

Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

Easter 2014, Vol 3, No 1

FREE

Published by Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket, RI

Out of the Mouth of Babes: Basic Questions about the Christian Faith Asked and Answered

By Alexandra Hay,
Arianna Hay, and
James Moriello

As seen on local TV

Two brilliant children ask questions about the Christian faith:

Q&A, TV Bible Study, Alexandra

1. Who was Jesus' first disciple? Can you name them in order? a. Jesus' first disciple was Andrew (John 1:40). b. Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus, Simon the Canaanite, Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:2-4)

2. How do we know God is real if we can't see Him? a. We know by faith. "Faith is the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is also obvious from nature that God must exist to create these things. Things don't just appear out of nowhere.

3. If God made man and when He created the world, how were there dinosaurs, 'cause dinosaurs at one point were one of the only things on earth, with no humans? a. This is what science teaches, but not what the Bible teaches. b. Dinosaurs are "creeping things" and "beasts", and were created on the sixth day, which is same day that God created mankind (Genesis 1:24-31). So there were never times with dinosaurs but no people. c. Most of the dinosaurs, except for 2 of each kind, died in the flood of Noah. This is why there are fossils of dinosaurs all over the world. The flood happened about 6,000 years ago according to the Bible, not millions of years ago. d. The word dinosaur does not occur in the English Bible because the word was not invented yet. Instead, we find references to dragons, leviathan, and behemoth. Dinosaurs lived in the days of Job, but they are called "behemoth" in Job 40:15-24. e.

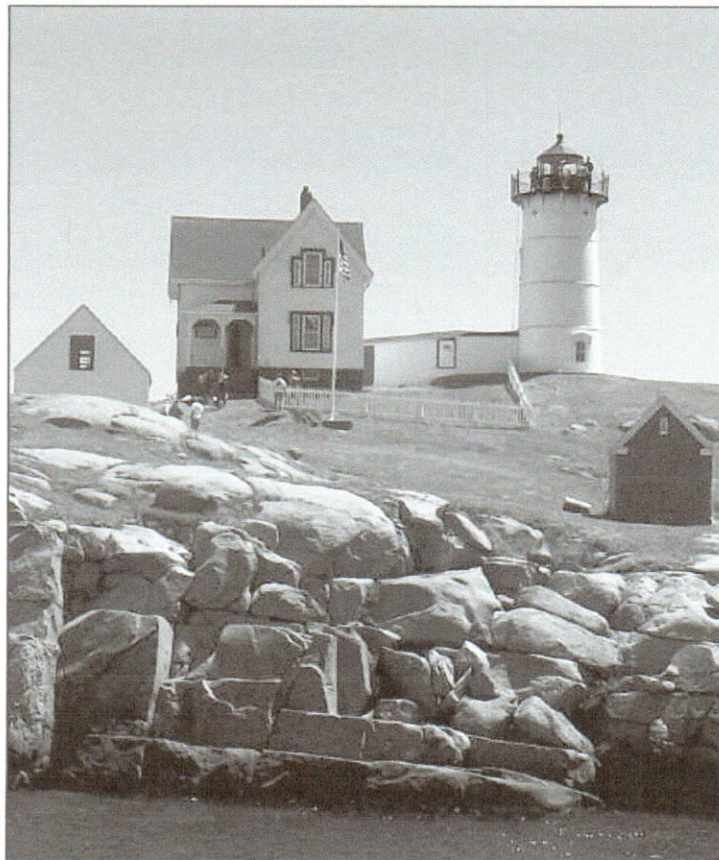


Photo Credit: Rick B. Smith

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12)

Remember that science changes all the time, but the Bible does not change because God does not change.

4. If you truly believe in God and you pray for certain things not to

happen, and they happen; why would this happen? a. I don't know. Nobody knows but God Himself. His ways are beyond our understanding (Isaiah 55:8-9). b. What we can say is that if our prayers are selfish, the answer will probably be no. It also may be God's will to allow us

to go through something or get sick, so we can learn to pray and have faith. If everything went good all the time, we would never realize we need God's help.

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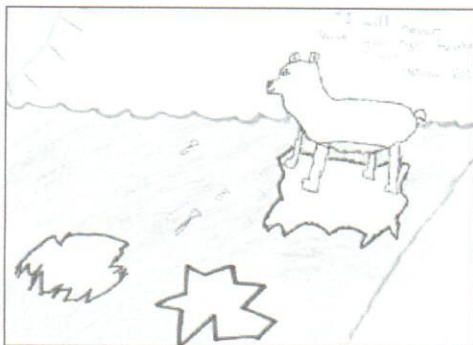
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The Meaning of the Risen Life
By Gerard Lachance

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Romans 8:11). Because God the Holy Spirit raised the Son from the dead, that same Holy Spirit indwelling us will also be included in the blessed resurrection. Because the Head of this body of believers, Jesus Christ, has risen, its members of the same body must also rise from the dead.

