

Jesus Holds The Keys

'Taking you out of the prison of sin'

By Brian Violette

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound" (Isaiah 61:1). Why is it that people do not appreciate what they have until they lose it? For instance, we do not appreciate having a second set of keys until we lose the first pair. We do not appreciate how reliable our keys are in unlocking the car door and starting the car until they do not work. We do not appreciate the freedoms we have until we lose them. Likewise, many do not appreciate God—for His blessings in our lives or for what He has done to secure our salvation—until they see a need for Him. This Old Testament scripture has been fulfilled by Jesus, and should serve as a vivid reminder of what Jesus has done for us. God offers sinful people eternal life. The majority of people think they are going to heaven when they die. But many do not realize they are in sin bondage, which prevents people from entering into heaven. Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). "His own iniquities



Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18)

entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin" (Proverbs 5:22). So here we are locked up in bondage to our sin, like fish entangled in a net. This includes you and I. There are none without sin!

We are all guilty of breaking God's Holy Law. The chains cannot be broken. The locks can not be picked. In a sense, sinful people are living on spiritual death row, waiting for judgement day, to be cast into

the eternal prison of hell. However, God has other plans.

(Continued on Page 2)

Christmas is a Time for Jesus Christ

By James Moriello

"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Throughout the Bible, God gives us various appointed times to celebrate His Work. In Leviticus 23, we are presented with the feasts of the Lord, which encouraged the Old Testament saints to remember the works of God and look forward to His future work. In the New Testament, we are given the Lord's Table, or Communion, as a regularly appointed time to celebrate the past, present, and future work of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Although Christmas itself is not given in the Bible, I believe it is both God-honoring and wise to celebrate it—and we have been given liberty in Scripture to do so (Romans 14:5-7). I say this for three reasons. First, the Advent (or Coming, or Birth) of Christ was celebrated in the New Testament (Luke 1:39-2:38). Second, celebrating Christmas has led to countless spiritual benefits for many. In my case, it was a catalyst for my conversion to the faith. Third, it is a season in which we can engage the culture with the gospel. It gives us a starting point for evangelism. People are not threatened by Baby Jesus, and are often more receptive to hearing His Gospel at this time of year. Christian, be ready!

32 Aspects of a Godly Worship Service

(Based on Halley's Bible Handbook)

By Scott Lanctot

**LIFE IS SHORT
DEATH IS SURE
SIN IS THE CAUSE
CHRIST IS THE CURE**

Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

1. Faithfully attended (Hebrews 10:25)
2. Properly conducted (1 Corinthians 14:40)
3. The very greatest blessing a community can have (Matthew 5:2)
4. Attended as an act of worship to God (Psalm 95:6)
5. Congregational Singing (Ephesians 5:19)
6. Instruction in God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
7. Scripture lesson combined with the sermon forms the basis, framework, and structure, and heart of the sermon, with God's Word in the foreground, and the preacher himself in the background (Hebrews 4:12)
8. A responsive reading is not an adequate substitute for a Scripture lesson (Nehemiah 8:8)

(Continued on Page 7)

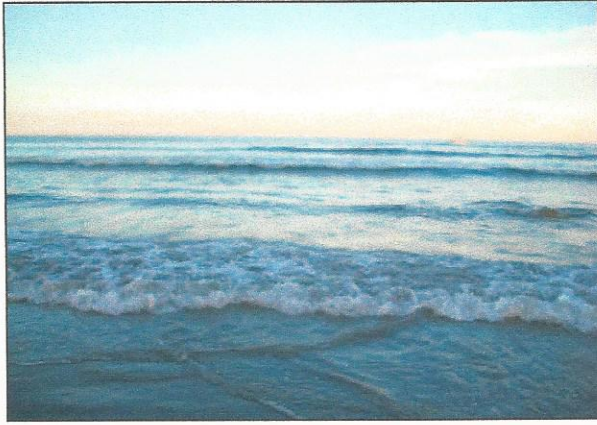


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18)

Criticism (Growing in Grace)

