

THE SHINING LIGHT

Shining Forth in Truth for the Blind

Winter 2013, Issue 5

Edited by Smokey Nevins

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2Corinthians 4:5)

Welcome, friends to this edition of The Shining Light. The Shining Light is a quarterly publication produced by Gospel Light Foundation for the Blind. It is available in Braille, Microsoft Word, digital cartridge, and cassette. Gospel Light exists to make Christ-centered, Biblically sound materials available to those who are blind or partially sighted. Our desire is to see more and more blind persons grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and we pray that God will use the ministry of Gospel Light Foundation for the Blind in the spread of His gospel and the equipping of His church.

Part 1. REFLECTIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Our first entry in this part consists of a meditation taken from Charles Spurgeon's classic work entitled Morning and Evening. Charles H. Spurgeon was England's best-known preacher for most of the second half of the 19th century. He is popularly referred to as the prince of preachers. Morning and Evening consists of brief meditations on passages of Scripture which Spurgeon prepared for each day of the year and it continues to be a popular daily devotional.

If you are an internet user, you will find Spurgeon's Morning and Evening meditations at the following web site: <http://www.ewordtoday.com/spurgeon/> The Morning and Evening devotionals are also available in audio form from Gospel Light along with a host of Spurgeon's sermons which are extremely well read.

What follows is Spurgeon's entry for the morning of January 5. In his meditation, Spurgeon compares and contrasts the physical light which God spoke into being on the first day of creation with the spiritual light found in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. For any of our readers who have never seen the brightness of physical light, there is a brighter and more beautiful light that opens the spiritual eyes and brightens the hearts of all who have trusted Jesus Christ alone as Savior and Lord. The following three texts of Scripture are included for your consideration as you read Charles Spurgeon's reflections.

Genesis 1:3-4. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
John 8:12. Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

1 John 1:5. This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Morning, January 5. "And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness." -- Genesis 1:4

Light might well be good since it sprang from that fiat of goodness, "Let there be light." We who enjoy it should be more grateful for it than we are, and see more of God in it and by it. Light physical is said by Solomon to be sweet, but gospel light is infinitely more precious, for it reveals eternal things, and ministers to our immortal natures.

When the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual light, and opens our eyes to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, we behold sin in its true colors, and ourselves in our real position; we see the Most Holy God as He reveals Himself, the plan of mercy as He propounds it, and the world to come as the Word describes it. Spiritual light has many beams and prismatic colors, but whether they be knowledge, joy, holiness, or life, all are divinely good. If the light received be thus good, what must the essential light be, and how glorious must be the place where He reveals Himself.

O Lord, since light is so good, give us more of it, and more of Thyself, the true light.

No sooner is there a good thing in the world, than a division is necessary. Light and darkness have no communion; God has divided them, let us not confound them. Sons of light must not have fellowship with deeds, doctrines, or deceits of darkness. The children of the day must be sober, honest, and bold in their Lord's work, leaving the works of darkness to those who shall dwell in it for ever. Our Churches should by discipline divide the light from the darkness, and we should by our distinct separation from the world do the same. In judgment, in action, in hearing, in teaching, in association, we must discern between the precious and the vile, and maintain the great distinction which the Lord made upon the world's first day.

O Lord Jesus, be Thou our light throughout the whole of this day, for Thy light is the light of men.

Profiting from the Scriptures
By J. C. Ryle

The following text consists of counsel from 19th century pastor and author J. C. Ryle as to how men and women can profit most as they read the Bible. He offers very helpful insights for anyone who desires to understand and obey the word of God. Pastor Ryle makes the following suggestions for your consideration.

(1) For one thing, begin reading your Bible this very day. The way to do a thing is to do it; and the way to read the Bible is actually to read it! It is not merely meaning, or wishing, or resolving, or intending, or thinking about it, which will advance you one step. You must positively read.

There is no royal road in this matter, any more than in the matter of prayer. If you cannot read yourself, you must persuade somebody else to read it to you. But one way or another, through eyes or ears the words of Scripture must actually pass before your mind.

