

# Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION  
OF THE WORD OF GOD



Psalm 119:105  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.

## Does Jesus Christ Reign Supreme in Your Heart?

August 2012

Dave Impola  
Everett, Washington

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:6

**I**n the past as we considered our status with God, being convicted of our sins by the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, we became beggars of His grace. *This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)* How has it been since then? Have we become so much better that perhaps we aren't in need of God's grace as much? My experience, even as Apostle Paul's was, is that I feel I am a greater sinner in need of more grace. *For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. (Romans 7:19)* The fact of the matter is that we always were great sinners from day one, but we were not fully aware of it. As life goes on, the Holy Spirit magnifies in a greater measure the depravity of our flesh. Apostle Paul cries out, *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord... (Romans 7:24-25) If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:36) For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

May we continue to pray and praise God that He gives us more grace to believe our many sins forgiven in the name and precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. (2 Peter 3:18)* The living church of Christ on this earth has always been looked upon as weak and beggarly. The children of God are looked upon as insignificant by the religious world's standards.

The devil, with his agents, may whisper: "Psst! Follow me. I know of an easier way." The ever-abiding Spirit of God within us will soar to life telling the devil

to go away! Jesus Christ is my Rock. *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. (Psalm 18:2) Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me... (Psalm 28:1) He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. (Psalm 62:6) Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast... (Hebrews 6:19)*

**Oh, how blessed it will be when our King, the Lord Jesus Christ who reigns supreme in our hearts and our lives, shall say, *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:34)***

Sad, sad, it will be for those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Their false confidence and security in their own efforts to appease the wrath of God will not work. Their righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 16:25)* The Lord will say to those who do not have the seal of promise, *Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)*

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)* Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

"Awake! The voice still soundeth,

"Tis now the accepted hour;

The grace of God aboundeth

To save from sin's dread power.

Make haste, implore Christ's favor,

Thy sins confess, and bow

Before Thy Lord and Savior;

The accepted time is now." (Frans Mikael Franzen) ~

# The Apostles' Creed: Part 1

from Martin Luther's Catechetical Writings

Submitted by Rhoda Olin; Vanderhoof, British Columbia, Canada

**T**he Creed is divided into three parts, treating respectively of the three persons of the Holy Trinity: the first, of the Father; the second, of the Son; the third, of the Holy Spirit. The Creed contains the most important articles of faith. All other articles of belief depend upon them.

Observe that there are two ways of believing. In the first place, I may have a faith concerning God. This is the case when I hold to be true what is said concerning God. Such faith is on the same level with the assent I give to the statements concerning the Turk, the devil and hell. A faith of this kind should rather be called knowledge or information than faith.

In the second place, there is faith in God. Such faith is mine when I not only hold to be true what is said concerning God, but when I put my trust in Him in such a way as to enter into personal relations with Him, believing firmly that I shall find Him to be and to do as I have been taught. Not in the Turk do I believe thus, nor in any other man, however highly he may be praised. I may be readily induced to believe a man's piety, but that is no reason why I should build upon him. Such faith, which ventures everything upon what it has heard concerning God, be it life or death, constitutes the Christian man, and it receives everything of God it desires. Such a faith cannot tolerate a false and wicked heart; it is a living faith, such as the first commandment enjoins, which says, "I am thy God; thou shalt have no other gods." The word "in" is well chosen and deserving of due attention. We do not say, "I believe God the Father," or "concerning God the Father," but "in God the Father. In Jesus Christ. In the Holy Spirit." Such faith no one may claim but God alone, and it is a confession of the divinity of Christ and of the Holy Spirit that we believe in these as we believe in the Father. And inasmuch as the faith in one person of the Trinity is identical with that in the other two, it follows that the three persons are one God.

## The First Article of the Creed

**"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."**

This means that I renounce the evil spirit, all idolatry, all witchcraft, all false faith. I place my confidence in no human being upon earth, nor even in myself, nor in my power, art, possessions, piety or anything I may have. I put my trust in no creature, be it in heaven or upon earth.