By Christina Correia

Within our relationships and friendships, sometimes we use criticism as a tool to lead or correct others. Sadly, sometimes we sin by purposely using criticism to verbally hurt or insult someone. What if we sin by criticizing another person because we are jealous or not content with ourselves? We decide to exercise the wrong type of criticism in various ways, because most of the time we lose focus of what truly matters. But how will bringing others down ever help us individually to grow? The Bible talks about being sincere and true, using discernment and criticism for good things. Philippians 1:9-10, "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ." I am sure that each of us, including myself, have in many ways sinned by criticizing someone, whether it was out of disappointment, anger, pride, or any instinctive, human emotion awakened by conflict. "Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name" (Psalm 86:11). If you search the antonym of criticism, the word compliment pops up. It makes sense. We should be complimenting each other, encouraging each other, and loving each other like Jesus did and will continue to do for us. When we receive hurtful criticism, at first we may feel betrayed and disappointed. However, if we let Him, the Lord will reveal to us the power of wholeheartedly focusing on what is important and what truthfully, sincerely matters... Jesus. If we choose to do the right thing—to choose Jesus, to proclaim His word, and exhibit His actions toward others—we are growing in God's grace. So for those of you who were just criticized or maybe you yourself were even criticizing, keep in mind rather the impact and encouragement you can be to another person. Because God reveals things in the most incredulous ways, not only showing us His guiding hand through our life, but also giving us the vision to see it.

(Continued on Page 8)

NECB Publication Information

New England Christian Bulletin
Volume 8, Number 1
Firm Foundation Christian
Church, Publisher
Christina Correia, Co-Editor
James Moriello, Editor
Phone: 401-765-0107
Email: firmfoundationri@verizon.net
Website: www.firmfoundationri.com

Scripture taken from the New King James
Version of the Holy Bible, unless otherwise
noted. Copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson,

Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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 Chan-
nel 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.

Jesus Holds the Keys (Continued from Page 1)

By Brian Violette

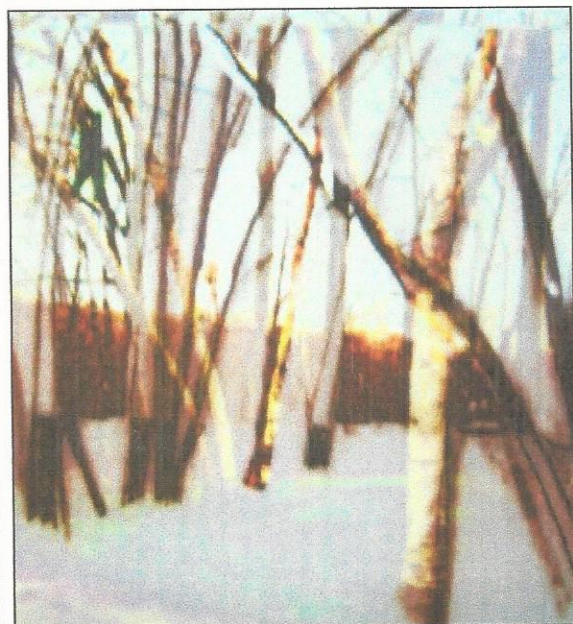
God's only begotten Son Jesus has a purpose. He preached good tidings. He healed the brokenhearted. He set the captives free! Jesus read this scripture from Isaiah in a synagogue and said, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). But the people were filled with wrath and thrust Him out of the city. Sadly, many will not look to God until they give up on themselves or other worldly options. The world purports to provide many keys to success. However, none of these keys work to free us from the bondage of sin. Some people try the keys to good moral living. Others use the keys to self proclaimed good works. Let's not forget the key of religion. "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived" (1 Corinthians 6:9). No matter how many times you try to use these keys or turn them in the lock, they will not work! Why? Because Jesus is the door to heaven! Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

(Continued on Page 5)