(2) For another thing, read the Bible with an earnest desire to understand it. Do not think for a moment, that the great object is to turn over a certain quantity of printed paper, and that it matters nothing whether you understand it or not. Some ignorant people seem to imagine, that all is done if they advance so many chapters every day, though they may not have a notion what they are all about, and only know that they have pushed on their bookmark ahead so many pages. This is turning Bible reading into a mere ritual form. It is almost as bad as the Popish habit of 'buying indulgences, qby saying an astounding number of Ave-Marias' and 'Pater-nosters' (Hail-Mary's and Our-Father's) on their 'rosary beads'.) It reminds one of the poor Hottentot who ate up a Dutch hymn book because he saw it comforted his neighbors' hearts!

Settle it down in your mind as a general principle, that a Bible not understood is a Bible that does no good! Say to yourself often as you read, "What is this all about?" Dig for the meaning like a man digging for gold.

(3) For another thing, read the Bible with child-like faith and humility. Open your heart as you open God's book, and say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!" Resolve to believe implicitly whatever you find there, however much it may run counter to your own desires and prejudices.

Resolve to receive heartily every statement of truth whether you like it or not. Beware of that miserable habit into which some readers of the Bible fall. They receive some doctrines because they like them; and they reject others because they are condemning to themselves, or to some relation, or friend.

At this rate, the Bible is useless! Are we to be judges of what ought to be in God's Word? Do we know better than God? Settle it down in your mind that you will receive all and believe all, and that what you cannot understand you will take on trust.

Remember, when you pray that you are speaking to God, and God hears you. But, remember, when you read Scripture that God is speaking to you, and you are not to "dictate," but to listen!

(4) For another thing, read the Bible in a spirit of obedience and self-application. Sit down to the study of it with a daily determination that you will live by its rules, rest on its statements, and act on its commands. Consider, as you travel through every chapter, "How does this affect my thinking and daily conduct? What does this teach me?" It is poor work to read the Bible from mere curiosity and for speculative purposes in order to fill your head and store your mind with mere opinions; while you do not allow the book to influence your heart and life. That Bible is read best which is practiced most!

(5) For another thing, read the Bible daily. Make it a part of every day's business to read and meditate on some portion of God's Word. Private means of grace are just as needful every day for our souls as food and clothing are for our bodies. Yesterday's food will not feed the laborer today; and today's food will not feed the laborer tomorrow.

Do as the Israelites did in the wilderness. Gather your manna fresh every morning. Choose your own seasons and hours. Do not scramble over and hurry your reading.

Give your Bible the best, and not the worst part of your time! But, whatever plan you pursue, let it be a rule of your life to visit the throne of grace and God's Word every day.

(6) For another thing, read all of the Bible and read it in an orderly way. I fear there are many parts of the Word which some people never read at all. This is to say at the least, a very presumptuous habit. "All Scripture is profitable." (2 Timothy 3:16.) To this habit may be traced that lack of well-proportioned views of truth, which is so common in this day.

Some people's Bible reading is a system of perpetual dipping and picking'. They do not seem to have an idea of regularly going through the whole book. This also is a great mistake. No doubt in times of sickness and affliction, it is allowable to search out seasonable portions.

I believe it is by far the best plan to begin the Old and New Testaments at the same time to read each straight through to the end, and then begin again. This is a matter in which everyone must be persuaded in his own mind. I can only say it has been my own plan for nearly forty years, and I have never seen cause to alter it.

(7) For another thing, read the Bible fairly and honestly. Determine to take everything in its plain, obvious meaning, and regard all forced interpretations with great suspicion. As a general rule, whatever a verse of the Bible seems to mean it does mean!

Cecil's rule is a very valuable one, "The right way of interpreting Scripture is to take it as we find it, without any attempt to force it into any particular theological system."

(8) In the last place, read the Bible with Christ continually in view. The grand primary object of all Scripture is to testify of Jesus!

Old Testament ceremonies are shadows of Christ. Old Testament deliverers are types of Christ. Old Testament prophecies are full of Christ's sufferings and of Christ's glory yet to come.

The first coming and the second, the Lord's humiliation and His glorious kingdom, His cross and the crown, shine forth everywhere in the Bible. Keep fast hold on this clue, if you would read the Bible aright! Few and short as these hints are, you will find them most profitable when implemented.

Part 2. GREAT HYMNS OF THE FAITH

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,+
[Psalm 92:1-2]

Finding great hymns of the faith is not always that easy to do if you are blind or partially sighted. Thus, we include a hymn in each edition of The Shining Light for your edification and use in worshipping our Lord. Also, having the lyrics in

Braille, large print, or audio format can help you commit the hymn to memory both for public and private worship.

