



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • June 2023

Thanksgiving

Theo. Knutson, Norma, N. Dak.

Though harvest festivals and Thanksgiving celebrations have been observed in America ever since the Pilgrims began tilling the soil in the new world, it was not until 1864 that President Lincoln issued a proclamation in which he “appointed and set aside” the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day for all of the United States of America. From that year till this there has been a successive traditional trek “over the river and through the woods to Grandmother’s house” on the last Thursday of November of every year (except two years during the Roosevelt New Deal era).

It is well to have a day set aside when the harvest is completed in which we give thanks to “God, who giveth the increase.” *The sin of ungratefulness is perhaps the most common, and a very serious sin indeed.* May God give us grace to “count our many blessings.” May we say with David: “Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; for praise is comely for the upright. Praise the Lord with harp; sing unto Him with the psaltery and an instrument with ten strings. Sing unto Him a new song; play skillfully with a loud voice. For the Word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: He layeth up the depth in storehouses.

“Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spake and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast. The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to naught: He maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the Lord standeth for-

ever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.” (Ps. 33: 1-12).

Good health, a comfortable income, goodly and obedient children are contributing factors to our well-being and a happy life; but if these and like blessings are taken for granted for days, weeks months and years, we are treading on dangerous ground. Man is prone to conclude that it is his own brawn and brain that has brought him prosperity.

“For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? (I Cor. 4:7). Man is not flesh alone, neither does he “live by bread alone.” Hence, a child of God sees many things besides the material for which to be thankful.

The enemies of Daniel conspired against him and induced King Darius to sign an irrevocable decree “that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days save thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.”

Daniel was fully aware that the decree had become the law of the land, yet, “went into his house; and his window being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, *and gave thanks* before his God, as did aforetime.” (If Daniel had lived in our time, the Communists would have called him a reactionary.)

Daniel did not have a home with a charming wife and goodly and obedient children, no flourishing business or

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Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland
336 Prairiewood Circle S. #9, Fargo, ND 58103

email: haugerep@gmail.com

Send Announcements, Contributions, and Subscription Renewals to:
Joel Zeltinger, 8916 White Spruce Road, Bismarck, ND 58503

Internet Web Site: hauginnermission.com.

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PUBLICATION OFFICE:

HAGA PUBLISHING, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Wayne AlmlieDes Moines, IA
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fertile farm; rather, he was under severe persecution in a strange land. Yet came he before his God in prayer and thanksgiving. This was not a once-a-year attendance at a Thanksgiving service where a person with an upside down collar reads a prayer handed down from his granddaddy; but Daniel prayed at the risk of the lions’ den, “*three times a day as aforesaid*,” irrespective of “the law of the Medes and the Persians, which altereth not.”

But what could a captive in a strange land, surrounded by cruel conspirators whose thirst for innocent blood was boundless, have to be thankful for?

Above all else he must have been thankful that he was “a child of the King!” Not a child of Nebuchadnezzar or Belshazzar or Darius, but a child of the King of kings and the Lord of lords. A child of the King who created the heavens and the earth. A child of the King of whom we read: “How great are his signs! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and His dominion is from generation to generation” (Dan. 4:3).

We can be sure that Daniel like the apostles rejoiced that he “was counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.” Where are the Daniels of our day? To have “inner convictions” is fine, but why don’t some of our “milktoastish” ministers and “wooden Indian” laymen stand up so we can see how deep their convictions are?

Reprinted from the *Morning Glory*, Nov. 1966.

Walking By Faith

During his early teens, Anthony Payton chased after drugs in hopes of filling a void left in his heart. He would get paid for the drugs he was trafficking and then use the money to support his own addiction – a habit that landed him in jail with a possible sentence of eight years in prison.

He began attending a Bible study led by a Gideon, who would often visit the jail. Anthony developed a relationship with the Gideon, and he would listen to the *message of God's Word* week after week! During one of his visits, the Gideon pulled out a New Testament and shared a series of passages with Anthony. There in that jailhouse, Anthony prayed to receive Jesus Christ! Today, he serves as a pastor leading others to whole-heartedly reach people for the Lord!

Selected

* * * * *

Gift of A Second Chance

Daniel can sum up his childhood in three words: addiction, abuse, and abandonment! An abusive, heavy pot-smoking mother and mostly absent alcoholic father are how he describes his upbringing. Growing up surrounded by drugs and alcohol, the use of substances at an early age seemed normal. He enjoyed drinking and wasn't afraid to experiment with other drugs. Lacking support, Daniel struggled in school and dropped out in the eleventh grade.

By the time he was twenty, Daniel became a daily, round-the-clock drinker. (Ed. No-doubt he began with that first drink). "I used to think I was a "functional alcoholic," but the truth is that I couldn't function without it," he shared. Even a diagnosis of type 1 diabetes didn't stop his drinking, but it would be the beginning of a real downfall for Daniel.

His addiction made it difficult to keep a job and pay rent! Daniel moved from one toxic environment to the next, and his health declined. Daniel developed a serious infection that resulted in a toe amputation! "Alcohol, the one thing that had always been there for me, was beginning to work against me," he said.

Daniel lost hope. Wanting to end his life, he overdosed on high blood pressure pills. By the Grace of GOD, Daniel survived. After receiving care at a local treatment center, he was referred to New Life Center.

TODAY Daniel is sober and feels blessed to have a ***second chance at life!*** GOD is at work in Daniel's life at the Mission as he receives needed care in a safe and supportive environment. He's hopeful for the future! Dan-

iel's long-term goal is to one day work with at-risk youth.

Immeasurably More, New Life Center

* * * * *

God's Word Will Not Return unto HIM Void!

Isaiah 55:10-11

Isn't it marvelous that GOD has Entrusted YOU and I to handle and distribute His Holy Word (the Bible) , for our salvation (Deliverance) and to share the same with others? WHAT A PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY!

"We also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." (I Thessalonians 2:13)

GOD has inspired godly people to make His Word known among men, women, children and we have no-right to change the message by either adding to it or subtracting from it (man's doctrine OR omission). BUT as ambassadors we are to share exactly what the 'Commander-in-Chief' states!

