



# Morning Glory

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

**EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP**

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2023

## Thanksgiving

Dr. C.J. Sodergren, LBI

In due time the President of our country and the Governors of our states will call on us to observe Thanksgiving Day. Governor Bradford decreed such a day in 1621 and General Oglethorpe was the first officially to set aside the day in 1735. Abraham Lincoln universalized the celebration by Proclamation.

Some of these calls have been like sermons to the nation, full of the spirit of true devotion. Others have been rather perfunctory, worded in the tone of mere “religion,” with some passing reference to “Almighty God.” In any event, we should be devoutly grateful as a nation that the summons comes at all today to assemble in our churches and homes for the purpose of rendering united praise to God for His many mercies to us. With the summer and fall harvest in mind, the stress will be on temporal blessings. And there is sufficient occasion for the custom. Especially in view of the privileges we still enjoy, as compared with the present experiences of other nations across both oceans.

That we may meet at all for divine worship, unmolested and in perfect security; and that our pastors are free to preach the Gospel; and that men, women and children may unite in hymns of grateful praise to the Giver for the favors we enjoy, is incentive enough for responding to these behests.

We know that many, too many, will pay little or no attention. Of course, The “crowd” will continue in its selfish indifference. “God is not in all their thoughts.” Their chief interest will be the turkey on the table, till it has been reduced to a mere skeleton of its former self, after which a card deck, a movie, or a dance, will occupy their attention. Others at the opposite end of privilege will have no bird to

carve, and in their discontent will only grumble at their lot, though we should not forget that disappointment may at times hit so hard that they break our springs. The fact remains that the majority of our citizenry will not spend an hour in the house of God nor in any way acknowledge in their homes the debt they owe to our Creator and Provider for days of peace and daily bread.

There are indeed many things for which we cannot be grateful, such as crime, costing our country 500 million dollars more each year than all our churches, educational institutions and charities put together; the suicide of 17,500 people; the unemployment of more than 20 million; bloody wars; the mad race of warlords and armament makers; the fearful ravages of the liquor interests and their victims on the roads and in the dens of infamy; the seething multitude hell-bent for-profit and sensual pleasure. (Editor: The numbers are much higher, but not much else has changed in the world, sin still ravishes the population.)

It is also difficult for thoughtful and devout souls of the comfortable middle class to thank God that we are not like other men in the present situation. It reminds us of the Pharisee in the temple. He indeed thanked God for self-righteousness, but we are fearful lest the same spirit may possess us in regard to the good things with which we are significantly blest. We may forget the heartache and misery of many of those who are providing us with all this and congratulate ourselves that we are not reduced to their hopeless level and living on their beggarly fare. A hurried glance into sweatshops, textile mills, mines, and the huts of sharecroppers tones down

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our songs of praise. We accept the benefits of our position, but is there not something more that ought to enter into our thanksgiving? Should not our lives show forth our praise? We know that our mere presence as worshipers in the churches is not acceptable to God if there is no repentance in the heart of the nation and no attempt to correct the evils of our civilization. Lip service is not thanksgiving. Confession of sin comes first. Then a united effort, inspired by the Spirit of Christ, to respond to what we know is His revealed will with reference to our brethren in the world, at home and abroad.

Thanksgiving Day should be a day of searching of hearts and of setting our hands to obey God, that His kingdom may come and that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*The Bible Banner,*  
November 1940

**Editor:** I was convicted by this article, too many times in the past I have treated Thanksgiving as just a day off, and not given it the reverence it deserves. Truly we have so much to give thanks for, especially the Salvation we have in Christ.

## “Yes, But Not Yet”

By Ole Hallesby

And it happened while they were walking on the road, when one said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go,” And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have caves, and the birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.” He said to another, “Follow me,” but he said, “Lord first allow me to go away and bury my father.” But He said to him, “Let the dead bury their dead, but go away and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord. But first, allow me to say goodbye to them back home.” But Jesus said to him, “No one who lays his hand on the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:57-62).

We don't hear much about these three. We don't even hear their names. Nor how they fared. But we shall see them again before the White Throne Judgment. And whether they were saved or lost, we shall see that the most important page in the history of their lives was written that day. Because they met Jesus. “While they were walking on the road,” it says. An unforgettable piece of road. And an unforgettable conversation with Jesus. Many wished they had lived then. For they believe that then it would have been easier to become a Christian. I don't think that desire is well informed. It was certainly harder to follow Jesus back then than it is today.

And there is no difficulty in meeting Jesus now. He comes as we walk on the road and starts talking to us. We didn't ask him for a meeting, but he came anyway. I am glad to think that there is not one of my listeners to whom Jesus has not spoken. How do I know? I know that from the Bible. There I see how great and good God is.

And it's so obvious that we know who's talking to us and what He wants. My dear unconverted friends, you have experienced much more with God than you have told any man. You have experienced strange moments perhaps in the midst of your daily hustle and bustle, holy moments. You didn't want them, but you couldn't stop them. It was God who touched your thoughtless and careless soul. And then it was like shells falling from your eyes. You saw your whole life in a whole new light. There were failures and failures throughout, and you felt as if the ground sank beneath your feet and a burning longing came upon you. I know, you simply longed for God, to lay your troubled head and sick heart upon God. He who created you, and redeemed you, and called you, and followed you.

Then you saw it so clearly, that no man had to tell you, I will never be well, until I am well with God. But

then you saw one more thing just as clear: I'll never get along well with God until I get this settled with God. The three we read about in the text, there are several features in the story that show that they were good-hearted and kind, but prone to not make commitments. They had good resolutions and plans, but they were afraid of the choice, especially to choose immediately.

I'm sure I'm speaking to many tonight who know they are unconverted. You know if you plunged dead to the floor at this moment, you'd plunge right into hell!

You want to be converted by the time you die, but you will not repent now. Do you know that Satan also preaches repentance? Yes, he often preaches from the Bible. When he tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he began by saying: It is written. And then he quoted an entire verse from the Old Testament. When he preaches repentance, he says: It is written that you must repent, or you will go to hell. But — Satan always says — it's not urgent. Not now later! This is surely Satan's finest trick.

He makes men believe they will repent - soon. It gives them the courage to live unrepentantly. How can you, who are unrepentant, lie down quietly to sleep at night? If you could ask those who are now in eternal damnation if they had not wanted to convert, I think most people would answer: Yes, we would. But then why did they perish? They thought, no hurry.

