

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.

May 2015

Our Focus Is Christ

Pastor Jay Weidner
Laurium, Michigan

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9

OUR WORLD IS FULL OF DISTRACTIONS. What is worse is that some of the distractions masquerade as being important. Before we know it, we can be caught up in a web of negative images and thoughts that rob us of our happiness and steal our peace.

Paul made it clear what our minds should be focused on. We are to focus on the good, those things which reflect the incarnate God in the sphere of the incarnate. The true (real), the honest, the just, the pure, the bringing forth love, the inoffensive, the virtuous, the praiseworthy; these are to occupy our minds. These are not the things that fallen human beings dwell on; in fact, in our fallenness it takes only a single negative, disturbing or mindlessly

entertaining thing to distract us and soon we lose our entire train of thought. Yet Paul says we who are of the faith of Jesus Christ are different, and our minds are focused on Christ and the things that solidly enrich our lives and the lives of others. He says then that we should imitate in the Spirit what he has done in the Spirit both by example and observation. If we do that, then the God of peace is with us.

Yes, there is the problem. The world and its distractions have stolen our peace. As long as we remain fixed upon our circumstance rather than our God, we shan't have our peace back. If we regain our focus on our God our peace is restored. This is an important part of our mission as a church in this world, to bring peace, not as the world but the peace of God. We need to work together to keep our minds focused rightly on what brings us to peace; our minds must be set on the good. It is wonderful to be part of a fellowship where we speak kindly to one another and encourage the good. Be encouraged, for your kindnesses are known.

God's peace.

National Day of Prayer—Thursday, May 7, 2015

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth... I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. (1 Timothy 2:1-4, 8)

The greatest help we can render each other is to pray for one another. One who prays touches the arm of God. It is not we who are to perfect what we ask for, but God. His arm is not shortened that He is unable to save. Prayer is not hindered by distance. Letters may take days, telegrams hours, but prayer is instant -- it touches the throne at once. God is everywhere present, as near on the lonely sea as in the multitudes of our cities.

If there is someone who pleads, "Remember me in prayer," then be obedient. God Himself will remind us of the one we ask Him to remember. By praying for others, we are brought nearer into fellowship with God. Pray much, therefore, for others.

H.E. Wisloff



Praying Hands
Albrecht Dürer

A Pastor Son's Letter to His Mother

Written for Mother's Day, 1943

Esko, Minnesota
May 10, 1943

Dear Mother,

God's peace and grace be with you both now and forever henceforth, even unto the end.

Tomorrow is Mother's Day. I have been especially thinking of my dear mother not just today, but I always remember you and Pa way out there in the West so far from us. Tomorrow morning I must start early for Kingston; every second Sunday in the month I am to be there.

On this Mother's Day I want to say that I am thankful to God that I have a mother, a dear mother who is still living. But when can we see you? I am thankful that you happened to be a Christian mother to me. Of all the teachers I have had in this world, my mother, you have been the best teacher because you have taught me about Jesus and taught me how I might be saved, and you have prayed for my soul's salvation like no one else has prayed. And now in later years I notice in many ways that I have inherited much from you and from your understandings.

One of the best lessons I remember is to have a forgiving heart toward all people, and to practice that. I remember, Mother, how you used to drill that into us, and above all things how you strove in that direction yourself, setting an example to us. That is what I want to do too; in all troubles to pray that God will give me a forgiving heart, and give the wisdom and understanding that we need so much all of the time. Pray for us, Mama, that God will deliver us from all evil, and that He will give us understanding hearts, and above all things, forgiving hearts toward all people - even our enemies because that is so much better in the end.

And this year on Mother's Day I want to say to you, my dear Mama, that though I have been in places of learning, schools and so forth, the very best school was in our home. It is there that I learned the best and most important lessons of all. That was the best school I ever attended.

You taught me how to live a Christian life, and you taught me how to pray. I feel lonesome for you so many times and wish that we could have one more good, peaceful chat so that I might ask your forgiveness for the many times that I have caused you pain. And so I take the liberty now, Mother, to ask you to bless me with the forgiveness of sins; I am truly penitent and sorry - even now this very moment tears are streaming from my eyes. This life is so funny! It seems that we must live so long and experience so much before our hearts become humbled and we learn the necessary lessons of life.