If you don't know the melody of the hymn and are able to use, or get assistance with the internet, visit The Cyber Hymnal to hear the melody played as a midi file. The Cyber Hymnal is easy to navigate. Scroll down until you find the links for the letters of the alphabet. When you click on the link for a given letter, the songs titles that begin with that letter are listed. Find the letter you want, enter on that letter, and search for the hymn title. If you use a screen reader, the search command is control+shift+f. Once you find the title, press enter and the midi file will play the melody. The web address that takes you directly to the alphabet for choosing hymns from the Cyber Hymnal is:
www.hymntime.com/tch/ttl/choose.htm

Our hymn for this issue is entitled It Is Well With My Soul and it is a wonderful hymn that attests to the grace, peace, and hope that a child of God can know even in the midst of great trials.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL
Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888)

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well, with my soul.
Refrain. It is well, with my soul, It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.
2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control;
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
3. My sin- oh, the bliss of this glorious thought- My sin- not in part but the whole;
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!
- 4 And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.

Isaiah 41:10 `Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Part 3. Food For Thought

"I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.+(Job 23:12)

There is nothing more valuable and worthy of our time and attention than the word of God. In this portion of The Shining Light, we will include a passage or passages from the Bible for your reading pleasure. Prayerfully reflect on the rich truths contained in these passages and may the Lord use them to instruct, comfort, convict, warn, or encourage you. You may want to consider committing them to memory so that they are available to you whenever you want or need them.

The passages contained in this part address the supremacy and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. From these verses, we learn that Jesus Christ is fully God, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and that He is fully man, yet without sin. Christ is eternal, unchanging, without sin, sovereign over all things, and full of grace and truth. The passages included here are John 1:1-18, Colossians 1:13-20, and Hebrews chapter 1.

Bible commentator Matthew Henry makes some helpful observations regarding the person and work of Christ described in Colossians 1:15-20.

Christ in his human nature, is the visible discovery of the invisible God, and he that hath seen Him hath seen the Father. Let us adore these mysteries in humble faith, and behold the glory of the Lord in Christ Jesus. He was born or begotten before all the creation, before any creature was made; which is the Scripture way of representing eternity, and by which the eternity of God is represented to us. All things being created by Him, were created for him; being made by his power, they were made according to his pleasure, and for his praise and glory. He not only created them all at first, but it is by the word of his power that they are upheld.

Christ as Mediator is the Head of the body, the church; all grace and strength are from him; and the church is his body. All fullness dwells in him; a fullness of merit and righteousness, of strength and grace for us. God showed his justice in requiring full satisfaction. This mode of redeeming mankind by the death of Christ was most suitable. Here is presented to our view the method of being reconciled. And that, notwithstanding the hatred of sin on God's part, it pleased God to reconcile fallen man to himself.

If convinced that we were enemies in our minds by wicked works, and that we are now reconciled to God by the sacrifice and death of Christ in our nature, we shall not attempt to explain away, nor yet think fully to comprehend these mysteries; but we shall see the glory of this plan of redemption, and rejoice in the hope set before us. If this be so, that God's love is so great to us, what shall we do now for God? Be frequent in prayer, and abound in holy duties; and live no more to yourselves, but to Christ.+

Here are the passages for your reflection.

John chapter 1, verses 1-18.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me."

16 And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Colossians chapter 1, verses 13-20.

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him.

17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Hebrews chapter 1.

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

7 Of the angels he says, "I will make his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom."

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,

12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Part 4. Ministry Updates

The 31st annual board meeting of the Gospel Light Foundation for the Blind was held on October 19 in our office here in Georgia. Smokey Nevins explained that over the centuries many teachers and pastors have written superb books and commentaries and that these materials have been for the most part inaccessible to persons who are blind. Thus, one of the benefits of our ministry is to develop tools by which the blind could more easily locate and listen to these great works.

There are new books being recorded for Gospel Light by volunteer readers, and Ron Taylor from Alabama and Julie Houser from Florida have made impressive progress converting hundreds of deteriorating cassette recordings of books and sermons into permanent mp3 files. In addition, the ministries of Reformed Audio and Grace Gems have allowed us the privilege of disseminating their recorded materials to our listeners. We presently have 14 students taking the Bible correspondence course in Braille and 2 using large print.

The Digital Library currently contains 943 books, 9 biographies, 18 booklets, 2 papers, 12 children's books, 7 Bible studies taught by Bill Keathley (the founder

of Gospel Light), 72 word studies from Dr. Duane Spencer and 94 sermons of Charles Spurgeon.