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). Christian friends, the Lord will raise up our bodies to be like unto His glorious body!

To the unbeliever who thinks he has time to be converted I say, 'Do not deceive yourself.' The great day of wrath is coming quickly. Your days of daily reprieve are numbered. The risen Savior is the sign of your doom. Your body will be raised to be judged and cast into the lake of fire. Repent of your sins today. Believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved!



"Never Alone", By Alexandra Hay

"I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5)

Belief in the Resurrection

Excerpted from the sermon delivered by C.H. Spurgeon, September 15, 1870

"He is risen" (Mark 16:6)

Our Lord always told His disciples that He would rise. They were astonished to hear that He would die at all—they did not think it possible that He could die by the terrible death which He often hinted at. Had they understood and really believed that He would rise again, they might not have been so surprised at His death. But as often as He spoke of it, their minds seemed to have been like their eyes, on some occasions—held back that they should not see! And if they perceived His meaning,

it ran so contrary to all their ideas of a Kingdom for a Messiah, that they could not grasp it as a reality!

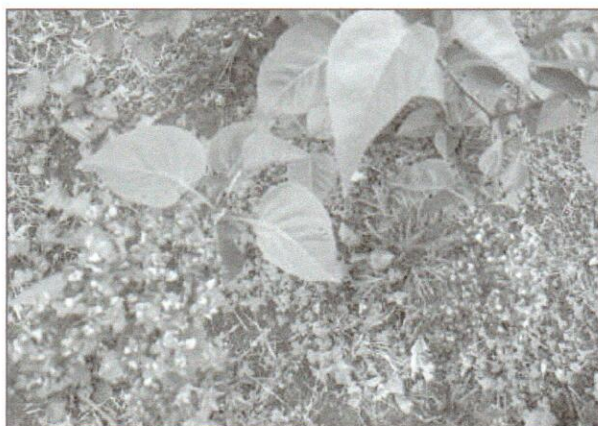
Now one of the first things that strikes the reader of the Chapter before us shall furnish us with our first head of contemplation tonight—

I. THE ALMOST UNIVERSAL POWER OF UNBELIEF IN THE CHURCH.

This is a good instance to illustrate a general fact, for our Savior had told them in plain terms that He

would rise again. Yet on the third day not one that we know of expected Him to rise! When they were informed that He had risen, by eyewitnesses—persons whom they had been accustomed to treat as deserving of all credence, persons with whom they had been long acquainted—they, everyone of them, were incredulous! They could not believe it, though it were testified to them again and again.

(continued on page 7)



Credit: RICB Staff

"casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7)

Lay all your Troubles at the Cross

By Susan Moriello

Spring is coming! Hallelujah! Along with spring comes Easter, and we should be in prayer with an attitude of thanksgiving for all the blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon us all through the seasons of our lives. Let us rejoice in the Lord for all that He has done for us; the ultimate sacrifice at the cross, His resurrection, and His glorious ascension into heaven. Today He is in heaven waiting for us to come home into His eternal presence to spend eternity with Him. "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Can you imagine?! Awesome God!

Therefore, lay all your troubles at the feet of Jesus, and know that He is listening to our prayers and is always with us. Although your trial is painful to go through, "count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3). Jesus is with you always. "For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5). Don't lose sight of this—it is a fact! Your faith in Jesus will bring you peace.

Lastly, keep praising Jesus and celebrate His awesome victory at the cross! Yes, we are free indeed! Only Jesus can give us hope, joy, peace, and love. He promises that "in this world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Keep the faith. Until next time, have a joyous and peaceful spring! "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7). Love to all my sisters (and brothers) in Christ!

Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

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

Turn, Turn, Turn: Thoughts and Reflections on the Seasons of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

By Gerry Bettencourt

ONE MORNING AS I GLANCED ACROSS AN AREA, I SPOTTED A KAYAK LEANING

>> SIDEWAYS.
>>> THERE WAS A REFLECTION UPON THE KAYAK AS 2 SEMI CIRCLES, ONE ABOVE
>> AND ONE BELOW HAVING A TAIL AT EACH END.
>>> THIS GAVE ME AN IMPRESSION OF A TURNING.
>>> I BEGAN TO THINK OF THE TALE OF 2 FIRES.