I am truly thankful for all that you have done, Mother, and hope that you can remember me with a forgiving heart. Never say that you have been a poor mother, nor even feel that way. You have always been forgiving, so forgiving to us, and above all things toward me. I have a

tender spot in my heart for Pa too. He is my father, and I do many times shed tears of loneliness when I see and hear that he is growing old and gray. Tell him my most loving regards and ask him to take good care of Mother as none of us has so long any more to live on this wretched earth. Let us take good care of one another, and love one another with a true love, as Christ gave us the example, for He is the Good Shepherd who gave His life for His sheep. And Mother, bear Pa's weaknesses yet for a while. God has given you strength to do so unto this day, and He will give you strength yet awhile. We will pray for you that all will go well, and that you will reach the glory of God safe and sound in the arms of Jesus.

And now I want you to know, Mother, that this Mother's Day you shall not be forgotten. Halve and I often talk of you folks and wish for the day to come when we can visit one another. God bless you and keep you, Mama, and may He comfort your heart. Remember that you are a dear mother to us.

We just now came from the sauna at Mattinens, our post man's house. I'll add a few lines to this letter and then send it off tomorrow. I'll see if I can find some sort of Mother's Day present to send you even if it is late. You must now be in Portland so I'll send this letter there to Annette. By the way, give Annette and Bill and the kids our regards and tell them we shall write sometime. Give our regards to all the Christians in Portland, to all the Christians wherever you meet them.

Well, I'll be closing for this time, more next time. Greetings from Halve. Many happy returns of the day to you, our Mother, and to Dad too.

Arnold B. Anderson

Editor Alvin Holmgren's Note: This Mothers Day letter was written by Pastor Anderson during his ministry in the Esko Congregation of the Apostolic Lutheran Church. At that time his mother and father, Mary and John Anderson, were living in the city of Seattle. When I visited the church in Lake Worth, Florida, in February of this year, Pastor Anderson's nieces (his sister Annette Sarkela's daughters) Marjorie Rova, Carol Inman and Gloria Questad, shared this letter with me. The message spoke to my heart and prompted me to ask for the writer's permission to print excerpts of it in this issue of the *Christian Monthly*. My earliest memories of Pastor Anderson date back to a visit he made to our family home and congregation in Carpio, North Dakota, when I was under ten years of age. It became my privilege to minister to his parents during the last years of their lives and to officiate at his mother's funeral service in March of 1971.

May 1998 CM

The Heart of a True Believer

Mark Sunnarborg
Rhineland, Wisconsin

FORGIVENESS IS IN THE FOREFRONT of a true believer's heart. One must first be a partaker of the forgiveness God offers in the shed blood of Jesus. At times it may seem forgiveness is the farthest and hardest answer that can come from our heart toward one who has offended us. We can never be completely at peace with God and our brother unless we are able to forgive. This is a hard lesson to learn and takes one being a partaker in the forgiveness God has in His Son. So we rest in the fact that we are able to completely forgive the offenses of others because we now walk in the Holy Spirit, who has guided us unto the perfect forgiveness God has for us.

This believer's heart is what God alone has made complete, pure, holy and has the testimony of the Holy Spirit. A heart that is caring, full of compassion, willing to carry the burdens of others. A heart that will listen and is able to hear the cry of the lost. A heart that is not ashamed of the Spirit's guidance, not ashamed of the Gospel and not ashamed to be a child of the King.

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5) This is the heart of man, not the heart that has been washed in the blood of the Lamb. The heart of man is not walking daily by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the forgiveness God has given. The heart of man is exceedingly wicked and has one thing in mind—to serve itself. If man trusts his own heart, he will find that his heart will fail him.

Where can man trust if not his heart? We are asked to walk by faith and not look within ourselves for anything that will be pleasing to God. Man's heart must first be right with God and then he can be at peace with others. Man cannot forgive unless he is at peace with God and has tasted the forgiveness God offers in His Son Jesus.