For example: Peter and Paul did not speak their own words, but God's Word! Primarily GOD used His Own Blood-Bought Vessels! (Note: notice the above theme verse).

The Word of God may well be preached to you and me, but no one can really implant the Word of God in our hearts, except the Holy Spirit. In a sense 'we' can water and plant the Incorruptible SEED , God's Word; but it takes God to make the Seed sprout, and grow! Actually we are to plant & water the Seed with concern and tears and GOD will make it grow! As the Scripture states; "they that sow in tears, will reap in joy."

God's Word is absolutely certain, as it is forever settled in heaven! Whatever GOD states in His Book (the Bible), either has OR will take place just as God has said! Even if the great majority of folk in this world say other-wise, I still know God's Word is certain and is totally correct! Isn't it wonderful that 'we can hide His Word in our hearts'!

Do as the testimony of the Apostle says, in Philippians chapter three, keep pressing on and forward until you have reached the high-calling in Christ Jesus! Personally, I carry a concern for people who tell only what has taken place in their hearts and lives in the past; BUT do not bring it up-to-date what their relationship is with JESUS, Now! It is most certainly important that the new-life has the right beginning, but what is it now – **Today?**

The Temptation to Compromise

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

There is a bankruptcy of character in our day! We have a shortage of manhood and womanhood, a certain deterioration.

The temptation of this day is so different from that of the old days. If some cruel Nero held sway today and an army came by and said to Christians, "You can put your head on this block and die, or you can give up JESUS CHRIST," I think most Christians would put their heads down and die for the Savior!

BUT (Ed. Not-yet!), that is not the test today! The temptation today is to compromise to trim a little! Little by little the Devil is eating in on Christians and eating out a good bit of their backbone and the muscles in their will! Little by little he has made them trim a little here and there until when GOD comes to them for something, there is just nothing to them!

Oh, how we need a holy zeal!

May GOD help us!

Editor's Note: When a believer starts to compromise, a degree of discernment is dulled and eventually confusion will take place! ***"For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil"*** (Heb. 5:13-14)

* * * * *

By Grace Through Faith!

(And No Other Way)

By W. Herschel Ford

TODAY there are some people who say that you can't be saved and go to Heaven unless you have been baptized, or unless you belong to a certain church, or unless you observe certain religious rites!

Do you see what they are doing? They are making a 'savior' out of water, or a church, or a religious rite. BUT I tell you that there is only one Savior – JESUS CHRIST, the Lord. HE can save anyone without the help of anything else!

Listen to Paul as he says in Ephesians 2:8-9: ***"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."*** What a great truth! The LORD

knew that IF men could be saved by their own works, they would be going around Heaven bragging about they did it!

BUT in Heaven we will not be boasting about what we have done, but about what CHRIST has done. We will glory in all that HE did in Salvation. You will note that Paul said we are saved ***"by grace ...through faith."*** The grace is God's part — His reaching down to us! When this happens, God's arms enfold us and we become children of the LORD!

A soldier in one of the government hospitals lay dying. He was irritable and unpleasant. He resented the chaplain's efforts to help him. Finally, one day he told the chaplain not to bother him anymore!

The chaplain stayed out of the room for several days. Then one morning he came in with a lovely vase of flowers and placed them on the dresser. Tears sprang into the eyes of the soldier and he said, "Thank you, sir; I am very fond of flowers."

"Yes," said the chaplain, "God knew that in this world we would have days of suffering and sorrow, so He gave us such beautiful things as these flowers to brighten our way."

The sick man was silent for a moment and then he said, "Chaplain, I am sorry for the way I have treated you. I know that I ought to trust God and love Him, but I am such a wretched sinner that I cannot believe God could ever forgive me. I am guilty of every wicked thing that a man could do. Why, if you wrote a list of all my sins on the wall not an inch of space would be left!"

Then the chaplain replied, "Go ahead; write your sins upon the wall. Write all of them! Write until the wall becomes a catalog of your vile SINS! Then over all of them I will write in flaming letters one sentence from God's Hand and by it all of your sins will be canceled. This is it: ***"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*** (I John 1:7)

That day was the day of Salvation for a dying soldier in a government hospital!

Oh, GOD has but one plan of Salvation! ***"By grace are ye saved through faith."*** And that day you look away from your sins and look unto HIM by faith! HE will save you with a glorious Salvation and you will hear HIM say, ***"My grace is sufficient for thee."*** (II Corinthians 1:9)

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound ,
That saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

John Newton

Editorial

RES

NINE-PIECES – PEACE – For Today!

(See Psalm 23 & Ephesians 2:14-17)

For some folks there are many pieces/chapters in their personal lives, for others ONE purpose is more than adequate and that is to glorify JESUS CHRIST for HE has changed their life completely!

But, some of our leadership in the USA and beyond continue to say there 'will be peace'! Yes, a number of leading politicians and religious leaders promise peace, when in the latter days of the church-dispensation, GOD says; 'peace – peace' but there shall be **no peace!**

There is a void in all human-hearts and unless Jesus Christ is permitted to fill that emptiness; there will be NO-peace in the inner part of the human's life. Jesus wants to fill this place! ***“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who ...”*** (Ephesians 2:13 -14 Notice vs. 13-21). It is not knowing about Him as a person (Incarnation) many years ago as history goes, but possessing Him, by the Grace of God! You can be an awakened sinner knowing HE is the Person you need personally; but that is all! A person can be in an awakened position; yet not possessing! But *“...the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out”* John 6:37b. If you are not truly in a child-family relationship with Jesus you can be. JESUS wants you to be among the flock of His Lambs & Sheep for ***“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”*** Revelation 3:20. If you are interested in being saved, it is the Holy Spirit's working to awaken you, that you may come. Now don't become careless with your soul/life; because none of us know if He will knock again for it *could be the last time!*

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away ... how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...”

Hebrews 2:1-3.

