

Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

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Volume 2, Number 1

God's Free Gift to You: Eternal Life

By James Moriello

"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst" (John 4:13-14).

In the Bible, in the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, we read of a conversation that Jesus Christ had with a Samaritan woman nearly two thousand years ago. The woman had come to the local well to draw water for her daily physical needs, and she met Jesus at that place. The Lord pointed out that, as the divine Son of God, He not only provides water to quench our physical thirst, but He also offers water to quench our spiritual thirst (John 4:13-14).

Maybe you have been going about your daily business as if God does not exist, rarely if ever giving Him a thought. Perhaps you have been trying to fill the God-shaped hole in your heart with worldly pursuits, yet you still feel unfulfilled. You may even consider yourself a



Credit: RICB Staff

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink" (John 7:37)

religious person, giving lip service to a God that you believe in but have no personal relationship with. In these things, you are not alone. They were characteristic of the unnamed Samaritan woman in

Jesus' day. We know that she responded by placing her faith in Jesus Christ, and testified to His goodness. What will you do? (continued on page 4)

Perplexing Events: Divine Reassurance

By Gerard Lachance

Before Jesus left this world to sit at the right hand of God on His throne, He gave soothing words of comfort to His apostles in John chapters 14-17. Charles Spurgeon paraphrases the Lord's sentiments this way: "I will send you another comforter, one who shall be just what I have been, yes even more; who shall console you in your sorrows, remove your doubts, comfort you in your afflictions, and stand as My Vicar on earth, to do that which I would have done, had I tarried with you."

("Perplexing Events", continued on page 8)

Technology Wakeup! "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)

By Tanya Hay

After spending many hours on the phone with my cell phone company they explained that I needed a new SIM card for my cell phone. They said that it would be sent out immediately, but that it would take 3-5 days to receive it. I was so angry that I had been without a cell phone for a day, let alone 3-5 days and I thought, what a waste of time! Shortly after that, my phone rang. It was a friend complaining about how slow her internet was running. She was lamenting the fact that she had switched to a new provider.

We live in an age of technology and speed. Everything is instantaneous. When it is not, we feel lost and uncomfortable. There was a time, not so long ago, that cell phones were not common, and the internet was a luxury. Both of these things today are every day staples, or so we think of them that way.

It got me thinking, How much time do I spend focusing on my spiritual technology? To be in touch with God we don't need a cell phone, the internet, or anything relative to earthly technology. We simply need faith, focus, and a moment of time to speak to Him. God is always there, just waiting for us to



"Sea Gull Over Yarmouth", Credit: RICB Staff

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16)

reach out. He welcomes our thoughts and communication with Him. Take time today to speak to Him. He will listen. The connection is always there, and you don't have to wait 3-5 days for it. Invest a few minutes each day to speak

to Him. I promise it will be worth it!

"God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). "Men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1).

Spiritual Motto: Words to Live By | Letter from an Unsaved Friend

By Craig Greenslade

"The only time we should ever look down on someone is when we are helping them up."

This is a perfect state of mind for the world in which we live in. As we are all well aware of, there are some very bad decisions being made by people from as high as the President to as low as someone like

you and me. As much as we would like to, this is not for us to judge. "Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?" (James 4:11-12).

"Spiritual Motto", continued on page 4

Submitted by Brian Violette
From livingwaters.com

My friend, I stand in judgment now, and feel that you're to blame somehow. On earth I walked with you by day, and never did you show the way. You knew the Savior in truth and glory. But never did you tell the story. My knowledge then was very dim. You could have led me safe to Him. Though we lived together, here on earth,

you never told me of the second birth. And now I stand before eternal hell, because of heaven's glory you did not tell!

Editor's Note: It is a sad commentary that many professing Christians will save someone from a burning building, but will not lift a finger to save a lost soul from an eternity in hell. How often do you share your faith with others?

Wisdom for Women



By Susan
Moriello

Summer is almost over, and autumn is coming upon us. The leaves will soon be changing from ordinary green to amazing shades of yellow, orange, and red. What a beautiful picture God gives us every fall! So, like the changing of the leaves, why don't we look into changing our hearts to get closer to our Creator? Why don't we take time on a daily basis to read His Word? It is time to wipe the dust off of our Bibles and start reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word. If you do so, your life will be transformed. You will find hope, joy, and peace in your heart, instead of worry, stress, and a troubled spirit. Lift up your voice in prayer and thanksgiving on a daily basis, and remember all the blessings that you have in your life. Focus on the positive, and surround yourself with other positive Christians who will encourage you. Teach your children about Jesus and all that He has done for them so that they too can grow to know Him. Attend a local church with your family. "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25). Take the time to attend a Bible Study or Prayer Meeting. Let's make that change today, for none of us is promised tomorrow. I will pray that you, dear reader, will focus on the change of heart now. Until next time, God bless you!

