the most public and solemn way possible and declared yourselves to be on His side. You have taken upon yourselves the great name of Christian. Now," says the apostle, "if that is so, we shall expect to see it in your life."

It is not enough to stand up; you must stay up. It is not enough to stand; you must walk. It is not enough to have a name; you must have a life. If Christianity is anything, it is a progressive life.

When once you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour from sin, when once you have made Him your Lord and your King, then you must – if you are to be loyal, true and honorable – dedicate every moment of your life to His service.

You must let it be seen everywhere that you are now not your own, but that you belong to Him. The profession you made the other night or years ago when you said, "As for me and all I am concerned with and have any authority over, I will serve the Lord," must be lived out.

Every day and every hour of every day – not only in the church but in the home, in the workshop, in the business, in the office, in the political arena, in public, and in private – I am Christ's man; I am Christ's woman, I must act; I must live, I must walk, I must so conduct myself, so transact my business, so think, and so speak that the divine stamp will be on me and will be felt and seen everywhere. I must live with this ever before me.

On your knees honestly and intelligently you sought to give yourself to Jesus Christ. Did you think that the battle was over then? If you did, you never made a greater blunder. It is only beginning.

Now the fight will begin, and it will be a fight. It will be a conflict from here till the Judgment Seat is in view. But remember, you are not alone. They that are for you are more than all that can be against you.

Have you nothing else to say for yourself but that you go to church twice on Sunday and you are a Sunday school teacher and occasionally – for such miracles do sometimes happen – you go to the week-evening prayer meeting? Is that all the evidence you have that you are a King's son? If ye then be risen with Christ, let us see the resurrection life.

Gipsy Smith

Taken from *Sword of the Lord*

Stand Firm

Read: Colossians 1:19 – 27

"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

As our final project for a high school earth science class, a friend and I built a stream table. With extensive help from my father, we built a long plywood box with a hinge in the middle. Then we lined it with plastic and filled it with sand. At one end we attached a hose. At the other end was a drainage hole. After assembling all of it, we raised one end of the stream table, turned on the water, and watched as it created a path directly to the hole at the other end. The next part of the experiment was to place a rock in the stream and watch how it changed the path of the water.

This project taught me as much about life as it did about science. I learned that I can't change the direction things are going if I'm on the bank of the river. I have to step into the stream of life and stand there to divert the flow. That's what Jesus did. The Bible refers to salvation as a rock (2 Sam. 22:47, Ps. 62:2, 6-7), and apostle Paul clarifies that Christ is that Rock (1 Cor. 10:4). God placed Jesus in the stream of history to change its course.

When we remain steadfast in Christ, abounding in the word of the Lord, God uses us to change the course of history through acts of obedience that turn others to Him.

Julie Ackerman Link.

*The Master is seeking a harvest
In lives He's redeemed by His blood;
He seeks for the fruit of the Spirit
And works that will glorify God.*

Be sure to put your feet in the right place,
then stand firm.— Abraham Lincoln

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John McNeil, a noted evangelist from Glasgow, Scotland, often explained to his listeners the following insightful truth. He said, "Much is ill done; more is over done; most is undone, because prayer is not well done."

Sad to say, but the greatest power God has given to His people is neglected by the majority of believers – I believe a very large majority. Jesus said, "*Men ought always to pray, and not to faint*" (Luke 18:1).

The Cornerstone Challenge

Delay

"The revelation awaits an appointed time ... Though it lingers, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay" Habakkuk 2:3.

In the captivating booklet *Expectation Corner*, one of the characters, Adam Slowman, was led into the Lord's treasure-house. Among the many wonders revealed to him there was the "Delayed Blessing Office," where God stored the answers to certain prayers until it was wise to send them.

For some who pray expecting an answer, it takes a long time to learn that delays of answers are not denials. In fact, in the "Delayed Blessing Office," there are deep secrets of love and wisdom that we have never imagined! We tend to want to pick our blessings from the tree while they are still green, yet God wants us to wait until they are fully ripe.

