



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • January 2025

“Wherefore Didst Thou Doubt?”

By H. G. Randolph on Matthew 14:31

It is evident our Lord does not approve of doubt. He does not welcome and praise it. Nor does He congratulate the doubter. On the contrary, He disapproves of doubt and upbraids the doubter. We refer here to doubt toward God and His word.

It is equally evident that He does not look upon doubt as essential to faith. He knows, of course, that faith is exercised when it comes to grips with doubt. But His rebukes of doubt make it plain that He does not consider it indispensable to the growth of faith. Faith does not feed on doubt but on the Word of God.

This is illustrated by the growth of Abraham's faith, described in Romans 4:18-21. Three steps are mentioned:

- 1) Faith against hope, “according to that which had been spoken” (18);
- 2) A strong, unwavering, growing faith, “looking unto the promise of God” (19, 20);
- 3) A fully assured faith, “being fully assured what he had promised he was able also to perform.”

Abraham's faith was strong unwavering, and confident because it was nourished by the Word of God. Such a faith is prepared to meet and resist doubt. In the exercise of resisting, faith is strengthened. God, who is able to make all things work together for good to them that love Him, makes even doubt serve as a factor in the believer's growth of faith when he confesses and judges his doubt as sin. But let us not commit the error of considering doubt essential to the growth of faith. It is not necessary to doubt in order to believe. There is nothing that so

builds a strong, virile, victorious faith as the exercise of accepting and obeying God's word. The Word of God is alone able to produce a true and genuine faith without the aid of doubt.

Some people appear to consider doubt a mark of distinction. It is no more a token of distinction than such fruits of the flesh as lust, envy, pride, selfishness, and the like. Neither is it a sign of intellectual superiority, for even the ignorant are equally capable of doubting. The difference between them lies simply in the ability in the high intellectual person to express and defend his doubts better. Perhaps, too, there is more for doubt to work on in the person of great intellectual powers. But doubt is no more a mark of a superior intellect than is pride, avarice, slander or adultery.

For the truth of the matter is simply this, that doubt is not a problem of the intellect but of the heart. Doubt does not have much of a chance in a heart that is right with God. This does not mean that Satan will not attempt to pierce it with the fire-tipped darts of doubt. Nor does it imply that all intellectual difficulties are necessarily removed. But the believer whose heart is right with God has taken the shield of faith with which to meet the darts of doubt and has donned the helmet of salvation that his mind may be kept in Christ. The failure of the Lord's disciples to believe that He had risen from the dead amply illustrates that doubt is primarily a problem of the heart. When predicting His death the Lord also clearly stated He would arise again. And now on that eventful day of His resurrection reports came to them from eye witnesses that Jesus had arisen. And yet they did not believe He

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lived again. Why did they doubt it? Because of intellectual difficulties? A careful study of the Gospels will plainly reveal to us that the real reason for their doubt was their personal ambition and self-interest. Jesus’ predictions of His death wrecked all their plans and aspirations for themselves. And because they clung to their ambitions they were unable to receive the Lord’s announcements of His death and believe the word concerning His resurrection. Self-interest gave doubt a soil in which to grow. Their problem was moral not intellectual.

This truth is repeatedly illustrated today in those who are converted to faith in Christ. Prior to their conversion they are full of doubts about God and His word. Then they meet Christ and find in Him forgiveness of sins and peace with God. But what about their doubts? They are gone, too, together with the other sins. Faith occupies the place that doubt held. The Bible as well as the intellectual processes continue the same. That which is different is the heart. It has changed. There is an entirely new viewpoint. And now the intellect has become the servant of the new man to approve the truth which faith has accepted, whereas before conversion it served doubt by questioning and discounting God’s word.

It might be in order to add a word about the relation of doubt to unbelief. Doubts come from Satan and our sinful flesh. When they are

harbored and entertained they develop into unbelief. Perseverance in this condition will gradually lead to an increasing hardening of the heart in unbelief.

How, then, should doubt be treated?

First, admit that it comes from Satan and your sinful self. It does not proceed from Christ in you. Second, confess and renounce it as among the vilest of sins for it questions the goodness of God and the truth of His word. Third, give it over to be judged and crucified, reckoning yourself to be as dead to this sin as to any other sin that tempts you. Fourth, refuse to present yourself to doubt but on the other hand give yourself to faith. You cannot believe if you give yourself to doubt. That to which you commit yourself has power over you. Fifth, feed your soul faithfully on the Word of God and yours will increasingly become a strong, unwavering, growing and fully assured faith.

BIBLE BANNER, LBI Jan., 1939

Remember Lot's Wife!

SOMETIMES UNPREPARED confirmation students will give the short Bible verse, "Jesus wept," in the vain hope that this will suffice in lieu of the one they should have learned. They could well add this terse verse to their "emergency" repertoire, "Remember Lot's wife."

What is it that you remember about Lot's wife? Perhaps you remember that she lived in an infamous city, was the wife of a now famous man, and of course you remember that she turned into a pillar of salt.

Let us have a closer look at this well known woman. The verses surrounding our verse are of peculiar solemnity. They have to do with the second coming of Jesus Christ. That great event, and the things immediately connected with it, are here described by our Lord. The state of things in the world in the days of His return will be a carbon copy of the way things were in Lot's day. Men shall be obsessed with eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting and building.

Is there any passion for these things today? Never have there been days of commerce like ours. Our affluence coupled with increased covetousness makes our day the drinkingest, eatingest, buyingest, sellingest, buildingest age the world has ever known. In this kind of day, Jesus says,

"REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE." He does not call us to remember Lot, or Lot's children, but Lot's wife.

REMEMBER that she perished although she was the

wife of a righteous man. II Peter 2:7,8 tells us, "He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the licentiousness of the wicked, (for by what that righteous man saw and heard as he lived among them, he was vexed in his righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds)."

Religious privilege guarantees nothing. How many have spent their sojourn in this world with a praying spouse or children, or with praying parents, and yet have finally "perished" as did Lot's wife! She lived with not just a religious man but a "righteous" one, who took his stand against the evils of his day.

