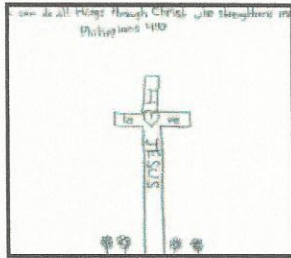




(Artwork Above  
By Susan Kirwan-Keen)

\*\*\*Wisdom for Women  
A Message for 2018  
Page 2



(Artwork Above  
By Arianna Hay)

\*\*\*Crossword Puzzle Fun  
Full Page Puzzle  
Page 3



(Photo Above:  
By Tanya Hay)

\*\*\*And Lead Us Not  
Into Temptation  
Page 6

## Romans 10:8-13

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

# New England Christian Bulletin

Published by Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI

Winter 2018

FREE

## Fifteen Things That You Must Know About God

By James Moriello

1. The Bible reveals one God existing in Three Persons. We call this the Holy Trinity. "Hear O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" (Deuteronomy 6:4). Speaking of Jesus it is said: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Jesus Himself said: "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30). The Holy Spirit knows all things and therefore must be God also: "Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11b).

2. God is intimately involved with His creation. "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:29-30).

3. God is omnipresent, or all places at all times. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your

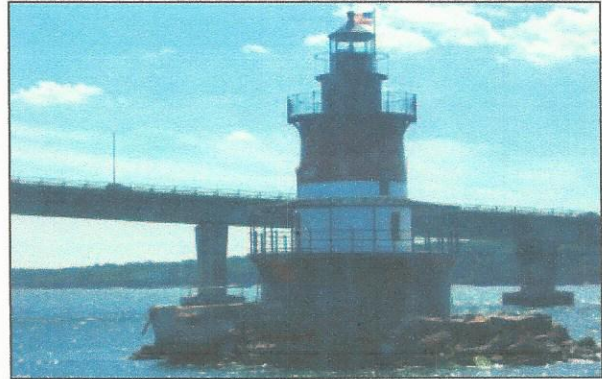


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also" (John 14:7)

presence" (Psalm 139:7)? The answer in Psalm 139 is obviously that we cannot hide from God.

4. God is omnipotent, or all powerful.

"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

(Continued on Page 5)

## How to Treat God's Gift to the Church

By Jim Landry

*Hebrews 13:7 ~ Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*

Over the past ten years, I have had the humble and blessed privilege to preach (teach) at churches I have attended. I have always thanked God first and foremost for these opportunities. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever see myself doing God's work in this way. And for that, I am thankful. What gets overlooked many times in this process is the fact that the Pastor of these churches, men I have come under and

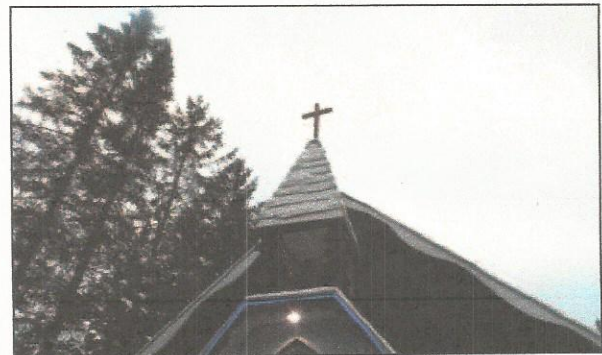


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow" (Hebrews 13:7)

trained with and learned from, all play a very important role in our lives. To the Pastors that have taught me, I thank you. Thank you for your devotion to my walk with The Lord, your guidance and tutelage. Thank you for being a shepherd to me, my

family and my church family. To the readers of this article, I always had this sermon prepared in the event of a last minute call saying "Pastor is sick and can't make it to church - what are we going to do?" (Continued on Page 4)

## God's Amazing Gift

By Tanya Hay

Let me ask you a few questions. Would you feel indebted to someone if they pushed you out of the way from getting hit by a car? Would you feel forever indebted to someone who pulled your child safely out of a burning building? Would you feel indebted to the person who saved a loved one from drowning? Most, if not all, answer yes to these questions. All three of those scenarios provide us with a gift of a life that is precious to us. All of these scenarios speak of acts of love. Then why is it, I wonder, that some people don't accept Jesus' gift

of salvation and eternal life? Jesus died on the cross for one reason, so that we can be saved and have eternal life. Jesus promises that if we believe in Him, we will not perish; that we will have eternal life. Believing in Him and accepting His gift of eternity is the best gift ever given. It is the greatest act of love. He died on the cross for me and for you. He did so for the forgiveness of our sins, so that we can dwell in heaven with Him after our earthly lives are over. Think about it, eternal life. It is the most amazing gift that could ever be received. So, let me ask you a question. Will you accept His gift today? I pray that you do. Amen.

Revelation 21:4: "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."

John 14:2: "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to to prepare a place for you."

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."

