

New England Christian Bulletin

Easter 2016

FREE

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“Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:6)

Jesus Christ is Risen from the Dead!

By NECB Staff

“As the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb” (Matthew 28:1). What they found there, and did not find there, would alter the course of human history.

These devout women knew the place. The tomb was provided for Jesus’ burial by Joseph of Arimathea, and its location was also known to the disciples, the chief priests and Pharisees, and Pilate and the Roman guard. None of these disputed the death by crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. Nobody disputed the fact that Jesus was buried, or the place of the tomb, or whether or not it was the correct one. Such foolish speculation was to be reserved for much later times, and continues in our day.

The words in our text were spoken by an angel, and were an invitation to the women to bear witness to history’s greatest miracle. The angel had rolled the exceedingly heavy stone away from the door of the tomb, not to let Jesus out, but to let the women in.



Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

“He is not here; for He is risen, as He said” (Matthew 28:6)

Jesus was already out, having been resurrected from the dead bodily! Following this, the Lord made many appearances, not the least of which was His appearance

to more than five hundred people at once (1 Corinthians 15:6) tomb, but in the hearts of those who trust in Him in faith. What say you?

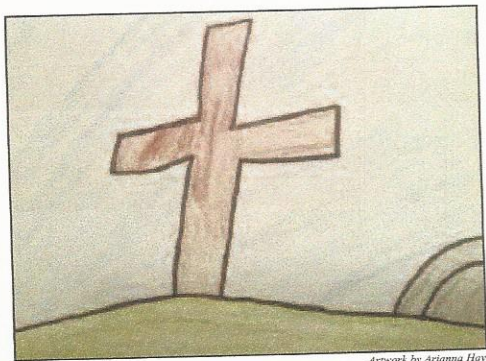
Will you come to find the Lord Jesus this Easter season? We know He is not in a

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS

By James Moriello

Christians have traditionally observed the Stations of the Cross in order to meditate upon the work of the Savior, specifically the amazing sufferings that He bore in order to provide Himself as the perfect once for all sacrifice for our sins. While there is no substitute for observing the Stations of the Cross in person, for appropriate hymns and visual depictions add to its effect on the spirit, we nevertheless have put them in print for your spiritual benefit. Traditionally, there are fourteen stations, but some have added a fifteenth in order to incorporate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us now journey in our mind’s eye to Calvary.
(Please turn to Page 7.)



Artwork by Arianna Hoy

Jesus arose on Easter Day and this is what it's about.

One Mediator Between God and Men

1 Timothy 2:5- "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."

By Brian Violette

Recently, I spoke to the congregation and mentioned that one ought to only come to God through His Son Jesus. Not by other means such as Mary, or saints, but only through Jesus Christ. After service I was approached by a friend visiting the church who was raised in the Catholic faith.

He said to me, "I have a bone to pick with you." I replied, "Okay, why?" He said, "What do you mean we can't pray to Mary? She is the mother of God!" I replied to him with the scripture used as the title of this article. There is only one mediator between God and man, Jesus. This is what

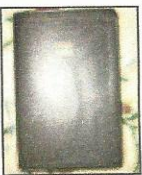
God's Word, the Holy Bible, states. Not my word! There is no verse in the Bible that states to pray to any other. Colossians 3:17 - "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

(Continued on Page 4)

A Must-Read Book

By Susan Moriello

This column should be headed as "Recommended Reading" or "Books in Review" in the future,



but for this time it is "A Must-Read Book." This book has been called "The Way", "The Promise", "His Word", and "Scripture", but most people call

this book "The Bible." It is God's love letter to us.

The Bible has been inspired by God, and has been written through the agency of over thirty-five human authors (2 Peter 1:21). In it are all the answers to life's problems. Whether you are going through illness, depression, addiction, dysfunctional relationships, divorce, remarriage, or any other puzzling circumstance or decision, the Bible has an answer for you.

Reading His Word on a daily basis is a must. Be sure to set aside twenty to thirty minutes daily, and glean from His words. Most of us have busy schedules, but just setting aside this short time with the Lord will improve your life immeasurably.

In my own personal life, I start each day reading my daily devotional, which includes a Scripture reading, and I end each day reading the Bible with my husband. This has totally enriched our lives and our relationship with the Lord and each other. We are truly blessed, and so shall you be if you do likewise. I guarantee this will enrich each and every person who follows this path. I also have to include appointed daily prayer times as well as continuously keeping in prayer (Luke 18:1). The closer you stay with the Lord, the more peace you will have in your life and spirit. Please don't forget to pray for others.

My suggested reading to start is the Easter passages, since we are so close to this holiday. They are Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, and John 18-21. Until next time, blessings to you!