Part 5. TESTIMONIES AND LETTERS [Barbara]

We received the following letter via e-mail from 2 men in Australia about a week a part. Now that we have updated our web site, it is exciting to see how it can be used to reach people all over the world. If you haven't checked out our website yet, and you have access to the internet, please do. It is www.glfb.org.

At the website all of our catalogs are listed under the AUDIO tab. All of our other services are explained on the website. Here is the letter.

Ah dear Mrs. Keathley, sister in Christ,

As another Christmas approaches every Blessing at this special time of the year. Wow, I feel right at home on your website, arrowing up and down that taped book list (smile). All those old friends, many of whom are on my shelves in print and not yet read for that reason. You see I am totally blind yet happen to have the privilege of being a 'Teaching Elder' or a parish Minister.

I don't have an NLS-type cartridge player so sending the digitally-recorded books either by compressed zip-attachments in email or on a flash-drive would be the way to go. I can easily make my choice of taped books from your website to request you to send me from the catalogues (yes that British spelling of the word grin) on the website. I would LUV (I know that's wrong spelling) a copy of the Navigator's topical system in hard-copy Braille please. As for the magazine, probably email is most practical as I can forward it to others though I do like my Braille. I know I am going to really appreciate the ministry from this site. I would be honored to correspond with Brother Nevins via email if he'd like.

Here is my testimony. Born in Melbourne, Australia, with congenital glaucoma which was immediately diagnosed as such but not treated correctly leading to an eighty-five per cent loss of sight by age five in Melbourne. Was taken to the U.K. where the condition was stabilized, I attended school and was first exposed to Bible-based Evangelical Christianity: I being brought up Roman Catholic. Due to accidents involving my eyes--including a detached retina--I was referred from the U.K. to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1974 for ultrasound examination and subsequently advised that I would lose all vision for life. I was there with my mother and we listened to the Polish-language program each day and next station along was WTMR which carried the "Twentieth Century Reformation Hour" which attracted me due to the conservative politics at first not the Bible-teaching--that came later.

Being from Poland, mother HATED communism and was greatly unsettled by the liberation theology teaching of the mainline teaching of the '70s and was interested to hear the late Dr. McIntire's approach. He did, of course, base all his commentary on Scripture and I was riveted. I had never heard the Bible

authoritatively explained like that before -- I guess like the Jews of our Lord's day (Mark 1:22-28).

Over a period of time, I was convicted of my need for inner conversion i.e. my guilt due to my sin and need for forgiveness due to my being a breaker of God's Law and remember asking for that Forgiveness on April 3rd 1976. I was actually converted from Romanism to Christ in Philadelphia and the substantial Al Martin was a helpful formative influence with messages I used to hear on Family Radio there for a short time before returning home to Australia: we're talking mid '70s.

Mother and I returned to Australia. I subsequently began reading the Braille Bible, listening to programs like Back ToThe Bible and subsequently left the Roman Catholic Church and found my way into the PCA. I did my training for the Ministry at the PCA's college in Melbourne where I met my sighted wife who worked as the office secretary at the denomination's Women's Missionary Union office, part-time. We were engaged and married the week after I was licensed to preach in November 1987.

I will compile a short list of cassette titles I would love to receive, borrow as I have quite a few in print, so I can make notes and be edified by actually reading/re-reading them. I know I can scan them using OpenBook but it's nice hearing a godly reader doing it. Anyhow, I'd be recommending your site to blind friends.

Every Blessing in Christ.
Stefan, Naracoorte SA, Australia.

Dear Barbara,
I am a blind person living near Sydney, Australia. Thanks for your website. I would like to be put on your mailing list. I have two kinds of digital players and a 4 tract cassette player as well. Do you have a way that I can download from you, or do you post the books and magazines to me? Thank you for your help and God bless you in your ministry. Allen, Glennbrook NSW Australia

Part 6. NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY [Smokey]

We have added two books to the library for your reading pleasure. These books are available on digital cartridge and the two new books are also available on cassette. They address the important but often overlooked topics of church membership and church discipline.

Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus
By Jonathan Leeman

Why should you join a church? Becoming a member of a church is an important, and often neglected, part of the Christian life. Yet the trend these days is one of

shunning the practice of organized religion and showing a distaste or fear of commitment, especially of institutions.