## "Be Holy, For I Am Holy" (Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:16)

By Scott Lanctot

God's standard is perfection. The bar is set high for His children, and as humans on this earth, that task seems impossible to accomplish. There are things to take into account. Consider the fact that as Christians, we were sealed by God the day we first believed (Ephesians 1:13). From that point forward, we are sanctified, set apart by God for His service. The Holy Spirit indwells us upon believing in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:16). Another plus for us is that our Lord, God, and Savior is seated at the right hand of power interceding on our behalf (Hebrews 7:25). The Lord knows, we need all the help we can get. God knows what is in a man's heart. As for the believer, yes, we'll fall short of His glory, maybe more than we would care to admit. Yet on our pilgrimage through this present life, we can reflect from the hour we first believed to the present time. Hopefully, people will see a fruit

bearing, repentant sinner in their midst. "Old things have passed away; behold all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). By far, our best examples to model our walk after come right out of the Bible. The fore-



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"old things have passed away; behold all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

most example, of course, is Jesus in His earthly ministry. He didn't argue with the devil. Rather, He quoted Scripture, a lesson which we can take heed to. Joseph ran from temptation. Moses took good advice, asking for

help from seventy elders. Even the lesson of Peter's denial of Jesus three times teaches us that in repenting, we can be right again in God's eyes. It shows that we're human, and can fall short. Reading the Bible, and understanding what it says and does not say is important. Let us be sure to take everything in its proper context. Being grounded in prayer, and meditating on God's Word will be profitable in your daily walk. Seek wise counsel. Let people know where you are at. Remember that even though you are being sanctified, you are still a sinner. And where do sinners go? Sinners go to church to worship their God and Savior, the Risen Christ, praising His Holy Name. We should be transparent and consistent as believers in Jesus Christ, not "goody two shoes" at church, and acting crazy at home. This should not be so. We should not only be hearers of the word, but also doers of the word (James 1:22).

(Continued on Page 8)

## Wisdom for Women for the New Year

By Susan Moriello

With the New Year now upon us, it is time to reflect on the past year and look forward to a new beginning in 2018. As I pondered this, I thought of Ruth and Naomi. Naomi had lost her husband and sons, and Ruth had lost her husband. Naomi decides to return to Israel—more specifically to Bethlehem of Judah. (Didn't we just celebrate the birth of One born in that place?) Ruth decides to join her, leaving behind her homeland of Moab. Ruth steps out in faith,

saying: "*Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God*" (Ruth 1:16b). Ruth leaves everything that has been familiar to her in the past for a fresh start with the true God living amongst His people. You know the story. She is blessed beyond her wildest dreams. Ruth finds a godly husband and is grafted into the Messianic line (Matthew 1:5)! You never know what may happen when you embark on a new beginning with the Lord. May God's blessings be with you all in the coming year and always!

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Volume 7, Number 1  
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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 morn-

## And God Said "NO"

Author Unknown

I asked God to take away my pride, and God said "NO".

He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole, and God said "NO".

He said her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience, and God said "NO".

He said that patience is a by-product of tribulation. It isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness, and God said "NO".

He said He gives blessings, happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain, and God said "NO".

He said suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow, and He said "NO".

He said I must grow on my own, but He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me,

And God said "Ah, finally you have the idea!"

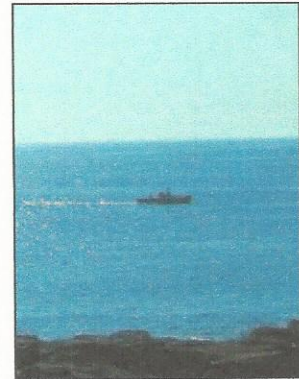


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"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12)

