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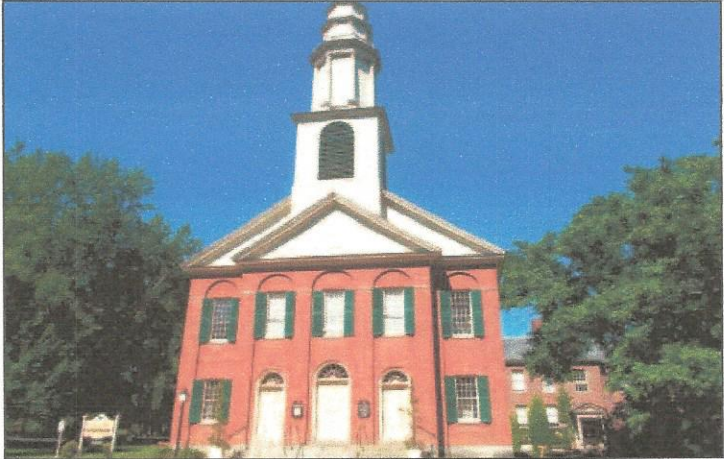
FREE

# Ten Reasons Why You Should Go To Church

## Battles That Go On

By James Moriello

1. To Worship God-(Psalm 95:6)-"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."
2. That's Where Sinners Go-(Matthew 11:28)-"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Credit for this one: Scott Lanctot
3. Because the Bible Commands It-(Hebrews 10:25)-"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together"
4. Because Jesus Instituted the Church-(Matthew 16:18)-"I will build My church"
5. To Be Part of Christian Community-(Hebrews 10:24)-"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works"
6. To Hear and Learn the Word of God-(Romans 10:17)-"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
7. As a Public Witness to Your Faith-If your family, friends, and neighbors see you prioritizing your faith visibly by going to church, they will take notice.
8. So as Not to Be a Hyp-



The Old Brick Church, Deerfield, MA. Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25)

ocrite-(1 John 4:20)-"for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" Why wouldn't a true Christian want to be with other Christians? Sure there are hypocrites in the church. But the professing Christian who will not take a public stand linking himself or

himself to Jesus Christ by showing up to worship Him is the greater hypocrite. 9. To Celebrate Communion-(1 Corinthians 11:24)-"do this in remembrance of Me." Communion is a private affair between you and God, but it is exercised within the church. 10. To Find Peace in a Trou-

bled World-(Matthew 11:29)-"you will find rest for your souls." I'll hope to see you this Sunday, at church!

When you profess you are a Christian, most people look upon you differently. And when you fall short, you will probably get 'clubbed over the head.' People are quick to see your shortcomings and let you know about them. They do not know, or they disregard, the Bible principle that when you judge someone else, you also condemn yourself (Romans 14:10-13). If you're a Christian, your life will not always be a 'bowl of cherries.' When life knocks you down, and it will, we pray, we stir up the Holy Spirit that indwells every believer, empowering the believer to win battles against the flesh. The Spirit can and will point to our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (John 15:26). Relying on Jesus Christ, we can overcome the flesh. Action on our part is the key.

(Continued on Page 8)

## Noise: "Be still, and know that I am God" - Psalm 46:10

By Tanya Hay

Last week I was talking with a friend who was born nearly deaf. A few years ago she got a cochlea implant. She said that she is amazed by how much noise there is in this world. She heard a trash bag and shuddered, and silverware, just putting silverware away, makes noise! Who knew? Amazing! I laughed seeing and hearing her animation, but it led me to think about how different hearing vs.

non-hearing is. Her world has been turned upside down. Pure silence transformed into constant noise. It reminds me of how our world is once we come to know Jesus. Our world goes from very noisy, guilt ridden, without hope, fearful, and feeling alone to much more quiet, feeling free, having hope, having trust, and knowing that we are never alone. The "noises" of this world are often beautiful. Hearing "I love you", the sound of your baby's first words, a loved ones final words, or your favorite song are

all wonderful noises. Unfortunately, most worldly noises aren't always that pleasant. When we put our trust and faith in Jesus we come to know a whole new noise. The calming quietness and reassuring stillness provided by Jesus through the Holy Spirit are heavenly noises. Once we find Jesus, we find a comforting noise in our heart and deep in our soul, and that noise is always beautiful and absolutely perfect. "Be still, and know that I am God" - Psalm 46:10



"Peaceful Stroll", By NECB Staff

"He leads me in the paths of righteousness" (Psalm 23:3)

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# Wisdom for Women: Boundaries

## Cultivating Healthy Relationships in Your Life

By Susan Moriello

Do you have problems setting boundaries? Do you feel guilty saying "no" to somebody? There are physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual boundaries that very much affect your life.

