



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2024

Bethlehem and Calvary

“But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.” (Heb 2:9)

The whole of Christendom will again gather around the cradle-manger in remembrance of the Babe that was born of a Jewish maiden. But very few in their celebration will remember Calvary with its shameful death and delivering message. It is the death of Jesus that occupies the preeminent place in the Scriptures, and should always hold the first place in the heart and mind of every believer at all times. The birth of the Son of God of a virgin was a necessary part of God’s program of redemption, in order that later, by His death He should deliver us from the curse of sin, the power of Satan and the dominion of death. It was not His lowly birth at Bethlehem, but His death on Calvary that made it possible for us sinners to be reconciled to God. Yes, the world makes merry at the manger, but evades the Cross. The world delights to give Christmas a permanent place in its calendar, but despises Calvary. May we not forget this while the world gathers at Bethlehem in its shallow merriment.

Let us think of the deeper meaning of Christmas, “that the Son of God came to seek and to save that which was lost,” Luke 19:10. His coming was not after the manner of man. There in the manger, we witness the product of a miracle: “The word was made flesh.” Marvelous grace of our loving God, and yet how slow we are to respond, how cold of heart and unloving we are. Our hearts should be aglow with heavenly joy and praises to God.

When Christ “came to seek and save man,” he came so near to us that he was “touched with the feeling of our infirmities.” “He took the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of man” to be One of us, and was “tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin,” going through our experiences, He who was both God and man. We have therefore a Savior who feels and understands us, and to whom we can go in the hour of deepest need, and in the time of greatest sorrows, for he knows and understands us. He has been here and has traveled the entire road of human experience to its very end, and now, because He lives, we live.

As we think of Him at this time, we come to another meaning of Christmas, that He came first of all to be a sacrifice for our sin. He came to die. Therefore it was said by the Angels: “this shall be the sign unto you, ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.” Why wrapped in swaddling death clothes? Because the swaddling clothes were the sign of death. The swaddling uncut clothes were used to wrap the dead with. He was marked for death at His birth, and He was wrapped in the swaddling clothes when He was laid in the grave too. He had the death mark on Him from all eternity: “The Lamb of God slain before the foundation of the world was laid.” He was so marked with death that we sin-stricken mortals need not die the eternal death, but live forever with Him in His eternal glory. Oh, marvel of mystery of grace! Let us shout it with the angel messenger: “Good Tidings of great joy, Glory be to God in the Highest!” “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” Have you, believer, become identified with Him in His death and wrapped in His humiliating death clothes of a crucified self?

Morning Glory

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Another meaning of Christmas is that Jesus came so that we in turn might become the sons of God. Were it not for the fact that we can stand at the manger and see the child Jesus, we could not receive the adoption of sons of God, “but God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, that he might redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” Gal. 4:4. The Biblical meaning of “adoption,” means that one has grown to the age of accountability and responsibility and is not a babe in Christ any longer. Let us not be content merely with being saved; “but go on unto perfection” Heb. 6:1, into all the responsibilities of a fruitful and useful life, lest the full significance of the Christmas story stops short of being wrought out in us, that Christ might be re-incarnated in us as He lives in through us every day.

Dr. Herman S. Fauske,
Morning Glory,
December 1949

The Flame of God

“Am I ignitable? God deliver me from the dread asbestos of “other things.” Saturate me with the oil of the Spirit that I may be a flame. But flame is transient, often short-lived. Can’t thou bear this, my soul—short life? In me there dwells the Spirit of the Great Short-Lived, whose zeal for God’s house consumed Him. Make me thy fuel, Flame of God.”

Jim Elliot, missionary and martyr for the faith

Christmas and Peace

Be still, my soul, this Christmas season. Let the cares of life be lifted from my heart and mind. Let not the clamor of the commercial world unduly excite my desire to buy its wares. Let the incessant and soul-destroying beat of our "rock culture" be stilled. Let the voices of war, hate and passion die.

In the stillness let the message of the Angel of Christmas speak once more to our tired spirits - the message of peace that can heal the afflictions and irritations of life. For PEACE IS THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL.

This peace is not dependent on circumstances. For the peace that Jesus Christ established and offers us was wrought out in the furnace of affliction and can stand the test, even the fire test of today.

Are you impoverished? He was born the poorest of the poor. He Who was rich became poor that we might be enriched.

Are you feeling persecution? He had to flee from a blood-thirsty maniac who was then on the Judean throne. As a child He had a price placed on His head and the shadow of the cross followed Him all through His life.

Are you tempted, broken hearted, sad? He was tempted in all things like us. His heart broke on Calvary. He is called the man of sorrows.

But as He neared the end of His earthly sojourn He could stand before His disciples and say: "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." And this He could offer them when He knew that Gethsemane and Calvary with the sweat, blood and anguish of death lay just ahead.

This Jesus is our peace. In Him the poor have a companion Who understands their distress; the sufferers have a Physician and Friend Who knows what pain is; the outcast from polite society is drawn to Him Who was numbered among transgressors and died between thieves.

By His tender love and understanding Spirit He draws the broken in spirit unto Himself. For those who yield to Him, it is not so difficult to open the soul. Old griefs and grudges are brought to the light. Bitterness finds release in tears. Dark deeds of shame that have seared the conscience are whispered into His sympathetic ear.

From such the burdens are lifted, the pain and weariness soothed away and the soul, like a sick man who has passed a feverish crisis successfully, relaxes and rests in the grace of God.

This peace may therefore be experienced in war or peace, in poverty or wealth, in sickness or health. "I have

learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content," says the Apostle Paul as he writes from a prison cell far from home and loved ones. "I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I am instructed, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." (Philippians 4:11, 12).

The secret for this triumphant carefreeness is expressed in the same chapter. "In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God, and the PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS." And in verse 13 he adds another secret of his calm spirit: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

What can be greater this season than to become still before the greatness and the glory of His peace and to receive it as the costliest gift ever given to man?

*"Peace to soothe our bitter woes,
God in Christ on us bestows.
Jesus bought our peace with God
With His holy, precious blood;
Peace in Him for sinners found,
Is the Gospel's joyful sound."*

Poems From the Northland, by William L. Windahl,
Arnold E. Windahl

ABORTION

We look the same after this rebirth as before, but we cannot act the same. A real change has come from within. We who hated God begin to love Him. Those who ridiculed a rejected Christ now show Him reverence. Those who served sin now serve Jesus.... Parents who wickedly plotted to destroy their unborn children have learned to stop this murder, welcome and cherish the baby that came to them as God's gift.

