

# *The Faith Watch*

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## **THE COST OF LIBERTY**

by Pastor Stan Gustafson

The last words in the text of the Declaration of Independence are these, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." There was no doubt in the minds of the signers of that historic document that a price would have to be paid for liberty from tyranny. Liberty from evil men is always purchased at a price. Our founders desired a government of the people, by the people and for the people in contrast to European despotism. Our first Congress formed a republic, a limited representative government of checks and balances to prevent, in their words, "abuses and usurpations" so common in an aristocracy.

Minutemen reached for their muskets and stood on principle, leaving the convenience of apathy and knowing the consequences of inaction. The people of those thirteen original United States and their elected representatives considered it necessary that distress and danger be endured for the sake of their God-given human rights, and they were willing to pay the price to secure them. The signers also knew the consequences of placing their names upon what would surely be seen in Britain as an inflammatory and egregious docu-

ment. Many of them paid with their health and livelihood. Some were forever separated from their families and saw their homesteads destroyed, but they knew these risks when they signed, and they refused to hold their convictions in secret. John Hancock defiantly wrote his signature so large that he knew the King must see it. These were men of honor and principle who considered the dividends of liberty and freedom worth the cost.

From that day until now the price of defending our liberty and sovereignty as a nation has been borne by many multitudes. We in this generation, to value and maintain our liberty, must know the difference between liberty and tyranny. We must speak of it in our homes, and teach it to our children. The history of America and the love of freedom must be taught in our schools and preached in our churches as an unalienable right endowed by our Creator. We must not trade liberty for safety, personal advancement or temporary gain, for it would be wicked and unjust to do so. We the people must also be vigilant lest our own leadership begin to demonstrate the same arrogant usurpations and tyrannical abuses, from which we declared independence in the beginning. May God bless the accurate memory of such gallant founders, and may the price paid by generations for the liberty we enjoy be reviewed with appreciation today, for

the best defense against tyranny is an informed and vigilant populace.

*"I cannot but marvel to see how soon the children will forget the sword that drove their fathers into this land, and take hold of it as a jewel, and kill their grandchildren therewith. O that men could see how far this is from Christ's rule."*

Solomon Paine

Having come out of the Church of England, was ordained a separatist pastor in 1745.

*"I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory.*

John Adams

To his wife Abigail, July 3rd, 1776.

Spiritual bondage is no less real than in the civil arena. Sin enslaves its victims and delivers them bound over to death and damnation. This truth is played out all around us. God has been brutally honest in His Word by telling us that those who commit sin are the servants of sin, willing servants from whom wickedness will extract a terrible price reaching even to death and the second death.

*His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.*

*Proverbs 5:22*

Liberty from evil is always purchased at a price. The wonderful news of the

gospel is that Jesus Christ has come and borne the cost of our liberty, a horrific price that He willingly paid to free all who would come to Him from the bondage and condemnation of sin. This He did upon the cross. To be justified with God and freed from the plague of sin each must receive Christ personally by trusting Him alone as personal Savior. In coming to Christ for salvation each places faith in Him as their all-sufficient redeemer and thereby receives the gift of eternal life.

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*  
*Romans 6:23*

Once converted to Christ we can no longer be condemned, for our sin-debt is forever cancelled in Him. God then desires that we stand confidently in our freedom in Christ and live knowing we are saved.

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.*  
*Romans 8:1*

*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*  
*John 8:36*

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.*  
*Galatians 5:1*

This wonderful and complete liberty in Christ ought to be spoken of in our homes. Every parent should possess this salvation and teach of this wonderful gift to their children. The churches to be

worthy of their very existence must have this saving work of Christ as the centerpiece of their message, taught in their Sunday Schools and preached fervently from their pulpits. Let us who have received it value our liberty in Christ by honoring the One Who provided it, and may we live it for the world to see.

*"In 1774, according to Howison, the Baptists increased on every side; if one preacher was imprisoned, ten arose to take his place; if one congregation was dispersed, a larger assembled on the next opportunity. The influence of the denomination was strong among the common people, and was beginning to be felt in high places. In two points they were distinguished: first, in their love of freedom; and, secondly, in their hatred of the church establishment.*

William Cathcart

Baptist historian of the late 1800's.