The heart of man will become hardened if it has not come under the teaching of the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. *And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go. (Exodus 7:14)* Pharaoh's heart continued to be hardened and he would not submit to the will of God and let the people of God go. All of Egypt had to suffer because of Pharaoh's hardened heart. If you look at the believer's heart you can see a heart full of compassion, a heart that is ready to forgive, a heart that never—not ever—holds judgment upon the evil work of man's evil heart. The heart of man has one thing in mind: to win or have advantage over others. With this heart, man will never admit that he has a hardened heart, and with this heart he can never forgive.

A believer's heart has only one choice: to forgive. A believer's heart is willing to accept the heart of others; and he knows that man's heart is unable to forgive until man's heart experiences the complete transformation work God has to do in softening hearts in the true contrition. Man finds this forgiveness when his robe has been

washed white in the blood of the Lamb, cleansed pure and found acceptable in the sight of God. This work of transforming the heart of man is done through the speaking and through the hearing of the Word of God.

We as God's children never hold judgment against man's heart but always carry a forgiving heart, because this is the will of our Father in heaven. The heart of a believer should never seek his own will, but submit to the will of the Triune God, Father, Son and Spirit, should seek the truth, should stand and be known as one of grace, goodness and one after the heart of God. This heart should never rush to judgment but should search for all truth, should never stand with the will and ways of man even if he stands alone, should always carry a heart of forgiveness. This heart should make full restitution for spreading or speaking falsely of others even when they may be right, and should never be one to divide the flock of God. This is very hard for our flesh to do. When we find our hearts drawn to the will of God in Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit, we see and pray for a heart that is ready to forgive.

I pray that God would reveal to us that our fight is over and we have the victory in Jesus. He has already won the fight for us. We can walk humbled and contrite in forgiving others. This is not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength in the work of God in our hearts. This is because our strength does not come from within us, but comes from the work of God reconciling us to Himself. Thus we are able to forgive and because of this we can have the peace that passes all understanding.

We should be willing and ready to make all things right as the Spirit leads us unto full restitution in the body of believers, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We are called to not judge; the Word of God is the judge of man and will not return void to God but will perform that which it is sent to perform. *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:10)*

Father, cleanse my heart that I may walk with a forgiving heart toward others, praying Thy will would be made known in my heart and in the hearts of all others. Keep my heart humble before Thee and before Thy Word. Please do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. I offer this prayer in the name of Thy Son Jesus. Amen! ~

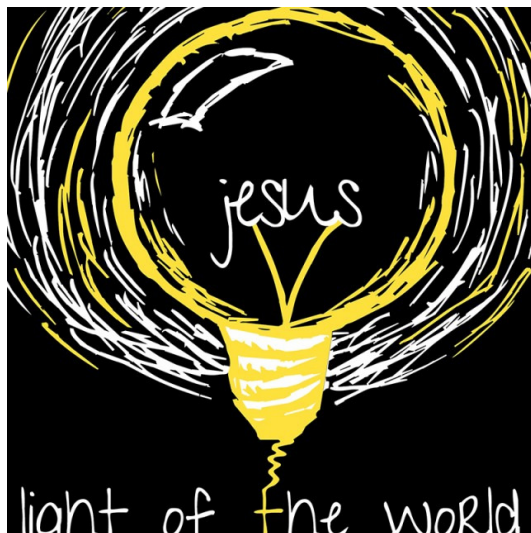


The True Light

Gwen Wilson
Ridgefield, Washington

Dear Children,

Hello to each of you. I hope you are well. All is well here with me and my family. We are enjoying some nice spring weather. I have been wondering what to write and I want to share a passage of Scripture from *St. John 1:1-14*.



St. John 1:1-3: *In the beginning was the Word [namely, Jesus], and the Word [Jesus] was with God, and the Word [Jesus] was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. The Word was Jesus. He did not just show up later, but He always existed. All things were made by Jesus, and nothing was made without Him.*

Verse 4: *In him [Jesus] was life; and the life was the light of men. Jesus would be the Light to give life to all men. This Light – being Jesus – shined into darkness (sinful man) but man in his sin did not receive Him.*

A man named John was sent from God to bear witness, to tell people of this Light, that all men through him would believe. John would tell people that he himself was not that Light but that it was coming.