NOW let us look again at the **nine**-pieces for *Today!*

Psalm 23

V. 1. Possession (is mine)

V. 2. Position

V. 3. Presence

V. 4. Protection

V. 5. Provision

V. 6. Prospect

Ephesians 2:14-17

V. 14. Peace

V. 15. Thus making 'peace'

V. 17. Going 'preaching, witnessing, sharing' this 'peace' is found!

Jesus Christ and Him Alone

Faith Alone, Word Alone, ...

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

(Colossians 2:9-10)

For the empowerment of the Holy Spirit may we basically pray; Lord give me the ***spiritual-backbone*** to express this burden/conviction! In our earthly being our flesh is very weak but You can empower me as I struggle between the old nature & the New Nature – ***Romans 7:8-23!***

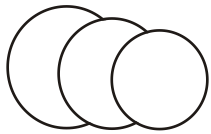
Yesterday is gone forever, tomorrow may Never come, so ***today*** is a *gift* from GOD, so use it to bring glory to His **Name!**

Please read James 1:12-25, v. 25 ***“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does”***

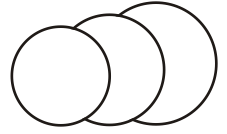
“Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work”

C. S. Lewis

You wouldn't be physically alive, IF God did not have a purpose for YOU! (See Jeremiah 29:11)



From Our Fellowship Circle



Ryan

Permission Granted

Evie's story is certainly an amazing one with a wonderful ending. However, it is so much more than that. It is truly God's story and Evie happened to be at the center of it (Ed. Nothing catches our Living Savior by accident or surprise). Our desire is that God is glorified through this situation, and we want to highlight a few notable ways we saw Him work.

HE put us in the right place: God knew when we planned a vacation to see the Creation museum and the Ark Encounter that we would be exactly where we needed to be to get the medical help that Evie needed. The nearest ECMO to our home for pediatric patients is Minneapolis. We are certain that with the rapid decline that Evie experienced, there would not have been time to transfer to Minneapolis to get her on ECMO before it was too late. It was not a coincidence that we were on vacation in the place where we were. *'We like to say that God used the Ark to save Evie'.*

HE restarted Evie's heart: The 'emotions' that we experienced while praying/begging God to bring Evie back to life are hard to describe. Everything was moving so quickly that it is sometimes hard to believe it actually happened! Yes, the Doctor expertly gave her CPR for 9 minutes, but that is not guaranteed to work! In God's Grace, he not only restarted her heart, but provided the Surgeon the skill and wisdom to be able to continue the surgery during resuscitation and allowed the Surgery to be successful!

HE worked spiritually in many ways; We know that there was a spiritual battle occurring while Evie was sick. GOD WON! There was also a spiritual battle in many of our hearts! God won again, providing us comfort and peace, even when Evie's physical outcome was uncertain. He brought us to a place of worship, and reliance on him, in a way that many of us had not experienced! I believe he also changed the hearts of our family and others who were touched by Evie's situation. Each of us was changed in a unique way, based on the condition of our heart and on what God specifically wanted to change in our hearts and minds. What a wonderful blessing that our God is a personal God who cares enough about us to help us grow.

Other than her summer adventure, Evie is still enjoying homeschooling as a freshman this year. She loves playing piano, working out, being involved at our church, and hanging out with baby Micah (or any baby, really).

Evie's illness highlighted the fact that none of us is guaranteed another day, not even a healthy, 14 year old girl with No history of medical issues! My prayer for each of you is that seeing God work through Evie's story will either 1) bring you into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ IF you do not already know Him, or 2) draw you into a deeper walk with HIM IF you already are a follower of Christ!

Finally, I know that many of you have experienced your own difficult stories and many of them do not have the joyful ending that we experienced. We may never understand why situations have different endings on this side of Heaven, but we know that for those who love God all things work together for good Romans 8:28 & 29. God will accomplish good purposes even through difficult and painful situations and loss. We are so grateful that God chose to save Evie. For a brief time, we were faced with the reality that Evie may not return to this life. This glimpse into child loss makes our hearts ache anew for those living that out day by day.

No matter your circumstances, I hope that you know the peace that comes from the LORD! We certainly experienced HIS Love in an unexpected way this year and we look forward to see HIM work in the future!

With thankfulness, Ryan

N. L. T.

Boca Raton, FL

Enclosed is a donation to help further your work in the Great Commission; Lord's Ministry

The Christian

"The Christian talks familiar every day to someone he cannot see, expects to go to Heaven on the virtue of another, empties himself in order that he might be full, admits that he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up. He is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge."

A. W. Tozer

Believable... Yet Unbelievable

Censorship and Suppression of Speech in America

America is certainly not China or North Korea when it comes to censorship and suppressing free speech! BUT we are not nearly as free as we thought we were. The ‘events’ of the last three years have made that strikingly clear, bringing to a head a dangerous pattern that had been developing for years before that.

By a “dangerous pattern,” I’m referring to the pattern of censoring and/or suppressing conservative Christian speech on social media platforms. Those who have been on the front lines of the culture wars have experienced this for years!

We have watched our pages shut down, our channels removed and our posts blocked all because we affirmed what the BIBLE (says) about marriage, sexuality and LGBTQ+ related themes...

No exaggeration. No hype! No playing fast and loose with the **truth!** Just documented facts. The censorship and suppression are real ...

This attack on our freedom of speech is as real as the IRS’s targeting of conservative organizations in the recent past, except it is more pervasive and widespread due to the ubiquitous nature of social media ...

In the last three years, we have learned that any views that dissent from the prevailing PC narrative could land you in Facebook (or YouTube or Twitter) jail. Worse still, you could be completely platformed...

To be perfectly candid, none of this makes me paranoid or worried. To the contrary, it emboldens me. The more I see censorship and suppression of speech, the more resolve I have to speak the truth in love regardless of cost or consequences. In the end, truth cannot be muzzled.

At the same time, I write this with sobriety. Our freedoms really are under attack and a course correction is essential!

Otherwise, we’ll have to figure out how to get our message out from a literal prison cell!

For the sake of the next generation, let’s refuse to be silenced or censored!