REMEMBER that she perished, although she was warned of danger by a cryptic message from heaven, "escape for your life." Oh, remember this, you who have had so many warnings to get ready for the coming of Jesus, make your escape now from what lies ahead for you and for all who are outside faith in Christ. God has spoken "in many and various ways." You have all the prophets; you have read the Scriptures; you have had your close calls that have caused you to ponder the state of your soul; and above all "in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed "How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?" Neglect is the way that most people dismiss Jesus Christ.

REMEMBER she perished, although separated from the Sodomites. It was not her idea to leave Sodom; she was shoved out. How many there are who are separated from their Sodom through the pressure of family or friends but are not separated unto God. Her body was outside, but her affections were still within. Remember, Lot's wife perished.

REMEMBER she perished because of one sin. The command was to "escape for thy life." She was told not to "look back." Sinners, good and bad, perish not for the number of their sins but because of the nature of them.

Don't make Mrs. Lot's mistake. "We must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by the angels (as to Lot and his family) was valid and every transgression of disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?"

While you're remembering, "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead," (II Tim. 2:8). "The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

Evangelize (LEM) May, 1965, by Kenneth Ellingson

The Order of Salvation

The Assisting Means – The Double Awakening

With many of us there had to be a double awakening. First we were awakened by the Law and the “Assisting Means” to painfully feel and be convicted of our outward sins. Some of us then were able to reform ourselves and change a great deal. We quit a number of outward sins, began to read the Bible, pray, go to church and even to confess Christ. We thought we were converted and so did others. But we lacked one thing, namely true peace, the comfort of the Holy Ghost and rest in the finished work of Christ. We were partly under the Law and partly under Grace; we rested partly in our own works and partly in the works of Christ. We were on the way to become good Pharisees, if the Spirit of God in His mercy had not given us a new call, a new awakening, a new conviction of our helpless condition and inner corruption, and led us to Calvary and revealed Jesus to us and poured the love of God into our hearts.

We shall let John Bunyan give us his personal testimony (very much abridged) both as to his first and second awakening and the means that God used.

The first awakening. “I had fearful dreams after I had spent a day in sin. Once I fell into a creek and hardly escaped drowning. Another time I fell out of a boat into the Bedford River. Once as a soldier I was saved as through a miracle. One Sunday I heard a sermon on Sabbath-breaking and was so convicted, I went home with a great burden upon my spirit. Once I suddenly heard as a voice from heaven calling to me: ‘Will you leave your sins and go to heaven or have your sins and go to hell?’

“I now began to see that I was a great sinner. But I thought I needed comfort and would take my fill in sin before I would turn to God. One day as I stood cursing and swearing a woman who herself was unconverted reproved me and said I would spoil all the young people of the town by my wicked swearing. This brought conviction.”

This was then Bunyan’s first awakening. He was convicted of his gross sins, went through an outward conversion and became a fine, moral man and very good church member, but that was as far as he got. So the Holy Spirit had to start another awakening, using some different means this time.

The second awakening. “I had fallen to some outward reformation, so my neighbors were amazed and took me for a very godly man. But I was nothing but a painted hypocrite. One day while in Bedford I over-heard three or four poor women sitting at a door

talking about the things of God. Their talk was about the new birth and how they had seen their lost condition and how God had visited them with His love in Christ Jesus. I now began to mistrust my own condition. In all my religious thoughts the new birth had never entered my mind. Neither did I know the comfort of God’s promises. I now began to pray in this manner: ”O Lord, I am a fool, and not able to know the truth from error. Leave me not to my own blindness. Let me not be deceived. I humbly beseech Thee.”

“But I was a poor wretch, ignorant and brutish and so perplexed I did not know what to do; but I continually read the Bible and some good books.”

After he had sort of a vision where he saw God’s people in Bedford on the sunny side of a great mountain and saw himself on the cold, dark, shady side, he realized his lost condition and his great lack of real life more than ever, but with a very fervent desire to get over on the sunny side. He says: “The converted men and women began to be very lovely in my eyes. I continued for awhile all aflame to be converted: but I felt I was getting worse and worse. I could not believe in Christ -no not if I should be burnt at the stake for lack of faith. I could not believe, no not any more than I could have reached the sun with my finger. My soul was dying.”

How many do not need this second awakening, which Pontoppidan calls conversion from dead works, and the work of preparatory grace? It needs to be preached and it needs to be experienced, if the soul shall be led by the Spirit to Calvary and have a real new-birth experience.

Morning Glory, March 1943, by Rev. P. Ljostveit

Consecration!

During the forty years of his horseback ministry, John Wesley rode on the average twenty miles a day, and often within the round of twenty-four hours he horse-backed as much as a hundred miles. He laid the secret of his tremendous accomplishments to the time-defying schedule with which he charted the course of his day. From his early injunction never to waste time he could not release himself. Checking through his Journal for instance on June 23, 1787, in his eighty-fourth year, we find this entry: “Sat. 4:30, prayed, sermon. 8 tea, conversed, sermon; 2:30 dinner, conversed, sermon; 4:30 tea, conversed; 6 Matt. 13:33; 7 at Mr. Smythe’s, sermon; 8 supper, conversed, prayer, on business; 9:45.”

That was the log of a Wesleyan day and little did he deviate from such a schedule. ever. He could not forget those “five minutes lost forever.”

Editorial

Wayne Almlie

An Everlasting Covenant

“I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.”

(Gen. 17:8, NASB)

Many Theologians, including many Lutheran Theologians, believe in Replacement Theology. They say that because of Israel's unfaithfulness, God divorces Israel, (Jeremiah 3:8) and takes a new Bride, the Church. Now, all of the promises made to Israel are being fulfilled in the church. They say, even prophetically, Israel will have no roll to play in end time prophecy because of their unbelief. But, yet the very scripture they refer to in Jeremiah 3, later in the same chapter, God implores Israel to return. Jer 3:12 says. “Return, faithless Israel,” declares the Lord.” Then God says in that same verse 12, “for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever.” (the same word that is translated everlasting in Genesis 17)

Even though the Lord says he divorces Israel, he never says the same about Judah and the Messiah still comes through Judah just as God promised. Mankind's disobedience never nullifies the promises of God. Just because mankind breaks God's covenant, does not mean that God will break his covenant with us.

