

The Assistant Pastor

May 1938

What is Truth?

Do you really want to know? Do you seek truth so earnestly that you would be willing to repudiate the answer your own mind and reason gives? Do you want to know the truth, and confess it, even though it should estrange you from associates, friends, and even relatives?

There is just one way, dear friend, to get a reliable answer to the question: Ask the Holy Ghost, the third person of the Trinity, who is the "guide into all truth" (John 16:13). And if you want to know His answer to your question you must hear and believe the written Word of God, for through it He speaks. Whosoever hears and believes the Word, hears and believes the Holy Spirit. He who does not hear and believe the Scriptures, rejects the Holy Spirit and will never know what truth is.

The Spirit has not promised to answer questions through dreams, or visions, or ecstatic feelings, or by any other form of direct communication. That He can and does, however, when He sees fit, confirm in various ways what He says by means of the Word, is the common experience of Christians.

Let every one's iron-bound rule be not to believe *anything* pertaining to divine, heavenly, and spiritual matters which is not *clearly* taught and established by the written Word of God, nor to believe anything regarding physical and material things which is *contrary* to that same Word. If these simple rules are observed we will never be led astray in doctrine. We grant this is a very definite and broad statement. Let us test it out with a few questions on which men differ. What is the truth regarding:

Salvation by faith? The Holy Spirit answers: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved (Acts 16:31).

Salvation by faith and works? "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Rom. 3:28).

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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. Tjernagel, Pastor

SAUDE CONGREGATION

Trustees: Chris Treider, Ned Borlaug, E. Firkingstad.
Treasurer: Nels Ellingson.
Secretary: G. G. Vaala.
Cemetery Committee: Martin Borlaug, Chris Treider, Mrs. Andrina Munson, Mrs. C. O. Natvig, Miss J. Ellingson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. T. G. Vaala, president; Mrs. Elmer Natvig, secretary; Adelia Natvig, treasurer.

JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: Geo. N. Anderson, Ole C. Johnson, Olaf Roberson.
Secretary: A. N. Anderson.
Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Alve O. Knutson, president; Mrs. Olaf Knutson, secretary; Mrs. H. A. Knutson, treasurer.

Standing Services

JERICO

First Sunday, Norwegian, May-September, 10:00 a. m.
Third Sunday, English, May-September, 10:00 a. m.
Saturday School every Saturday, 10:00 a. m.
Confirmation class, Fridays, 2:00 p. m.

SAUDE

Second Sunday, bilingual service, May-September, 10:00 a. m.
Fourth Sunday, English, May-September, 10:00 a. m.
Saturday School, 2:00 p. m.
Confirmation class, Fridays, 9:30 a. m.
Fifth Sunday by special announcement.

Veryl Odell, a child of Henry Robinson and wife, Viola, née Vaala, was born March 20th and baptized April 17th. The sponsors were: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Munson and Mr. and Mrs. Gilman Robinson.

Anna Swennumson, spoken of in our April issue as entertaining the Saude Aid, was married September 2, 1896, so long ago, indeed, that even the editor ought to have known her present name, Mrs. Anna Anderson.

Mrs. Clarence Cutsforth entertained the Jerico Aid at her home April 13th. The Aid elected Mrs. L. A. Robinson, Mrs. Fred Amman, and Mrs. S. T. Roberson as a committee to be responsible for the care of the cemetery.

The Saude Aid, armed with mops, brooms, and rakes, met up at the Saude church April 21st to nifty up outside as well as inside the church. Mrs. Carl Miller served the workers at lunch.

Easter Day was bright and beautiful and the church services were well attended. The four communion services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were also well attended. One hundred and ninety were communed. We trust the services may be not only pleasant, but blessed memories.

OBITUARY

Cora Ovidia Ronnfeltdt, née Johnson, youngest child of Ole Johnson Teigen and wife Carrie, née Knutson, was born December 21, 1905. She was baptized and confirmed in the Jerico church. At the age of fourteen months she was left motherless, her mother died from a lingering illness. Her paternal aunt, Mrs. Nels Anderson, although she had many children of her own, took the little girl into her heart and home and was a true Christian mother to her.

On December 16, 1924, deceased was united in marriage to Herman Ronnfeltdt of Woonsocket, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Ronnfeltdt have had their home in our community the greater part of the time since their marriage.

Mrs. Ronnfeltdt died at her home quite unexpectedly after a short illness April 7th. On the 9th the remains were laid to rest in the Jerico cemetery. At the funeral service, the large church was filled.

Her passing is mourned by her husband, four brothers, Ole, Severt, Alfred and John, and by five stepbrothers, two stepsisters, and the aged stepfather, Mr. Nels Anderson. With the mourners present at the funeral were also the bereaved husband's parents, a brother and two sisters from South Dakota.

The Funeral Sermon.