I venture to put my trust in the one God, who has created heaven and earth and is above all creatures, although absolutely beyond my sight and ken; further, I am not dismayed by all the wickedness of the devil and his associates, for my God is above them all. Though I should be forsaken and persecuted by all men, nevertheless, I shall believe in God. Although I may be

poor and humble, unlearned and despised, aye, bereft of everything, I shall believe none the less in God.

I believe, even though I am a sinner; for far above all things that are and are not—above all sin, virtue, all things—soars my faith, abiding in God pure and unsullied, as the first commandment enjoins upon me.

Nor will I tempt Him by asking a sign of Him. No matter how long He tarries, I will trust in Him. I will prescribe no bounds for Him as to purpose, time, measure and method; in sincere and upright faith I leave all things to His divine will.

Since He is almighty, what can I lack that He is unable to give or perform? Since He is the Creator of heaven and earth and Lord of all things, who will deprive me of anything or harm me? Indeed, how can all things fail to serve my welfare since I enjoy His favor, and all things are under His authority and control? Being God, He possesses both the power and wisdom to secure my highest welfare; being Father, He will surely do what is best, and delight in doing so.

Inasmuch as I doubt none of these things, and put my trust in Him, I am sure of being His child, servant and heir forever; and I shall receive even according to my faith. ~ ("The Creed: Part 2" coming next month!)

## Did You Know?

The Foreign Mission of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America is involved to a lesser or greater degree in these 14 foreign countries: **Guatemala, Russia, Ghana, Togo, Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and China.** Churches have been constructed in Guatemala, Russia, Nigeria and India. We ask for your prayers and support so that this work can be continued and expanded, as God leads. For more information, please visit [themiissionsite.com](http://themiissionsite.com).





# To the Unsaved

the late Urho Coponen; September 1962 CM  
Submitted by James Kurtti; Reedley, California

**I want to greet all** the children of God with greetings of grace and peace through our Lord in heaven. I have an urge to write to the unsaved. I tremble when I think that you may not be saved before Judgment Day comes, when the Lord will tell you that you must go into everlasting hell fire.

Dear reader, if you are not saved, think for a moment of the everlasting suffering you will have to endure. Repeat this in your heart—everlasting, everlasting. Sometimes when I think of this after I go to bed in the evening, I cannot fall asleep. I remember many of my own relatives who are not saved and of the millions who do not seem to care. The Lord Jesus says there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth forever. Dear unbeliever, hell was not made for you, but for the devil and his angels.

God created us in His own image and wants all of us to enjoy everlasting joy in heaven with Him. He put us on this earth for only a short time. He breathed into our nostrils the breath of life and gave us a plan of life by which we could go back to Him after living our time on this earth. How many of us live according to His plan? He gave us His Word and commandments, but not one person has been able to keep them. The devil, who is also on this earth and wars against God, is jealous of God's children and tells them God's Word is not true.

God said to Adam, *Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.* (Genesis 2:16-17) Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command, we are partakers of original sin. God did not go back on His Word: *thou shalt surely die.* Not one person could change His verdict. God Himself had to justify sinners and save us from everlasting death. His only Son was born into flesh and walked this way of life,

fulfilling the Father's will, suffering the penalty of sin in our stead and dying for us in order that we might have eternal life.

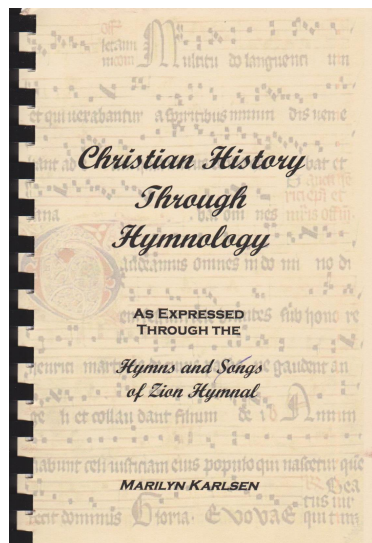
Dear sinner, think of what our sins have done. Jesus took all the punishment for us because of our disobedience. Although He made a way for us, how many take heed of the exhortation to repent of their sins and believe them forgiven in the name and shed, atoning blood of Jesus? The power of the keys was left to His children here, whereby that which is loosed on earth is loosed in heaven and that which is bound on earth is bound in heaven. Jesus said, *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.* (John 20:23)