Dr. Michael Brown, afa.org

Case Closed

The Federal court case against pro life activist, Mark Houck has been completed. Houck is considered a

“peaceful pillar of the community,” according to his attorney, Peter Breen. Houck was accused of violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, which prohibits “violent, threatening, damaging, and obstructive conduct intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with the right to seek, obtain, or provide reproductive health services.

Houck contends that in the scuffle he was defending his 12-year-old son from aggressive harassment and bullying done by an abortion escort at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

Houck faced 11 years in prison if convicted. Last September, 20 heavily armed FBI agents raided his home and arrested him in a dramatic show of force. With 5 agents pointing guns to his head, Houck was arrested for charges that had already been thrown out of court, frightening his wife and seven young children. Houck had offered to appear voluntarily, but the Biden Department of Justice chose to use intimidation and an unnecessary show of force to arrest a peaceful and cooperative man.

As was the case in other situations the process is the punishment and is considered a “political persecution” by Houck’s lawyer. Houck’s lawyer also stated, “This case is being brought solely to intimidate people of faith and pro-life Americans. The verdict was announced on January 30, and Houck was acquitted on all counts.”

Afterward, Houck’s attorney stated, “Mark and his family are now free of the load that the Biden administration threw upon them. We took on Goliath – the full might of the United States government – and won. This is a win for Mark and the entire pro-life movement.

lifeneews.com

The Vine and the Branches

Most Extreme Abortion Law In The Nation

After passing the house, the abortion bill named “The Protect Reproduction Options (PRO) Act” was sent to the Minnesota Senate. After a 15-hour debate the bill was finally passed by a 1 vote majority. Opponents of the bill have said it is the “most extreme” abortion law in the Nation, on par with China and North Korea in its lack of restrictions. The Republicans attempted to add numerous amendments to the bill, but without success. All 35 amendments were rejected, including amendments to prohibit the sterilization of girls under 14 and requiring parental consent for abortions or sterilization involving

minors! This bill makes any type of abortion legal up until birth, available to anyone for any reason.

prolifeupdate.com
The Vine and the Branches

NYCDA Under Fire for Downgrading 52 Percent of Felony Cases to Misdemeanors

New York Counter Democratic District Attorney Alvin Bragg... downgraded **52** percent of felony cases to misdemeanors in 2022 while New Yorkers continue to face surging crime rates, Fox News Digital reported.

According to data from the DA office website, 39 percent of felony charges were downgraded to misdemeanors in 2019. From 2013 to 2020, under District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr., the percentage of downgraded cases never exceeded 40 percent.

Since (he took) office in January, Bragg's office has won only 51 percent of prosecuted felony charges, compared to Vance's 68 percent in 2019.

Candace Hathaway, theblaze.com

The Shipwrecked Bible

Alexander Duff, the great missionary, sailed to India on *Lady Holland* with all of his earthly possessions. Within a few miles of India, a shipwreck occurred!

The passengers were all saved, but the possessions of all the passengers were lost at the bottom of the Sea. On the shore, Alexander Duff hoped that some part of his possessions might be cast up on the shore.

Then he saw something – something small, floating on the top of the water. While anxious eyes watched it, nearer and nearer it came. What would it be? The missionary waded into the water, got hold of the floating object and returned it. What was it?

The BIBLE! Of all his books of all his possessions, that single Book was worth saving! Alexander Duff took the rescued Book to be a token from his LORD – took it to mean that this one BOOK was worth all his books and his possessions!

So, heartened Alexander Duff began his career as a missionary in India! The very next day, reading from the BIBLE, he began his first class – a group of five boys!

“But the word of the LORD endureth for ever ...”
(I Peter 1:25)

Selected

Learning to Float

There is a story told of a young man who was seeking after the knowledge of eternal salvation and peace with God. The friend in whom he had confided his difficulties discerned very quickly that he was striving to attain everlasting life by his own efforts!

His friend then asked him, “Jack, did you ever learn to float?”

“Yes, I did,” he replied. “And did you find it easy to learn?” “No, not at first,” he answered. “What was the difficulty?”

“Well, the fact is, I couldn't lie still; I could not believe or realize that the water could hold me up without any effort of my own, so I always began to struggle, and, of course, down I went at once.” “And then?”

“Why, then I found out that I must only rest, give up all the struggle, and the water would bear me up. It was easy enough for me after that; I was able to lie back in the fullest confidence that I should never sink!”

“And,” said the friend, “is not God's Word more worthy of your trust than the changeable sea?” He does not bid you wait for feelings! He commands you just to rest in Him and believe His Word!”

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...” (I John 5:13)

Make Me A Channel of Blessing

Is your life a channel of blessing?

Is the love of God flowing through you?

Are you telling the lost of the Savior?

Are you ready His service to do?

Refrain:

Make me a channel of blessing today,

Make me a channel of blessing, I pray;

My life possessing, my service blessing,

Make me a channel of blessing today.

Is your life a channel of blessing?

Are you burdened for those who are lost?

Have you urged upon those who are straying,

The Savior who died on the cross?

Is your life a channel of blessing?

Is it daily telling for Him?

Have you spoken the word of salvation

To those who are dying in sin?

H. G. Smyth

Forgiving

It was in a church in Munich that I saw him – a balding, heavysset man in a gray overcoat, with a brown felt hat clutched between his hands, People were filing out of the basement room where I had just spoken, moving along the rows of wooden chairs to the door at the rear. It was 1947, and I had come from Holland to defeated Germany with the message that God forgives.

It was the truth they needed most to hear in that bitter, bombed-out land, and I gave them my favorite mental picture. Maybe because the sea is never far from a Hollanders' mind, I liked to think that that's where forgiven sins were thrown. "When we confess our sins," I said, "God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever."

The solemn faces stared back at me, not quite daring to believe. There were never questions after a talk in Germany in 1947. People stood up in silence, in silence collected their wraps, in silence left the room.

