

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 4

Love Is of God

Love is of heaven, the holy flame
To kindle which the Savior came;
His life, His lips, His sufferings, prove
The ardor of His fervent love.

Love is of faith the genuine fire,
Its lightest flames to heaven aspire;
But with a warm and genial glow
It brightly shines on all below.

Love is of grace the hallowed reign;
Without it all our gifts are vain.
Our title best as saints we prove
By hearts and deeds and lives of love.

Love is the golden chain that binds
In union sweet believing minds.
Its holy links can ne'er be riven;
It reaches down to earth from heaven.

Love, holy love, shall ever last
When all terrestrial scenes are past;
Its native home, the world above,
For heaven is God's, and God is Love.

Success in Mission-Work

To win men for Christ, we must deal with them in love. Love means giving of ourselves; it is the flinging open of the doors of the heart and the seeing of great value in the blood-bought souls of men. The aim of love is to show mercy, not hatred or revenge. The Bible tells us: "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also," 1 John 4, 20, 21.

St. Paul, the great missionary, loved his fellow-men. He said: "I will very gladly spend

and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved," 2 Cor. 12, 15. It cost St. Paul a great deal to obey the voice of God. Yet he tells us: "I suffered the loss of all things and counted them but dung that I might win Christ," Phil. 3, 8. Would you lead men to Christ at the cost of losing your friends and earthly treasures?

We Christians today should follow the example of tender-hearted St. Paul in leading sinners to repentance and to Jesus Christ, the only Savior from sin. Thus we shall expose sin for the love that we have for sinners, so that they may escape the wages of sin — death. God tells us: "Touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty," 2 Cor. 6, 17, 18.

If we fail to win men to Christ, it may be that we do not love them as we should. If we fail to lead them to love His cause, it may be because we ourselves need to love Him more. The love of Christ should prompt us to lead sinners into His kingdom. Let us do everything in love, and let love rule our hearts. "Love is of God; for God is Love," 1 John 4, 7. The secret of successful mission-work, then, is love for the Savior expressing itself by the power of the Holy Spirit in love for our fellow-men.

O. C. S.

Do Not Trust in Feeling

My friends, God is above feeling. Do you think you can control your feelings? I am sure if I could control my feelings, I never would have any bad feelings, I would always have good feelings. But bear in mind that Satan may change our feelings fifty times a

day, but he cannot change the Word of God; and what we want is to build our hopes of heaven upon the Word of God. When a poor sinner is coming up out of the pit and just ready to get his feet upon the Rock of Ages, the devil sticks out a plank of feeling and says, "Get on that"; and when he puts his feet on that, down he goes again. Take one of these texts: "Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me *hath* everlasting life and *shall not* come into condemnation, but is *passed* from death unto life." That Rock is higher than my feeling. And what we need is to get our feet upon the Rock, and the Lord will put a new song in our mouths.

His oath, His covenant, and blood
Support me in the sinking flood;
When every earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.

D. L. MOODY

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE CLOSE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

"What does God say of all these Commandments?"

When we speak of sin and its punishment, some one perhaps will answer: "Sin is not as terrible as you paint it and will not be so severely punished. For God is a kind Father. He will overlook sin. If we only try our best, He will be satisfied." Man says this, but what does God say? Our Catechism tells us, saying: "He says thus." And what does He say?

"I, the Lord, thy God"

First, He says: "I, the Lord." He who gave these commandments is Lord over all. He commands, and all must obey. And He is *the* Lord, there is none other. He says: "I am the Lord: that is My name; and My glory will I not give to another," Is. 42, 8. The Lord speaks in the Ten Commandments, and that ought to fill our hearts with fear and trembling. And He continues: "Thy (your) God." This Lord is God, the Giver of all good gifts. To Him you owe everything that you are and have. Therefore you should "worship the Lord, thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve," Matt. 4, 10. And in the Ten Commandments He shows you how to serve and worship Him.

"I Am a Jealous God"

The Lord God will not and cannot overlook sin, as some people like to tell us. God is a "jealous" God; He watches over every commandment; not one should be broken. Jealousy watches very closely. Therefore think not for a moment that God cares not if we sin. His eyes are upon all our ways. He watches every thought, every word, every deed, to see whether we do His commandments.