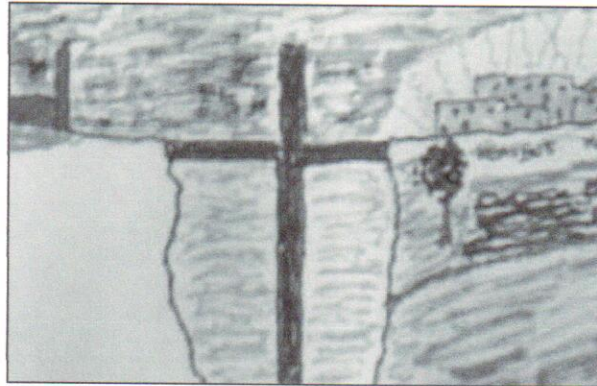
Who are your Heroes?

"looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2)

By Tanya Hay

In light of recent news stories, I began to think about the types of people we look up to. Who are your heroes and heroines, the people you most admire? Outside of your own family and friends, who do you look to for inspiration and guidance? Who is an example of the type of person you would like to be?

Some look up to athletes, entertainers, popular artists, writers, world leaders, the list goes on. What about that person makes you look up to them? Perhaps they offer us an escape, we can identify with them, they inspire us, they positively influence our lives, or they challenge us. It's important for us to learn from others but it is also important to realize that these people who we look up to or even maybe secretly envy because of their money, physique, toys, talents, accomplishments, or any other reason, are human beings. Human beings are imperfect, and all are sinners. Their lives may appear perfect. Their outward appearance and actions may seem stellar and honest, but only God truly knows all of their hearts, actions, and intentions.



'Bridge to Eternal Life' By Bob Lockhart

"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Let's be careful who we want to be or who we are looking up to. Let us all literally look up when seeking a hero. Let us strive to be more like Jesus. He is caring, forgiving and best of all, our pass to eternal life. He is

someone who will always be there, will never let us down, will never stop loving us, and when we put our faith and trust in Him, we are given eternal life. Anyone who can provide those guarantees qualifies as my hero!

That Seagull: A Wonderful Picture of God's Care and Protection

By Gerry Bettencourt

One afternoon, the forecast called for strong winds and high surf. I decided to go to an inlet called Ocean Grove. As I parked my car and had lunch, I watched the surf and the many seagulls crowding around. They seemed to be hunting for nibbles of food. Suddenly, there appeared a large seagull, that seemed to dominate all of the surrounding seagulls. They were attempting to find

food but, as they would approach toward food, they were scurried away by this more dominant seagull. Then, appearing so suddenly, was a small seagull. This small seagull seemed to have the ability to go where it wished for food, without being warded off by the dominant seagull. It was almost as if the dominant seagull was guarding the small seagull, as if to protect it. God commands the animal world to use its instincts for survival, and also to protect its young. Alongside

the small seagull, there came forth a seagull with only one leg, and I marveled that it too was protected and provided for. This reminded me of the ravens who fed Elijah twice a day, once in the morning, and once in the evening (1 Kings 17:6). God provided in times of need for His servant to care for him when he was not able to get his necessary food himself.

(continued on page 4)

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Firm Foundation Christian Church

You are invited!

We invite you to join us Sundays at 10 am for worship service and/or Fridays at 7 pm for Bible study. We meet at St. Ann Arts and Cultural Center, 84 Cumberland, Woonsocket, 401-765-0107. We are serious about God's truth as presented in the Bible. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is clearly preached and the whole counsel of God is

taught. Stop playing games with God and get serious about your faith and obey the biblical injunction. "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Children's Page: A Sunday School Lesson

By Tanya Hay

I am often asked what I teach in Sunday School. The short answer is, I teach the word of God in terms that are understandable to children. There is usually a craft that relates to the lesson to help reinforce the idea. Recently I taught a lesson that not only taught the children, but enlightened me as so often happens. We were



'Magainata Plant'
(RICB Staff)

discussing how God created us and how everything in our lives happens in accordance to God's plan for us. When we are troubled we should ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. We also discussed outward/physical appearance and how it's hard to really know a person or what they are going through based just on that. I used the example of a friend that I lost to cancer earlier in the year. The last time I saw her was two months before she passed. I asked her how she was and her response was "I'm getting stronger every day" with a great big smile.

