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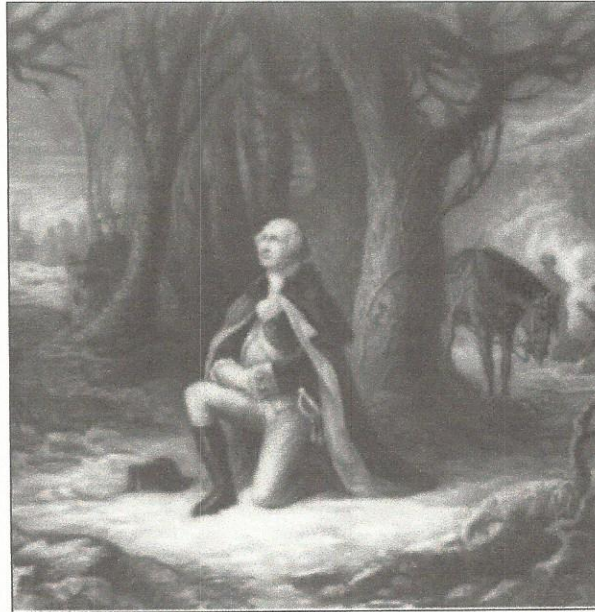
New England Christian Bulletin

Better Alone Than In Bad Company

By Chrissy Correia

George Washington was once quoted as saying, "It is better to be alone than in bad company."

Although loneliness is not a state of mind any human would willingly choose, it does often provide necessary protection from outside things. Why should any person choose to be alone, rather than being in an unhealthy atmosphere? For the same reason why a gnat should not encounter a spider and his web. The Bible teaches us in 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" Man can be curious. Man can be easily swayed. And man can also be deceived, whether it be by his own flesh or by his surroundings. By allowing ourselves to be exposed to ungodly, immoral, and blasphemous behavior, we are disregarding all freedom for which Jesus Christ paid, for



This 1866 engraving depicts George Washington praying at Valley Forge. (John C. McRae, Public Domain, Wikimedia Commons)

our souls. If God calls us according to His word, to do His will and not the will of ourselves, then why would we not guard our hearts, minds, and bodies from things that are

not of God? 1 Corinthians 6:20 reads, "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

The Sad Reality of the State of Today's Professing Church

By James Moriello

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season...For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2-3).

Although we have an ever rising number of new churches, it seems that we have fewer and fewer conservative Christian churches, which operate out of a firm conviction of Bible truth. The

reasons for this are legion, but I will note a few here.

First, the "seeker sensitive" church movement tries to present the Christian message in ways that will please the world. This approach invariably waters down the gospel by avoiding or down playing the essential Christian definitions of sin and repentance, and produces shallow disciples and unsaved church-goers.

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It's All About Jesus!

By Brian Violette

(This article is based upon the pages in Halley's Bible Handbook entitled, "Christ is the Center and Heart of the Bible")

Ten ways in which it is affirmed that Christ is the center and heart of the Bible will be demonstrated from the Word of God itself are as follows.

1. The Old Testament is focused on the Savior to come, and the New Testament is the account of the Savior that came into the world. "And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist" (Colossians 1:17). "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last" (Revelation 22:13).

2. God Himself became a Man. Jesus is God Incarnate in human form. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

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Silence: Think Before You Speak

By Tanya Hay

People often view silence as boring, uninteresting, or a sign of weakness. Silence is encouraged throughout the Bible. Here are some scriptures that support silence. Think before you speak. Before speaking, ask yourself these questions:

Is what I'm about to say true? Proverbs 4:24: "Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse

lips far from you."

Should I be listening or talking? Proverbs 13:1: "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."

Am I going to joke about sin? Proverbs 14:9: "Fools mock at sin, but among the upright there is favor."

Does it pertain to me? Proverbs 14:10: "The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy."

"He who has knowledge spares his words"

(Proverbs 17:27)

(Continued on Page 2)

Turn Towards the Light!

By Susan Moriello

Thousands of years ago, sin entered this world, and the darkness that entered with it continues to exist. Why are unborn babies murdered in their mother's womb? Why are there mass murders in schools, churches, concerts, and other places? Why is marriage not sacred anymore? Why are 'living together' and other forms of sexual immorality accepted by society? Why are we allowed to erase our history because some want to destroy our past? Why was prayer taken out of our schools? Why are so many of our churches empty? Who believes in Jesus now? Who believes in prayer?