As we stand at the bedside of one who is struggling with death, thought of the fate of the soul that is soon to be released from the body is uppermost in our minds. Even the nearest, be it wife or husband, or child, or brother or sister, this becomes the main question. And who can see life in a losing struggle with death and not be reminded of one's own final death struggle? Or, who can see what we see today, a funeral procession, a casket, and mourners without realizing that the inevitable is coming also to me.

What will be the fate of your soul on that day? Did you say, "I don't know?" God grant that no soul leaves this church today without knowing how to answer that question correctly. God Himself will give you the necessary instruction and information. In Acts 16, verse 30, we find this question: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" In verse 31 we find the answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." There is your answer. Now you know that you shall be saved if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord," and they are the only ones that are blessed, all others are lost.

If you ask, how can it be that faith saves? Listen directly to God again: "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from all sin." 1 John 1:7. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." 2 Cor. 5:19. "Christ Jesus gave himself a ransom for all." 1 Tim. 2:6. "He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2. Thus we know how there can be salvation through believing in Jesus Christ as Paul and Silas said to the jailer and as God now says to you.

And we know that there is no salvation in any other, pastor, priest, or pope, saint or sinner, for God says: "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him." Ps. 49:7. "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

If we believe what God says, we know that we cannot be saved wholly or in part by our own good works, for He says: "They are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Ps. 53:3. We realize that our abilities to meet the demands of God are overtaken when we hear Him say: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with *all* thy heart, and with *all* thy soul, and with *all* thy mind" and "Love thy neighbor *as thyself*." This last statement is supplemented by "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Surely the very last vestige of hope that we can work out our own salvation is completely shattered when we hear our God say: "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

What a true god-send is not, therefore, the assurance: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Things have a way of manifesting themselves. Some things we know by sight, others by their fragrance, still others we may hear, or touch and thus come to know them. Faith also has ways of manifesting itself. Where faith is there cannot be love of sin. The heart where faith dwells is sensitive to sin and cannot knowingly and wilfully continue in sin, it strives against sin and seeks that which will glorify God. "Show me thy faith by thy works," says St. James, and he adds, "Faith without works is dead." "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren," 1 John 3:14. These are manifestations whereby you may judge of your faith, dear friend. God grant that your life may be rich in the manifestations of faith to the glory of God and the good of your neighbor that he may thereby as by a light, be led to know and to love our Father which is in heaven. No legacy more blessed or more grand can be left by you, dear friend, to your mourners, and no memories of you will be more priceless. This, I am confident, is the experience of the mourners today.

THE LENTEN OFFERING

We believe you will be interested in the following story of the Lenten offering. At Saude 167 envelopes were distributed, one envelope to every man, woman and child in the congregation. At Jerico 409 were distributed in the same way. The returns were as follows by number of envelopes and amount enclosed in each.

SAUDE			JERICO		
42	\$1.00	\$ 42.00	50	\$1.00	\$ 50.00
39	.50	19.50	80	.50	40.00
26	.25	6.50	80	.25	20.00
3	5.00	15.00	36	.10	3.60
2	10.00	20.00	10	.15	1.50
2	2.00	4.00	4	.20	.80
1	1.50	1.50	4	5.00	20.00

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1	1.30	1.30	4	2.00	8.00
6	.10	.60	6	.05	.30
2	.05	.10	3	.01	.03
3	.20	.60	1	.30	.30
1	.40	.40	1	.60	.60
1	.35	.35
1	.30	.30
1	.15	.15
1	.02	.02
132		\$112.32	279		\$145.13

This shows that at Saude 132 envelopes out of 167 were returned bringing in a total of \$112.32. At Jerico 279 out of 409 returned bringing \$145.13. This is a substantial increase over former Lenten offerings and we are pleased.

The fact that some have given nothing must not be allowed to discourage us. It is hardly to be expected that all are able to give and, among so many, there will, we fear, always be found some that are careless and negligent and do not realize the necessity nor the blessedness and joy in Christian giving.

We notice that the line, Place....., on the envelope misled some, and we do not wonder that it did, for it is misleading. The intention of those who attended to the printing of the envelopes was that the name of the congregation should be inserted in that misleading blank and not, as some did, the mission to which they preferred their contribution to go. We hope that no one will be displeased because we send the entire Lenten offering to the Home Mission fund.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Conclusion

Good Works? "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead." James 2:17. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16.

Synergism and "det gode forhold"? "The carnal mind is enmity against God." Rom. 8:7. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. 2:1.

Total depravity? "They are all gone ^{aside} inside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Ps. 14:3. "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing." Rom. 7:18.

Church fellowship without full unity in doctrine? "Take heed, and beware"—read Matt. 16:6 ff. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Gal. 5:9.

Divorce? "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" Matt. 19:6; the First Lady of the Land to the contrary notwithstanding.

Evolution? "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Gen. 1:1. "He spake and it was done, He commanded and it stood fast." Ps. 33:9.

What is truth? Do you want to know? Ask the Holy Spirit and you shall, through the Word, receive clear and definite answer, not hazy, ambiguous, uncertain statements such as the oracles of old gave, or the drivell offered by the learned "interpreters" of today.

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