>>> ONE FIRE, IN THE STORY OF PETER, AS HE SAT WARMING HIMSELF JUST BEFORE

>> HE DENIED CHRIST, 3 TIMES, AS HE WAS ASKED BY JESUS' ENEMIES, IF HE KNEW HIM.

>> JOHN 18-18

>>> HOWEVER AGAIN IN PETER'S PRESENCE WAS A SECOND FIRE

>> PETER ONCE AGAIN WAS ASKED A QUESTION BY JESUS. THE FIRST FIRE BROUGHT OUT THE WORST IN PETER

>> THE SECOND FIRE BROUGHT OUT THE BEST IN PETER.

>>> PETER'S HEART HAD BEEN TURNED

>>> GOD HAD RESTORED HIS SOUL.

>>> THE FIRST FIRE HIS BODY HAD BEEN WARMED

>>> THE SECOND FIRE HIS SOUL AND HEART HAD BEEN WARMED, TURNED AND KINDLED.

>>> PETER HAD BEEN TURNED AROUND AND BEEN

>> RESTORED.

>>> ECCLESIASTIES 3:1-8

>>> SPEAKING TO OUR LIVES CHANGED, TURNING, CHOOSING, AND SEIZED AS LIFE

>>> CHANGED.

>>> TIMES, CHANGES AND CHOICES, CHANGES

>>> GOD HAS SET ETERNITY IN OUR HEARTS. GOD HAS MADE US TO YEARN AND THIRST

>> FOR HIM.

>>> AS WE REFLECT UPON THE 2 CIRCLES

>>> ABOVE AND BELOW GIVES THOUGHT TO

>>> TIME CHANGE, AND TURNING, WORDS IN ECCLESIASTES

>>> TIME TO BE BORN

>>> TIME TO DIE

>>> TIME TO PLANT

>>> TIME TO REAP

>>> TIME TO KILL

>>> TIME TO HEAL

>>> TIME TO LAUGH

>>> TIME TO WEEP

>>> TIME TO GAIN

>>> TIME TO LOSE

>>> THIS IS LIFE

>>> TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON AND A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN

>>> WE NEED TO REDEEM OUR TIME

>>> CHOOSE OUR WAY AND RECOGNIZE

>>> OUR PLAN OR GOD'S PLAN

>>> TURN TURN TURN

>>> OUR SYMBOL REMINDER TURN

TURN TURN SINCE LIFE FLEETS, ALL IS CHANGE.

>>> THE PAST GONE

>>> SEIZE THE DAY. WE WERE PUT ON EARTH TO KNOW GOD AND FOR NO OTHER REASON

>>> IF WE DO NOT KNOW HIM, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE WE HAVE DONE,

(continued in the next column on the bottom to the right)

Spring Cleaning: Clearing our Lives of Unnecessary Clutter

By Tanya Hay

Basements, garages, attics, storage spaces. Have you looked around lately? Have you noticed the same thing that I have? It seems that people have more and more things, lots and lots of stuff. How important are those material possessions? Why can't we fit our belongings into our homes, or in a moving van, or in a manageable space? It's amazing how much storage space we use.

What do we really need in our lives? First and foremost we need God. In addition to Him we need a roof over our head, clothes on our back and food in our stomach. So, why all the excess? I think sometimes we get confused between what we want and what we need. Look around and ask yourself, do I really need this or do I want it? A need is something that you cannot live without, it's essential, probably used often, and very important. A want is a wish list item, a desire, and something we can live without.

We come into this world with nothing. When we leave, we cannot take our belongings with us. If you died tomorrow, how much of your "stuff" would be useful, helpful, or of good use to someone else? How much of it would end up in a dumpster? The best things in life are free and don't need to be stored (love, faith, hope, salvation). The things that we do need don't take up that much space.

I challenge you this spring to determine what it is in your life that you really need. Clean out the extras. Get rid of the things that you don't need and the things that add nothing of value to your life. Take the time, you are special, you are worth the effort, and in the end, you can't take it with you!

1 Timothy 6:7-8: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."

(Turn, continued below from left)

>> OUR LIVES ARE A FAILURE, THUS BARRISTER WILLIAM LAW CONCLUDES IF YOU HAVE NOT CHOSEN GOD

>> IT WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE IN THE END WHAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN,

>> FOR YOU WILL HAVE MISSED THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH YOU WERE FORMED AND YOU WILL

>> HAVE FORSAKEN THE ONLY THING THAT SATISFIES. NO MATTER WHAT OUR AGE

>> THIS IS TIMELY COUNSEL, FOR IF I HAVE GROWN OLD AND HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD I WILL

>> HAVE FAILED LIFE, NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OR ACQUIRED, I WILL

>> HAVE MISSED THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH I WAS MADE. ISN'T IT GOOD TO KNOW IT'S NEVER TOO LATE PUT GOD INTO YOUR LIFE

>>> TURN TURN TURN

Easter Egg Hunt!!!

