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# New England Christian Bulletin

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FREE

## Trending: The Significance of the Communion Table (What it Means and Who should Partake)

By James Moriello

The Communion Table is celebrated by Christians in obedience to the command of Jesus Christ to "do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19). There are two elements of which we partake. One is bread, which is usually unleavened to signify the sinlessness of the Savior. The bread represents the broken body of the Lord. The other is the fruit of the vine, which represents the shed blood of the Savior. Some churches use actual wine (often diluted with water), since that is the most authentic representation of the Passover, which was celebrated at the Last Supper with fermented drink. At Firm Foundation, we use grape juice exclusively, out of respect for any brothers and sisters who may have a problem with alcohol. The significance of Communion is seen in past, present,



Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"Do this in remembrance of Me" (1 Corinthians 11:24)

and future aspects. We celebrate "in remembrance", we do it "often", and we continue "till He comes" again (1 Corinthians 11:24-26). Frequent ques-

tions arise as to the nature of the elements and who should partake, and we shall answer these questions biblically. (Continued on Page 5)

## The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth

By Scott Lanctot

We are all born in the image of God. We might look different, talk different, and come from different backgrounds, but this one fact is true. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). When you come to Jesus by faith, repent of sin, and believe upon Jesus as your Savior, then Romans 3:24 comes into play: "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Ei-



Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32)

ther you believe this statement or not. Just because you don't believe it does not make it not true. Read the Bible and find out if these things are true. "Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure

than his Maker?" (Job 4:17). Some very humbling questions are asked of us, where we are all sinners in need of a Savior. The blood of Jesus paid the price for all man's sins. (Continued on Page 4)

## The End: Have You Considered Your Final Destination?

By Tanya Hay

There are some days you wish you could stay in forever, you wish they would never end... that perfect vacation day, a day where you feel great and all goes well, a day surrounded by your favorite people. On the other hand, there are some days that can't end soon enough... those days where everything seems to go wrong, a day where you aren't well, or someone you love is ill. No matter what the day, each day is a gift from God. He is by your side whether the day is good or bad. He will never leave you nor forsake you. To-

morrow may or may not come, and if it does, there's no guarantee of anything except for His love and His accompaniment every step of the way. Live for today and ask Him to walk with you, whatever kind of day you're having. Remember, today will go according to His plan, not yours. Be grateful for the good and the bad, it's another day here on this earth. Let's face it, each day, good or bad, ends in a mere 24 hours. I urge you to accept Jesus into your heart because the day you die will be the end of your earthly life. From this life you will go to one of two places forever. One is a great place to spend eternity, a place of no tears, perfect harmony.

Heaven. It is by faith alone that you earn this reward. The other is a place that you will wish away, a place of eternal fire and gnashing of teeth. Hell. A place for all who don't believe. Have you considered your final destination? Will you chose to spend eternity in a place that you want to stay forever or a place that can't end soon enough? The end of this life is not the end. If you haven't already, I urge you to take time now to consider and choose your final destination wisely... because you never know when you'll be faced with your earthly end.

# Children: God's Treasures on Earth

By Susan Moriello

We all know that our treasure is in heaven with the Lord, but what is our treasure on earth? Our treasures on earth are our children, the future of this world.

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, neighbors, or anyone that has contact with children, make time for them. Maybe just a smile, a word of encouragement, listening to their problems, or some small act of kindness. We need to be a light for our children by showing them how to live by our example. Let us allow them to see our patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control, and most of all, love.

