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Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

Any Other Way But God: America's Spiritual Decline

By James Moriello

The subject of the Old Testament Book of Hosea is the spiritual adultery and falling away from God of the people of Israel who lived in that day. In reading and studying it recently, it struck me that it reads like today's news in the United States of America! This nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, and men and women have given their lives to defend the freedom we enjoy. Yet, many people are living lives characterized by unfaithfulness to the God who created them, and our nation is suffering as a result. In Hosea Chapter 8, we have seven symptoms of spiritual adultery that have clear parallels in our present day.

First, there is false profession. "Israel will cry to Me, 'My God, we know You!'" (8:2). According to polls, a majority of Americans identify as Christians, but you would never know it by their lives. Jesus said, "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" (Matthew 7:21). I'm afraid that too many of today's professing Christians would find themselves the subjects of this statement. Don't be one of them.

Second, there is the selection of leaders who have ungodly moral principles. "They set up kings, but not by Me" (8:4). A majority of Americans and Rhode Islanders have chosen



Onset Bay, Credit: RICB Staff

"Return to me," says the LORD of hosts, "and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 1:3)

leaders that support the murder of unborn children, and seek to redefine the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman, which God instituted in the beginning.

Third, idols have been set up and placed before God. "From their silver and gold they made idols for

themselves" (8:4). In America today, we have made idols out of celebrities, sports, money, and material possessions. People schedule things on Sunday morning, giving a 'convenient' excuse for neglecting the first duty to worship God (Mark 12:30). (Continued, page 4)

The Divine Law is the Agent for Conversion

By Gerard Lachance

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple" (Psalm 19:7).

As responsible servants of the Lord, we are to be careful not to misrepresent the Christian life by telling lost and unconverted sinners the benefits of the Christian life without addressing the necessary disciplines, trials, and temptations that must be endured. Despite these, there is great eternal benefit for those "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:25). "Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake" (Luke 6:22). When we tell the sinner that God's way (through Jesus Christ, Cf. John 14:6) is the only way to salvation, we must not forget to use God's perfect law to convict this person through God the Holy Spirit of the disease of his sin. To omit the need to confess sins to God with a humble and contrite heart will lead to weak confession, backsliding, or false conversion. (continued, page 6)

Jihadists Crucify Christians Human Trafficking in 2014

By RICB Staff

Internet media outlets such as freedomoutpost.com are reporting that Islamic Jihadists are committing atrocities such as beheadings and crucifixions of Christians in Syria. Reports of pregnant Christian women having their children ripped out of the womb and murdered, and Christian women being forced into slavery by their 'captors' are also surfacing.

President Obama, his administration, and his minions in the media, remain largely silent on these issues both in word and in action. In many cases, the United States continues to send tax dollars

to those nations that sponsor or allow such evil. There is also an unwillingness to admit at best, and an outright denial of at worst, that these atrocities are being committed by those who identify as Islamic fundamentalists. Where are the champions of justice on this issue?

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Man's inhumanity to man is a result of an unredeemed heart. Apart from the presence of Jesus Christ in the heart, and God the Holy Spirit as a guide, man is capable of unrestrained evil toward his fellow man. Christian friend, please pray for your persecuted brothers and sisters, and for their enemies.

By RICB Staff

The American media has rightly put the spotlight on the exploitation of the girls in Nigeria by the terrorist group Boko Haram, which purports to exist to promote Islamic Sharia Law by any means, including the kidnapping and exploitation of young girls. This group, however, is not the only group involved in such activities. U.S. State Department estimates of the

number of human beings being illegally trafficked vary from 4 million to 27 million persons. As 'sophisticated' and 'cultured' as we imagine ourselves to be in 2014, this still goes on right under our noses. 80% of the victims taken from one country to another are females, and most of them are sold into prostitution and/or other forced labor. It is estimated that nearly 250,000 people in the U.S. are at risk of, or victims of, human trafficking.

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27)



Photo Credit: RICB Staff

"Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name!"
(Psalm 103:1)

Wisdom for Women Go Forward in Faith!