There are so many questions that I can't answer, but I do have an opinion. We have turned away from the light of Jesus. Why? The world calls to us, and we choose to follow the world. As Christians, let us set our priorities in order, and seek to live up to God's standards, and not down to the world's standards (1 John 2:15). Instead of turning to the darkness of the world, let's turn our hearts towards the Light, who is

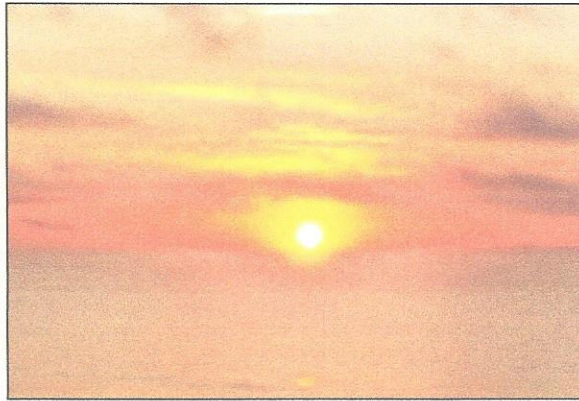


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8).

Christ! Opportunity is all around us as we go through our day to reach out and preach the Word to others (Matthew 5:16). Let us take courage and do this, one person at a time. No, we can't completely change the world, but we can try to live God's Word by doing what He

asks us to do. "Go (and) preach the Word" (Matthew 28:18; Mark 16:15; Romans 10:14-17). Let us pray, and keep praying, as we walk forward toward the Light and His peace (Galatians 6:9). Let's get our churches filled again with Christian believers!

Gleanings from Psalm 22

By Cheryl Correia

Psalm 22 was written by King David around 1,000 years before Christ's birth. It is typico-prophetically Messianic. This means that the writing refers to both the Psalmist's (David's) own experiences, and at the same time it finds its complete fulfillment through Jesus Christ. In this lament of David's difficulties, one also sees the experiences of Jesus even though Jesus is not mentioned by name. We will explore how the prophecies prove through the New Testament Gospels that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises of God.

Let us start with Psalm 22:1, where David states that he feels forsaken by God. It reads, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me? Why are you so far from helping Me, and from the words of my groaning?"

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Silence (Continued from Page 1)

By Tanya Hay

Am I angry? Proverbs 14:17: "A quick tempered man acts foolishly and a man of wicked intention is hated."

Should I be working instead of talking Proverbs 14:23: "In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty."

Will my words damage someone's reputation? Proverbs 16:27:

"An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire."

Will my words damage a friendship? Proverbs 16:28: "A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends."

Will my words give the wrong impression? Proverbs 17:27: "He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit."

Do I have all of the facts? Proverbs 18:13: "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him."

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Photo Credit: NECB Staff

Proverbs 14:23: "In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty."

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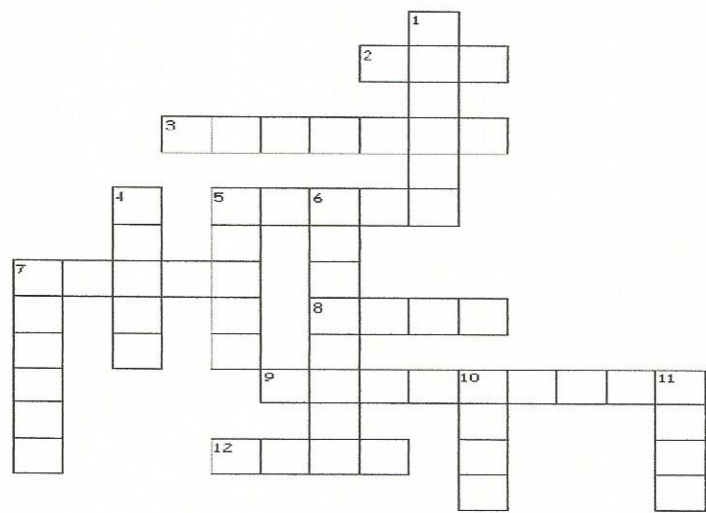
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BIBLE CROSSWORDS