Walter Maier, *The Lutheran Hour*. (From the sermon "Are You "Born Again?", in the book, *For Christ and Country*, page 175, first aired January 1942)

He Came

“He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:11-12a)

In verse 11 we have the simplicity of John’s Gospel. “He Came”. Here we have John’s version of the Christmas story, summed up and distilled to its purest simplicity. “He came.” Are there any words that are more beautiful in the Christian’s ear than these? “He came.” In these two words we have the summery of God’s solution to all the ills that mankind has suffered since the fall of Adam. “He came.” We find the answer to sin, “He came”. We find the answer to suffering, “He came”. We find the answer to death, “He came.” We find the answer to the abundant life. “He came.” Matthew and Luke spend chapters describing the birth of Christ with angels, shepherds and wise men, and it’s beautiful and awe-inspiring. John simply says, “He came,” and it’s a wonder.

He came to His own and His own received Him not. We have the English word, “own,” used twice in this sentence. In the Greek it’s two different words, The first word is much broader, in scope and the second word narrows the field. So it would be more accurate to say “that He came to His own World, and His own people received Him not.” Jesus had no problem with the world he created, the animals obeyed Him, the weather obeyed Him, the physical laws of death and disease obeyed him, even the demonic realm obeyed him. He came to His own world, and it recognized its creator. He came to His own world, and the wind obeyed him. He came to his own world, and life flowed again into a dead body. He came to his own world, and fish and donkeys and wild animals obeyed him. He came to His own world and even the demons shuddered and were obedient to His every command.

He came to His own world, and His own people received Him not. That’s where the problem is, it’s people. And even though it’s specifically talking about the Jews here, I think we’re safe in taking a broader view, the broader view of all humanity. According to Barna, only 8% of the people in this country can be classified as Evangelical Christians, and that is only by their own profession. How many of those really live it? He came unto His own World, and His own people received Him not. In talking with those who work in Christian Ministries on Drake and Iowa State campuses, they guesstimate that the number of Christians is probably under 10%. He came unto His own world and His own people received Him not. Today we have courts and lawyers

who are trying to remove every vestige and mention of God from our society. They are rewriting History, the constitution, and the laws of the land, so that no man, woman or child should not be offended by hearing the mention of God in public. He came unto His own world and His own people received Him not. There are whole denominations that are denying the authority of the Bible and the deity of Christ and have turned the Grace of God into lasciviousness. He came unto His own world, and His own people received Him not.

But as many as received Him, Who believed on His name. We are not talking about a passive faith here, a passive receiving, a passive believing. It’s not just an intellectual agreement or assent to a group of claims or facts. It’s an active receiving and active taking with our whole being. Faith in the Bible was active; it caused things to happen, it was life changing and world changing. A. W. Tozer, in his book *“The Root of the Righteous”* said the old Lutherans had a saying, they used to say that “Faith is a perturbing thing.” To perturb means to disturb greatly in mind. How can faith be a perturbing thing? We usually think of faith in other terms, terms such as comfort, or something that will strengthen us, something to give us confidence. But faith is a perturbing thing, a disturbing thing, something that greatly disturbs our minds? Biblical faith requires action, biblical faith requires change, biblical faith requires you to straighten up, to level off, to fill up, biblical faith requires obedience, Biblical faith requires that you step out of your comfort zone, a lot. Yes, faith is a perturbing thing.

When people actively and aggressively take Jesus with their whole personality, they will be obedient to every condition laid down. They will not come to the Lord and try to cut a deal with Him. They will not come to the Lord and say I will serve you If..., or I will serve you, but... They will come to the Lord and take Him on His terms.

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” (Matt 16:24)

The one who actively and aggressively takes Jesus has no problem with this; they take up their cross without complaint and follow Jesus.

Wayne Almlie

Editorial

Wayne Almlie

Revive Us Again

*“Then we shall not turn back from Thee;
Revive us, and we will call upon Thy name.” (Psalm 80:18)*

When we Pray, Send a Revival, Do We Know What we are Asking?

I was listening to a local guy on the radio and he was talking about a conference he had gone to about a year ago. There was much hand-wringing and concern about what was happening in the church and happening in the culture and a theme kept coming up. Everybody said, We need revival! We need revival! We need revival! And at the end, this elderly gentleman gets up, an elder statesman who had not said a word the entire day. He gets up and he says, “I keep hearing y’all talk all day long about we need revival. Do you understand what it is you are asking of God? Because, we are way too comfortable to receive such a spirit in our current condition. That’s how we allowed much of this to go on. We just abrogated our authority, and we didn’t lose the culture, we just said, peace out. We just quit. You know, it just cost too much, and we got other things to do, and a purpose to find, and a church growth plan to follow. We don’t have time for this.” He said, “Do you understand that for God to honor these prayers that you’re giving, you are asking Him to turn the heat up? Okay, because that’s what it would take to wake His people up to even respond to such a thing.”

I think he is right. We need revival, we want revival. I hear it over and over again that our nation is crumbling before us, the only thing that can save us now is revival. Those of us who are on the Innermission board and those who are readers of the *Morning Glory*, have been praying for years for a revival.

I have experienced revival. I was saved in a revival. This would have been the tail end of the Jesus People revival of the late 60’s and early 70’s. They say this was a weak revival, but there was fruit from that move of God.

I saw one young man get saved, then all of a sudden there were three more added, the 4 began to meet regularly, soon others joined them. Some even heard about it and came from neighboring communities. Soon there were several youth 20 or more, 16-18 year olds meeting two and even three times a week. Sometimes in the church basement, in those days the church was left

open. Sometimes out at a farmer’s house out east of town. The youth even built a small worship area along the river. They took a longer stump and set it up as a podium and several short stumps placed around for sitting, plus a fire pit in the center. They would start a bonfire and testify to the goodness of God and sing spiritual and worship songs around the campfire.

Now up to this point I was not saved, but they had gotten my attention. God had gotten my attention. He had really been working on me like the Hound of Heaven for at least 4 years. I was getting good at resisting, but God wore me out and I surrendered my will to Him right before my senior year.

I have often reminisced about those days after I got saved, how it felt to be in the midst of a move of God. When I went to Bible School it seemed that other Christian youth had similar testimonies from completely different parts of the country. I miss that. Seeing believers, hungry for the word, hungry for fellowship, and with a zeal to share what they had discovered in Christ.

Now don’t get me wrong, I have found those things since. At church, at neighborhood Bible studies, in church small groups, the same, but yet not the same. I miss it, I’m hungry for it, I pray for it, but probably not like I should.

