

# The Assistant Pastor

March, 1936

## The Scriptural Doctrine of Conversion

### IV

PROF. F. A. SCHMIDT IN THE SEVENTIES AND IN THE EIGHTIES

The doctrine of the Old Norwegian Synod as well as of the Norwegian Synod of today excludes all synergism — co-operation of God and man in conversion. While Prof. F. A. Schmidt was a professor in the old Synod and before he started the lamentable strife in the late seventies, he said: "Man cannot in any way by his own free will *co-operate* in that act of God which works and kindles faith in the heart. It is entirely the work of God alone. It is not the case, that God merely bestows the power to believe upon man without influencing the will; but he must in grace *turn and determine the will.*"

"By nature man's will is perverted and can do nothing else than to be hostile toward God, and consequently cannot decide to turn to God before it is liberated from its captivity, and it is liberated only when faith is produced in the heart. . . . We cannot imagine such a thing as a dead man having the power to live, and who, while he is dead, should be able to decide whether he would live or not."

"We confess, that man cannot by his natural powers choose that which is spiritually good, or desist from that which is evil. . . . In spiritual things man is dead, yes, more than dead, because he can resist (and reject that which is good)."

The above are quotations from Prof. Schmidt. The first three appeared originally in the old Synod's official organ "Kirketidende" for March 19, 1875, page 178 ff. The last one in "Proceedings of a free Eng. Luth. Conference" 1872, page 7. Note the years 1875 and 1872. Prof. Schmidt was at that time a theological professor in the old Synod and the Synod was then and continued to be in full harmony with what Schmidt then taught, and our Synod of today subscribes fully to the above statements.

Now note what the same man says in "Lutherske Vidnesbyrd January 9, 1889, page 22:

"That doctrine toward which we have placed ourselves in opposition is that evidently erroneous doctrine — haandgribelige vranglære —, that God in His order of grace for the salvation of sinners should not take any account of man's conduct or be guided by it or in any sense permit Himself to be determined thereby."

Page 25: "That truth, that God on account of His established order for our salvation is guided by our conduct (attitude) and permits Himself to be determined thereby, when He treats in various ways with the called is, for us Anti-missourians, a *fundamental* doctrine."

Nothing can be more clear than that Prof. Schmidt made a complete "about face" and turned to synergism. What he clearly rejected in the seventies is a fundamental doctrine with him in the eighties.



---

## The Assistant Pastor

Published and edited by the pastor of the Jerico and Saude Lutheran churches, affiliated with the Norwegian Synod of the Synodical Conference.

---

## Church Directory

H. M. Tiernagel, Pastor

### SAUDE CONGREGATION

Trustees: Chris Treider, John Borlaug, E. Firkingstad.  
Treasurer: Oscar Natvig.  
Secretary: Ole N. Anderson.  
Cemetery Committee: Martin Borlaug, Chris Treider, Mrs. Andrina Munson, Mrs. C. O. Natvig, Miss J. Ellingson.  
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Nels Ellingson, president; Mrs. N. Hereid, secretary; Mrs. John Natvig, treasurer.

### JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: Geo. N. Anderson, Ole J. Johnson, J. A. Knutson.  
Secretary: A. N. Anderson.  
Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.  
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. C. O. Vigdal, president; Mrs. Tollef Knutson, secretary; Mrs. Carl G. Johnson, treasurer.

## Standing Services

### JERICO

First Sunday, Norwegian, October-April, 10:30 a. m.  
Third Sunday, English, October-April, 10:30 a. m.  
Saturday School every Saturday, 10 a. m.  
Confirmation class, Fridays, 2 p. m.

### SAUDE

Second Sunday, bilingual service, Oct.-April, 10:45 a. m.  
Fourth Sunday, English, October-April, 10:45 a. m.  
Saturday School, 2 p. m.  
Confirmation class, Fridays, 9:30 a. m.  
Fifth Sunday by special announcement.

---

*Better Late Than Never.* The following 1935 donations to Synod Fund have just been received: Nels Nelson, \$5.00; Stanley and Harvey Nelson, \$1.00 each; Alva O. Knutson family, \$2.00.

---

*Another Error.* Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ellingson should have been credited with \$2.50 in the report printed in the January issue. We would like to blame it to the printer if we could but misprints do not seem to be his failing.

---

*The Monthly Envelopes* for 1936 were pretty well distributed at Saude on the second Sunday of January. At Jerico, due to no services since the first Sunday in January, they have not yet been handed out. It is according to resolution by the congregations that this method of collecting for Teachers' Salary and Synod Fund is continued. It takes the place of the old method of sending out a committee once a year to solicit subscriptions to "Lærerlønns- og Synodekassen." We trust few will neglect to contribute in 1936.