Our children really want to know and feel acceptance and love. I have seen what a difference this makes in a child's life. I have the privilege of working with children every day, and as much as I choose to be a blessing to them, I have found the

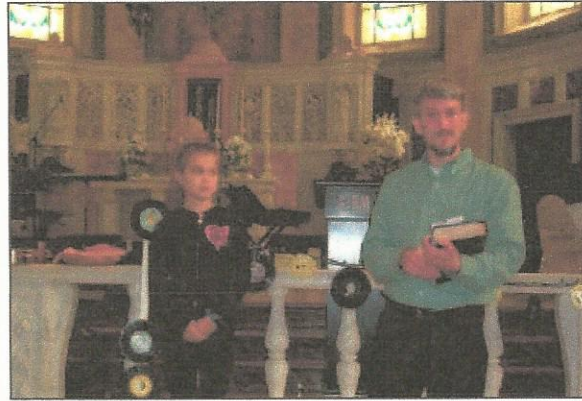


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

Above: Arianna Hay celebrates partaking of Communion for the first time.

reverse to be true, what a blessing they are to me!

Please make a decision now to spend time with a child that has touched your life. Believe me, the blessings will be yours. Make a dif-

ference. Whether it be small or large, we'll probably never know the results, but it is so worth our time.

(Continued on Page 3)

# Trust God: Don't Be Fearful Or Worry

By Belinda Lanctot

For years I suffered with fear and worry. Even though I'm a Christian, I still allowed these things to take control of me. I would worry about finances, my children, or even a large bill I had to pay. Worry and fear controlled me. Now, I have learned not to be fearful or worry anymore. God says, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:25-26).

(Continued on Page 4)

## Scriptures Relating to Children

Compiled by NECB Staff

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

"But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your fa-

ther and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4).

"But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?'" (Matthew 21:15-16)



Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me" (Mark 9:37a)

## NECB Publication and Contact Information

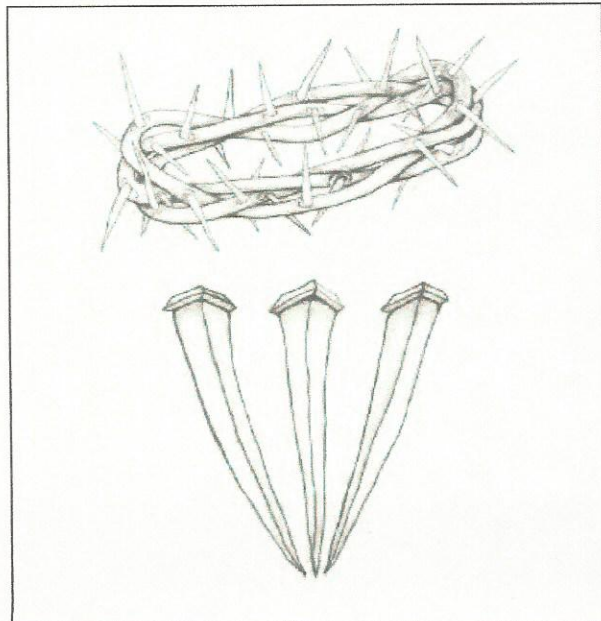


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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI, on Sunday mornings at 10 am and Friday evenings at 7 pm. Our TV Bible Study airs in Northern Rhode Island on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at 10 am, on Cox channel 18 and Verizon channel 23. 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 or questions.



# The Children and Their Hosannas (An Excerpt from the Sermon)

By C.H. Spurgeon

As to faith, I am sure that no one who has seen converted children will ever doubt their capacity for faith. In the hand of God's Spirit, a child's capacity for faith is, in some respects, greater than that of a grown-up. At any rate, the faith of children is usually far more simple than that of adults. They take the Word of God as they find it

and they believe it to be the very Truth of God. They read it fairly and they do not put glosses thereon, or degrade it with interpretations gathered from the schools or from the current philosophies. God's Book means to them just what it says. No undertone of doubt mars the music of the promises. They accept the Word as it ought to be accepted, as the sure testimony of God's mouth. They believe and have little unbelief to struggle with! They believe

and are sure and, therefore, theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven! You must have noticed how vivid their faith is. The Gospel is all fact to them and they seem to see it before their eyes! They feel it and believe it and, in their child-like way, they act upon it. They expect great things and look for them in everyday life. They sometimes look for them in a shape in which they will never see them, but still, that is much better than

never to expect at all and so to miss seeing the Glory of God. Jesus is to children no mere Character in history. He is with them, and their eyes behold Him! The Master's word is to them what He meant it to be, and they expect to realize it and to see it fulfilled in their own experience. Hence, some holy children are far in advance of us poor questioners who are cracking the nut while the little ones have eaten the kernel!