Practical and Fruitful Living

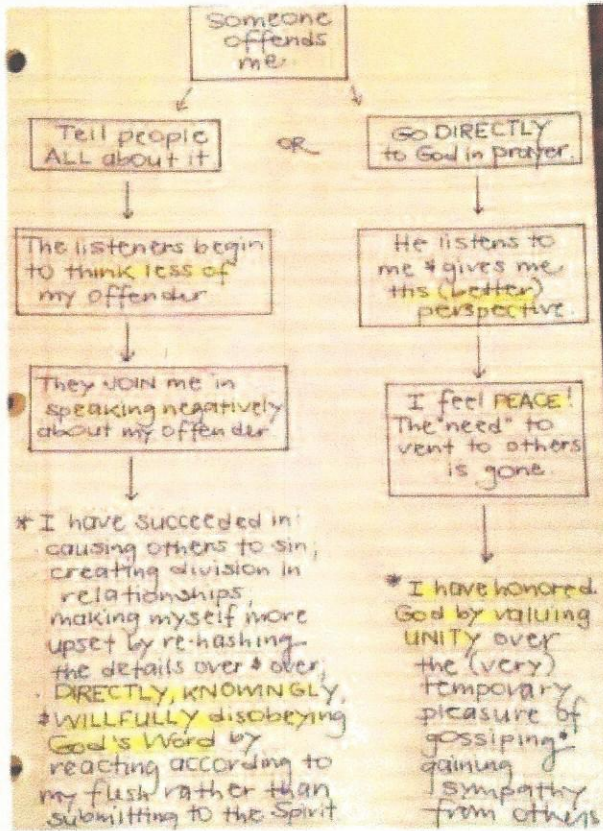
By Eric Correia

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). We are all inexperienced in too many areas of life to be without a guide. God's word is that guide. Psalm 119 unfolds manifold features of God's word, showing how dynamically it will assist us in life's most practical circumstances. No single verse focuses more clearly on these things than our text, which shows how God's word lights the way. It gives direction for each step ("to my feet") and it gives wisdom for long range plans ("to my path"). Regular application of God's word to life is the most certain way to successful and prosperous living. The wisdom of God's word will help us avoid the pitfalls of making decisions based upon human delusion or outright senselessness. It also reproves and corrects us as a light that provides and confirms our direction. Let God's Word guide, correct, instruct, lead, teach, and confirm. Do not hasten ahead without it—ever.



Artwork by Susan Kirwan-Keen

"Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD"
(Psalm 96:12)



"Someone Offends Me". Above, Author Unknown

"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men"(Romans 12:17-18).

What do you believe? I believe that singing songs of worship is edifying to God. Based on the many songs in our church's song book I believe in... Amazing Love, "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:9), Amazing Love, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8), and What Faith Can Do, "But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible"" (Mark 10:27). I believe that... He walks with me and He talks with me, "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8). I believe that because He lives I can face tomorrow. "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:19). I believe that This is the Day that the Lord has made. "This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). I believe that Loves Comes Down. "Let us therefore come boldly to the

Singing Bible Songs

By Tanya Hay

throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). And certainly Love Never Fails. "Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away"(1 Corinthians 13:8). I believe that we need Him...No Mat-

ter What. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him" (Job 13:15). For Such a Time as this, "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the king-

dom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14), Above All, "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12), and Forever, "The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you"(Jeremiah 31:3). I believe that I am a Friend of God. "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15), and I am surely Redeemed, "And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). I believe that I should Testify to Love. "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11). Shout to the Lord, "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises"(Psalm 98:4),

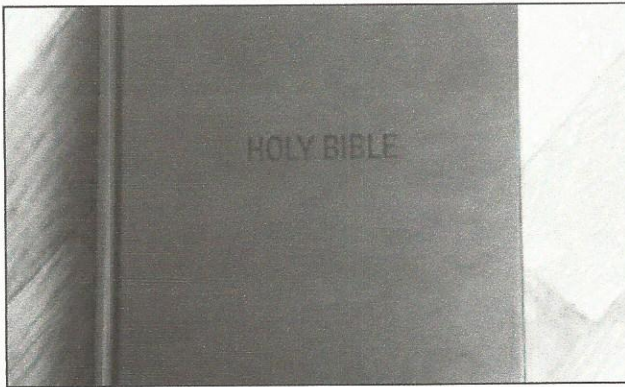


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

(Continued on Page 6)

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season



Photo Credit: NECB Staff



Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was" (Matthew 2:9).

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy" (Matthew 2:10).



Photo Credit: Cheryl Correia

"And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him" (Matthew 2:11).