Habakkuk had heard about God’s mighty deeds, but hadn’t experience them personally. *“LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.”* (Habakkuk 3:2) You who know the Lord, have been members of good Churches where the Gospel is rightly preached, and you have seen and experienced the goodness of God. But you look around and see the wickedness that is now a part of our culture that sure looks like a Romans 1 judgment, and you yearn for something more.

You have heard of the great revivals, the first and second Great Awakenings, the New Hebrides revival, the Haugean revival that spread across all of Scandinavia, and you say with Habakkuk, LORD, I have heard of

your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.”

Wrath has already started, if you read Romans 1:18-32, Paul describes our world in detail. People say, well if America doesn't repent and turn back to God, God will judge us. What they don't understand is that the judgment has already begun. The fall of America has started. But maybe that is what it will take. Israel, never had revival until they fell into gross sin and God sent a neighboring army to judge them. Then they would cry out to God and God would hear them and send a Prophet, Judge or King to save them.

I think that is what the elderly gentleman was referring to when he said: “Do you understand what it is you are asking of God? Because we are way too comfortable to receive such a spirit in our current condition.” When we pray for revival we are praying for God to bring us low, to make us less comfortable, to humble us, and probably to bring even more judgment on our nation. Are we ready for that?

I like Habakkuk's prayer: “LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known.” Habakkuk knew judgment had already begun so he adds, “in wrath remember mercy.”

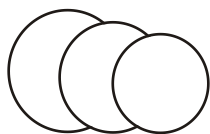
DEATH

Mankind soberly looks upon death as the last, the worst, and the most horrible of his enemies. Death is the necessary result of man's sin. Such is the prospect of death for the ungodly.

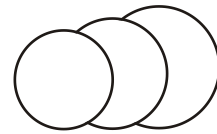
For the Christian death brings another prospect. When the Apostle Paul writes that “all things work together for good to them that love God,” he is including even death as being used of God in His eternal purposes. Death, this king of terror, must like all the enemies of God ultimately serve the Christians, for death teaches several lessons: First, death shows, as nothing else in life is able to show, man's own impotence and helplessness. In the moment of death, man owns nothing in this life on which to lean. All the false pillars on which man leans are obstructions which keep him from solely relying on God. In the face of death no human being can help man, for he must surrender every hope of helping himself. Only then will man fully learn, if ever, to rest completely in the grace of God in Christ. In this respect the prospect of death becomes the most powerful instrument in freeing man from himself and his self-righteous heart. Second, death will forever separate the believer from a sin-corrupted body. By his conversion the Christian is already separated from the power of a sinful nature. The holy life after conversion should be the reality of inner freedom. But only in death comes final separation from sin, for then will that life created by the new birth be permitted to live and move unimpeded by sinful flesh whence always temptation springs. Third, death will lift the believer into the completion of the Spirit, Hebrews 12:23. By faith in Christ were believers righteous before they died; after death the believer's righteousness is complete in Christ, Philippians 1:23. After death the believer experiences righteousness in a way and to a degree not possible in his earthly life, I John 3:2.

Many faithful people, however, have a painful fear of death. For the unsaved the fear of death is the terror of a conscience afraid of meeting God. But the fear of death does not have to be of this nature. For every human being the fear of death is in a sense natural, since death is unnatural for all of us; for we were not created to die! Therefore let us not be confused by the fear of death: are we afraid of God or of death? My fearful friend, have you confessed your sins to God? Do you know you have hidden nothing from Him? If you have thus confessed, you belong to those who have had their garments washed in the blood of the Lamb. You can now without fear meet your God—whether death comes at this moment or many years hence. But if you still fear death, then let not this fear disturb your faith in God. Tell your Saviour that you are afraid to die. He understands you, for He has been tested in all things like you, even in the fear of death, Mark 14:34; Hebrews 5:7. He will give you power to conquer your fear of death. He will never leave nor forsake you in death's distress. He Who so faithfully helps you to live will also help you to die. But remember that God never brings help before it is needed. For this reason He never gives power in the face of death until the time when death is imminent. God will give you this in good time; in the mean-time use His power to live. Thank Him for the wonderful promises He has made that He also will go with you through the veil of the shadow of death. Pray that you for the sake of Christ's blood may die a blessed death. Pray that you may honor God with your death. Pray that your dear ones may be left behind with the certainty that you died as a saved sinner. Such certainty is the last joy you can give your dear ones in the midst of their sorrow.

The Last Things, O. Hallesby, Oslo, Norway
1928 Translated by E. Dreyer, edited by A. Fogelquist
April 1972



From Our Fellowship Circle



C.H. Inner Grove Heights MN

“I Enjoy reading the Morning Glory. Would you send me your booklet on Baptism and Adult Conversion?”

C.S. Viroqua, WI

“Dear Sirs, Enclosed please find my donation to the publication of “Morning Glory.” Please continue to write articles based on our inerrant Biblical truths. God Bless You!” Sincerely,

F.C.

“I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in the darkness.” John 12:46

“God loves us so much – giving up His only Son, Jesus, who takes away all wrongs when we confess and become joyfully into the family of God. Jesus is our example of how to live properly and within God’s guidelines... the Holy Spirit works in us each day to guide and fellowship within us to show us how wonderful it is to be on the pathway of God, making challenges become tasks we can accomplish when we pray for guidance and be aware of the many ways God helps us go forth each day. The spirit’s gifts making us also a shining light for more to find God... and the circle just keeps getting larger each day. Have a super good day and always stay on God’s pathway.”

“I have sent you my message that I try to send out each day. We all need to keep being God’s shining light for more to find our Savior Jesus our comforter Holy Spirit and God shows us His love each moment of the day – when we allow our being to be still and always go God’s way. Thanks so much for the Morning Glory which has messages that keep us awake, working and being God’s messengers. Check for \$ ___ for more *Morning Glory* to go out.”

GLORIOUS TRUTHS ABOUT HEAVEN

LISTENING TO THE WORD – REVELATION 21:16

The Bible has much to say about heaven. Our Lord often spoke of having come down from heaven and of His return there. The Scripture makes it clear to us that

the spirits of those who have died in Christ are with Him in heaven now, not detained in any intermediate, purgatorial state. John gives us a brief look at the “place” Jesus is preparing for us – God’s Holy City.

First, we learn that it is a large place - 1500 miles square. Allowing 15’ to the story, the city would be 528,000 stories high; and each story would contain 2,250,000 square miles. All the stories combined would total 1,180,000,000,000 square miles! The Department of Eugenics of Carnegie Institute estimates the earth’s population since man appeared on it to be 30 billion. (about an estimated 110 billion in 2023) Now, if every person went to heaven, each person would have over 39 1/2 square miles to himself.