Now hear how Jesus preaches repentance. That's what this text says more clearly than most others. Jesus said to them, “Follow me. And they said yes, but they added: – let me first – that is, later. No, Jesus said, “not later, now.” One asked to say goodbye to them at home, and the other asked to go home and bury his father. Yes, you could say Jesus was hard. Love is hard, when it sees that the beloved is in mortal danger without even knowing it. Jesus saw that for these two it was now or never. And then He demanded a decision on the spot.

Tonight, I stand here in Christ's place. You think it's bold speech. Yes, I would never dare say it, if it weren't in the Bible: We are messengers in the place of Christ. And now I should ask you in Christ's place to repent now where you sit. Yes, you say, but it can't be that fast and easy, can it? To that, I will reply with a picture. Suppose you got seriously ill last night. You go to a doctor. He said it was acute appendicitis and you needed immediate surgery. “No,” you said, “I don't want surgery.” “Then you will die,” the doctor said. “For if your appendix bursts it will poison your whole body and then you will die.”

So, you decide to have surgery. When you arrive at the hospital, what do you think the senior consultant will ask you? Will he ask If you understand how your appendix works? No. Will he ask, If you understand the sur-

gery we need to do? No. He will want to know only one thing: whether you will have the surgery or not. Will you have the surgery? If you say yes, then he will prepare you for the operation. He is going to operate. You're lying on the operating table like a living corpse. They have numbed you so thoroughly that you don't know or feel anything. And to be absolutely sure that you are not going to intervene in the operation, he secures your hands and feet. He's the one operating, you're the one being operated on.

Here I see, as if in a flash of lightning, how it goes to be saved. It is Jesus, the physician of the soul who saves you. He doesn't need any help from you. But you must decide if you want to, if you want to have surgery.

Do you know there's something God can't do for you? He could become human for your sake, He could suffer for you, and He could die for you, but He could not choose for you. You must do that yourself. But note: It is not your choice that saves you, any more than it is your choice to have surgery that saves your life. It's the surgeon who operates that saves your life, but he must have your yes. It is the Savior who saves you.

From the moment you put yourself in the hands of the great healer, you are already saved. To be saved, you just need to be a sinner who repents of all known sin, yes, go to Jesus with all your guilt and shame. The moment you give Him your yes, He does the miracle with you. Then He offers His finished salvation. He spreads the forgiveness of sins to your present and past sins. Then He gives you what you so desperately long for, He gives you peace. Peace with God, peace with your conscience, peace in life, and peace in death. And then He gives you a new mind that will repent and confess all that you know to be sin and that will fight against all your beloved secret sins.

Here is a special word for you who think you have committed such a heinous sin that you think God would never let you approach Him for forgiveness. Hear God's own word: "The blood of the Son of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin." Even my weak-willed and indecisive sins. Now you've been thinking and pondering and longing long enough for God. Now you need to act. Now commit yourself to God and deal with Him today. And then tomorrow witness to your friends. Tell them that your sins have become so unbearable that you could not live without God's amazing grace.

Hallesby's radio sermon

from:<http://bibelfellesskapet.net/~bibelf5/index.php/forkynnelse/artikler/126-ole-hallesbys-radiotale-fra-1953>

Translated from Norwegian by the editor with the help of Google Translate, (National Broadcast Radio Sermon – Dec 1953), From Wikipedia: In 1953, a radio

speech by Hallesby caused a major debate in Norway on the existence of hell.

The speech was condemned on the front page of *Dagbladet* the following day, and criticisms were raised against NRK for hosting Hallesby's speech. NRK responded that since there was a state church, they had to accept it as it was. Within the church, the debate ignited a conflict between liberal and literal interpretations of the Bible. The bishop of Hamar, Kristian Schjelderup was the main spokesperson for the liberal side who argued that the damnation of hell was incompatible with a religion of love. Most of the church supported Hallesby's view of hell, though some did not support the wording in his speech.

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## Differences between Haugeanism and Pietism

Haugeanism by: M.O. Wee, Copyright 1919

The differences between the two movements are evident. "The anti-pietistic element in Haugeanism consists in this, that it strongly and fervently emphasizes Christian life in its activity and strife, rather than in its rest and tranquility. As the pietists saw their ideal in being quiet, introspective, always looking upward, while their earthly tasks were either distasteful or, at any rate, irksome and wearisome; so the Haugeans were thoroughly practical men with a keen sense for the economical, a desire for activity which at times and in places went too far, assuming a strong semblance to the worship of mammon." Haugeans have, for this reason, assumed leading positions along all lines of activity, from the fisherman's boat to the house of parliament, and from the time of the memorable gathering at Eidsvold (Editor: Birthplace of the Norwegian constitution) down to the present day.

**"Marriage is like taking two rough stones and putting them together in your pocket. 20 years later you take them out and they are both nice and smooth because they have knocked the rough edges off each other."**

From a Godly woman who was married for 61 years.

# Editorial

Wayne Almlie

## Testimony

*“Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so.” (Psalm 107:2)*

I had some time in August to go through some copies of the “Morning Glory” going back to the early 40’s. One thing that stuck out to me was that in almost every issue, when people sent in gifts for the ministry, they would often include a testimony. What a blessing it was to read the testimonies of those saints who have probably passed on to their reward. Would you consider blessing and encouraging all the readers of the “Morning Glory” by sending us a testimony that we could include in an upcoming issue? Let me give you a couple examples from April of 1951.

### Found and Saved

The Lord found me and saved me three years ago this coming April. “He who comes unto me I will in no wise cast out.”

I did not know the way of salvation, never knowing that Jesus died for us all. I thought just the good people went to heaven. When the spirit of God called me, I didn’t know it was God calling. I started in my own strength to live better, but it got worse. I went struggling within. We were invited to come to special meetings in our church and I shall never forget when the spirit of God broke me down and the need to get saved was great. My life was changed. “Old things have passed away, behold, all things are new.” I have had many struggles and doubts in my Christian life, but Jesus is my light and strength.

I’m thankful that my husband has experienced salvation too. Enclosed renewals; rest for fund.

Mrs. Percy Halsne, Williams, Ia.

### Loved His Appearing

Dear Morning Glory Friends: Paul sends especially to those of the household of God greetings in Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit.” How good it is to rest in the finished work of the Cross, and to have that joy and peace that passes all understanding.