Jesus was the true Light that would be life to every man that would be born into the world.

Verses 10-11: *He [Jesus] was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He [Jesus] came unto his own, and his own received him not. Jesus was sent by God to be born of a virgin named Mary, and when He grew up and first came to show Himself to His people, they did not receive Him.*

Verses 12-13: *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Verse 14: *And the Word [Jesus] was made flesh [born of Mary], and dwelt among us [He lived here on this earth], (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. Jesus was the only Son of His Father God and He was sent to the earth to die. Why? To save His people from their sins. That means you and me and all who would believe on His name.*

This Easter season we paused to hear again of all Jesus Christ had to suffer to give us life. Oh, how He wants us to come to live in heaven with Him for all eternity.

Jesus knows all about you. He sees you wherever you go, whatever you do and say, whatever you think. Jesus sees you when you sleep, and play, and when you pray. He loves you so much that He gave His life to die on the cross for you. He is full of grace and truth.

I pray that Jesus will always be that **true Light** in each of your lives, the One who you will serve and ask for guidance so that you do not take charge of how you think your life should go. Thank You, God, for the precious gift of salvation through Jesus Christ Your Son.

This is Jesus' command to His disciples when He led them out to the mountain just before God took Him up to heaven: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. (St. Matthew 28:19-20)*

JESUS ALWAYS WAS, IS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE. HE IS NEVER CHANGING, EVER LOVING, AS LONG AS LIFE SHALL LAST.

God's peace.

According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. (1 Timothy 1:11)

IN A WORLD LIKE THIS, something is needed to animate and cheer us; in a state like ours, as sinners against God, there is but one thing that meets the case, and that is the Gospel. This Gospel is most appropriately called "Glad Tidings," for it brings tidings calculated to gladden the heart of the most depressed and sorrowful of men. It reveals God's wondrous love, it tells us of the Savior's grace, and makes known the promise and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is indeed "Glad Tidings of Good Things" — for it informs us of pardon for the guilty, peace for the troubled, wealth for the poor, rest for the weary, and salvation for the lost. Precious Gospel! It commends itself to the head and the heart of all who have a correct knowledge of themselves, and their standing as guilty sinners before God. It just meets their case! And when it is unfolded and applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit, it makes the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing.

James Smith

A Historical Meeting of the Awakening Movement

September 7-8, 2013, Åsele, Västerbotten Province of Swedish Lapland, some 400k south of Haaparanda

Karl-Erik Innala; Haaparanda, Sweden; Translated by Wilfred Sikkila

Submitted by Ralph Somero, New Ipswich, New Hampshire

TWO LAESTADIAN PREACHERS, KARL-ERIK INNALA OF HAAPARANDA AND HÅKAN ESBERG OF KORPILOMBOLO, were called to come and conduct services in the congregation of Åsele. An excerpt of the invitation follows: "In the congregation of Åsele-Fredrika there is a great longing for the Word of God. With great joy and thankfulness we now wish to call preachers from that Awakening Movement whose very beginning can be determined to have taken place here. This would be the first time that children of this Laestadian awakening have traveled to Åsele to proclaim the living Word of God in that place where that blessed meeting took place in 1844. There is reason to believe that this truth will further encourage the preachers with heartfelt desire and love to come and preach repentance, the forgiveness of sin and salvation."