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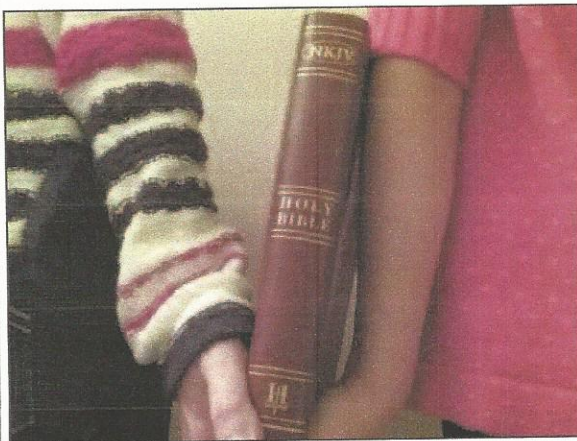
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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street,

Woonsocket, RI 02895, on Sunday mornings at 10 am, and Friday evenings at 7 pm. Our TV Bible Study airs in Northern Rhode Island on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 10 am, on Cox Channel 18, and Verizon Channel 23. Our mission is the Great Commission, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ by any and all means possible. Please call us or email us with your comments and questions.

Truth, Knowledge, and Wisdom



The Tie that Binds us Together

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7)

By Cindy Camelli

"What is truth?" (John 18:38). Pontius Pilate once asked this question of Jesus. One definition stated in the dictionary is "the body of real events or facts, the real state of things." There has to be a standard of measure by which all things are measured by. God's Word is the standard of measure because God's Word is truth (John 17:17). It cannot be things as you or I see it, because we may see things differently. Truth has to originate from someone who is omniscient (all knowing). That someone is God, the Creator of all things seen and unseen. The book of Genesis states that God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it, and God saw that it was good (Genesis 1:1,31). In the book of Genesis, there is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. One definition of knowledge is "the clear perception of truth." There are people who are well educated. However, there is not one created person who knows all things. Not one person can attain all knowledge. Only God knows all things perfectly from the beginning through the end. That again belongs to an omniscient and omnipresent God, the Creator of all things past, present, and future. He knows the motives of our hearts, whether good or evil. God is omniscient because He is all knowing

(truth). He is omnipresent because He has the ultimate clear perception of truth (knowledge). Now we come to wisdom. One definition of wisdom is "a wise attitude or course of action." God in His infinite wisdom sent His only begotten Son into this world while we were still sinners to die on the cross for us (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). He (Jesus) was the ultimate sacrifice. His shed blood made the way for us to be reconciled to the Father. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are placed in the heavenly kingdom eternally. The one and only God is omniscient (all knowing, truth), omnipresent (the clear perception of truth, knowledge), and omnipotent (all powerful, the wise attitude or course of action). The real state of things (truth) is that we are sinners in need of a Savior. A wise attitude or course of action (wisdom) is to believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. You will have a home in heaven eternally. Don't delay! Admit you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Ask Jesus into your heart, and He will abide in you (John 15:5). He will forgive all your sins, past, present, and future. A right relationship is the only relationship which is with Jesus Christ our Savior.

He Showed Me

By Marie McMurdo

I once asked God to show me strength,
And I saw the poor survive.
I asked to see some unity,
And saw bees around the hive.



I asked God to show me faith,
And I saw a young bird fly.
I asked to see compassion,
And I saw an old man cry.

I asked God to see a miracle,
And saw the birthing on the farms.
I wanted to see a little peace,
And saw a babe asleep in arms.

I asked God to show me joy,
And I saw people living free.
I asked to see understanding,
Then I saw someone smile at me.

I asked God to show me love,
And it was then He showed me You.
I asked God to show me life;
Now I see Christ in all I do.