By RICB Staff

Firm Foundation Christian Church invites all children ages 9 and under to attend our fifth annual Easter Egg Hunt! The hunt will take place indoors on Sunday, April 13th, at 12:00 n o o n sharp, at Firm Foundation Christian Church, 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI. We meet at St. Ann Arts and Cultural Center, formerly St. Ann's Church. That is the beautiful tall landmark with the two

crosses at the top, near Walgreens and the intersection of Clinton Street and Cumberland Street. The children are divided into three groups by age;

0-3, 4-6, and 7-9.

There is a golden egg hidden in each area, which can be re-

deemed for a prize basket. There is no charge or registration required to participate; all you need to do is show up with a smile! If you have any further questions, please call us at 401-765-0107.



Credit: jsprinting.com

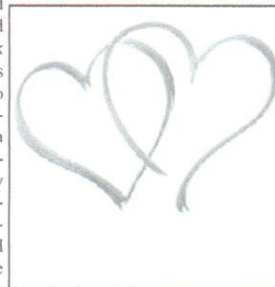
"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD" (Psalm 127:3)

Book Review: "Love and Respect"

By Tanya Hay

Love & Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs is a book that outlines everyday problems that husbands and wives face in marriage and provides Bible-based solutions. The book reveals why spouses react negatively to each other, and provides solutions on how to deal with conflicts easily, quickly and biblically. It elaborates on how unconditional respect and unconditional love are essential to happy successful marriages (the way God intended).

stronger marriage. It reassures us as to why we should have full confidence in God's word... it is pertinent to all areas of our lives including our marriages. Dr. Eggerichs sums up his book by saying, "Be patient and make the fol-

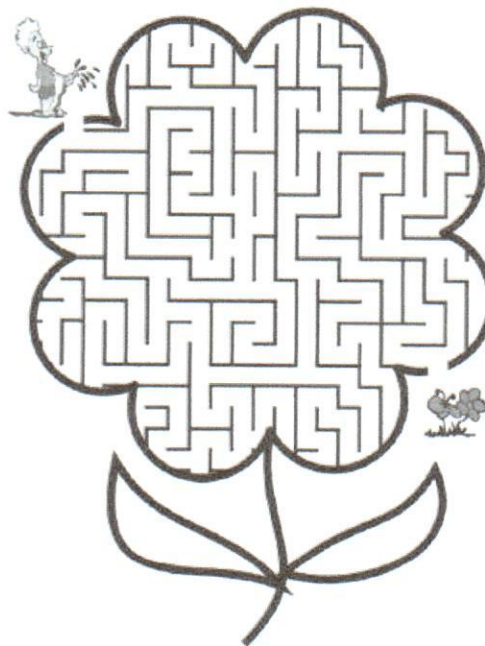


Credit: jsprinting.com

"We should love one another" (1 John 3:11)

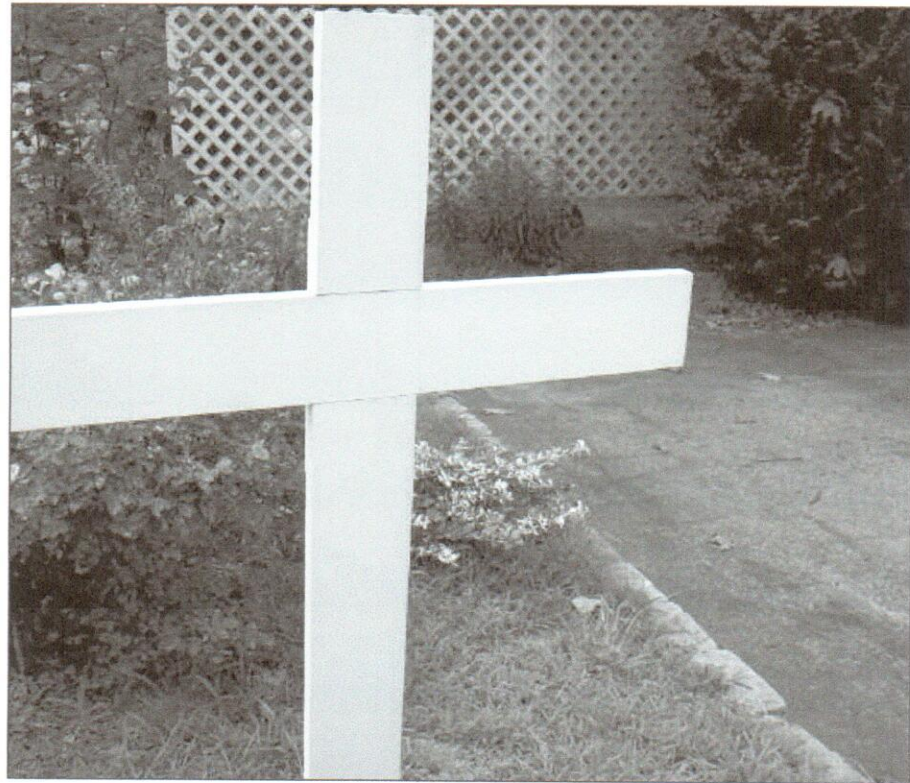
lowing your motto: "If I can't say anything respectful, I won't say anything at all." Great advice for all avenues in our lives, not just our marriages.