There was a time in my life that I feared to meet

God, because I knew I was lost. But how thankful I am now that I know I am saved. I John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren.” Heb. 9:28 says, “Unto them that look for His appearing He shall appear the second time.” The question today is, “Are you looking for His appearing, or are you fearing it?” God grant that we prepare to meet our God; and with joyful hearts await His return. Time waits for no man.

I am thankful for the Morning Glory and the blessing it has been to me. It is a joy to read the personal testimonies and other articles. Especially have I been interested in the messages from the Eiklis’ and Gronning’s. It is good to hear how they are getting along. We need to be much in prayer for them and others, that many souls will be won for Him while it is yet day. Enclosed is a renewal and gift for Federation.

May the Lord continue to bless you all richly and continue your work to go forward until His coming.

Alvin Larson, Badger, Iowa.

**Editor:** I never had to chance to meet Alvin, I did know a brother and a sister, who were members of Hauge Lutheran Church in Goldfield when I served there starting in 2005. What a Godly heritage that Family had and left behind. It was a joy to serve them as pastor.

### Here is my testimony

“And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” (Rev 12:11)

This is my testimony of how I came to Faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I was born at the hospital in Hillsboro, North Dakota. Growing up we lived for a couple of years each at Grandin, ND, and Ada and Shelly MN. Then when I was six, Dad took a job with an agri-builder in Fargo and bought 5 acres of land with a house just to the east of Hendrum, MN, and that’s where we were for the next 15 years.

The Pastor there at Hendrum was Elmer Anhalt. I never realized how fortunate we were to have that man of God as our pastor until after I graduated from Bible School and tried to find a Lutheran Church that had life in it. I grew up thinking that what was there at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hendrum was what everybody that went to Lutheran Churches had. Boy was I in for a rude awakening.

Pastor Anhalt preached the Gospel; I don't think he ever preached a sermon that I can remember where the theme of repentance and the need to commit yourself to Jesus as Lord and Saviour were not a part of it. He would bring in the LEM (Lutheran Evangelistic Movement), for a week of evangelistic meetings. In the summer he would bring in a LEM youth ministry team for a week to minister to the youth.

It was at one of the Evangelistic meetings at our church with Pastor Sterling Johnson where the Holy Spirit first showed me my need for repentance and showed me that it wasn't enough to simply believe that God was. Yes, I had always believed. From my earliest memories I had believed. But at this time, probably around 13-14 years old, God was telling me that it wasn't enough to believe he existed, but that I needed to repent of my sins and follow Him as Lord.

Now I did what so many have done before me, and since. I told God no. He wasn't going to be Lord. I wanted to do what I wanted to do. I wanted to have fun, I wanted to be liked, to be popular, and to be popular you had to hang around certain people and do certain things and use certain language.

Around 1970, there was a stirring of the spirit that took place with some of the youth of Hendrum and Perley. In the winter/spring of 1970, four young men professed faith in Jesus and started sharing their faith with classmates and the community. Three of these young men were still in high school, and they started meeting regularly for Bible study and prayer, just the four of them initially. But soon the Lord started to add others to the small fellowship of living Christians.

I was not yet saved, I was still living in rebellion, partying and drinking with my friends, but God had gotten my attention again. Even though I was not saved, I went to many of these gatherings, partly out of curiosity, and partly because there was a girl that attended that I was interested in.

These kids had a burden for their lost friends too. In the summer of 1971 they, with the help and blessing

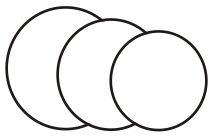
of Pastor Halverson of the Lutheran Church in Perley, organized an Evangelism Crusade to be held at the Perley Hall. It was on either August 20th or 21st, I don't remember for sure. They advertised it on a local Radio Station, and they filled the place. Perley is six miles from Hendrum.

The meeting was completely youth led. It was a series of songs and testimonies. Kids testifying of changed lives, forgiveness of sin, no longer afraid of death because they have the assurance that they are heaven bound. Then Pastor Halverson gave an altar call. I don't remember that anyone went forward. I know that the Spirit was trying to push someone forward, but like before I resisted, and went home unchanged. But God was still dealing with me. I tried to go to sleep, but I could not find rest. Finally, around two o'clock in the morning I slipped out of bed, got on my knees and prayed, I finally surrendered to Jesus. I can testify that I did not feel the earth shake, I didn't have an angel visitation, but I knew I was saved. And looking back I can see that from that moment I was born again, I was a new creation with new desires and a new motivation to serve God, to read His word and to fellowship with other Christians.

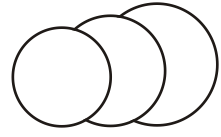
This was right before my senior year in high school. What a blessing those first couple years were, the fellowship we had. We would just meet on our own. Those were the days when the churches left their doors open. And we would gather a couple times a week sometimes in the church basement, other times out at a believer's home in the country, and we would testify to each other of what God had been doing in our lives and what He was showing us in his word.

I marvel at the privilege that was mine to grow up there and to be a part of that true move of God. This would have been right at the tail end of the "Jesus People" Movement. Granted in many places and in many ways The "Jesus People" revival was a shallow movement, but yet God had his fruit through it. That was the last general move of the Spirit that this country has seen. Granted there have been pockets of revival at various churches or Universities, but no general moving of the Spirit in revival in over 50 years.

May the Lord do another mighty work in us in these last days before He returns.



# From Our Fellowship Circle



**E. G. Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada**  
Dear believers, keep up the good work. We have an evil world. In the love of Jesus.

**B. R. LaCrosse, WI**  
I am reading Spirit and Power from the online site and am well immersed in it. I would love to receive the reprint of it offered at \$12.00. I am enclosing a check and my address. Thank You. God Bless.

**D&M. G. Viroqua, WI**  
Enclosed is a gift in honor of Rodney Stueland's ministry. We're thankful for his fellowship in the Gospel.

**C.H. Inver Grove Heights, MN**  
Thank you for staying True to Scripture. God bless you and all who make *Morning Glory* and are proclaiming God's Word.

## Resisting the Devil

*"Fear not the things which thou art about to suffer, behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful until death, and I will give thee the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).*

These words contain part of a message which the Lord Jesus sent to the church at Smyrna. The congregation must have been gripped by these words when they were read to them the first time. This letter told several things about their archenemy, the devil, that are well worth our observation also.