And that's when I saw him, working his way forward against the others. One moment I saw the overcoat and the brown hat; the next, a blue uniform and a visored cap with its skull and crossbones. It came back with a rush: the huge room with its harsh overhead lights: the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the center of the floor; the shame of walking naked past this man. I could see my sister's frail form ahead of me, ribs sharp beneath the parchment skin. *Betsie how thin you were!* (Betsie and I had been arrested for concealing Jews in our home during the Nazi occupation of Holland; this man had been a guard at Ravensbruck concentration camp where we were sent.)

Now he was in front of me with his hand thrust out, "A fine message, Fraulein! How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!"

And I, who had spoken so glibly of forgiveness, fumbled

in my pocketbook rather than take that hand. He would not remember me, of course—how could he remember one prisoner among those thousands of women?

But I remembered him, and the leather crop swinging from his belt. I was face-to-face with one of my captors and my blood seemed to freeze.

"You mentioned Ravensbruck in your talk, "he was saying, "I was a guard there." No, he did not remember me.

"But since that time," he went on, "I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well, Fraulein," again the hand came out, "will you forgive me?"

I stood there – I whose sins had again and again to be forgiven – Betsie had died in that place – could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking?

It could not have been many seconds that he stood there – hand held out but to me it seemed like hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do.

For I had to do it I knew that! The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured 'us'! JESUS says, "**...if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**" (Matthew 6:15)

I knew it not only as a commandment of God, but a daily experience! Since the end of the war, I had had a home in Holland for victims of Nazi brutality. Those who were able to forgive their enemies were able also to return to the outside world and rebuild their lives, no matter what the physical scars. Those who nursed their 'bitterness' remained invalids. It was as simple and as horrible as that!

Still I stood there with coldness clutching my heart, BUT forgiveness is not an emotion– I knew that too! Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature the heart. "Help!" I prayed silently. "I can lift my hand – I can do that much, but You supply the feeling."

And so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust mine into the One stretched out to me. As I did, an incredible thing took place! The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands, and then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes!

"I forgive you, brother!" I cried. "with all my heart!"

For a long moment we grasped each other's hands — the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God's love so intensely, as I did then!

Corrie Ten Boom

"God in His mercy forgives sin, God in His grace removes the guilt of sin and when the guilt of sin is removed, the power of sin is broken."

Matthew Henry

Seven “Oughts” For Christians!

The “Ought” of Love

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” (I John 4:11)

Is this not true, that God loved us to such an extent that He sent His Son, down to this (sinful world), His only Son, down to this Earth to die for us who *are not worthy?* But love, His love, made Him do it. “**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**” (John 15:13) We are His friends, “**Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you**” (John 15:14) He gives us a New Commandment, “**A new Commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**” (John 13:34)

The “Ought” of Prayer

“**And he spake....that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.**” (Luke 18:1)

The prayerful life is a victorious life! JESUS commanded the disciples while HE was in the ‘garden’ to “**Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**” (Matthew 26:41) The fainting Christian is the prayerless Christian. There is a saying, “The devil trembles when he sees the weakest saint on his knees!” This shows that the devil cannot get hold of a Christian who lives in a real prayer-filled life. Great things have been wrought by Christians who have lived real prayerful lives. If one’s mind and heart are not prayerful, that is when the enemy gets his chance at him, and what damage has been wrought in cases like that!

The “Ought” of Obedience

“**.... We ought to obey God rather than men.**” (Acts 5:29)

These words were spoken by the apostles when they were before the high priests! We believe the apostles had holy boldness when they uttered these words before the Counsel. These Apostles had been commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus! They answered, “**... Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.**” (Acts 4:19) Samuel told Saul, when he did not obey GOD but listened to the people and did as he pleased, that “**...to obey is better than sacrifice...**” (I Samuel 15:22) Saul lost his kingship! Those who listen to God and obey Him will be mightily used of Him!

The “Ought” of Patience

“**We than that are strong ought to bear the infirmi-**

ties of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” (Romans 15:1)

It may seem hard *sometimes* to bear with those who are weak! “**Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself lest thou also be tempted**” (Galatians 6:1) It may take these things to teach one patience! Paul became “**...all things to all men ...**” (I Corinthians 9:22) that he wins some to Christ. If a Christian becomes impatient with a weaker one and cannot bear with him in all things, he will not win him to Christ! “**In your patience possess ye your souls.**” (Luke 21:19)

The “Ought” of Sacrifice

“**Hereby, perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**” (I John 3:16)

This takes Love — not natural love, but spiritual love. In these days, it seems hard for some to sacrifice for others! Perhaps a few minutes of our time would be the means of cheering someone that is down and out, and perhaps even be the means of bringing him to Christ. It may mean to give up something you wanted so badly. True happiness is found in sacrificing for others! Our Lord sacrificed for ‘us’. He gave His very life! HE died in such a shameful way, that we might share with Him Eternal Life!

The “Ought” of Giving

“**I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**” (Acts 20:35)

By these words we can fully understand why God gave His only Son to save a dying world, and why Jesus was willing to obey His Father. You and I cannot give in this way perhaps, but we can be willing to give the little things, such as time and money! It says, “**...ought to support the weak...**” This does not mean physically weak, but to bear with those who are weak spiritually. Give up your reputation and dignity and become like them. Paul said, “**To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by means save some.**” (I Corinthians 9:22)

The “Ought” of Forgiving

“**So that contrariwise you ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.**” (II Corinthians 2:7)

Here we are told that we ought to forgive! If some-

one has wronged you; you 'ought' to forgive him; If not, your Father in Heaven cannot forgive you! In the sermon on the mount, we read, ***"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"*** (Matthew 6:15) Look at the treatment that Jesus received! He was innocent, yet when He hung on the cruel Cross, He could look to His Father and say, ***"... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..."*** (Luke 23:34)

Selected

One Spark of Fire

Reading a biography of Billy Sunday, we came across this pertinent quote, ***"One spark of fire can do more to prove the power of gunpowder than a whole library on the subject."***

When Paul preached to the intellectual Corinthians, he deliberately decided against any academic approach in presenting the Gospel! He told the Corinthian Christians that ***"...my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power."*** (I Corinthians 2:4) Paul had the spark of fire.