"The LORD longs to be gracious to you ... *Blessed are all who wait for him!*" (Isa. 30:18). The Lord watches over us in all the difficult places, and He will not allow even one trial that is too much for us. He will use His refining fire to burn away our impurities and will then gloriously come to our rescue.

Do not grieve Him by doubting His love. Instead, lift up your eyes and begin praising Him **right now** for the deliverance that is on its way to you. Then you will be abundantly rewarded for the delay that has tried your faith.

*O you of little faith,
God has not failed you yet!
When all looks dark and gloomy,
You do so soon forget—*

*Forget that He has led you,
And gently cleared your way;
On clouds has poured His sunshine,
And turned your night to day.*

*And if He's helped you to this point,
He will not fail you now;
How it must wound His loving heart
To see your anxious brow!*

*Oh! Doubt not any longer,
To Him commit your way,
Whom in the past you trusted,
And is just the same today.*

Selected

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman,
Copyright 1997 by Zondervan.

Editor's Note: **GOD always keeps His Promises!** What GOD says HE will do, is as good as done; because HE is faithful and cannot deny HIMSELF and **HE CHANGES NOT!**

True Freedom

"As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."

1 Peter 2:16

We who live in what the song writer called the "sweet land of liberty" have a great responsibility to preserve that freedom which our forefathers obtained for us at great cost over two centuries ago. At the same time, we must not turn liberty into license. It would surely hurt those brave and godly men if they could see how we now use "freedom of choice" to justify murdering multitudes of innocent children before they are born, and how we use "freedom of speech" to warrant fouling the eyes and ears of our children with widespread pornography and to promote all kinds of immoral behavior in our society in general. No nation can remain free very long after such practices become widely accepted by its citizens. We need to pray for revival!

The same warning applies to the abuse of our spiritual freedom in Christ. As the apostle Paul said and repeated: "*All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient*" (1 Corinthians 6:12; also 1 Corinthians 10:23, where he added that "*all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not*").

As Peter says in our text, even though we are "free" and have real "liberty," we are nevertheless "servants of God," where the Greek word *doulos* actually connotes "bond servants," or even "slaves. Our liberty in Christ is not freedom to sin whenever we so choose, but rather freedom from our former bondage to sin. "*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness*" (Romans 6:18).

Although our nation is rapidly becoming anti-Christian in belief and practice, we Christians can still best serve our nation and our Savior by practicing and proclaiming Christ's wonderful saving gospel of free salvation from sin and regeneration unto righteousness. HMM

Taken from *Days of Praise* by Institute for Creation Research, Copyright, 2013. Permission Granted.

Editor's Note: When we know JESUS as our personal Savior, we really are not 'our own' as we have been bought with a price: the Precious BLOOD of JESUS and the temple/tabernacle of the HOLY SPIRIT! The word "Lord" means Master!

When You Walk

When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.”
Proverbs 4:12

The Lord only builds a bridge of faith directly under the feet of a faithful traveler. He never builds the bridge a few steps ahead, for then it would not be one of faith. “*We live by faith, not by sight*” (2 Cor. 5:7).

Years ago automatic gates were sometimes used on country roads. They would securely block the road as a vehicle approached, and if the traveler stopped before coming to the gate, it would not open. But if the traveler drove straight toward it, the weight of the vehicle would compress the springs below the roadway, and the gate would swing back to let him pass. The vehicle had to keep moving forward, or the gate would remain closed.

This illustrates the way to pass through every barrier that blocks the road of service for God. Whether the barrier is a river, a mountain, or a gate, all a child of Jesus must do is head directly toward it. If it is a river, it will dry up as he comes near it, as long as he still forges ahead. If it is a mountain, it will be removed and “cast into the sea” (Mark 11:23 KJV), providing he approaches it with unflinching confidence.

Is some great barrier blocking your path of service right now? Then head straight for it, in the name of the Lord, and it will no longer be there. – Henry Clay Trumbull

We sit and weep in vain, while the voice of the Almighty tells us to never stop moving upward and onward. Let us advance boldly, whether it is dark and we can barely see the forest in front of us, or it leads us through the mountain pass, where from any vantage point we can only see a few steps ahead.