---

*Do You Read Thoughtfully* and then reread the articles that have appeared on the front page of our paper since the January issue? The purpose of the series of short lessons is to help you understand better why you are what you are, a members of our particular congregation and Synod and of the Synodical Conference. It is especially desirable that the younger members of today study the questions discussed. Let all realize in studying questions of Scriptural doctrine

that the Word of God is the yard stick by which every doctrine must be measured. We must not lump things off according to our judgment. Since the fall into sin man's understanding has become darkened. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2, 14.

---

*On Monday the 21th of February* we drove out on an errand a few miles from home without difficulty and feeling quite hopeful that the snow-blockades for the season were past. We even felt slight symptoms of incipient spring fever. The second day after, it snowed quite heavily in the forenoon and in the afternoon a stiff gale which continued well into the night fairly shoveled every path, road, and highway full of snow. So here we are again sewed up, bottled and corked by snow each in his home yard.

Hold on, let's check the first temptation to complain by turning our thoughts to the blessings we enjoy. We have a home and we have food and fuel. Neither life nor limb of any of our members have been endangered during the long and severe spell of abnormal weather. The general health has been good, and we have had little if any need of doctors and hospitals. It is true our churches have been closed for six successive Sundays and we have missed "the assembling of ourselves together" for public prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. But access to God in family worship on Sundays and week-days has remained open to all.

In spite of the inclement weather and blocked roadways, we have enjoyed all essential temporal blessings and spiritual blessings have been enjoyed by all who would receive them as served by the Holy Spirit in the Bible. The greatest of these is that special message of the Lenten Season, the passion of our substitute and Savior Jesus Christ, which reaches its climax when Jesus, suspended on the cross says: "It is finished" and thereupon dies as a malefactor in our stead.

No Christian will hesitate to acknowledge the great and good gifts of God with thanks and praise, nor will he deny the eminent propriety of a Lenten thank-offering. He will gladly contribute to the extension of the Kingdom of Grace according as the Lord has prospered him. May we urge you to please bring in your offering *on or before* Good Friday, April 10th.

---

## HENRY LARSON

Mother earth has closed over another one of our pioneer boys. Henry Larson died February 13th at the old Larson homestead and was buried the 17th. Snow-blocked roads and severely cold weather prevented many of the old friends from attending the funeral.

Deceased was born in Columbia County, Wisconsin, February 20, 1865. While a child in arms his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Svennum Larson, moved to Utica Township and established the present Larson home. At the age of 16 years, Henry was confirmed by the Rev. John Moses. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Larson and were raised by them. It is not strange, therefore, that Henry, one of the oldest, left home at the age of 18 years to support himself and thus relieve his parents to that extent. He found



employment in the logging camps of Wisconsin. For many years he worked as cook in the "pineries."

Many are the boys who went into the pineries in those days and wasted their earnings and health in the saloons of Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and other logging centers. Henry Larson saved his earnings and bought the farm, not far from Saude, on which he lived the last twenty years of his life. He found much pleasure in grooming and caring for his domestic animals. We will not soon forget the pair of black horses to be seen in his yard some twelve years ago. They were known far and wide for their sleekness and beauty.

Last summer deceased began failing seriously in health. In November he went to the old home and was cared for till he died by his sister Isabelle and brothers Alfred and Halvor, the present proprietors of the old home farm.

Of the large Larson family all but five, Swennum of Finlayson, Minn.; Andrew of Austin, and the three named just above, now rest in the morning shadow of the Saude church where all were confirmed and all but three were baptized.

#### HELGE NATVIG

Helge Natvig, a child of Lars Jenson Natvig and his wife Mary Helgesdatter Ve, was born at Aardal, Sogn, February 9, 1851. As a child 4 years old he was brought to this country by his parents. The family settled in Wisconsin, but after a few years moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa. However, they left their cabin on the shore of Spirit Lake hurriedly, for fear of the Indians, almost as soon as they had moved in. This is what brought the family to our community where they established the home still known as the Lars Natvig farm, two miles south and one-half mile west of Saude.

Here the children Jens, Helge, Lars, Christopher, and Mary grew up and the parents advanced to old age. One by one they have been laid away in our cemetery. The grave is open to receive the last one today — February 29. What year the family arrived here is not definitely known. We find Lars Natvig and wife entered in the records of our congregation as partakers of the Lord's Supper on the 4th Sunday of Advent, 1863. Knowing that our pioneer ancestors did not for long neglect public worship or the Sacrament of the Altar, we may safely conclude that 1863 is the year of the arrival of this family.

Our Church Records show that deceased was confirmed by the Rev. V. Koren at Washington Prairie, July 14, 1867, and communed on the same day. It may also be seen that he communed regularly for a number of succeeding years and, consequently, was by the pastor adjudged to be of such understanding that he could examine himself according to 1 Cor. 11, 28.