John also tells us that heaven is a place of beauty. God loves beauty, and he has created a city with walls of jasper, foundations garnished with precious stones, gates like pearls, and the city itself of pure gold like unto clear glass! Not only is the city beautiful, it is a place of holiness. No slanderers, no gossips, no mean contemptible things there! And, it is home! What word can speak more to us than home? I don’t worry about where heaven, as a place, is. I am satisfied with Revelation 21, verse 3: “God Himself shall be with them.”

Are you bound for this heavenly home? Is your name written in the Book of Life? Are your sins buried in the sea of God’s forgetfulness, because your faith is in Christ Jesus as your Saviour? If not, come to Him, now. Trust Him, believe Him, receive Him. Then you, too, may look forward to spending eternity with Him in heaven.

W.E.N.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. What actions will permit you to spend eternity in heaven?
2. Offer God your praise for the future that awaits you.
3. Look for opportunities to invite others to meet, and open their hearts to, the Lord of your eternal home!

Editor: I found this page of a devotional calendar in my Grandmother Edna Merkins’ Bible. What a treasure to find this and think of my Grandmother today, as she approaches 20 years in Heaven. A testament to the Hope she had within her. How about you this day, do you have this Hope within you?

Believable...Yet Unbelievable

The Pope Mis-speaks Again

During a three-day visit to Singapore, Pope Francis declared that “all religions are a path to God,” sparking backlash among religious leaders in the U.S.

The statement was made at an interreligious meeting with young people at a Catholic junior college shortly before his departure back to Rome.

Departing from his prepared remarks, Francis spoke off the cuff, stating that different religions are like “different languages” to reach God.

“If you start to fight, ‘my religion is more important than yours, mine is true and yours isn’t,’ where will that lead us?” he asked,” according to Crux Now. “There’s only one God, and each of us has a language to arrive at God. Some are Sheik, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, and they are different paths [to God].”

Reacting to the pontiff’s comments, Bishop Joseph Strickland, who oversaw the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tyler, Texas, until his dismissal by the Vatican last year, said in a post on X, “Please pray for Pope Francis to clearly state that Jesus Christ is the only Way. To deny this is to deny Him. If we deny Christ, He will deny us, He cannot deny Himself.”

The Christian Post, September 2024.

Editor: There are so many areas that Protestants and particularly Lutherans, disagree with the Catholic Church, but this Pope really seems to have gone off the rails when it comes to pushing false doctrine. Jesus was all about exclusivity. He said, “No one comes to the Father except through me.” He couldn’t have been more clear. Yes, the Pope was totally wrong on this, but more and more protestant churches and denominations are teaching the same thing. A local pastor of a large influential church here in Des Moines said this a few years ago when dealing with this statement of Jesus, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” He said, “Yes for Christians, Jesus is our Way, the Hindus have their way and Muslims have their way.” Yet they still call themselves a Christian church.

EXPECTATION CORNER

Problem: Is it possible to deceive ourselves and think that we are saved when we are not?

Answer: You are touching on the very root of the origin

and spread of sin. Satan is the “deceiver of the whole world.” At the time of the Fall, Eve said that she and Adam could not eat of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden, for if they did they would die. But Satan assured her, “You will not die.” He promised rather “your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So Eve took of the fruit and gave some to Adam. They both ate. And their eyes were opened, and they knew that they were naked. Satan caused Eve to disbelieve God and sin brought death and a curse upon all mankind.

Satan is still up to his old tricks. He gets men to believe that if they do the best they can, then God will accept their best as sufficient for salvation. He tries to make men believe that God has no higher standard for salvation than what man can do, including going to church, giving to the poor, and being kind to others. Jesus said, “You, therefore, must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48), but Satan says that because God is love He is willing to accept man if he only tries to be as good as can. Hence Satan is making God a liar, and Christ a fool. For why should Christ die if a man can save himself? Then we have the word, “No man can ransom himself, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of his life is costly, and can never suffice” (Ps.49:7,8).

But man has a conscience that warns him; the Holy Spirit is still at work seeking to convict of sin. The man who hardens himself against these forces, however, will finally have committed the unpardonable sin. He will have come to the place of final refusal to heed the Word and the Spirit of God, rejecting the Savior and so be lost eternally. There is a sin unto death. John writes, “I do not say that one is to pray for that.” “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31).

Evangelize (LEM) December 1965

By Rev. A. W. Knock

Deliverance from sin is far greater
in value than deliverance from
affliction.

Robinson Crusoe book

Some Need Resurrection, Not Revival

Satan is a very religious being. He constantly works within the framework of organized Christianity. With much deception, Satan effectively inspires many sermons, books, music, and programs for use in the church. His works are usually of the highest quality, making a lasting impression on the masses. Satan counterfeits every aspect of true faith and experience, including revival. He deludes and deceives many into believing that they have a right standing with God, when in fact they do not.

Today there are people who faithfully attend church and participate in numerous activities of their local congregations, yet they have no assurance of going to heaven when they die. They mistakenly believe that no one may know for sure where they will spend eternity. Thus, they do what they can to enhance their chances at judgment and hope for the best. Many others believe that because they have been baptized, confirmed, have their names affixed to the rolls of a church, and lead relatively good lives, they surely will go to heaven when they die. They are tragically mistaken according to the Word of God.

Within much of the Lutheran Church today, great emphasis is placed on a biblically incorrect view of Baptism. People are told that they should trust only in their Baptism for salvation. If they have been baptized, their right relationship with God is eternally secure. This teaching violates Scripture, as well as historic Lutheran doctrine, and may potentially render great damage to individual faith. Throughout the Lutheran Confessions there is repeated denial that the sacraments work *ex opere operato*, (that is automatically, apart from faith). Unfortunately, today, numerous Lutherans are led to believe improperly that the mere act of Baptism, not faith, brings them into a saving relationship with God.

Our Lutheran Confessions teach clearly the absolute necessity of faith in relationship to the sacraments.

“It is taught among us that the sacraments were instituted not only to be signs by which people might be identified outwardly as Christians, but that they are signs and testimonies of God’s will toward us for the purpose of awakening and strengthening our faith. For this reason they require faith, and they are rightly used when they are received in faith and for the purpose of strengthening faith.” (Augsburg Confession, Article XIII).

*“Words cannot describe the abuses which this fanatical notion, about the sacraments *ex opere operato* without a good disposition in the one using them, has spawned in the church. No one can produce a single word from the Fathers that supports the scholastics on this question. In fact, Augustine says the opposite: that faith in the sacrament, and not the sacrament, justifies. And Paul’s state-*

ment is familiar (Romans 10:10), “Man believes with his heart and so is justified.” (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XIII, last paragraph).