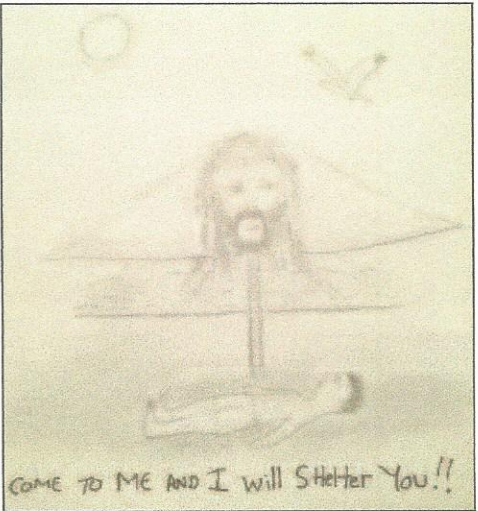
We have to set boundaries with parents, minor and adult children, spouses, siblings, relatives, in-laws, neighbors, friends, co-workers, and even bosses. Are you afraid of setting limits because you want to be loved and liked by everyone? Maybe setting boundaries makes you feel selfish, or you don't want to upset or hurt

someone else if you set a boundary with the other person.

I would like to introduce a powerful book I've read. The title is "Boundaries", and it is written by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. It uses Scripture to give guidelines for setting limits. The Bible gives us the answers we need to set these limits in a loving and compassionate way. I strongly urge you to read this book. However, if you feel you may want to study and discuss this subject, I invite you to our Women's Ministry, which meets the first Saturday of

every month at 10 am, beginning October 7th. We will be studying and discussing this book in depth among all who come. Let's allow our Savior to show us the way. If you are interested, please call us at Firm at 401-765-0107. Hope to see you there! Til next time, blessings to you and yours, in Jesus' Name.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).



Concept by Al Hay, Drawing by Alexandra Hay

"Hide me under the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 17:8b)

# Communication, Listen Twice as much as you Speak

Matthew 12:36, "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment".

By Tanya Hay

Communication is the way we talk, the way we express ourselves and connect to others, and it was the topic of July's Women's Ministry meeting.

Communication is vital in our lives, and as with everything else, God has a plan and a model for how we should do it. Do you find that many words that you say are negative? If so, soul search. The true root of the words that we speak come from our heart. Do you find that you talk a lot more than

you listen? God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason. We should listen, truly listen, before we speak. James 1:19-20 says, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." Ephesians 4:29 tells us, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." When I read this, it

reminds me that communication is a gift, and our words should build up our brothers and sisters. Our words should be encouraging to everyone around us. Proverbs 10:19 counsels, "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise." Proverbs 15:1 reads, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." It is so easy to answer angrily to someone else who is angry, but we are wisely advised to give a soft answer to tame our own anger as well that of others. Thinking before speaking in all instances is best.

Proverbs 18:13 says, "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him." How often do we stop listening halfway through someone's story? Or do we interrupt and speak before we fully understand what is being said to us? I encourage you to fully listen before speaking.

God's plan for us is to use our minds, bodies, and souls for Him. It's not often that we focus on learning some-



Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1)

thing that we think we are already good at. For these things, I'd advise to read what Proverbs 15:28 says; "The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil."

It is always wise to seek God's instruction in all things, I encourage you to

consider these things. I will close with Matthew 12:36; "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."

Other communication Scripture: Proverbs 13:3, 15:4, 17:27 and 18:2.



"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24)

## NECB Publication and Contact Information

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11)

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Phone: 401-765-0107  
Email: firmfoundationri@verizon.net  
Website: firmfoundationri.com

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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI, on Sunday mornings at 10 am and Friday

evenings at 7 pm. Our TV Bible Study airs in Northern Rhode Island on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at 10 am on Cox Channel 18 and Verizon Channel 23, and also on Rhode Island Interconnect B Channel 14 every Wednesday at 3:30 pm.