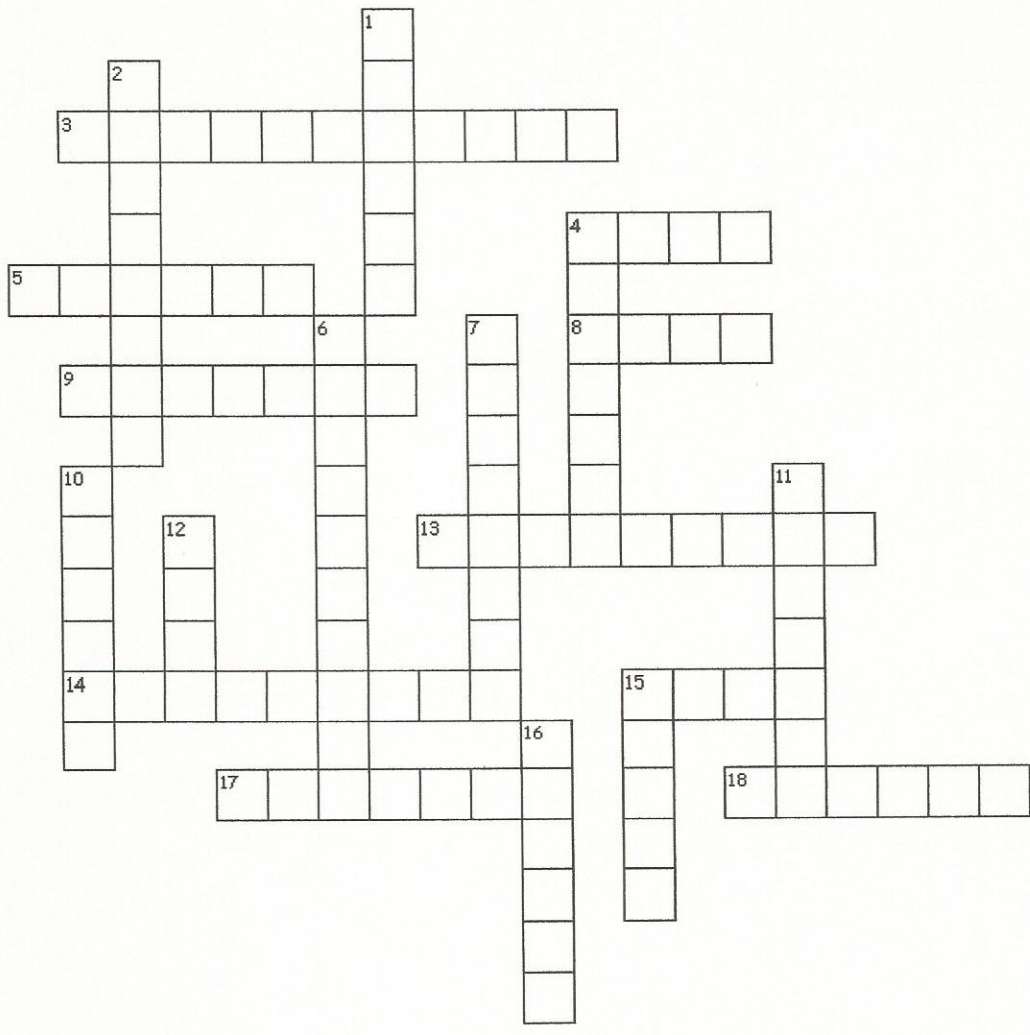
ings at 10 am, on Cox Channel 18 and Verizon Channel 23.

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.

"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 winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock" (Matthew 7:24-25).

# Books of the Bible



**Across**

- 3. FIFTH BOOK
- 4. AFTER MATTHEW
- 5. AFTER ACTS
- 8. BEFORE JOHN
- 9. FIRST GOSPEL
- 13. THIRD BOOK
- 14. FORTY-NINTH BOOK
- 15. BEFORE REVELATION
- 17. FIRST BOOK
- 18. TWENTY-THIRD BOOK

**Down**

- 1. SECOND BOOK
- 2. AFTER ISAIAH
- 4. LAST OT BOOK
- 6. LAST NT BOOK
- 7. SOLOMON'S WISDOM
- 10. AFTER JOSHUA
- 11. FOURTH BOOK
- 12. EIGHTH BOOK
- 15. AFTER HEBREWS
- 16. THERE ARE 150 OF THEM

# How to Treat God's Gift to the Church (Continued from Page 1)

I am pretty certain no Pastor would let me preach this message from the pulpit, especially with them sitting there. The ones I know are way too humble. So in the event of this type of call in sick opportunity, I thought, "what a great time to do the message – Pastor is not here and he will not feel blushed; he will not feel as though everyone is staring at him, etc". But these men never called in sick and so I never had the opportunity to present it. But it needs to be said. And we need to hear it so I have decided to publish it in this format and I pray it is of value to you.

**Ephesians 4:7** ~ *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Ephesians 4:11-15* ~ *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ*

According to the above bible verses, your Pastor is God's gift to your church! He has been given to you to strengthen your spiritual life and to help you grow into maturity as a believer. He has been sent to encourage you, to feed you, to lead you and to instruct you in the business of God. If he walks with the Lord as he should, he will be equipped by the Holy Spirit to effectively carry out

his duties, and he will be a blessing to your church and in your personal walk with the Lord. This article, however, is not to preach about what God requires of our pastors. This article is to instruct about what God expects from you (and me) as individuals and from the church body in your relationship to your Pastor. Just as your Pastor has certain responsibilities to you as the Pastor of your church, you also have some responsibilities toward him that you need to be responsible for. And so, I would like to share some thoughts about God's expectations in your relationship to God's gift. There are three thoughts in this verse that I would like to point out. In our text – there is a word about **remembering** - The church is commanded to "remember." The word "remember" has the following meanings, "To be mindful of; to keep in mind; to think of and feel for a person; to make mention of." Let's take a moment to consider what it means for the church to "remember" the Pastor. For remembering your Pastor, consider the following three applications: Consideration; Compassion; and Conversation. A. **Consideration** – "to be mindful of, to keep in mind" – This has the idea of "being thoughtful." This is a call for God's people to

be considerate of their Pastor. God didn't send this man to be at your beck and call. He sent him to feed your souls and to lead you deeper in the things of God. I would challenge you to be considerate of his time. Give him time for his family. Give him time for prayer and for the study of the Word of God. Be sure to take the time to speak a word of encouragement to him. Far too many churches forget the load that their Pastor carries; far too few realize just how heavy that load really is! I don't doubt there may be nights when your Pastor will wet his pillow with tears because of his burden for you. There will be times when he will be away from his family because he loves you. There will be times when he will shoulder your burdens and carry them to the throne of grace and do spiritual battle on your behalf. All I am saying is be thoughtful to your Pastor! When he makes a mistake, forgive him. When he falls, help him get back up again. Remember that he is God's man, but that he is still a man. If you will learn to carry your Pastor in your heart, God will bless his ministry here. **Compassion** – "to think of and to feel for a person" – This has the idea of simple human "kindness." Learn to treat your Pastor like you would want to be treated. Take care of him. Supply his