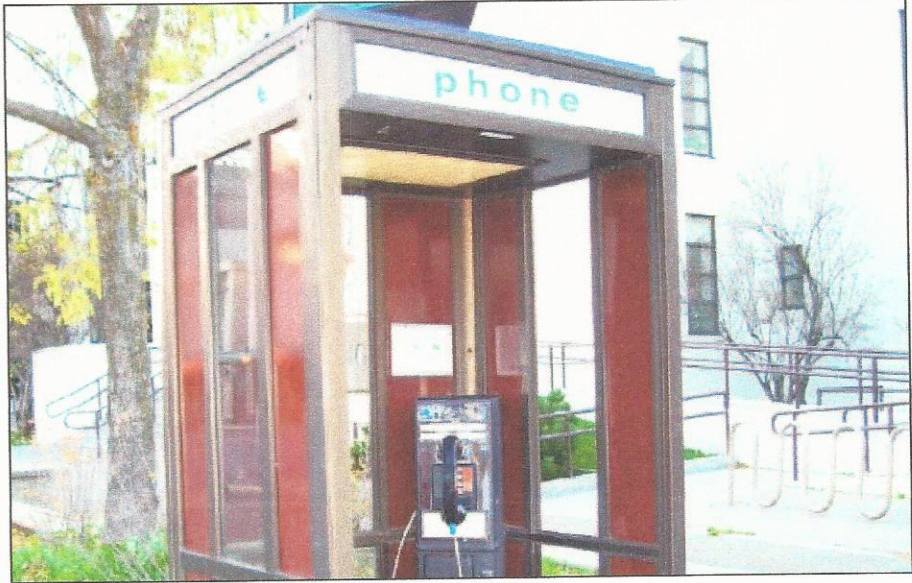
Phone Booths

By Tanya Hay

In this day and age, we value anything that gives us a speedier way to communicate. Technology advancements allow us to call anyone in seconds on a cell phone, or look up anything on the Internet via a cell phone, tablet, laptop, or pc. For this reason, libraries aren't as popular as they used to be, nor are pay phones or phone booths... many of you reading this are probably asking, "What is a phone booth?"



Imagine a world without these advancements, where would we be? I'd like to imagine a world where we treat the Bible, God's Word, like our cell phones. That would mean making the Bible a top priority by carrying it around with us everywhere we go, going to it in emergencies or when we need more information about something, checking it periodically throughout the day, feeling lost without it, and turning back to get it if we forget it. Many spend hours daily on cell phones, social media sites, texting, and the like. It's a priority. Making prayer and the Bible more of a priority in our lives would improve our relationship with God by getting to know Him better, and putting Him first gets us



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105)

instantaneous results. He is always there. No cell phone required.

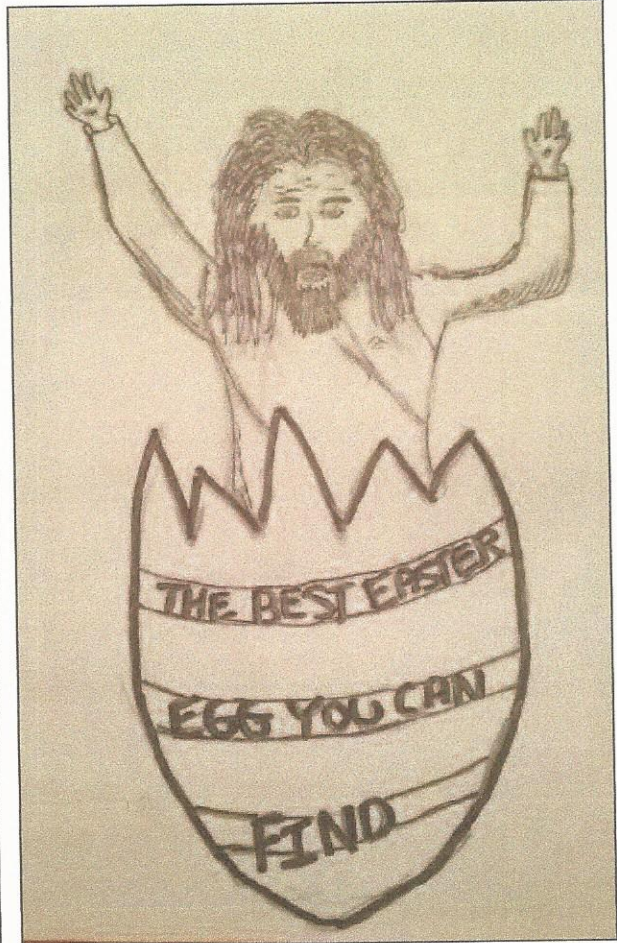
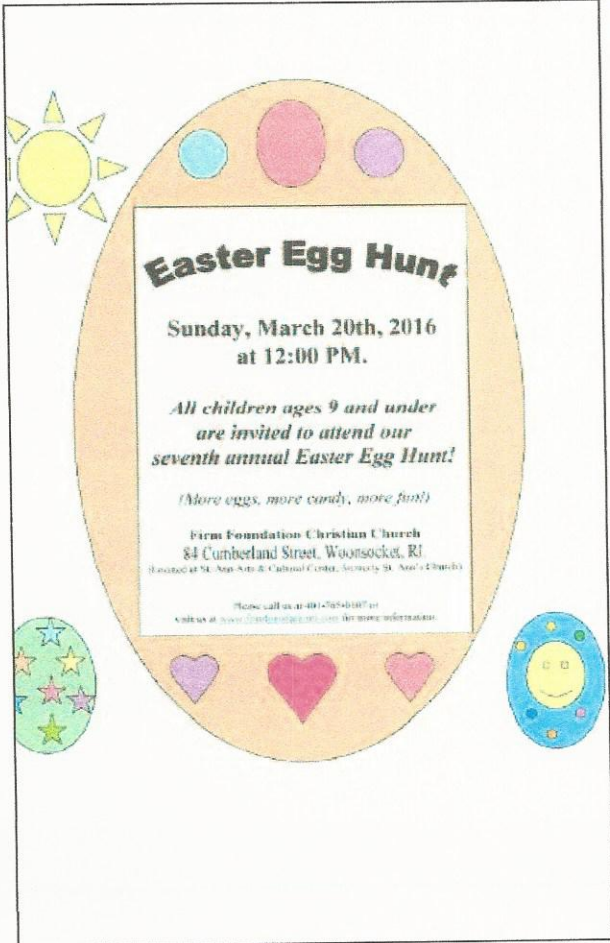
Personally, I recently added an online Bible site tab that I always leave open on my tablet. I leave it open as a constant reminder to go back to the Bible. Keeping the tab open makes reading the Bible

easy, convenient, and eliminates any excuse not to read it. It works for me.