The devil is always on hand. Once when Jehovah asked him where he had been, he said, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it" (Job 1:7). "To and fro" is right! He misses no one. For he "as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). We praise God he cannot devour everybody, for our God has made provision for His people. He can, however, try them severely.

The devil has power. "The devil is about to cast some of you into prison." His power is surpassed only by that of our God. No human being or group of human beings can withstand him. His power is so great that all who fight him in their own strength are defeated. His power has overcome many. Only those who seek their strength in the Lord Jesus can stand. Therefore, "Put on the whole armor

of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). We praise God that there is an armor from God that Satan cannot pierce.

The devil is used to test God's people – "that ye may be tried." All God's children are tried and tested. In fact, that is the way they grow. Therefore, the Lord has told us how to meet these trials. "Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). Of course, the devil does not expect God's children to accept trials and temptations with joy. He aims rather to make them discouraged and cause them to grumble. Then he has succeeded in accomplishing his end. On the other hand, God has made it possible to defeat Satan with rejoicing, for "the joy of Jehovah is your strength" (Neh. 8:10).

The devil's time is limited. "Ye shall have tribulation ten days." When a person is in the midst of a severe trial, it seems that there is no end to it. However, that is the way we feel. Ten days can seem like eternity when Satan is after us. But then how good to know, "I can do all things in him that strengthened me" (Phil. 4:13). Temptation and trials, even though they seem long, have an end. Therefore, we are told, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). It is good to remember at a time of testing that Satan can be withstood. "Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are accomplished in your brethren who are in the world" (I Peter 5:9).

The devil can be withstood even until death. "Be thou faithful until death." How we should praise God for this provision! Not even death can separate a child of God from his Saviour. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37). Those who withstand Satan until the end shall receive a crown. "I will give thee the crown of life." No wonder Satan is after a child of God. He would rob him of his crown. The way to the crown is through the valley of trials and testings. When you are tried and tested severely, take courage, you are on the right road. Remember, you are dealing with a defeated foe. Keep your eyes on Jesus. There are only a few more steps, and you will be safely home. The Father's house with its many mansions stands open to you. Our text started with the words, "Fear not." With these words we end our meditation: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Rev. Maynard Force, *Evangelize*, February 1950

# Believable ... Yet unbelievable.

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## From the “End Times Headlines”

If you grew up in early 2000s youth groups, then you’re likely familiar with the 1990s Christian band, “Caedmon’s Call.” But what you’re likely not familiar with is the band’s lead singer Derek Webb “deconstructing” — and putting out a song praising drag queens.

The song is called “Boys Will Be Girls” and features his friend drag queen “Flamy Grant.” Webb says he no longer identifies as a Christian but rather as a progressive.

**Editor:** If you want to know about progressive Christianity, go to September’s issue of the *Morning Glory* and read Jim Haga’s excellent article. You can find that on our web page: [haugeinnermission.com](http://haugeinnermission.com).

## Fired For Christians Beliefs

Ohio Right to Life fired the organization’s communications director after Republican Jewish Congressman Max Miller publicly accused her of bigotry earlier this week in response to her proclaiming her faith in Jesus Christ on social media.

“There’s no hope for any of us outside of having faith in Jesus Christ alone,” Elizabeth “Lizzie” Marbach posted Tuesday afternoon on ‘X’ formerly known as Twitter.

Twenty-five minutes later, Miller, whose wife, Emily Moreno Miller, serves on the Board of Ohio Right to Life, called her statement “bigoted” and demanded she take it down. “This is one of the most bigoted tweets I have ever seen. Delete it, Lizzie. Religious freedom in the United States applies to every religion. You have gone too far.”

LifeSiteNews

**Editor:** Of course what she wrote had nothing to do with denying someone’s religious freedom. But they want to deny Elizabeth Marbach her religious freedom to believe what Christians have believed for almost 2,000 years, not only that, but they also deny her the right to work. Seems like we are being groomed for the Mark of the Beast.

## School Lunches Denied

URGENT: The Biden administration and California state officials have taken away the lunch money of low-income kids because their Christian school doesn’t

comply with its radical redefinition of “sex” in Title IX.

The Church of Compassion, a non-denominational church in El Cajon, CA, operates a small Christian school—Dayspring Christian Learning Center.

They are dedicated to serving everyone in the community, and roughly 40 percent of students come from low-income families.

Now, because the school won’t violate its religious beliefs, state and federal officials have denied its application to continue receiving the school lunch funding it has received for almost 20 years.

Alliance Defending Freedom

**Editor:** Compassion? They have none when it comes to pushing their agenda.

## Inerrancy

“At the time the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed in 1988, the America Lutheran Church (ALC) had within its constitution an unalterable article of faith that affirmed the Bible as the ‘inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God.’ It was this unalterable article that required the ALC be dissolved and an entirely new church be created, rather than have a traditional merger. The ELCA deliberately set aside this foundational, historical, and confessional article of faith regarding Scripture.

The ELCA not only denies the inerrancy of Scripture, they forbid it from being taught in their colleges and seminaries. Today there is not a teacher in any ELCA college or seminary who affirms the Bible as “the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God.”

From the article *The Church’s Desperate Need For A New Reformation*. By David R. Barnhart. From *The Vine and Branches* Vol. 38. Summer 2023, Issue 2

## Planned Parenthood is America’s Leading Abortion Provider

In 2018, the organization killed 345,672 children, placing Planned Parenthood on the list of America’s leading causes of death right between cancer and accidents.

*What to Say When: The Complete New Guide to Discussing Abortion* by Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen. © 2021 & 2022 by Shawn Carney and Steve D. Karlen



## Scripture and the Gay Christian Movement

This is the first in a series of articles about the movement to accept the gay lifestyle within the Christian church, including same-sex marriage and ordination of openly gay clergy. Scriptural texts will be looked at first from the Gay movement's analysis of them and then from the exegetical approach of what the verses are saying.

### God's Creation

*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" (Genesis 1:26-28)*

### Gay Argument

This does not forbid homosexuality, it simply doesn't refer to it. Same sex unions could not have populated the earth. These verses cannot be seen as a model for all heterosexual couples because some are childless and/or not having sexual relations. They do not conform to the Genesis account.<sup>1</sup>

### Biblical Response

God Created Male and Female. (Gen. 1:27) God creates men and women and that is all He creates and He didn't make a mistake. We are not free to try and be able to try and change that gender regardless of how we feel. Because even if you change the parts – You haven't changed the gender because that is built into your very skeleton and even in the DNA. All people need to do is look at the gender they were created by God with at their birth.

