

New England Christian Bulletin

“For no other foundation can any-one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11, NKJV).

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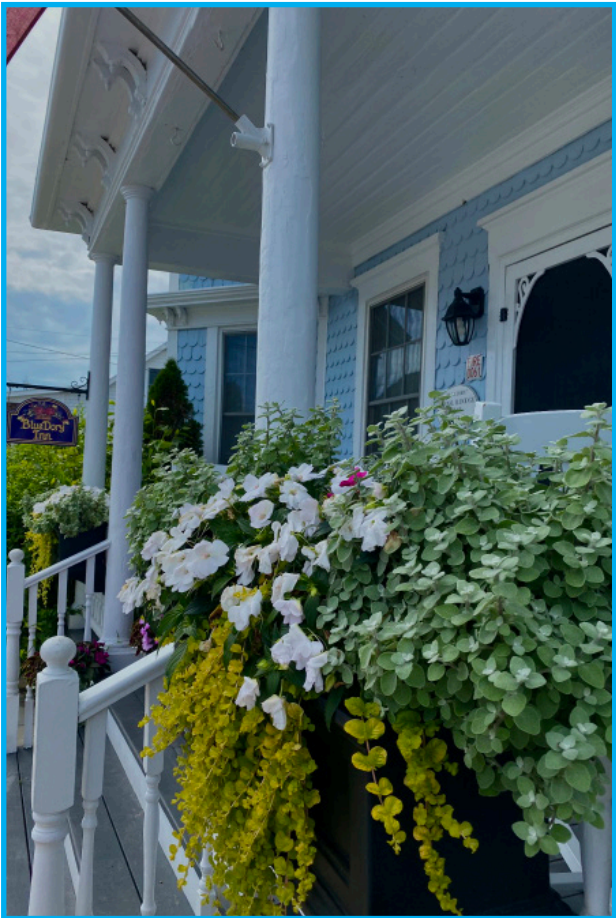
IT’S TRUE THAT JESUS SAVES, BUT...

Are You Dull of Hearing?

By Brian Violette

(Excerpted from the Sermon Delivered June 4th, 2023 at Firm Foundation Christian Church)