So, today, why not make the Bible a little more of a priority in your life? Don't let it become extinct in your life like that old phone booth...

Related scripture texts: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105, Matthew 4:4, and Isaiah 40:8.

Artwork Below By Al Hay



One Mediator, Continued from Page 1



The question arises, "How does one obtain salvation?" The answer is not by saints, not by Mary, not by works, the church, confession, or water baptism, but only

through Jesus.

There isn't one sin in the life of Jesus. He is perfect and holy. There was never a lie that came out of His mouth. So listen to Him with your heart. Jesus said in John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Acts 4:12 states, "Nor is there salvation any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Mary was a special servant to God who fulfilled a messianic prophecy. Matthew 1:23 - "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Mary was a vessel used by God to bring our Savior Jesus into this world. God uses all His children (believers) in many ways to bring glory to Himself. Fellow believers, we are God's tools for His work that serve many purposes of His will. But bear in mind that just like you and I, Mary was also in need of a Savior. Praying to Mary is using her as a means to God, a mediator, which she is not.

(Continued on Page 8)

An Open Letter from a Friend Intended to be Read as a Letter from Jesus to You

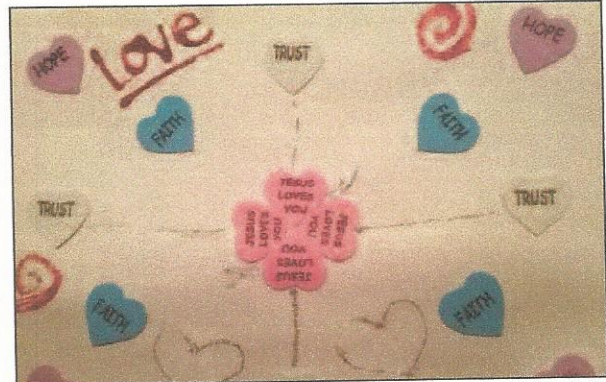
Author Anonymous

Dear Friend,

How are you? I just had to send a note to tell you how much I care about you. I saw you yesterday as you were talking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with me too. I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you -- and I waited. You never came. It hurt me -- but I still love you because I am your friend.

I saw you sleeping last night and longed to touch your brow so I spilled moonlight upon your face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you! You awoke and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

If you would only listen to me! I love you! I try to tell you in the blue skies and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in leaves on the trees and breathe it in colors of flowers, shout it to you in mountain streams, give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature scents. My love for you is deeper than the ocean, and bigger than the biggest need in



Artwork: Alexandra Hay

"A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17)

your heart!
Ask me! Talk with me! Please don't forget me. I have so much to share with you!
I won't hassle you any further. It is your decision. I have chosen you and I will wait --
because I love you.
Your friend,
Jesus

Finding Your Fortune in Jesus Christ and His Word

By Tanya Hay

Periodically, our church family goes out to lunch after Sunday service. One particular Sunday, following our meal, I didn't get a fortune cookie. When we got home my younger daughter said, "Mommy, I got you a fortune cookie", and she left it on the counter for me. When I opened the cookie it had no fortune inside.

Later in the day I mentioned my 'no fortune' to my Mom. I joked with her that I have no fortune. She promptly replied, "You don't need a fortune, you have Jesus". How right she is! He is the best fortune ever! Here

are some fortunes that are from His Word:
Proverbs 10:18: "Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool."

Proverbs 14:10: "The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy."

Proverbs 16:24: "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones."

Proverbs 10:12: "Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins."

Proverbs 21:6: "Getting treasures by a lying tongue Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death."

Proverbs 29:23: "A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor."

Proverbs 15:4: "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit."

Proverbs 22:2: "The rich and the poor have this in common, The Lord is the maker of them all."

There are many, many more fortunes that can be found in His Word. These are just a few examples that I found in the Book of Proverbs. Whether you get a fortune inside your next fortune cookie or not, the Holy Bible is full of fortune, I urge you to seek it!