By Susan Moriello

Just recently, I have been greatly blessed, as my nine year old granddaughter received communion for the first time. She had read the whole Bible, asked many questions, and studied all that she could to understand the meaning of Christianity and know Jesus. There was not a dry eye in the house of the Lord that day! I also have a six year old granddaughter who is following in her steps, reading her Bible daily and asking questions about Jesus who she loves deeply.

Almost five years ago, four of us in blind faith decided to plant "Firm", not knowing how it would all turn out. Is this really what the Lord wants us to do? Will He bless it? Will we grow? Is this really our ministry for Jesus? How do we know? We had so many questions, but we moved forward in faith--blind faith in Him. So now I challenge you. Why are you not seeking His leading in what He wants you to do? Search your heart, pray, and go forward in what He is asking you to do. We have been so blessed in having and sharing our lives with the wonderful people who have come to Firm, and watching them grow. What will you do? Go forward in faith! God will be with you every step of the way! Search your hearts, and consider what He is asking of you, no matter how small or big, and do all to His glory. Have a wonderful and blessed summer. And remember, praise Him! Praise the Lord!

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

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Visit us at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket RI, Sunday mornings at 10 am and Friday evenings at 7 pm.

The Scallop: God's Faithful Care and Gracious Provision

By Gerry Bettencourt

The scallop: the simple reminder of God! His leading, timing, and finding: a single scallop, found in waters after years of absence. As I was searching the waters for quahogs, I came to this lone scallop. My hands bringing it up, my eyes were then directed to a seagull diligently working to find food. He suddenly flew upward with a shell in his mouth, flying high, and then purposely dropping this shell from its mouth, to open the shell and receive its food. Again, God was showing me how He even provides for the bird of the air. "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26). God was calling out to me through the seagull, by reminding me of His gracious provision for sustaining life. He promises to also do this for us, as we too are His creation.

How great Thou art!
He seeks heart's needs.
He gives direction
And wisdom.
He leads our steps
And guides our thoughts
To know how very
Concerned He is for us,
In more ways
Than we can ever know.
This is the hand
Of the Living God,
Providing for all our needs
And showing that
He can be trusted
In all our cares.
How great Thou art!

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:25-26).

Proverbs 31: The Biblical Portrait of the Godly Woman

Proverbs 31:10-31

"Who can find a virtuous wife?
For her worth is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband safely
trusts her;
So he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax,
And willingly works with her
hands.
She is like the merchant ships,
She brings her food from afar.
She also rises while it is yet night,
And provides food for her household,
And a portion for her maidservants.
She considers a field and buys it;
From her profits she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength,
And strengthens her arms.
She perceives that her merchandise
is good,
And her lamp does not go out by
night.
She stretches out her hands to the
distaff,
And her hand holds the spindle.
She extends her hand to the poor,
Yes, she reaches out her hands to
the needy.
She is not afraid of snow for her
household,
For all her household is clothed
with scarlet.
She makes tapestry for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of
the land.
She makes linen garments and sells
them,
And supplies sashes for the merchants.
Strength and honor are her clothing;
She shall rejoice in time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And on her tongue is the law of
kindness.
She watches over the ways of her
household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her
blessed;
Her husband also, and he praises
her:
"Many daughters have done well,
But you excel them all."
Charm is deceitful and beauty is
passing,
But a woman who fears the Lord,
she shall be praised.
Give her of the fruit of her hands,
And let her own works praise her
in the gates" (Proverbs 31:10-31).

You have a True Friend in God

By Tanya Hay

I recently heard from a former boss and good friend. Every time I hear from him it seems like we worked together just yesterday. In reality, it was ten years ago. I guess with true friends, that's how it is - years gone by seem only like days.

Reflecting on our past takes us to a time and place. A song or a person can transport us to years ago. Maybe it was

long ago, maybe not so long ago. Years may seem like just yesterday but over time many lessons have been learned, there have been many laughs and many tears.

Where are you today? How have you grown? Have you gotten to know God better? Use your time wisely. Make today a better day than yesterday. Make tomorrow better than today. Cherish your friends. Make elapsed time something worth talking about. If you're doing

a job, do it to the best of your ability. Reach out to a friend in need. Be a person with growth. Read the Bible. Pray. Don't let God become that long-lost friend. Nurture your spirituality.