- Across
- Down
2. CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

3. THE FIRST GOSPEL WRITER

5. SWALLOWED BY A FISH

7. JESUS WAS NAILED TO THIS

8. FIFTH NEW TESTAMENT BOOK

9. WHERE JESUS WAS BORN

12. HE WROTE REVELATION
1. MARY'S HUSBAND

4. SHED FOR OUR SINS

5. THE SON OF GOD

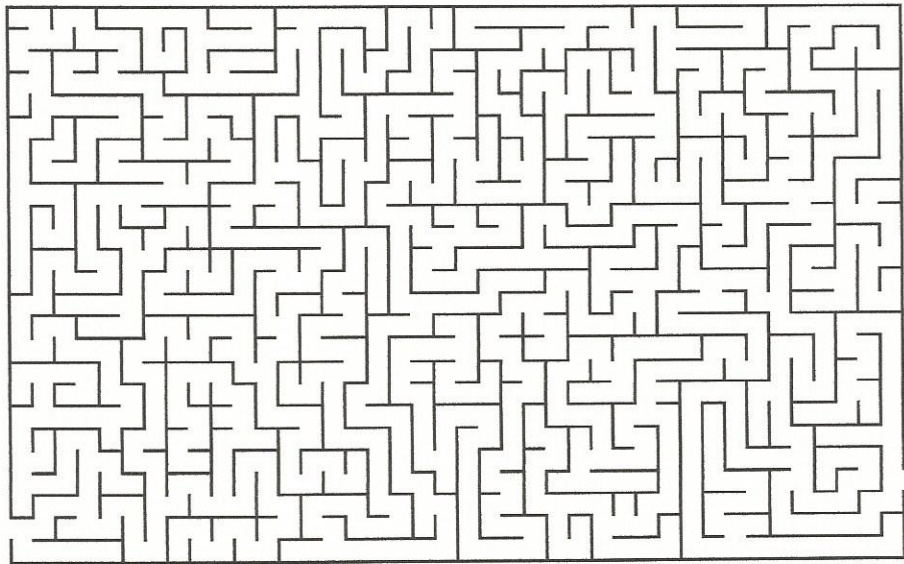
6. WHERE JESUS GREW UP

7. INSTITUTED BY CHRIST

10. THE THIRD GOSPEL WRITER

11. MOTHER OF JESUS

A-MAZE-ING MAZE!



What do I Say, When God is Everything?

By Scott Lanctot

I was seeking peace of mind that morning. The sermon was preached, and I heard hope, the gospel truth. A clear way of salvation was laid out. Believe upon Jesus Christ alone, and you will be saved (Acts 16:31). Our Living God knows and tests the heart. Have I done things by the Book, perfectly, from the hour I first believed till today? Not even close. I am a sinner in need of a Savior. The indwelling Holy Spirit is guiding me upward, and doing the will of God can and will grow my faith. Trusting upon the written Word, prayer, Bible reading, and being around like minded people can only change your life for the better. Talking about it and thinking about it only will not change you. We have to do it. Action. Change comes from faith and belief in Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit pushes us upward to our Savior. Jesus' blood has washed our sins away! We are redeemed! A believer in Jesus Christ will sin until the day he goes to be with his great God, Lord, and Savior. On this earth, we hope to grieve the Holy Spirit less and less. We are to bear good fruit, this is a "must." Growth is our goal daily, to be more Christ-like.

A person at work asked me a question, "Do you believe Jonah really lived in a belly of a great fish?" My response was, "Yes." I take God's written Word by faith, and believe it. To take it to another level, Jesus also spoke about Jonah in Matthew 12:39-40. So the question could be asked, "If you don't believe that Jonah lived in a fish for three

days, and you say you believe in Jesus Christ who died, was buried, and rose from the dead, and today is seated at the right hand of power, do you really have faith and believe?"

The Holy Bible was written for our learning, and for all to understand. It was put together by human authors, yes, but every word of it is God-inspired. from cover to cover (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). It can be likened to a puzzle, in that when you put its pieces into the proper places, everything fits perfectly, as you match Scripture with Scripture, and put it all into its proper context.

