

Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • September 2014

It's Time to Obey God, Rather Than Men

By Pastor David Barnhart

“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” Acts 5:29

Our culture has little toleration for those who espouse conservative values. This was made abundantly clear several weeks (Number of months now) ago when Governor Andrew Cuomo stated in radio interview that persons holding such views are not welcome in New York. Although he attempted to take back his egregious statement following a public outcry, his efforts fell flat. While conservative media outlets reported the governor's remarks, the liberal media remained largely silent. Apparently they believe limiting people's freedom of speech is acceptable, as long as those being silenced are conservatives.

GOVERNMENT-LED ATTACKS ON OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES

Recently we learned that the IRS (for some time now) has been targeting conservative individuals and organizations with audits and investigations. Dr. Ben Carson, world-renowned neurosurgeon from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, was targeted by the IRS shortly after he spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast in 2013 and voiced his concerns over Obamacare. Similar IRS audits were also conducted on organizations led by James Dobson and Franklin Graham after they also expressed concerns over administration policies...

“I will not retreat, I will not surrender, I will not be in-

timidated, and I will not ask for permission to exercise my Constitutional rights,” Engelbrecht told the House committee. She is one of hundreds who have experienced these despicable tactics by our government in the past few years. Such abuse of power has no place in America, yet it is being employed by several governmental agencies.

Meanwhile, Barack Obama insists there is not “a smidgen of corruption” concerning these matters, even though not one of the several investigations has been concluded, nor, to date, has the FBI interviewed a single witness among those who were targeted by the IRS.

The Roman Catholic Church has taken several direct assaults by the current administration over its long-held opposition to abortion and contraception. Under Obamacare mandates, Roman Catholic organizations are required to pay for contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs...

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS DENIED IN BUSINESS

Christians operating large and small businesses have come under fire in recent years for their positions on various social issues, none more so than the David Green family, owners of Hobby Lobby. The Green family's prolife views have been deemed by the government as unacceptable when applied to their corporation. Yet from Hobby Lobby's founding in 1972, their mission statement has included the words, “honoring the Lord in all we do by operating the company in a manner consistent with Biblical

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principles.”

According to the Obama administration, moral principles and religious convictions cannot not be applied to corporations. Thus, numerous business owners have been dragged into court by agencies of the government and by leftist organizations doing the government's bidding, because they have refused to violate their religious convictions in their business practices.

Some businesses and their owners have been required to pay exorbitant fines and ordered to violate their religious beliefs if they want to stay in business. Such a blatant violation of their constitutional rights is unconscionable.

IT'S TIME TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN

... This is not the America we knew and loved only a few years ago! It is painful to watch our liberties being diminished one after another, with few finding the courage to state their objections. “As long as it's not me” seems to be the standard that is presently guiding the indignation of so many. But that is a (Ed. Very) dangerous tactic.

Let me assure you, while it may be Ben Carson, James Dobson, Franklin Graham and Catherine Engelbrecht, among others, who are in the cross hairs of a government gone wild, tomorrow it could be you or me. If the liberties of our fellow citizens are not secure, then neither are our own.

Government officials, court and politicians are telling Christians, churches and nonprofit religious organizations to keep silent on matters and morals deemed political. And even though this is a violation of our Bill of Rights, so many Christians, like meek lit-

tle lambs, seem willing to submit to their demands.

But if Christians continue to remain silent on issues that not only violate Scripture but also threaten the future of our nation, who will be left to speak?

SILENT NO LONGER

No, my friends, we dare be silent no longer! The times described by Peter when **“we must obey God rather than men”** are here now! Furthermore, the days of Christian persecution in America are beginning, and they will only grow worse unless we strap up our courage and speak out now for freedom and truth. All Christians must be prepared to make a choice between obeying God or obeying men.

Only a few years ago, biblical values were the underpinnings of our nation’s laws and morals. Justices and government officials alike gave Judeo-Christian teachings every possible consideration when enacting and interpreting our laws. Now, all that has changed, as we are being forced to choose between obeying God or obeying the unbiblical laws of men.

This is a defining moment for America. Our nation’s future hangs in the balance. The present generation of Americans will determine if our Constitutional freedoms will endure. The choice has never been more clear. Like Joshua, let all true believers rise up and boldly declare: **“Choose this day whom you will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”** (Joshua 24:15).

Taken from *The Vine and Branches*, Spring 2014 issue

Editor’s Note: “But you be watchful in all things ...” II Timothy 4:5. Not only spiritually/religiously – But in ALL things. What a challenge and command! IF you haven’t definitely taken a STAND, then NOW is the time. **“For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?”** 1 Corinthians 14:8.

* * * * *

Martin Luther Speaks To Us

The Word of God – Alone!

Look for Nothing but the Word. Do not look at the crowd, at wealth, but where the Gospel is to be found. These shams are to be removed from sight, and regard is to be had only for the Word, even though despised people who have it are not sharp. Though they are poor and ride on mules or travel afoot, nevertheless they are the church. No wealth and no poverty make the church, but the Word does. *Sermon on Palm Sunday

Without the Word All Is Vain ‘The only mark of the Christian Church is following and obeying the Word.

When that is gone, let men boast as much as they please: Church! Church! There is nothing to their boasting anyway. Therefore you should say: Do the people have the Word of God?... Wherever one hears the Word of God, here is the church of God, though it be in a cow stable, the place where Christ was born. *Sermon of Matthew 23:37

Sola Scriptura, Scripture Alone. Accursed into the abyss of hell be all obedience that is rendered to government, father, and mother, yea, and the church, too, at the cost of being disobedient to God. If God commanded and required me to do something, how could He possibly be expected to look on and tolerate my rationalizing, my disobedience, by saying: Lord, the Christian Church told me to do this? None of that! He would reply, The Christian Church means nothing in this case; but simply spurn with your feet whatever all the angels, saints, and all the world may command you to do, and frankly say: I recognize neither the father, the mother, the relative, the government, nor the Christian Church that wants to prevent me from listening to God’s Word. Here the Fourth Commandment and all obedience are abolished, and the lips of Christ have decreed that father and mother, government, and Christian Church are practically non-existent for me; for obedience to Him should, as said, precede and supersede all... Our bishops, princes, and papists themselves confess, and must confess without any credit to them, that we have God’s Word and base ourselves on it. Yet it is to mean nothing and is not to be accepted unless they have so decreed and the council has so ordained. But whatever has moved the Christian Church so to contradict God, to silence Him and to say: We confess that Scripture is Thy Word, but it is to be in force and is to be followed only when we say so? What, think you, will God say on His judgment seat? He will say: Sir pope, ye bishops and princes and whoever you are, did you know Scripture to be My Word? We did. Why, then, did you not observe it? Why, because the Christian Church had not so decreed. So I hear, do I, that your church is to control and rule My Word? I thought people were to consider final and determined what I said and spurn everything to the contrary, though all the world said it. How would you like it if your servant whom you had bidden to do something were first to go and ask a maid or a fellow servant whether it pleased her or him?