The Åsele congregation celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of "Lapland Mary." Lars-Levi Laestadius met this Mary in January 1844 in Åsele church. Laestadius himself relates this encounter in his book *The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness*:

In the winter of 1844, I came to Åsele of Lapland to conduct parish examinations. Here, I met a few Readers who were of a more conservative type. Among them was one Lapp maiden who, upon hearing my communion sermon, opened her whole heart unto me. This simple girl had experiences in the order of grace of which I had never heard before. She had journeyed long in her search for light in the darkness. In her travels she finally came to Pastor Brandell of Nora, to whom she opened her heart, and he freed her from all her doubts and led her unto living faith. I thought to myself: Here is now another Mary who sits at the feet of Jesus, and I can also now see the way that leads unto life, which had been hidden from me until I could converse with Mary. Her simple story of her wanderings and experiences had such a profound effect within my heart that light dawned unto me also; in that evening which I was able to spend with Mary I was given a foretaste of the joy of heaven. I shall remember this poor Mary as long as I live, and I hope to meet her again in that brighter world on the other side of the grave. Upon returning to my congregation in Karesuando, my sermons took on a more strident color. It had never happened before that some spiritually distressed soul had come to the Pastor for enlightenment and comfort.

THIS WAS THE BEGINNING of the Laestadian awakening in Swedish Lapland via Lars-Levi Laestadius and Juhani Raattama. The congregation of Nora had experienced a strong awakening through Pehr Brandell (1781-1841) which began in 1817. It was there that Mary had received soul-care, as well as multitudes of others who came great distances to hear the powerful sermons of Brandell, which awakened the people unto a living knowledge of sin and a saving faith in the Son of God. Brandell tirelessly received the penitent sinners into the parsonage for personal soul-

care where they could open their hearts unto him and hear that most precious Gospel that the penitent can believe all sins forgiven as they are atoned for with the innocent blood of the Lamb. It is said that the relatively large church of Nora was not able to accommodate the large crowds that came so that it was necessary to open the church windows so that others could hear outside. It is related that C.O. Rosenius was influenced by the Brandell awakening and also instrumental in its continuation in Västerbotten in the area of Åsele.

When the brother and I arrived in Åsele, the pastors of the congregation received us cordially. There was very scant knowledge in this congregation as to what happened in Karesuando after Laestadius returned from his visit to Åsele in 1844. We were given the opportunity to relate the history of that awakening and of the condition today. They were particularly interested in the Tornio Valley Christianity and how this awakening began to spread there after the death of Laestadius.

This occasion was now the first time that Laestadian services were held in Åsele. As God granted grace, we expounded the scriptural texts concerning that righteousness which is acceptable before God, which comes by faith in Jesus Christ, without any merit of our own, by grace alone. The parable of the prodigal son was also given as an example of how scriptural repentance and conversion to living faith takes place in the Father's house. We were able to experience how we were all mutually refreshed by the Word and Spirit of God, to whom we give thanks.

As we took our departure, members of the congregation came to bid us farewell and expressed their hope that we would return to preach the Word of God unto them. One individual said unto us: "Now the circle is complete, in that here in this church Laestadius received the testimony of living faith through Mary, and you have brought us the same testimony." It was with great joy that we could leave that little flock, with whom we were able to spend those days, in the gracious care and keeping of God.

Now 170 years have passed since Laestadius encountered Mary and both have long since entered into that rest of the righteous to await the glorious day of the resurrection, wherein all who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus will be called to possess that kingdom which has been prepared since the beginning of the world. There we shall together behold the loving Savior, Jesus Christ, face to face, and there joyfully thank Him, together with all those who have come from great tribulation and have washed their garments in the blood of the Lamb. The Gospel of Christ has called us, together with them, from the east and the west, the north and the south, to the wedding of the Lamb, and continues to call, as long as God grants a visitation to individuals and peoples. Thanksgiving, praise and honor be unto God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessed Friendship

Pastor Rod Johnson
Laurium, Michigan

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.

John 15:12-17

WHAT IS LOVE? WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP? What does this mean to us? How does it bear fruit? What does it mean that our fruit should “remain”? Think on these things!

It is written: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

Isn't it marvelous to know that God—who is love—loves us, His created beings? He loves us, even though we have sinned and come short of His glory. Isn't it marvelous to know the love of a friend that abides through “thick and thin”? Isn't it marvelous to know we can rely upon and trust one another?