A while ago, I was asked, "Do you think a woman should preach and teach God's Word?" I responded, "What does the Bible say? Look up 1 Timothy 2:12." I'm not here to argue. What does the Bible say? I know this much from reading the Bible. People who add or subtract will not enter heaven (Revelation 22:18-19). People that don't like the message kill the messenger. There's nothing new under the sun. The Bible is clear. Repent of sin. Believe the gospel. The Ten

Commandments show us that we are all sinners in need of a Savior. The Sermon on the Mount presents a high moral standard that nobody can keep. It is a good benchmark to compare yourself to--Jesus. You will fall short, and all this is written to bring us to the Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

I've heard people say, "Christians are narrow minded." God's Word is true, to be sure. It is clearly His Word, His Book, His way. A plane makes an emergency landing, and the steward comes over the intercom, saying, "To live, you must come to the front door only, if you wish to be saved." Would you call that steward narrow minded? The Bible tells us the same thing in the spiritual realm. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Believers in Jesus Christ should have the same conviction, and not waver in what the Bible says. We should fear God more than men.

Being a Christian is not always popular. A person asked about a passage in the Bible, I showed them in black and white, and they didn't believe it, saying it was not true. What

do you do with that? Spiritual blindness. God gave us a brain to use, and He gave us the Bible in basic English. Clear cut, no "mumbo-jumbo." Most people see what they want to see, and will not do any investigation, just taking someone's word. If you call yourself a Christian, you are responsible to know the truth. What does the Bible say? Be armed with facts, not feelings. Ignorance will not fly if you want to be a Christian. We have to keep growing in the faith daily, the Spirit guiding us. Seek God's will, put on faith, and believe Jesus Christ when He said, "Without Me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). People want reason, the how and why, how the Red Sea parted and how the walls of Jericho fell down with blows of trumpets. Take a look at Hebrews 11:1. Our God is all powerful, all knowing. Is there anything too hard for God to handle? His ways are not our ways, nor can we understand them, so we take it by faith. Stand for something, or you will fall for anything. I leave you with this, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

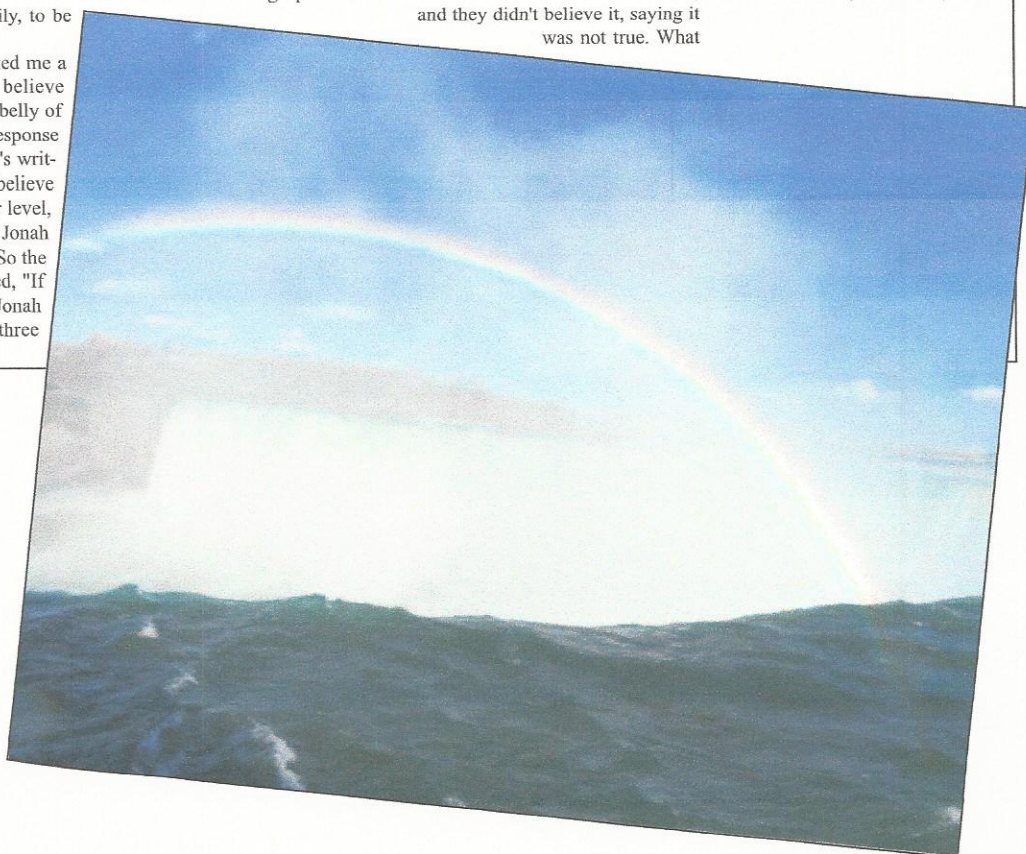
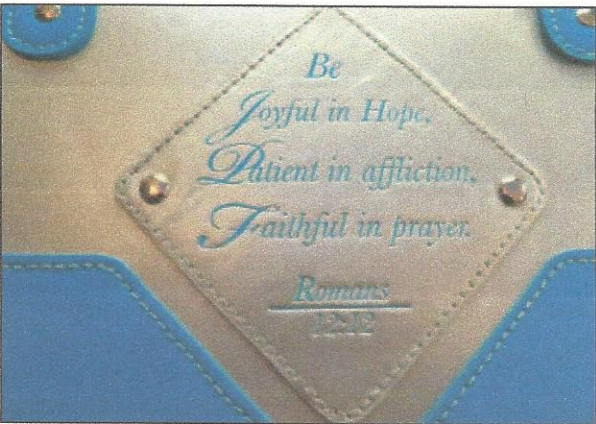