"Visiting Iniquity"

And what if we break His commandments? He says: "I will visit the iniquity (sin)." Luther explains these words, saying: "God threatens to punish all that transgress [break] these commandments." God will visit all who break His commandments. Thus He visited the people of Noah's days with the Flood on account of their sin; thus He visited the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and let fire and brimstone fall upon them; thus He visited the city of Jerusalem and its people by sending the Romans under Titus to punish them, in the year 70. God waits a long time with His punishment. He is slow to anger and plenteous in mercy, but He cannot and will not overlook sin. He will and must visit man for his sin.

What Must We Do to be Saved?

We have sinned. God must punish us. Oh, how can we be saved? Friend, flee to the cross of Jesus, upon which He suffered the punishment for all our sins. Then rejoice in the empty grave. He is risen. The debt is paid. Trust in Him, and you will be saved now and forever.

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for April

"If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death." John 8, 51

Bible-Lesson: Mark 9, 1-8

"And He said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here which shall not taste of death till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. And after six days Jesus taketh with Him Peter and James and John and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. And His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow,

so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for Thee and one for Moses and one for Elias. For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid. And there was a cloud that overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son; hear Him. And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more save Jesus only with themselves."

Jesus will come again in glory and power to judge and punish all those who are ashamed of Him and His words and do not accept Him as their Savior. What a terrible judgment and punishment that will be for the unbelievers! Some of the people who heard Jesus speak these words of warning did not taste death till they had seen the beginning of that judgment and punishment in the destruction of Jerusalem, some years later. Jesus' words are true. The day of the final Judgment will also surely come.

Jesus will come again in glory, and it will be a wonderful glory, as three of His disciples were permitted to see. Jesus took Peter and James and John up into a high mountain, and there He was transfigured (changed and glorified) before them. His raiment (dress) became shining, exceeding (very) white, whiter than any fuller (cleaner) on earth could have made them. And Elias and Moses came and talked with Jesus. Moses died and was taken into heaven more than fourteen hundred years, and Elias was taken alive into heaven more than nine hundred years, before this event. Both were living in heaven and serving the Lord Jesus, in whom they had believed on earth. It was a wonderful experience for the disciples to see Jesus in heavenly glory as the Son of God, and Peter said: "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for Thee and one for Moses and one for Elias." But Peter wist (knew) not what to say; for they were sore [very much] afraid. How great and wonderful will be our joy in heaven, where, with all our sins removed, we shall without fear see Jesus, the Son of God, in all His heavenly glory, just as the three disciples saw Him.

Then a cloud came over them, and they heard a voice, saying: "This is My beloved

Son; hear ye Him." And when the disciples looked around, Moses and Elias had disappeared, and they saw Jesus only.

"This is My beloved Son; hear ye Him," God the Father said from heaven. Jesus is the Son of God and therefore our Savior. In Him alone we are to trust, and His words alone are we to hear and believe for our salvation. "He that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life," John 5, 24. Do you "hear Him"?

E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

Minneapolis Mission. — Death has called another member of our mission to the heavenly home. On January 7 Bernhard Luedke passed away at the St. Peter State Hospital, falling asleep in Jesus. He was confirmed by the local pastor in 1932. We regularly visited him and saw him two weeks before his death. We say he fell asleep in Jesus, for at the time of our last visit we asked him in whom he trusted for the forgiveness of all his sins, and he answered, "In Jesus." The funeral was held in the Howard Lake church (Rev. C. Seltz, pastor), the pastor basing his sermon on the words recorded Mark 7, 37: "He [Christ] hath done all things well." These words are true also in his case, for he learned to know the crucified and risen Savior and died in Him. Friend, in whom do you trust for the forgiveness of your sins? Is his answer also your answer? Then blessed are you. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved," Acts 4, 12. J. L. S.

Kansas City Mission. — After thorough instruction in the chief teachings of the Bible, Mrs. L. Butcher and Mr. W. E. Barriger were united with the Lutheran Church by confirmation on December 27, 1936, in Kansas City. May the Lord grant these new members grace to remain faithful always and to be active members! Mr. W. E. Barriger also received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

We consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity in the past year of welcoming ten new members into our Kansas City mission. It adds to our joy to think that six of these ten persons desired Holy Baptism. Also five children were baptized. However, the Savior is calling many more in this territory. May the year 1937 find many more accepting His invitation!

Mr. J. Kaufman of Douglas, Kans., president of the Kansas Association of the Deaf, together with Mrs. Kaufman, attended our services in the beautiful new Lutheran church of Wichita, on January 19.