In Genesis 17, God makes an Everlasting Covenant with the descendants of Abraham, and he gave to those descendants an everlasting possession of the land of Canaan. How long is everlasting, same word that is translated eternal elsewhere? Are there other everlasting covenants we need to be aware of? Should we be concerned about another world wide flood, for the rainbow is a sign of an everlasting covenant? We usually speak of baptism as a covenant, unfortunately,

many walk away from their baptismal covenant, but we all teach and preach that God's covenant still stands and he's ready to receive us back if they repent and return.

At church we are going through 1st Peter, with a study guide put out by Lutherans. In this study guide, the author asserts that “Present day Israel is illegitimate.” He never explains why he thinks so. He says that present day Israel has forfeited the promises of God, and that they are all now being fulfilled in the Church. Then he writes the usually unwritten and unspoken part. He says this is a warning to the Church, we must remain faithful or we could forfeit God's blessing too. In other words, he implies that the church could also be replaced.

I believe that when God makes an everlasting covenant or promise, it is just that: An Everlasting Covenant. My Englishman's concordances says that the word translated “everlasting” in the Old Testament was used 438 times. Do we need to go and examine each of those and be the judge of scripture, to determine if God truly meant everlasting, forever and eternal, or did he mean as long as we obey Him?

Everlasting means everlasting or we are all in big trouble.

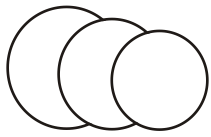
*For the Lord is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.*
(Ps.100:5)

A SERIOUS MISTAKE

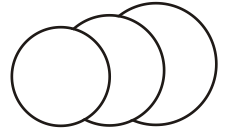
It is a serious mistake to take it for granted that all church members are Christians. They are not all Christians. . . One of the most dangerous things for a new convert is to get into the fellowship of worldly, compromising church members. We have seen that happen again and again and it has always brought disaster ...What and who

are the greatest hindrances to revival and awakening? According to Hallesby, God's people are the only ones who can hinder revivals. . . This world is like a spiritual pesthouse where disease and death are rampant. Christians who live in healthy fellowship with Christ are able to shake off the attacks of spiritual diseases.

E. L. Scotvold, *Morning Glory*, November, 1951



From Our Fellowship Circle



W. L. **Byron, MN**
“We enjoy getting the Morning Glory. It is very good.”

R.&D. S. **Ferryville WI**
“Thanks for sending Morning Glory to my family.”

N.T. **Boca Raton, FL**
“Thank you for continued printing of Morning Glory. My parents, who are both now in Glory, started me on reading it. Now I’m in my 80’s and still learn from every issue. Sincerely in Christ.”

Letter to the Editor

Dear Brethren,

I have great respect for your Morning Glory, but I was not happy with recent issues.

I grew up in the Lutheran Church. It was hard for me to see that a sprinkling with a few drops of water on a babies head means the same as baptize, (to immerse). Jesus Blessed them but no water was involved. A baby can’t believe. It can however as soon as he is told the word. Should that baby die before that happens it will go to heaven.

Jesus showed us how, he went to the river.

I believe the Gospel is Simple.

The same for sex sin. Rom 1:21-22, God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.

I’ve been a believer for 50 years, I have walked like Isaiah 42:12, known much oppression and I also know what the scriptures teach.

Much evil in the world, I wait eagerly for the Lord’s coming

E. G.

Editor: Thank you for being a reader of the *Morning Glory*. We are a Lutheran ministry, and our call is to be a renewal and revival movement within the Lutheran church. Hopefully the series of articles we have run for the last several months help on making clear the Lutheran view of baptism. We understand that not all Christians agree on baptism. We can disagree and still call ourselves brethren. Our concern has been that the tendency lately in the historically Pietistic Lutheran churches, that there has been a move into more of a Mis-sourian view of Baptism, which de-emphasizes the need

for every baptized child to have an awakening and a conversion. Some of our pastors and theologians would put it this way, that every baptized child needs to have an encounter with sin and grace. A person can be baptized, confirmed, a member in good standing at a local church, but if that person has no concept of the depravity of their heart, and does not feel the need to flee to Jesus for mercy and grace, can we honestly say they are saved? This would be true for Lutherans, as well as anybody else.

This Throne Has An Awful Occupant

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.” (Rev 20:11)

Seiss, a Lutheran theologian from the 1800’s said this about this one who sat on the great white throne. **“This throne has an awful Occupant. There is no name, no figure, no shape: but only an awful, mysterious, and composed presence, which can be nothing less than the One, un-namable, indescribable, eternal Godhead. If it were the Lord Jesus Christ, simply as the God-man, he would appear in some definite form, as in every other instance. He is indeed the Judge, to whom all judgment is committed, and he does the judging in this instance; but he does it under and in the presence of the enthroned God-head of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”** That’s quite some language, “This Throne has an Awful Occupant.” Are you ready to stand before Him.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

WMA

“The Fear of the Lord: My accountability to God for all things through His grace.”

Believable...Yet Unbelievable

Pastor Andy Stanley says that Christians are only required to believe two of the miracles in the Bible

Andy Stanley is back again with another “fresh” and “modern” take on Christianity.

This time, in a recent sermon, Stanley asked the question about miracles. Do you have to believe in miracles, you know, all of the documented miraculous events in the gospels and in the Old Testament, in order to be a Christian?

The answer is yes, but you only have to believe in two miracles to be a Christian ... Most of you, most of the people in the world already believe in one of them. And if you believe in the second one, it opens the door to making the other miracles more acceptable. So, already, Stanley is sinking to the lows of seeker sensitivity. He’s so hip and cool to the modern world. He’s letting people in his church know that they can toss out 90% of the Bible, as long as they believe in two miracles out of the hundreds. If you can have just an iota more faith than Thomas Jefferson, you’re in.

Here, Stanley gets into the two necessary miracles.

The miracle of the universe is the foundation of our faith in God.

Okay, good start. If you don’t believe God created the universe, then you don’t have any faith.

Then he skips a large chunk of time and tells us the second miracle that matters. The miracle of the resurrection is the foundation of our faith ... if you’re looking for minimal number of miracles you have to believe to be a Christian ... you just start here.

You can reject, outright, God’s word on miracles, according to Stanley. Deny his revelation. But if you believe God created all things and Jesus was raised from the dead, you’re good to go.