Photo Credit: NECB Staff

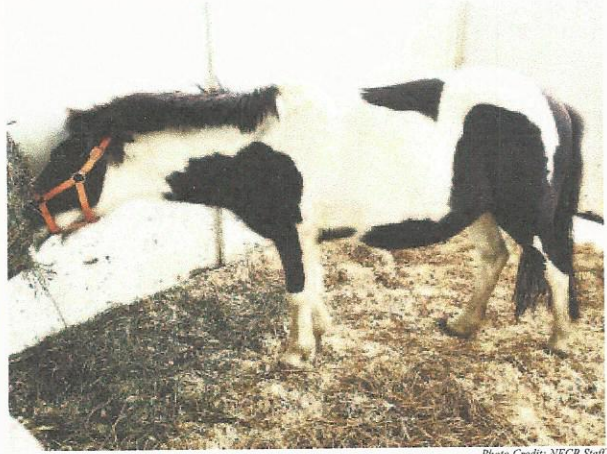


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"...there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"(Luke 2:11).

"Glory to God in the highest..." (Luke 2:14)

Find His Forgiveness

By Joshua Correia

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15). This verse highlights two very important subjects; Those of earthly forgiveness, and heavenly forgiveness. The interesting aspect of the passage is simply the order in which its main points are stated. “For if you forgive men their trespasses” is the first phrase in our text, and it’s one that is much easier said than done. We’ve all had to forgive someone at some point in our lives, and regardless of our relationship with them, it can get pretty challenging. But Jesus says, “Take heed to yourselves. If

your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him” (Luke 17:3-4). “Seven times in a day!” That’s a number of wrongs I’ve never had to experience, thank God, but should I ever have to, Jesus provides us with the condition that we must forgive. Now to forgive does not mean proceeding to trust those who have wronged us just as much as we once did. But to forgive others fulfills the instruction that Paul gives us in Colossians 3:12-13, where it says, “Therefore, as the elect of

God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 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.” That is a powerful verse with a plethora

of applications. But it leads us into heavenly forgiveness. We are commanded to forgive others first, because should we hold malice towards others in our hearts, the focus on Jesus Christ’s sacrifice is taken away. The significance in that sacrifice is that the act of Christ dying on the cross was penance for our own sins. We are forgiven, and this is the big

(Colossians 3:13)

picture, the divine plan. Every day, we should not be focused on anything but our Lord and His mercy on us. “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7). Brothers and sisters, forgive those who have wronged you. Forgive them however you can, and focus on God’s forgiveness. Take the time to reflect on His grace, love, and constant provision over us. But most importantly, focus on the crucial sacrifice made by Christ our Savior, that if we believe in Him as our Savior, we might be saved and live eternally with Him. Anyone who is not a believer in Christ our King, please consider this as a valuable opportunity to find His forgiveness.

Jesus Holds The Keys (Continued From Page 2)

By Brian Violette

Sinners sit in a spiritual prison of darkness and have no hope to free themselves from the sin bondage that separates us all from God. Then the greatest sound that desperate prisoners may hear, the jingling of keys, because they tried all their own keys; yet they did not work. The prisoners keep hearing the keys and they look. Behold, Jesus is holding the keys. The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He received them by living a sinless life. He died for us and bore all our sins—past, present, future—on the cross. He exchanged His righteousness for our sinfulness, and was resurrected on the third day. Jesus said, “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and