needs, after all that is God's command to the church. **1 Timothy 5:17** ~ *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. Galatians 6:6* ~ *Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Come by him with a word of encouragement every now and then. Let him know you love him and are standing with him in the battle. Be a friend to the man of God! Have a heart for what your Pastor faces and remember that very often, his load will be heavier than your load. Why? Because he carries his burdens and he carries yours as well. God will honor your efforts to be a friend to the man of God. Conversation* – "to make mention of" – This is a call to the church to lift up the man of God in prayer. One of the greatest gifts you can give to your pastor is the gift of your consistent, constant, heart-felt prayers. He needs you to stand with him and to hold up his hands in prayer. (**Exodus 17:12**) Just as when Aaron and Hur stood with Moses and held up his hands and thus enabled him to minister to all the people, those who sacrifice their time in prayer for their Pastor enable him to be a better servant of the Lord and the Lord's people. God will honor that kind of sacrifice.

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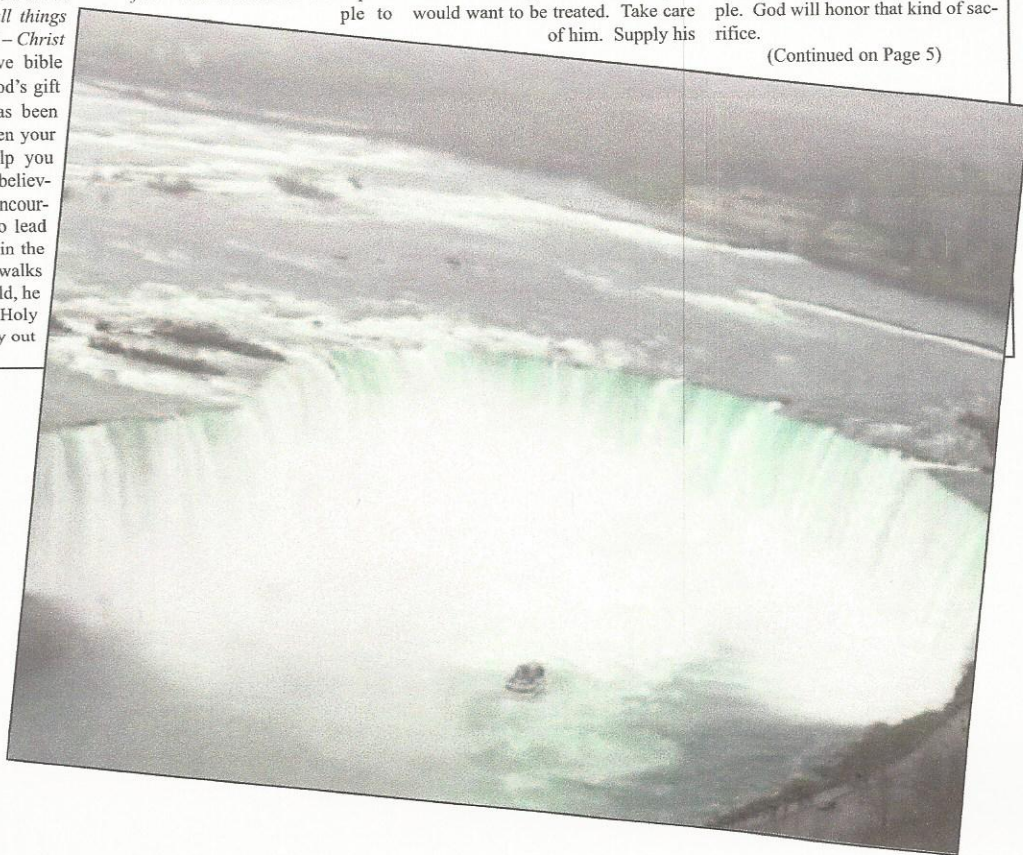


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

# How to Treat God's Gift to the Church (Continued from Page 4)

By Jim Landry

In Hebrews 13:7, written earlier in this article, there is a word about ruling. The word "rule" has to do with "leadership." It speaks of the authority God has placed in the office of Pastor. A lot of people have trouble with pastoral authority, because of preach-



ers who have abused the office. Here in *1 Peter 5:1-4*, the author is not referring to the pastor as a dictator, but as one who has been placed in a position of leadership and authority.