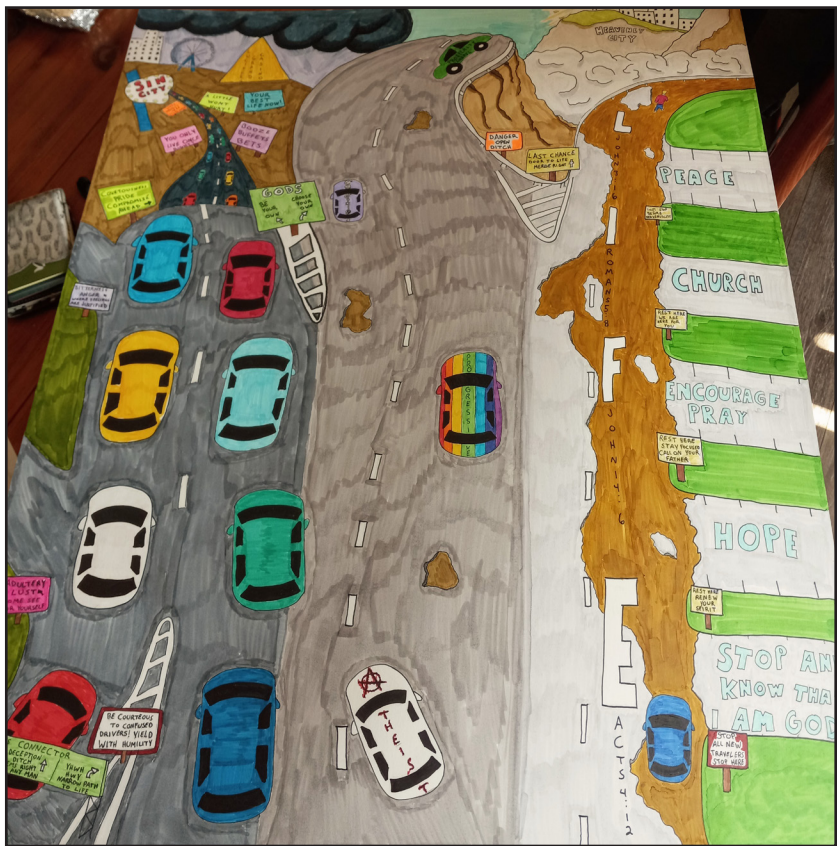
Let us not become dull of hearing spiritual things. The author of Hebrews begins to start criticizing these Hebrew believers lack of ambition to grasp the things of Christ. He states, “you have become dull of hearing” (Hebrews 5:11). So here’s a group of believers that started off on fire for the Lord, had good zeal for God, but now have become dull of hearing. This refers to someone who is lazy, sluggish in learning, and as a result, they lack spiritual maturity. They are not sensitive anymore to spiritual truths. People who have become dull of hearing spiritual things tend to skip spiritual things. It affects your walk with the Lord. Receiving Jesus as your Lord, God, and Savior is the beginning. It’s not the end. Remember, as part of our sanctification process (living on earth until we meet the Lord), the goal of the Christian is to keep growing in the faith—being spiritually receptive and growing in the likeness of Christ. “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear” (James 1:19). To be receptive. “My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh” (Proverbs 4:20-22). When Jesus walked the earth, many chased Him, and followed Him for different reasons. Some chased Him for miracles or healing. Others chased Him for physical nourishment. And then, His true disciples followed Jesus because it was a command. Jesus said to them, “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul” (Matthew 16:24-26)? Unfortunately, many have failed to remain following Jesus. Maybe by failed expectations, or not getting the miracle they wanted, and then never returning to Jesus like nine out of the ten lepers He had healed (Luke 17:17). Can you imagine how many people have ‘prayed the prayer of faith’ and never returned to Jesus? The question is, “Are they really saved?” Only He knows that. Others have stopped following Jesus because of the example (of the Hebrew believers in the Epistle) that I am speaking of today—becoming “dull of hearing.” “I think I’m going to skip church today. Then I’m going to skip the following week. Then something came up the week after.” Before you know it, you’re not even attending church anymore. “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:66-68). So if you’re not coming to church, where are you getting your spiritual nourishment? Friends, beware of false teachers. Their goal is to take away this very excuse—to be “dull of hearing.” So what do they do? They entertain you rather than give you spiritual food to digest. They tickle your ears with motivational tactics. They’ll tell you feel-good stories. And worst of all, a watered-down gospel, even to the point of making it a false gospel. Just to fill seats. To make people laugh. But in reality the Word of God is meant to cut to the heart, prick your conscience, and cause you to draw closer to God, living a life that honors God (Hebrews 4:12). So I urge you not to get dull of hearing about what the Bible contains. “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).



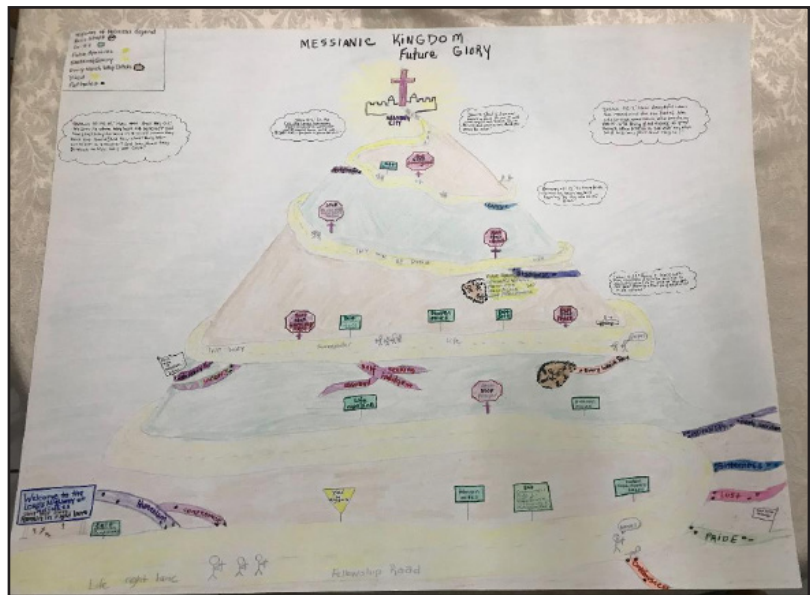
God’s Highway of Holiness:
Illustrations.

The road to heaven is narrow, and there are many pitfalls on the way. Most people prefer to take the broad road well traveled, but its end is destruction of the soul.

These artists have rendered what the journey is like from the Bible Christian perspective.



“Cars and Pedestrians on the Highway”
by Steve Jackson



“Messianic Kingdom”
by Cheryl Correia

See Page 3 for the corresponding article.