Paul had the same evidence when he preached at Thessalonica. Just weeks after having been in that city, he wrote to the converts there and said, ***"... our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance ..."*** (I Thessalonians 1:5)

The spark of vital fire is not to be equated with emotionalism! Rather, it is the witness of the Holy Spirit as the reality of the message; it will convince the intellect, warm the affections, and move the will. It is not, however, to be related only to one aspect of the individual!

How much of our preaching and teaching lacks this ***"spark of fire"?*** **HOW DESPERATELY WE NEED IT!**

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing"! (Job 26:7)

Selected

The GRACE of God

It is interesting and instructive to note what the New Testament teaches about the Grace of GOD!

Grace is the means of justification and salvation!
"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The believer stands in grace, is under grace, and has access to God's throne of Grace!

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Although Israel as a nation has been set aside by God, there is a remnant among them according to the election of grace in the present dispensation. "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." (Romans 11:5)

An Acronym for Grace

Vance Havner Gave This Acronym For GRACE:

G – stands for GIFT, the principle of GRACE – Ephesians 2:8-9

R – stands for REDEMPTION, the purpose of GRACE – Ephesians 1:7

A – stands for ACCESS the privilege of GRACE – Romans 5:1-2

C – stands for CHARACTER the product of GRACE – II Corinthians 5:17

E – stands for ETERNAL LIFE, the prospect of GRACE – Titus 3:7

The principle – we don't deserve it, but GOD gives it anyway

The purpose – to redeem us, buy us back from sin, save us

The privilege – we can now come boldly before the Throne without fear, without hesitation, seeking aid in time of need. That is true access!

The product – The product – it is producing a Christ-like character in us; molding us into the image of His Son.

The prospect – there is more than what we see. There is Eternity with Christ.

Fear Not Little Flock

As we *open* our BIBLES, the word “*little*” should encourage us. If it should become to us a word associated with victory rather than defeat!

A LITTLE MAID (II Kings 5)

A little maid, far away in captive circumstances, knew about a “man of God” and the power of God was known by the king of Israel! Her simple testimony brought her leprous master to be healed and become a worshiper of God!

When we find ourselves a captive to circumstances and seemingly far from any place of usefulness, may we direct some “leprous Naaman” to a place of cleansing and salvation.

We may wonder to what place of honor and blessing this captive maiden may have been exalted as her happy and healed master returned!

A LITTLE OIL (I Kings 17)

As a refugee from Jezebel, Elijah had left the failing water of Cherith and the Raven’s daily supply. At God’s direction, he found himself a boarder with a widow and her son. Her earthly known resources were but a little oil in a cruse and a scattered handful of meal dusting the bottom of a barrel. She was about to prepare their last meal. Elijah’s asking for a morsel of bread seems cruel in this desperate situation — truly desperate EXCEPT FOR GOD! We are not able to estimate the amount of oil and meal in terms of gallons and barrels but they “...did eat many days.” (verse 15), and there was enough! It lasted until Elijah left Mount Carmel, until ‘rain’ came, and until the famine was lifted.

When things seem “like a famine” and the ‘oil’ and the ‘meal’ are low, are we tempted to withhold from God lest there be not enough? Remembering the widow, we must give GOD first! GOD has ways! How there was enough “for many days” we don’t know — except that God did it — and herein is our assurance and grounds for (a living) faith!

A LITTLE CLOUD (I Kings 18)

A prayer of Elijah had driven the rain from Israel’s skies, and another had brought fire to earth to consume a drenched altar in contest with Baal’s prophets. Then this righteous man bowed low on Carmel’s heights and fer-vently prayed for rain and breaking of the drought. SIX times the servant scanned the hot, brassy skies and reported that he saw nothing — but Elijah kept praying!

AFTER the seventh trip, and a look toward the sea, a little cloud the size of a man’s hand was reported! After

three and one-half years, one man, a prayer and a little cloud — but it was God’s cloud — the burning, thirsty earth was drinking in the cool, refreshing, and reviving downpour!

Elijah’s God waits for His “Elijahs” today as James 5:16 tells us, “...effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

A LITTLE FISH (Matthew 14)

To face a stadium filled with five to ten thousand hungry people, and hope to feed them with only a single lunch might be called impossible! So it might have been that beside Galilee had not those few fish been placed in the hands of JESUS, and blest by Him who ages before had created all things!

For the Apostles alone it was beyond the realm of possibility. “...send the multitude away.” (v. 15), they said. We say today, “The job is too great and the re-sources too small!”. BUT wait! Listen!! “Bring them hither to me” (18), said JESUS, and the fainting multi-tude had more than enough and were strengthened!

So today – first into His hands, back into ours to be-wail the “littleness” of what we have, but to dedicate it to Christ for His blessing in order that they need not go away – but have enough!

A LITTLE CHILD (Matthew 18)

HOW Small he must have seemed in the midst of the crowd of Apostles as Christ lifted him to His lap! He was just a “...little child...” (verse 2), but who can measure the space and place that he occupied in the ministry of the apostles, the plan of God, and the salvation of multitudes!

The reason is quite simple. Where there is no humil-ity, God gives no grace. He fights against the proud. Therefore, if this child, in his simple faith, obedience, and submissiveness brings the lesson of humility to these upon whom the launching of God’s program depends – how great is his place!

God may use some of His “little” children to teach some simple lessons needed by those “bigger” ones who may, because of our lessons taught, go forth to great things – of which we have become really a part! Nothing is actually “little” that touches God, souls, and Eternity!

A LITTLE FLOCK (Luke 12)

Placed alongside the non-professing world and the mere professing church, God’s own are a “little flock” – both numerically and in natural strength! There is no merit in being “little” as a congregation (it might be a shame if our best has not been done to grow), but His presence in our midst is the important thing!

When we see what great things HE has done with

“the little” and “the few,” we must conclude that when God ceases to use the things that are “small” and “weak,” **HE will have ceased to be GOD!**

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many might, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence” (I Corinthians 1:26-29)

Selected

ONE DAY!