Jonathan Leeman addresses these issues with a straightforward explanation of what church membership is and why it's important. This helpful book builds a compelling case for both joining and wholeheartedly serving within the local church. Daniel Fok from River City Grace Community church has voluntarily recorded this book for us here at Gospel Light Foundation. The book is well read and we are grateful to Daniel for his services.

Church Discipline: How The Church Protects the Name of Jesus

By Jonathan Leeman

Church discipline as described in passages including Matthew 18:15-20 is essential to maintaining a healthy church. Yet, so few people have exposure to a right understanding of what church discipline is and how it should be practiced. This book is a Biblically based, contemporary and concise how-to guide that provides a theological framework for understanding and implementing disciplinary measures in the local church.

Jonathan Leeman helps us face the endless variety of circumstances and sins for which no scriptural case study exists, sins that don't show up on any list and need a biblical framework to be corrected appropriately in love. This book complements Leeman's book on church membership and we are blessed to have these excellent addition to our library here at Gospel Light. This book is also recorded by Daniel Fok.

About The Author

Jonathan Leeman is the editorial director for 9Marks Ministries. 9Marks exists to equip church leaders with a biblical vision and practical resources for displaying God's glory to the nations through healthy churches.

After doing undergraduate and graduate degrees in political science, Jonathan began his career in journalism where he worked as an editor for an international economics magazine in Washington, DC. Since his call to ministry, Jonathan has earned a master of divinity and has worked as an interim pastor. Today he edits the 9Marks series of books as well as the 9Marks Journal. He has written for a number of publications such as Modern Reformation and Tabletalk and is also the author of four books.

Part 7. RECOMMENDED READING

All Things for Good by Thomas Watson

This book is founded on the precious promise in Romans 8:28 which declares "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Thomas Watson once said he faced two great difficulties in his ministry: to make the unbeliever sad without grace and to make the believer glad with grace. In this study of Romans 8:28 (first printed in 1663, one year after two thousand ministers were ejected from the Church of England), Watson encourages God's people to rejoice. He explains how the best and worst experiences work for good.

In his writings, Watson states "To know that nothing hurts the godly, is a matter of comfort; but to be assured that all things which fall out shall co-operate for their good, that their crosses shall be turned into blessings, that showers of affliction water the withering root of their grace and make it flourish more; this may fill their hearts with joy till they run over." Maybe, like the rest of us you've asked questions like "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Or "How can I know if I am called by God?" Read this book and find valuable insights from the word of God.

About The Author

Thomas Watson (1620- 1686) was probably born in Yorkshire. He studied at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1639 and a Master of Arts degree in 1642. In 1646, Watson went to St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London, where he served as lecturer for about ten years, and as rector for another six years. In about 1647, Watson married Abigail Beadle and they had at least seven children in the next thirteen years; four of whom died young.

After the Declaration of Indulgence took effect in 1672, Watson obtained a license for Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate, where he preached until his health failed. He then retired to Barnston, in Essex, where he died suddenly in 1686 while engaged in private prayer.

Watson's depth of doctrine, clarity of expression, warmth of spirituality, love of application, and gift of illustration enhanced his reputation as a preacher and writer. His books are still widely read today.

Part 8. Additional Resources

In each publication of The Shining Light, we hope to identify a couple of helpful resources and these will be included in our larger resource list. In the meantime, if you are struggling finding a Bible in Braille, on CD or cassette, in digital format, or in large print, don't hesitate to call and we will try to assist you in locating one.

Here are a few new resources that we will add to our growing resource list. We hope they will benefit you as much as they have others.

Lutheran Braille Evangelism Association
1740 Eugene St.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-3312
Phone: 651-426-0469
E-Mail: lbea@QWest.net
Web Site: www.LBEA.org

The Lutheran Braille Evangelism Association (LBEA) is a non-profit ministry, founded in 1952 by the blind Lutheran pastor John Gustav Erickson. Its mission is to provide Scripture and other Christian materials to blind and sight impaired persons all over the world. The LBEA Produces the BibleCourier (a pocket-size digital Bible) which is an incredible resource for those blind persons who want to study the word of God. The BibleCourier will be described more fully below.

The LBEA also produces the Revised Standard Version of the Bible in Braille, as well as a hymnbook in both Braille and large print. They can also obtain various versions of the Bible on CD for a donation.