Baptism is a means of grace; yet it is not the foundation of grace. As one pastor stated, “You can be baptized in every river, lake, pond, and stream, until the fish know you by your first name, and die and go to hell.” The proper focus of Baptism is on the benefits of Christ’s atonement which we receive by faith through the unmerited grace of God. Nowhere does the Bible teach us to believe in our Baptism in order to be saved. On the contrary, God’s Word calls us to “believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). In doing so, we do not trust in the “Cross” (though we esteem it highly) but in the One who died on the Cross for us. In the same manner, while we treasure the means of grace, through which God produces and works faith within us, we “fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2).

Today every person, by faith in the Word of God, can know for certain their standing before God because salvation is entirely the work of God in Jesus Christ. The Bible makes clear that there are only two classes of people, the saved and the lost. We are not saved because we attend church, pray, read the Bible, teach Sunday School, perform kind deeds for our neighbors, or live moral and up-standing lives. No! We are saved because Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead for our justification.

By faith, produced through His Word and Holy Spirit, God enables us to stop trusting in ourselves and trust only in His redeeming work completed by Christ at Calvary. If we could save ourselves, what reason would we find for Jesus’ death? He died because “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Numerous problems confronting the modern church are due to the fact that so many within the ranks of the church are not truly saved. These do not need to be revived; they need to be resurrected. They are dead in sin and may come to life only by receiving Christ as their Savior and Lord. The Word is clear when it calls us to repent (turn from our sins) and believe in Jesus Christ. The Word further tells us that “if we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9). How simple is God’s plan of salvation. How foolish we are to complicate it with our good works. All our good works are as filthy rags in the sight of God. The promises of God are valid today for all. As long as it is still the age of grace, whosoever will may come.

The Church’s Desperate Need for Revival By David R. Barnhart, Copyright ©1986 Abiding Word Ministries

The Christian and Alcohol

“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without a cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, those who go to taste mixed wine.” (Prov. 23:29-30)

This is the first of a series of articles on the Christian’s relationship to alcohol.

My Life With Alcohol – A Personal Testimony

I was about 14 years old and we lived in a home up against a four lane road. I had just gone to bed when I heard tires screech and a thud. I looked outside and a car had hit a man and he was lying in the street. I pulled on my clothes and ran out to the street. The man was lying there and you could smell the alcohol coming from his breath. He was staggering home from the tavern when he walked into the road right in front of a car. As I stood there it seemed that every breath would be his last. He miraculously lived. This was my first experience with alcohol.

I got drunk once in High School to see what it was like and was not really interested in it. My brother joined the Navy and would come home on leave and go down to the liquor store and get a bottle of Bacardi Rum drink half of it and spend the rest of the night throwing up in agony. I heard his groans and cries and wanted nothing to do with alcohol.

I was very shy in high school – too shy to talk to girls. I never had a girl friend or a date in high school. I went to the prom alone just to go. When I was just out of High School, I had a friend who was very popular with the girls. How did he do it? I found out that alcohol was a key factor in this because it helps loosen you up. You will do and say things you never would when sober because alcohol lowers your self-control.

This should not be surprising, because the Scripture says, *“Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, who mix in your venom even to make them drunk, so as to look on their nakedness!”* (Hab. 2:15) This is what happens when self-control is lowered because sex is a Primary Drive in people. That is precisely what I found – Alcohol was a gateway to me for a life of immorality. I lost my virginity when I committed adultery with a friend of mine’s wife. This eventually led to their divorce. She wanted to marry me and I just viewed it as a passing fling and cast her off since I was drunk when I was involved with her. Statistics show that teens who drink are 7 times more likely to commit immorality than those who don’t drink.

I remember driving drunk on many occasions be-

cause you just don’t care when you are drunk. I ran from the police in my ‘68 GTO down a gravel road to keep from getting arrested for drunk driving. I remember drinking under age at a friend’s farm and the police raided us. I ran on my hands and knees through a corn field to avoid arrest (back when you had that much room between rows).

I went to college at Iowa State University and got right into the party scene and I stumbled upon harder liquor. I found both Schnapps and Whiskey. Yes, sin will escalate. I once stayed at college over Thanksgiving break and started drinking alone. I even watched Billy Graham one night while drunk and even picked up the phone when the number came on the screen, but I couldn’t go through with it and hung up.

I would get into fights and not even remember it the next day. After college, I continued to drink both beer and whiskey. I can remember getting into the pick up in the morning after a night of drinking and having my leg just shake when I pushed in the clutch.

I was drinking 1 to 2 nights during the week and Friday and Saturday Night as well. I was on the verge of being an alcoholic; all the time not thinking that anything was wrong. I figured I could handle my liquor just fine.

I had two cousins who took their own lives when they were drunk. This should not be too surprising since their dad, my uncle, was drunk most of the time. I hardly saw him when he was not drinking or drunk.

That’s What alcohol did for me!

Through God’s glorious grace, He got my attention, even in the midst of my life drowning in alcohol. The Holy Spirit graciously worked in my life and brought me to repent of my sins and accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior on January 17, 1981 at 10:30 on a Saturday Night. The night I accepted the Lord, I had a case of Budweiser in bottles on the floor and a bottle of Seagram’s Whiskey under the sink.

That night my desire to drink was broken – the desire was gone. Two weeks later my friends took me to the same tavern we had frequented before. I sat there and thought to myself, “Look at all these people wasting their lives!” I left the tavern and walked home. I ended up pouring all my alcohol down the drain. I never wrestled with that addiction.

To this day, I am free from alcohol!

That’s What Jesus did for me!

Recently in the Twin Cities where I live, a man driving drunk ran his car into a sidewalk café and killed 2 people. Is this God’s Will for people? Does the Lord

think it is OK for all of this to happen and just wishes they would not have this trouble if only they would not drink until they are under it's influence; when the very thing they are drinking lowers their ability to stop? I think not.

The man that I told you about at the beginning of the article was operated on and was able to walk again. Some time later and just one block away from where he was hit in front of my house, he was again staggering home from the tavern and wandered out into the road and was again hit by a car. This time he was not so lucky and he didn't live through it. Alcohol cost this man his life!

Is alcohol something that we are free to use as long as we don't get drunk, or do the Scriptures lay out for us direct admonitions and guidelines that show us that it is best to leave alcohol alone? This is what these series of articles will be about.

Pastor Jim Haga

What Must I Do?