We discussed cancer briefly as a group and I asked the children if they really thought that my friend was getting stronger. They said no, she was sick. I asked both of my daughters, who also saw her that day, if she looked sick and they said no but even though she didn't look it she really was. We discussed how many



jsprinting.com, stock coloring page

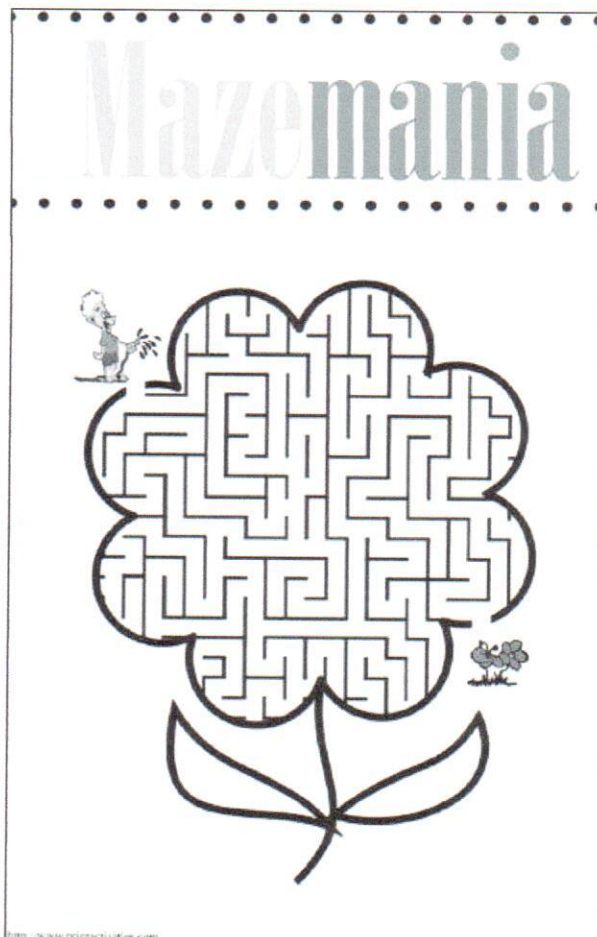
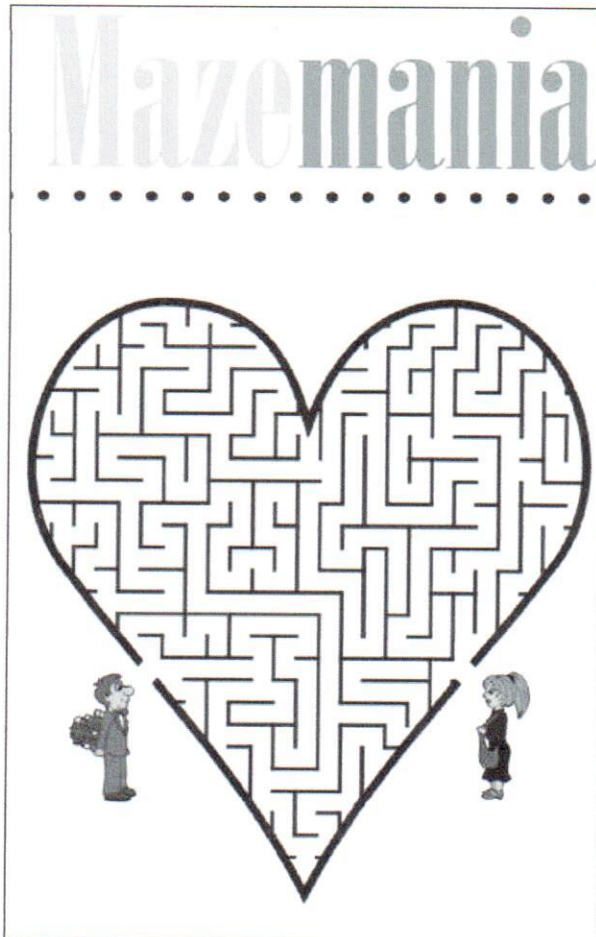
"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." (Romans 8:28, NLT)

people are physically sick, emotionally sick, or spiritually sick that we see daily and never even know it!

It occurred to me at that very moment what exactly my friend meant when she said that she was getting stronger every day. She didn't mean that she was getting

stronger physically. God was strengthening her spiritually to prepare her for eternal life with Him. He was giving her strength to be able to say goodbye to her family and friends, make peace with it, and be ready to be with Him. It gave me a lot of comfort to figure out, even if it was

months later, what that statement really meant. God was preparing her and teaching me, as well as many others, to put faith in Him and in return you are given strength that gets stronger every day right to the very last! His gifts are endless. Amen for that!!!



<http://www.printactivities.com>

My Christian Testimony: Realizing my need for the Savior

By Brian Violette

In my twenties, I developed an interest in self-improvement. I listened to motivational speakers such as Tony Robbins, Jack Canfield, and Jim Rohn. They spoke about improving in areas such as relationships, career, physical fitness, finance, and spirituality. Growing up, I rarely went to church, and the only thing I did know is that Jesus is God. Beyond that, my knowledge was limited. Fast forward to my late twenties. I remember switching channels on television late one night, and I ended up listening to this young inspirational Pastor. This Pastor motivated me with his words and with his stories. I was so happy that I had found an outlet to help me in the area of spirituality. Every week I watched the sermons, plus I learned their opening prayer. At work, people made fun of me be-

cause I considered it going to church when I watched the Pastor on television. The show is mainly about hope and positive things. My thought process about God turned

into: God taking care of my needs which in turn took me to the 'next level'. All I had to do was be a 'good person'.