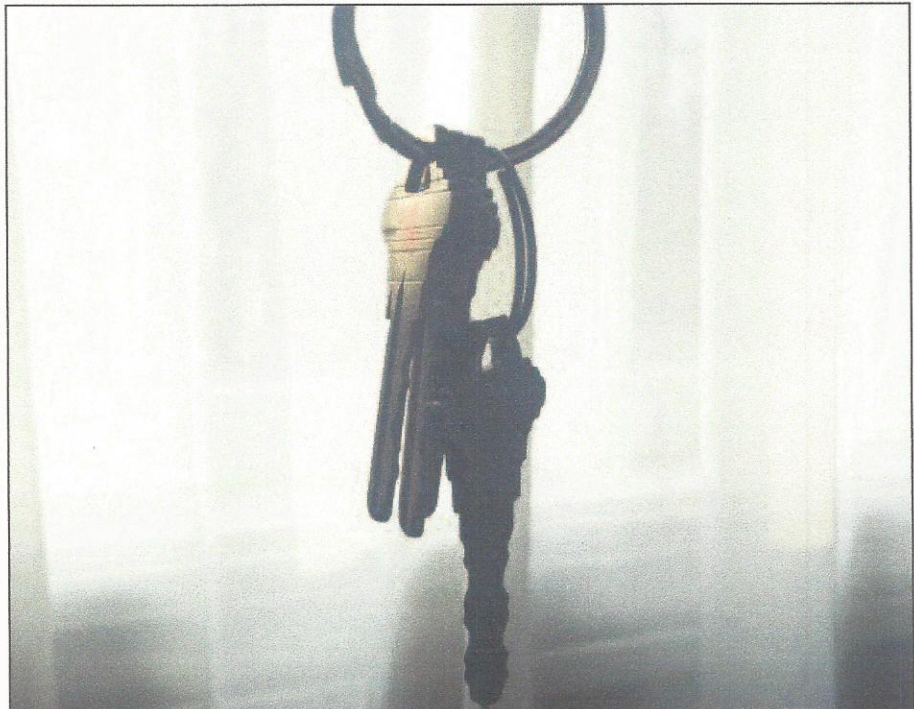


PHOTO CREDIT: NECB STAFF

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19). Friends, take this time to consider what

God has done for you, with greater appreciation and reverence. Praise Him for taking you out of your sin bondage, forever taking you out of the prison of sin. Receive Him;

Return to Him. Be like the psalmist and praise the Lord! “Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!” (Psalm 150:2).

Singing Bible Songs (Continued from Page 3)

By Tanya Hay

Make Way for the King, "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war" (Revelation 19:11), Open the Eyes of My Heart, "My eyes are ever toward the Lord, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net" (Psalm 25:15), and Love like Jesus Loves, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). I believe that He is... Mighty to Save, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2), a Savior to Me, "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22), an Awesome God, "Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the

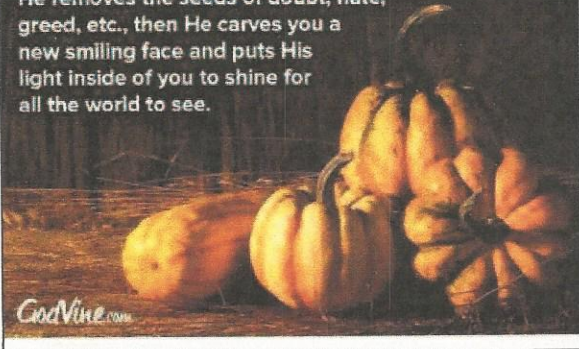
inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him" (Psalm 33:8), God of Wonders, "You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples" (Psalm 77:14), an Everlasting God, "But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength;

"Sing praises to God" (Psalm 47:6)

They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31), Jesus Firm Foundation, "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11), and He most definitely is Redeemer, Savior, Friend, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). I believe all of this because of the Old Rugged Cross. I believe one day He's coming, Oh Glorious Day, "declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). Amen.

A 10 year-old little girl was asked by a classmate what it was like to be a Christian?

The girl replied, "It's like being a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."



Submitted by Laurie Landry

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

"Live Forever", Set to the Tune, "Come Together" by The Beatles

To Zion His last stop
He came humbly, lowly
He is my All in All
He's got holy power
He's got grace
there enough for me
Got to be a Christian if
you do what He please

He'll hold you in His arms
and He will heal your
disease
Live forever right now to
eternity

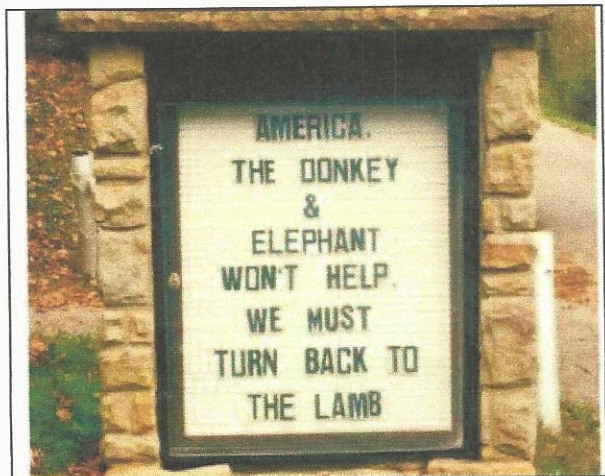
Jesus is our Sonshine
He has stopped my free fall
With Him we will linger
He's my Strength, my
Tower
He says, I know you, you
know Me
One thing I can tell you is
that I set you free
Live forever right now to
eternity