The Christian Church is God’s maid and servant. It listens to and does nothing but what it knows to be His Word and Command. Yet our adversaries are trying to force us for their sake to deny and surrender God’s Word under the spacious name of the “Christian Church.” Therefore we are to know that the church which undertakes to do this sort of thing is not the Christian Church but the devil’s whore instead.

Taken from a pamphlet *Martin Luther Speaks to us*

STRONG IN BATTLE

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done, all to stand.”

Ephesians 6:10-13.

For a Christian, life is a battle. No one who is desirous of doing the Lord’s will can go through life without meeting opposition. The powers which still rule in and about the earth are enemies of God’s people.

The Bible admonishes us to fight the good fight so that we may stand after having emerged victorious over all opposition. *“He that overcometh shall thus be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”* Rev. 3:5.

It is possible that at times the Christian life has been pictured as being nothing else than toil and tears. But we should also remember those other times when all strife has been forgotten and there has been only joy, rest, and thanksgiving. It is so easy to go from one extreme to another; it is much more difficult to be normal and keep to the way that is true and sound.

If we would read the Bible and Church history with an honest mind we would see that it is impossible for a Christian to get through this world without conflict; least of all would it be possible for those who are the best Christians.

*No one will reach that sweet haven of rest
Who earnestly presses not in.
He who will fight for the faith that at last
Will bring him to heaven shall win.*

It is perhaps altogether too true that not all Christians are equally victorious in their battles. Many suffer crushing defeats; others “withstand on the evil day” and go forward in the power of God. He who suffers defeat is not privileged to taste the joys of victory. He walks about as David did when he fled from his own son. It is quite different with him who wins in the battle. He discovers some of the greatest treasures a Christian can find here below. When a soldier returns home with victory he is happy even if he still has many painful wounds from the battle. It is the same with the victorious Christian.

In 1 Samuel 14 we have the story of Jonathan who, together with his armor bearer, went against the enemy. By the help of God they defeated the enemy, but the battle was both long and hard. In the course of the battle they passed through a forest where there was honey both upon the ground and in the honeycomb. Jonathan put forth his rod into the honeycomb and tasted of the honey, and it is written that “his eyes were enlightened.”

Many a Christian warrior has found life’s sweetest honey in the midst of battle; he has been given a clearer vision, a new fire in the heart and a new power in his life. I dare say that if you want a Christian full of fresh vigor and with an unimpaired spiritual vision, search among those who have been in battle and have returned with victory. They have tasted the honey of life and their eyes have been enlightened.

The greatest joy and purest gratitude is found in the heart of a Christian who has been in battle and has won the victory. It is not in times of peace that a Christian comes closest to his God, but in the victorious battle. If this were clear to all of us, many problems would be solved, many tears wiped away, and many a discouraged soldier of the Cross would wield his sword with greater vigor.

* * *

The battle is not against flesh and blood. It is not a war among people as we usually think of war, such as Frenchman against German, Bulgarian against Serbian, or Chinese against Japanese. It is a spiritual warfare. No cannon is seen or heard; no Sabre glitters in the sunshine, and no bayonet is used against the enemy. But it is war nevertheless; anyone who is anxious to save his soul will soon discover that.

The hosts of wickedness arrayed against the Christian can possibly be divided into two groups. The one group is described in our text as principalities, powers, and world rulers of this darkness. This must be those people who live outside of fellowship with God.

It is still true that in most places on this earth true Christianity has not penetrated very far into the life of the people. Those who rule are usually worldly people. They have the power in this age, and it is likely that we shall have no change until Christ returns. Only rarely do they rule in harmony with God’s Word and Spirit. The spirit of the world is like a boa constrictor that is ready to crush its victim; Christians meet it on every hand. As long as there is a spark of spiritual life in your and my heart we shall have to battle against this evil spirit; if we do not, our Christianity will soon be a thing of the past.

The Christian needs to be clad in the full armor of God at all times; his battlefield is in the worldly home, the worldly business places, in worldly society, in town hall

or the halls of Congress. Briefly, a Christian must be prepared for war wherever he is. He who thinks himself spiritually secure will soon discover that the world is a strong and dangerous enemy of everything that is from God.

Christians of a generation or two ago were very much afraid of keeping too much company with worldly people; possibly they went too far in that direction. They forgot that it was not human beings they were to turn away from, but the spirit which dominates in the world. It may be that we have gone to the opposite extreme; Christians today do not think of the world as being particularly worldly. Christianity has been made to fit into the scheme of things in the world. Christians of the present day are not afraid of being associated with worldly people in business or politics. When worldly people are reasonable in their attitudes, as they frequently are, it is so easy for the Christian to lay the sword aside. But then he does not have to go much further before he is a friend of the world and an enemy of God.

The friendship of the world is enmity with God.

It appears so innocent to be friendly with the world; it looks so refined too. But it is not long before the friendship of the world is found to be more delectable than the company of Christians. When that happens we are on slippery ice; only God's grace can keep us from falling. As a fly is caught and loses its life in a web of exceedingly fine threads woven by the spider, so have many Christians been caught in the web of worldliness and have lost their lives. They died quietly, yet so surely. They forgot that they were at war; this was the tragedy that spelled their doom.

Here – precisely here – many present day Christians are in great danger; many have already been deceived, perhaps even without knowing it. While they are boasting of having progressed far beyond the gloomy spirituality of the pietists they have landed in a veritable black death; they have pinned a Christian badge on the lapel of a worldly spirit. They still want to be known as Christians. This humbug is frequently paraded as Christianity that has been liberated from ignorance and superstition; it is Christianity that has grown to maturity.

“Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

*To resist with all might
On every hand
Is both proper and right
For him who will stand.
But it takes more than this a wreath to win,
Persistency alone will conquer sin.*

Taken from *Spirit and Power*, by Ludvig Hope,
Translated by Dr. Iver Olson: Copyright © 1959, Hauge
Lutheran Innermission Federation
Lord willing: To be continued in the
next issue of the *Morning Glory*.

But who say ye that I am?

Matthew 16:15

To this question Peter made reply with fervor and conviction: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Whereupon Jesus said to Peter that he was the rock (Ed. Testimony of) upon which He would build His church. By his faith and confession Peter became the beginning of the Christian church.

Since that day the church of the Lord has owned this faith in Jesus as the Son of the living God. This is the faith which has gathered and united the whole Christian church in every land and in every age, in all denominations and communions (Ed. ‘Communion of Saints’).

Here we are, gathered in our home. Can we all reply as Peter did? With the same fervor and conviction as he?

When Peter had answered, Jesus said to him: *Bless are thou, Simon Bar-Jonah!*” Yes, blessed are those who have attained to personal faith in Jesus as their Savior. No joy can be compared with that of believing.

They who by the grace of God have been given faith in Christ have found the fixed point which gives balance and poise to their whole lives. They know where to go with everything which before made their lives so distressing, burdensome, and hopeless.

Christ is their substitute. To Him they can go with all their sins and never be turned away, received by Him with love and forgiveness, raised up by Him to new courage and a new desire to strive against their sins.

Christ is their almighty Friend, to whom they daily turn with all that is distressing and burdensome, difficult and impossible. And Jesus is never at a loss as to what to do. He finds a way out, even when we have complicated matters as much as possible.

Yes, we praise and worship Thee, Thou Son of the living God!

Taken from *God's Word for Today*, by O. Hallesby,
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Editorial

RES

A PLUMB LINE!

“Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. And the LORD said to me, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A plumb line.’ Then the Lord said; ‘Behold, I am setting a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel.” Amos 7:7-8a

BY no means am I a temporal ‘builder’; BUT I do know that IF you do not follow the ‘Architect’s’ blueprint you likely will not accomplish the ‘finished project’ with success/faithfulness AND very likely not accomplish a ‘chosen’ finished product.

This brings me to the point of this ‘editorial’ of WHICH I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

How can Bible believing persons/congregations/spiritually conscientious PASTORS, etc., be following the ‘blueprint’ (Bible) and not preach on the following subjects/topics??? Why this question? Well, the Holy Spirit inbreathed Godly men to write the Infallible Word of God; in ages past (for our benefit); AND to not speak/preach on such subjects; as the following: *Hell, The Rapture & Jesus coming again, The old fashioned Prayer Meeting, Naming SIN by name, and Evangelistic Meetings: **which are ALL definitely found in Scripture*** is an absolute contradiction!

Let us look at these a little deeper, BECAUSE they are founded in the ‘Blueprint’ and ‘we’ are to be concerned in advancing the Kingdom of God – to HIS honor and glory; as ‘we’ water, plant, cultivate in HIS Vineyard and HE gives the increase!

This definitely is an hour of decision for the USA. May our hearts be drawn to the conditional promises (4 – conditions & 3 – promises) GOD made to Israel; *“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land”* II Chronicles 7:14. Very sobering, but please prayerfully read **II Chronicles 36:15-16** also! Yes, as the ‘family goes’, so goes the ‘church’ and as the ‘church goes’ so goes the ‘community, state and nation’. Now spiritually we standing where the ‘rubber really meets the road’!

Have you noticed the ‘first’ thing to leave the church: at large, is the old fashioned PRAYER MEETING? This is the spiritual Scriptural power house of the congregation! The ‘old fashioned prayer meeting’ (Holy Spirit led, which leads to ‘individuals’ freely praying (Romans 8:31 & on)) is the most essential and vital ingredient of the

church. Study the book of ‘ACTS’ for example. The book of ACTS is not a book of resolutions, but ‘acts’ of the Apostles.

Today, as a whole, the financial responsibilities of the ‘congregation’ are being met; but can they say ‘rise up and walk’?

Going a ‘little’ further in depth are the following:

1. Preaching the WORD – not just the GOSPEL.

Again may I ask you to study the book of ACTS and notice ‘they preached the WORD’. Not just programs, activities, etc. but evidently the LAW (in LOVE) and the GOSPEL. Without the preaching of the LAW there will be no godly repentance of SIN in the believer’s life nor the lost. Today (at large) there seems to be ‘Salvation’ without godly repentance which is foreign to the Word of God. Luke 24:47, Galatians 3:24, II Corinthians 7:10 & II Peter 3:8. GOD’S law is most certainly saturated with AGAPE LOVE. Without the LAW there is no knowledge of SIN and where the LAW is not preached (in Love) SIN will move in, both individually and in the congregation. **Sin needs to be named by name and it is SIN** in compliance with God’s Infallible WORD which is relevant for all times! **“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully”** 1 Timothy 1:8. GOD names SIN by its name, why shouldn’t we? *PRIMARILY the Holy Spirit uses cleansed ‘vessels’ to point out SIN.* Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 19, James 2:10, Luke 15:10. **“Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity”** II Timothy 2:19.

2. HELL

When is the last time you heard a ‘sermon’ on Hell or even an individual sharing that there is a Hell to shun and a Heaven to gain?

To my understanding, JESUS spoke seven times more about Hell than Heaven recorded in the Inspired Scripture – the Bible. NOW don’t tell me that JESUS is not ‘agape’ LOVE! God’s love manifested in the Person of JESUS found it needful to speak about Hell; why aren’t preachers and others led about the same TODAY?

I believe it was Billy Sunday that stated ‘they will not be

...serving booze on golden platters in Hell’!

Luke 16:19-31 is much more than a parable for at least 7 reasons: can you find them? *IF you can scare anyone into HEAVEN by preaching/speaking about Hell; most certainly go ahead!*

3. The certainty of the coming of JESUS: *Either ‘Rapture or HIS Second Coming!’*

I know that a number of ‘believers’ will say: Well we don’t ALL agree of the sequence of events; therefore I will leave it un-touched. BUT that doesn’t change the ‘reality’ of the same that JESUS is coming again at the exact moment in harmony with ‘our’ Father’s will. The Holy Spirit clearly states in the ‘SCRIPTURE’ that the closer ‘we’ get the more we ought to speak about the same.