*"God grant, that as we increase in numbers and riches, we may not increase in sin and wickedness, but that we may rather be led, by the divine goodness to reform whatever may have been amiss or wanting among us.*

John Callender

Pastor of the Baptist church at  
Newport, Rhode Island  
in the early 1700's.

## A Whale Of A Tale

By John O'Melia

Never did I think that we, as a society, would come to a time when we can no longer discern even the most basic right from wrong. That is the problem with moral relativism...right or wrong according to whom? When there is no absolute truth, there is absolutely no right or wrong, only one's perspective.

We had a terrible tragedy recently when a killer whale attacked and killed its trainer at Sea World. As the story unfolded...or unraveled as the case may be, it turns out that this is not the first time this whale, named Tilikum, has been implicated in a human fatality. It most recently attacked a trainer during a show at the Orlando theme park, dragging her around like a toy and drowning her in front of horrified visitors. Why, may I ask you, do we have a whale so closely interacting with humans in a park that has killed 2 people already and now claimed a 3rd victim? My hope, as you read this, is a reaction of "that's it, the whale has got to go!" But wait just a moment. Tilikum seems to have miraculously recuperated from his "seeing red" moment as some marine biologists have referred to it (that is apparently what they call it, when a 23 foot, 6 ton male killer whale suddenly and for no apparent reason, decides to attack and drown its trainer). Tilikum is now back in the pool delighting his cheering audiences. I think we have lost our way, or at least our minds. My heart goes out to the family and friends of Dawn Brancheau (the young trainer recently killed), as well as Keltie Byrne, Tilikum's first victim in 1991. The second victim was of particularly suspicious circumstances as the man was found dead on

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Tilikum's back by a security guard in 1999. An autopsy said he died of hypothermia, but acknowledged he was scratched and bruised.

Now I don't profess to have all the answers, but I know that GOD does... For argument sake, let's just say that it is okay to corral this behemoth mammal in a pool so we can study its behavior all the while we have the added benefit of the whale entertaining us upon demand. Let's say this is all okay. Let's look at the first killing.

*Exodus 21:28:*

*If an ox gore a man or a woman, that they die: then the ox shall be surely stoned, and his flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be quit.*

God instructs us that when an animal, in our case a whale, kills a man or woman, the whale shall be killed. Notice that the owner is off the hook ("the owner of the ox shall be quit" - that is to say acquitted) in this passage above, as the animal's owner did not know that the beast was a threat. I would make the argument here that placing a killer whale in a confined tank in direct contact with humans certainly denies the natural order of things, but let's save that for a different argument. One thing for sure, when it is "surely stoned" it will not have a chance to kill a human again. But right on the heels of verse 28, we read verse 29:

*Exodus 21:29*

*But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the*

*ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death.*

Now we are getting somewhere! If the owner in this passage even has knowledge ("*been testified*") that the animal exhibits aggression toward humans ("*wont to push*") and the owner elects not to take action against the beast it is to result in the owner's death as well ("*his owner also shall be put to death*"). I gather GOD takes this matter quite seriously. Check your own city ordinances. If your dog even bites a neighbor, it can be put down. But I guess a three-time loser whale gets a free pass. My point in saying all this is that the management of Sea World has the blood of Dawn Brancheau squarely upon their hands. They will give you a whole host of reasons why this whale is back in action, which include, but are not limited to: the whale cannot survive being released into the wild, he is a valuable research specimen and on and on it goes. My question to Sea World is simply how many deaths are too many? Apparently it is something more than three in their eyes. For the sake of their pocketbooks, I think Sea World lives by the motto of the old time actors in that "the show must go on".

The saddest commentary on this matter, the people flock to the next show hungry for what they might get to witness.

**Sin is the most expensive thing in the universe. Nothing else can cost so much. Pardoned or unpardoned, its cost is infinitely great. Pardoned, the cost falls chiefly on the great atoning Substitute; unpardoned, it must fall on the head of the guilty sinner.** Charles Finney

## Teen Lessons

by Matt Fox

Is the wine in the Bible always alcoholic? What is the difference between Biblical music and today's "Christian" Music? How do the different parts of music (vocals, melody and rhythm) affect us? These are just a few of the questions we have been attempting to answer in the FBC Teen class. There is so much confronting our lives today, and yet I believe it is even more challenging for our teenagers. They are at the age when they are beginning to become their own unique individuals. Every decision they make will have a huge impact on the rest of their lives. The only hope they have is to love and learn the Word of God.