Our mission is the Great Commission, to preach and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by any and all means possible. Please call us or email us with your comments and questions.



# Christians Have a Sense of Humor Too!

Compiled by NECB Staff

You can't fool the kids in Sunday school, they are way too smart...If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven? I asked the children in my Sunday school class. 'NO!' all the children answered. 'If I



cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven? Again the answer was, 'NO!' 'Well, 'I continued,' then how can I get to heaven?' A five-year-old boy

shouted, 'You gotta be dead!'

A young woman brought her fiance home to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man. The father invited the fiance to his study for a talk. 'So what are your plans?' the father asked the young man. 'I am a biblical scholar,' he replied. 'A Biblical scholar. Hmmm,' the father said. 'Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?' 'I will study,' the young man replied, 'and God will provide for us.' 'And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?' asked the father. 'I will concentrate on my studies,' the young man replied, 'God will provide for us.' 'And children?' asked the father. 'How will you support children?' 'Don't worry, sir, God will provide,' replied the fiance. The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned, the



Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"These who have turned the world upside down have come here too" (Acts 17:6)

young idealist insisted that God would provide. Later, the mother asked, 'How did it go, Honey?' The father answered, 'He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I'm God!'

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman was furious and honked

her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back

to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, 'I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car.'

## More Christian Humor: Church Announcement Bloopers

Compiled by NECB Staff

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love.

Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

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.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several

"God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me" (Genesis 21:6)

new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

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|-------------|------------|-----------|
| ACTS        | COLOSSIANS | EPHESIANS |
| GALATIANS   | HEBREWS    | JAMES     |
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| PHILIPPIANS | REVELATION | ROMANS    |
| TITUS       |            |           |

**Join us this Sunday at 10 am as we celebrate eight years of God’s  
faithfulness to Firm Foundation.**

**Firm Foundation Christian Church**

**“A Place for You and Your Family”**

**84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket RI**

**401-765-0107**

**[www.firmfoundationri.com](http://www.firmfoundationri.com)**

**Sunday Worship, 10 am**

**Friday Bible Study, 7 pm**

# Judges Bible Trivia (From the Firm Foundation Bible Trivia Game Show)

Questions:

1. Who is the first judge listed in the Book of Judges?

2. What was the name of the son of Gideon who set himself up as a king?

3. Which prophetess was ministering in the days of Barak?

4. What # book in the Bible is Judges in most English Bibles (e.g. 1st, 2nd)?

5. Who is the second judge listed in the Book of Judges?

6. Which judge was bound by a Nazarite vow from womb to tomb?

7. Which of these three was an actual judge: Mahlon, Jotham, or Abdon?

8. Who refers to herself as a

"mother in Israel?"

9. Which tribe was almost eliminated from Israel in Judges Chapters 19-21?

10. What was Jephthah's rash vow, which he carried out with his daughter?

11. Which people group did Gideon deliver Israel from?

12. Samson met his second wife in the Valley of Sorek. What was her name?

13. Which judge accomplished military deliverance for Israel in Deborah's day?

14. I killed a thousand men with a jawbone of a donkey. Who am I?

15. Which tribe of Israel liberated Jerusalem?

16. What was Gideon doing when the Angel of the Lord first came to him?

17. Who did the men of Gibeah abuse all night and kill?

18. Which of these three things is not recorded of Samson: visited a harlot, broke through seven fresh bow-strings, killed a lion-like hero of Moab?

19. Who did the men of Gibeah first ask for to be brought out to abuse?

20. What was the secret of

Samson's great physical strength?

21. Which of these was not a judge of Israel: Shamzan, Shamgar, or Ibzan?

22. What is the meaning of the riddle told by Samson, "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet?"

23. True or False: Samson's first wife was given to his best man?

24. What did Jephthah's daughter go up to the mountain to bewail?

25. True or False: Gideon saw the Angel of the Lord face to face?

(2 Timothy 2:15)

(Answers on page 8)