The devil tries to darken the minds of men so they would not see their sinfulness. When God awakens a person's conscience, the devil is there to preach that there is nothing to it, that one might as well enjoy this world for there is no hereafter. He tries also to change God's plan of salvation.

Dear reader, if you have not repented of your sins, pray that you can acknowledge your sinfulness and receive forgiveness before it is too late. Jesus is coming soon. If you do not have the assurance that your sins are forgiven, Judgment Day will be a terrible day for you.

Let us who are saved follow our Lord Jesus. When we cannot walk, let us crawl. When Jesus see us growing too weak, He will take us in His arms and carry us, as long as we hope and believe.

The devil shoots his arrows at us from the left and from the right. Sometimes we become wounded in the battle against the world, the devil and our own flesh. When we are wounded, let us go and show our wounds to a brother or sister who will pour the blood of Jesus into those wounds and we shall be healed. Then we can go on again with our sins forgiven. ~



**H**ave you ever thought about the history of the hymns we sing? This 275-page book explores the histories of over 600 hymns in the *Hymns and Songs of Zion* from the earliest centuries to more recently written hymns. Here is an excerpt from the Introduction:

**With this book, I hope to share with other hymn-lovers the richness that I have found in learning about the backgrounds of our hymns. I hope the words take on a deeper meaning so hymn singing will be a richer experience that enhances our lives as well as worship services.**

Read *Christian History Through Hymnology*, by Marilyn Karlsen. Appreciate our hymn heritage that illustrates the multi-generational faithfulness with which the Christian Church has been blessed. To order, mail check or money order for \$17 US (\$15, plus \$2 postage) to:

Marilyn Karlsen  
17614 NE 167th Ave  
Brush Prairie, WA 98606  
Phone: (360) 892-4392  
Email: marvin.and.marilyn@gmail.com

# This Little Booklet

Gwen Wilson  
Ridgefield, Washington

Dear Children,

Hello to each of you. I do pray you are well today and learning more about God and Jesus every day.

This little booklet in which I write—the *Christian Monthly*—first came into publication in 1944. That was 68 years ago, and many people have enjoyed reading it and still do. I wrote a poem about this publication and I want to share it with you.

## This Little Booklet

This little booklet is for you and for me,  
Open it up, dear ones, and see  
The precious words written on the pages  
God's Word being revealed as it has been for ages.

The letters are written with willing hands  
From here in America and far away lands.  
Let's read about God and Jesus His Son,  
Read encouraging words for the old and the young.

Quotes and letters from now and long ago,  
Read letters and poems from those we don't know.  
Whatever is written, the intent is the same,  
The reason for that—God's Word doesn't change.

I pray for all who read  
I pray for those who write,  
That God's Word will keep on shining,  
On us its comforting light. (Gwen Wilson)

I encourage  
you all to read your  
Bible and ask  
questions when you  
don't understand.  
God's Word is all  
about Him and His  
will for His people.

When you are  
happy, lonely, sad,  
confused, anxious,  
tired, unthankful,  
grateful, or whatever  
other way you may feel,  
you can always read God's Word and find living water  
that fills your needs or overflows your heart. We are so  
blessed to have the Bible, and we must remember to  
thank God for giving it to us.

When Jesus went to the home of Martha and Mary,  
Martha asked Jesus if He cared that she had to prepare  
food alone, as Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet listening  
to Him and not helping.