Reminds me of what the Apostle Paul warned Timothy of ...

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.”

People who claim Christianity but deny the power of God are to be avoided. This narrow form of Christianity, this “bare minimum of belief” that seeks to make faith an easy thing, is not godly. It’s fake.

What has happened to the American church where we’re so ashamed of the Bible that we’ll tell believers they can deny the virgin birth, deny the miracles of Christ, the raising of Lazarus, deny the miracles in the Old Testament like God causing the sun to stand still, and can still claim the name of Christianity?

Oct. 20, 2024 · NottheBee.com

Editor: Many Christians have benefitted from the almost 60-year ministry of Pastor Charles Stanley. His son, Andy is another story altogether. He keeps saying things that are so theologically wrong that one has to wonder if he is even saved. Andy Stanley pastors a church of 23,000. “Many will come and deceive, if possible, even the elect.” (Matt 24:24)

Means of Grace

God uses means. The means of Grace are three. Baptism, communion and the Word of God. That’s the difference between Lutheranism and all the other theologies. The Reformed say that God elects. That doesn’t give much comfort to the lost. They may say I’m lost, how can I be saved? The reformed theology says if you are elect you will be saved. If you are not elect you will not be saved. Lutheran theology doesn’t deny the sovereignty of God in salvation but at the same times offers hope to the lost. Lutheran theology says that if you are lost and you want to be saved, listen to the Gospel, expose yourself to the Word of God and let God’s grace and the Holy Spirit work in your heart to bring you to repentance and faith.

That was my saving grace, when I walked away from my baptismal covenant at about the age of 12, I was still exposed to the word, and God’s means of Grace, His word kept working in my life and really to be honest, kept me miserable. Through God’s means of Grace, the “Word,” He was able to move me to a place in my life where I could repent and put my faith in Jesus Christ.

WMA

The Christian and Alcohol, Part II

“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 the Second of a series of articles on the Christian’s relationship to alcohol.

Alcohol and Immorality

From the beginning of God’s creation, Alcohol has been a problem related to committing immorality. Noah and his family built the arc and withstood the Wrath of God that consumed the entire population of the earth except for them. *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.”* (2 Peter 2:4-5) Note that God judged all who sinned in this act, including the angelic world.

But Noah and his family were spared because of their faith in God, and Noah is even called a “Preacher of Righteousness.” In fact, Noah and his family were in the boat for just over a year until the floods receded. After Noah exited the arc, *“Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, ‘I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.’”* (Gen. 8:20-21) Because of Noah’s faith and obedience, God blessed him and his family. *“God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.’”* (Gen. 9:1)

But what did this Godly, obedient man do after this? *“Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. And he drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.”* (Genesis 9:20-21) Why did Noah do this when everything was going well for him? We are not told, but notice that this drunken act led to nakedness. Noah stripped himself naked in his tent. Why would he do such a thing? Because he was drunk! This led to Noah’s son, Ham, to see his father’s nakedness and when Noah slept off his drunk, he said, *“Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brothers.”* (Gen. 9:25) Ham’s son, Canaan, would end up being cursed, and it all goes back to Noah’s decision to drink the wine from the vineyard. The curse on Canaan ended up being a generation of people who became enemies of Israel, called the Canaanites and it only took

one time with Noah drinking alcohol for this to happen.

But this is not the only example from Scripture. Lot was a nephew of Abraham and they separated and Lot ended up residing in Sodom, which was a place of rampant immorality, especially homosexuality. We might question the godliness of Lot in doing this and staying there, but the Scriptures do tell us that Lot was a Godly man. *“And if [God] condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day with their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”* (2 Peter 2:6-9) But after God did destroy Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone, something interesting happened with Lot’s daughters. *“Then the first-born said to the younger, ‘Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of the earth. ‘Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him, that we may preserve our family through our father.’”* So they made their father drink wine that night, and the first-born went in and lay with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. And it came about on the morning, that the first-born said to the younger, *“Behold, I lay last night with my father; let us make him drink wine tonight also; then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve our family through our father.”* So they made their father drink wine that night also, and the younger arose and lay with him; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.” (Gen. 19:32-36)

Why did these daughters of Lot have to get their father drunk? In order to commit incest with him, because he would not allow that to happen if he were sober. In fact it says that Lot was so drunk he didn’t even know what had happened. Why did he let his daughters lead him into debauchery by consenting to drink the wine two nights in a row? We are not told, but he could have said “no” because he was their father. Just like before, alcohol led to immorality and the consequences were disastrous.

“And the first-born bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. And as for the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.” (Gen. 19:37-38) The name “Moab” in He-

brew means “out of father” and “Ben-ammi” in Hebrew means “son of my people.” The Moabites and the Ammonites became generations of people who ended up being enemies of Israel, just like before.

So even the most dedicated, faithful and obedient readers of this article need to take note: Alcohol can lead you and those around you to ruin. You are not exempt from it as even these Godly men were not exempt from it. Just one time that you give in to drinking alcohol can be your demise, just as it was for these men of God.

Jesus used these two men as examples of what society would be like when He returns. *“And just as it happened in the days of Noah ... It was the same as happened in the days of Lot ... so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man.”* (Lk. 17:26, 28-30) Alcohol was a means of both of them coming to great sin with great consequences. If their attitude would have been one of total abstinence, neither of them would have ended up in the depravity they found themselves and Israel would have been spared three tribes of enemies. Both of their recorded lives end with this stain upon them. It only took one time in each of them to fall. Since Jesus has told us in advance that this is the way that society will be in the end, will this not also be prominent as part of the temptations at the end? And do not all the warnings in Scripture against immorality also carry with them this element that alcohol can be something that can bring this upon you, like it did for these two godly men? Is it just coincidence that these accounts appear in Genesis at the beginning of our Bibles? Or did God put them there from the beginning so all following generations would see first hand what can happen? I believe that this is the case.

In the Scriptures, as well as in society today, we see alcohol lowering the self-control of people. They will do things under the influence of alcohol that they would never do otherwise. The Scripture at the beginning of this article from Proverbs indicates that immorality will be one of those things, and Proverbs also warns us that those who linger long over wine: *“Your eyes will look at strange things, your lips will utter perverse things. And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, or like one who lies down on the top of a mast.”* (Prov. 23:33-34) When self-control is broken down, then people will do anything. When that happens then the sex drive will run rampant since it is a primary drive in people.