## Do You Meet With Trials in the Way?

By C.H. Spurgeon

I anticipate your answer. Out of the many here present, not one has been quite free from sorrow. I think I hear one saying, "Sir, I have had more trouble since I have been a Christian than I ever had before." I met with such a case the other day; a man said to me, "I never went to a place of worship for many years and I always seemed to prosper. At last I began to think of divine things, and I attended the house of God. But since then I have had nothing but trouble." He did not murmur against God, but he did think it very strange. Friend, listen to me. These troubles are no indication that you are in the wrong way! Job was in the right way and the Lord knew it; and yet He allowed Job to be very fiercely tried. Consider that there are trials in all ways. Even the road to destruction, broad as it is, has not a path in it which avoids trial. Some sinners go over hedge and ditch to hell; if a man resolves to be a worldling, he will not find that the



PHOTO CREDIT: JIM LANDRY

"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)

paths of sin are paths of peace! The wicked may well be ill at ease—for God walks contrary to them because they walk contrary to Him. No man, be he on the throne, or on the woollack, or up in a mill, or

down in a coal pit, can live without affliction! In a cottage near a wood there are troubles as well as in the palace by the sea. We are born to trouble—if you look for a world without thorns and thistles, you

will not find it here. Then, remember, the very brightest of the saints have been afflicted.

(Continued on Page 7)



# The Good Shepherd, By James Moriello

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own" (John 10:14).

We begin by placing our text in its context. "Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own" (John 10:7-14).

We shall now take our text, the words of Christ, just as we have them. First, "I am the good shepherd." Second, "and I know My sheep." Third, "and am known by My own."

First, "I am the good shepherd." The Good Shepherd provides. Jesus begins, "I am", and so He is. Did He not call Himself "I AM...the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the

last" (John 8:58; Revelation 1:11)? As God, Jesus "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). Has the Psalmist not said, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1)? Our God, the Good Shepherd, does provide, and will provide, for our every need. The Good Shepherd nurtures. "He makes me to lie down in green pastures" (Psalm 23:2a). "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom" (Isaiah 40:11). When our earthly parents held us tight when we were young, did we not feel safe? How much more so when our heavenly Father does the same! Pray, and you shall know this to be true. Have any of you known nurturing love of this kind? Well then, accept the embrace of the Savior, "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). The Good Shepherd guides. "He leads me beside still waters" (Psalm 23:2b).

The Good Shepherd protects. Jesus protects us from the wolves of the world, and the serpent of old. "The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:11). This is how far Jesus was willing to go for you! Do you see Him lifted up, on that hill over there, that you, sheep and sinner, might go free (John 3:14)? As the Shulamite says to her beloved, so the longing soul says to Christ: "Tell me, O you whom I love, Where you feed your flock, Where you make it rest at noon" (Song of Solomon 1:7). Christ replies to you: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). "I am the good shepherd".

The second phrase in our text reads: "and I know My sheep." "Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy" (Psalm 33:18). "The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever" (Psalm 37:18). God knows His sheep in their time of trouble. "The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day

of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him" (Nahum 1:7). God knows His sheep as they go about their daily business. Consider the personal way in which Jesus related to Nathanael, who asked Jesus, "How do you know me?" To which the Lord replied, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you" (John 1:48). God knows His sheep by name. "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out" (John 10:3). God knows His sheep which love Him. "But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him" (1 Corinthians 8:3). God knows His sheep and accomplishes their hope. Though we fall short at times, "Nevertheless the solid foundation of God still stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His"" (2 Timothy 2:19).

(Continued on Page 7)



Photo Credit: NECB Staff



# WHEN I SAY, "I AM A CHRISTIAN"

By Carol Wimmer

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting, "I've been  
saved!"

I'm whispering, "I get lost  
sometimes  
That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak with human  
pride

I'm confessing that I stumble  
Needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And pray for strength to carry  
on

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success  
I'm admitting that I've failed  
And cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't think I know it all  
I submit to my confusion  
Asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect  
My flaws are all too visible  
But God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartache  
That's why I seek God's name

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority  
I only know I'm loved