Jesus said to her, *Martha, Martha, thou art careful  
and troubled about many things: But one thing is  
needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which  
shall not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:41-42)*

Have a blessed day and keep on learning about God  
and Jesus. Choose that good part which is Jesus and  
you will be blessed. ~



Christian Monthly  
Covers from the Past



## Unmistakable Religion

Horatius Bonar  
from Tapiola ALC Newsletter, May 2009

**Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. (Acts 18:9-11)**

The work done in the apostolic days by the preaching of the Gospel was very decided. The religion which it produced was of no diluted nor ambiguous kind. The Christians of that era were men about whom there could be no mistake; uncompromising, unworldly, out-spoken men who were not ashamed of their faith, or of their Lord, or of His badge, the cross. They came out and were separate, and touched not the unclean thing. It was in this way that "the masses" of Corinth, and Ephesus, and other Gentile cities were "evangelized" and "elevated"; not by concerts, and clubs, and amusements either for eye or ear. Morality, culture, refinement were not despised; but the regeneration of individual men by the power of the Holy Ghost came first as the root of all blessing to the community. Temples of the Holy Ghost, not whited sepulchers, were what the primitive preachers sought to erect. Lights of the world, not lamps without oil, were what they sought to produce everywhere in the dark cities and villages of heathendom.

Nothing less than this is our work now; nothing below this must be the Church's standard in every age. Out and out Christianity, unmistakable religion, not varnished worldliness or baptized paganism. ...*Ye must be born again (John 3:7); Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature... (2 Corinthians 5:17); And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11):* these are the keynotes of the church's testimony. Let us not lower this for a moment.

Religion in a soul or a church must be sick and ready to die when it requires the use of stimulants to restore it, the stimulants of music, and dresses, and postures, and ceremonies; or the stimulants of speculation and mysticism, and the enticing words of man's wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:4). Rather, may we say, that it is dead; and these are the [methods used] to make a dead man look, and stare, and roll his eyes like a living one. ~

# The Life Story of John Raattama

*Taken from an old translation. Given to me by my sister, Marjorie Staudinger.  
Submitted by Rhoda Olin; Vanderhoof, British Columbia, Canada*

Juhani Raattamaa (1811—1899) was a significant spiritual leader in the Laestadian revival movement after the death of L.L. Laestadius in 1861. Earlier, Raattamaa had closely studied Scripture and Luther's writings concerning the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins to the penitent sinner. Laestadius engaged in a similar study after speaking with Raattamaa. The proclamation of forgiveness in Jesus' name and blood brought tremendous spiritual comfort and joy to many who had been unable to find personal assurance previously. As a leader, Raattamaa believed that congregational unity will be maintained if the church is governed by following Christ's teachings and ordinances and that the Church should be led and governed by leaders who follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and not through human lordship over the flock. Further information about Raattamaa can be found in *A Godly Heritage* (Foltz & Yliniemi) and *The Journey of an Immigrant Awakening Movement in America* (Kulla). —Pastor Earl Kaurala

**T**he father of John Raattama had tried always to live a Christian life, but when he realized that he could not fulfill the holy Law of God, he concluded in his mind that only children could attain heaven. Dark and hopeless indeed must have been his footsteps toward eternity, as he had no other covering for his spiritual nakedness than his own filthy rags of self-righteousness. But before he died, living faith came to his homeland. His son, John Raattama, Jr., received the Spirit of God and was able by faith to see the thorn-crowned King and Savior of mankind. "I received strength that I did not possess before," he relates.

"I was truly able to believe all my sins forgiven in His name and holy blood, and the peace that I had sought for afar off, I found nearby. Oh, how ashamed I was of my unbelief of the past! But though I now was enjoying peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, and carrying on my work as a Sunday School teacher, I felt sin so greatly in my flesh that I began to fear and, because of that, fasted and prayed, thinking, 'Doesn't a true Christian become better?' I didn't understand that that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit, and by the Spirit we overcome the deeds of the flesh, for Jesus Christ is our mediator before God. He who is truly righteous is looking in Spirit upon the cross where Jesus is nailed, and he receives strength to overcome the flesh and to avoid the worst of sins, but still evil thoughts and lusts often wounded my conscience," says Raattama. "I have been often unable to deny myself and free myself of pressing doubts. For this reason I have often had to hear the assurance from my brothers and sisters in the Lord that my sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and blood." "A weak traveler I have been," he often said.