Self-Control is a fruit of the Spirit, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is ... Self Control”* (Gal. 5:22-23) Do you realize that alcohol fights what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your life? Wouldn't that alone be reason enough for you to avoid it?

Pastor Jim Haga

Why Am I not a Christian

1. Do I plead the excuse that I do not understand the Bible? “Search the Scriptures.” “If any man will do His will, he shall know of the teaching.” – John 5:39, 7:17.

2. Am I thinking I am good enough now? “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” “Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” – Rom. 3:23; John 3:3-5.

3. Is it because I am afraid of ridicule? “Whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, of him shall the son of man be ashamed.” – Luke 9:26.

4. Am I stumbling at seeing hypocrites in the church and rejecting Christ myself? “Wherein thou judges an other, thou condemneth thyself.” “Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God.” “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” – Rom. 2:1; 14:12; Eze. 18:4.

5. Am I unwilling to give up all for Christ? “For your sake He became poor.” – 2 Cor. 8:9.

6. Am I afraid I shall not be accepted? “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” “Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.” – I Tim. 1:15; John 6:37.

7. Am I so busy with the world that I am neglecting my soul's salvation? “Love not the world.” “What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” “The world passeth away and the lust thereof.” – I John 2:15, 17; Mark 8:36.

8. Do I not know how to be saved? “The Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.” “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” – I John 1:7; Acts 16:31.

9. Do I fear I shall not hold out? “He is able to save to the uttermost, them that come unto God by Him.” “He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him.” – Heb. 7:25; 2 Tim. 1:12.

10. Do I know there is danger and still keep on saying, “There is time enough yet?” “Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” – Prov. 27:1.

Will I refuse to think on these things and seal my own doom?

Contributed by Ole Barnes, Forest City, Iowa
from the *Morning Glory*, Oct., 1951

THE NEW YEAR

For the days and years that are past we thank God. On what has been acceptable in His sight we ask His blessing and pray that He may use it as a contribution for the realization of His final purpose. Our sins, those sad failures, those darker spots, those depressing memories of our retrospect we lay them down before the throne of grace, imploring the pardon of a gracious God, trusting in His promise that they are blotted out by the atoning blood of the cross. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered."

For the future we trust in God. He will provide for our needs, both temporal and spiritual. He will give us strength by means of His Word and the Sacraments to carry on. Strength for victory in temptations and trials, for grace to keep His commandments and to minister to the needs of our fellow men.

We also pray for those who are tested and afflicted in our own country and for our brethren in the lands where wars are spreading misery and desolation, where hopes are failing and where the light of truth is darkening into the night of despair. Not the prayer of words only, but the prayer of such assistance as we may be able to render, sharing with them of the abundance we still enjoy. "To do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

For today we thank God for the name of Jesus, the name over the portal through which we enter the new year. We thank Him for the Bread of Life and for our daily bread. The physical life He sustains and the spiritual life He sustains we are to use according to His will in rendering such service to others as will point them to the Lamb of God and set their feet on the way of life. Our time is limited.

*"As the lightning from the skies
Darts and leaves no trace behind,
Swiftly thus our fleeting days
Bear us down life's rapid stream."*

As a dream dies in the morning, we are borne onward to the day of reckoning when we shall give account of each year that we have lived on this earth of our stewardship and the choice of our destiny. It is therefore of supreme importance that we keep this goal in mind and decide whether each day and year shall yield "glory and honor and peace" or "wrath and indignation, tribulation and anguish." For the path of well-doing or the other path of evil-doing will decide the issue of our present existence.

The eternal new year of Jehovah's favor, the accept-

able Jubilee year of the Lord, is worth the "investment" of a Christian life and infinitely to be preferred to an eternity of darkness, wailing over irreparable loss, and gnashing of teeth in hopeless remorse over wasted years.

"Great God, we sing that mighty hand
By which supported still we stand;
The opening year Thy mercy shows,
Let mercy crown it till it close."

C.J. Sodergren

Bible Banner (LBI) , Jan., 1939

* * * * *

"Ask what I shall give thee." (1 Kings 3:5)

Read 1 Kings 3: 4-14

This is God's word to us at the beginning of the year. We are poor and weak, but He is rich and powerful, and He loves to give us of His treasures.

God spoke these words to young Solomon just after he had been made king. Solomon had gone to Gibeon to make a sacrifice and to seek God's help before taking up his new duties. It was there God spoke to him. "Ask what I shall give thee," He said. Solomon took God at His word. But before he prayed, he thought about what he needed most. And so, instead of asking for riches and power he asked that he might be given a wise and obedient heart.

This prayer pleased God, and He gave Solomon not only what he had asked for, but riches as well.

There are things that even the richest parent cannot give their children, but the children need if they are happy. They need forgiveness, a new heart, and love to God and His Word. Only God can give these.

Shall we not begin the year by asking for these things?

***Oh, may this year to me be holy;
Thy grace so fill my every thought,
That all my life be pure and lowly
And truthful as a Christian's ought;
So make me, while yet dwelling here,
Faithful and blest from year to year.
Amen.***

Daniel Nystrom from *God In Our Home*, © Copyright
1936, Augustana Book Concern

The Christian's Safety!

"Keep me safe O God, for in You I take refuge!"
(Psalm 16:1)

The lost sinner is in danger—in the greatest possible danger! He is always in danger, for . . . the wrath of God abides on him, the curse of God is leveled at him, and the justice of God makes a fearful demand upon him. He is like an unprotected traveler in a forest, where robbers and wild beasts unite to terrify and destroy. He is . . . exposed to every storm, liable to every calamity, and may be cut down at any moment!

The law condemns him, Satan seeks by all means to destroy him, and his situation is truly dreadful!

But the believer is safe in Jesus: his sins are pardoned, his person is justified, he is accepted in Jesus, and to him there is no condemnation.

To him, Jesus is a strong tower, into which he runs and is safe. To him, God is a shield, which defends him from every hostile weapon. God . . . surrounds him as a wall of fire, bears him up on everlasting arms, and guides him by His strength to His holy habitation.