In our class we had been hitting hard on lessons aimed at practical application of Biblical precepts and principles. We have covered music, video games, alcohol and drugs, as well as how a person's associates affect their countenance. Recently, however, we decided to take a break and turn our attention to Daniel's 70th week. During this study we will be attempting to ground the Teens in Biblical truth related to the end times. When will the rapture be? What is the rapture? What are Daniel's 70 weeks and who do they relate to? Why learn about the end times? These are questions that our teens will be able to answer after the completion of our study.

It has been a real joy for my wife and I to teach our young men and women and we look forward to teaching your children as they grow to be young adults. We greatly appreciate your trust as we work to help mold your teens to be strong Christians and upstanding citizens. Our country is so filled with mis-

creants and malcontents that it needs as many upright teenagers as possible. The goal for every Teen department in the nation should be to have their students continue on as church leaders and helpers after they have moved on. We hope and pray that we will be able to set our teens up for a lifetime of service for Christ.

This may sound like heresy in some quarters, but I have come to this conclusion-that there are far too many among us who have thought that they accepted Christ, but nothing has come of it within their own lives and desires and habits! This kind of philosophy in soul-winning-the idea that it is "the easiest thing in the world to accept Jesus"-permits the man or woman to accept Christ by an impulse of the mind or of the emotions. It allows us to gulp twice and sense an emotional feeling that has come over us, and then say, "I have accepted Christ." These are spiritual matters about which we must be legitimately honest and in which we must seek the discernment of the Holy Spirit. These are things about which we cannot afford to be wrong; to be wrong is still to be lost and far from God. Let us never forget that the Word of God stresses the importance of conviction and concern and repentance when it comes to conversion, spiritual regeneration, being born from above by the Spirit of God! A.W. Tozer

## **Jellyfish Baptists**

by Rick Crawford

I was saddened to read recently of yet another Baptist compromiser. Jonathan Hatcher, pastor of Conner Heights Baptist Church in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee has directed his congregation to no longer distribute the Chick tract, "The Death Cookie" due to complaints from the local Catholic priest. Hatcher told Fox News, "Looking back, I don't think it was the right tract to give out. I have some others that wouldn't have been as offensive. But I will continue to spread the gospel." What happens when those other tracts offend someone? Will they be banned as well? Where does the cycle end? One wonders how Hatcher plans to continue to spread the gospel then.

Jay Flaherty, who heads the nearby Holy Cross Catholic Church complains, "Basically, what they're saying is our Eucharist is of the devil, that Catholicism is not of the Christian church". Actually, Flaherty has hit the proverbial nail on the head and understands the problem quite well. He is offended because someone has pointed out that his church has rejected the God of the Bible and replaced Him with a system of rituals and idols. The scriptures have warned us that the truth of Christ will offend.

*Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobe-*

*dient: whereunto also they were appointed. 1Peter 2:7-8*

*As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. Romans 9:33*

It is not my purpose here to discuss the errors of the Roman system. My concern is with those who refuse to stand for the truth. The issue is that millions are headed for an eternal lake of fire and too many seem to be afraid to warn them. Not many years ago Baptists were known for their stand on such things. But too many today have been overcome with spinelessness. They are "jellyfish" Baptists. Perhaps they should do us all a favor and remove the name Baptist from their churches. They have succumbed to the attitude sweeping our world today that one should never offend another and that anything that divides should be set aside.

*Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3*

The truth always offends; in whatever arena it is exercised. The grade school student is offended when told the answer to his math problem is incorrect, the patient is offended when told by the doctor that he has an incurable disease, and the sinner is offended when told he is doomed to an eternity in the lake of fire if he rejects Christ. Yet no favor is shown that individual by allowing him to continue unchallenged in his false attitude.