*1 Peter 5:1-4 ~ The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. By the way, the phrase in our Hebrews 13:7, "who rule over you" is in the passive voice. This means that these rulers are not in their positions by personal choice, but by the call and will of God. And, the phrase "who have spoken the word of God to you," qualifies who the writer is talking about. He is referring to the men of*

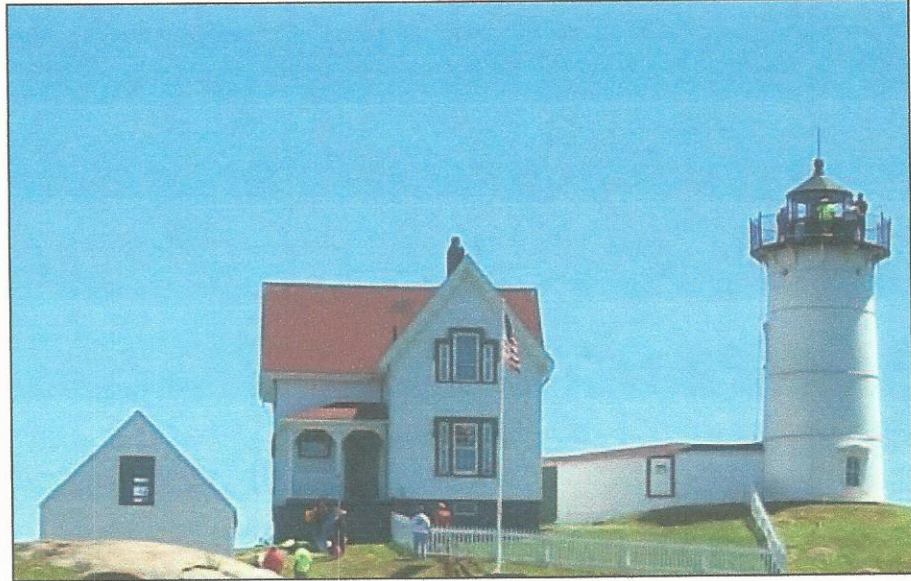


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away" (1 Peter 5:3-4)

God who preach the Word to God's people in the office of Pastor! Allow me to take that and share three thoughts that come to mind. Rank, Relationship and Reality **RANK:** The church has one head. And the head of the church is the Lord Jesus. *Ephesians 5:23 ~ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Jesus rules His church through His Word and through His Spirit. However, in the church, there is to be*

order and part of that order requires that there be a leader in the local church. That leader is the Pastor. Friends, God did not place the authority for leading this church in the hands of a board or a committee. He placed it in the Pastor. There can only be one leader in this church and that leader is to be the man of God, the Pastor! Our duty is to fall in line behind him and follow him as he follows the Lord. It is his commission to lead; it is our command to follow. Again, I am not

advocating a dictatorship with the Pastor as the head. I am saying that God will lead your church through the man of God. As your Pastor, he deserves respectful obedience as he opens the Word of God and seeks to lead you into the green pastures of God's perfect will. Fall in line with God's man and God's plan and God will bless it! (Continued on Page 7)

## Fifteen Things That You Must Know About God (Continued from Page 1)

By James Moriello

5. God is omniscient; He knows all things. "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable" (Isaiah 40:28).



Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"But God is faithful" (1 Corinthians 10:13b).

- 6. God is holy. "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be Holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15; Leviticus 11:44-45).
- 7. God is love. "God is love" (1 John 4:8b).
- 8. God is perfectly wise. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How

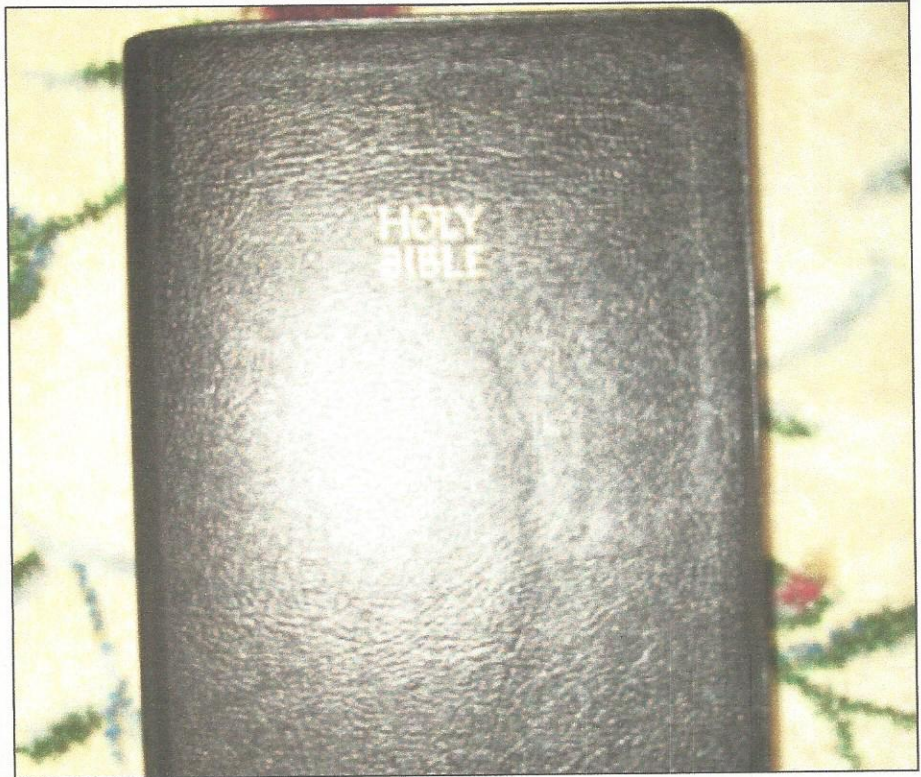
- unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out" (Romans 11:33).
- 9. God is graceful. He offers us blessings that we do not deserve. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).
- 10. God is merciful. He spares us judgment that we do deserve. "Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 136:26).
- 11. God is good. "No one is good but One, that is, God" (Matthew 19:17b).
- 12. God is patient. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).
- 13. God is righteous and just. "He will judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with jus-

"Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever"

(Psalm 136:26)

- 14. God is truthful. "Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17).
- 15. God is faithful. "But God is faithful" (1 Corinthians 10:13b). "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). That's a promise that God has always kept to everyone who has ever truly believed, and it is a promise that He will keep in your case as well. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

"Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as *it is* in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen."  
(Matthew 6:9-13)



## Overcoming the Temptation to Change God's Word to Make it "More Understandable"

By James Moriello

**"And do not lead us into temptation" (Matthew 6:13a, NKJV) "And lead us not into temptation" (Matthew 6:13, RSV, Catholic Edition)**

Recently, Pope Francis, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, suggested changing this verse to be read in public assemblies, "Do not let us fall into temptation." Why did he do this, and is he correct in doing it? First, we look at the original language text. The Greek literally reads, "And not lead us into temptation." So, we have a literal transliteration of what Jesus actually said. The Latin Vulgate has "et ne inducas nos in temptationem," an identical reading to the Greek. Someone may object that Jesus was speaking Hebrew or Aramaic. That may be, but the Hebrew language allows for an iden-

tical rendering. "Temptation" (Strong's #4531) would be "Maccah" or "Massah" in Hebrew. The word has secondary meanings of despair and trial. To be led into temptation is to be led into the "hands of Massah," a figure of speech rooted in the events of Exodus 17:7. So we conclude that the best

way to translate this is just as the NKJV and RSV translators did.

The Pope appeals to theological clarity, inasmuch as the Scripture says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone" (James 1:13). The theological point he makes is correct. Namely, God does not tempt anyone to sin, nor does God

"allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able" (1 Corinthians 10:13). However, in doing so, the Pope actually brings us a step back from Jesus' words and original intent of the prayer. The re-translation tends to take some of the responsibility away from the sinner. It diminishes the

**"And do not lead us into temptation"**

*(Matthew 6:13, NKJV)*

aspect of the request for God to guide us in our hearts and steps in His ways, in contrast to the next petition of the prayer, "But deliver us from the evil one." Any Christian of any denomination runs on dangerous ground when he starts questioning what the Bible should say when Jesus' words are plainly known. It is a challenge to the inerrancy (lack of error) in the original autographs

(writings). Where does this procedure start and stop? Revelation 22:18-19 is one of many warnings in the Bible against tampering with it. Why go down the slippery slope? There are, in fact, many translations that are not word for word, but thought for thought, that better give the sense that the Pope wishes to convey. Let them suffice in this case. At Firm Foundation, I would simply explain everything I just explained here to the faithful. The Pope has a mechanism to do that, which would not call into question the translation of the Scriptures (approval for which ultimately falls under the Apostolic See). He could issue a Papal Encyclical (official statement) explaining the meaning of this petition of the Lord's Prayer, as well as the rest of the prayer, to be used in catechism.

# How to Treat God's Gift to the Church (Continued from Page 5)

**RELATIONSHIP:** We all have a different relationship with our Pastor. I want you to look at it this way. Your relationship to him has forever been altered. He has been placed in a position of authority over you. He has been placed in an office that should be honored and respected by others in the church. **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** ~ And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. The phrase, "**to esteem them very highly,**" means they are "**to be held in the highest regard.**" Respect is something that cannot be demanded. It is something that is earned over time. However, there is a certain amount of respect attached to the office of Pastor. As time goes forward, your Pastor will earn your respect through the sermons he will preach and the ministry he will render. He is to be respected for the office he holds. For you and those at your church, your relationship to this man has forever changed! He is no longer just "that guy". He is the man of God! He is the Pastor and he is to be respected as such. Discipline yourself to treat him as the Pastor. Never be guilty of acting like he is still just "**one of the guys,**" because he isn't! Again, we are not talking about honoring and exalting a man, we are talking about honoring an office.

Your relationship to your Pastor should be one of respect. **REALITY:** Since God has placed him in this position, he has a duty to tell you the truth. **2 Timothy 4:2** ~ *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.* There will be times when your Pastor will have to address hard issues and he will probably plow your life hard and deep. When the Word of God comes your way, remember that your Pastor loves you and that he has a burden for you. His goal is to help you grow in the Lord. Sometimes the word will be sweet like honey and at other times it will cut like a knife. However it comes, remember that it comes from the mouth and heart of a man who loves you and has been sent by God to feed you and to lead you. Get behind the man of God; follow him and the Word he preaches. God will honor that kind of attitude! In Hebrews 13:7 - there is the phrase "**whose faith follow**". This speaks of an examination. Before you can follow a man, you