“A ruler questioned Him, saying, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’ And he said, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth.’ When Jesus heard this, He said to him, ‘One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.” (Luke 18:18-23)

This young rich politician gets it wrong right from the start. What must I do? He thinks salvation is about doing. Do you think salvation is about doing? Well, let's take a test and see how we are doing. Have you ever bore a false witness? Have you ever lied? How many lies do you think you have told in your lifetime? Hundreds, maybe thousands? The Bible says all liars will have their part in the lake of fire. Do not commit adultery. Now remember Jesus said if you look with lust, you have committed adultery in your heart. Do not murder. Jesus again expanded that to the heart and mind, he took it beyond action. He said if you hate someone, if you curse them, in essence, wished they were dead, you have committed murder in your heart. It's not just the outward physical actions it's the desires of the mind and heart.

Jesus mentions one more, have you always honored your parents? Growing up, did you always obey them,

even now, are you honoring them with your life? When my father died, at the funeral, one of my uncles came up to me and said, your father was proud of you. That made me feel good. I messed up plenty as a teenager, but now as an adult, my life honored my father and the family name. Is your life honoring your parents, does it honor your family name?

You see that's what we do. What must I do to inherit eternal life? We are liars, we dishonor our parents and our family name, and we commit adultery and murder in our hearts, and we didn't even get into the first couple of commandments about Loving God with our whole heart and about blaspheming God. If we depend on what we are doing for eternal life we are in trouble.

But yet we must do something. Jesus told this man that he needed to sell all he had, and that he needed to follow Him. Why sell all he had? Jesus is pointing out to the man what his god was. This man's god, was his wealth.

What is your god? Before you can follow Jesus, you must give up your god. Your god is the thing that consumes you, the thing you think about all the time. For a lot of people their god is their possessions, just like the young man in the Bible. For many it is an addiction, alcohol, maybe drugs. For a lot of people today their addiction is their lust. That is their god. The reason they refuse to come to Jesus is that they refuse to give up their god of lust.

The first commandment. You shall have no other gods before me. I know what my god was when I was a teenager, it was self. I wanted to run my own life. I wanted to be popular at school and with the girls, and I knew if I was to follow Jesus I would have to give up my god of self and put Jesus on the throne. That didn't sound like any fun to me. Fortunately for me God kept working on me and eventually He changed my mind.

How about you this day, have you allowed some other god to be in charge of your life?

The young rich ruler said, “What must I do to inherit eternal life.” We've looked at what we've done and we have all done poorly. There are 10,000 religions that say you have to do, do, do. And you do, do, do, and wear yourself out in your doing.

Christianity stands alone and says, done. Jesus did it all. All we need to do is repent of our sins, and believe in and rest in what Christ has done for us.

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

WMA

Are We A Nation Out of Time?

Whether it's children twerking on TikTok as adults applaud (it's not cool; it's sick and perverted), drag queens reading at libraries, pedophiles being protected, enemies entering our borders, musicians worshiping Satan while millions applaud — or an array of other disasters — what's it going to take to break us?

If you truly care for America, It's time to look in the mirror and own it. At this stage of spiritual cancer, the only remedy is deep repentance and brokenness over sin.

Personally, I'm still holding on to God's words here: "Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing..." (Joel 2:13-14).

A Proud Church is Not a Powerful Church

In these dire times, why do many Christians reflect the heart of the Laodecians rather than the power of the upper room? We have loud music but little worship, programs but no power, and big voices but little truth.

Where are the weepers and the worshippers like the Prophets who cried out to "return to the Lord," and pleaded with the people to "walk humbly with your God"? Where are those who follow in the footsteps of Isaiah, who said, "I am undone," or David, who thanked God for breaking the pride out of him?

Those are the voices God hears. He is no respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of principles, and the principle of brokenness is profound.

We are Going Nowhere Fast

It's extremely hard watching our nation crumble from within, but do we honestly think that God is pleased with arrogant memes, angry tweets, or bombastic tirades? I can assure you that He is not ... something needs to change. We are going nowhere fast.

If we don't have love and humility, we have nothing (cf. 1 Cor. 13). Boldness without humility will get us nowhere as our nation continues to spiral out of control.

As Victor Davis Hansen wisely said: "Our descent is self-induced; it is not a symptom of a foreign attack or subterfuge. Our erosion is not the result of poverty and want, but of leisure and excess."

In the same way that Israel grew fat with food and "abandoned the God who made them and rejected the Rock their Savior" (Deut. 32:15), America is making the same mistake. Our pride has made us fat and full of ourselves. This is why fasting is critical: it starves the flesh

in order to be filled with the Spirit. (If you need help in this area, my fasting books are available as free downloads.)

Repentance, Not Remington

"When God gets us alone through suffering, heart-break, temptation, disappointment, sickness, or by thwarted desires ... when He gets us absolutely alone, and we are totally speechless, unable to ask even one question, then He begins to teach us" (Oswald Chambers).

I believe that this is EXACTLY what God is doing today. Salvation is not coming on Air Force One. God is trying to wake us up so we draw closer to Him. When we are desperate, God finally has our attention.

Most don't seek the Lord until there is pressure: "Only when our hand is forced do we yield — when our back is to the wall and our fleshly attempts at deliverance are all washed away" (Michael Catt). But surprisingly, our nation's crisis is not driving us to our knees but to the gun store. We're not using heavenly ammunition (2 Cor. 10:4), but trusting in Smith & Wesson.

The Blessing of Brokenness

I'll never forget the day I read the following quote by A.W. Tozer over two decades ago: "It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply."

I was going through a very difficult season and I soon realized that God was breaking me down to build me up. I was at a turning point: I could become bitter and resentful or humble myself and grow from the experience.

And this is where the majority of Christians find themselves today: Instead of getting better, we become bitter. Instead of humbling ourselves, we become more arrogant. Instead of emptying ourselves to be filled with the Spirit, we are full of pride and selfish ambition. THIS MUST CHANGE!

The Shepherd of the Shattered

But be encouraged, broken crayons still color. God is the Shepherd of the shattered and the re-builder of the broken. God breaks us to rebuild us but we must humble ourselves so the Potter can shape the clay, or an eleven day journey through the wilderness may take us forty years (cf. Joshua 5:6).

We must let our pain crucify our pride. He rebuilds the broken, elevates the humble, and restores the wounded. We can rebuild the breach and strengthen what remains but we must pray this today: "O God, take me, break me, and make me."