Publication Information,
Contact Information, and
an Invitation to Firm Foundation Church

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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI. We meet every Sunday for Worship Service at 10 am, and also every Friday for Bible Study and Prayer at 7 pm. We are a Soul Winning, Great Commission, Christian Bible Church. In addition to an active evangelistic ministry, we host tent revivals, do street evangelism, and offer beginner to advanced level independent study classes, all free of charge. All of our preaching and Bible Study is directly from the Word of God. We invite you to stop by and visit us.

We believe in the inspired Word of God which is without error in all that it affirms. Scripture (The Bible) provides the basis for our Christian faith (2 Timothy 3:16).

We believe in the Divine Nature of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 5:6; John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

All men and women are sinners by nature in need of a Savior. We need God’s grace and mercy (Romans 3:10-23; Isaiah 45:22).

That Savior is Jesus Christ, who paid for all our sins at the cross (Hebrews 10:12).

Those who trust in Him in faith (believe upon His work and promises) attain to eternal life (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

“God’s Highway of Holiness” (Isaiah 35:8)

Companion Paper to the Sermon by Pastor James Moriello, 4/15/2018

“A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness.” (Isaiah 35:8, NKJV)

The context of this verse is that of the passage of Isaiah 35:8-10, which speaks of the future glory of the Messianic Kingdom. Isaiah describes the joyful conditions which shall one day prevail upon the earth during Christ’s thousand year reign on earth from Zion. If you are a redeemed sinner, and believer in the Gospel of God, then you shall enjoy the Kingdom blessing, for it is written of us, “And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4). But now, for a little while, God’s people live in this falling and groaning creation in anticipation of that day (Romans 8:19-22). Our text is written for our benefit, that we might consider its meaning and life applications. Therefore, we shall consider what manner of spiritual highway we travel, what road we are on.

What do we know about highways?

A highway leads to a destination.

Many spiritual highways lead to destruction. But only the Highway of Holiness, which is the way of Jesus Christ, leads to heavenly peace (John 14:6). As you merge onto the highway, pay attention! The prevailing traffic is moving at a fast rate, and if you are not paying attention, and don’t know it’s there, you’ll miss the right lane marked “Life.” “Because... difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:14). If you are in that lane, avoid the temptation to merge back into traffic, for the signs say “Stay in Lane.” You do well to heed the advice for those on the highway leading to heaven, “knowing that you have a better and enduring possession for yourselves in heaven” (Hebrews 10:34).

A highway has signs and exits.

In addition to “Stay in Lane”, we are warned on our spiritual journey to “Yield” to others with humility, and to watch for various hazards. My favorite sign is “Heaven __ Miles.” This one frustrates a lot of people, because we can never be sure how many miles ahead heaven is. But I am quite sure it is ahead, because Jesus told me it was (John 14:2). There are also many exits off the spiritual highway. They are colorful and well-lit, especially at night. The exits are called “Adultery”, “Bitterness”, “Anger”, “Lust”, “Covetousness”, “Compromise”, and “Pride.” The last one, “Pride” is well worn. That is the oldest exit, and the paint is old and faded, but recently the devil’s DOT has painted it up brightly to attract unwitting travelers. Sometimes these exits come one after another, and other times, you can go miles without seeing an exit. Fortunately, along the highway are rest stops, places where you can pull off the highway and still be within the confines of the highway land.

The rest stops are called “Prayer”, “Rest”, “Peace”, “Encouragement”, “Church”, “Hope”, and “Stop.” The rest stop called “Stop” even has a banner under it which reads, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

A highway has potholes.

As you travel, beware of road hazards. Some are easy to see, if you are paying attention and are used to seeing them. Others are harder to spot, so you must be especially vigilant. You may not know they are there, so you have to think quick sometimes. Many travelers have been disabled on the side of the spiritual highway. They wait and wait and wait, until it dawns on them to call upon the Builder of the Highway, Jesus Christ, who is also its Capstone (Isaiah 28:16). Others never call, but eventually someone comes by to help. These folks come disguised as Good Samaritans. But they are “false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:13). They go by names that sound good, like Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, New-Agers, Word-Faith Healers, Your Best Life Now, and so forth. But these and those who follow them fall off the road before long. The State Troopers of this highway diligently follow the Law of the Owner of the highway. “Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch” (Matthew 15:14).

A highway has other travelers on it.