m u s t

look at his walk. This is a call for the church to look at their Pastor. The church should watch him as he walks with God by faith. The church needs to observe the convictions that grip his heart. You should understand the fact that he carries you in his heart. **Hebrews 13:17** tells us "*obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*" Take note of the depth of his convictions; the reality of his walk with God; the commitment he demonstrates; the faithfulness that characterizes his life and burden he carries for the church and for the Lord. See these things and know that he is God's man; that he is worthy to be followed; and that he is worthy of the respect due as the spiritual leader of this church. Let his life serve as an example for your own walk with the Lord. Readers, God has honored you greatly! He has given you a Pastor. He has given you a man of God. He has given you someone who will pray for you, who will love you, who

will tell you the

truth, who will carry you in his heart, who will serve you faithfully and who will do so much for you that only in eternity will you know the depth of his commitment to you. Lastly, here is my charge to you: **Protect His Time** - Give him opportunity to pray and study the Word. Give him time with his wife and family. Every Pastor wants to be available when needed, but he also needs rest. **Pray For Him Continually** - Call his name out to the Father that God will fill him and use him. **Pay Attention While He Preaches** - The sermon is not the time to be fiddling with your phone, looking through the hymn book, fiddling with your nails or even daydreaming. The man of God has labored long and hard to prepare the spiritual meal. Pay attention when he preaches and let him feed you! **Please The Lord Through Your Ministry To The Pastor** - How? Respect him for the office he holds. Follow him as he follows the Lord. Help him carry out the Lord's work in this place. And though he'll never admit it, remember, he is God's gift to the church.

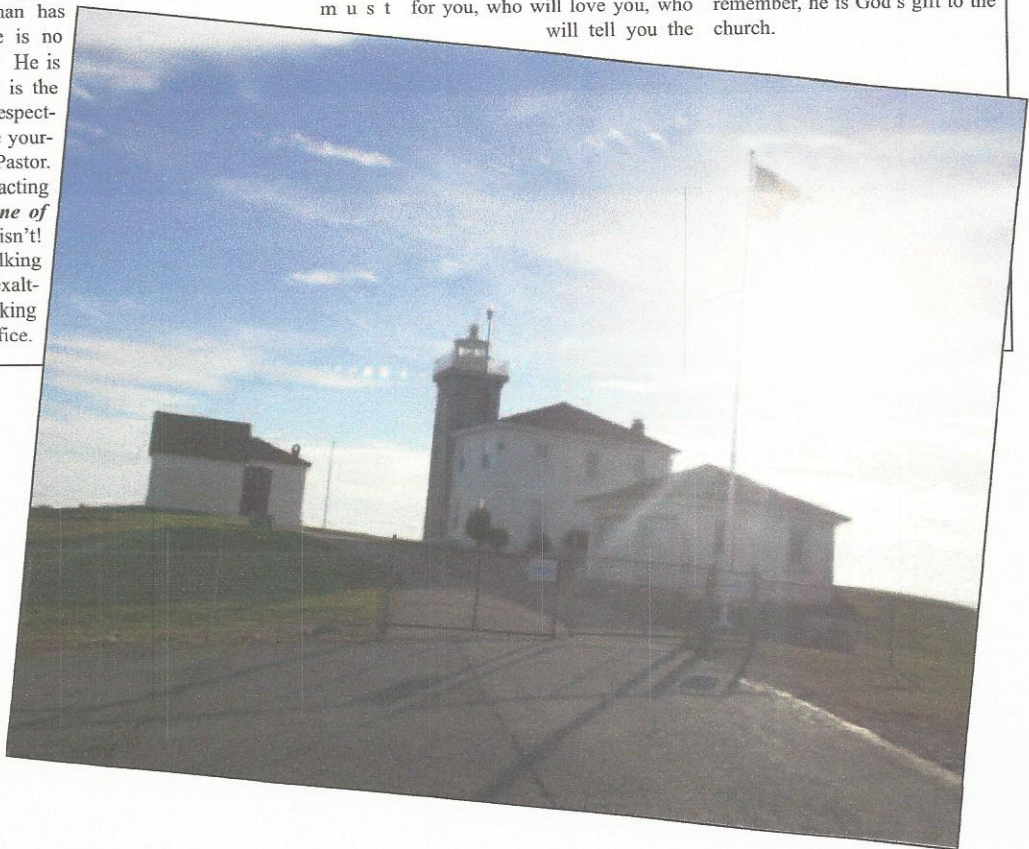
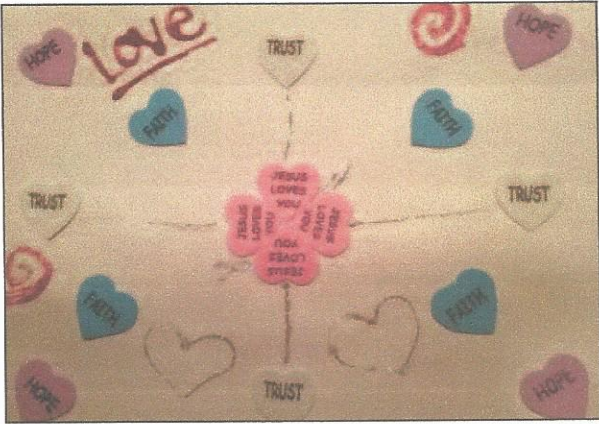


Photo Credit: NECB Staff



Artwork by Alexandra Hay

"O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years!" (Habakkuk 3:2)

## A New Year's Revival of the Heart

By James Moriello

*"Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all His heart and all His soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book" (2 Chronicles 34:31).*

Josiah reigned as the King of Judah during a period of time in Israel's history that was generally characterized by apostasy and idolatry. However, something happened that changed his life. A scribe brought God's Word to the king, and Josiah became a changed man. He realized how he and his subjects had been grieving God with their sinful behavior, and he repented. Josiah's personal revival resulted in a revival of the entire kingdom!