"For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock!" Psalm 27:5

Every perfection of God is on his side, every purpose of God secures his salvation, every promise of God is made for his comfort and safety.

He is in the hands of Christ, his name is engraved on the breast-plate of the Great High Priest, and his cause lies near to the heart of the Omnipotent One.

Nothing that concerns him is left to chance, his times are in the Lord's hands, and God works all things together for his good. He will have everything that is . . . really good, truly great, and eternally glorious!

God is his Father—and He will defend His child.

Jesus is his Bridegroom—and He will protect His Bride. If the power of God can preserve him, then he is safe; for he is kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

If the love of God can secure him, then he is safe; for God loves him with an everlasting love!

Will a kind, fond, and tender mother take care of her child? Then will God take care of the believer, for He asks, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb?" He admits, "Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands!" (Isaiah 49:15-16)

The believer is safe from all real evils. He is under . . . the special care and charge of Christ, the sunshine of his Father's love, the watchful eye of the Great Shepherd, the guidance and guardianship of the Holy Spirit.

What a precious, unutterably precious truth is this! May we . . . press it to our hearts, enjoy it in our daily walk, and relish it as we would our choicest treasure!

"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer! My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!"
Psalm 18:2

"For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling. He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock!" Psalm 27:5

(James Smith, "The Way of Salvation Set Forth")
From Gracegems.com

The Real Reason Why School Shootings Happen

In light of the recent tragic mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, the same thought always comes to mind. I say the same thing whenever there's a school shooting. I can't help it, because the secular world reacts the same way every time. When kids are murdered, they call for more counseling, more psychologists, more money to be spent on mental health, and of course, more gun control. Then they say that the mass murderer wasn't evil. He had mental problems and needs understanding and rehabilitation.

Welcome to a nation that has forsaken the Ten Commandments, lost the fear of God, and has left a generation without moral guidance; where prayer is asked for the victims' families, but the God to whom we are praying is ignored.

Welcome to America, where the Church has lost the preserving influence of salt and guidance of light, and as far as the world is concerned, is irrelevant. It's trampled underfoot by men. Who can blame them when so many are afraid to boldly speak up for righteousness? We aren't worthy of respect because we are like the god we preach: morally bankrupt.

Popular preachers make little reference to sin, righteousness, and judgment, and so the world is left in the dark, calling evil good and good, evil. There is no moral restraint, and when this happens a nation gives itself to abortion, pornography, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, blasphemy, rape, theft, lies, and mass murder.

What then can we do as individual Christians? How can we help to bring this once great nation back to the God who made it great? The answer is simple and predictable. Be salt and light. Stand up for righteousness in any way you can, and share the gospel with friends and strangers as much as you can. Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

February 15, 2018, Ray Comfort

Be Perfect

Jesus said, *“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* (Matt 5:48)

For years I did not really understand the significance of that statement. I knew it was in the Bible, I knew that this was God’s standard, perfection. I also knew that no mortal could keep that standard, only Jesus. Jesus’ words are no more possible to keep than God’s law given on Mt. Sinai. When God gave the 10 commandments, and wrote them in stone, he was saying, be perfect. Well, were they perfect? No! They were rebellious sinners, just like we are.

What were they to do? What was the remedy God gave them for their sin? First thing they had to do was to recognize that they had sinned. They had to be familiar with the Law. They were to bring a spotless lamb, the best of their flock. If they thought that what they had done was no big deal they certainly would not have parted with something as valuable as a lamb. To come to the tabernacle was to admit their sin. The lamb would be brought to the altar, they would lay their hands on the head of the lamb and the priest would slit the lamb’s throat catching the blood in a basin. The blood would be sprinkled on the Mercy Seat, and the lamb would be burnt on the altar. In this process there would be an understanding of a substitutionary death. From the beginning there was this understanding as **Heb 9:22** says **“And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”** NASB

Adam and Eve in their self-righteousness had made a covering of fig leaves, thinking that by their own ingenuity they could make a covering for their sin. Imagine their horror when God came down, took some of the animals that they had frolicked with in the Garden, killed them and made a fur covering for them. Before this point, they had no concept of death. The Bible says that death entered because of Adam’s sin. Here they got a quick object lesson about the seriousness of sin and its consequences, and gained an understanding of death. **“Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”**

The reason Abel’s sacrifice was accepted, was because it was a blood sacrifice. I believe the principle was already established. And already Cain was doing what mankind has done throughout the ages. Man has from the beginning tried to serve and worship the way they see fit, not the way God has commanded. God wanted a blood sacrifice and Cain probably thought that was a bit of an inconvenience. He probably thought, “I would have to trade some of my grain to Abel for a

lamb; I’ll cut out the middleman and just offer my grain to the Lord.” As humans we prefer the path of ease, the path of convenience, rather than the path of obedience.

We do the same thing today when we empty the cross of Christ of its power. The Apostle Paul said: **“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”** (1 Cor 2:2 NASB) But we’re a little too sophisticated today to honor something as barbaric as crucifixion.

The late Bishop John Spong of the Episcopal Church says: **“The view of the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world is a barbarian idea based on primitive concepts of God and must be dismissed.”**

There is little talk of the blood of Jesus amongst modern day Christianity. There is little talk of sin, holiness, and sacrifice. It’s amazing how Christianity for many today has degenerated to being nothing more than a feel good philosophy that strokes our egos and helps us feel comfortable where we are, rather than taking a hold of a holy God who says: die to yourself, your plans and your ambitions, and come follow me.

Again we must ask, by what standard are we to be judged. Jesus said the standard is perfection, how do you measure up? Jesus used the Law, to the rich young ruler, Jesus gave the Law, to the woman at the well, Jesus gave the Law. Jesus used the Law to show people their sins. Paul said: “I would not have come to know sin except through the Law.” (Rom 7:7)

It’s hard to be self-righteous when you look at the law. Let me ask you a few questions to illustrate what I mean. Have you ever told a lie? What does that make you? It makes you a liar, right? Have you ever stolen anything, even if it was small? What does that make you? It makes you a thief. Jesus said if you look with lust you have committed adultery in your heart, have you ever looked with lust? Now we’ve only looked at three of the commandments, and we’ve probably already established that if we’re real honest with ourselves, that we all are lying, thieving, adulterers at heart and we will have to face God on Judgement day.