Once he spoke from Romans 8 as follows: "The boundary line of the kingdom of grace is this, that ye

through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body. Feeling our fleshly lusts does not bring us into perdition, for the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us and He is our mediator." Those of us who heard the sermon felt at that time the peace of our Lord abundantly.

There was a certain young Christian woman who was always asking to have her sins testified forgiven. Raattama advised her thus: "The grace is not ours when we hear our sins pronounced forgiven and hear the assurance with our ears, but without ceasing the grace flows to us from heaven through the blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit through faith in spiritual prayer."

When Raattama was asked if people are saved in other religions than this one, he answered, "As God is immeasurable, so are His works. Christ is the Door, and His Holy Spirit the Doorkeeper. From this we know that he who has been born with pain will come into the Sheepfold; that is, he will come into unity of love with the Christians although he may have received faith somewhere else than in our midst." This was his clear reply to this important question.

When he was asked if people come into the living faith by reading the Word of God, his reply was, "If such be the case, he will also need to hear it. It is not right if a Christian does not wish for any other friends besides the Bible. Faith unites us unto God; love unites us unto our neighbor."

Raattama also spoke of godly fear thus: "The fear that comes from the Law keeps one in a fearful, hopeless state. It does not give us strength nor has it a desire to mortify the body; but believing the Gospel with a childlike faith is the right kind of godly fear, instilling within us a love toward the Law of God, i.e. in the words which are written in the Bible and an inner longing to do the will of the dear heavenly Father. That is the fruit of living faith, which is of the same nature as Christ's love, as it teaches us to put away all ungodly ways, to live a righteous and godly life in this world, and to await the blessed hope of the coming of our Lord and Savior."

Confession of sin Raattama does not demand, but he says, "Let each confess only those sins that torment his conscience, and ask for the gift of faith that you may receive a peaceful conscience. Right every wrong that you have done and you will receive peace and rest for your soul. Even then a peaceful conscience is a gift from God, received only by grace, through faith in Jesus our Lord." ~

Photo from  
*A Godly Heritage*, page 87

*Christian Monthly*

August 2012





## As Disciples of Old

*the late Rachel Ellen Roberts  
Submitted by Pastor Ben Johnson; Astoria, Oregon*

**A**s disciples of old we, too, are but pilgrims,  
We've no abiding city or dwelling place here.  
At times we are lonely, we have pain and trouble;  
The Lord is so faithful He ever is near.

We dare not partake of the "dainties of Satan,"  
For Christians must journey a much different way.  
Those not believing have destruction before them;  
We wait for a great and a glorious day.

We have such a wonderful goal set before us,  
Not something temporal which passes away;  
But a beautiful kingdom with all of its splendor  
Where joy and delight shall continue for aye.

The best that earth offers pales when comparing  
What is promised to those who trust and love God.  
Though strait is the gate and narrow the pathway  
It's the only way Christians through ages have trod.

This gift of the kingdom He gives us with pleasure,  
We need only believe His Word and obey.  
We must in no wise leave out any portion  
Or else our own name shall be left out that day.

The forgiveness of sins should be considered essential,  
Accepting the Lord is taught in its stead.  
We need to remember that God does the choosing;  
One ought to pray to be called and be led.

When one is called, he is also awakened  
To the knowledge of sin, and of guilt, and his shame.  
The redeeming blood of Christ becomes precious  
As he strives to honor the Lord's holy name.

We mustn't overlook the blest keys of the kingdom,  
For they open to us God's kingdom on earth.  
Whatever sins on earth we've had loosened  
Are loosened in heaven; we thus have new birth.