Years later, I met a new friend



Nubble Light, York, Maine. Credit: RICB Staff

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

Eric through our sons' baseball team. Eric introduced me to a side of Christianity that I had never heard from the Pastor on television. One day, Eric handed me a card with the Ten Commandments on it, and there were questions on the back of it. Eric explained to me that I had broken God's law, and needed to repent of my sins. For the first time, I felt convicted of my sins, and realized my need for a Savior. This became my foundation, a new path, unto growth in my spiritual life. Standing between God and I were the sins that I had committed. Jesus provided a way out. He died on the cross and took the penalty for all my sins. For those who believe in Him will be saved. "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).

(continued on page 8)

God's Free Gift, continued from page 1

By James Moriello

God gave you a free will, and He will not force Himself upon you. He wants you to love Him freely. Each of us must make a decision. Will we accept the spiritual water springing up to eternal life which Christ offers, or will we reject it? There are really only two options. Any attempt to put off the need for a decision is a rejection. I suppose that there are more procrastinators inhabiting the corridors of hell than all other manner of sinners combined. Who knows how many more 'tomorrows' you will have but God Himself? "For

you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1).

The invitation goes out to you today, and it expires when you do. "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy, and eat" (Isaiah 55:1). Hear the words of Jesus Himself, who said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and He who believes in Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). Come as you are to the foot of the cross today! "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Spiritual Motto, continued from page 1

By Craig Greenslade

To speak against a brother is to scorn the law of love. So we learn from this that it is simply not our place to interfere. As believers we are to pray, but we are also called to be witnesses. We must bear testimony to the power of faith and to God's faithfulness. "See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give

thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:15-24). Retaliation is never a Christian option. Christians are called to forgive. Our joy is not

That Seagull, continued from page 2

By Gerry Bettencourt

We have our needs met by God, for He has promised to provide for us. That seagull reminded me of this truth, and God's promises in His Word. "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. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31). "He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5).

This small occurrence was an enlightenment from the all knowing and caring GOD from "That Seagull".

"Happy is He who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his

God, Who made heaven and earth, The sea and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever, Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners" (Psalm 146:5-7).



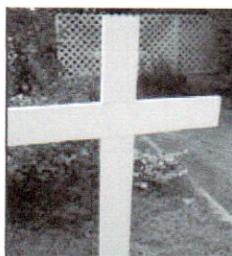
Credit: RICB Staff

"Praise the LORD!"
(Psalm 147:1a)

dependent on circumstances. It comes from what Christ has done, and it is constant. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). Sometimes we must put our blinders on and keep moving forward. Let us put our hands to the plow and not look back, for

there are better things to come. "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

News and Notes: Christianity Meets Culture



Marriage

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24)

Exodus International Caves to Pressure

By RICB Staff

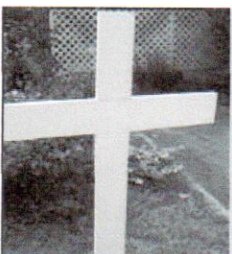
Exodus International, which has been ministering for thirty-seven years to those who struggle with the sin of homosexuality, is dissolving itself. Alan Chambers, who serves as the President of Exodus International, stated that: "For quite some time we've been imprisoned in a worldview that's neither honoring toward our fellow human beings, nor biblical".

At the center of the controversy is what is known as 'reparative therapy', which is the practice that has always been used by Chris-

tian counselors. This biblical approach of seeking God's deliverance from desires which the Bible calls "shameful" and "against nature" has always been used by the church (Romans 1:26-27). It is not enough that God's definition of marriage has been rejected and redefined in several states, most recently Rhode Island. There is a move on to make biblically based reparative therapy illegal as well.

It is a shame that so many churches and organizations who claim to speak for Christ are caving under the pressure of the mob mentality of those who make a religion out of an issue.

(Source Consulted: exodusinternational.com)



Blood Drives

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood" (Leviticus 17:11)

Openly Gay Mayor Cannot Donate Blood

By RICB Staff

The Mayor and Vice-Mayor of Campbell, California, organized a blood drive for the San Francisco area Red Cross. However, they themselves were unable to donate blood because they are openly gay men. Under FDA guidelines, practicing homosexuals are not allowed to donate blood.