Super-Confessors

By NECB Staff

The Pope of the Roman Catholic Church has sent forth people he calls "Super-Confessors." Their job is to hear confessions and pronounce absolution (that is, proclaim forgiveness) for very severe sins. This is unbiblical practice. First of all, only God can pronounce sins forgiven (Mark 2:7). Second, there is no such thing as degrees of sin. All sin, whether little or big (humanly speaking) is af-

front to the Holy God (James 2:10).

(News Source: Fox News Channel)

The commentary in the article is that of the editor. Every publication has a slant. We are no different, except insofar as we admit that we slant our news pieces. Everything at NECB is "slanted" according to strict Bible interpretation.

Your Tax Dollars are Supporting Clinton

By NECB Staff

Source: thehill.com, Planned Parenthood supporting Hillary Clinton for President to the tune of \$20 million dollars from its action fund, these are taxpayer dollars!

Here is how it works. Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the nation, collects taxpayer money from the government. Their action fund uses that money to support the campaign of the

politicians that show the greatest support for the murder of unborn children. In turn, if elected, the politician supports more government (taxpayer) funding for abortion.

Imagine if such a scheme was hatched to promote the Judeo-Christian values that America was founded upon! It would be lambasted by the media and shot down in a heartbeat!

Christian Humor

The Historical Flight

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

"I see ... And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said. "But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius-the Pilot."

The Christian Barber

There was a barber that thought that he should share his faith with his customers more than he had been doing lately. So the next morning when the sun came up and the barber got up out of bed he said, "Today I am going to witness to the first man that walks through my door."

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a shave!" The barber said, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment." The barber went in the back and prayed a quick desperate prayer saying, "God, the first customer came in and I'm going to witness to him. So give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen."

Then quickly the barber came out with his razor knife in one hand and a Bible in the other while saying "Good morning sir. I have a question for you... Are you ready to die?"

The Bible Answer

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 100 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note. "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

(From www.jokes.christiansunite.com)

NEWSFLASH!

There will now be 6 issues per year of this newspaper: Winter, Easter, Spring, Summer, Fall, Christmas!

No Rewards Card Needed, By Jim Landry

Recently, I was shopping in a store and the clerk asked me if I was a Rewards Member. I don't know about you, but I am overwhelmed by the number of stores that ask me if I am a loyal member. Would you like to sign up for our Rewards Card? Um, no thank you. I have too many as it is and then thinking I had a way out, I said, "I think my wife has one." Wrong answer. Can't win. Now they wanted a phone number to look up her card.

No offense, but I just don't feel like carrying around 35 little plastic cards on my key-chain; one for every store I visit. Every store has these

cards. Everybody wants you to have a Rewards card. Did you know there is even a phone app to keep track of all your rewards cards with pictures and scan bars so you don't have to carry a Rolodex for all your cards? Amazing! I guess it's true like a certain credit card says, "membership has its privileges", which reminded me of another type of membership, and guess what? It is the best one of all. And...get this, "No Rewards card needed." It's true!

This membership is your ticket to heaven. No rewards cards are necessary nor recommended. No forms to fill out. No

email address to link it to, and nobody needs to know your phone number. Who needs coupons? Nobody, because the price has already been paid.

I'm talking about Ephesians 2:19. "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." A member of the household of God. Now that is membership that has privileges. But this membership does require something of you and it's not out of your wallet or purse. This requirement comes from your heart. It is faith. Do you believe? Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Do you believe that Jesus Christ came down to earth to die on the cross to pay for your sins so that you can have eternal life in heaven?

No forms to fill out. Just believe. Believe the Man who walked the earth and did not have to give you the fast talk-

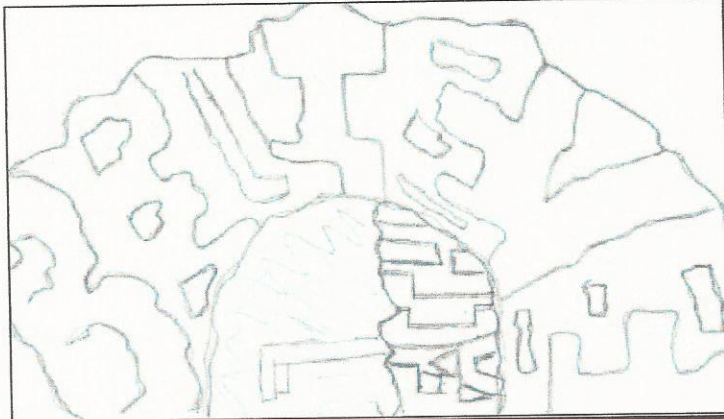
ing legal pitch you hear at the end of so many commercials and giveaways. In case you haven't shopped here, I'm talking about Jesus.