Those who believe have the keys to the kingdom:  
"Thy sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and shed blood;"  
Those audible words from another believer,  
One who is part of the priesthood of God.

What peace and great joy we have when we hear  
That our numerous sins and faults are forgiven.  
We have so much reason to rejoice in this knowledge,  
For angels, as well, are rejoicing in heaven.

How precious our Savior, we worship and love Him;  
He won our great victory on Calvary's hill.  
We give Him all honor, we praise and adore Him;  
Oh, help us, dear Father, to do Thy good will. ~

**For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.**

Hebrews 13:14-15

## This Man Receiveth Sinners...

**Luke 15:2**

**O**bserve the condescension of this fact. This Man, who towers above all other men, holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners—this Man receives sinners. This Man, who is no other than the eternal God, before whom angels veil their faces—this Man receives sinners. It needs an angel's tongue to describe such a mighty stoop of love. That any of us should be willing to seek after the lost is nothing wonderful—they are of our own race; but that He, the offended God, against whom the transgression has been committed, should take upon Himself the form of a servant, and bear the sin of many, and should then be willing to receive the vilest of the vile, this is marvelous.

"This Man receiveth sinners"—not, however, that they may remain sinners, but He receives them that He may pardon their sins, justify their persons, cleanse their hearts by His purifying Word, preserve their souls by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, and enable them to serve Him, to show forth His praise, and to have communion with Him. Into His heart's love He receives sinners, takes them from the dunghill, and wears them as jewels in His crown; plucks them as brands from the burning, and preserves them as costly monuments of His mercy. None are so precious in Jesus' sight as the sinners for whom He died. When Jesus receives sinners, He has not some out-of-doors reception place, no casual ward where He charitably entertains them as men do passing beggars, but He opens the golden gates of His royal heart, and receives the sinner right into Himself—yea, He admits the humble penitent into personal union and makes Him a member of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. There was never such a reception as this! This fact is still most sure today: He is still receiving sinners; would to God sinners would receive Him.

—Selected

### Western Fall Services

The Hockinson Apostolic Lutheran congregation welcomes everyone to the 2012 Western Fall Services. Services will be held August 17, 18 and 19 at our church at 16108 NE 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Brush Prairie, WA.

We request pre-registration from everyone (including our local people) who will be attending so we can accurately plan meals. Please visit our website at [hockinsonchurch.org](http://hockinsonchurch.org) for registration and information.

#### Service Schedule:

Friday, August 17 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Saturday, August 18 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Sunday, August 19 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM

*God's peace!*

*John Isaacson (360) 903-1379  
in behalf of the Hockinson Congregation*

## The Lost Prayer

Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD. (1 Samuel 7:5)  
Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way. (1 Samuel 12:23)

I promised my friend I would pray for her,  
And then forgot all about it;  
The blessing was missed that prayer should have brought,  
Her sky was darker without it.

I love her, oh, yes, but all the day  
I seemed too busy to stop and pray.

I told her I'd pray for a special need,  
But—I forgot all about it;  
She longed for the fellowship of prayer,  
Her heart was lonely without it.  
But I had so much to think of and do,  
The hours slipped by almost ere I knew.

I promised—yes, promised—I'd pray for her  
Then I forgot all about it.  
Who knows the wonders that prayer would have wrought  
Were lost from her life without it?

Ah, I shall be sorry for many a day  
Because I forgot—just forgot—to pray.

For many a day? What if it should be  
A loss is mine through eternity,  
To know the difference it would have made,  
If I had earnestly, truly prayed?  
Who knows what blessings I will miss up there  
For lack of that day's forgotten prayer?

I promised someone I would pray for her—  
How could I forget about it?  
Yes, surely, God, in His infinite love,  
Would carry her through without it.  
But I failed my friend, and it grieves me sore—  
I failed my dear Lord, and I love Him more!