All of the above exist in fullness because of the love the Father shows us through the gift of His Son, by whom we have forgiveness of sins and are able to forgive one another as we have been forgiven. As He lives in us, we live in Him, and we are motivated to bear one another's burdens. This is the amazing work of His grace!

The questions asked in the beginning of this article are illustrated in the words of Jesus in the text above and the following Bible passages:

- *The secret of the LORD is with them that fear (revere) him; and he will shew them his covenant. (Psalm 25:14)*
- *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24)*
- *Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name. (3 John 1:14)*

The following verses show the opposite of true friendship:

- *My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off. They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. (Psalm 38:11-12)*
- *A froward (perverse) man soweth strife: and a whisperer (gossip) separateth chief friends. A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good. (Proverbs 16:28-29)*

To my dear friends in love!



The Object of Our Faith

The most important aspect of faith is its object. Living faith has as its object the Lord Jesus Christ. Living faith does not trust in itself but in Another, our crucified and thorn-crowned King.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1) As humans, we have an in-born tendency to rely on tangible things, especially those things which we think we have some control over. The most dangerous is that we especially tend to trust in ourselves. If we are uneasy in a ride where another is driving, we wish we could be the driver, for we too often trust our own capabilities rather than those of others.

And sadly, this trusting in ourselves is present regarding our salvation, until the Spirit of God reveals our true condition. Regardless of how many times God sent plagues upon the Egyptians, Pharaoh's heart was hardened and even though the land suffered greatly, he resisted the will of God in his pride as the regal emperor.

The fallen nature of mankind resists being stripped of self. Today's psychology, which promotes self-esteem, is making inroads into today's Church. Much of today's worship is self-aggrandizement: "See how religious I am!"

Oh, may God give us faith, for true faith comes only from Him, to trust as Job did: *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him... (Job 13:15)* Later he stated, and we pray this is our portion also: *For I know that my redeemer liveth... (Job 19:25)*

Walter Ketola
Asheboro, North Carolina

Though He Slay Me

Lois Matson
Yacolt, Washington

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.

Job 13:15-16

IN THE EARLIER VERSES OF CHAPTER 13, Job admonishes his friends for their hypocrisy. He realizes that his friends cannot see his heart as God can, and Job begs his friends to be silent and listen to his argument. Now Job will make his defense to God Himself, and Job will accept God's verdict. Job's testimony is sure: **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.** Though he has endured much, Job trusts that God will be merciful to him. He will maintain his ways before God; he will acknowledge what God knows to be true. He will not play the hypocrite, because one who speaks falsely cannot stand before God, and the Lord Himself will be Job's salvation. Job's trust is strongly placed in the only One who can save him. **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.**

Jonah also knew that salvation is only from the Lord. After three days in the belly of the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, acknowledging that God had cast him into the deep, though the sailors' hands had physically thrown Jonah into the sea. Jonah said: *I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.* (Jonah 2:4) Though he used different words, Jonah in essence said: **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.**

Isaiah writes to the inhabitant of Zion: *And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.* (Isaiah 12:1-2) The inhabitant of Zion in essence will say: **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.**

How does God slay us?

The Law of God stands before us, shining in its perfection and holiness. The psalmist writes: *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.* (Psalm 19:7-8)

The Law of God stands before us, silently accusing us of wrongdoing and, ultimately, killing us. *I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had*

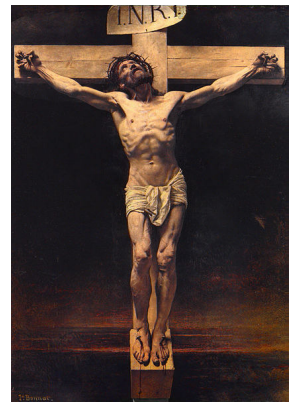
said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. (Romans 7:7-13)

We cannot play the hypocrite; we cannot speak falsely. We have sinned, and we deserve nothing but punishment. When we acknowledge what God knows to be true, when we confess that we've broken God's holy Law, when we accept God's verdict of death to the sinner and TRUST Him, the Lord Himself will be our salvation. God slays us through His Law in order to make us truly alive. God's Law does its work of killing us, and we trust in Him. **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.**