WE are not to be so taken up with the order of the blessed events; but to encourage one another to a more ‘godly’ life style and good works.

4. Evangelistic Meetings: *Not just “pulpit exchange for a few days”.*

Why is it that ‘we’ are rightfully concerned about calling of Pastors, Teachers, Missionaries, etc.; but not EVANGELISTS? When did GOD change HIS mind? Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, II Timothy 3:16-17. ACTS 21:8, **Ephesians 4:11**, II Timothy 4:1-5. For example think of the Evangelist Jonah, Elijah, etc. AND then we ‘wonder’ what is lacking in the Christian Church, while the Scriptures are crystal clear! WHEN are ‘we’ going to mean ‘real’ business WITH GOD? **II Chronicles 7:14** which includes SINS of omission as well.

If you really mean business with GOD; I challenge you not only to invite an EVANGELIST for a series of evangelistic meetings; BUT for at least an absolute minimum of **two weeks, SURROUNDED WITH SPECIFIC/ EXPECTANT PRAYER and see what GOD can and will do!** You know the ‘old time Christianity’ worked before; why can’t it do the same TODAY? **Oh, Holy Spirit REVIVAL comes from thee; start that REVIVAL and let it begin in me ...** Try God, Prove God and give HIM the honor and glory! With a concerned and burden heart:

I will venture to say: I doubt, except for a fortunate FEW who are 40 – 45 year old and younger, know from experience EVEN what a genuine Heaven Sent Revival is all about! That is SAD & TRAGIC! You know where the Heaven Sent Revival (Prayed down) the congregation will be set on fire for the LORD and the parasites (SIN) will leave the ‘camp’.

Sadly, Sacramentalism and Complacency have invaded the Christian Church and we are experiencing Jude 12 – 13 **“These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.** YES, there definitely is HOPE, IF ‘we’ follow the ‘Blue-Print’ as **God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above what we even ask or think!** Literally the darkest part of the night is just before the ‘dawn’. This is a Hard saying, but notice what GOD says through Isaiah 8:20 **“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”** Thus I plead and challenge you who are ‘fellow brethren/sisters In the Lord:’ don’t let public opinion or numbers be your deciding factor; but **walk in the light of HIS WORD while YOU have the ‘light’ and be found faithful until earth’s journey ends!** **“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified** (castaway) 1 Corinthians 9:27.

NOW YOU KNOW A FEW THINGS THAT I JUST DON’T UNDERSTAND! ***BUT note II CHRONICLES 7:34 OR 36:15-16. AS A ‘TEAM’ LET ‘US’ FOLLOW THE GREAT BLUE-PRINT, THE BIBLE out of LOVE for JESUS and for ‘our’ fellow men/church, community & nation.***

Let YOU and I pray frequently and earnestly: LORD lay some ‘soul’ upon my heart, and love that soul through me, And may I humbly do my part, to win that soul for Thee!

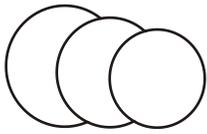
Admonish the Disorderly

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (Darby)

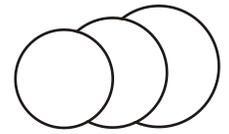
The word “disorderly” comes from the Greek word ataktos which is a military word indicating those who are out of order, out of step, not following orders, not keeping rank, causing disturbance. These are self-governed individuals who call themselves Christians as long as they can do whatever they want. They march to their own cadence and don’t like taking orders or being directed. To them

Christ is only a “get-out-of-jai-free” card. Friend, if you resent the idea of obeying the Lord and submitting every area of your life to Him, then you have a serious problem. God will have order in His household. Carl Knott

*Now I’ve given to Jesus everything,
Now I gladly own Him as my King.
Now my raptured soul can only sing of Calvary!*
—W. R. Newell



From Our Fellowship Circle



D. & G. R.

Beulah, ND

Hello!

Here are more names to be added to the mailing list of the *Morning Glory*.

We truly love the Magazine – God Bless all of you. Thank you for not being afraid to print the TRUTH! Some of us are afraid to say it like it is.

We pass the Morning Glory on to others and speak of it also.

May you continue to print the ‘truth’ in this magazine.

L. V.

Le Roy, MN

Enclosed please find \$... as a donation. I enjoy the *Morning Glory* so very much. I would miss it if I didn’t get it; although I might not agree with everything.

Thank you for sending it.

D. I.

Des Moines, IA

Dear Friends,

This has been a long time in coming and I am getting slower almost by the day.

The real problem is the fact that every organization in this country has my name and address, so that my mailbox is stuffed beyond capacity with letters from all of them every-day.

My husband and I have always been freedom fighters, but there are getting to be so many and one cannot support them all...

Right now I am over eighty-four years old and not in the best health ...

I keep hoping the Lord will come soon and take us out of this world. It is just not getting any better and in a sense not a good place for a Christian to live a godly life; plus being a senior citizen. ...

Anyway, I hope all is well with you and that the Lord will give you wisdom and strength for each day, and bless the Ministry you have with the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and the *Morning Glory*.

Actually I look forward to each month in receiving the *Morning Glory!*

Mr. & Mrs. M. R.

Lake City, IA

Thank you so much for the magazine full of truths!

It is read from front to back and then some of the articles again! May God Bless your work!

Please find a check enclosed.

* * * * *

“Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” Luke 2:49

God’s business is a vital business. The work of the Christian church is the greatest business in the world.

The employer in a large store wanted his partner to take a more active part in clubs and parties, but because he was a Christian, the partner said, “No.” The employer became angry and gave his partner a week to think it over.

The partner said, “You do not need to give me a week to think it over. You can have my resignation now if my position depends upon my decision to join with the worldly crowd. *I am a Christian first.*

When later on his boss lay very sick, he called his partner and said, “I want you to take our business and run it as you have always lived. From the day you refused to join those social clubs I have tried to look at life in a different way and I want to follow the Savior that you know and love.”

Are you about your Father’s business, too?