What does the Law teach us? It teaches us that we are sinners. What do we need to do? Just as the Israelites who recognized their sin, took a lamb to the priest, and that lamb was offered up as a substitute. If we look into the perfect law of liberty, see our sins; recognize our need for a lamb – recognize our need for a Savior, someone to die in our place. The Israelites had to take the lamb. It’s an active taking, it’s a matter of the will, it’s an aggressive act. It’s not a passive act.

In John 1:12 we read: **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.**

The word here translated received, has a stronger meaning than a passive receiving. A more accurate reading would be: But as many as “took” Him, as many as “laid hold” of Him with their whole being, to them he gave the right to become children of God. That’s what we need to do, just as the Israelites would take hold of that lamb. We need to with our whole being, body, soul and spirit, grab onto the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The cross is not a barbarian idea that must be dismissed. It is our only hope. In it is our only hope of eternal life, it is our only hope to again see those who die in the Lord. It is our only hope for victory over sin. It is our only hope to find meaning and purpose in our lives.

WMA

On the Word of God.

In the July 6th issue (1960) of the MORNING GLORY, some excerpts are quoted from one of the messages I gave recently at the Hauge Conference. A pastor wrote to me asking about one of these statements-namely, “We have seminary professors who absolutely deny the second coming of the Lord Jesus.” I desire to change the first two words of this statement to make it read, “There are seminary professors who absolutely deny the second coming of the Lord Jesus.” I have no documentary evidence that this refers to Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Many years ago when I attended our seminary, the Lord gave me a mighty spiritual experience through the teaching at the seminary and the prayer groups I attended there. And recently I talked to a pastor who graduated from Luther seven years ago. He said he had attended another Lutheran seminary before he came to Luther. At this seminary higher criticism prevailed. Professors seemed to go out of their way to pick flaws in the Bible, and evangelical piety was ridiculed. When this student got to Luther, he found the seminary a wonderful place, he said. This was seven years ago.

Concerning our seminary today, Dr. Schiotez in his report to the closing ELC Convention quotes Dr. Rogness’ letter to a certain pastor, in which he says, “But the enemy is at work, and the whole church needs to pray that the seminary can be a place where the Holy Spirit is powerfully at work.” Let us heed this earnest request of the President of Luther Seminary.

Apostasy has struck the Lutheran Church. Pastor Hax, in a recent issue of Evangelize, quotes from a book written by Joseph Sitler, a Lutheran Seminary professor. The book is entitled “The Doctrine of the Word,” and the quotation reads, “If we equate the Word of God with

Scripture, we are confusing things heavenly with things historical. If, as is commonly understood, the identification of the Word of God and the Scriptures means to equate the living Word of God with the words of the Bible, a manifestly wrong statement is made.”

This is the view of neo-orthodoxy that tells us “that part of the Bible which speaks to you, is the word of God to you.” What a terrible attack this is on the Scriptures. Any amount of heresy may hereby be introduced (if we are to assume the written Word is full of error) and it becomes a book for the mystics.

I am very thankful to God for the strong statement on the inspiration of Scripture as found in the Constitution of The American Lutheran Church. It reads: “The American Lutheran Church accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as a whole and in all their parts as the divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God, and submits to this as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.”

I wish that every professor in all our church schools would be required to sign a statement every year stating his faith in this doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture. Furthermore, I wish that everyone of our church schools might be filled with the atmosphere of prayer. I am sure there would then be no demand for social dancing in our colleges. Nor would young ministers leave our seminary with the belief that dancing and social drinking are all right. May God have mercy on us in this apostate age where men are lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Desperately do we poor sinners need the grace and forgiveness of the Lord.

Pastor L. C. Masted, DeKalb, Illinois,
Morning Glory, Aug., 1960

Editor: An old Lutheran Pastor told me years ago, that Liberalism did not organically appear in our churches in the 70s. But that it had been taught and festered in the seminaries in the 50s and 60s and then when the old pastors started to retire in the 70s and 80s they were replaced with the ones who had been taught a totally different view of Scripture. The ALC had a strong and robust theology of scripture and that is why they had to be merged out of existence into the ELCA. My pastor in Des Moines, when the merger happened, refused to change our church constitution and by-laws to the approved ELCA constitution. He kept the old ALC constitution with the strong commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture. Well done good and faithful servant.

Full and Explicit Agreement

Full and explicit agreement with the Lord Jesus Christ is the reviving believer's only choice.

Agreement with the Lord in all things is the only possible guarantee of spiritual prosperity. To agree fully with Him in all things and at all times is to experience continuing reviving. To disagree with God in anything is to assure spiritual declension and the loss of those reviving graces of Jesus Christ so greatly needed in your life at this time.

According to the Bible, it is impossible to please God without faith. The faith required is both an acknowledgment of God's existence and a heartfelt response to the realization that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him [Hebrews 11:6]. Diligence in seeking God requires continual submission to the truths He reveals concerning Himself and the demands He lays upon the seeker. A rejection of either God's revelation of Himself or His plan for your life constitutes unbelief. This unbelief robs men and women of forgiveness of sins and leads to eternal condemnation.

We are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This faith that saves is not passive acquiescence in facts concerning Jesus but active submission to His Lordship.

To say, "I believe in Jesus Christ" and yet not to believe Him is tragic foolishness. If I believe in Him I must believe in what He says. If I really believe what He says, I will do whatever He commands. If I do not do what He says, I must face His searching question "Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? [Luke 6:46]. What possible explanations can any person offer for such a contradiction?

Jesus was very dogmatic in insisting, "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I confess unto them, I never knew you; depart from Me, ye that worketh iniquity." [Matthew 7:21-23]

One of Satan's greatest triumphs has been his magnificent success in getting people to believe that they can be saved from hell without being saved from their sins and themselves. Multitudes are depending upon Jesus as a fire escape from eternal torment who have no conscious intention of yielding themselves to His Lordship or of walking in daily obedience to Him. They strangely suppose they can have Jesus as their Savior while rejecting Him as their Lord. They desire to be cit-

izens of His kingdom while rejecting His kingship. They seek to grasp the kingdom of heaven with one hand while the other is hanging on to the kingdom of this world. Forgetful of Matthew 6:24 ["No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other; ye cannot serve God and mammon"] they make Gospel out of nonsense and substitute the deception of Satan for the truth of God. Sadly, such persons belong to the kingdom of the words rather than the kingdom of power.