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay



"rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer"

It's All About Jesus! (Continued from Page 1)

By Brian Violette

3. Consider the Kind of Person God is. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 'For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?' For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:33-36).

4. Jesus died on the cross to take away the sins of the world and be known as Savior, "who Himself bore bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

5. The resurrection of Jesus is the most important fact in history. "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead" (Acts 10:40-41).

6. The Bible is built around Jesus and His promise of eternal life, "and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform" (Romans 4:21). "And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life" (1 John 2:25).

7. The Bible was written so that men believe, know, and love God. "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" (John 3:16), "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11).

(Continued on Column to the Right)

Silence (Continued from Page 2)

By Tanya Hay

Will I have to eat my words later? Proverbs 18:21: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Will I regret saying this? Proverbs 21:23: "Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles."

Am I praising wickedness? Proverbs 24:24: "He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him."

In closing, Psalm 46:10 instructs us to "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

It's All About Jesus (Continued from Column on the Left)

By Brian Violette

8. Our eternal destiny is in His hand. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Matthew 6:23).

9. Follow the teachings of Jesus. "Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall" (Matthew 7:24-27).

10. Apart from the hope of Christ, what is there? "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

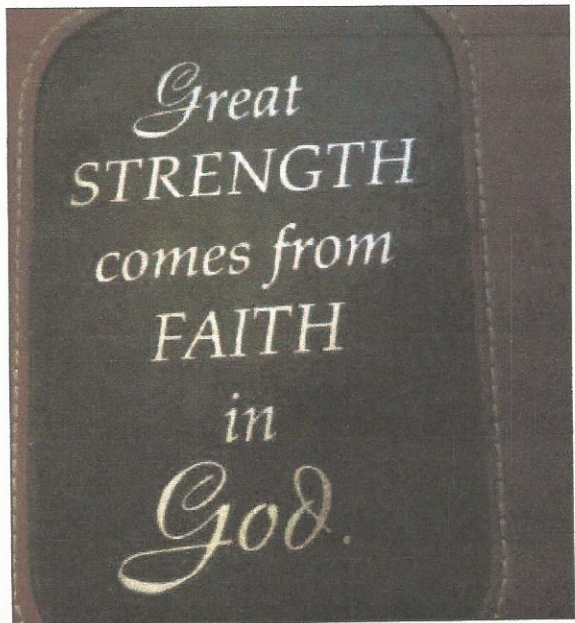
Gleanings from Psalm 22 (Continued from Page 2)

By Cheryl Correia

David's prophetic language finds its fulfillment as Jesus quotes it on the cross. "And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46).

Both David and Jesus were mocked, insulted, and both called to the LORD God. Psalm 22:7-8 reads, "All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him."" Psalm 22:17 also refers to being mocked and insulted, and reads, "I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me." The Messianic fulfillment recorded in Luke 23:35-39 reads, "And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.""