In John 14:6, Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

That, my friends, is the best "reward" anyone could ever receive. All you have to do is believe. Jesus Christ is the ONLY way! Confess your sins right now and ask Jesus into your heart. It can be something as simple as: "Dear God, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me and help me avoid sinning again. I do believe that your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become

the Lord of my life, to live and rule in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

If you decided to repent of your sins and receive Christ today, welcome to God's family. No rewards card necessary! Now, as a way to grow closer to Him, read His Word, the Bible. Spend time with God each day. It doesn't have to be a long period of time. Just develop a daily habit of praying to Him and reading His Word. Ask God to increase your faith and your understanding of the Bible. Tell someone else about your new faith in Christ. Seek fellowship with other followers of Jesus. Find a local church where you can worship God. Develop a group of believing friends to answer your questions and support you.

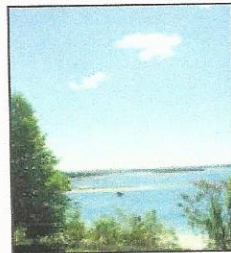


Does God Exist?

Recently I watched a video that a friend posted on a social networking site. Typically I don't view videos but this one I did.

The video starts with a man getting his hair cut in a barber shop. As he's getting his hair cut, he's reading the Bible. As he gets up to leave, the barber tells him that he doesn't believe that God exists. The man asks why. The barber responds with many questions. He questions why, if God exists, do people experience hurting? Why are so many children abandoned? Why are there sick people? He said that if God existed there wouldn't be any pain or suffering in the world. He says something to the effect of, if there is a God, why would God allow these things to happen?

The customer who just got his hair cut doesn't say much and leaves the shop. He stands outside of the door of the shop pensively and you see a long-haired man standing in the background. Then the video cuts.



By Tanya Hay

Next you see the customer and the long-haired man standing by the front door of the barber shop and the customer asks, "Do you know something? Barbers don't exist." Naturally, the barber asks why he would say that. The customer responds by saying that barbers don't exist because if they did there wouldn't be people with long hair, referring to the man he walked in with. The barber says that barbers do exist but they don't come to me. The customer immediately replies, EXACTLY!!! That is the point. GOD exists, the prob-

lem is that people don't go to Him. That is why there is so much misery and pain in this world. The barber is left speechless and the video ends.

I love the way that this man handled the barber's opinion. Everyone is entitled to an opinion, and there's no need to argue or be rude to get a point across. The customer made his point in a very literal way, that could be easily understood by the barber. He had a very effective way of making his point. The more we get to know God, the better equipped we will be to handle situations such as this. We are commissioned, as believers, to spread the Good News! This man did it very effectively and planted a seed in the barber's mind. I pray that if you are a believer, God equips you with creative ways like this to enlighten non-believers. If you are a non-believer, I pray that this short article plants a seed in your mind! God does exist!

#Reapwhatyousow
#GodExists

Ask the Pastor: Is there a Judgment After Death?

By James Moriello

Q1: Is there a sense in which the Christian will be judged after death? (Hebrews 9:27 seems to teach that there is.)

A1: Life and judgment are through the Son (John 5:24-30).

1. The basis of God's judgment is what one has decided about Jesus Christ (John 3:16-18).

2. The believer is judged to be worthy of entrance into heaven on the basis of God's work, specifically Christ's salvation work (2 Corinthians 5:21).

3. The spirit of the believer passes into heaven where God is present at the point of death of the body (Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:21-23).

4. Bodily resurrection is yet future. That occurs at Jesus' Second Coming (Matthew 25:31-46; Cf. 1 Corinthians Chapter 15).

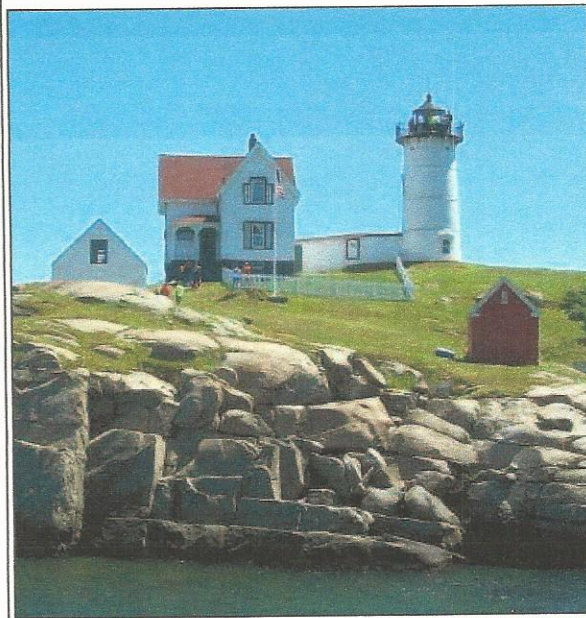
5. The final judgment is the third stage of judgment. For the believer, this is entrance into the eternal state in God's presence (Revelation 21:1 and following). For the unbeliever, this is entrance into the eternal state out of God's presence where there is torment and hell fire (Revelation 20:10-15; Cf. Mark 9:43-48).

Q2: Will the works of believers be remembered and rewarded in heaven?