The destination at the end of the highway for the believer is the heavenly city, the promised place of meeting the Risen God, Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:1-4). But others have found their way onto the highway without the heavenly destination in mind.

Predictably, they are all over the road. And they may cause an accident. So if you meet them by accident, give them the gospel, Because if you don’t, “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:14-17).

All of these things have been said that you might consider the Lord Jesus, whatever road you are on now. And, the next time you are driving. Hopefully, you are not driving and reading this at the same time! And that you may see set before you—“A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness.” Get on that road, and stay on that road, considering that life is a journey, and not a destination.



Photo by NECB Staff

Christian Humor Column

1.
The church council met to discuss the pastor’s compensation package for the coming year. After the meeting the chair of council told the pastor:
“We are very sorry, Pastor, but we decided that we cannot give you a raise next year.”

“But you must give me a raise” said the pastor.
“I am but a poor preacher!”

“I know,” the council chair said.
“We hear you every Sunday.”

2. WORDS OF WISDOM
“There’s a fine line between a long, drawn-out sermon and a hostage situation.”

3. A pastor fell out with his church council over various church policies and procedures, including how the finances were handled. After bitter arguments and many nights of lost sleep, he decided to leave the congregation to take a job as a prison chaplain. He preached his last sermon at the church on John 14:1: “I go to prepare a place for you.”

4. The Hand of God

Little Philip was walking home in the rain with his mother following Sunday worship. It finally stopped raining as they rounded the corner, where to their surprise and delight appeared a vivid double rainbow in the sky.

“Doesn’t it look like an artist painted this rainbow?” his mother exclaimed. “I bet God painted this just for you!”

“Yes,” replied Philip, “God did it, and he did it left handed.”

Confused, his mother asked him, “What makes you say God did this with his left hand?”

“Well,” said Philip, “we learned in Sunday School that Jesus sits on God’s right hand.”

5. BULLETIN BLOOPER
Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

6.
A man appeared before St. Peter at the pearly gates.
“Have you ever done anything of particular merit?” St. Peter asked.
“Well,” the man said, *“once I came upon a gang of bikers who were threatening a young woman. I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him on the head, kicked over his bike, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. ‘Now leave her alone!’ I yelled.”*”

St. Peter was impressed: *“When did this happen?”*

“Just a couple of minutes ago.”

Christian Humor

Column: Continued.

7. Obituary:
Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

For many, many years as a part of this church Someone Else did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, everybody said, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most generous givers. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help this year, remember — we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.



Photos by NECB Staff

Motive

By Scott Lanctot

We begin with the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. "So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen" (Matthew 20:16). We are all equal with God. He shows no partiality. We are all saved by grace, who put faith in Him, and believe upon Him alone. So whether a babe in faith or a seasoned Christian for years, we can apply this Scripture to determine our motive. "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). This verse does speak of monetary gifts, but it goes much deeper with applications which get to the intent of the heart. Is your motive pure? Do you do what you do for the right reason? One thing you cannot escape—God knows your heart. What is my purpose? "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). For a blood bought believer in Jesus Christ, it is to serve the Lord daily, being an obedient child of the Most High God. Every day, we make choices that affect our Christian walk. "Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them" (Proverbs 22:5). Our motive is to stay on God's path, and not the wilderness of sin's thorns and snares. Christian, we have many promises in the Bible. "As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him" (Psalm 18:30). His Word is our hope, our strength, and our salvation. He is our Protector and Provider. We want to please Christ and not grieve the Spirit with wrong motives. We have been given a path to follow. "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:14). His path is the only path to walk that has purpose, to live according to His likeness daily. We have been afforded precious gifts of grace and mercy. Our God demands growth according to Scripture. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples" (John 15:8). So, Christian, look at the motives and actions of your walk.

Do Christians Pick and Choose Which Parts of the Bible to Believe?

By James Moriello

It has become fashionable today for people in certain circles to accuse Bible-believing Christians of “pick-ing and choosing” which parts of the Bible they believe ought to be obeyed. The clarion call of some folks who wish to gain acceptance for their sinful behavior is that if we Christians “love our neighbor”, then we must accept their sin. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, if we love our neighbor, we will tell them the truth. The truth is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that when accepted, marks the beginning of the sanctification process (John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:14). The way the Bible frames Law is simple. There is the Law of Moses, one unit of 613 com-mandments, which all must be kept to earn salvation. Of course, nobody could keep that, so Jesus came to fulfill the Law for us. Today, we are not under the Law of Moses. But we are under the Law of Christ as it is taught and expounded in the New Tes-tament (Galatians 6:2; James 2:8). When we compare the two, we find that the Law of Christ reaffirms Creation Ordinances and Moral Laws. Therefore, the Christian understands Bible ordinances and laws under the following Framework of Bible Ordi-nances.