The reason is not discriminatory. Rather, it is based upon established medical facts. This popu-

lation is at greatly increased risk of carrying the HIV virus, from which we get AIDS. According to the CDC, 63% of all new cases of HIV infection involve gay men. Clearly, their behavior presents a serious public health risk, and the FDA has established a policy in the best interest of all United States citizens by protecting the blood supply. Medical science has not advanced to the point where HIV can be detected 100% of the time, and it is therefore a dangerous thing to change the policy.

(Sources Consulted: myfoxdc.com, cdc.gov)



Unborn Babies

"For you formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13)

Gloria Steinem Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

By RICB Staff

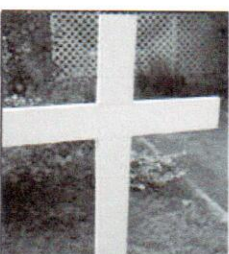
President Barack Obama has announced that Gloria Steinem will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work for the 'pro-choice' cause. She follows Senator Ted Kennedy and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in receiving the same award, at least in part for similar advocacy.

This is a shame when the nation turns moral values on their heads. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20). 'Pro-choice' is an oxymoron, for the unborn babies have no choice in the matter. For

reasons usually related to the convenience of the mother, little baby heartbeats are stopped, tissues and organs are barbarically vacuumed out of the womb, and/or saline poison is introduced to the helpless little baby in order to murder him or her. A mother's womb is indeed a very dangerous place to be in America.

Let us pray that people see abortion for what it is, murder. May the eyes of our leaders be opened up to this tragedy. And may the weak kneed men in this country stop excusing themselves from the debate, realizing that this is not about the mother, but that it is about the baby.

(Source: lifenews.com)



Crisis in Egypt

"Remember the prisoners as if chained with them--those who are mistreated--since you yourselves are in the body also" (Hebrews 13:3)

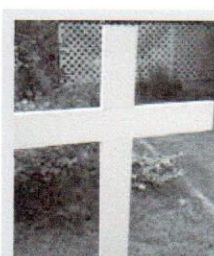
Christians Being Persecuted in Egypt

By RICB Staff

Egyptian Christians are becoming more and more a target of Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt. The persecution of the Christian minority intensified with the ouster of former President Mubarak, and the installation of 'democratically elected' President Morsi, who is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, an organization that many believe has ties to Al Qaeda. Now that the Egyptian army has removed Morsi from power at the behest of the Egypt-

ian people, Christians have become even more persecuted. The murder of Copts (Egyptian Eastern Orthodox Christians), and the burning of their homes, businesses, and churches, is an increasing problem. While the elitists in the West do nothing, groups such as the Egyptian Socialist Party are taking a stand, saying: "We will not allow Egypt's Copts to be targeted for hatred, nor neglected by authorities that do not meet its citizens' demands and rights". Please pray for your brothers and sisters in Egypt.

(Source: MidEast Christian News, mcdirect.com)



Defending the Christian Faith

"Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3)

By RICB Staff

Attacks on the Christian faith are coming from within and without professing Christianity.

The attacks from without are coming from the secular humanistic crowd. They want to ban God from the public square, the schools and universities, and anyplace else. Would somebody please tell these people that the Lord is omnipresent?

The attacks from within are coming primarily from the Charismatic/Pentecostal movement. First, there is an adulteration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is falsely taught that speaking in tongues is evidence of salvation, and if you believe that as universal truth then it follows that if one does not speak in tongues then they are not really a child of God. This is foolishness, and a false gospel. "As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:9). The gift of tongues in the Bible was always speech in known languages, and it has ceased with the other sign gifts (Hebrews 2:3-4). If you walk into a church or prayer meeting and everyone is babbling or falling on the floor, and you think they are crazy, you are correct, and the Apostle Paul would agree with you (1 Corinthians 14:23). Another pitfall of this movement is its diminishing the authority of the Bible by affirming the existence of modern day prophets. No man or woman has that gift today in the sense that Scripture defines it (Ephesians 2:20).

Soul Winning By James Moriello (text taken from the sermon delivered 6/30/13 at Firm Foundation Christian Church)

"He who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30b, NKJV)

The salvation of souls is God's work, and His alone. However, He calls Christian men and Christian women everywhere to participate in His work. The command to preach the gospel is a universal one: "Go, therefore and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). Nobody can be a disciple without first becoming a Christian. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). A second birth—a spiritual birth—is required. "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). A clear presentation of the gospel is necessary in order that the weak and weary sinner might understand the grace and hope that the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone can bring. "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher" (Romans 10:14)? And here is the gospel: "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). The facts which must be believed are presented concisely by the Apostle Paul: "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1

Corinthians 15:3-4).

There are four main points which we will bring out that speak to why soul winning is wise. First, "he who wins souls is wise" because many souls are lost and it is a needful ministry. Second, "he who wins souls is wise" because it is every believer's responsibility. Third, "he who wins souls is wise" because it strengthens one's own faith. Fourth, "he who wins souls is wise" because the soul winner stores up treasures in heaven. Finally, we will define various categories of sinners, and offer practical instruction for winning each kind.