A2: Yes. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 teaches this.

1. The works are not for salvation, for the believer is already positionally righteous before God. There cannot be a Purgatory or Investigative Judgment, because those concepts are contradicted by the clearer statements of John 5:24 and Luke 16:25-26.

If you have a question for the Pastor, please email it to firmfoundationri@verizon.net, or call 401-765-0107.



"Nubble Lighthouse", Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation" (Matthew 26:41)

Our Power Supply is God

By Scott Lanctot

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

Christians are to be in their right mind. They are to be prepared by prayer and reading the Word of God. Stay close to Jesus daily and be Christ centered, lest you get jammed up, knowing that you can and will pay a price for your actions. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). Vigilance is impossible for man, but it is possible with God on your side. Christ is our example to follow daily. The devil is real. He wants nothing more than to see a Christian fall short of God's glory and grieve the Holy Spirit. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Our Christian walk is

done a day at a time, because we are not promised tomorrow. Ask yourself how much time is spent daily in prayer, meditation on God's Word, and reading the Good Book (your Bible). There are no short cuts. Hard work is the answer. You will be known by your fruits, and God knows our hearts.

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Perfection is God's standard. Being human, we fall short of His Glory (Romans 3:23). Growth is the question in a Christian life. Are you more Christ-like today than when you first believed? We are constantly being changed by the hand of God daily. Hopefully this brings us more in line with God daily.

I speak from experience. My will takes me over a cliff. Without Christ in my daily life, I am a lost soul. Today, God has given me love, peace, and joy. I have meaning and purpose in my life today. Praise be to God.

Ask the Pastor: Is the Shroud of Turin a Hoax?

By James Moriello

The Shroud of Turin is a one piece burial cloth with the imprint of a crucified man on it. Carbon dating of the cloth is disputed. Some date it close to the time of Christ, while others date it over one thousand years later. The place of its discovery is also debated. It seems more likely that it was found in Turkey, and not Jerusalem. The Bible clearly indicates that the image on the Shroud of Turin is not that of Jesus. It is inconsistent on seven points. First, with the the initial stage of burial (Matthew 27:59). Second, with regard to Jewish burial custom (John 19:38-41). Third, Jesus had burial "cloths" (plural), not one piece (John 20:5-7). Fourth, the nature of the head wounds do not match the Bible record (Matthew 27:29-30). Fifth, the side wounds are also inconsistent with Scripture (John 19:34, 20:27). Sixth, the Bible says that Jesus' beard was plucked out and not mostly intact (Isaiah 50:6). Seventh, the Bible teaches that Jesus' visage was marred to the point of being unrecognizable, which is not the case with the Shroud of Turin (Isaiah 52:14). The lesson we should all take from this is that our faith in God should not be dependent in any way on artifacts (John 20:29; Hebrews 11:1).

Stations of the Cross, Stations 1-11, with Scripture and Brief Commentary

Station #1, Jesus is condemned to death

Matthew 27:22-31: "Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children." Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified."

Station #2, Jesus carries His cross

John 19:17: "And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,"

Station #3, Jesus falls the

first time

This is not recorded in the Bible. Some infer this from the fact that Simon of Cyrene was drafted into service to carry Jesus' cross.

Station #4, Jesus meets His mother

It is not recorded in the Bible that Jesus met His mother on the way to the cross, although she was present as the Lord hung on the cross.

John 19:25-27: "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home."

Station #5, Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

Mark 15:21: "Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross."

Station #6, Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

This is not in the Bible.

Station #7, Jesus falls the second time

As we had noted previously, it is not recorded in the Bible that Jesus fell.

Station #8, Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Luke 23:27-31: "And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"

Station #9, Jesus falls the third time

As we had noted previously, it is not recorded in the Bible that Jesus fell.