God's design then is for complementing genders to reproduce when He says, "Be Fruitful and Multiply." This is how God designs for the earth to be filled with people – through a man and a woman in marriage to procreate and raise up offspring – in a Family. God has designed each gender to perform a specific purpose.

*"Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living." (Genesis 3:20)* Only a Female can do this. When like genders try and come together they cannot reproduce. The only way that like genders can have a family is through adoption or in one way, shape or form, a male or his sperm had to interact with a female and her egg. This is the only way that God has designed mankind to reproduce. If left to themselves, all gay people would cease in one generation because they cannot reproduce. This defies God's creation of man and woman and the command to "Be Fruitful and Multiply." (Gen. 1:28)

To state that heterosexual couples who are not able to conceive do not fit the Genesis account is incorrect. There is something biologically wrong in couples like this, but they are still within God's framework of design for the family. Like gender relations are not in God's design and are never able to reproduce by their very design from God.

This fits exactly the context of Genesis chapter one and God's creation of living creatures as well. *"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind'; and it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:24-25)* The often repeated phrase "after their kind" means that these creatures reproduce after their very species that they were created to be in the first place. A ram mates with a ewe and the end result is a sheep. This is the design that God has placed into animals by their instinct. A female doesn't try to mate with another female because God hasn't designed them to do that because it doesn't produce offspring. God affirms this in Romans 1:27, *"...men abandoned the natural function of the woman."* The natural function is literally that which is "according to nature."

This is true of all living things, especially people as they are not like the rudimentary beasts of the field, but are created in the Image of God and have a knowledge and a consciousness from God that is far greater.

Pastor Jim Haga

If a rooster and a hen had gender identity issues, you wouldn't be ordering chicken to eat!

<sup>1</sup> *The Gay Debate: The Bible and Homosexuality* by Matthew Vines on YouTube

# Thoughts Of A Church School Teacher

By Grace Gabrielsen

Our church schools do not exist for “nice” people. They are not there only to transmit to a new generation a heritage of some well-loved Bible stories.

They do not exist to entertain or to serve as a place to meet friends. They are not there to teach Bible verses or Catechism, as ends in themselves.

Our church schools exist so that persons may see their sinfulness and the Christ who died so that they may be forgiven, and that believing they may grow in Christian knowledge, faith, and life.

As teachers, we are concerned about the spiritual life of our pupils. That’s why we are teaching. While our basic spiritual need, that of receiving God’s forgiveness, will remain constant throughout life, it will be expressed and acknowledged in different ways at different times. As teachers, we need to be aware of this and become sensitive to some of the levels of understanding and experience that can be expected at different periods of life. The preschool child, for example, can think of sin in terms of disobedience and can learn that he needs God’s forgiveness for what he has done wrong....

As Lutherans, we believe that spiritual life is powerfully related to Holy Baptism. We believe that in Baptism, God adopts the child as His own and gives him the gift of the Holy Spirit...

But even for the baptized child, there is another sense in which he needs to be awakened. For he does not fully understand what this sonship implies and though adopted as God’s own, he still possesses a sinful nature. He often rebels against his Heavenly Father. So, daily there is a need to be awakened to his true situation, for acknowledging the need for a Savior. At each age, even the youngest, there is a need for an awareness of disobedience and indifference to God, and also for the knowledge that God is loving and forgiving. This need is NOT merely for a more positive relationship with persons in general; the need is for forgiveness from the Heavenly Father!

However, as teachers, we shall also be teaching some pupils who have not been baptized or who have fallen away from their baptismal covenant. Spiritual awakening in these cases involves more exclusively a willingness to acknowledge one’s need for God’s grace and forgiveness.

From the book *“The Holy Spirit and Our Faith”*  
by J.N. Kildahl, © 1937, 1960  
Augsburg Publishing House

**Editor:** Are you a Sunday School teacher, know a

Sunday School teacher or in charge of Sunday School teachers? This would be a good article to share with them, to make sure they are not just teaching our children cute little stories.

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## Jesus Was Weary

*“Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus by the well.” (John 4:6)*

It is a great blessing to know and believe that He who today sits at the right hand of God and has all power in heaven and on earth, has walked here on earth as one of us. He appreciated friendship highly and felt wounded and disappointed when friends went away and left Him to fight alone. He lay down in the boat and slept while the storm raged and the billows beat against it, and He sat down by the well of Sychar, tired and hungry after a wearisome journey.

We human beings well know what it means to get tired and hungry. Let us only think of mother. While others sleep, she must often stay awake, and when others have had their rest, she must go to work together with them. But in general there is more than enough of that which makes us weary. Boat and plow, factory and motor, store and office, all wear on mind and nerves: a struggle on land and sea regularly every day to get food for self and family—those are the working conditions for most of us until we lie down to sleep the last sleep. But He who has tried life here below both on land and on sea, He extends His hands to bless all this toil and struggle. He who has innumerable hosts of angels at His disposal, He sends them to guard us in the strife, and to help us in the work.

Let us today also go to our toil cheerfully. Jesus is going to be with us. It is in this work for the church that He wants to serve us. We are to conduct worship in working clothes.

Work, for the night is coming,  
Work through the morning hours;  
Work while the dew is sparkling,  
Work ‘mid springing flowers;  
Work when the day grows brighter,  
Work in the glowing sun;  
Work, for the night is coming,  
When man’s work is done.

*Thy Kingdom Come* by Ludvig Hope, © Copyright  
1939 Augsburg Publishing House

Editor: I hope to whet your appetite for the writings of Ludvig Hope in the coming issues. The Hauge Innermission just reprinted the Book “Spirit and Power” by Hope and it is available for a \$12 dollar donation. Use the envelope in the center of the *Morning Glory* to order.

# The Holy Spirit and Our Faith

## Spiritual Awakening

If a worldly-minded person is to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is absolutely necessary that he be awakened. Scripture calls the natural condition of man a sleep and cries out, "Awake, O Sleeper!" So long as a person sleeps in sin, he is not conscious of his true condition. He does not feel his sin, nor is he alarmed about the judgment of God, and he does not seek salvation from sin and judgment. So long as a person sleeps, he does not heed the call of God, but resists the grace offered him and continues to live without Christ and therefore without God. God does not lead sleeping sinners into heaven. An awakening is therefore absolutely necessary.