One day a Prophet from Nazareth appeared, mighty in word and deed before God and all the people! He was the greatest of all the prophets and proclaimed God’s message more clearly than any others! He performed the works which He had seen of the Father, and spoke the words He had heard of Him. By His works He demonstrated God’s power, and by His words He revealed God’s will. He opened their eyes to the deepest depths in human life and to the highest pinnacles of God’s wisdom and grace. Even His enemies exclaimed, “Never so man spoke!”

How could it be otherwise when He by whom all things were created stood as a man among men to declare God’s Word? HE was the Word that became flesh to dwell among us. He had the ‘spirit’ without measure, and taught the way of God in Truth! In a tranquility born of greatness HE sat on the mount with the people gathered about Him; with true prophetic *insight* HE looked into their souls and spoke words which expressed perfectly their poverty and need. Not only that, He brought a message of cheer from God to those who are poor in spirit and who hunger and thirst after righteousness; they are called blessed, and the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

He opened the door to the true meaning of the Law and the Prophets. He revealed God’s will for this life and the next. He cut squarely across human opinions and commandments of men to give us the kernel of God’s Truth! This He did even if it made some of the *hearers* to gnash their teeth and lay plans against His life. He drew back the curtain between time and eternity and declared time and again that there is a life after death for those who believe (trust) in Him!

HE told His own clearly and forcefully that He would rise from the grave on the third day! HE sat with His disciples and looked over the city and the temple, these cen-

ters of God’s plan for His people; from this vantage point He painted a panoramic picture of coming events to the end of time! These are no hazy dreams of a man in search of ‘truth’; they are the simple truths of God as He gave them to the Prophet. It is the **“Thus saith the Lord!”** which shall abide when even heaven and earth **pass away!**

When we who live today are tempted to desert Jesus, we should be able to say with an even greater conviction than Peter, **“Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.”** Every Christian ought to frequently remind himself of the many witnesses, as well as of the testimony of the Spirit in his own heart; these all testify that He is the Word Of God! It would strengthen our faith and gladden our heart.

You and I came to Him as poor and helpless creatures! We came upon His invitation such as we were and kneelt at the Cross of Him who died for us. We received what HE has promised; HE gave us new life and put a new song in our mouth (Psalm 40). For some of us many years have gone by since that day! We have lived with HIM through the years of our youth and have fought some of life’s most bitter battles under HIS Banner! Many things have changed during the years; one after another of our hopes have faded into nothingness. But there is one thing that has not changed; that is the Word of God! One there is who has never failed us: Jesus Christ. Every Christian can testify that His is the only comfort in life worth mentioning.

*In Sorrow He’s my comfort, in trouble He’s my stay,
He tells me every care on Him to roll;
He’s the “Lily of the Valley,” the Bright and Morning Star,
He’s the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

In life’s loneliness we have found our sweetest moments with Jesus and His Word. In the secret of His presence, we have received strength for our days, weeks, and years from youth to old age; we have found rest for the soul, and a friend in time of need; we have received peace in our heart and light for our path.

My own testimony is this: Every day He is becoming more precious to me. He is my life!

Now we know that the mystery of the Cross is the saving power in life, and that the mercy-seat in Christ’s Blood is the meeting place between the sinner and God. Now we know it, not only as a fact found in a book, but as a truth established in life – a truth which is most effective when life is most difficult.

Christ is our Prophet, mighty in word and deed.

Taken from *Spirit and Power*, © Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 1959

Dear Friends

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John...they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

Those around the disciples knew that they had been with Jesus, for they could see the boldness and courage that was shown in their ministry! The Lord Jesus was the greatest influence in the lives of these disciples.

So, it is with us, the more time we spend with Christ, and the more we let Him influence our lives, the more like Him we become. When the inward part of our life is what it ought to be, then the outward part will be what it ought to be.

We are not to have just an outward showing and not give our heart, and life to the Lord. We are to love God and His Word with our whole heart. J. C. Ryle said, “He that would be conformed to Christ’s image, and become a Christlike man, must be constantly studying Christ Himself. Our boldness and strength do not depend on our outward circumstances, our personalities, or possessions, but on Christ alone.”

C. H. Spurgeon wrote, *“A Christian should be a striking likeness of Jesus Christ*. The best life of Christ is his living biography, written out in the words and actions of His people. If we were what we profess to be, and we should be, we should be pictures of Christ; yea, such striking likenesses of Him, that the world would not have to hold us up by the hour together, and say, *“Well, it seems somewhat of a likeness;”* but they would, when they once beheld us, exclaim,

“He has been with Jesus!”

Paul David Tripp wrote in *Lost in the Middle*:

“God isn’t entering into your miniscule little kingdom to do everything he can to make it successful. Instead, he has welcomed you out of your personal kingdom allegiance into the history-spanning expansiveness of *his* kingdom, to be part of what he planned not only before your first breath, but also literally before the foundations of the world were laid in place. You were never created to live with your goals and needs as your deepest concerns. You and I were created to know, serve, love and worship him. This means desiring that his kingdom flourish and his glory to the glory of God than by what you think would make you comfortable and happy. So God will do things that rob you and me of our comfort that interrupt our plans, and that even bring pain and suffering our way. And he will do this to complete what he has begun in us and in the world. God will take away what has brought us temporary joy in order to drive us toward the greater delight of his kingdom and his righteousness. And as much as we know this to be true, we

will continue to be surprised by the turns he ordains our lives to take.”

Sense vs. Sentiment, an editorial by T. C. Horton in 1921 “The King’s Business:”

“This is a superficial age when there is grave danger of our losing our balance. We are drifting from our moorings. The Word of God gives us our precepts and our examples. We are taught in the Word that we should love all men. No man should be beyond the reach of the love of our hearts, and this love should be manifested in our relation to him by our lives. But true love never thwarts justice. We should love our children and be willing to suffer for them, but this demands that we should punish them when they are guilty of violation of law. Violation of law demands righteous punishment. Love is not a sentiment. It is a principle, a principle unchanging with God, always exemplified by Him in His Word. Punishment should not be inflicted in anger but in tears, though it should be inflicted after God’s own pattern. God’s love is a principle shown in His grace, His mercy, His longsuffering. His anger is shown in His severity. He is angry with the wicked, but it is a righteous anger, a holy anger. God hates sin and exemplified His hatred of it by pouring out His wrath on His own Son. But His love is also manifested in the sacrificial gift of His Son.