Dear Lord Jesus, grant that I may perform all my business in ways pleasing unto Thee. Let me be a Christian first and let nothing come between my God and myself. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Draw us to Thee in mind and heart,
On heavenly things attending;
In spirit hence let us depart,
To Thee, O Lord, ascending.*

Taken from the family devotional book; *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson, Copyright Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Young Palestinian Christian Dares To Confront Anti-Israel Lies

Christy Anastas from Bethlehem has released video in which she challenges the lie that Israel is responsible for the sufferings of the Palestinians, and for the exodus of Christians from Bethlehem. Recently she exposed the same lies when she spoke at Uppsala University in Sweden.

Christy, who now resides in England, said that her family lived in a house close to Rachel's Tomb, and that in 2000 when the intifada began, they witnessed the Palestinians attacking the Jewish holy site "day and night." Furthermore, according to Christy, the Palestinian Authority actively encouraged young Arabs to take part in street violence.

"Israel was not responsible for the departure of Christians from Bethlehem," she stated. "In fact, the Christian population actually grew in Bethlehem when the Israelis occupied the city."

In her presentation, Anastas recounted how her uncle decided to stop paying the *jizya*, the tax non-Muslims must pay for the right to live in a Muslim-dominated society. In response, Palestinian militiamen imprisoned, tortured and eventually executed her uncle. She stated that stories like her uncle's are not uncommon, they remain untold for fear of retaliation.

Finally, Christy joyfully declares what few Palestinians have dared to utter, "I believe God has given this land to the Jews as an everlasting covenant."

Pray for all Palestinian Christians living under the domination of radical Muslims in the West Bank and Gaza. Pray too for the Messianic Jews of Israel who have regular fellowship with Arab Christians.

Information from *Israel Today*, 4/28/14 recorded in the *The Vine and the Branches*, Summer 2014.

ISRAEL

A new oil and gas field has been found just 35 miles off the shores of Tel Aviv. It's estimated that the "Oz" field has between 93 to 607 million barrels of oil, and 2.5 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas. The Oz license covers a 400 square kilometer area. The Leviathan field to the north has 19 TCF of gas, and the Tamar has 9 TFC. Israel has found around 30 TCF of gas so far.

The Jewish Press 4/30/14

Alcohol's death toll: 87,798 a year

By KAREN KAPLAN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - The death toll from binge drinking and other forms of excessive alcohol use in the United States is just shy of 88,000 per year, a new analysis found.

Those casualties erased more than 2.5 million years of life that would have been lived each year had victims not been killed in drunken-driving accidents, by liver cirrhosis or as a result of other alcohol-related causes, the report found.

Binge drinking is responsible for more than half of these alcohol-related deaths, the study said. The authors defined binge drinking as five or more drinks in a row for men and four or more drinks at a time for women.

Overall, excessive alcohol use cost the United States \$223.5 billion in 2006 alone, said a report published last year in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. That worked out to a societal cost of \$1.90 per drink.

The new study, published Thursday in *Preventing Chronic Disease*, found alcohol-attributable deaths came to 87,798. That worked out to 27.9 deaths per 100,000 Americans; 71 percent were men.

Taken from the *Star Tribune*, June 27, 2014

Faith groups press Obama for gay discrimination exemption

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
and ERIK ECKHOLM
New York Times

WASHINGTON - After a set-back in the Supreme Court in the Hobby Lobby case, President Obama is facing mounting pressure from religious groups demanding to be excluded from his long-promised executive order that would bar discrimination against gays and lesbians by companies that do government work.

The president has yet to sign the executive order, but last week a group of major faith organizations, including some of Obama's allies, said he should consider adding an exemption for groups whose religious beliefs oppose homosexuality. In *Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby*, the court ruled that family-run corporations with religious objections could be exempted from providing employees with insurance coverage for contraception.

Taken from the *Star Tribune*, July 9, 2014

Speak, Jehovah; for thy servant heareth

1 Samuel 3:9.

God spoke to young Samuel. But Samuel did not understand. Then the old and experienced priest taught him to reply: “*Speak, Jehovah; for thy servant heareth.*”

God speaks to us also before we can understand Him. He began in Baptism. And we, too, learned from some man or woman of God to reply: “*Speak, Jehovah; for thy servant heareth.*”

These words indicate the normal, the ideal attitude which we sinners should have toward our holy and gracious God. It is our salvation that God speaks to us and awakens us from the dead, telling us liars the truth in such a way that it pierces to our very bone and marrow.

We are thereby compelled to **choose**. And the choice involved in conversion really consists in praying from our hearts the prayer of Samuel: *Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth.*

And to live as a converted person is really nothing else than to pray from our hearts the prayer of Samuel: Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth. Speak to me as Thou wilt. I would know the truth, no matter how hard and exacting it may be.

And to live as a converted person is really nothing else than to pray from our hearts the prayer of Samuel: Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth. Tell me what you think of my Christianity and of me. Tell me about my sins in such a way that it hurts. Speak forgiveness to me in such a way that I believe it and give thanks for it. Make me to know Thy way and Thy will, for my own thoughts and ways lead me astray.

When we read the Bible, we should pray: Speak Thou, Lord, to me through Thy Word today. We should pray in this way particularly: Lord, help me, restless and preoccupied as I am, to hear when Thou speakest to me today.

And in our daily lives we should pray: Lord, help me to hear and to understand Thy message to me as it comes through the things Thou sendest me this day.

If we will pray this prayer each day, we shall hear glorious things. For there is nothing the Lord would rather do than **speaking** to His children. He will speak unspeakable things to your heart.

God's Word for Today, by O. Hallesby, Copyrighted by Augsburg Publishing House, Permission Granted.

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They set the ark of God upon a new cart. II Samuel 6:3

When David decided to transport the ark back to Jerusalem, he put it on a new cart. He specially chose Uzzah

and Ahio to drive the cart. Later, the oxen pulling the cart stumbled, and Uzzah stretched out his hand to steady it. God struck him dead! David had good intentions. He put the ark on a new cart. Uzzah had good intentions. He steadied the ark to prevent it from falling. But both broke God's holy law. The ark was to be carried by its staves on the shoulders of the Levites (1 Chron. 15:2, 15) and no one was to touch it. Both had good intentions, but they were doing the right things in the wrong way. Good intentions are not enough. God's way must be obeyed. K. C. Ung

Master, speak! And make me ready, when Thy voice is truly heard,

With obedience glad and steady, still to follow every word.