## Children: God's Treasures on Earth (Continued From Page 2)

By Susan Moriello

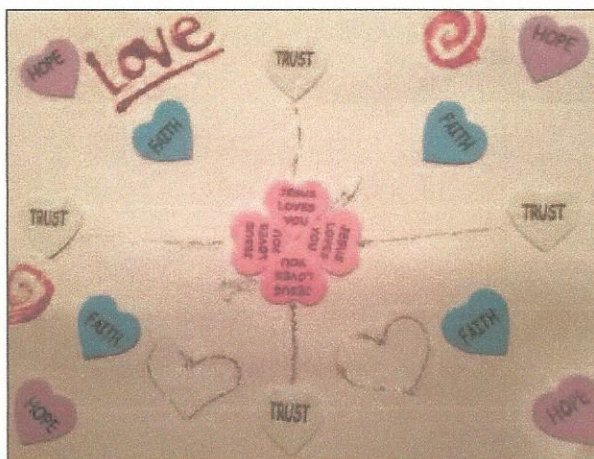
On the other hand, we sometimes see the change that we've made in that child's life. What a beautiful thing to see; the transformation of a troubled child into a confident and happy child. Remember that the Lord has given us these treasures to protect, admonish, teach, and raise in His Word. But most of all, to love! I pray that you rise up to meet this

challenge. Til next time, prayers and blessings to all.

P.S.: Have a wonderful, peaceful, and joyful summer!

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



Artwork by Alexandra Hay

"Even a child is known by his deeds, Whether what he does is pure and right" (Proverbs 20:11)

### Children are Treasures

G N I S S E L B U H  
 E Y E C N E I T A P  
 N E R D L I H C M R  
 T S U S E J P L Y A  
 L H S I N O M D A I  
 E G A R U O C N E S  
 N H E R I T A G E E  
 E P R O T E C T V D  
 S S T E A C H D O G  
 S S E N D N I K L Z

- |           |            |          |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| ADMONISH  | BLESSING   | CHILDREN |
| ENCOURAGE | GENTLENESS | GOD      |
| HERITAGE  | JESUS      | KINDNESS |
| LOVE      | PATIENCE   | PROTECT  |
| RAISE     | TEACH      | TREASURE |

## The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth (Continued From Page 1)

By Scott Lanctot

God's hope is that all men come to Him. The reality is that not all will accept Jesus. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). Grace is a gift we do not deserve. What we deserve is separation from God. "For this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sin" (Matthew 26:28). Some might say that Jesus was a prophet, a righteous man, and a miracle worker. The fact is that Jesus is God. The demons believe and tremble. Beware of contempt prior to investigation. Don't take my word for it. Read your Bible and find out if these things are so. Christians walk by faith, not by sight, daily. The Holy Spirit came to you, and on that day you were sealed. Our goal is to strive to be more Christ-centered daily. The righteous might fall, but will get up with the power of God. For we are only flesh. If you say you have no sin, the truth is not in you. The Bible would label you a fool. Being right in God's eyes is far more important than being right in man's eyes. The world is passing away, but God's Word will last forever. Walking with God in this ungodly world is tough. You will have valleys and mountains, but your walk is never alone. "For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). When your ticket is punched, that's it. Either you spend eternity in heaven with God, or eternity separated from God in hell. I didn't write the Bible. I am just saying God's truth. We all have choices to make. We will all reap what we sow in this life, and it goes by like a vapor. I pray that you pick Jesus.