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"The LORD is the strength of my life" (Psalm 27:1)

"The Wells of Salvation", By James Moriello

"Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3)

Isaiah Chapter Twelve is the 'Hymn of Praise of God's Redeemed.' "And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'" Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And in that day you will say: "Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!" (Isaiah 12:1-6).

I can picture this song as the third number in God's heavenly hymn book, alongside the "Song of Moses" (Exodus 15) and the "Song of the Lamb" (Revelation 15:3-4). This is the greatness of our God, who promises a better day for all His people, saying, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am

the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts" (Revelation 21:4-6). This "water of life" is in heaven indeed, but it is available on earth also. "Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

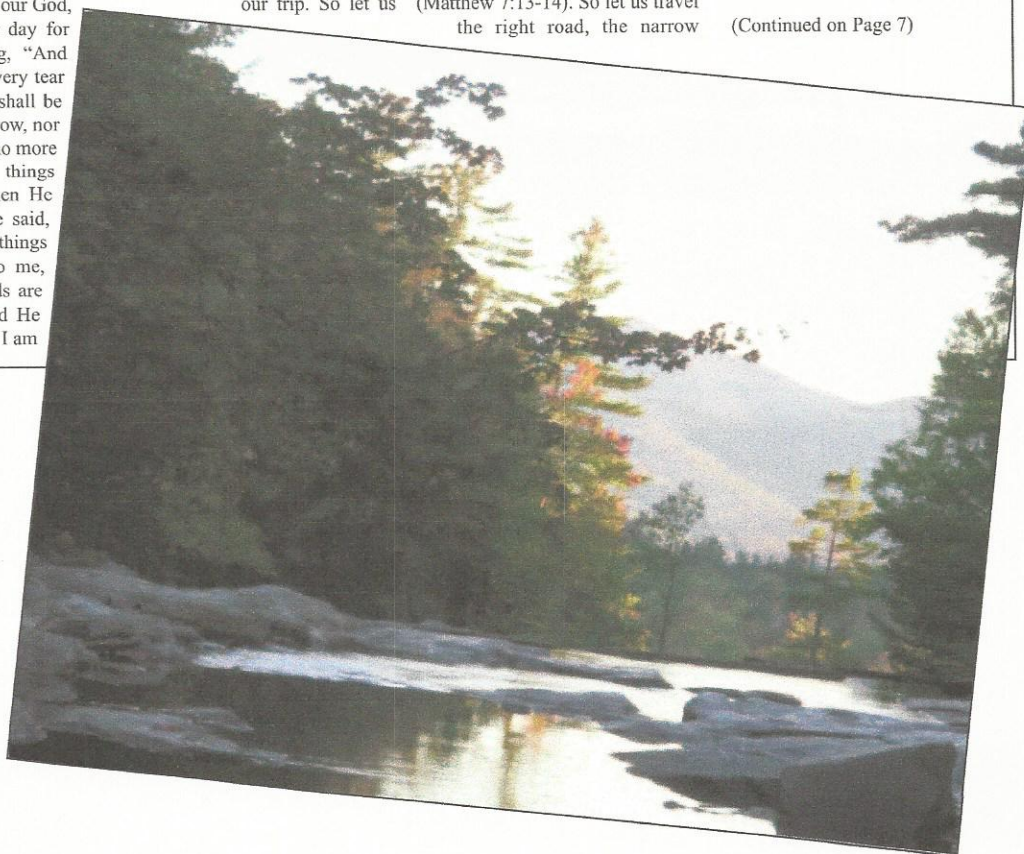
Today we shall go together to the "wells of salvation." When we arrive there, we shall draw water from these wells together. In Bible times, it was customary for women only to go to the wells for water, and usually only at specific times of day (its beginning and end). But this morning, we shall all go, for the "wells of salvation" are drawn from by men and women, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, black and white (Galatians 3:28). If we arrive there at an off hour, perhaps we shall be surprised who we may meet there. The "wells of salvation" require great strength and stamina to be reached. Many have set out to journey to them on their own strength, and none of these have reached the wells. But Christ "Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17), and offers us His strength for our trip. So let us