Station #10, Jesus is stripped of His garments

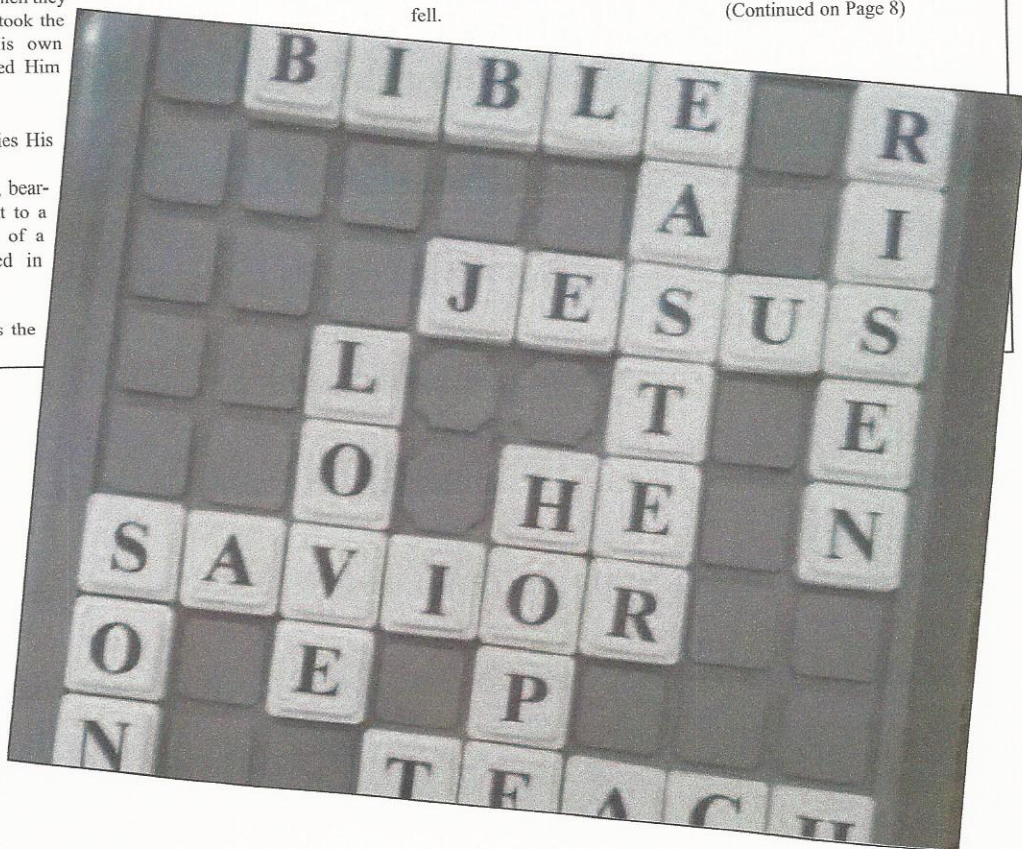
John 19:23-24: "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things."

Station #11, The crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross

Luke 23:33-34a: "And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Thus it was fulfilled what was written of Him regarding the manner of His death. Psalm 22:16c: "They pierced My hands and My feet."

(Continued on Page 8)



John 19:17: "And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,"

Stations of the Cross, Stations 12-15

By James Moriello

Station #12, Jesus dies on the cross
John 19:30: "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

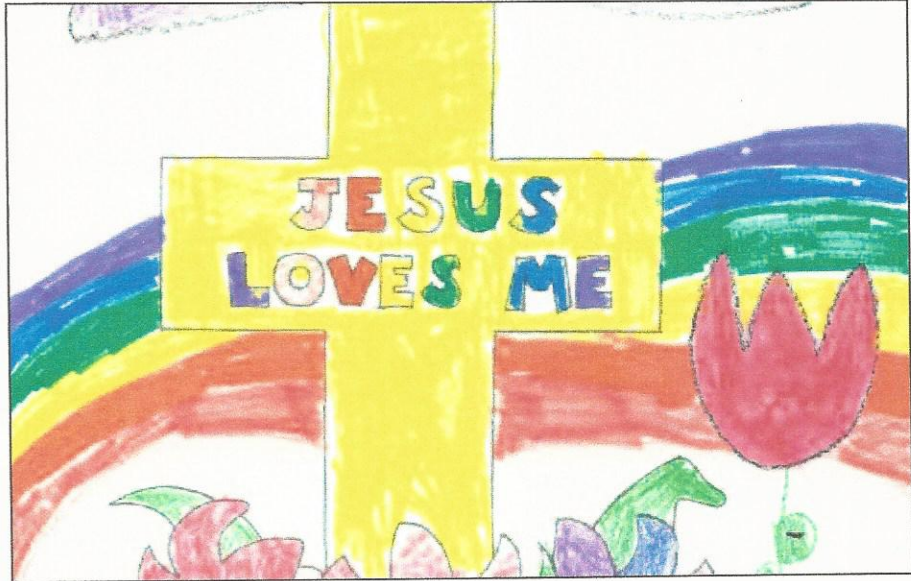
It had to be so. Hebrews 9:16-22: "For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated with-



out blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."

Station #13, Jesus is taken down from the cross

John 19:38-40: "After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who at first came to



Artwork by Alexandra Hay

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)

Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury."

Station #14, Jesus is laid in the tomb
John 19:41-42: "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews'

Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby."

Station #15, The Resurrection
Luke 24:1-7: "Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed

about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

One Mediator, Continued from Page 4

By Brian Violette

Isaiah 42:8 -

"I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images." Jesus said, in John 15:16-



Artwork by Bob Lockhart

"For He Himself is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14)

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." Notice, Jesus said ask the Father in His name, pe-

riod.

In conclusion Jesus gives instructions concerning prayer. Matthew 6:5-13: "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have

"I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. "

(Isaiah 42:8)

need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."