### How Much Awakening Is Needed?

If a person desires to be converted and saved, then he is sufficiently awakened, for grace is free to all who want it. A spiritual awakening is necessary to make us willing to accept grace, not in order to induce God to give us His grace. It is a great sin for you to go about imagining that God will not receive you until you are more strongly and intensely awakened. Unbelief lies at the bottom of such thinking.

How intense then must the spiritual awakening be to be sufficient? Since the only aim and purpose of a spiritual awakening is to make the sinner willing to be saved, it is intense enough when the sinner is willing to let God save him. However, it must be so strong, at least, that a sinner no longer will or can find rest in sin and worldliness and uncertainty. It must be so strong that he cannot find rest in anything but the grace and salvation that are in Christ, and in the assurance in his heart that he has forgiveness of sins in the blood of Christ.

He who cannot be satisfied with anything less is spiritually awakened. He who has this need, this desire or longing in his heart, is spiritually awakened. How he came to feel such a need and longing, or how this desire is manifested is of no consequence. The only thing of importance is this: Do you want to be saved? Do you desire this so earnestly that you cannot be satisfied with anything less?

Should you find that this describes your own situation, permit me to say to you: Do you wish to become a child of God? If you do, then do not go around waiting for further awakening. Everything is ready. God is waiting for you. The way to God is open. Christ has opened it. "And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price."

By J.N Kildahl. © Copyright 1937 and 1960  
Augsburg Publishing House

## FOREWORD to the book Scriptural Evangelism

IT IS not only true that we are saved by grace; but it is equally true that we are saved to bear the fruits of faith in an obedient life of service. We are not only justified by faith in Jesus Christ, but we are set apart for a life in sanctification to grow in grace in a humble and useful life. We are not only to cling to the Cross with the right hand of faith, but with the left hand of love we are to seek to rescue the perishing and help them to reach the same safe place that we have found at the foot of the Cross of the Crucified One. We are not to be so one-sidedly objective in stressing what Christ has done for us that we neglect the subjective and experiential side of Christianity, what Christ will do in us and through us. In our teaching and preaching we must stress the practical as well as the doctrinal phase of Christian faith. Christianity is real, vital, fruitful. Faith without works is dead, says James.

We thank God for the uncompromising doctrinal stand of our Lutheran Church in these days of modernism. But we need emphatically to re-state and put into practice the doctrine of the "Priesthood of Believers" in all its practical implications. We need to emphasize individual responsibility in personal soul-winning work, and the stewardship of time, talent and money. It is not enough to stress the teaching and training of children and youth, that they may be soundly indoctrinated and helped to remain faithful and loyal to the Lutheran Church and to Christ. Evangelistic preaching in our pulpits and personal work on the part of all believers must be urged to win back the many unsaved without and within our congregations.

The great need of the church today is a God-sent, Spirit filled revival to awaken the many lukewarm and neglectful Christians to a personal responsibility in soul-winning, and to revive and win back the large number of worldly-minded and unsaved, who have either drifted away from the church or are still members of our congregations.

C.K.Solberg, Pastor, St Paul's Lutheran Church,  
Minneapolis, MN, Copyright © 1935, Thanksgiving  
Day, November 28, 1935 by C. K. SOLBERG.

*"There is nothing that makes us love  
a man so much as praying for him."*

*William Law*

## A Story From The Revival Of The 1930's In Norway

How wonderful it would be if someone could announce to his church by the Holy Spirit's inspiration: "This year revival will come to this church!" That's what a humble, praying caretaker announced in the Bethlehem Church in downtown Oslo, Norway. What an amazing story! It took place in the early 1930s.

Rev. Thorleif Holm-Glad was the assistant pastor at the Bethlehem Church and was also a leading evangelist in Norway. He was walking through the empty sanctuary when the caretaker stopped him with an announcement: "See these empty seats? This year there will be revival in this church!" Holm-Glad was startled. He was well aware of the many empty seats in their church services. But he also knew the caretaker. The caretaker was a humble, soft-spoken man. He was not a platform man or public speaker. He was just a quiet man doing his job well, and he was a man of prayer, an intercessor.

"This year there will be revival in this church!" Holm-Glad was also a musician and a composer. Those words wanted to sing in him. But could they really be true?

Yes! That's what happened, just as the caretaker had spoken. That very year the revival broke out in the Bethlehem congregation. And what a revival it was! It seemed never to stop. On and on it went, changing the whole congregation, and bringing revival to other churches all around – on and on to churches all over Norway. It turned out to be one of the greatest revivals of this century. The meetings went on and on for about nine years, as the heavenly fire kept on burning. In connection with the Bethlehem congregation alone, thousands repented and were converted to Christ. Like the northern lights, the revival lit up the land of Norway.

The next year after the caretaker had spoken those words, in the midst of the ongoing revival, the congregation had a festival, celebrating the outbreak of the awakening. Once again, the caretaker came to Holm-Glad. "Do you remember a year ago when I told you there would be revival in this church that year?"

"How could I ever forget it?" Holm-Glad replied.

"Now," said the caretaker, "the Lord allows me to tell you something I was not free to tell you then."

He took Holm-Glad up into the pulpit. As they stood there together, the caretaker said: "If you knew how often – while cleaning this church – I knelt behind this pulpit and shed many tears, praying God to send the Holy Spirit in revival power to this church!"

Holm-Glad had a very tender heart, and he wept

many tears as he would tell this story in his revival meetings. More than one fire was kindled when he struck that match.

Oh, for more praying caretakers [or for any praying church members], whom the Holy Spirit will enable to announce, "This year there will be revival in this church!"

By Armin Gesswein, Heraldofthiscoming.org ,  
May 2006

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### Few Saved

*"Lord, are they few that are saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in by the narrow door: for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13 :23.24).

ARE they few that are saved?

This is, in truth, a pertinent question. Many in our day would answer at once: All. All are saved.

If anyone dares to mention eternal perdition, they ask: Do you really believe that there is such a thing as eternal perdition? No educated person believes that any more. Would a good and merciful God do anything so brutal and senseless as to torture His opponents in all eternity?

I admit openly that no thought is as painful to me as the thought of eternal perdition. I am not able to think of it very long at a time.