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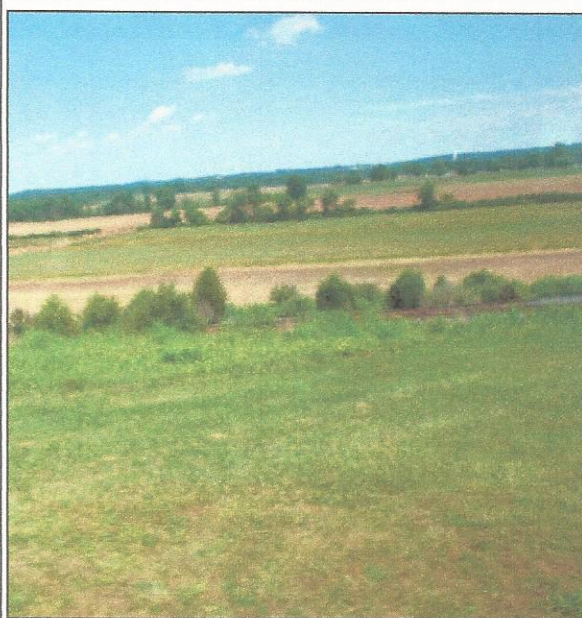


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own"  
(John 10:14)

## The Good Shepherd (Continued From Page 6)

By James Moriello

The third phrase in our text reads, "and am known by My own." Bear with me as I read an extended passage of Scripture from John's Gospel. "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and

the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves"" (John 14:1-11). If you know God the Son, then you know the Father. If you know Christ, then you know the way to heaven. Are you a wandering sheep? For you, I have good news! The Good Shepherd seeks out lost sheep like you, and all of heaven rejoices when one sinner repents, turning to God, believing that Christ's death and resurrection made the way of salvation (Luke 15:4-7). Were you once in the fold, but recently you have been astray? Come then, return then, "to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25). "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21).

## Do You Meet With Trials in the Way? (Continued From Page 5)

By C.H. Spurgeon

We have in the Bible, records of the lives of believers. Can you remember the life of a single believer who lived and died without sorrow? I cannot. Begin with father Abraham—the Lord did try Abraham. Go on to Moses, a king in Israel. Were not his trials many and heavy? Remember David and all his afflictions. Come down to New Testament times. The apostles were so tried that one of them said, "If in this life only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable." Through much tribulation they reached their rest. If the saints of God confessed that theirs was a troublous way, you need not suppose that you are out of the road because your way is full of difficulty. Is there any ocean upon which a ship can sail in which it shall be quite sure that no storms will arise? Where there is sea there may be storms; and so where there is life there will be changes, temptations, difficulties, and sorrows. Trials are no evidence of being without God—many trials come from God. Job says, "When He has tried me." He sees God in his afflictions. The devil actually worked the trouble, but the Lord not only permitted it, but He had a design in it. Without the divine concurrence, none of his afflictions could have happened. It was God that tried Job, and it is God that tries us! No trouble comes to us without divine permission. All the dogs of affliction are muzzled until God sets them free. No, against none of the seed of Israel can a dog move its tongue unless God permits. Troubles do not spring out of the ground like weeds that grow anywhere, but they grow as plants set in the garden. God appoints the weight and number of all our adversities. If He declares their number ten, they cannot be eleven; if He wills that we bear a certain weight, no one can add half an ounce more. Since every trial comes from God, afflictions are no evidence that you are out of God's way. Besides, according to the text, these trials are tests—"When He has tried me." The trials that came to Job were made to be proofs that the patriarch was real and sincere. Did not the enemy say—"Have not You made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land; but put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face." The devil will have it that as dogs follow men for bones, so do we follow God for what we can get out of Him.

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# There is Only One Gospel!

By Brian Violette

"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I nei-

ther received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:3-12).

Salvation is according to God's will, not our own. Paul begins his

epistle by reminding believers that if it weren't for the grace of God, through which they were called, believers would not even have salvation. You see, God initiated love towards sinners. God came down from heaven.

God wrapped Himself in human flesh. God lived a sinless life. God gave Himself up as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and rose on the third day. Today, Jesus our Lord and Savior is seated at the right hand of the Father. That's why Paul starts off his epistle: "Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen." So again, Paul reminds the people of the churches of Galatia that the peace that they have is from God. It is from His grace. God's grace is a necessity for salvation. It is unmerited favor available to all sinners, for salvation. It is the free gift for those who have faith by believing in the death, resurrection, and life of Jesus, God's only begotten Son.

Believe the Word of God. Know the Word of God. Use it as your source of encouragement. Use it as your source of truth. Use it as your source of hope.

