

We are travelers through time and space, and the destination is into eternity within or without God's direct presence, and this destination is determined by each of us. Since the beginning as is recorded in Salvation History, mankind has been seeking God and God has been with us, lovingly and patiently waiting for each of us to open our hearts to the image and likeness of Him that lies within our very nature of being.

It is this image and likeness that was darkened in the ashes of a burnt life with God, as sin was ushered in by Adam and Eve through a deceptive enticement of Satan. Since that day, the light of God within us has been reduced to an ember, an ember of hope that yet burns dimly and delicately, awaiting a bit of true fresh air to revive it that the soul may burst forth and bud into full bloom through yet another freewill choice of man: A choice to return to unity with his creator, his Father. And so the struggle for true truth and the battle for freedom goes on for each of us, from generation to generation.

In this generational battle many have examined through the traditions of our fathers the truths that have been carefully preserved and kept, that we should have all that we need to find our way back to our true Father within his created universe and on to eternal safety.

During the searches of God's Word, many a learned layman and Saints have provided us with written insights for our consideration and the ability to stay on the proper moral course of life as shown by God our Father. We have but to search a bit, and at the correct moment when the need arises we have to look and listen and what we need will be provided for us. But for this to happen means we must be in His presence, in prayer. Prayer comes in many forms; we must simply be present.

It is in one of these moments as my brother passed several years ago. I had just finished going through some things that his wife had sent that he had felt would be of value to me. As I reached the last item - a book - I read a note on the inset page from his nieces. It said, "*Your mother and father gave this book to Lew, and now it is time for it to come home to you.*" As I looked it over, I realized it was a book that was designed for both the tradesman and an intellectual like my brother. It was a hope of my parents to pull my brother back into a more direct relationship with God. I believe it to have begun the process, as I recall that we had quiet conversations concerning Jesus and our faith; that he had, as I had, fallen from it in our youth for a time.

It is here that once again I see the wisdom of my parents, reaching out to us both with this book as it flows from their generation on to ours and eventually others.

As I inspected it more closely, I found it rather interesting that this book was imprinted with the State Seal of Kansas and a historic message about the state's pre-statehood struggles, and the motto of the state reflecting clearly that the state recognized its need for guidance from God in order to be successful and survive.

SOUVENIR IMPRESSION  
OF THE  
GREAT SEAL  
OF THE  
STATE OF KANSAS



## GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

The great seal of the state of Kansas, procured by the secretary of state, as required by the joint resolution approved May twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, shall be and remain the great seal of this state. Such seal is described in said joint resolution as follows: The east is represented by a rising sun, in the right-hand corner of the seal; to the left of it, commerce is represented by a river and a steamboat; in the foreground, agriculture is represented as the basis of the future prosperity of the state, by a settler's cabin and a man plowing with a pair of horses; beyond this is a train of ox-wagons, going west; in the background is seen a herd of buffalo, retreating, pursued by two Indians on horseback; around the top is the motto, "Ad astra per aspera," and beneath a cluster of thirty-four stars. The circle is surrounded by the words, "Great seal of the state of Kansas. January 29, 1861." (K. S. A. 75-201)

Of historic significance to Kansans, reflecting their political trials prior to joining the Union, is the state motto, "Ad astra per aspera," which when translated is, "To the stars through difficulties." Not only is the motto historic, but also suggestive of a fact that will be true forever: Perseverance in the face of all obstacles leads to moral as well as political success.

*Elwell M. Shanahan*

Secretary of State

36-1919-4-S-14-16-17



11-75-50M

As my brother and I were raised in Kansas, I can understand the link between where we were physically raised and the connection from whence we spiritually come, and shall spend eternity with a perfected body to receive what we have worked for: Eternal goodness to be enjoyed by this perfected body, or receive eternal evil and torment in an perfected body that it may receive it all in completeness.

This book comes at a time of need, not just for me but for many; and so it is that I will share this with you as of the book's originating date of 1938 and revised in 1948, that you may perceive as you ponder its relevance to your life, just how much has changed from one generation to the next; and what is truly at hand and at stake.

CIVILIZATION had its beginning around an open fire. Here at its warmth gathered the family group to find safety, comfort, and companionship. Trace the origin of our word *fireplace* and you will find it definitely related to the Latin word *focus*. There is the explanation of what home has always meant; for home is the center of life,—no mere residence of the body but the axis of the heart; the place where affections develop themselves, where children love and learn, where two toil together to make life a blessing.

To picture in a word the depths of want, we say of a man that he is homeless. True, life is a journey, and we are all on a pilgrimage. But when distance has lost its enchantment and the ardor for adventure has cooled, when danger has been bravely faced and wonder satiated, hearts long for a resting place and find in the ruddy glows of the hearth-fire "the charm from the skies" that hallows life and gives refuge to man's tired soul.

And so it is that we must keep God at the very center of our lives, as he is the Spirit of Life from which all blessings pour forth into creation, as his love warms us all.

We are all on the journey. None may opt out. Some are beginning and some approaching the end, and some in-between; yet at any moment we know not when the end will come here on this Earth. But we also know that it will come by a choice that we make, by what we have done, or by what we have failed to do.