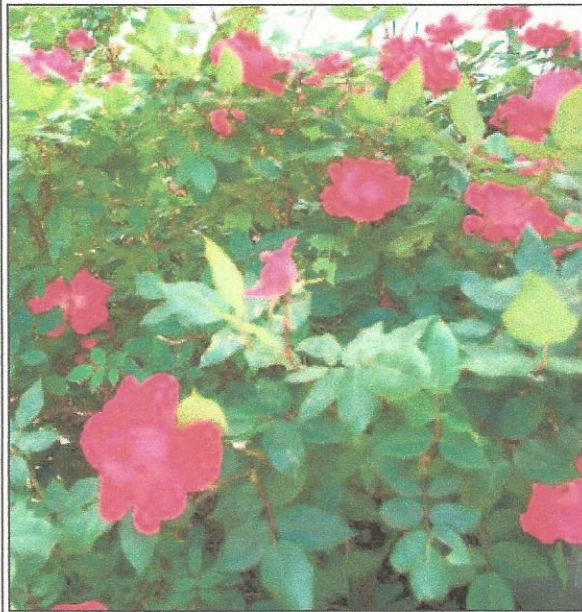


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God." (Isaiah 41:10a)

## Trust God: Don't Be Fearful Or Worry (Continued From Page 2)

By Belinda Lanctot

I prayed for years for God to take my worry and fear away, but every time a crisis would arise, there I was worrying and fearful, again. I kept asking myself why I would put myself through that when I knew God was on my side. Jesus says, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" (Matthew 8:26). Did I really have enough faith? I would pray and ask myself that question. Worrying and being fearful can take control of a person and it actually is lack of faith in God. It can consume people and pull them away from God. Worrying and being fearful is giving in to the devil. The devil will always try to put doubt in your mind. Philippians 4:6 says, "Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." How many times I would ask myself, "Why do you keep putting yourself through this?", when the solution was simple. Today I'm a different person. God has taught me through the Scripture to change my way of reacting.

Second Corinthians 5:7 says, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." God may not always answer when we want Him to, but He always answers on time. Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches and glory by Christ Jesus." A burden has been lifted from me. I pray daily, read God's Word, and keep the faith no matter what I'm going through. God always works it out for the best. I have peace in my life today. Philippians 4:7 says, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." What good comes from worrying or being fearful? It doesn't only affect you emotionally, but it can also make you physically sick. Matthew 6:27 says, "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?" Always remember, pray daily, read God's Word, and keep the faith! Job 8:5 says, "If you would earnestly seek God and make your supplication to the Almighty." Let go and let God take control.

## Hesed: Faithful Loving Kindness Expressed in Action

By James Moriello

"Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" (Ruth 2:20, NKJV).

The Hebrew word "hesed" is translated "kindness." Hesed is a very rich word which has shades of meaning that go beyond a one-word translation. The idea is of faithfulness, covenant keeping, loyalty, love, kindness, and constancy. Hesed is something that may be said to be a composite of divine attributes. In fact, the word is often used of God in Scripture, although it is sometimes used of men and women. Perhaps the best approximation of this to today's culture on the human love is seen in the marriage vows. What a man and a woman are promising one another can be reduced to one Hebrew word: hesed. In light of these truths, please consider our text (Ruth 2:20) after the following manner. I pray that you are as blessed in doing so as I was in preparing a recent sermon.

In the Book of Ruth, we see the providential hand of God working through human events. God showed his kindness to Naomi and Ruth by providing for them physically, guiding them through unknown circumstances and trials, and showering them with spiritual blessings. Although Elimelech was already dead, God raises up Boaz as the means to show kindness to him and his family. Let us consider how God works the same ways in our lives. The capstone of His work is the provision of the Savior, Jesus Christ. God's kindness to you and I is clearly seen in the revelation of Him in the New Testament. This kindness of God brings meaning to our lives, and eternal life, even in death. Consider this kindness of God carefully, and choose your response to the kindness inherent in God's gospel accordingly.