First, "he who wins souls is wise" because many souls are lost and it is a needful ministry. The Lord Jesus counsels sinners to "enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it" (Matthew 7:13). "The harvest (of souls) truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). In other words, the number of needy souls far exceeds the number of those who are willing to work to meet the need. Are you a Christian looking to be of use to the Master?

Are you unsure of how to serve He who paid so great a price for the redemption of your soul? Heed then the counsel of Solomon. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10a). As long as there are unsaved souls in your family, neighborhood, and workplace, a need exists right now, right where you are. There are sinners all around each of us who need the Savior.

Second, "he who wins souls is wise" because it is every believer's responsibility. We said in the opening that soul winning is part of the Great Commission. For too many professing Christians, there is a 'Great Omission' with regard to evangelism and discipleship. The Lord holds us accountable not only for sins of commission (anger, lust, and the like), but also for our sins of omission. If we saw a man in a burning building, would we not rescue him if we were able to do so? Why then will we not rescue the same man who is facing an eternity apart from God, being scorched by the flames of hellfire?! Heed the divine command. "Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, 'Surely we did not know this', Does not He who weighs the

hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds" (Proverbs 24:11-12)? The Apostle Paul was a faithful steward of the Gospel of God. Heed his inspired words. "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:16)! Notice that for Paul, proclaiming the gospel was not optional. And he backed up his talk by walking the walk.

Third, "he who wins souls is wise" because it strengthens his own faith. God gives us commands for our own spiritual benefit. Our faith is strengthened as we obey the Lord, and see Him work through us (redeemed sinners) to minister hope to lost sinners. Those who take seriously the call of God to be light bearers are of necessity much in prayer and much in the Bible. Soul winning is spiritual work, and we must be connected to the vine which is Christ if we expect to be successful in the work. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

(continued on page 7)



**Firm
Foundation
Christian Church**

Worship Service: Sunday 10am
401-765-0107
www.firmfoundationri.com

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16)

Soul Winning, By James Moriello, continued from the previous page...

Learn how to share the hope that you have in Jesus Christ!

Soul winning is spiritual work which engages the heart and the mind. This being so, Christian worker, you are called to "be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). As we continually pray and spend time in the Scriptures each and every day, our faith is strengthened and we bear spiritual fruit unto the Lord. What a great and glorious thing it is to rejoice with the angels of heaven when we see lost men and women coming to Christ because we were faithful to God's charge (Luke 15:7)! Now a word to the discouraged soul winner: "the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:3). There will be times, even seasons, when you are faithful but the gospel falls on deaf ears and hardened hearts. It is the will of God that we learn patience through such experiences. Persevere through those times in prayer, and continue to share the hope that is in you, knowing that the work is ultimately the Lord's and not your own.

Fourth, "he who wins souls is wise" because the soul winner stores up treasures in heaven. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). Alfred P. Gibbs, in his book 'Personal Evangelism', poses this question: "Suppose you were offered \$1,000.00 for every soul you earnestly sought to win for Christ.

Would you, for this reward, seek to win more souls for Christ than you are doing right now? If so, your love for money is greater than your love for Christ or your fellow man." The greatest treasures are heavenly ones. Salvation is a treasure of eternal value (John 3:16). Every soul that makes it to heaven because we are the mouthpieces of God is a heavenly treasure. What are your priorities and perspectives, and are they in need of rearrangement?

Finally, we will define various categories of sinners, and offer practical instruction for winning each kind. This list is by no means exhaustive, but is meant to provide general aid to the soul winner. Notice the difficulties presented in each case. Occasionally, the Lord will send a ready hearer with an open heart to receive the gospel, but this usually is not so.

1. Mr. Careless: This sinner is living life as if God does not exist, without a care in the world with regard to spiritual things. In most cases, this person is not averse to God. The challenge is to awaken this sinner to the danger of neglecting spiritual truth. Scriptures to use: Proverbs 27:1; Mark 8:36; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 3:15

2. Ms. Skeptic: This

sinner is usually awakened to his or her spiritual need. Many are legitimately skeptical because of upbringing, background, or lack of understanding of the Christian faith. Gracefully and patiently answer and show this person in the Bible the answers to his or her questions. Scriptures to use: John 3:3; Romans 3:10-23, 6:23, 10:13; Hebrews 7:25