Frances Ridley Havergal

* * * * *

As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taken them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

Deuteronomy 32:11 – 12

What lovely imagery! Just as an eagle pushes out an eaglet from the nest, so that they may learn to fly, so God deals with His people. When they get weary the mother swoops down underneath and catches them on her outstretched wings. In the same way, God's children are trained by God's discipline and life's trials. This is not evidence of our Father's indifference or displeasure. It shows His love! He wants us to grow. And He is always there to catch us when we cannot go on. Jim Pizzulli

Lord we are Thine: in Thee we live, supported by Thy tender care;

Guarded by Thine all-seeing eye, we own that we are only Thine.

Author Unknown

To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society

Theodore Roosevelt

I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, like a cloud thy sins; return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Isaiah 44:22.

There is a sign in a local shop which lists, in black, the names of those who owe money to the shop owner. The amount of the debt is also recorded. If the debt is paid the person's name and debt are blotted out in black ink and can no longer be read. Jesus Christ has done far greater than this. He paid the debt that I could not pay and blotted the record out with His precious blood. He can and will do the same for you if you will only come and trust in His finished work.

Janet Fleming

*I'll thank Him today that He came to earth
To suffer and die for me;
For He paid the price for my sin that day
When He died on Calvary. – J. F.*

Editor's Note: "Having wiped out the hand-writing of requirements (ordinances) that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" Col. 2:14.

When our earthly journey is over, God will say to those who have been found faithful: *"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels"* Revelation 3:5.

"He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much: and he that is unrighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much." Luke 16:10

THE word about faithfulness and unfaithfulness, and the fruit that grow on these two attributes, runs like a river of life and a river of death through the entire Bible. This same river also flows through the life of humanity: in house and hovel, in bank and on stock exchange, in community and in state. Like an iron law the blessing and the curse proceed from faithfulness and unfaithfulness through our whole life, both the human and the Christian.

When our workday is over and payday comes, God will say to those who have been faithful: *"Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord."* But to the unfaithful he says: *"Thou wicked and slothful servant; ...And cast ye out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness: there*

shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth." Unfaithfulness closes the road for us both temporally and spiritually. *IF therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"*

If we expect ever to own anything ourselves, we must first be faithful in the work we have to do for others. If we are careless with the property of others, we will also be careless with our own. It is of primary importance to learn to be faithful in little things. If one is wasteful when he has only a little food, he will fill the garbage can with food when he has an abundance. It is a chief art in life to be diligent, reliable, unassuming, thrifty, and generous. But he who learns this art has found the way to God's blessing on both his property and his work.

*Lord, now make me quiet;
Quiet for Thee alone;
Glad that in the small things
I may give myself.*

Thy Kingdom Come by Ludvig Hope, Copyright Augsburg Publishing house, Permission Granted.

"He must increase, but I must decrease"

John 3:30

The first of these is impossible without the second. It is the desire of every child of God that Jesus might increase; few, however, are willing to decrease. But unless we decrease, He will not increase.

This text is dear to us as long as we use it only as a pious proverb. Perhaps we even pray for what this text expresses. However, when the prayer is answered, and when the condition expressed in this text becomes an actuality in our life, we often shrink back and retract our prayer.

Who really wants to be small? Who can stand to be set aside, and even to be forgotten? Who dares to see himself as he actually is – his desire for honor, his egoism, his impurity, his lack of love to see that he is wicked through and through; to see that his very motives for doing "good" are contaminated by his "ego?"

However, only when our eyes are opened to these things will Jesus become great. And the more we come to see our true condition, the greater He will become. It is then that we will decrease, and He will increase.

Do you now dare to pray this prayer?

Rest A While, By Fredrik Wisloff

Kingdom of Priests

“And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”

Exodus 19:6

These were the words of God to Israel, even before they received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. As a priest serves as an intermediary between God and men, so this “kingdom of priests” had been called by God to bring God’s Word to man. As a holy nation with such a high calling, its people also should have been holy (that is, consecrated to God) in life and witness. But instead, after almost 2,000 years, God had to lament: “*All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people*” (Romans 10:21).

A day will come when “all Israel shall be saved” (Romans 11:26), but God has, in the meantime, chosen a new people, in whom “there is neither Jew nor Greek. ...For ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). We are now “one body in Christ, and every one members one of another” (Romans 12:5).

We now have been given this same high privilege long ago given to Israel. We who belong to Christ have been “born again” into the “kingdom of God” (John 3:3), and this is nothing less than a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. The apostle Peter said: “*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 2:5).

Not only are we holy priesthood, we are a royal priesthood, a kingdom of priest-kings. “*Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*” (v. 9). We, indeed, have a high calling, and should devote our lives to showing forth His praises, for He “*hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, unto him be glory and dominion for ever and ever*” (Revelation 1:6).

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Taken from *Days of Praise*, Institute for Creation Research – Copyright – 2014. Permission Granted

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Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet will I be confident (Ps. 27:3, RSV)

In our day we hear a great deal about war, this dread-

ful evil which may sooner or later threaten our very life. With each passing day the newspapers carry the story of some new development relating to war.

In the face of this we can do one of two things: We can refuse to think about it. We can take the attitude that anything as terrible as war cannot possibly befall us. Or we can face up to the dreadful possibility of war. In this case we may become anxious and fearful. How terrifying if war should actually strike us personally!

And yet a child of God is able to say: “*Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet will I be confident.*”

Dear child of God, come what may, you are in God’s hand. Even amid the most trying experiences He will be with you. He is your shield, your safe refuge. It is not the devil who directs your life; it is God. Come what may, nothing shall pluck you out of God’s hand (Ed. You can fall away, not minimizing the ‘power of GOD’; for example Jeremiah 17:9).

Rest A While by Fredrick Wisloff

Editor’s Note: “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust: I will not fear, What can flesh do to me?” Psalm 56:3. Maybe even better yet: “*Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation*” Isaiah 12:2.

* * * * *

They tell us, sir, that we are weak, unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed...? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power.

Patrick Henry (March 23, 1775, in his “Liberty or Death” speech.

COME!