"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)



## The Holy Ordinance of Communion (Continued From Page 1)

By James Moriello

First, let us consider who should and should not take communion. There are two biblical qualifications for participation in the Communion Table. One must be a believer, and one must also be in right standing before God. To be in right standing with God, one must have a repentant heart with regard to sin, and not be intending to continue in that sin and/or sinful lifestyle. Consider the following Scriptures. "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons" (1 Corinthians 10:21). "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning

the Lord's body" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Some churches have an open table, where any Christian in right standing before God may partake. Other churches have a closed table, meaning that they have certain additional rules to partake in their church, such as church membership or membership of a particular denomination. My position is that the local church does not have a warrant to exclude members of the universal church, which is the open table. But we also ought to respect the rules of the church if they have a closed table and refrain, so as not to bring offense. When in Rome, do as the Romans do. There has been great debate within Christendom as to the exact nature of the elements. There are three positions on this. There is the Transubstantiation view, which is the Roman Catholic view, which teaches that the bread

and wine are changed in substance into the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ during the Mass. The second view is Consubstantiation, which is often associated with the Lutheran church. teaches that the bread and wine coexist with the body and blood of Christ at the Communion Table. The third view is the Reformed view, which teaches that the

"Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you"" (Luke 22:20)

bread and wine represent the body and blood of Christ, but in no way become the actual body and blood of the Savior. This is clearly the view which lines up with the Bible. One of the rules of hermeneutics, or Bible interpretation, is that we take things in a literal sense unless the context is clearly figurative. In the institution of the Lord's Supper, Jesus was clearly speaking figuratively. When He said that the bread was His body and the wine His blood, this was not literally true. Jesus was still

there among the Apostles at that very moment. In John Chapter 6, Jesus says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him" (John 6:53-56). Again, the language is clearly figurative, for as Jesus spoke these words, they were not literally true. We conclude then, that the intent of the Lord was to create a visual symbolic ordinance to be observed as a memorial to His work on our behalf. In celebrating this memorial, we receive present benefits of close communion with God and His people, and are ever reminded of His blessed promise that He is coming back soon.

## Eternal Security: Twenty-One Proofs of the Biblical Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints, By James Moriello

Here are 21 Bible texts (NKJV) which teach beyond a shadow of a doubt that the true believer in Christ cannot lose his or her salvation, justification, or positional standing before God. The doctrine of eternal security, also known as the perseverance of the saints, and once-saved always-saved, is found throughout the New Testament, and gives the believer great hope. Those who deny this doctrine and teach otherwise (falsely) confuse Scriptures dealing with salvation and justification with Scriptures dealing with daily communion, professing unbelievers, and various other topics. Some of their supposed evidences supporting their false doctrine are found at the end of this article, with my response.

1. "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

2. "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).

3. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

4. "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).

5. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from

death into life" (John 5:24).

6. "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:37-40).

7. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one" (John 10:27-30).

8. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1-2).

9. "Much more then, having now been justi-

fied by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation" (Romans 5:9-11).

10. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1-2).

11. "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified" (Romans 8:29-30).

12. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep

for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35-39).

13. "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire" (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

14. "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee" (2 Corinthians 1:20-22).