God is your friend and He's just waiting for you to reach out to Him. With God there is no catching up. He knows everything. Just the sound of His name should transport you to a happy place. A place where you are always loved, always accepted, always forgiven, and al-

ways happy. An earthly friend can transport you to great past memories. The blessing from God is the ability to imagine your future. A future which holds the promise of eternal life, what an awesome thought! Any friend who can take me to a place of ultimate happiness eternally is a friend who I will definitely keep in touch with! I hope that you will too!

"A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17a).

What are Your Talents? (Identifying and Using Your God Given Gifts)

By Tanya Hay

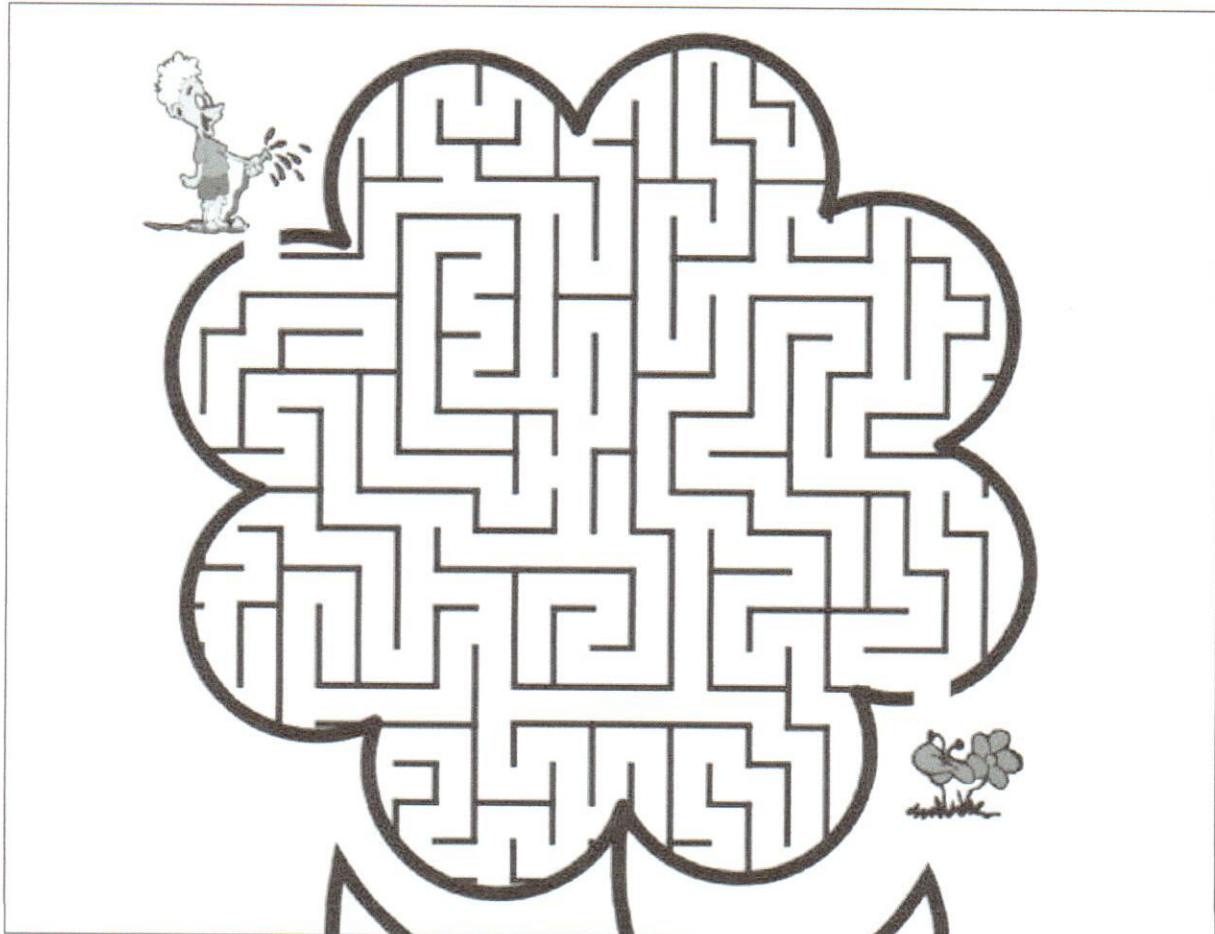
A recent Sunday School lesson led me to think about what my God-given talents are. It was a challenge to the children to identify their talents and think about how they could use them to please God. This is a challenge for each and every one of us, not just children. Are you good at baking? Consider baking for church on Sunday. Are you good at teaching? Consider assisting your church with Sunday School.