God has revealed Himself generally through His cre-ation, through human conscience, and personally through His Son Jesus Christ. Christians accept the truth of Scripture (The Holy Bible), as the divinely inspired objective guide in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). Bible believing Christians do not “pick and choose which parts” of the Bible to believe and practice. Rather, we understand the Bible within a theological framework of biblical ordinances.

There are four types of ordinances, or laws, in Scrip-ture. They are Creation Ordi-nances, Civil Laws, Ceremo-nial Laws, and Moral Laws. Some laws may fall into more than one category.

A Creation Ordinance is something that God instituted before the giving of the Mosaic Law. Most of these are found in the first two chapters of Genesis. They include procreation after kind (which precludes evolution), sanctity of life, stewardship of the earth, gender distinctions, and marriage. The laws are inherent in creation and are therefore continuing.

A Civil Law is a law that was binding under the theo-cratic government of Israel. The theocracy was in effect from the giving of the law around 1445 BC until the time of Israel’s rejection of God as King about 400 years later (1 Samuel 8:5-7). Examples of civil laws include specific penalties for specific offenses. We do not live in the theocra-cy, and these laws are there-fore not binding today.

A Ceremonial Law is a law that was binding until the cer-emonial system was fulfilled completely by Jesus Christ, at His Ascension. One exam-ple is the Levitical sacrifices, which taught that all sin was a grave sin against God, and re-quired blood atonement (Le-viticus 17:11). New Testament Scriptures which clearly teach that Jesus Christ fulfilled the ceremonial law in all its as-pects include Matthew 5:17, Romans 10:4, Hebrews 7:12, and Hebrews 10:1-7. This is why Christians do not observe ceremonial law.

A Moral Law is a law of abiding principles for holy living. Such principles are found in both the Old and New Testament. God’s people of all ages are called to be

holy (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16). Jesus Christ fulfilled the moral law by virtue of His sinlessness (Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 4:15). Yet we are still commanded to keep the moral law. No-body can keep it perfectly, and what this does is demonstrates our need for a Savior (Matthew 5:48; James 2:10; Galatians 3:24; Romans 6:23).

To summarize, Creation Ordinances and Moral Laws, in addition to direct New Testament commands, are binding upon Christians today. Civil Laws and Ceremonial Laws are not binding upon Christians today. There are some laws that are both civil laws and moral laws. These are binding.

Framework of Biblical Ordinances, Quiz

What kind of law is it?
And is it binding on Christians today?
(Creation Ordinance (1), Civil Law (2),
Ceremonial Law (3), Moral Law (4))

***A few of these fall into more than one category.

1. One-man, One-woman marriage (Gen 2:24)
2. Tithing of Income (Deut 14:22-29)
3. Sabbath Observance (Lev 23:3)
4. Capital Punishment (Lev 20)
5. Right to life for the unborn (Gen 1:26-27, 9:6-7)
6. Laws forbidding occult practice (Acts 13:8-10)
7. Law forbidding tattoos (Lev 19:28)
8. Inheritance laws (Num 27:1-7)
9. Laws forbidding sodomy (1 Cor 6:9-11)
10. Animal blood sacrifices (Lev 1-7)
11. Laws concerning blood issues (Lev 15)
12. You shall not covet (1 Tim 6:10)
13. You shall not steal (Luke 3:12-14)
14. Jubilee year (Lev 25)
15. Stewardship of the earth (Gen 1:28)
16. Support of widows (James 1:27)
17. Love for God (Mark 12:29-30)
18. Love for neighbor (Mark 12:31)
19. Dietary laws (Lev 11)
20. Keeping of vows (Matt 5:33-37)

A Prayer for Christian Revival

By C.H. Spurgeon

“OUR Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” We fear that we often begin our prayer with petitions for ourselves and put our daily bread before Thy kingdom and the pardoning of our sins before the hallowing of Thy name. We would not do so today, but guided by our Lord’s model of prayer, we would first pray for Thy glory and here, great God, we would adore Thee. Thou hast made us and not we ourselves. We are Thy people and the sheep of Thy pasture. All glory be unto Thee, Jehovah, the only living and true God.