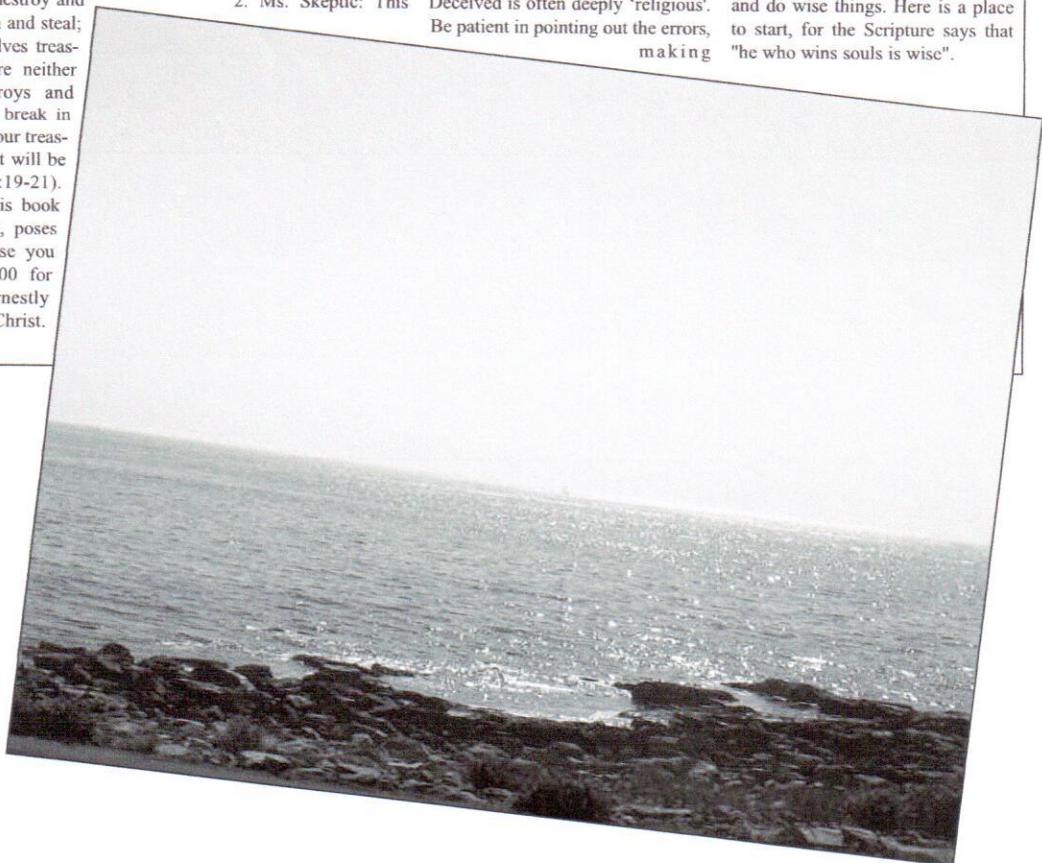
3. Mr. Smokescreen: This sinner is using skepticism as a smokescreen to evade accountability to God. These often consider themselves atheists or agnostics. These sinners will continually raise objections to Christian truth at every turn, and the soul winner should seek to meet these objections, which are really excuses, with Scripture based responses. Keep bringing the discussion back to the gospel, with emphasis on its objective truth and its claims on the individual. As a baseline, seek an agreement for both parties to be perfectly honest in discussion. Scriptures to use: Isaiah 1:18; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; Galatians 6:7; James 2:10

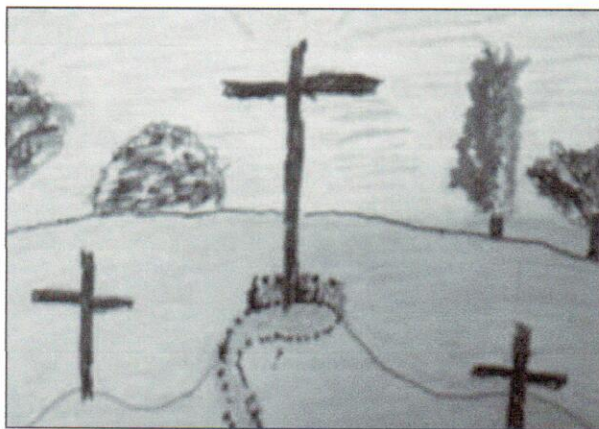
4. Ms. Deceived: This sinner has misconceptions about the gospel and the Christian faith. Be aware that for many, these false beliefs are sincerely held and deeply rooted, and Ms. Deceived is often deeply 'religious'. Be patient in pointing out the errors, making

it a point not to 'attack the person'. Do it by showing this person where Scripture speaks on a matter, for often this person has a high view of God's written revelation. Scriptures to use: General (Isaiah 8:20; John 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16). To those who have been taught that salvation can be lost (John 6:37, 10:28; Ephesians 1:13), Roman Catholics who are often confused about the role of works in salvation and the role of Mary (Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 10:10-12), Oneness Pentecostal Cult and other Charismatic groups which deny the Trinity and/or teach that speaking in tongues is required evidence of salvation—which is a false gospel (Matthew 3:16-17; John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:30, 13; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5; Revelation 22:18-19), Jehovah's Witnesses which deny the deity of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3, 8:58, 10:30).