Are you musically talented? Perhaps you can join your church's choir or music ministry. The possibilities are endless. Just sit and think, what am I good at? Once you determine that, think of ways that you can apply those blessings to bless others. Doing these things pleases others and it pleases our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10), "with good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to men" (Ephesians 6:7).



Credit: RICB Staff

"Serve the LORD with gladness" (Psalm 100:2a)



Any Other Way But God

Continued from Page 1

By James Moriello

Fourth, there is the harvest of sin. "They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind" (8:7). We in America have much more leisure time than the ancients, but we fill it with mindless pursuits. Excessive time spent on mindless entertainment, television, video games, and social media, has no eternal payback. Instead, we should redeem the time by using it for things that glorify God (Ephesians 5:16).

Fifth, the nation of Israel was engaged in seeking evil alliances in Hosea's day. "Ephraim has hired lovers" (8:9). When we side with the 'Palestinian' groups such as Hamas over Israel, we are not only calling "evil good" (Isaiah 5:20), but we are also inviting the curse of God (Genesis 12:3).

Sixth, the nation despised the law of God. "I have written for



"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31)

Artwork By Alexandra Hay

him the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing" (8:12). In the United States, we are taking down the Ten Commandments wherever they may be found in our public buildings, and removing prayer from school and public meetings.

Seventh, there is religious formalism. "For the sacrifices of

My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat it, but the LORD does not accept them" (8:13). Setting aside the question of whether or not the law was being strictly followed, the heart of the people was clearly not right. Now there are many Catholics in Rhode Island, so I am aware that what I am about to say may offend some of you. That is not the

intent, unless the offense leads you to repent before God and believe in Christ. It is interesting to see how many observe the Catholic tradition of Lent by refraining from meat on Fridays. Yet the very same people will not refrain from using the Lord's Name in vain! I even heard one woman publicly lament the fact that the bingo was cancelled on

Good Friday!

If the people of our great country persist in the "any other way but God" mentality, our spiritual decline will result in God's protecting Hand being removed from the nation altogether. "What must I do?", you ask. Start here: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Jesus is a Loving Person

(Thoughts from a Child of King Jesus)

By Arianna Hay

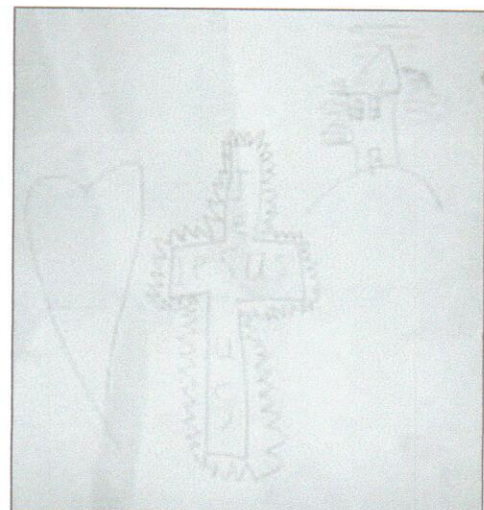
"Love is patient, love is kind, love is not bragging or being boastful" (1 Corinthians 13:4, paraphrased).

The thorns of Jesus.
The love of Jesus.
If we have a fire,
Jesus protects.

Jesus is a loving Person. If you are sick, Jesus makes you feel better. If you believe, you will go to heaven. If you don't believe, you will go to hell. I will go to heaven because I believe.

Editors Note: It is wonderful to read the

thoughts of children with regard to God. As we get older, we begin to analyze and we forget the fact that the basic message of the Bible, the Christian gospel, is very simple. It is so simple, in fact, that a child can understand it!