With heart and mind, and memory and fear, and hope and joy, we worship the Most High. It well becomes us to put our shoes from off our feet when we draw near to God, for the place whereon we stand is holy ground. If God in the bush demanded the unsandalled foot of the prophet, how much more shall God in Christ Jesus?

With lowliest reverence, with truest love, we worship God in Christ Jesus, uniting therein with all the redeemed host above, with angels and principalities and powers. We cannot cast crowns at His feet, for we have none as yet, but if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, if there be about us anything of grace and good repute, we ascribe it all to God. We cannot veil our faces with our wings, for we have none, but we veil them with something better than angelic wings, the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. With these we cover our faces, with these we cover our feet, and with these we fly up to God in holiest fellowship of God. Glory, and honor, and power, and dominion be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever and forever.

Great God, we long that Thou mayest be known unto the ends of the earth, that the idols may be utterly abolished. We long that false doctrine may fly like birds of darkness before the light and Thy coming. Reign Thou in the hearts of our fellow-men. Lord, subdue sin and under Thy feet let drunkenness, and unchastity, and oppression, and every form of wickedness be put away by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit.

Oh! that today, even today, many hearts might be won to God. Convince men of the wrong of being alienated from God. Put into their hearts sorrow for sin and dread of wrath to come, and lead and drive men to Christ. Oh! how we pray for this, the salvation of our fellow-men, not so much for their sakes as for the sake of the glory of God and the rewarding of Christ for His pain.

We do with all our hearts pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” Lord, help us to do Thy will. Take the crippled kingdom of our manhood and reign Thou over it. Let spirit and body be consecrated to God. May there be no reserves. May everything be given up to Thee. Reign forever! Pierced King, despised and nailed to a tree, sit Thou on the glorious high throne in our hearts and may our lives prove that Thou art Lord over us by our every thought and desire, and imagination, and word, and act, in every respect being under Thy divine control.

Thy people breathe to Thee out of their very hearts the prayer that Thou mayest reign over us without a rival. O Savior, use for Thyself what Thou hast bought with blood, and drive out the enemy, and let no power have any dominion over us except the power of Thy good Spirit which worketh righteousness and peace.

We pray today also that Thy truth may prevail against the many anti-Christes that have gone forth against it. Our Father, restore a pure language to Thy Zion once again. Take away, we pray Thee, the itching for new doctrine, the longing for that which is thought to be scientific and wise above what is written, and may Thy Church come to her moorings, may she cast anchor in the truth of God and there abide. And if it be Thy will, may we live to see brighter and better times.

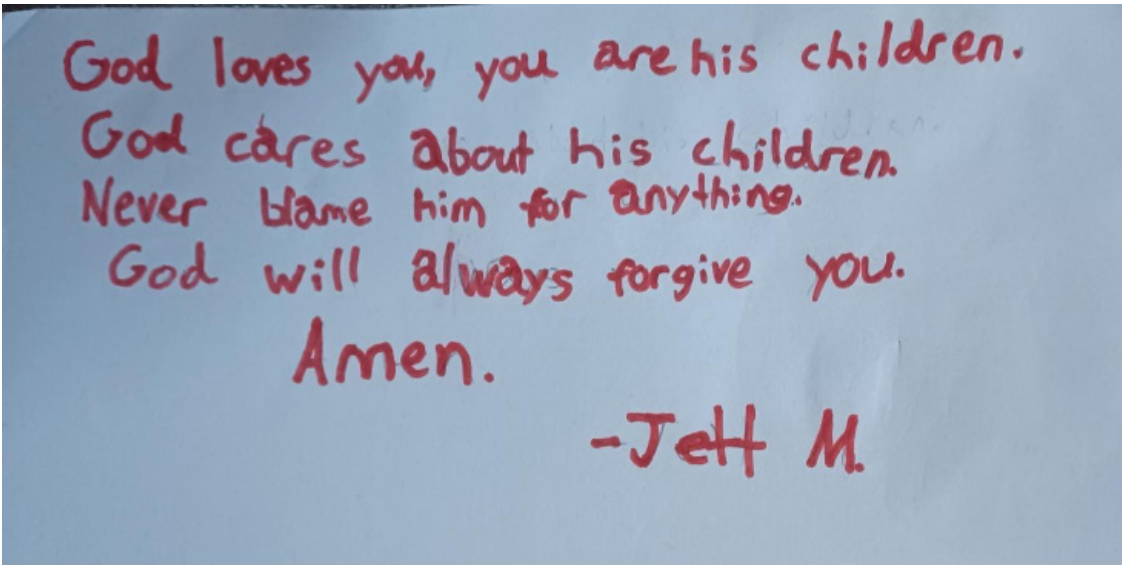
If it might be so, we would pray for the coming of our Lord very speedily to end these sluggish years, these long delaying days. But if He come not, yet put power into Thy truth and quicken Thy Church that she may become energetic for the spread of it, that so Thy kingdom may come. This do we seek first and above everything, the glory of God. We ask for grace that we may live with this end in view. May we lay ourselves out to it. May this be our morning thought, the thought that we have in our minds when we lay awake at nights. What shall I do, my Savior, to praise? How can I make Him illustrious and win another heart to His throne? Now bless us. Forgive us our trespasses wherein we have sinned against Thee. Seal our pardon upon our consciences and make us feel that as we truly forgive them that trespass against us, so hast Thou forgiven us all our iniquities. We pray Thee, lead us not into temptation. Do not try us, Lord, nor suffer the devil to try us. If we must be tried then deliver us from evil, and especially from the evil one, that he may get no dominion over us.