The clock is ticking — being broken by God is our only hope! — Shane Idleman, 1/31/2024

Two Types of Christianity

The Order of Salvation:

Wilderness Christianity vs. Canaan Christianity

We certainly are surprised by receiving a number of letters and articles for our paper differentiating between these-setting forth two distinct types of Christianity -first one of the lower order, struggling, living in defeat, no enjoyment in God, etc.; then they step into the so-called Canaan Christianity, where they find victory, peace, joy and blessed fellowship with God. One brother asks: "What is the difference between the two? Was it not in Canaan, Israel was urged to destroy the enemies, but hesitated and would at times even make a covenant with them?" (Josh. Chapter 9)

1. As to the spiritual application of the wilderness journey of Israel, we have only one absolutely safe guiding-line in the New Testament and that is found in I Cor. 10:1-15, which is set down as an example for God's people traveling through the wilderness of this world and to their heavenly home. "The Rock that followed them (and us) was Christ."

2. Note that a number of Psalms, in particular the 78th, and also Acts 7, describe Israel as an unfaithful people after they arrived in the Land of Canaan as well as in the Wilderness. Finally, their relapses into sin became so dreadful that God took their country away from them. So if we follow the Scriptural application logically the so-called "Canaan Christianity" did not prove to be better than the "Wilderness Christianity"– worse if anything.

3. Our order of salvation as set forth by Luther and Pontoppidan and subscribed to by the Hauge Federation does not sanction two types of Christianity, nor does it grade the Christians into two orders one higher than the other. Every Christian must be born again and has to obtain eternal life, with the forgiveness of his sins. The Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of every Christian. Every Christian is a child of God neither more nor less. "God put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." (Acts 15:19)

4. In the early church certain sects arose which sort under the general term "Gnostica" who graded the Christians into two orders, namely spiritual and carnal Christians. Of course they called themselves the spiritual ones and looked upon others as carnal and of a lower grade. Some of them, and some later also climbed so high that they got through with all conflicts, weakness, struggles, failures, falling and sin, but lived (as they imagined) in peace, praise and victory all the time. Many evils resulted in the course of time, as condemnation of others, setting up of new groups and sects, some like the

Mountanists began to carry on very noisily in their protracted prayer-meetings-even screaming and yelling and condemned everybody that was not like them, etc. These sects will be revived to new life in the last days. Let us watch and be sober.

5. Now it cannot be denied that there are certain Christians who live nearer God than others. Some pray more than others, some have more assurance than others; some have more grace to testify than others, or have more victory in their lives. But the moment I began to think and act as if I am a Christian of a higher order than others, that moment I stand before a dreadful fall into spiritual pride. "He giveth grace to the humble." Note Peter's very sad fall long after Pentecost, (Gal. 2: 11-14), and that Paul calls himself less than the least of all the saints. (Eph. 3:8). Paul surely does not put himself up into a higher order of Christians.

6. But we have reasons to believe that at least most of those writing to Morning Glory have had a real experience of sin and grace; it is only the terminology that is misleading. Why not follow the terminology of the Order of Salvation?

1. The awakening when you saw your lost condition.
2. You accepted the blessed invitation, and
3. You became a repentant soul, and
4. You even laid hold on Jesus as your personal Savior in a way, but you were rather a long time "traveling" in these early stages of the Order of Salvation, until the Holy Spirit broke you down completely, led you to Calvary, revealed Jesus to you and poured the wonderful love of God into your heart, and clothed you with the righteousness of Christ, loosed the fetters of sin and gave you peace, joy and victory and a new song in your mouth. We have all this in our Order of Salvation. But you will also need the subsequent experience of the daily renewal, and preservation unto the end. You will be thankful that you have the privilege to serve God's people and His church, attend services and prayer meetings and partake of the Lord's Supper. You will have to watch and pray lest you be led into temptation. Sin has no dominion over you, for you are under grace, but experience is that the new life is often weak; there are many failures and shortcomings, and you need daily forgiveness. In the end you will realize more than ever that you are nothing but a sinner saved by grace; but the more precious Jesus will become; His Word will be your daily bread, and His children your best friends.

P. Ljostveit from the *Morning Glory*, April 1943

Lives That Glorify God

MEMORY VERSE: “And the angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11)

Who of the people of Judea could foresee the far-reaching and ever-widening influence that this Child of Bethlehem should bring to bear upon countless souls throughout the generations to come? So rich has been His blessing that Christian civilization honors Christ by dating time from His birth.

Even if Jesus had never said another word than His immortal Golden Rule, His birthday anniversary would merit special observance. From the very beginning Jesus was unique, in that, He sought, not His own will, or His own advantage, but lived only to please His heavenly Father, to do His Father’s will, and to go about doing good to others. On the cross, when most men would have been raving with righteous indignation, Christ was poised and confident of the ultimate victory of love and truth, and even prayed for His persecutors. Surely this can be none other than the Son of God, our Saviour, Redeemer and Lord.

The first-fruits from among the dead, Christ ascended into heaven, where He makes intercession for us all. At the same time, He lives in the midst of His churches. His presence graces the thoughts, conversation, and labors of His consecrated followers. In God’s own good time, Christ will come again in glory. Then saints of all tongues and nations shall bow down to serve, to worship and to praise Him in all eternity. The birthday anniversary of such a Saviour merits worldwide observance.

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.*

PHILLIPS BROOKS

The Light of the World

“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

It is difficult to think that One Light can light the whole world. But such a light is Jesus. Where sin reigns He will take away the darkness and give light. When we follow Jesus we are no longer walking in darkness, but

we are walking in His Light. “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” in order that we may have this Light.

It was Christmas time and the children were busy looking over the many gifts that the season had brought into the home.

“See the beautiful tree,” exclaimed one.

“And the lovely star at the top,” cried another one.

There was a great deal of noise made as they all discussed the various things that interested them. In the corner of the room sat a little girl by herself. She had said nothing, but she listened eagerly to all the talk. Her mother came and sat down beside her.

“Mother, is it pretty?” she asked as she put her arms around her mother’s neck. The little girl was blind and could not see the pretty things in the room, so her mother described them to her.