A. E. F.

Muskegon Mission. — In January of this year 11 deaf were confirmed in Muskegon, Mich., one of our new stations, so that we now have 12 communicants

there. The services are attended by between 20 and 30 persons.

In Grand Rapids two men were baptized, and one woman was confirmed. We now have 6 communicants at that station, with an attendance of 15 to 20 at each service.

God has visibly blessed our efforts beyond human expectations, and we pray that His blessing may abide with us.

THEO. FREDERKING

Seattle Mission.—Mrs. Sally Clark had the misfortune of being struck by a car just before Christmas. However, God preserved her from serious injury, and she is able to attend the services she dearly loves.

Mr. Arthur Martin is with us again after spending some weeks in the Marine Hospital, where he underwent a triple operation. We are glad to see him back among us. Mrs. Lynn V. Palmer was confirmed and is happy in her church-membership. Mr. and Mrs. H. Cookson brought their infant son Timothy to Jesus in Holy Baptism. We are glad to see that more of our members are reading their Bible at home. Our church will surely benefit from such home study. Our old friends Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Brown are now receiving their old-age pension, and we are all glad to know their worries are now far less than before.

Our deaf of the Anacortes church are still keeping up the record of almost perfect attendance. One of our members there and his good wife have been tithing for years and have never suffered want because of it. May others follow their example. This man has also often supplied us with many tracts to pass along on our trips. "Go and do thou likewise."

Vancouver, B. C., is slowly growing. On January 17 Mrs. Noseworthy became a member of Bethlehem Mission there. May the Lord keep her faithful to the end! All our people must finish a two-year course of instruction before confirmation, unless they have had previous instruction. So far no one has complained of the course's being too long. Next month Mr. William Maeda, a young Japanese, will receive Holy Baptism. God keep him steadfast!

In our St. Paul's Mission at Yakima, Wash., Miss Nora Wiggins was to be confirmed January 23, but due to flu the event has been set for February. Our attendance in Yakima is growing, and a new confirmation class is being started. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Stewart have just returned from a visit to Colorado. Mr. Sterling Summers has moved from Yakima to Seattle. He is one of our young members.

In the Montana School for Deaf our work is going ahead. On January 21 Molly Sweet and Richard Mullins vowed to follow Jesus always and to remain faithful to His altar. They made a splendid confession of faith. May God bless them! In February, Edith Johnson, Dale Glasser, Evelyn Higdem, Clarice Petrick, and Mercedes Mayberry will renew their baptismal vow. In Mr. Harold Larsen, instructor of printing at this school, we have a real helper. Being well grounded in the Christian doctrine, he teaches our class every Sunday and in many other ways makes our work much lighter. Mr. Larsen was confirmed in Wisconsin some years ago.

Our Missoula, Mont., congregation, though not large in numbers, is strong in faithful attendance both at services and at the Lord's Table. In Missoula Miss Mona Frazier and Miss Florence Reinke were confirmed, and Miss Florence Smith was baptized before confirmation. Thus one after another is added to the household of God, souls bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. God grant that none may fall away.

As soon as possible, further stations will be opened in Montana. Since we have been asked to come, we cannot refuse. If only we had more time or could be in several places at the same time!

On our January trip we found much snow, rough roads, and cold, from 19 above to 46 below zero. Trains were hours late. We sat in the Yakima station all night and finally reached home one and a fourth hour before church time.

In Seattle, Mrs. Eaton and Mrs. Gustin have donated a beautiful cross for our altar in remembrance of their confirmation. Thank you, kind friends; we have often wished for just such a cross. Lord, keep us always in Thy care!

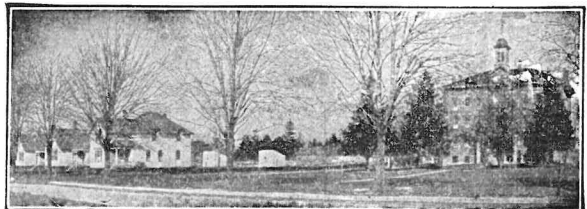
The Sunday-school of St. Mark's Church, Butte, Mont. (Rev. H. W. Moehring), buys all the Sunday-school books for our mission in the deaf school at Boulder. This is no small item. W. A. W.

THREE very vital things are necessary in order to be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ:
1) Deny self. 2) Take up the cross daily.
3) Then follow, whether you feel like it or not.

Selected

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