Oh! keep us, Lord. This life is full of trial. There are many that are perplexed about temporary things. Let not the enemy lead them to do or think aught that is amiss, because of the straitness of supply. Others are blessed with prosperity. Lord, let it not be a curse to them. Let them know how to abound as well as to suffer loss. In all things may they be instructed to glorify God, not only with all they are, but with all they have, and even with all they have not, by a holy contentment to do without that which it doth not please Thee to bestow.

And then, Lord, give us day by day our daily bread. Provide for Thy poor people. Let them not think that the provision for themselves rests fully on themselves, but may they cry to Thee, for Thou hast said, “Thy bread shall be given thee, thy waters shall be sure.” If we follow Thee, if Thou lead us into a desert, Thou wilt strew our path with manna. May Thy people believe this and let them have no care, but like the birds of the air which neither sow nor gather into barns and yet are fed, so may Thy people be.

But above all, give us spiritual help. Give us wisdom, which is profitable to get. Give us the absence of all self-seeking and a complete yielding up of our desires to the will of God. Help us to be as Christ was, who was not His own, but gave Himself to His Father for our sins. So may we for His sake give ourselves up to do or suffer the will of our Father who is in heaven.

Remember Thy people in their families and convert their children. Give us help and strength. Spare precious lives that are in danger. Be gracious to any that are dying. May the life of God swallow up the death of the body. Prepare us all for Thy glorious advent. Keep us waiting and watching and do Thou come quickly to our heart’s desire, for we pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever.” Amen.



The Office of High Priest in the Bible
By NECB Staff

Originally, in the Law of Moses, from the 15th Century B.C., beginning with Aaron, the High Priesthood was hereditary and for life (Numbers 20:23-28). There were times of interruption of this priesthood throughout the history of Israel, notably in the days of Judges. We find the active priesthood of Zadok (of the line of Aaron) in the days of King David (2 Samuel 8:15-17; 1 Chronicles 24:1-3) in the 10th Century B.C.. Then again, Ezra served as priest according to this lineage in the 5th Century B.C. (Ezra 7:1-6). After this time, in which Israel was in captivity under the authority of Greece, and later, Rome, it eventually came to pass that the Sanhedrin affirmed its authority to appoint the High Priest. By the time we get to Jesus' day, Rome wished to put the Jews in their place, and the High Priest came to be appointed by the Roman prefect (governor). Both Annas and Caiaphas, who presided over the trials of Jesus Christ, were appointed after this manner (Josephus' Antiquities 18:2). Although Annas (also called Ananus) had been replaced in the office, he wielded the power of the office behind the scenes, and nothing big happened in the Sanhedrin of Israel without his approval (John 18:12-13). Ironically, the One placed on trial before the high priest is our Divine High Priest, Jesus the Messiah of Israel, who is also called Christ (Hebrews 3:1).

**Old Time
Preaching Ministry**

If you are looking for doctrinally sound Bible preaching and teaching, tune in to WNRI 1380am and 99.9fm on Tuesday at 7pm, and Saturday at 4pm. Where the "Old Book" is still used.

Psalm 138:2 (KJV): "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."