Artwork By Arianna Hay

"Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength" (Psalm 8:2)

Volunteers Needed

Gentiva Hospice, is looking for caring and compassionate individuals to provide companionship

to our patients and support to their families. Tuberculosis screening, background check and

orientation is provided at no cost to the volunteer. It could very well change your life and definitely make a

difference to someone during the end of life's journey. For more information or to sign up for training, please call

Manager of Volunteer Services at 401-738-1492 or e-mail Samantha.Koehler@Gentiva.com.

Physicians Against Abortion



Horatio Robinson Storer, M.D. (1830-1922) is known as the father of gynecology. He is also known as an advocate for the right of unborn children to live. He co-labored with the

American Medical Association in the nineteenth century in what is known as the "physician's crusade against abortion". Many people are surprised to hear that abortion was actually legal in America in those days, given the generally higher standards of acceptable morality that were adhered to in that society. For Dr. Storer, and other physicians, it had become clear that what was being terminated in the womb was indeed a human life. For professionals such as Dr. Storer, ethics mattered more than money. We at RICB encourage you to visit www.horatiostorer.net, and read the works of this man who was a great advocate for the most helpless members of our society—the unborn.

The anti-life crowd (that is, those who oppose the right of some unborn children to live) would have us believe that only religious fanatics oppose the barbaric practice of abortion. But this is not true. We thank God that today, there are physicians who have taken up the mantle for life after the example of Dr. Storer. Groups such as the 2,500 strong American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (www.aaplog.org) continue the fight.

If you, reader, are on the fence on this issue, answer this question: "Is the baby in the womb a baby or not?" Pro-life is not primarily about women's choices, it is about unborn children.

A Simple Sermon for Seeking Souls

Excerpted from the Sermon Delivered July 12, 1857

By C.H. Spurgeon

My exhortation is I entreat you by the name of God believe the message which this day I declare from God's Word. Do not turn away from me because the message is simply delivered. Do not reject it because I have chosen to preach it simply and plainly to the poor. Hear again—"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." I beseech you believe this. Does it seem hard to believe? Nothing is too hard for the Most High.

Do you say, "I have been so guilty, I cannot think God will save me"? Hear Jehovah speak—"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are My ways your ways. As high as the Heavens are above the earth, so high are My thoughts above your thoughts, My ways above your ways." Do you say, "I am excluded. Surely, you can-



Credit: RICB Staff

"For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Romans 10:13) not mean that He would save me"? says, "whoever," you are not excluded LISTEN—it says "Whoever"— if you call—that is the point. "Whoever" is a great wide door and lets in big sinners. Oh, surely, if it (Continued on page 8)

United Methodist Church Supports the Murder of Unborn Babies

By RICB Staff

It has been widely reported that the UMC, or United Methodist Church, provides support to Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the United States. We did some checking to see if this is, in fact, true. Here is a summary of the facts. The official position of the UMC is that human beings "now have the awesome power to determine when and even whether new individuals will be born" (The Book of

Discipline of the United Methodist Church). In taking such a position, God's authority is replaced by man's authority and the door is opened to 'abortion as an option'. While the UMC officially does not openly endorse the murder of babies for any reason, she has started down that road. The UMC, along with the Episcopal Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church, is actually featured on the Planned Parenthood website (<http://www.planned-parenthood.org/rochester-syracuse/faith-choice-29327.htm>) as a church that

supports "Choice and Faith". UMC Ministers serve on advisory boards of Planned Parenthood. The UMC was a founding member, and continues to be a member, of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC). The RCRC exists for the purpose of promoting abortion rights. While there are pro-life people within the UMC, the church leadership is primarily pro-abortion. It is a sad day when such great institutions that once honored the Lord by adhering to biblical values fall away.

Bible Verses for Faith and Praise

Compiled By RICB Staff

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

"that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:12).

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 150:6).

"Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven" (Psalm 148:13).