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price” Isaiah 55:1.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirst come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17

WHAT marvelous, amazing GRACE that the Almighty ONE, invites ‘us’ with a four letter word, which is so very significant. Imagine the absolute HOLY, PERFECT, LIVING BEING, Who is ‘sinless’ invites you and I to come unto HIM, even though the sinful wretch you and I are. WE are rotten, sinful from the top of our head to the bottom of our feet; and yet HE invites ‘us’ to come! “*From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.*” YET “**“Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow’ Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.”** Isaiah 1:6 & 8. (Romans 3:10-23, 6:23, ISAIAH 64:6, James 2:10)

EVEN though ‘our’ Adamic nature (old nature/flesh – self) does not desire to come to this thrice HOLY GOD, for ‘we’ are like Adam and Eve wanting to ‘hide’ from GOD because ‘our’ deeds are evil and we love darkness rather than LIGHT and by our old fallen nature are even willing to argue with God! Are you aware that with the marvelous word C O M E ; we then are privileged to make a choice.

Even more our ‘self-life’ lives in rebellion towards GOD and the ‘old nature’ actually ‘grows’!

Then how can these two opposing factors/realities be reconciled? (I will try to show from Scripture how this is accomplished, with GOD’S amazing mercy and grace).

Even though our fore-parents (Adam & Eve) sought to ‘hide’ from GOD; GOD used coats of skin to clothe them! An innocent creature had to die for the guilty! MARVELOUS God says in regards to a repentant believing sinner: **‘When I see the BLOOD I will pass over you (justification) (See Hebrews 10:19)** – and God is the JUSTIFIER, **“and without shedding of blood there is no remission”** Hebrews 9:22b.

YET God still says: *“choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve”*.

Wonder of all wonders it is this same Holy God who first calls/awakens ‘us’, before we choose. It is He that seeks the lost first; not ‘we’ first seek JESUS; even though

HE says in Isaiah 55:6-7 ... How can a spiritually ‘dead’ person come?

First of all, a ‘gift’ is bestowed upon ‘us’ and that is the ‘gift’ of a “living faith”. It is not ‘us’ lifting ‘ourselves’ up (reforming) by our own boot-straps – **Psalm 40:1-5, Hebrews 11:1&6, Ephesians 2:8-10, JOHN 6:29, REVELATION 3:20.**

Which brings ‘us’ to an old term called “Pre-Venient GRACE which re-surfaced again in recent years and means that GOD has been (is) working behind the ‘scene’ (consciously or un-consciously) in the ‘sinners’ heart/life to reveal him, his NEED by the Holy Spirit/Word of God. It is GOD who first seeks/CALLS the LOST sinner!

Just like when He called Lazarus from the ‘grave’ who was ‘dead’ for *with* the ‘call of God’ comes with the power/desire/motivation to get right (reconciled) with the HOLY AND ALMIGHTY ONE **through JESUS’ finished work** (on ‘our’ behalf) **at CALVARY!** (Faith in action – John 9:1-15 OR reach forth your withered hand).

Martin Luther’s Small Catechism Explained put it this way in the meaning of the Third Article of the APOSTLES’ CREED: “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith;...” YES, Scriptural PRE-VENIENT GRACE! With the call of GOD comes the POWER (Holy Spirit) to answer God’s call *positively!* Salvation is not learned but experienced PERSONALLY!

Isaiah 55:1, John 1:12-13, 1 John 5:11-13, John 6:29, 37, 66-71, Hebrews 7:25, Revelation 3:20, Revelation 22:17, Deuteronomy 29:29, 1 Corinthians 213-16, II Corinthians 4:1-6. Hebrews 514.

Keep in mind and heart that what God ASKS or demands; He Always Provides!

AMAZING GRACE! – PSALM 16

Rodney Stueland
Dilworth, MN

Islamists Keep Pressing for Sharia Law

(This is an urgent alert about) a movement that threatens America's legal system, culture, and religious values. This is a growing and very present danger which requires that we all be alert and ready to take action...

Right now in Western Europe, Muslim demonstrators openly declare "Islam Will Dominate" and "Sharia Is the Answer." Radical Islamists are using their surging impact in Europe as a template for advancing their cause in the United States.

The infiltration of Islam and the subtle implementation of sharia (the legal system supporting the religion of Islam) is the first step in the systematic takeover of a nation through "cultural jihad." Many Americans naively believe it can't happen in our nation. I assure you that the effort is already underway! ...

Just weeks ago (longer period of time now), Florida legislators passed SB 386, a law prohibiting the "Application of Foreign Law in courts." Florida joins North Carolina, Arizona, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Tennessee in passing such laws. In Missouri, Governor Jay Nixon (D) vetoed a similar bill in June (2013).

These laws are commonly referred to as "anti-sharia" laws, when in fact they have more widespread coverage – but the intent is extremely important...

While many of America's Muslims portray their religion as a "religion of peace," we plainly see worldwide what Islamic infiltration and sharia do to oppress a nation and its people when left unchecked.

Sharia is knocking on the doors of our judicial system. The Constitution of the United States is intended to be the legal foundation for all laws in our nation. The emerging problem is that we have activist judges who believe that the Constitution is a pliable document and intended to be adapted to a changing culture. Because of the rising influence of Islam in our nation, judicial pliability includes the implementation of sharia in the minds of some of these radical judges...

Beware of CAIR.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR's) stated vision is "to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding. CAIR's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialog, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding."

CAIR is considered by many to be affiliated with the radical Muslim Brotherhood and is one of the leading voices and proponents of imposing sharia into American law.

Liberty Counsel

"I will both lay me down in peace and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Ps. 4:8

A child of God is safe anywhere, and at all times. He is safe on a stormy ocean, in a land of suffering and war, and when sickness and death are near at hand. A child of God can arise from his bed in the morning, and go to sleep at night, in peace, for he knows that his Father is watching over him and he is safe. A child of God is safe in life and safe in death, for he is abiding under the shadow of the Almighty.

One day a little girl was taken to the operating room for surgery. As she was placed on the operating table the doctor said to her,

"Before we can make you well, we must put you to sleep."

The little girl looked up into the doctor's face, and said very earnestly,

"Oh, if you are going to put me to sleep, I must first say my prayer. Then she knelt by the operating table and prayed:

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take.*

This little girl had no fear, for she was safe in the hands of her Lord. He made her go to sleep in peace and safety.

