

## Iniquity Abounds

Since the days of our childhood we have heard the faithful servants of our Lord preach concerning the latter days and how wicked this world would become. Although we heard and believed these things to be true, it seemed then that those evil days were so far into the future that surely we would not have to concern ourselves with them.

For many of us time has swiftly passed and the days of childhood have become only a memory. Most of those faithful servants, whom we loved, and whose words we embraced within our hearts, have now been called home one by one. Their pleading and entreating voices are forever silenced on earth but their loving words of warning live on in our hearts. They are not forgotten. Neither have they been diminished. The wicked days foretold are now upon us and growing worse day by day.

Today we recognize, more than ever, that even in our beloved America, this iniquity, which is the lack or absence of righteousness and justice, is multiplying at an alarming rate. The true love for God and fellow man is almost a matter of

history. In many cases, our elected leaders defy the word of God, have forsaken the people, and serve only themselves. The evidence of iniquity and ungodliness is obvious in their conduct and in the legislation they prepare. Jesus foretells of these dark times when he said, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12 Those days are here and now.

God's Word teaches us to pray for our leaders. It is important that Christians everywhere would remember to pray that our leaders would forsake evil and turn to God for help and guidance. Equally important it is that Christians would be a light unto the world, not only in word but also in deed. Jesus teaches,

**"And because iniquity shall abound,  
 the love of many shall wax cold."**

Matthew 24:12

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 Let us also remember that it is God who has given us this free nation in which we can, at least yet today, choose our leaders. Pray therefore, that God would grant us wisdom in making our choices. If we neglect to put forth the effort in making our voice heard, we have only ourselves to blame.

Continued on Page 3

Paul urged the saints at Philippi to stand fast because, even

## WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Oct 4th	Ken Storm	11:00 AM	Holy Communion
Oct 9th	Arne Nordahl	7:00 PM	Two services / Local speakers
Oct 10th	Arne Nordahl	6:00 PM	Two services / Local speakers
Oct 11th	Arne Nordahl	11:00 AM 1:30 PM	Potluck Meal Two services / Local speakers
Oct 18th	Ken Storm	11:00 AM	Medical Care - Ken Storm
Oct 25th	Nathan Ruonavaara	11:00 AM	

## NOTICE

Worship Services  
 with guest speaker  
 ARNE NORDAHL  
 October 9th - 11th

**Ken Storm, Pastor (906) 482-3234 Church (906) 334-2766**  
**Church Location - 17602 N. Lake Ave. Tapiola, MI**  
**Bible Study - Wed. - 7:00 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study - 9:45**  
**Sunday Worship - 10:00**

## TELECONFERENCE

Local: 334-6338  
 Long Distance: : 1-906-334-6338  
 Instructions:  
 After "greeting", enter Conference  
 Identification Number 44444



## Strive to Stand Fast

his own spiritual life was a struggle. He had written to them, *“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect.”* (Philippians 3:12). Paul was pressing forward. He was straining with all of his energy by the power of the Holy Spirit. He did not expect to be carried to heaven on a feather bed. He was warring and agonizing. You beloved, must do the same.

What a grand example of perseverance Paul set for all of us! Nothing enticed him from his steadfastness. *“None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself”* (Acts 20:24). He has entered into his rest, because the Lord his God helped him to maintain his stance to the end. Most earnestly, from the depths of my soul, I implore you with this: *“Stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.”*

Paul urged them to stand fast because of their citizenship: *“For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven”* (Philippians 3:20). If you are in Christ, you are a citizen of the New Jerusalem. Men ought to behave themselves according to their citizenship and not dishonor their country.

When a man was a citizen of ancient Athens, he felt it incumbent upon him to be brave. Xerxes<sup>1</sup> said, *“These Athenians are not ruled by kings; how will they fight?”* *“No, they are not,”* the reply came, *“but every man respects the law, and each man is ready to die for his country.”*

Xerxes, soon learned that the same obedience and respect of law ruled the Spartans, and that they, because they were

of Sparta, were all brave as lions. He sent word to Leonidas<sup>2</sup>, and his little troop to give up their arms. *“Come take them”* was the courageous reply. The Persian king had myriads of soldiers, while Leonidas had only three hundred Spartans at his side. It cost the Persian despot many thousands of men to force a passage. The sons of Sparta died rather than desert their post. Every citizen of Sparta felt that he must stand fast: it was not for such a man as he to yield.