There was a king in ancient Israel named Solomon. He is famous for asking for wisdom, and "the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing" (1 Kings 3:10). Do you wish to please the Lord, dear Christian friend? If so, I encourage you to seek wisdom and do wise things. Here is a place to start, for the Scripture says that "he who wins souls is wise".

Photo Credit: RICB
Staff, Gloucester,
Massachusetts
"Praise the LORD
from the earth, You
great sea creatures
and all the depths"
(Psalm 148:7)





'It is Finished', By Bob Lockhart

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit" (John 19:30).

Perplexing Events: Divine Reassurance (continued from page 1)

By Gerard Lachance

Jesus was a man of sorrows: "He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." (Isaiah 53:3)

The apostle Peter had an instance of doubt and began to sink into the sea. Don't we sometimes have an instance of doubt when we begin to feel financial insecurity, or we begin to doubt whether or not God hears our prayers because we are still waiting and we begin to lack in faith only because we don't completely trust Him?

The indwelling Holy Spirit will remove our doubts: "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of Little Faith?" (Matthew 6:30)

The Comforter will comfort us in our afflictions: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all." (Psalm 34:9)

Robert E. Lee's statement sums these things up well: "In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength."

Jeremiah 31:3: "The LORD has appeared to me of old, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.'"

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Jude 24-25: "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

My Christian Testimony, continued from page 4

By Brian Violette

Eric, along with another friend, Tommy, planted the seed in me about Jesus and Christianity. Eric invited me to church, and I enjoyed it. It was great to learn about God and fellowship with other Christians. I started to go to church weekly. In 2009, I gave my life fully to Christ, and got baptized on Father's Day. From that year on, the top priority of my life has been building a relation-

ship with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If I need answers for anything, I turn to the Bible, God's Word, and get God's thoughts on the matter (Isaiah 55:8-9). In conclusion, I discovered a great Bible based church that clearly teaches a need for Jesus in your life. I'm proud to be a part of Firm Foundation Christian Church, helping to do God's work. All glory to God!

Brotherly Love: Make peace with God and men while there is still time

By Craig Greenslade

My brother is one of the most important people in my life and he doesn't even know it. How would he know? I haven't even told him. We sometimes go through life assuming we are known by our works, whether they are good or bad. I'm reminded of the false prophets spoken of in the Gospel of Matthew. "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matthew 7:16-23). He never knew them. How terrible is that? All that they thought they were doing was nothing compared to the relationship with the Lord that they were lacking. The Lord needs to be told how we feel about Him. Whether it be through prayer or faith, we need to have a relationship with Him, and it must be from our heart. Without that relationship, He will never know us. Speak to Him. Give Him all the glory in your life. Honor Him, and most of all, love Him, and He will always love you back. I missed out on having a relationship with my brother, and now it's too late. I can only tell him that I love him now, but I'm afraid my works outweigh any hope of a relationship with him. I can't imagine that happening with my Lord and Savior. When the end comes, I'm afraid that there will be no flood of last minute conversions accepted. Now is the time to give your all, and it can be as easy as saying, 'I love you.' The love for my brother will always be there, and the love for my Father will be for an eternity. And I'm proud to say to both of them...I love you.

What does the Bible say about Christians and Sin?

(excerpted, bible-truth.org)
By Cooper Adams

The way the saved child of God lives is always presented in sharp contrast as to how the lost live. Concerning the saved person the Bible says, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4, KJV) Note that the verse says those who experience the new birth "should walk in the newness of life." Romans 6:6, says "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." The child of God is saved in order that he might overcome sin. Salvation is being saved from sin and its penalties. Paul states the fact of this new relationship toward sin in the genuine Christian's life. "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." (Romans 6:14)

To those who claim the name of Jesus and yet remain unchanged and live sin dominated lives God says, "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:2) Living a life of separation from sin is not arbitrary for the believer. It is not a matter in which God has given us a choice. When the Lord says, we "should" walk in the newness of life, He is not saying the issue is subjective. It can be illustrated this way. What does the following sentence mean? "If a man is pilot he can fly airplanes!" The sentence is not saying that an airplane pilot may or may not fly airplane. What it is saying is that if a man is a pilot he will fly airplanes. To be a pilot is to be a flyer! To be a born again child of God means that one does not live a life of glaring sin.

It is not normal for a saved man to allow sin to go unchallenged in his life. The true believer will hate sin in his life and fight it. How could a man who has the spirit of God indwelling him, think nothing of allowing blatant sin to remain unopposed. Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other." (Matthew 6:24)