Press on! And if necessary, like the ancient Israelites, we will find a pillar of clouds and fire to lead the way on our journey through the wilderness. God will provide guides and inns along the road, and we will discover food, clothing, and friends at every stage of our journey. And as Samuel Rutherford, the great Scottish minister, once stated so simply, “Whatever happens, the worst will only be a weary traveler receiving a joyful and heavenly welcome home.”

*I'm going by the upper road, for that
Still holds the sun,
I'm climbing through night's pastures where
The starry rivers run:
If you should think to see me in my
Old dark abode,
You'll find this writing on the door,
“He's on the Upper Road.”*

Selected

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman,
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Editor’s Note: “*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*” Hebrews 11:6-8. (Please prayerfully read also Philippians 3:12-16).

The First Step To Wisdom

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom”. Psalm 111:10

Little Joey had buried a treasure of pretty stones in a well concealed spot in his back yard. To be sure he didn’t forget where he had hidden them, he carefully drew a map leading to his treasure: five steps East, fifteen steps North, ten steps West, and three more steps North, then down six inches under the grass. Weeks later, in trying to find the treasure, Joey realized he had forgotten to include on his map, the starting point. All those carefully written directions would not lead to the right spot unless he started at the right place.

Many people today are like little Joey. They are trying to find wisdom by much study and by putting together many learned facts. The Bible tells us that all these facts do not lead to real wisdom unless we start first with true fear and love of God. When we trust the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior, our understanding is enlightened and we are able to see everything else in the light of God’s Word. This is real wisdom. Harold A. Tjelta

Taken from *Take Time* (for family devotions).
Lutheran Brethren Publishing Co.

Plowing

“When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually?” Isaiah 28:24.

One day in early summer I walked past a lovely meadow. The grass was as soft, thick, and beautiful as an immense green Oriental rug. At one end of the meadow stood a fine old tree that served as a sanctuary for countless wild birds, whose happy songs seemed to fill the crisp sweet air. I

saw two cows who lay in the shade as the very picture of contentment. And down by the road, eye-catching dandelions mingled their gold with the royal purple of the wild violets. I leaned against the fence for a long time, feasting my hungry eyes and thinking in my soul that God never made a more beautiful place than this lovely meadow.

The next day I passed that way again, and to my great dismay, the hand of the destroyer had been there. A farmer with a large tractor, which was now sitting idle in the meadow, had in one day inflicted terrible devastation. Instead of seeing the soft, green grass, I now saw the ugly, bare, and brown earth. Gone were the dandelion and the pretty violets. And instead of the multitude of singing birds, there were now only a few, who were industriously scratching the ground for worms. In my grief I said, "How could anyone spoil something so beautiful?"

Then suddenly my eyes were opened, as if by some unseen hand, and I saw a vision. The vision was that of a field of ripe corn ready for harvest. I could see the giant, heavily laden stalks in the autumn sun, and I could almost hear the music of the wind as it swept across the golden tassels. And before I realized it, the bare earth took on a splendor it did not have the day before.

Oh, if only we would always catch the vision of the abundant harvest when the great Master Farmer comes, as He often does, to plow through our very souls – uprooting and turning under that which we thought most beautiful and leaving only the bare and the unlovely before our agonizing eyes. Selected

Why should I be frightened and surprised by the plow of the Lord, which makes deep furrows in my soul? I know He is not some arbitrary or irrational farmer – His purpose is to yield a harvest. — Samuel Rutherford

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LETTER

The following 'letter' was sent out to many Lutheran
Pastors/Congregational Leaders

And now the opportunity and challenge lies
at YOUR DOORSTEP!

Dear Pastor and Congregational Leaders,

It is not 'news' to you, but evidently we are living in what Scripture calls '*Perilous Times!*' Yes, as 'we' peer into the future, both secular and Spiritual, there are dark, boisterous, troublesome 'clouds' just over the horizon, BUT at such a 'time' we are instructed to encourage and

strengthen one another in with the WORD OF GOD (for example: Hebrews 10:24-25).