Bible Verses on Forgiveness

Compiled By RICB Staff

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins" (Isaiah 43:25)

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14)

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7)

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32)

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

The Divine Law is the Agent for Conversion, By Gerard Lachance, Continued from Page One

We can convince the unrepentant sinners of the hopeless state that they are in by bringing the Ten Commandments into the conversation, with the light of God's Word. "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7).

The Apostle Paul picked up this point in his First Epistle to Timothy, warning him to beware of false teachers who had strayed "from sincere faith". "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust" (1 Timothy 1:5-11). When the government took away the Ten Commandments from our schools, they took away the necessary guidelines for our children to obey, in order that they might learn

the difference between right and wrong.

A certain rich young ruler came seeking counsel from Jesus on how he might inherit eternal life. "Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, 'Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' So Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich" (Luke 18:18-23). When Jesus told this rich young ruler that he lacked one thing in order to inherit eternal life, he exposed the fact that he was guilty of worldliness and was in violation of the tenth commandment

against covetousness.

King David was guilty of murder and adultery. The account of his sins can be found in 2 Samuel Chapter 11. God sent a messenger, the prophet Nathan, to tell a parable to David, in order that David might be awakened to the fact that he had sinned (2 Samuel 12:1-8). Then the Lord through Nathan convicted David of his sins, saying, "Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife." Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun." So David said to

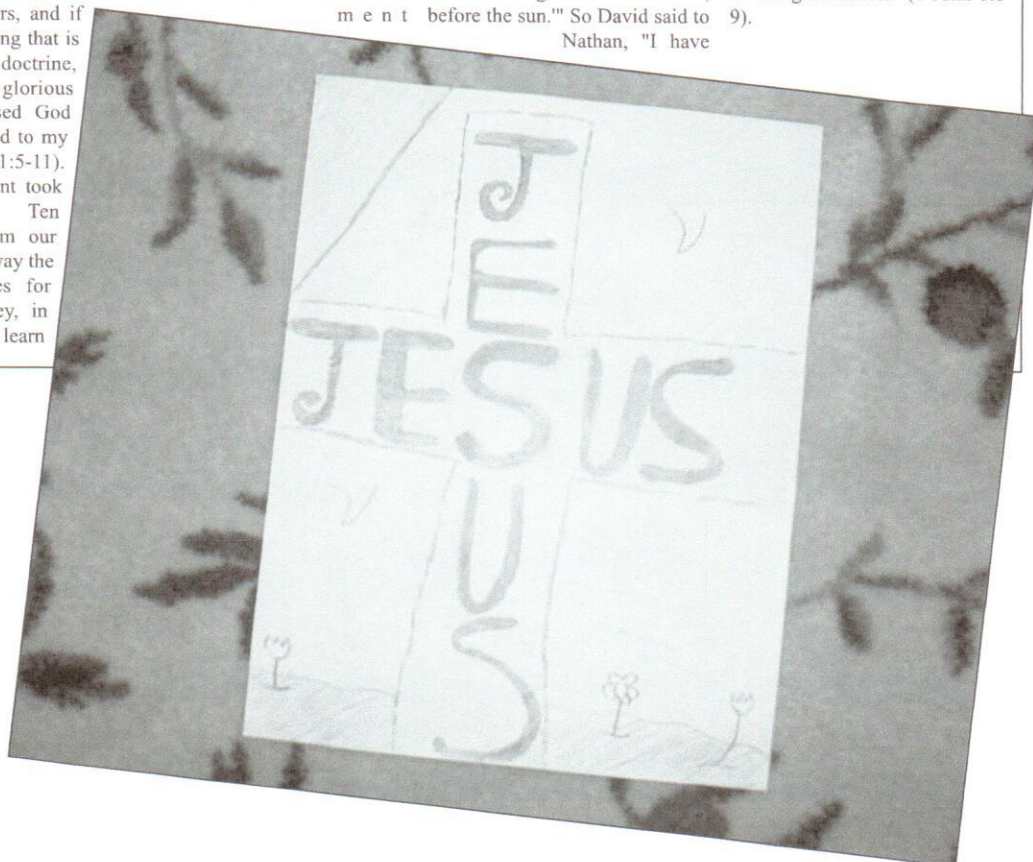
Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." Then Nathan departed to his house" (2 Samuel 12:9-15). "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), but David found mercy because he allowed the divine law and the conviction of sin that it brings to lead him to repentance. In fact, David penned Psalm 51 to testify to this.