now pray, "Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage" (Psalm 84:5). Then let us proceed. Beware of the "viper's eggs" on the way, for they often hatch when we least expect. Watch also for the "spider's webs", lest you be entrapped by them (Isaiah 59:5). Did you see the man who started out with us who fell by the wayside? I do not know his name, but some are speculating that his name was "You." In that man, the Scriptures were fulfilled which say, "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small" (Proverbs 24:10), and "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). There is a fork in the road now, and we are beginning to get tired. There are two roads ahead. They appear to run parallel. Both seem to head in the direction of the "wells of salvation." The left road looks wide and smooth, but the right road looks narrow and bumpy (cf. Matthew 25:33-34). I remember reading that "broad is the way that leads to destruction" and "difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). So let us travel the right road, the narrow

road, single file. Stay close to the people in front of you and behind you, lest any are tempted to go "in the way of Cain", for we must each be our "brother's keeper" (Jude 11; Genesis 4:9). The sons of Korah are ahead of us on the road. I hear them singing "as they pass through the Valley of Baca (Weeping)" (Psalm 84:6). I am sure that they will make it to the "wells of salvation", because it is written, "They go from strength to strength: Each one appears before God in Zion" (Psalm 84:7). Here we are, at the "wells of salvation." It is "about the sixth hour" now, and there is a Samaritan woman here drawing water (John 4:6). I have heard of this woman. She is promiscuous, having had several men, and is even now living in sin. Maybe this is why we find her here at this off hour. The sign by the wells says, "Ask for a drink. Then you may drink from the wells of salvation" (Cf. John 4:10; Isaiah 12:3). There is a Man here, clothed in white raiment, and I have heard that the "wells of salvation" are His "purchased possession", having been bought by "His blood" (Ephesians 1:14, 1:7).

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Photo Credit:
Tanya Hay



Life Stinks and Then You Die

By Tanya Hay

Recently, I had a conversation with someone who told me, "Life stinks and then you die. You get buried and that's the end of it." Let's call this person Pal for simplicity sake. I asked Pal if he really believed that. He said, "Yes, don't you?" I said, "No, the Bible tells us that isn't true." He asked me if I've read the Bible and he asked why I don't agree. I answered with a few things. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God," In Acts 16:30-31, we read, "And he brought them out and said 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.'" In John 11:25-26 we read, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" I asked Pal if he believed this, and he said, "Yes, but do you know me? I'm not going to heaven." I told him that there is no sin too great to be forgiven by God. 1 John 1:9 reads, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God didn't say only some sins. He promises to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness! I reiterated that we are saved by faith, not by works, and mentioned John 3:16, "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."

(Continued on Page 8)



Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"You will show me the path of life" (Psalm 16:11)

Gleanings from Psalm 22 (Continued from Page 5)

By Cheryl Correia

If anyone has seen movies depicting the suffering and thirst that the Messiah experienced, note Psalm 22:15, which reads, "My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death." This prophecy is fulfilled in John 19:28 at His crucifixion. "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst.'"

Interestingly, King David lived around 1,000 years before Christ, yet he prophetically records hands and feet being pierced. The Romans perfected crucifixion during Jesus of Nazareth's day. Psalm 22:16 reads, "For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet." How could King David know that Jesus of Nazareth would fulfill this? Thus, the inspiration of God was fulfilled as Matthew 27:31 records, "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."

The prophecy of the soldiers casting lots for Christ's garments in Psalm 22:18 reads, "They di-

vide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." This is fulfilled in Mark 15:24: "And when the crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take." A bit more information is given in 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."

The Bible is the greatest book ever written, as it is the inspired Word of God. History agrees that King David lived many centuries before Jesus of Nazareth, yet he penned Psalm 22, which is about the then future Messiah. The Gospels record specific verses confirming the dual applicability of Psalm 22 to King David and Jesus. This is one more proof that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises of God.