Those who do not have Jesus are as blind as that little girl. Is your soul dark with sin? Let the Saviour wash it white as snow with His precious blood, and you will have light.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for coming all the way from glory to be the Light of the world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Amos Lindquist, Copyright © 1953,
Augsburg Book Concern

Grace and Peace

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Phil 1:2)

Paul gives a benediction. Grace to you and peace. Paul always gives this order, grace and peace. Without grace there can be no peace. Grace is God’s unmerited favor, God’s riches at Christ’s expense, and peace is the inner quality of rest and well-being. If you have not experienced the grace of God in your life, there is no peace, there is no rest, and you will be driven and enslaved by your passions and fears. Paul uses a relational word, He uses a preposition, “from.” There is nothing within Paul that can bring grace or peace to anybody. Sometimes you hear ecclesiastical types within the church, like popes, cardinals and bishops, give a blessing or a benediction like there is a power within their office to bless. Nonsense. Grace and peace can only come from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

WMA

A Witness And Testimony From Our Past

Christmas greetings to the editor and readers of the *MORNING GLORY* with Isa. 9:6, 7. As we face another Christmas Season, the foremost thought in my mind is, What place will Christ have in our 1960 Christmas celebration? Will He have the pre-eminence, will He share with us our joys, will He sit with us at our bountiful feasts, will He find a gift beneath our heavy-laden Christmas tree, will He be present in all our merriment?

In America, commerce has shoved Christ out of Christmas. We are so busy buying and selling, eating and drinking, swearing and cursing, dining and dancing, playing cards and parading, giving and receiving, looking and longing, talking and walking, laughing and jesting, shopping and serving, that Christ is the forgotten One of Christmas. Remember, it is His birth we are celebrating!

There are three Symbols of Christmas: The cradle, the cross, and the crown! It is not enough to admire Christ in the cradle, not enough to look at His crucifixion and celebrate His resurrection. We must be born again at Pentecost by the Holy Spirit. We love to give gifts to each other at Christmas time instead of giving our all on the altar of sacrifice (Rom. 12:1, 2). We want the Christmas tree with all its tinsel instead of taking up the cross daily and following Christ (Luke 9:23). We want the spirit of Christmas instead of having the Spirit of Christ. The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10).

From the *Morning Glory*, December 1960, THE FORGOTTEN ONE OF CHRISTMAS! by Mrs. Melving Syverson, Kasson, Minn.

PEACE AND GOODWILL TO MEN

A day was dawning on a battlefield in France through a fog so thick that no one could see more than a few yards from the trenches. In the night the Germans had drawn back their lines a little and the French had gone forward, but between the two positions, a lonely farmhouse was still standing. As the sun rose, heavy guns began to boom. But suddenly on both sides the firing ceased and there fell a strange, dead silence. Midway between the trenches, near the shattered farmhouse, there was.... no, it must be impossible! But it was not, for there in the green meadow, crawling on its hands and knees, was a little baby! It appeared perfectly happy and contented, and its

laugh was heard as it clutched a dandelion. Not a shot was fired; scarcely did a soldier on either side dare breathe. This spot which had been an inferno of shot and shell, was now something like a peaceful island or a cool oasis in the desert. Suddenly a soldier jumped out of a trench and ran to where the child was crawling. He tenderly took it up and carried it back to shelter. No shots came from the trenches, but along both sides there rang a mighty cheer. The coming of a little babe had brought peace, just as nearly two thousand years ago, when the Prince of Peace was born on that Christmas morning. He brought peace and goodwill to men.

Selected

BETHLEHEM

This name means House of Bread. Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life. This is what the Manger contains, the Manna of heaven for a starving world. Men are dimly conscious of a hunger, a need that nothing else can satisfy, but only a few seem to realize that Jesus is what they really want. Even when the Grace and Truth which came in this divine form is set before them they have no appetite. "When we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." "He came to his own, and his own received him not."

But there are others who sing the Christmas song: "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift, Behold what manner of love!" And the old refrain keeps echoing in their hearts: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." They partake of Him and live. They feed on the Word in, with and under which they receive eternal life.

It was difficult for those who gathered around the Manger to realize the latent power of that helpless infant; that He who could not speak was the Word in the beginning through whom all things were made, and who was to call the dead out of their tombs; that He who received nourishment from a human mother's breast was to multiply the loaves and fishes for thousands of men, women and children; that those little hands would wield the scepter of righteousness over unnumbered multitudes on earth and in heaven as King of kings and Lord of lords.

We do not understand the paradox, this mystery of godliness. But we can accept it by faith. We can rejoice over Him. We can praise God for what He offers us in this Babe of Bethlehem. We can tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King and that in Him there is healing for all the ailing of the earth.

"The chastisement of our peace was upon him."

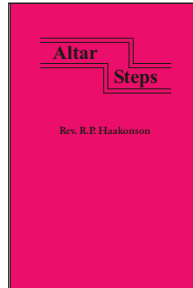
C.J. Sodergren from the Dec. 1969 *Lamplighter*

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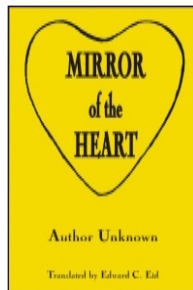
Altar Steps

This daily devotional was written by Pastor R.P. Haakonson and was published in 1947. It is suitable for families with children. It has illustrations from daily life, and a strong salvation emphasis. Suggested offering: \$8.00.



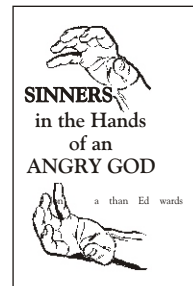
Mirror of the Heart

This book was published in 1900 by an unknown author. It contains some very earnest meditations and fervent prayers. It also contains ten very graphic pictures of the human heart. Suggested Offering: \$3.00.



Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Jonathan Edwards preached this remarkable sermon at Enfield, Conn. on July 8, 1741. It was at night while he was reading it to a large congregation, that the lights became dim and he read with difficulty, and the influence was so great on the congregation that strong men and women cried and screamed for mercy and even grabbed their seats for fear they would slide into hell that very moment. Suggested Offering: \$1.00.



Spirit and Power

Ludvig Hope was a Norwegian lay preacher, writer, teacher and organizer. This book is filled with solid Biblical meat for those who want to walk in depth with the Lord. It is written from a Lutheran pietistic perspective and contains 40 chapters of exposition on different aspects of how God works to



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bring a lost sinner to be saved and then to follow Jesus in the Power of the Holy Spirit. This is not casual reading, but earnest direction for anyone wanting to take up their cross and follow the Lord. Suggested Offering: \$12.00

Infant Baptism and Adult Conversion

This work by Ole Hallesby is much needed in our Lutheran circles today as salvation solely through baptism is proclaimed far and wide and people are given assurance at a funeral that the deceased is in heaven because they were baptized as an infant, even if they had no faith at all. Hallesby answers the needed questions: Is Infant Baptism Biblical?; Do all those baptized need to make a choice to repent and follow Christ?; Is Conversion needed for everyone, including those who were baptized?; Can the baptized go lost? Suggested Offering: \$10.00.