Here's some additional information about the BibleCourier. BibleCourier is an electronic pocket Bible designed especially for someone who is blind or visually impaired. It consists of a hand-held, text-to-speech player that uses the DoubleTalk speech synthesizer from RC Systems to read the text. It comes with rechargeable batteries, a built in speaker and a powerful Word Search Function.

BibleCourier can contain either one complete Bible plus Matthew Henry's concise Bible commentary, or two different complete Bible versions in the one BibleCourier unit. It also includes a KJV concordance, a Glossary of terms, and other study aids, all at the subsidized cost of \$75. Using the BibleCourier through its built-in speaker or for private listening through the supplied earphones you can listen to the Bible without being connected to a computer.

The BibleCourier is specifically designed to help you jump quickly to any book, chapter, or verse within the Bible using raised buttons on the keypad. You can also set bookmarks on your favorite verses and then jump directly to them. BibleCourier also provides a powerful search feature that lets you quickly zero in on a particular spot in the Bible.

Note from the Editor: I use the Biblecourier daily and have found it to be the most helpful study tool available to blind persons. Having access to a pocket size device that contains the word of God, a brief commentary by my favorite commentator, and the ability to quickly move around the Bible is simply amazing. If you acquire a Biblecourier and want some tips about maximizing the sound

quality and effectively using the device, feel free to contact us and we will assist you.

Matthew Henry Complete Commentary online: www.studylight.org/com/mhc-com
This web site contains the text of one of the most valuable commentaries available online for a student of the Bible. The site is very easy to use for those who work with screen readers. Search for the book of the Bible you want to study using control+shift+f. When you find the link for the book you want, press enter. Then, search for the chapter you want by typing the word chapter, inserting one blank space, and typing the number of the chapter e.g., chapter 6. When you find the chapter you want, press enter. Use your screen reader key commands to scroll past all of the other links on the page until you find the commentary itself. There are links to other helpful resources on the page, including Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown's Bible commentary and Matthew Henry's concise commentary.

Matthew Henry was a 17th and early 18th Century minister of the Gospel in Chester, England, and died in 1714. Quoting Charles Spurgeon: "First among the mighty for general usefulness we are bound to mention the man whose name is a household word, Matthew Henry. He is most pious and pithy, sound and sensible, suggestive and sober, terse and trustworthy...."

Part 9. Reminders and A Request

By way of reminder, we now have the Navigators Topical Memory System available in Braille at no cost. The Topical Memory System consists of 60 passages from Scripture which are divided into five major sections or topics. Each section contains 12 passages. Most passages are a single verse.

The Topical Memory System is a very helpful tool in systematically memorizing Scripture in an organized way. Prayerfully use it as one means of hiding God's word in your heart. Praise the Lord that this helpful memory system is now available to Braille readers.

NEWS ABOUT DIGITAL CARTRIDGES

Note: due to a change in manufacturers, there has been a change with the buying of the digital cartridges. Howell Mobility no longer has them for \$9.00. The most inexpensive cartridges we have found are from the NFB store, Independence Market, at the price of \$10.00 for 2 GIG memory. They have a large inventory. To order you must call them at (410) 659-9314, Extension 2216. The order number is A1A32N.

Some of our subscribers prefer listening to our materials on cassette tape. If you have tapes that you aren't using and are willing to share them, we would greatly appreciate it. Even if a tape contains recorded books or sermons, we can still use it as we are able to erase the existing material and copy new material onto

the cassette. Please only send those cassettes that are still in good condition. If you need containers to transport the cassettes to us, we can send you some.

Part 10. FROM THE EDITOR

We hope this magazine has been both informative and inspirational. Take advantage of the great literature we have to offer, especially if you are an ardent student of God's word! Let us know how useful this issue has been in your life. We are happy to share your testimony in a future issue, if you would like. If we can be of any help, we would be glad to hear from you.

Above all, if you have questions about the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and what it means to be a Christian, please don't hesitate to contact us by telephone or e-mail. We will provide you with the materials you need to understand the message of the Gospel and will answer any questions you may have, or direct you to pastors who can help you. Also, if you are having trouble obtaining a Bible, please let us know and we will do our best to help you acquire one. There is no greater treasure that you could hold in your hand than the Holy Word of God.

Please keep the ministry of Gospel Light in your prayers. The tasks associated with the ministry often outweigh the manpower. Pray that we would persevere in that strength and grace which God gives to His children.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.+(1Timothy 1:17)

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