He never forgets to pray for His own,  
He makes intercession before the throne;  
And He calls us often apart to share  
With Him in this great ministry of prayer.  
O Savior, forgive, may I never say,  
That I am too busy or tired to pray,  
All clamoring thoughts, Whate'er they be,  
I would forget, Lord, while talking with Thee.  
*Author Unknown*  
*January 1966 CM*

## Apostolic Lutheran Book Concern

### SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

#### Our Christian Faith Sunday School Series:

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Grade 2 New Testament—Teachers Manual.....	10.00
Grade 3 Old & New Testament—Student Guide.....	9.00
Grade 3 Old & New Testament—Teachers Manual.....	10.00
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Grade 5/6 New Testament—Student Guide.....	9.00
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## Only One Life

Two little lines I heard one day  
Traveling along life's busy way,  
Bringing conviction to my heart  
And from my mind would not depart:  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,  
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;  
Then, in "that day" my Lord to meet  
And stand before His judgment seat;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice  
Gently pleads for a better choice;  
Bidding me selfish aims to leave  
And to God's holy will to cleave;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years,  
Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;  
Each with its days I must fulfill,  
Living for self or in His will;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore,  
When Satan would a victory score,  
When self would seek to have its way,  
Then help me Lord with joy to say:  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me, Father, a purpose deep,  
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;  
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,  
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Oh, let my love with fervor burn,  
And from the world now let me turn;  
Living for Thee, and Thee alone,  
Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,  
Now let me say, "Thy will be done;"  
And when at last I hear the call,  
I know I'll say, "It was worth it all."  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last.  
And when I am dying, how happy I'll be  
If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee.

C.T. Studd, Missionary to China

Submitted by Alvar Helmes; Battle Ground, Washington



## The Storm Is Ours!

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

*Romans 8:35, 37*

Shall "tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword" separate us from the love of Christ? The very contrary: they unite us more closely to Him. We not merely survive, but are victorious. *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.* More than conquerors—not merely remaining in possession of the field, but coming forth unscathed from the conflict, and not merely unscathed, but invigorated. He is indeed a conqueror who, resolutely resisting an attack, wards off every blow so that he suffers no injury, and who, though the conflict may be stern, overthrows, disarms, and tramples under foot his assailant. But if with a generous hand he raises him from the ground and, not content with overcoming his body by superior valor, subdues his spirit also, by superior love, he gains a victory yet more complete. By mastering the foe, he becomes a conqueror; but by converting that foe into a friend, he becomes "more than conqueror."

**S**uch is the victory of the believer. The trials by which he is assailed are not only deprived of all power to injure, but become the principal occasions and instruments of his invigoration, comfort, and salvation. However forbidding their appearance, however rough their salutation, they are bearers of heaven's most precious blessings. They wear the aspect of foes only at a distance, and in the beginning of the fight. Soon the Christian warrior embraces them as friends; and the weapons that seemed pointed against him are by faith reversed, and become ranged around him for his defense. His assailants are now his allies; and thus recruited by the encounter, "in all these things he is more than conqueror, through Him that loved us."

Faith, which recognizes in all events the voice of Jesus, is the true alchemy that transmutes all baser substances into gold! However otherwise valueless, even though pernicious and destructive, they now become a precious treasure. In the calculation of his wealth, the believer may include his heaviest trials and keenest sorrows! Apostle Paul says, *For all things are yours... the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's. (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)* Men do not reckon losses among their possessions. These "all things" are therefore gain to those of whom it may be added "and you are Christ's." Afflictions therefore, the frowns of "the world" as well as its smiles; the sorrows of "life" as well as its joys; the sad separations and painful approaches of "death," as well as the heavenly summons it conveys; the storms and struggles of "things present," as well as the calm and the repose of "things to come"—ALL are ours. Were we wise, we would not wish to part with one of them, for who deliberately impoverishes himself? If we see as God sees, we would understand how they were all working together for our good. But though we walk by faith, not by sight, we may be certain of the result, since God declares it. **The storm is ours!**

~Newman Hall