With the New Year upon us, what better resolution could you make than to pray for a personal spiritual revival? God has already made sure that the means to have such a revival of the heart is readily available to you. His complete revelation has been written for you and to you in a book—the Holy Bible. I challenge you to read through the entire book in 2018, and I guarantee you that you will not be the same when you have finished. What?! You haven't the time? God has given you the time that you need to get to know Him. If even half of the Christians in America read through their Bibles this year, imagine the spiritual revival that would take place in our communities!

*Revival always begins with God's Word.*

## A Word to Church Hoppers and Shoppers

By James Moriello

Given the multitude of churches today, it has become common to find people moving from church to church. Some people are looking for the ever elusive "perfect" church. Others are looking to evade accountability by not staying in one place for long. Still others are seeking the latest and greatest new church entertainment "experience." My advice is to get serious. Find a house of worship which preaches and teaches "wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords

with godliness" (1 Timothy 6:3). A good church believes in every word of the Bible, sets Scripture as a greater authority than tradition and human experience, preaches the whole gospel including the sinfulness of all people, the need for repentance, and the death, burial, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is Lord, God, and Savior. A good church will be serious about Bible reading and study, and prayer. It's time to stop hopping and shopping and get serious and grounded in the faith!

## "Be Holy, For I Am Holy" (Continued From Page 2)

By Scott Lancot

How do we obtain perfection and holiness? Surely not on our own. Is there anything too hard for God to handle? On the flip side, action is required if we are to grow daily in the likeness of our Creator. If we seek, we will find. If we ask, it will be given to us. If we knock, the door will open (Matthew 7:7). The question we must ask is whether we are seeking God's will or our own selfish will. "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss" (James 4:3). Our motives must be checked early and often. Holy perfection (relatively speaking) takes work on our part. Is your goal really to be daily more Christ-like? Nothing good is easy or free. It takes effort on our part as believers. Impossible is not in God's world. Pray, pray. Seek early. The heart of a professing Christian is what is going to be tested. The Bible has a Scripture verse for this. "This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me" (Mark 7:6). We as Christians have a narrow path to walk. The reward for our walk will be (final, glorification) salvation.

## Defending the Faith: The Doctrine of the Trinity

By NECB Staff

Some object to the "Trinity", since that word is not found in the Bible.

a. Our response is this. The Bible clearly teaches the existence of one God existing eternally in three Persons. If we called the doctrine "Three" or "One" or anything else, the naysayers still would not believe.

b. We have plurality in the Godhead from the very beginning (Genesis 1:26). John 1:1-3 teaches the distinctness and equality of the Word (Jesus, God the Son) with the Father. In at least four places we have the Trinitarian (Triune God) formula mentioned, including God the Holy Spirit, as a third distinct Person. Scriptural evidence includes, but is not limited to, Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:18-19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, and 1 John 5:7.

c. The Trinity is a major doctrine of the Christian faith. It is difficult for the human mind to comprehend, but we cannot expect to understand everything about the infinite God. If we throw out everything we cannot fully understand, then we will end up with an empty faith indeed. So please do not reject it based on your own understanding. Our view is this: God teaches it in His revealed Word, the Bible; We shall accept it as truth.

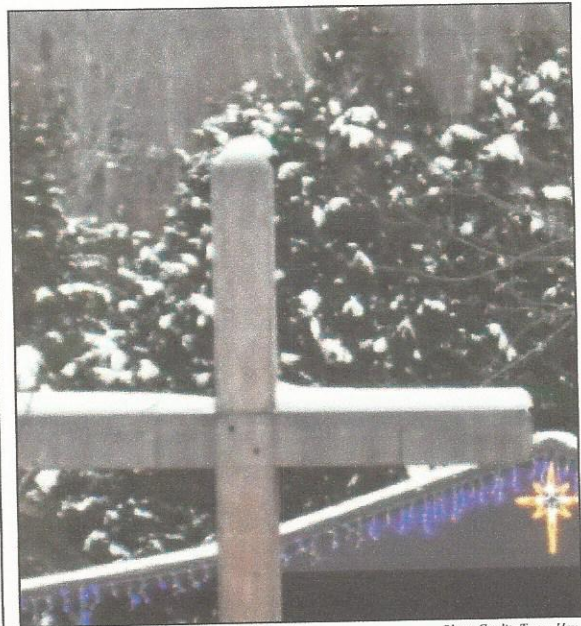


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness" (1 Timothy 6:3)