"The Wells of Salvation" (Continued from Page 6)

By James Moriello

Let us ask Him (His Name is Jesus) if we may draw from the "wells of salvation." I hear Him say, "Let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). The owner of these wells is inviting us to draw water! Let us draw water from the "wells of salvation" together. There are a great many earthenware pitchers here. And the owner of the place invites us to take of them freely and fill them! Let us draw deeply from the first well. This is the water of the Well of Christ's Yoke. Look at Rebekah easily carrying her pitcher on her shoulder (Genesis 24:15). Let us do likewise. Do you feel lighter all of a sudden, or is it just me? This is what the Lord has said: "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:29-30). Over there, our sister is drawing from the second well. This is the Well of Love and Joy! This calls to mind the Scripture which says, "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:9-11). We have come to God's wells through Jesus Christ His Son, and received help and joy. "Let us go away now", someone is saying in a serpent voice. No, friends. Let us wait. The Lord of the place is coming to us, bearing another pitcher from a third well. He hands it to us, saying, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). Then silence. And our souls hear, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5). I don't know about you, but I'm content to dwell here by the "wells of salvation." I'm not leaving to go back to the old country, for this country is far better. I can speak for myself. But I cannot speak for you. Let us pray.

Life Stinks and Then You Die (Continued from Page 7)

By Tanya Hay

Then I referred to another Bible story. I told Pal the story of Jesus on the cross and how he had two criminals being crucified with Him. Luke 23:39-43: "Then one of the criminals who were hanged



blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you

are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Jesus forgave a murderer being crucified because he believed, and He told him that that very day he would be with Him in Paradise! Long story short, I urge you, as I urged Pal, to read about God's promises in the Bible, and confess all of your sins to God (even though He already knows all of it). He forgives and assures us



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"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" (John 3:16).

that we are saved by faith alone. Heaven is real and hell is real. At the end of this journey, one of those places will be your eternity. Your physical body will die, but your spirit will live on in one place or the other. Life may "stink" (although I am certain that we can all find blessings in every single day), but once you die you'll go to one of two places. You may be cast

into the fiery pit of hell. Matthew 13:41-42 says, "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Or you may live in a place of endless joy! Revelation 21:4 tells us that "God will wipe away

every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." I pray that both you and Pal have found these truths assuring and beneficial. I pray that you read these truths for yourself in a Holy Bible. I also pray that by faith you are saved by the grace of God. Amen.

The Sad Reality of the State of Today's Professing Church (Continued from Page 1)

By James Moriello

Second, the "entertainment" church model uses worldly entertainment means couched in Christian lingo to "engage" the culture. Invariably, four things happen. Congregants are reduced to consumers. Congregational singing

disappears, as the "worship team" performs. Biblical truth is redefined to "engage" the culture. And eventually, someone else plants a church that entertains better, paving the way for the inevitable decline and closure.

Third, many churches, particularly the older mainline Protestant

denominations that have become liberal, increase their ecumenical activity, even at the price of compromising core beliefs.

Fourth, families are split along generational lines, as the younger folks congregate together in their own enclaves. This deprives the sound gospel preaching churches of youth, while also depriving the unwitting younger folks of the wisdom of the aged.

Fifth, preaching is not what it ought to be in many places. There ought to be a biblical text, numerous biblical references and contents in the sermon, a clear presentation of the gospel, and sound doctrinal content. Sermons are not a series of stories designed to entertain. We have comedy and social clubs for that.

Sixth, gender distinctions are ignored. Galatians 3:28 teaches that salvation is available to all. But men should stand up to the plate and be our Pastors and Deacons,

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season."

(2 Timothy 4:2)

serving with sacrificial love, and modeling a marriage based on Ephesians 5:22-33.

What shall we do then? The situation is not without hope. There are still doctrinally sound churches out there. Go to a church where you will hear what you need to hear, not what you want to hear. Visit one, join one, and it may be, if enough of us do that, we will know revival in our midst, despite the prevailing apostasy of the professing church. "O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years" (Habakkuk 3:2).

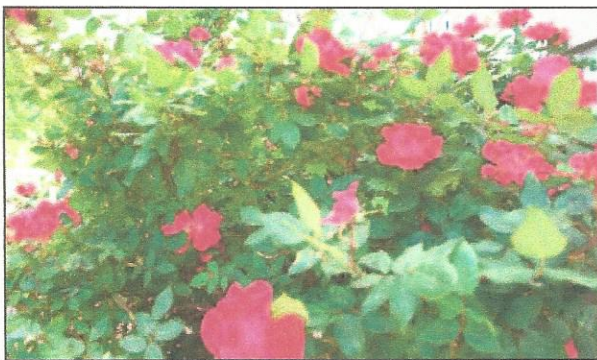


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"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:3)