But the time is past in my life when I permit my thoughts and my feelings to decide what is the truth. Jesus is my authority. I believe in Jesus Christ. Also when He speaks of eternal perdition.

But people say that it is not compatible with God's mercy. Pause a little, my bold friend, before you upbraid Jesus for not being merciful. When you have walked the way *He* trod in merciful love unto death itself, then you can begin to speak of mercy.

No one reaches the place of eternal suffering because God has ceased to be merciful. He does so because he has taken an attitude toward the mercy of God in which not even a merciful God can save him from eternal woe.

My friend, are you saved? Or are you also drifting along toward eternal perdition?

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

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## You Can Avoid Arraignment In Heaven's Court

Our nation's media sources leave no shortage of news about all the government trials going on. It's at all levels from county to federal and to Supreme courts. This being the case, it's not surprising that in both natural and spiritual realms, there are courtrooms. The Bible supplies its readers with cases of people breaking its laws. Such acts might be described as laws of Commission, or what a person does.

The other tribunal might be described as a violation of Omission. An example of this liability would be prosecution for failure to pay taxes. Such dereliction of duty could land a person before a judge over something skipped. It is a matter that the Scripture addresses, overlooking a requirement.

The Lord holds all of His human creation accountable to accept His Son Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and receive forgiveness of sin based on His sacrificial death at Calvary.

Why is this necessary? Being born with a sinful nature, it has to be dealt with by each one of us. Parts of Acts 17:30-31 tell us that, "... Now God commands all men everywhere to repent. Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world..." Failing and rejecting to accept Christ whom all of us need, calls for a post-earthly appearance to stand before Him as Judge. These are His terms that cannot be circumvented. Modern day thinking sadly ignores this reality, because of God's holiness. The problem of evil must be addressed. Fallen angels along with Satan will have their day in God's court as well. Only acceptance of God's Son's shed blood to atone for man's sin can redeem a person. Shutting the Savior out of your life carries with it punishment which is eternal in nature.

This prosecution takes place as God's final judgment, called "the Great White Throne," (Revelation 20:12) or as man's definition is, "doomsday." Thankfully a person can choose or decide beforehand to avail

oneself of God's salvation plan. This is a destiny decision, be it eternal heaven or hell (with God or not with God). Living without Jesus in this life, a person misses out on God's blessings, peace, contentment, and God's Spirit in one's heart. Believers live in anticipation of what God has planned for when Jesus' followers are escorted to heaven. This is when the Lord has what He started out to have, a perfect creation, not housing sinners (unsaved), only the forgiven.

When will this final judgment take place? We read Bible passages that it's occurrence will follow the millennium and precede other divine judgments. People who died without giving their lives to Jesus, will have their bodies raised also.

Paul writes that at death, Christians become present with the Lord, but their bodies are planted in the ground, however their soul and spirit go to be with God. When the Lord Jesus returns back to earth, all the believers are reunited with their glorified bodies, making up His Bride the Church, and will be escorted back to heaven with Him.

Following them, the unsaved will awaken from where they have been existing and will take part in the second resurrection, Revelation 20:5. We haven't been told the location where God will conduct His arraignment for all who have been brought there.

What do we know about this prophesied event? It will involve only unforgiven sinners assembled in God's presence. Their names are missing in the Lamb's Book of Life. In Revelation 20:12 John wrote, "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which was the Book of Life..." God uses the word "which" who failed to surrender their lives to Jesus. When they were living on earth, they may have been good people, moral, generous, and kind. While the Bible doesn't cite man-made conditions, He wants your heart and life without any conditions. I trust you will do so, so that you may belong to Jesus Christ as well!

Submitted by Bill King, Princeton MN

**"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**

**Editor:** Bill also wrote, "I begin reading the Morning Glory the day it comes. It always feeds my soul." Thanks, Bill, for the encouragement. Also, a note to our readers, we encourage you to submit articles for consideration. We can't always promise when we will print or if we will print. Writings from favorite authors are welcome, preferably Lutheran, but not required. Better yet how about telling us how God spoke to you through your morning scripture readings and devotions?

## Sermons on the Second Series of Gospel Texts

### Seek the Lord!

by Pastor O. C. Dahlager

Text: Matthew 5:17-19

Is it your desire to gain entrance to heaven? To this question most will answer yes, but it cannot be completely, properly meant by anyone other than the believing soul who has found the heavenly way, who sees that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In any case, you cannot, O soul, mean it seriously while continuing your life in the service of sinful unrighteousness, you who with impudence trample on God's commandment, and who are not willing to take your refuge in Him who is come to fulfill the law. If you only would think a little, then you would immediately see the law's strong demand upon you. Your sin would come alive. You would come to exclaim:

I see my sin, 'tis great indeed  
in thought and word and very deed.

Then there comes a cry for salvation, and you would experience that He is both mighty and willing to save even the foremost among sinners.

The work of the law is first to convict the sinner of sin and of God's wrath over sin, next it frightens and drives the seeking soul to Christ. In the law, the believing soul will see the fruits that faith shall bear. See to it, then, that you walk according to the Lord's precepts from day to day. Let His word be a lamp for your feet and a light for your path. Then you will see, through the power of Christ, how you will be able to put to death and slay sin under all its forms. You will be arrayed these glorious deeds, which before were so foreign to you: compassion, goodness, humility, meekness, patience. You will not become perfect, no, far from it. Sin clings to the believer as long as he is in this world. Therefore, it remains a daily battle, and even if we do not obtain a full victory, yet we nevertheless have Him who has the victory over all the enemies of our salvation. Amen.

### From the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

by Pastor L. H. Froyen

Text: Matthew 7:12-14

Jesus concludes His sermon on the mount with an admonition to us to go in through the tight gate, and enter upon the narrow way, so that we may attain happiness here and blessedness hereafter. Jesus commands

here in His word, because He says, Everything, whatever you desire that a man should do to you, that shall you also do to them. All the law and the prophets command this.

Here the believer, the self-righteous, and the ungodly can look in the mirror, and see his guilt before God. It is necessary that the law does its work in us if there is to be any proper understanding of grace.