Life's a roller coaster
You've been served your
warning
Christ's the Living Water
He's the major Victor
He say, One and One and
One is Three
Father, Son, and Spirit,
One God in
Trinity
Live forever right now to
eternity

He gives instruction
He's got lots of wisdom
He's my Savior and Lord
He's the final Victor
He's got grace there
enough for me

Written by James and
Susan Moriello

(Artwork and Photo Below:
Tanya Hay)



32 Aspects of a Godly Worship Service (Continued From Page 1)

9. Sunday morning church service is for worship, prayer, thanksgiving, and praise to God. Go in, and keep yourself in, the spirit of prayer (2 Corinthians 6:17)

10. Long prayers are not necessary (Matthew 6:7)

11. Short prayers are better (Luke 16:15)

12. Many hymns are prayers (Colossians 3:16)

13. A prayer should be uttered in the spirit of humble petition (1 Peter 5:6-7)

14. Twenty minutes for congregational singing (1 Corinthians 14:40)

15. Twenty minutes for the sermon (1 Corinthians 14:40, Note length of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7)

16. Twenty minutes for prayers, offering, announcements, communion, etc... (1 Corinthians 14:40)

17. Next to Bible teaching, congregational singing is the best feature of a religious service (Hebrews 13:15)

18. The best way to rejuvenate dead churches is to sing them into life (Isaiah 26:19)

19. Congregational singing has a rightful

place in the regular Sunday morning church service, It is entitled to one third to one half of the church service (Psalm 13:6)

20. People like the singing so much better than the wise cracks of the song leader (Ephesians 5:15-19)

21. Memorize the hymns we sing most often, sing them better, and feel them deeper (Ephesians 4:29-30)

22. The pulpit is the teaching agency of the church (Romans 10:14-17)

23. Preachers must build up God's ideas, not his own ideas, of Christian truth (2 Peter 2:1)

24. Preachers must spend a lot of time in preparation (Proverbs 16:3)

25. Sunday morning service should be a great Bible class in loving instruction in God's Word (2

Timothy 3:16-17)

26. Twenty minutes is long enough for the sermon (Acts 20:9)

27. Much preaching is ill-prepared and delivered with an effect of over-emphasis, yelling, pounding, jumping, gyrating, raving, waving of arms, and pawing the air. This is not at all necessary! (1 Corinthians 14:40)

28. A spirit of simple humility (Proverbs 15:33)

29. A sermon well written and well read may be delivered with as much force as if spoken off hand (Galatians 6:6)

30. No time in your service for it? Shorten the sermon, omit some of the show off stuff in the choir loft, and make time for it (Proverbs 16:1-2)

31. A song leader is not one who imitates the silly antics of certain "revival

gelists" who treat the service mainly as an occasion to show off their monkey shines and wise cracks, and/or for a basis for a preliminary setting for their own solos (Proverbs 16:1-5)

32. Why not turn the whole congregation into a choir? (Romans 15:11)

***Editor's Note: At Firm Foundation, our service is ordered largely after the manner of Halley's suggested time tested framework. Some of the Scriptures noted after the end of each point are direct supports, while others express the biblical principle behind the point. Hopefully, this offers you the reader insights and food for thought as to how to properly order the Sunday worship service.