Forty-eight years ago it became necessary to commit him to the State Hospital at Independence, where he died February 23, a few days more than 85 years old.

#### *Digest of Funeral Sermon*

Text John 2-3. Cf. Luke 13, 1-5.

Long years ago the deceased was a mother's and a father's precious child and loved by brothers and sister. The child grew up in the atmosphere of a Christian home "in the nurture and admonition of the

### GAMBLE STORE AGENCY

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

Owned and operated by Clarence R. Erickson.  
See us for Tires, Batteries, Radios, Washers,  
and light Hardware.

### LEUTHOLD-O'CONNOR CO.

HART SCHAFFNER & MARX CLOTHES

Oshkosh Overalls.

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

### LARKIN-KNUTSON

Furniture and Undertaking

NEW HAMPTON

### HALVOR NELSON & SON

Auto Repairing

JERICO, IOWA

We take pride in giving honest service.

### GERBER'S CLEANERS

Home of Good Cleaning, Hat Blocking,  
and Laundering.

Prompt Service and Satisfaction.

NEW HAMPTON

Phone 167.

### The Photos of Quality

LUTZ STUDIOS

Old P. O. Building

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA



Lord." Evidence of this we have in the fact that the parents sought the house of God immediately upon their arrival here, and in the fact that they did not neglect the instruction of their children in the Christian faith. The Rev. V. Koren instructed and confirmed deceased and admitted him to the Lord's Table as one competent to examine himself. The church records also show that he was a regular guest at the Lord's Table for a number of years thereafter. He was not one who, as he grew into manhood, refused or neglected to kneel with his parents as a suppliant at the Lord's Altar.

After a time mental infirmity developed in the young man until it became necessary to commit him to the State Hospital at Independence. When a heavy cross is laid upon anyone, we are prone to question as did the disciples v. 2. Compare Luke 13, 1-5.

It is a common thing to jump to the conclusion that one who suffers some unusually severe grief or calamity must be worse than others, a more grievous sinner. In the thoughts that give rise to such a conclusion, there is hidden an unduly favorable appraisal of oneself, namely this: no such calamity has befallen me, he must be a worse sinner than I am. Woe unto the selfrighteous! When the disciples saw the blind man they should have realized that but for the grace and mercy of God, that would have been their sad plight too. The sight or report of any calamity visited upon anyone should humiliate us and cause us to tremble and confess: I too, have deserved a similar punishment, it is grace alone that I am spared.

Christ's answer, v. 3: "That the works of God should be made manifest in him," that is the purpose of the blindness of the blind man of our text. Just how the works of God were made manifest in him is related in our chapter immediately following our text. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." That answers the why of Luke 13, 2 and 4, in as far as it pertains to us.

Some of you present here remember, no doubt, the grief of the parents and the effect on the community when deceased had to be removed from his home. Has the thought occurred to you that your fathers and mothers may thereby have been brought to repentance and prayer that their sins for Christ's sake be forgiven and they mercifully be spared from a like evil befalling any of their children?

When Jesus in His answer says, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents," He must not be understood to say that this man and his parents were pure and sinless. What He does say is that they are not sinners in any special way above others. He does not want us to forget, however, that every evil, every calamity, every grief and sorrow is a fruit of sin. But if every grievous sin should bring on blindness then every child of every parent would be blind, or if grievous sin brings on insanity, then all would be insane, for "all have sinned and gone astray, all have become filthy" says God.

In closing; let it be our comfort to know that saving faith is not an act but a state of being. One who is one with Christ through faith is not every moment aware or conscious of his state of grace. A believer who falls asleep is a believer also while he sleeps. A believer who loses consciousness in a fever, remains a believer through his period of unconsciousness. Likewise a believing child of God remains a child of God though he permanently loses his mentality and intelligence.

## BEN FRANKLIN STORE

ALFRED KELSON, *Proprietor*

East Main Street  
NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

## MUELLER & TEKIPPE

RIGHT WAY FOOD STORE

Phone 65

*Hanson Market in connection*

NEW HAMPTON

## THE NEW FIRST NATIONAL BANK

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

Deposits insured up to \$5000, for each  
individual depositor.

## FARM BUREAU SERVICE CO.

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

Phone 125.

Petroleum Products — Paint — Insecticides

## SHEAKLEY & KENNEDY BROS. DEPT. STORE

NEW HAMPTON

Distributors of dependable and trustworthy  
merchandise for over fifty years.

Your trade solicited.

## E. L. BRADLEY & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Mrs. E. L. Bradley, Assistant.

CRESCO, IOWA