Jesus showed that we cannot by our own power do what the law demands. Jesus does not demand more than He gives power to do. Therefore He says: Go in through the tight gate. A gate into salvation, peace and happiness is open for all, even for the foremost sinner on earth, for He is come to seek and to save the lost. Still, how difficult it is for flesh and blood to experience the sorrow of the new birth, yet it is necessary all the same, for unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

The soul wants to progress to communion with God. The life of self-righteousness wants to remain stuck. The life of sin is stuck. Now the gate becomes tight. All external powers must go away, if we are to come through the gate. There comes the battle. Either one gives up all one's own, and allows himself to be saved by grace through faith in Jesus, and obtain life, or one keeps everything and obtains death. Jesus speaks about a wide gate and a broad way, where there is room enough for all types of sin, but it ends in perdition. This way is the most natural for flesh and blood, therefore are there many who go on it. Away from the world and to God! Away from self-righteousness, and into the true righteousness which avails before God! Away from the life of sin, and to Him who forgives sins on earth. The Lord admonishes His people and says: Come and let us reason together, though your sins are like crimson, they shall be white as snow, though they are red as scarlet, they shall be like wool. The gate is tight, also because the salvation is entirely a work of God's Spirit in our hearts through faith in Jesus Christ. By grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

But the gate is tight, and the way is narrow. For the way is narrow which leads to life. It is not until we have gone through the tight gate of conversion by faith in the blood of Jesus which cleanses from all sin, that we observe that the way of sanctification is narrow. Paul exclaims: and all who would live godly in Christ Jesus, shall be persecuted. Believers today have experienced that the way is narrow. The old nature will so often come to power again. Sinful desires will raise themselves up, laziness and sluggishness follow as a corroding power. Thus external persecutions and difficulties

come, which make the way narrow. For much of that which makes the way narrow, we have ourselves to blame. This way is new, and there is so much to learn, and it goes so slowly to learn of Him who is meek and humble of heart. But he who has begun the good work, will fulfill it until the day of Jesus Christ. But if the way is narrow, yet it nevertheless has a glorious goal—it leads to life, not as the broad way to perdition. With such a view in mind, that the narrow way leads to life, we go forward in spite of difficulties, indeed, even if it should cost our lives. It cost Jesus His life to open the way to Paradise. But life triumphed over death on Easter morning.

The narrow way lies hidden. There are few who find it. It is a way of faith, we are not able to find it ourselves without the Spirit's enlightening through the Word. The broad way is best suited to our nature. On the broad way, each can be who he is by nature. The gate and the way are broad enough for everything one can carry with him. The Pharisees thought that Jesus made the way too narrow and difficult for them. The Pharisees today think the same, and choose a way of their own by taking a little care of the exterior—but the heart is unconverted. The narrow way is, nevertheless, not so hidden that the seeking soul cannot find it. All those who the Holy Spirit has awakened from their spiritual sleep, that they have begun to seek the salvation which is to be found, will confess: they did not find the way by their own power, but the Holy Spirit gave power to grasp Jesus in faith. May we daily find this way to Jesus' heart, until we reach the goal. Amen.

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### Today, It's Not Too late

The Day is coming when every knee will bow, let me say that again, the day is coming when every knee will bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Philippians 2:10) The problem will be that for most of mankind it will be too late. That day will be Judgment Day. The great and the small, presidents, kings and garbage collectors will stand before God and He will separate the sheep from the goats, and there will be no arguments, there will be no lawyers, all will stand silent, for all will be convinced of their guilt, and Jesus will say "depart from me all you workers of iniquity, all you lawbreakers." Their only response as they are sent to a Godless hell will be to confess that "Jesus is Lord", only it will be too late.

Beethoven on his deathbed said "Too bad, too bad! It's too late!" But it's not too late, as long as it's called to-

day; it's not too late, for today is the day of mercy. If you have never bowed your knee, if you have never had the mind of Christ to humble yourself, and the mind of Christ to empty yourself so that Christ can come in and be Lord of your life, why don't you do it today? Today is the day of salvation. Today when you hear his voice do not harden your heart. Have the mind of Christ and humble yourself, if you wait, you will be humbled by judgment. One day every knee will bow, since you're going to have to do it someday, you might as well do it today while grace abounds. For today we live in the day of grace. Amen.

WMA

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### Two Gifts of Grace

*"For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."* (Phil. 1:29)

This would not be a popular sermon text across our great land. For one thing, we know little of suffering in our country. Oh, listening to politicians you get the idea that half of our country is suffering, but even our poor are better off than probably 90 percent of the rest of the world. And I know that people do suffer, they suffer through cancer and other diseases, and they suffer at the hands of wicked people, which are too many to mention. I don't want to minimize that, but Paul is talking about something different here.

Paul says, "For to you it has been granted." When I did a word study on this verse, I found the word "granted" a little disconcerting, for at the root of that Greek word, I found "Charis", grace. Paul talks about two things here that are gifts of grace. The first is to believe, and we all understand and thank God for the gift of saving faith. But the second thing he says, it is a gift of Grace to suffer for His sake. The gift of suffering, that's one we are a little hesitant to unwrap. How does this square with the "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life" message we have all heard far too often? O God does love you, and he does have a wonderful plan for your life, it will be the adventure of a lifetime, no, the adventure of all eternity, but Paul says that the plan is twofold; we are given two gifts of grace in this life. The gift of believing in Christ, and the gift of suffering for His sake.

WMA

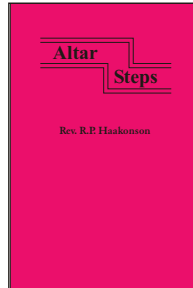
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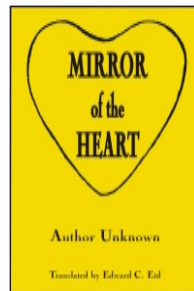
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This daily devotional was written by Pastor R.P. Haakonson and was published in 1947. It is suitable for families with children. It has illustrations from daily life, and a strong salvation emphasis. Suggested offering: \$8.00.



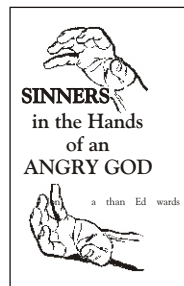
## Mirror of the Heart

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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## Spirit and Power

Ludvig Hope was a Norwegian lay preacher, writer, teacher and organizer. He was a popular preacher from the late 1890's and would gather up to 5,000 listeners at his meetings. During World War II, he was imprisoned at the Grini concentration camp, after having signed a protest letter together with other church leaders.



This book is filled with solid Biblical meat for those who want to walk in depth with the Lord. It is written from a Lutheran pietistic perspective and contains 40 chapters of exposition on different aspects of how God works to 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