Reviving believer, Jesus Christ is Lord! This must be believed! This must be yielded to! This must be acted upon! Failure here is failure everywhere!

Learning to enter into complete and explicit agreement with God in all things is the most important task the believer faces. Praising God is robbed of meaning if you disagree with Him. True worship only exists where there is harmony between the worshiped and the worshiper. Witness is only Spirit empowered and God glorifying when harmony exists between life and lip. All religious acts are deprived of spiritual significance when unbelief manifests itself in disagreement with God.

The new believer may not agree with God in all things for he may not yet know very much. He must, however, agree with all he knows. As he grows in the Christian faith, his submission to all that God is teaching him must advance with his knowledge of God and his understanding of God's claims upon his life. It is precisely here that so many go astray. Recollections of former submission is no substitute for present submission. It is not enough that I once agreed with God, I must agree with Him now. What possible value is there in having believed when I understood little if I do not believe when I understand much? Full and explicit agreement with God in everything is the only key to the joy and power you have been craving in your Christian experience.

Richard Owens Roberts, Sermonindex.com

You Can't Pick and Choose!

"When there's something in the Bible that churches don't like, they call it legalism."

Leonard Ravenhill

Can You Believe It?

Bob Ingersoll's agnostic friend spends years accumulating historical information from which he writes the famous "Ben Hur."

I had just read "Ben Hur," writes X, and the book was on the table before me when the author, Lew Wallace, stepped in. I pointed to the book and told him that it brought me much blessing. "I know I shall read it several times," I remarked.

The author seemed pleased over my enthusiasm. Then taking courage, I said: "I am interested in knowing how you came to write this story."

After a pause, he answered: "It will be a pleasure to tell you." He seated himself a bit more comfortably in the large chair, and, in a simple, candid manner, told me an unusual story. I shall repeat his words as nearly as I remember them. But the deep sincerity and the refined spirit which belonged to him in special degree, I cannot relate.

"I had always been an agnostic and denied Christianity. Robert G. Ingersoll was one of my most intimate friends. It was generally known that I was an agnostic. I had been appointed Governor of the territory of Arizona, and after serving my term, was returning east together with Ingersoll. As we neared St. Louis, seated in conversation on ordinary things, we both noticed a forest of church spires. 'Isn't it strange,' Ingersoll remarked, 'that so many apparently intelligent people continue to believe the foolish doctrines that are being taught under these church spires? When will the time arrive, that these teachings of the so-called Bible will be thrown out as foolishness?'"

"We discussed this topic a while. Suddenly Ingersoll looked me in the face and said: 'See here, Wallace, you are a learned man and a thinker. Why don't you gather material and write a book, and give it to the world to prove the falsity concerning Jesus Christ; that no such man has ever lived, much less is the author of the teachings found in the New Testament? Such a book would make you famous. It would be a masterpiece and a way of putting an end to this foolishness concerning the so-called Christ and the Savior of the world.'

This thought made a deep impression on me, and we discussed the possibilities of such a book. As we bid farewell, I said I would try to gather material for such a book and have it published as the masterpiece of my life and the crowning glory of my work.

"I went to Indianapolis, my home, and told my wife about my purpose. She was a member of the Methodist

Church, and naturally did not like my plan. But I had decided to do it, and began to collect material in libraries here and in the old world. I gathered everything over that period in which Jesus Christ, according to saying, should have lived. Several years were spent in this work. When I had accumulated all possible proof, I began to write the book. I had written nearly four chapters, when it became clear to me that Jesus Christ was just as real a personality and teacher as Socrates, Plato, Caesar, and other ancient men. The conviction became certainty, I knew that Jesus Christ had lived on earth, because of the facts connected with the period in which He had lived. "I was in an uncomfortable position. I had begun to write a book to prove that no such person as Jesus Christ had ever lived on earth. Now I was face to face with the undeniable proof that He was just as historic a personage as Julius Caesar, Mark Anthony, Virgil, Dante, and a host of other men who had lived in the olden days. I asked myself candidly: If He was a real person (and there was no doubt), was He not then also the Son of God and the Savior of the world? Gradually the conviction grew that since Jesus Christ was a real person, then He probably was the one He claimed to be. This conviction became so strong at last that, one night, which I shall never forget, it grew into certainty. "I fell on my knees to pray for the first time in my life, and I asked God to reveal Himself to me, forgive me my sins and help me to become a follower of Christ. Towards morning the light broke into my soul. I went into the bedroom of my wife, woke her and told her that I had received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. You should have seen her face, when I told her of my new faith!"

"O, Lew,' she said, 'I have prayed for this ever since you told me of your purpose to write this book – that you should find Him while you wrote it."

"We knelt at the bedside in the early morning, and together we thanked God for His mercy and His guidance in directing me to Him. I do not believe there is more joy in heaven than what we found that morning, when we, after many years of marriage, became united in fellowship with Jesus Christ.

"Then I asked: 'What shall I do with all this material I have gathered with so much trouble and a great deal of expense?' 'Oh,' she answered, 'just rewrite the first four chapters; then send the book out into the world to prove from your own searching and studying, that Jesus Christ is everything that He claimed to be – the Son of God and the Savior of the world.'"

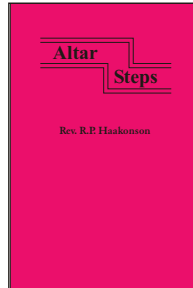
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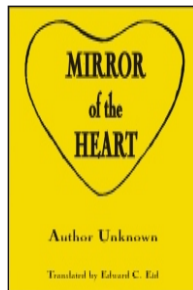
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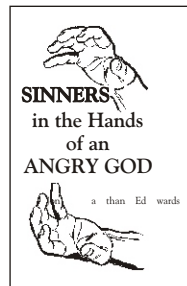
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Jonathan Edwards preached this remarkable sermon at Enfield, Conn. on July 8, 1741. It was at night while he was reading it to a large congregation, that the lights became dim and he read with difficulty, and the influence was so great on the congregation 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.



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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.