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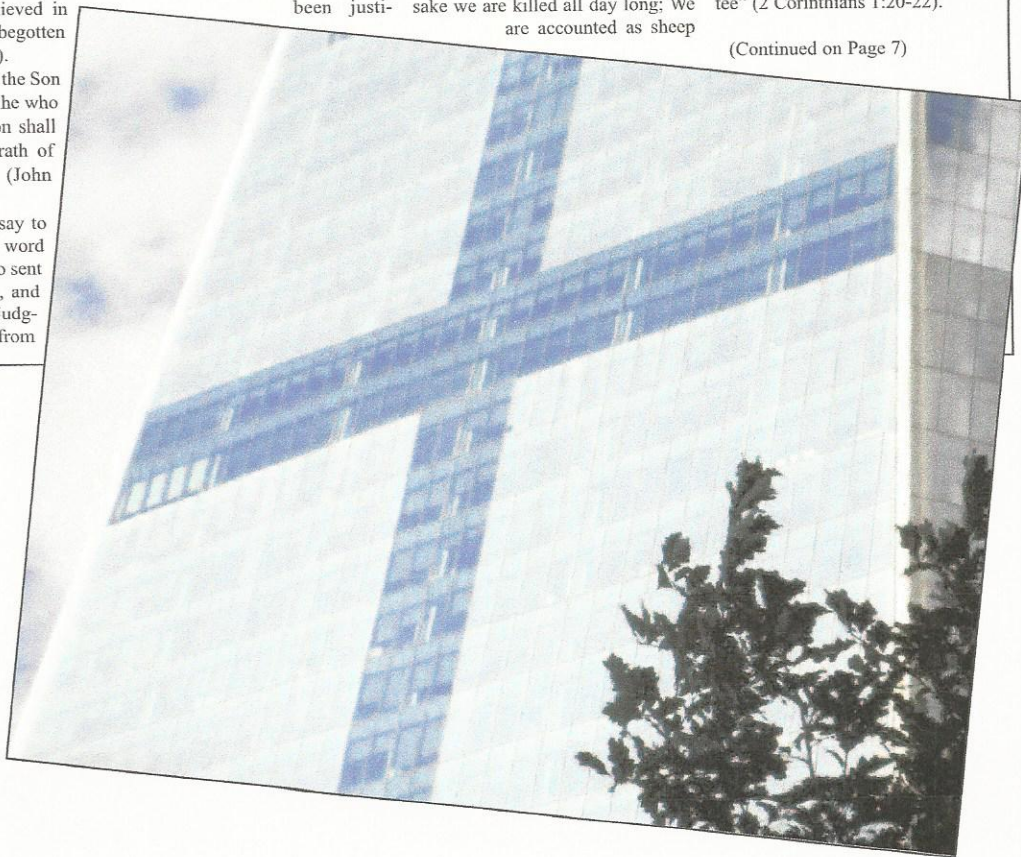


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

# Eternal Security: Twenty-One Proofs of the Biblical Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints (Continued From Page 6)

15. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:3-6).

16. "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:13-14).

17. "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

18. "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

19. "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14).

20. "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, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5).

21. "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:11-13).

Now, we turn our attention to those Scriptures which those who deny the biblical doctrine of eternal security misinterpret, and in doing so lead many of God's true children to doubt, uncertainty, and even despair. Good biblical expositors follow the rule of hermeneutics which states that unclear passages are interpreted in light of the clear passages of Scripture, and within their own context.

"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come" (Matthew 12:31-32). In context, Jesus is addressing the national sin of that generation of Israel which rejected Him as

Messiah. The sin spoken of here is not an individual sin, but a national sin. Otherwise, one would have to say that there are sins that Jesus did not die for, which is a denial of the clear statement of Christ's finished and complete work in Hebrews 10:12.

"You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4). The context of Galatians 5 sheds light of the passage. Eternal security is not in view here. Rather, the verse is a warning to rely upon the Holy Spirit and not the legalistic keeping of the Law in one's Christian life.