Dear Lord Jesus, increase our confidence in Thee, and help us to have the assurance of dwelling in safety in Thy care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Jesus tender Shepherd, hear me,
Bless Thy little lambs tonight,
Through the darkness be Thou near me,
Keep me safe till morning light.*

Taken from the family devotional book, *Altar Steps* by
Pastor R. P. Haakonson, Copyright HLIF

**A true pastor must not only feed
the flock. He must warn the
flock. He must not only be
Zealous but Jealous. II Cor. 11:2.**

Vance Havner

Getting on Splendidly

D. L. Moody

One man said to another, "How are you getting on at your church?"

"Oh, splendidly."

"Many conversions?"

"Well – well, on that side we are not getting on so well. But," he said, "we have rented all our pews and are able to pay all our running expenses. We are getting on splendidly."

That is what the godless call "getting on splendidly." They rent the pews, pay the minister, and meet all the running expenses.

A man was being shown through one of the cathedrals of Europe; he had come in from the country. One of the men belonging to the cathedral was showing him around, when he inquired:

"Do you have many conversions here?"

"Many what?"

"Many conversions here?"

"Ah, man, this is not a Wesleyan chapel."

The idea of there being conversions there! And you can go into a good many churches in this country and ask if they have many conversions there, and they would not know what it meant. They are so far away from the Lord that they are not looking for conversions and don't expect them.

How Can I Break the Worry Habit?

By Dr. John R. Rice

Here is a recipe to overcome worry:

1. *"Be careful for nothing"* (Phil. 4:6). Just refuse to worry about one single thing. God has promised over and over to take care of His child. We are told not to worry about food or raiment but simply to trust God to provide our needs. The promise of Philippians 4:19 says, *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

As Christians, we are children of the King, and the King is rich. Our Father even knows the number of hairs on our heads. He understands our troubles. So we are not to worry about one thing

2. *Pray about everything*. When you have a desire and are tempted to worry, tell the Lord about it. *"Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you,"* exhorts 1 Peter 5:7. Tell Him about your worry, about your care. Let your request be made known to Him. Ask for His help in overcoming the worry habit and take every single care to Him.

3. *Be thankful for anything*. It is difficult to worry about something when you are thanking God for it.

One of the greatest cures for worry I have ever known is simply counting your blessings. Get up in the morning

thanking God for air to breathe, for your health, for eyes and ears to see and hear; and go to bed at night thanking Him for the food you have eaten during the day, for His protecting hand upon you, and above all, for His salvation.

Now this recipe will work. If you practice these three things, God promises that *"the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:7). You will experience the very peace and quietness of spirit that God Himself has. The word "keep" means "garrison about." If you will be careful for nothing, prayerful in everything and thankful for anything, God's peace will surround you like an army of marching soldiers. — Sword of the Lord

More Than a Theory

By Dr. Tom Wallace

The Bible teaches us to *"avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain"* Titus 3:9. In this day of intellectualism and deep philosophy, men are chasing after every new theory.

They have been busy chasing every theory of evolution. Now we are trying to figure out the origin of the moon. The under-thirty generation has been trying out all the occult and oriental religions.

Someone has said, "Men hunt through libraries for truth and study in microscopes and test tubes for answers, while the janitor sweeping the steps has long found it in Jesus Christ."

One seminary class was said to have spent one whole semester discussing the color of the virgin's eyes. Another favorite topic of some of these folks is the sex of angels or how many angels can stand on the head of a pin.

All false theories have a little truth imbedded somewhere to make them sound logical or reasonable, but it certainly does not make it justifiable to spend one's life chasing these rabbit trails and side roads that lead to nowhere.

Even a broken clock is right twice a day, and rat poison is ninety-eight percent commel.

Herbert W. Armstrong said some good things, but that didn't make him right. The same could be said for Ellen G. White (Seventh-Day Adventists), Mary Baker Eddy (Christian Science), Charles Taze Russell (Jehovah's Witnesses), and many others.

A man's search for truth ends when he opens the Bible. God's advice to Joshua is very appropriate.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Josh. 1:8.

UpDate

Almost needless to say to those of you who are fellow-believers, the struggles/battle goes on for we face with “the rulers of the darkness of this world” Ephesians 6:12. Yes, physical and spiritual battle goes on for the individual ‘believer’ (also for Biblical ‘Ministries’) until faith becomes sight, when the Lord takes us HOME.

IN Exodus, chapter 17, it records the ‘battle’ with the Amalekites. The ‘battle’ is announced with three somber words: “Then came Amalek.” This occurred shortly after the Israelites drank from the rock in Horeb, which represents Christ the Rock from whom we receive the Living Water – John 4:10.

When the ‘battle’ began, Moses, Aaron and Hur went to stand on the top of a hill overlooking the battlefield. With help from Aaron and Hur, Moses held the rod of God aloft until Joshua and Israel “discomfited Amalek.” Even though they won the first ‘battle’ the ‘battle’ was not over.

As we face the ‘powers of darkness of this world’, it may seem like some of the crowd of Washington, D.C., but it is much worse. This is why you and I need to be involved in the right kind of church and prayerfully support Biblical Pietistic Lutheran Free Movements, etc., such as the HLIF/MG. We NEED you to hold up ‘our’ (arms/hands) in this Spiritual ‘Battle.’

Satan and his helpers do not take a ‘vacation’ in the summer time nor at any other time, because they know their time is short; thus we ‘financially’ would like to *regain* ‘financial ground and keep functioning until JESUS calls us HOME’. Will YOU prayerfully help ‘us’ and ‘financially’ give as the LORD lays on your ‘heart’; because HE loves a Cheerful GIVER!

Just as Moses needed help from Aaron and Hur even though the Lord was with him, so let us be honest: we need help from one another.

Let us never give in to the Devil, for the victory is ours in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

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“No man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”

Matthew 17:27

How hopeless we would be if this verse stopped halfway through. It could easily be true. The greatness and wonder of who God is could rightly render Him an infinite mystery to us. But praise God, our verse continues and says,

“And he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.” As we listen to our Lord pray in John 17, He says, *“This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent”* (v. 3). How wonderful to know Him. Do you?

Ken Cross