Man's main problem is that he will always seek the comfortable, easy way out of any situation. In an attempt to avoid

the inevitable difficulties inherent in standing against error, men will fabricate all sorts of fantasies and delusions about "spirituality" to justify their compromise. Those who stand for the truth will be vilified as cruel and uncaring. They are told it is unkind to name names. However the apostle Paul repeatedly named individuals who were compromisers (1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 1:15; 2:17; 3:8; 4:10, 14).

The lack of seriousness in the issue of separation is the root problem. In the last 60 years especially, believers have become so enamored with the world that they have found it necessary to reevaluate their stand on many issues. Ecclesiastical separation is an inevitable casualty of this process. The world is on a steady march to Babylon, the one world government and the coming antichrist.

I harbor no ill will toward Pastor Hatcher but pray that he, as well as many others in our day, will awaken to the truth and stand for it. Perhaps by taking an uncompromising stand he might even convince Mr. Flaherty of his need of the Saviour.

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*  
Ephesians 6:13

*The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe* Proverbs 29:25

*Psalms 73:24-25 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*

## Islam Explained in Layman's Terms

*Adapted from Dr. Peter Hammond's book: Slavery, Terrorism and Islam: The Historical Roots and Contemporary Threat*

Islam is not a religion, nor is it a cult. In its fullest form, it is a complete, total, 100% system of life.

Islam has religious, legal, political, economic, social, and military components. The religious component is a beard for all of the other components.

Islamization begins when there are sufficient Muslims in a country to agitate for their religious privileges.

When politically correct, tolerant, and culturally diverse societies agree to Muslim demands for their religious privileges, some of the other components tend to creep in as well.

Here's how it works:

As long as the Muslim population remains around or under 2% in any given country, they will be for the most part be regarded as a peace-loving minority, and not as a threat to other citizens. This is the case in:

United States -Muslim 0.6%  
Australia -----Muslim 1.5%  
Canada -----Muslim 1.9%  
China -----Muslim 1.8%  
Italy -----Muslim 1.5%  
Norway -----Muslim 1.8%

At 2% to 5%, they begin to proselytize from other ethnic minorities and disaffected groups, often with major recruiting from the jails and among street gangs.

This is happening in:

Denmark ----- Muslim 2%  
Germany -----Muslim 3.7%  
United Kingdom--Muslim 2.7%  
Spain -----Muslim 4%  
Thailand -----Muslim 4.6%

From 5% on, they exercise an inordinate influence in proportion to their percentage of the population. For example, they will push for the introduction of halal (clean by Islamic standards) food, thereby securing food preparation jobs for Muslims. They will increase pressure on supermarket chains to feature halal on their shelves -- along with threats for failure to comply. This is occurring in:

France ----- Muslim 8%  
Philippines -----Muslim 5%  
Sweden ----- Muslim 5%  
Switzerland ----- Muslim 4.3%  
The Netherlands ----- Muslim 5.5%  
Trinidad & Tobago - Muslim 5.8%

At this point, they will work to get the ruling government to allow them to rule themselves (within their ghettos) under Sharia, the Islamic Law. The ultimate goal of Islamists is to establish Sharia law over the entire world.

When Muslims approach 10% of the population, they tend to increase lawlessness as a means of complaint about their conditions. In Paris, we are already seeing car-burnings. Any non-Muslim action offends Islam, and results in uprisings and threats, such as in Amsterdam, with opposition to Mohammed cartoons and films about Islam. Such tensions are seen daily, particularly in Muslim sections, in:

Guyana ---- Muslim 10%  
India ----- Muslim 13.4%

Israel ----- Muslim 16%  
Kenya ----- Muslim 10%  
Russia ----- Muslim 15%

After reaching 20%, nations can expect hair-trigger rioting, jihad militia formations, sporadic killings, and the burnings of Christian churches and Jewish synagogues, such as in:

Ethiopia -- Muslim 32.8%

At 40%, nations experience widespread massacres, chronic terror attacks, and ongoing militia warfare, such as in:

Bosnia ---- Muslim 40%  
Chad ----- Muslim 53.1%  
Lebanon -- Muslim 59.7%

From 60%, nations experience unfettered persecution of nonbelievers of all other religions (including nonconforming Muslims), sporadic ethnic cleansing (genocide), use of Sharia Law as a weapon, and Jizya, the tax placed on infidels, such as in:

Albania --- Muslim 70%  
Malaysia -- Muslim 60.4%  
Qatar ----- Muslim 77.5%  
Sudan ---- Muslim 70%

After 80%, expect daily intimidation and violent jihad, some State-run ethnic cleansing, and even some genocide, as these nations drive out the infidels, and move toward 100% Muslim, such as has been experienced and in some ways is ongoing in:

Bangladesh --Muslim 83%  
Egypt ----- Muslim 90%  
Gaza ----- Muslim 98.7%

Indonesia ---- Muslim 86.1%  
Iran ----- Muslim 98%  
Iraq ----- Muslim 97%  
Jordan ----- Muslim 92%  
Morocco ---- Muslim 98.7%  
Pakistan ----- Muslim 97%  
Palestine --- Muslim 99%  
Syria ----- Muslim 90%  
Tajikistan --- Muslim 90%  
Turkey ----- Muslim 99.8%  
United Arab Emirates --- Muslim 96%

100% will usher in the peace of 'Dar-es-Salaam' -- the Islamic House of Peace. Here there's supposed to be peace, because everybody is a Muslim, the Madrasses are the only schools, and the Koran is the only word, such as in:

Afghanistan --- Muslim 100%  
Saudi Arabia -- Muslim 100%  
Somalia ----- Muslim 100%  
Yemen ----- Muslim 100%

Unfortunately, peace is never achieved, as in these 100% states the most radical Muslims intimidate and spew hatred, and satisfy their blood lust by killing less radical Muslims, for a variety of reasons.

*'Before I was nine I had learned the basic canon of Arab life. It was me against my brother; me and my brother against our father; my family against my cousins and the clan; the clan against the tribe; the tribe against the world, and all of us against the infidel. -- Leon Uris, 'The Haj'*

It is important to understand that in some countries, with well under 100% Muslim populations, such as France, the minority Muslim populations live in ghettos, within which they are 100% Mus-

lim, and within which they live by Sharia Law. The national police do not even enter these ghettos. There are no national courts, nor schools, nor non-Muslim religious facilities. In such situations, Muslims do not integrate into the community at large. The children attend madrasses. They learn only the Koran. To even associate with an infidel is a crime punishable with death. Therefore, in some areas of certain nations, Muslim Imams and extremists exercise more power than the national average would indicate.

Today's 1.5 billion Muslims make up 22% of the world's population. But their birth rates dwarf the birth rates of Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, and all other believers. Muslims will exceed 50% of the world's population by the end of this century.

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### **What Is Truth?**

by Joseph Harris

[www.miniedition.net](http://www.miniedition.net)

The Roman Procurator, Pilate asked the question, "What is truth?" The average, sane, level headed common sense person of today should be able to answer this question, as well as give some qualities of truth. One of my college professors, Dr. Elmer Towns, used to say, "Truth is that which is consistent with itself and corresponds to reality." Webster gives these thoughts for a definition of truth: "The real state of things; the body of real events or facts; CORRECTNESS."

Since God is the first cause of all things, He sets the standard for truth. All truth ultimately comes from Him. If God says something is right, it is. If He

says it is wrong, it is. But man does not always agree with God. Truth stands on its own, but never apart from God. Notice also truth is absolute, not relative. The presence of truth demands the existence of that which is false. If something is true, then the opposite of that truth is a lie. One of the first truths uttered by God to man was absolute, concerning death by disobedience in eating of the forbidden fruit. Satan tried to counter the truth of God with his "yea hath God said...?" statement, which has been repackaged and used on man millions of times since Eden.

Truth is absolute, else it cannot be truth. Truth cannot be conditional. Every time a law is broken or enforced, it is a statement of absolute truth. When truth becomes relevant because of time, culture or situation, it loses authority and becomes a servant, not a master. When any act can be wrong for me, but right for you, there can be no order or structure in society. Murder, theft, adultery, etc. can be justified. How can we know the truth of what is right or wrong for a society? What sets the standard for that which is considered legal or illegal, and what is the standard for punishment? If emotion or outcome determines right or wrong, then nothing can be ultimately right or wrong, anarchy is the result and no one has to adhere to any laws or principles, since no act can be said to be wrong, malicious, immoral, degrading, sinful or illegal.