So let us draw solace from God's promise of fidelity, mercy and patient love of and for each of us, that we should once again claim our lost birthright to sit around the heavenly hearth. For that hearth is the burning bush, the transfiguration and the descent of the Holy Spirit that this world should burn with Holy fire, that it should burn for God's Honor and Glory as it does in heaven. Let this be our focus, for the good of our neighbor as of our self, that we may share now in the true blessing of and from God; for His is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever.

It is clear that we all need guidance at various times in our life and who better to provide this than God, as he is the true good shepherd who calls to each of us to action in our station of life at any given moment. For it is at this moment that we must answer "***Here I am Lord!***" and we must do so willingly. For Jesus tells us that a tree is known by its fruit, and I recall that my father told me that one's actions speak as to the tree that is growing in that person, and it is the one he is choosing to serve at that moment. As such we were to be careful of which one we watered, cultivated, and fertilized and to which one we were laying the axe to!

My father was not one to sit quietly when one of us boys, or anyone who was in his care, might not be handling properly the axe or knife towards the wrong object! His lessons were lessons of repetition with proper supervision, whether you liked it or not. You were only allowed so much rope to work with when clearing weeds and brush in any situation. The daily lessons were taught with focus on what the task at hand was, but with a glance left, right and forward as to the effects of said tasks. At that time we only saw the physical aspects of things, but as youth waned and adulthood settled in, the spiritual aspect began to arise, and into focus a call to action.

### **TRAINING an athlete was never made by mere instruction.**

No soldier was ever trained by the mere study of his manual, but by practicing his drill and by exercising his mind in conjunction with his body, until both are in unity and acting as one. Not the hearers of the law, but the doers are justified before God. We must be going forward, not standing still simply listening and learning.

Where our duty is seen God is revealed. Duty is always the will of God. To see it and not to do it is a most disastrous thing for the man, as well as being an offense against God.

*Outlook*

**CHRISTIANITY is not a voice in the wilderness, but a life in the world.**

It is not an idea in the air but feet firmly on the ground, going God's way. It is not an exotic to be kept under glass, but a hardy plant to bear twelve months of fruits in all kinds of weather.

Fidelity to duty is its root and branch. Nothing we can say to the Lord, no calling Him by great or dear names, can take the place of the plain doing of His will.

We may cry out about the beauty of eating bread with Him in His kingdom, but it is wasted breath and a rootless hope, unless we plow and plant in His kingdom here and now.

To remember Him at His table and to forget Him at ours, is to have invested in bad securities. There is no substitute for plain, every-day goodness.

*Babcock*

## **TWO DIMENSIONS OF SOCIETY**

There are two methods of human activities, and according to which one of these two kinds of activity people mainly follow, and there are there two basic kinds of people: One uses their reason to learn what is good and what is bad, and they act according to this knowledge; the other acts as they want to, and then they use their reason to prove that that which they did was good, and that which they didn't do was bad.

*Leo Tolstoi*

## **STANDARD OF JUDGMENT**

Men are not to be judged by what they do not know, but by what they know, and by the manner in which they know it.

*Vauvenargues*

## **TWO ALTERNATIVES**

We shall meanly lose or nobly save the last hope of earth.

*Abraham Lincoln*

**DIFFICULTIES** in life are unavoidable, but a diligent focus on God's word is an absolute necessity, as is availing oneself of the Church fathers, Saints and traditions.

DIFFICULTIES — Believe the Bible and thou shalt be saved. No. There is no such word written. It is "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Do not trouble yourself in the first instance about questions connected with the book of Genesis, or difficulties suggested by the book of Revelation. Let the wars of the Jews alone in the meantime, and dismiss Jonah from your mind. Look to Jesus: get acquainted with Him — listen to His word — believe in Him — trust Him — obey Him. This is all that is asked of you in the first instance. After you have believed on Christ, and taken Him as your Savior, your Master, your Model, you will not be slow to find out that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, and for reproof, and for correction, and for instruction in godliness." You may never have all your difficulties solved, or all your objections met, but you will be sure of your foundation; you will feel that your feet are planted on the "Rock of Ages."  
—Gibson.

How you live is how you are known to others. It is the testament as to whom you serve, and can either be a blessing or a curse for each of us to one another. And it is by the sermons we proclaim - by the way we live - that shall keep us in step toward God or lead one another astray.

***We are all giving sermons, whether we like it or not.*** You see, many eyes are upon us, seen and unseen, for we are never truly alone!

### SERMONS WE SEE

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.  
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
for to see the good in action is what everybody needs.  
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done,  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true;  
but I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.  
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
but there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

*Edgar A. Guest*

I believe we have a week's worth of food to digest and see what memories are stirred within your heart and mind -- that you should receive a measure of wisdom in accordance with your situation in life, and the needs of your heart and soul.  
**Be still and listen, for the Lord your God is seeking your heart that he may console you, counsel you, bless you and keep you as the apple of His eye.**

*Yours in Christ, Deacon Hicks*