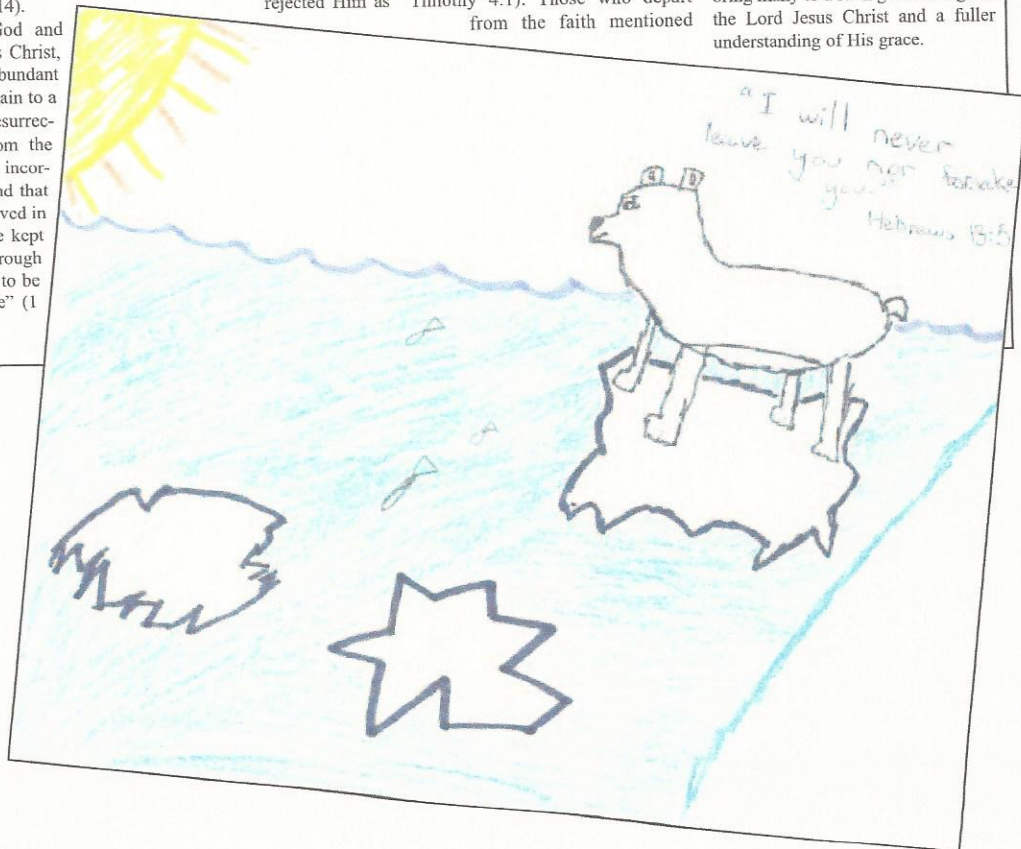
"if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister" (Colossians 1:23). The phrase in question is "if indeed you continue in the faith." The point is that one's fruit and continuance in the faith is evidence as to whether or not one's profession of Christ was genuine in the first place.

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1). Those who depart from the faith mentioned

here are professing believers who were never genuinely saved. Their departure is evidence of that fact. See also 1 John 2:18-19.

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6). Context is king here. The writer of Hebrews is addressing Jewish believers who were tempted to also try to keep the Law in addition to accepting Jesus as Messiah. The writer uses hyperbole to demonstrate the fact that such a thing is "impossible." In fact, the writer points out that it is just as "impossible" for someone to believe and then fall away as it is "impossible" for Jesus to be re-crucified. This verse actually proves that it is "impossible" for a Christian believer to lose position and salvation before God. Clearly the writer was not contradicting his later and clearer statements on the subject in Hebrews 7:25 and 10:14 (See above in the 21 proofs).

May the Lord use this paper to bring many to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and a fuller understanding of His grace.



Artwork by Alexandra Hay

# Forgiveness: (Adapted from the Sermon Delivered 5/1/16)

By Brian Violette

"But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept" (Genesis 33:4). Sadly, holding onto grudges is one of the leading causes of ruined relationships within families and between friends. Just think of how many people you may know, even in your own family, that won't even speak to one another because of a grudge. Our text is the end result of a bitter grudge held between two brothers, Esau and Jacob. Their story begins in Genesis Chapter 25. Rebekah conceived by Isaac, and as Rebekah was moving along in her pregnancy, she felt uneasy, and questioned God. "And the Lord said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."" (Genesis 25:23). The blessing was going to be Jacob's regardless, but he took matters into his own hands, acted by deception with the help of his mother, and a bitter grudge took root in the family as a result. Many years later, the brothers were finally reconciled after many wasted years of bitterness and holding onto the grudge. We can't assume that one day we're going to fix things,

because that one day may never come. So I urge you to pray about any situation you may have in your life. In the story of Jacob and Esau, Jacob sent gifts, seeking a better reunion. Maybe you should consider sending a letter ahead to the person you wronged, or that you perceive wronged you. You see, a grudge is nothing more than a refusal to forgive. And forgiveness will set you free. "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Many times, right actions will lead to right feelings. "A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace" (Ecclesiastes 3:6-8). Today, it's time for you to forgive and make peace.