e v a n -

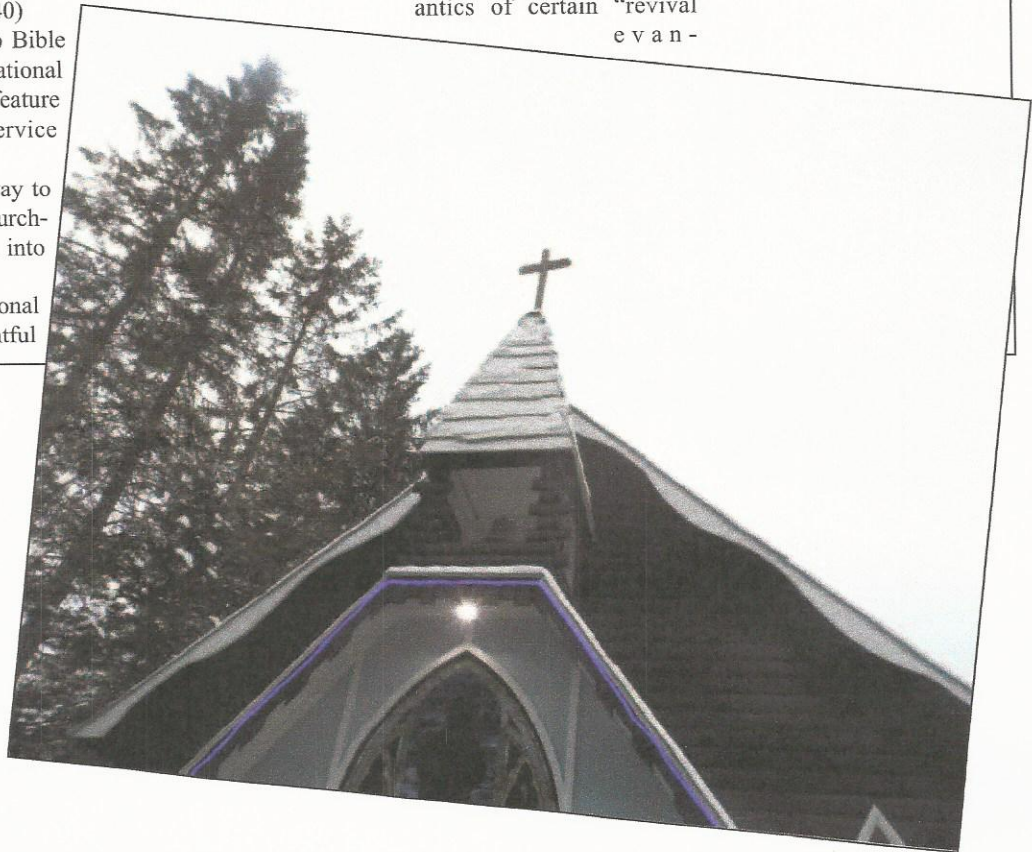


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

Jesus Christ is God!

By James Moriello

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1, NKJV)

Christians throughout the ages have held fast to the doctrine of the Deity of Jesus Christ. It is an essential teaching of the Christian faith. Since nobody can come to the Father except through the Son, it is an essential truth you must believe to be saved (John 14:6). The Bible consistently teaches that Jesus Christ is in fact God, and not just a man or an angel. Let us look at some of the proofs found in Scripture. 1) Jesus is the Creator. Genesis 1:1 teaches that God is the Creator. Colossians 1:16 teaches that "all things were created through

Him and for Him." The writer of Hebrews tells us that God the Father affirms that Jesus "in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth" (Hebrews 1:10). 2) Jesus is eternal. By definition only God can be eternal (Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17). John 1:1-18 speaks of the eternal Son of God who was there in the beginning. He will be there forever too. The Bible also says that His "years will not fail" (Hebrews 1:12). 3) Jesus has the essential nature of divinity. "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9). This means that the divine nature exists in Christ, and He is therefore God.

Jesus Christ is a partaker of the same nature as God the Father in the most complete sense, equal with God, and possessing all of the divine attributes (John 10:30; Philippians 2:6). It was necessary for Him to lay aside certain attributes such as omnipresence (being all places at all times) during His Incarnation, but Jesus never ceased being God at any time. He was always God, became the 'God-Man', and ascended to the Father to resume His work as the Second Person of the Godhead forevermore (Ephesians 4:8-10). 4. Jesus Christ has the authority to forgive sins. Only God can forgive sins (Luke 5:20-24;

Psalm 103:12). Therefore, Jesus must be God. 5. Jesus Christ is sinless (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22). Since only God is without sin, Jesus must be God. This also qualifies Him to redeem and justify sinners (Romans 3:23-24). 6. Jesus accepted worship (Matthew 28:9; John 20:28-29). No man or angel would ever accept worship. 7. Jesus had the power to raise Himself up from the dead. He claimed this for Himself and He did indeed prove all of His claims by His Resurrection from the dead (John 2:18-22; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7). The question remains for you. What do you believe about Jesus Christ? Consider these things seriously. Look up these Scriptures in your Bible. May God bless your precious soul.

Criticism (Growing In Grace), Continued from Page 2

By Christina Correia

If you have an extra minute of your time, I hope you will read Romans chapter 12. It serves as a reminder to me—and I pray to you as well. Here are some verses from that chapter.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.... Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving



PHOTO CREDIT: NECB STAFF

"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who perse-

cute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own

opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."