This eternal 'truth' brings me to the position of why I am writing this letter unto you! As you know, we of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory have been kept 'alive' spiritually by the mercy and Grace of God to be a Scriptural assistance, possibly in your congregation and community. (IF you are not aware of this 'free Lutheran Movement', we are not in competition with the local Bible believing/practicing congregation, but to assist and encourage the Lord's Work in your midst). By the way the HLIF is officially 93 years old – Praise God – and I believe kept for this very hour.

Thus I'm wondering if you would seriously pray about the possibility of the same and conducting either a Bible Conference over an weekend OR a series of Bible preaching evangelistic meetings in your congregation? But 'some' say we can't get people to come out for such or there are so few that attend! Our response is first of all God is not especially impressed with 'numbers', but His work in individual hearts and lives! We only need a 'few' dedicated people who are willing to put Matthew 6:33 as priority and then prayerfully rest in HIM and see what God is able to do in your midst.

IN 'general', it is apparent that 'spiritual live ember's are becoming cool and that APOSTASY is taking it's tragic toll in 'our' day and we need to use all that God has made available to us in encouraging and strengthening 'fellow believers' a HE tells 'us' to **occupy till He comes!** In God's marvelous GRACE HE has and will honor 'believers' gathering under the hearing of God's WORD night after night (consecutively) or extended weekends in rekindling His children with Heaven sent revivals! God calls some to be 'evangelists' (Acts 21:8, Ephesians 4:11), but IF 'we' are not willing to consider the same; then what? (I am not saying, by any means, that the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation Ministry is the only answer, but we are seeking to be 'available' as the Lord opens doors! May God be glorified for each effort put forth in His Name!

Those of you who see the value of a 'soul' in the light of ETERNITY: Would you be so kind as to respond to me (us) with your answer?

Thank you so much for letting me share this concern and burden with YOU and may our Living Savior, who is coming again, richly bless you so that you will be an even greater blessing in your congregation and community!

His Because of Calvary,
Pastor Rodney Stueland, Editor & Field Rep.

P. S. Please pray for this ministry and us! Thanks.

UpDate

“Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ ‘And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’”

Matthew 16:16, 18-19.

WHERE???

IF **YOU** were in ‘our’ position as a Biblical Pietistic, Evangelical Lutheran Free Movement where would **YOU** **turn** when finances are limited and a lack of prayer support? Would you change your convictions and practices to *compromise* and go along with the ‘main stream of Religion today’? I TRUST NOT, because compromise leads to *confusion* and GOD is not the **Author of Confusion!** “**For God is not the author of confusion but of peace...**” 1 Corinthians 14:33.

NEITHER are ‘we’, and most certainly will not even give the same any serious consideration as ‘we’ want to hear, by the GRACE of GOD, you have been faithful in little things ...

At times, as ‘we’ look at the ‘signs of the times’, I/we wonder IF we are close to the closing of what we call the dispensation of the ‘church age’ and maybe it is almost over; when the Bridegroom asks the question for ‘our’ benefit – Will there be faith on the earth when I return? (Luke 18:8). Thus, as ‘we’ struggle, are ‘we’ closing the door of service or is HE removing to a certain degree the ‘candlestick’?

AMERICA DESPERATELY NEEDS A HEAVEN SENT REVIVAL! America has become so Gospel hardened that seemingly Christians can use their ‘freedom’ as a license to SIN and thus can participate in almost anything and everything and still be a Christian! But our nation will not be revived until our churches are revived! The judgment of God will soon descend if we continue in our present rebellion against His revealed truth.

WHERE shall ‘we’ go? Really, there is no other alternative but to JESUS, for **He is the ROCK!**

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Hauge Fall Bible Conference

Bethany Lutheran Church
29746 Iris Road
Ossian, Iowa

Host Pastor: Marshall Nessa

**The dates are still being determined,
but should be in October.**

**Make plans now and begin to pray for
an outpouring of the Spirit of God
upon all who are there.**

**Spiritual awakening must first begin at
the house of God.**