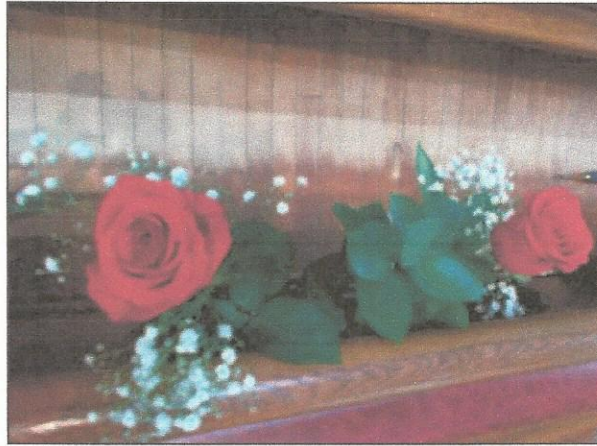


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"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine..." (2 Timothy 3:16)

## Bible Trivia Answers (With Scripture References)

For the Questions on Page 5

1. Othniel, 3:9-11
2. Abimelech, 9:1-6
3. Deborah, 4:4
4. Seventh
5. Ehud, 3:15
6. Samson, 13:7
7. Abdon, 12:15
8. Deborah, 5:7
9. Benjamin, 21:1-6
10. Sacrifice the first thing he sees upon returning from battle victorious, 11:30-31
11. Midianites, 8:28
12. Delilah, 16:4

13. Barak, 4:14
14. Samson, 15:16
15. Judah, 1:8
16. Threshing wheat in the winepress, 6:11
17. Levite's concubine, 19:25
18. Killed a lion-like hero of Moab, 16:1,8-9
19. Levite man, 19:22
20. His hair, 16:19-20
21. Shamzan, 3:31, 12:8
22. Honey, lion, 14:14,18
23. True, 14:20
24. Her virginity, 11:37
25. True, 6:22

## Do You Meet With Trials in the Way? (Continued From Page 7)

By C.H. Spurgeon

The Lord lets the devil see that our love is not bought by temporal goods; that we are not mercenary followers but loving children of the Lord, so that under dire suffering we exclaim, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." By the endurance of grief, our sincerity is made manifest—and it is proven that we are not mere pretenders but true heirs of God! Once more upon this point—if you have met with troubles, remember they will come to an end. The holy man in our text says, "When He has tried me." As much as to say, He will not always be

doing it. There will come a time when He will have done trying me. Beloved, put a stout heart to a steep hill and you will climb it before long; put the ship in good trim for a storm, and though the winds may howl for a while, they will at length sob themselves asleep; there is a sea of glass for us after the sea of storms. Only have patience and the end will come. Many a man of God has lived through a hundred troubles when he thought one would kill him; and so will it be with you. You young beginners, you that are bound for the kingdom but have only lately started for it, be not amazed if you meet with conflicts. If you very soon

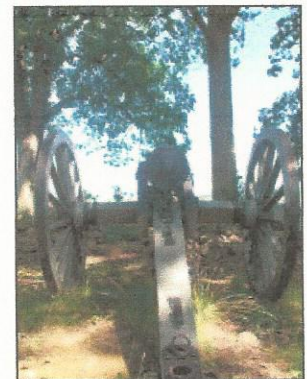
## Battles That Go On (Continued From Page 1)

By Scott Lancot

Not putting yourself in situations you ought not to be in will save a lot of headaches and heartaches. Just because you are a Christian doesn't mean that you are above worldly problems. What it does mean is that when trials come, you can go into your 'tool box' and ask for help. Ask, and you shall receive (Matthew 7:7). Is there anything too hard for our Lord and Savior? We only have to be willing to take action on what we can do. Our walk is worth it. "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against princi-

palities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:10-13).



Gettysburg, Pa. Credit: NECB Staff

"Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10)

meet with difficulties, be not surprised; let your trials be evidence to you that you are in the right, rather than that you are in the wrong way: "for what son is he whom the Father chastens not?" He that will go to hell will find many to help him there, but he that will go to heaven may have to cut his way through a host of adversaries! Pluck up your courage. The rod is one of the tokens of the child of God. If you were not God's

child you might be left unchastened; but inasmuch as you are dear to Him, He will whip you when you disobey. If you were only a bit of common clay, God would not put you into the furnace. But as you are gold, and He knows it, you must be refined; and to be refined it is necessary that the fire should exercise its power upon you. Because you are bound for heaven you will meet with storms on your voyage to glory.