This is the conclusion of the matter. "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:6-9).

Nathan, "I have

Artwork By
Alexandra Hay

"No one is good but
One, that is, God"
(Luke 18:19)



Three Baptisms (Baptism by Water, Baptism by the Holy Spirit, Baptism by Fire), By James Moriello

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

These are the words of John the Baptist, the scene is in the wilderness by the Jordan River, and the context is the baptism of Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:11-17). Water baptism continued into the church age as an ordinance to Christians. To believers it is said: "Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 2:38). To the church it is said: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). The word 'baptism' comes from the Greek 'bapto' or 'baptizo', words which were used over eighty times in the New Testament. The term signifies identification with or immersion in something. In our text, three types of baptisms are mentioned, and we will take them in the order in which we find them. They are baptism with water, baptism with the Holy Spirit, and baptism with fire.

Baptism with water is an outward expression of an inward reality, namely salvation, which has

already taken place in the life of the believer. It is a major step of faith for the Christian, and the Bible presupposes that believers submit to the ordinance after placing faith in Christ. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). We learn from this Scripture that water baptism follows faith, and also that water baptism is an obedient act not necessary for salvation. We can say the latter with confidence because condemnation is based upon unbelief, and not upon whether or not one has been baptized. For example, the man on the cross who put saving faith in Jesus Christ was never baptized with water, but the Lord did affirm that he would receive his heavenly inheritance that very same day (Luke 23:43). Baptism with water does not impart grace to the believer. Such a teaching contradicts the

Word of God which says:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Any teaching that states or implies that baptism can aid in our salvation is a works teaching that denies the grace of God and the unlimited power and grace inherent in the work of the Savior. You may ask: Why then be baptized at all? The answer is simple: a desire to obey Christ and abide in His love. Jesus Himself said: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love" (John 15:10). In Scripture, there are no instances where people were baptized prior to believing the gospel. Neither are there any instances of babies being baptized, and this is because a baby is not capable of making a decision either for or against Christ. (Please ask for a copy of 'The Eternal Destiny of Baby Doe' if you are interested in a biblical exposition regarding babies, infants,

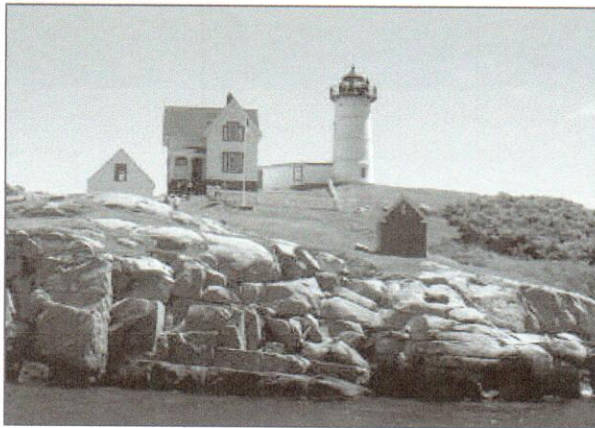
young children.) There are however, several instances of people being baptized with water after believing in Jesus the Christ. "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized"; "the Lord opened her heart"; "she and her household were baptized"; "and many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized" (Acts 2:41, 16:14-15, 18:8). Water baptism is an outward symbol of the inward reality of newness of life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:15-17). Water baptism also symbolizes identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord. "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4).

(continued on page 8)

a n d

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I" (Matthew 3:11a)





'Nubble Lighthouse', Credit: RICB Staff

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Firm Foundation Christian Church: Who we are, What we believe, and How to contact us

Firm Foundation Christian Church exists to proclaim and promote the life giving Gospel of Jesus Christ by any and all means possible.

Firm Foundation Christian Church is an independent Christ-Centered, Bible-Based Christian Church. We believe in the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith including the full inspiration of Scripture (the Bible), the deity of all three Persons of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit), that Jesus Christ became flesh and died for sinners and rose again, and that those who believe in Him in faith receive eternal life.