The existence of moral law demands the existence of a lawgiver. Either man has given the law or it came from another source. If man gave it, then it is not absolute, for it can be changed by man. If the consciousness of right and wrong came from another source, then who, or what, or where is that source? If

it came from a source higher than man, then the law transcends man, and man cannot alter it.

In almost all societies world wide, it is usually wrong to steal, kill, defraud, etc. In other words, every culture has standards of conduct considered to be good or bad. Where did these standards originate? Even atheistic humanists will usually admit it is wrong to steal, kill, etc. Where did they get this awareness of right and wrong? What is their standard of measurement? This universal awareness came from God, who put his law in the heart of all men to give them a general revelation of Him as creator who is also the divine law giver.

If there is a law and it is broken, then what? Is there accountability and punishment? The accountability is to God first, then man. Notice what Joseph said in the book of Genesis when he refused to commit adultery with the wife of Potiphar: "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" If there is an absolute law higher than man, there must be a lawgiver higher than man and if man breaks His law, man is accountable to Him. And now we have the rest of the story. Man rejects absolute truth as a higher law, thereby denying a higher power, resulting in denial of accountability to the divine judge of the universe. Conclusion? Man can now sin freely.

With the denial of a higher moral law, given by the divine law giver, the stage is set to create your own truth. Abortion is no longer seen as murder, but birth control or a woman's choice. Being male or female is no longer an absolute, determined by God at conception and validated at birth, but gender can now be chosen by the person. And since no person is necessarily male or female,

then anyone can now choose which gender they want to marry, that is, if the other person has determined their gender. If neither has determined their own gender, then whoever, can marry whatever, and become who knows what. (Can't you just hear that pronouncement by the preacher, "You may now kiss whatever you determine your groombride-thing to be.") Stealing is no longer wrong. Redistribution of goods is acceptable if one has more than another, especially if the one lacking was born into poverty, the wrong ethnic background, etc..

People in the media tell us what is truth and what we should believe. Pseudo-Science creates truth and tells us the earth is billions of years old, that it came from nothing with no design, and is slowly getting better and better. And you should believe it, because it's in a textbook.

Before taking the stand of testimony in court, a witness has to swear to, "Tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God" which is revealing. Notice, this oath is a confession of man's depravity and his dependence upon God for help in telling the truth. And man certainly needs help in being truthful.

A good perspective on truth is found in this old Hebrew prayer: "From the cowardice that shrinks from new truths; from the laziness that is content with half truths; and from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth; Oh God of truth, deliver us."

(Joseph Harris is the Vice President of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.)

## **"Let the Lower Lights be Burning"**

By Evangelist D.L. Moody  
1837 - 1899

A few years ago, at the mouth of Cleveland harbor, there were two lights, one at each side of the bay, called the upper and lower lights; and to enter the harbor safely by night, vessels must sight both of the lights.

These western lakes are more dangerous sometimes than the great ocean. One wild, stormy night, a steamer was trying to make her way into the harbor. The captain and pilot were anxiously watching for the lights.

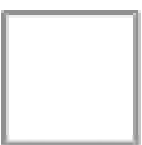
By-and-by the pilot was heard to say, "Do you see the lower light?" "No," was the reply; "I fear we have passed them." "Ah, there are the lights," said the pilot; "and they must be, from the bluff on which they stand, the upper lights. We have passed the lower lights, and have lost our chance of getting into the harbor." What was to be done? They looked back, and saw the dim outline of the lower lighthouse against the sky. The lights had gone out. "Can't you turn your head around?" "No; the night is too wild for that. She won't answer to her helm." The storm was so fearful that they could do nothing.

They tried again to make for the harbor, but they went crash against the rocks, and sank to the bottom. Very few escaped; the great majority found a watery grave. Why? Simply because the lower lights had gone out. Now, with us the upper lights are all right. Christ Himself is the upper light, and we are the lower lights, and the cry to us is, keep the lower lights burning; that is what we have to do. He will lead us safe to the sunlit shore of Canaan, where there is no more night.

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*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.  
Ephesians 2:8-9*

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