God brings life from death. By faith, our sins are forgiven and we are made new. In Christ we are His new creation, for God has reconciled us to Himself by His Son. Though we stand guilty before God's holy Law, He no longer holds our trespasses against us. As Job's was, our trust can be strongly placed in the only One who can save us. **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him. ~**

And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Luke 23:44-46



Christ on the Cross
Léon Bonnat

Christian Monthly Vol. LXXI—No. 5

Subscription Rate: 1 Year

US: \$12 (Washington residents add your local sales tax)

Canada: \$18 (US money order only) Foreign: \$25

Send **articles for publication** to:

Lois Matson, Editor

Email: cm@apostoliclutheran.org

Phone: (360) 904-6951

Postal Mail to:

CHRISTIAN MONTHLY

PO Box 2126

Battle Ground, WA 98604 USA

Address **subscriptions, payments, and Book Concern orders** to:

Anders & Clara Sundqvist, Managers
THE BOOK CONCERN

PO Box 2126

Battle Ground, WA 98604 USA

Phone: (360) 896-7344

Email: books@apostoliclutheran.org

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

www.apostoliclutheran.org

Western Mission: western@apostoliclutheran.org

Eastern Mission: eastern@apostoliclutheran.org

Foreign Mission: foreign@apostoliclutheran.org

The *Christian Monthly* (ISSN 0009-5494) is published monthly for \$12 per year by the Apostolic Lutheran Book Concern, 19113 NE 144th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606. Periodical permit paid in Brush Prairie, Washington.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: PO Box 2126, Battle Ground, WA 98604

General Disclaimer: The material in the *Christian Monthly* is reviewed for scriptural soundness and to ensure that it does not conflict with the teachings of the ALCA. Publication does not imply that other material by included authors has been so approved.



HAVE YOU MOVED? Please notify the Book Concern of address changes. We must pay return postage on undelivered mail.

Meeting Notice

The 107th Annual Meeting of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America will be hosted by the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Spruce Grove, MN and will be held on June 25th at the New York Mills School in New York Mills, MN.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Annual Reports will be read; the members of the Central Board, the Eastern Mission Board, the Western Mission Board, and the Southern Mission Board will be elected. All matters will be considered and acted upon. Congregations are requested to send their delegates to this meeting.

The schedule of meetings and services are as follows:

Tuesday, June 23	Ministers meeting 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Apostolic Lutheran Church, Spruce Grove, MN
Wednesday, June 24	National Sunday School Meeting 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Eastern Mission Meeting 3:00 PM Apostolic Lutheran Church, Spruce Grove, MN Opening service 7:00 PM Apostolic Lutheran Church, Spruce Grove, MN
Thursday, June 25	Annual Business Meeting 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM New York Mills School, New York Mills, MN The Foreign Mission Business Meeting will immediately follow the Annual Business Meeting.



Devotional services will be held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, beginning on Thursday, June 25th through Sunday, June 28th at the New York Mills School, New York Mills, MN. Ministers, members, and the general public are invited to participate in these services. The meetings will be held in conjunction with the devotional services.

*On behalf of the Central Board of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America,
Wilfred Sikkila, Chairman
David Myllymaki, Secretary*

Jorma Pesamaa Preaching Schedule

6/22	Arrive in Minneapolis
6/25 – 6/28	Convention Services
6/29	Day Off
6/30	Evening Service Lake Norden, SD
7/1	Evening Service Watertown, SD
7/2	Travel Day
7/3	Evening Service Tapiola, MI
7/4	Travel Day
7/5	Services - Spruce Grove, MN & New York Mills, MN
7/6	Depart from Minneapolis

Correction to March Edition



The article titled “Crux Theologorum: The Theologians’ Cross” regarding the theological question that cannot be answered, printed in the March 2015 edition of the *Christian Monthly*, was listed as author unknown. A reader has provided this information.

The author of “Crux Theologorum” is Rev. Nathan Dudley of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Clarinda, Iowa. Their church website is: www.stpaulslutheranchurch.net.

The editor regrets the error.