“Our country is suffering intensely today by reason of laxity both in the enforcement of law and in the punishment of lawbreakers. Justice is a joke with the law-violators. One excuse given for the failure to impose a just sentence for violation of law is that the jails and penitentiaries are overcrowded, and it is impossible to accommodate the criminals. If penalties were adequately administered, this would put fear into the hearts of men, and sentiment would give place to common sense. Sentiment breeds weak, effeminate characters. We are charged sometimes with being too severe in our editorials, in our position toward the enemies of the truth. We are told that we should be more loving toward them, that we should treat them as brethren. There is much of this that is purely sentiment and leads to a compromising spirit. We love all men. We love bandits, and with this same love we love the deniers of the truth; but we want to call men by their proper names. We do not call a man a brother, in the light of the Word of God, who denies the deity and blood sacrifice of our Lord and yet who pretends to be His disciple and draws his salary from deceived people. We bid him no God-speed any more than we would the devil, for we know that he is the devil’s instrument and the worst kind of a deceiver, for he wears the royal robe as the ambassador of Christ while serving Satan.

“Trifling with truth, smoothing down sin, condoning false preaching, calling a Bible-bandit a brother,

pussy-footing with perjured professors, is purely silly sentimentalism. It evidences a lack of Bible sense. Worldly and ungodly men respect the man who reproves and rebukes their sinful ways because they have a conscience concerning their wrongs. And these false teachers have more respect for those of us who love the Lord and His Word and who make no compromise with them but condemn their unholy position. We propose to expose error, not to excuse it. We will continue to love these destructive critics with a godly love but will not fail to let the light shine in on their dark and dangerous teaching. We will pray for them as enemies of the truth but will not participate in their pernicious teaching. We prefer to be sensible rather than sentimental, to be loyal rather than traitors. We can shed real tears over their sinful doings, but we will also seek to tear away the mask behind which they hide and let the light of God's Word illumine the devilish sophistry of their teaching. Those of us who love the Lord and His unimpeachable Word ought to be willing to make no compromise with sentimentalism of any kind."

What Our Nation Needs

A leader like Moses,

Who refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but was willing to go with God.

Army generals like Joshua,

Who knew God and could pray and shout things to pass rather than blow them to pieces with atomic energy.

A food Administrator like Joseph

Who knew God and had the answer to famine.

Preachers like Peter, who would not be afraid to look people in the eye,

And say, "Repent or perish," and denounce their personal as well as national sins.

Mothers like Hannah,

Who would pray for a child that might give him to God, rather than women who are delinquent mothers of delinquent children.

Children like Samuel,

Who would talk to God in the night hours.

Physicians like Luke,

Who could care for physical needs and introduce their patients to Jesus Christ who is a Specialist in spiritual trouble.

A God like Israel's,

Instead of the dollar god, the entertainment god, and the auto god.

A Savior like JESUS,

Who could and would save from the "gutter-most to the uttermost."

Selected

Draw Me a Picture of God

A five-year-old girl ran into her father's studio and requested, "Daddy, draw me a picture of God."

Jack Hamm, well-known artist and cartoonist, was startled for a moment. Hesitating, he looked at his little daughter.

She saw he was confused, and continued, "Daddy, I know, God looks like Jesus."

This was true insight for the child did not know that Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

BUT what did Jesus look like?

Last year I saw pictures which were painted before the time of Jesus, statues which were made long before Christ walked in Galilee and a mask of King Tut's face in the Cairo Museum which was made in 1350 B. C. However, if anyone during the days of His flesh (Incarnation) made any kind of likeness of Jesus, we do not know about it!

Living Christ

The Scripture tells a great deal about Jesus, but the Gospel writers made no attempt to describe His physical appearance! Perhaps this is well, because if we had an authentic likeness, we might worship the likeness instead of the Living Christ!

Bruce H. Price

Facing Trouble

A farmer plowed around a rock in one of his fields for many years. As a result, he grew actually morbid over it; for he broken a cultivator and two plows, as well lost a lot of valuable farm land in its vicinity.

One day he made up his mind that he would dig it out and be done with it. When he put his crowbar under it, he found it was less than a foot thick and he could loosen it with a trilling effort and carry it away in his wagon. He smiled to think how all through the years it had haunted him.

One day we shall look back on our trials and our anxious cares and find how needless many of them were, so unreal and yet so distressing. Then we'll say, "I've had so many trials and especially those that never came!

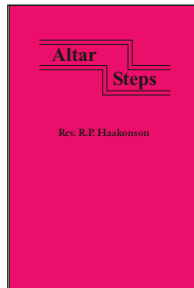
Pulpit Helps

The Hauge Library

We have the following publications available for you. They can be ordered using the envelope in the center. Postage will be paid by an anonymous donor.

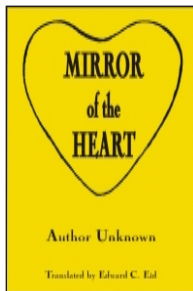
Altar Steps

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.



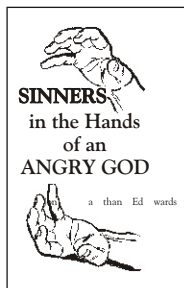
Mirror of the Heart

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. Inside the heart, the devil is visualized and also seven animals representing some of the most prevalent sins found in the heart of the impenitent sinner. These pictures show how these animals as sins are driven out of the heart when the sinner is converted to God, but how they can re-enter the heart if a person falls away from grace. One picture visualizes the fearful death of the ungodly, and another shows the blessed death of the righteous. 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.



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Heads Up!

Now here – let us wake up, sing up, preach up, pray up, pay up, and stay up – but never give up or let up or back up or shut up unto Christ, who was caught up, shall come and call up the bride – made up of redeemed sinners for whom the Lord was lifted up!

“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” Luke 21:28.

So heads up while the glorious cause of Christ is to build-up!

Selected