I like the spirit of Bayard, that sixteenth century French knight who was without fear and without reproach. He did not know what fear meant. In his last battle, his spine was broken, and he said to those around him, *“Place me up against a tree, so that I may sit up and die with my face to the enemy.”*

Yes, if our backs were broken, if we could no more bear the shield or use the sword, it would be incumbent upon us, as citizens of New Jerusalem, to die with our faces toward the Enemy. We must not yield, we dare not yield, if we are of

We must not yield...  
we dare not yield...  
if we are of the  
**“city of the great King”**  
Psalm 48:2

*“the “city of the great King” (Psalm 48:2).*

The martyrs urge us to stand fast; the *“cloud of witness”* (Hebrews 12:1), bending from their thrones above, beseech us to stand fast; all the shining, heavenly hosts cry to us, *“Stand fast!”*

Stand fast for God, the truth and holiness, and let no man take your crown!

C.H. Spurgeon

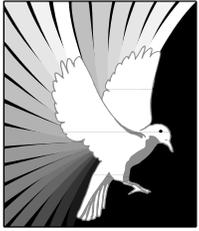
<sup>1</sup> Xerxes the Great, king of Persia from 486-465 B.C

<sup>2</sup> Leonidas: Greek hero, king of Sparta from around 490-480 B.C.

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Our congregational annual meeting is planned for  
October 21st - 7:00 PM at the church.

All members are encouraged to attend.



TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH  
P.O. Box 531  
Houghton, MI 49931

I am the light of the world:  
he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness.  
John 8:12

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(Continued from Page 1)

As God's children, may we also recognize that the devil is intent on ushering iniquity into the living church. Sad but true, we see this evil has indeed affected our lives and created much trouble. It is evident that the enemy of our souls is very busy sowing his seeds of discontent and iniquity in our day. When one begins to wander from the simplicity of a childlike faith in the Lord Jesus, and his righteousness, we find that soon we are prone to follow our own whims and desires. Iniquity surfaces and love begins to wane. Soon a man's heart becomes colder and colder until finally the love of God is no longer reflected in him. Iniquity prevails. Who then, will bear the light?

Pray, dear Christian friend, that God's love would draw us closely together, uniting us as one family of believers, washed in the blood of Christ and awaiting the heavenly promise. Pray for our children that they too would remain faithful and share in the promises of God.

In his service,  
Ken Storm - pastor

## "Our Children"

In our first class this year,  
our superintendent asked the Sunday school children,

*"Why is it so important  
that we talk and learn about Jesus?"*

One of the 6-year-olds quickly raised her hand  
and confidently said...

**"It is because He is the one  
who will take us to heaven".**

This youth clearly stated what is written in Acts 4:12

*"... for there is none other name under heaven  
given among men, whereby we must be saved"*

Please feel free to join us.  
We have room for students  
from 3 to 15 years of age.



## THE HAPPY DEBTOR



Ten thousand talents once I owed,  
And nothing had to pay;  
But Jesus freed me from the load,  
And washed my debt away.

Yet since the Lord forgave my sin,  
And blotted out my score;  
Much more indebted I have been,  
~~Than e'er I was before.~~

My guilt is cancelled quite, I know,  
And satisfaction made;  
But the vast debt of love I owe,  
~~Can never be repaid.~~

The love I owe for sin forgiven,  
For power to believe,  
For present peace, and promised heaven,  
~~No angle can conceive.~~

That love of thine! thou sinner's Friend!  
Witness thy bleeding heart!  
My little all can ne'er extend  
~~To pay a thousandth part.~~

Nay more, the poor returns I make  
I first from thee obtain;  
And 'tis of grace, that thou wilt take  
Such poor returns again.

'Tis well...it shall my glory be  
Let who will boast their store  
In time and to eternity,  
To owe Thee more and more

From Olney Hymn Book

Written by John Newton & William Cowper

1779