Please come join us Sunday morning at 10 AM for service or Friday evening at 7 PM for Bible Study and Prayer. We meet at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI. We can be reached at 401-765-0107. Also feel free to visit our website:

www.firmfoundationri.com and listen to a sermon, read an article on a topic that interests you, and check out our full Statement of Faith. Our television ministry, which is an in depth study of the Book of Genesis, airs every Tuesday and Saturday on Cox Channel 18 and Verizon Channel 23.

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11, NKJV)

Abortion Statistics by Country

By RICB Staff

Which nations are engaged in murdering the highest percentage of unborn children (officially)? And how does the USA stack up by comparison?

Source: United Nations Data (per 1,000 women), based upon most recent data:

Russia: 53.7
China: 24.2
United States: 20.8
France: 16.9

Canada: 15.2
Israel: 13.9
Japan: 12.3
Germany: 7.8
Mexico: 0.1 (see below)

The actual abortion rate in Mexico is estimated as closer to 4.0, but due to the facts that abortion in most cases was illegal until recently, and there is social stigma attached to it, it is under reported.

A Simple Sermon for Seeking Souls, Continued from Page 5

By C.H. Spurgeon

And now I must plead with you and I will use a few reasons to induce you to believe this Truth.

They shall be Scripture reasons. May God bless them to you, Sinner. If you call on Christ's name you will be saved. I will tell you first, you will be saved because you are elect. No man ever called on Christ's name yet who was not elect. That doctrine of election which puzzles many and frightens more, never need do so. If you believe, you are elect. If you call on the name of Christ you are elect. If you feel yourself to be a sinner and put your trust in Christ you are elect. Now, the elect must be saved, for them there is no perdition. God has predestinated them unto eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of Christ's hands. God does not choose men and then cast them away. He does not elect them and then cast them into the pit. Now, you are elect—you could not have called on the name of Christ if you had not been elect. Your election is the cause of your calling and inasmuch as you have called and do call upon the name of God, you are God's elect. And from His book not death nor Hell can ever erase your name. 'Tis an omnipotent decree. Jehovah's will be done! His chosen must be saved, though earth and Hell oppose. His strong hand shall break their ranks and lead His people through. You are one of these people. You shall at last stand before His Throne and see His smiling face in Glory everlasting because you are elect.

Now, another reason. If you call upon the name of the Lord you shall be saved because you are redeemed. Christ has bought you and paid for you—poured out the hottest of His heart's blood to buy your ransom—split His heart and shattered it to splinters to buy your soul from wrath. You are a bought one, you know it not but I see the blood-mark on your brow. If you call on His name, though you have as yet no comfort, yet Christ has called you His own. Ever since that day when He said "It is finished"—Christ has said, "My delight is in him, for I have bought him with My blood." And because you are bought you shall never perish. Not one of Jesus' blood-bought ones was ever lost yet.

Three Baptisms, Continued from Page 7

By James Moriello

The second baptism we find in our text is baptism with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist affirms that this is something only God can do. Whether one defines baptism primarily as immersion or identification, the same conclusions are reached. Let us look at two other Scriptures that will aid us in our understanding. Speaking to believers, Paul asks rhetorically: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16). Speaking to those who have trusted Christ, Paul writes: "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in Whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:13). According to these verses, the identification with the Holy Spirit, or the immersion of the believer with the Holy Spirit if you like, takes place at the moment of belief unto salvation. Therefore, the baptism with the Holy Spirit is something that accompanies salvation, taking place at that moment. All true believers are already baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Now we come to the third baptism mentioned in our text, which is baptism with fire. Like baptism with the Holy Spirit, this is something only God can do. It is very different than the modern day connotation of 'baptism by fire', which refers to being in a situation with two choices; sink or swim. There is no chance of swimming in the biblical baptism with fire. Whether one is immersed in or identified with fire, he or she is in dire straits indeed. The reference here is clearly to the hellfire mentioned in other places in the Bible (Isaiah 66:24; Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48). The very next verse after our text makes that unmistakable connection: "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:12). Take heed that you do not fall into this category, for I pray that none hearing or reading these words experience the fearful baptism with fire.