You may be reading this and thinking to yourself, 'I don't have any fractured relationships.' What about your most important relationship, with God? God has blessed you with an opportunity to be reconciled to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Will you take a step of faith, believing in Him, or if you already are a believer, to restore broken fellowship with Him that has been caused by your sin or sinful lifestyle?

"bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."  
*(Colossians 3:13)*

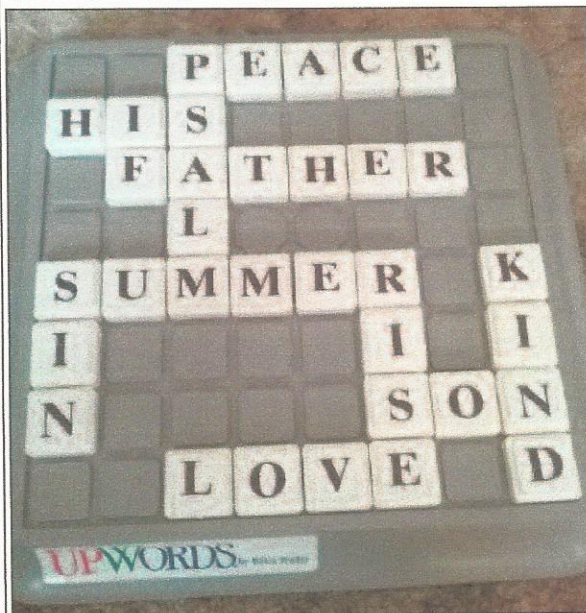


Photo Credit: Tanya and Alexandra Hay

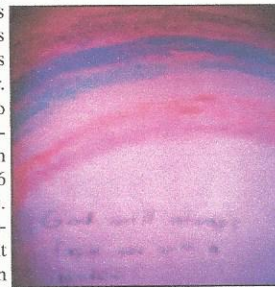
"You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter." (Psalm 74:17)

# Man Builds Replica of Noah's Ark

By NECB Staff

450x75x45 feet (Genesis 6:15, using the standard cubit measure of 18 inches).

The story of Noah is one of redemption and salvation. In that day, the wickedness of men on the earth was great. Only eight souls were willing to heed God's warning and believe His promises. In so doing, they were saved from the deluge of God's judgment which came via a universal flood. You can read about it in Genesis Chapters 6-9 in your Bible.



Artwork by Arianna Hay

"The rainbow shall be in the cloud" (Genesis 9:16a)

Johan Huiber, a Dutch man, has been spending much of the last few years constructing a replica of Noah's ark. He has done this using his own money, and his own hands. Mr. Huiber's goal is to get the vessel transported to Brazil in time for the 2016 Summer Olympics. The replica is intended to be a giant interactive museum which will stimulate people's imaginations, and faith in the Creator God.

The replica vessel is 410x95x75 feet, approximating the dimensions of Noah's ark given in the Bible of

(News Source Consulted: Fox News)

# Jesus Exalted Above Angels

Hebrews 1:5-14

"For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a gar-

ment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"



Artwork by Al Hay

"having become so much better than the angels" (Hebrews 1:4)

# The Extraordinary Gifts Have Ceased

By Jonathan Edwards

The extraordinary gifts of the Spirit, such as the gift of tongues, or miracles, or prophecy, etc...are called extraordinary, because they are such as are not given in the ordinary course of God's providence. They are not bestowed in the way of God's ordinary providential dealing with His children, but only on extraordinary occasions, as they were bestowed on the Prophets

and Apostles to enable them to reveal the mind and will of God before the canon of Scripture was complete, and so on in the primitive church, in order to the founding and establishing of it in the world. But since the canon of the Scripture has been completed, and the Christian church fully founded and established, these extraordinary gifts have ceased.

(From his work, "Charity and its Fruits", pp.42-43)