Some of the scriptures noted in book: Titus 1:6, Song of Solomon 3:4, Proverbs 2:17-18, 12:14-15, 24:5, 31:12, Colossians 3:19, Nehemiah 4:14, Matthew 19:10, 1 Peter 3:1, 3:4, 3:6 & 3:8, Hebrews 13:4



http://www.printablemazes.com

"Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'" (Matthew 27:51-54)



Christ's Sufferings and Humiliation

Excerpted from "Works of Jonathan Edwards"

Volume 1, Part 2, Section 4

By Jonathan Edwards

And then he was sent to Herod to be tried by him, and was brought before his judgment-seat; his enemies followed, and virulently accused him before Herod. Herod does not condemn him as a traitor, or one that would set up for a king, but looks upon him as Pilate did, as a poor worthless creature, not worthy to be noticed, and makes a mere laugh of the Jews accusing him as dangerous to Caesar, as one setting up to be a king against him; and therefore, in derision, dresses him up in a mock robe, makes sport of him, and sends him back through the streets of Jerusalem to Pilate with the mock robe on.

Then the Jews prefer Barabbas before him, and are instant and violent with loud vociferations to Pilate, to crucify him. So Pilate, after he had cleared him twice, and Herod once, very unrighteously brings him on trial the third time, to try if he could not find something sufficient to crucify him. Christ was stripped and scourged: thus he gave his back to the smiters. After that, though Pilate still declared that he found no fault in him; yet

so unjust was he, that for fear of the Jews he delivered Christ to be crucified. But before they execute the sentence, his spiteful and cruel enemies take the pleasure of mocking him again; they get round him, and make a set business of it. They stripped him, put on him a scarlet robe, a reed in his hand, and a crown of thorns on his head. Both Jews and Roman soldiers were united in the transaction; they bow the knee before him, and in derision cry, Matt. xxvii. 29. "Hail, king of the Jews." They spit upon him also, take the reed out of his hand, and smite him on the head. After this they led him away to crucify him, made him carry his own cross, till he sunk under it, his strength being spent; and then they laid it on one Simon, a Cyrenian.

At length, being come to mount Calvary, they execute the sentence which Pilate had so unrighteously pronounced. They nail him to his cross by his hands and feet, then raise it erect, and fix one end in the ground, he being still suspended on it by the nails which pierced his hands and feet. Now Christ's sufferings are come to the extremity: now the cup, which he so earnestly prayed might pass from him,

is come; he must, he does drink it. In those days crucifixion was the most tormenting kind of death by which any were wont to be executed. There was no death wherein the person experienced so much of mere torment: and hence the Roman word, which signifies torment, is taken from this kind of death.—Besides what our Lord endured in this excruciating corporal death, he endured vastly more in his soul. Now was that travail of his soul, of which we read in the prophet; now it pleased God to bruise him, and to put him to grief; now he poured out his soul unto death, as in Isa. liii. And if the mere forethought of this cup made him sweat blood, how much more dreadful and excruciating must the drinking of it have been! Many martyrs have endured much in their bodies, while their souls have been joyful, and have sung for joy, whereby they have been supported under the sufferings of their outward man, and have triumphed over them. But this was not the case with Christ; he had no such support; but his sufferings were chiefly those of the mind, though the other were extremely great. In his crucifixion Christ did not sweat blood, as he had done before;

not because his agony was now not so great, but his blood had vent another way. But though he did not sweat blood, yet such was the sufferings of his soul, that probably it rent his vitals; when his side was pierced, there came forth blood and water. And so here was a kind of literal fulfilment of that in Psal. xxii. 14. "I am poured out like water;—my heart is like wax, it is melted in the midst of my bowels."

Now under all these sufferings the Jews still mock him; and wagging their heads say, "Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself: if thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." And even the chief priests, scribes, and elders, joined in the cry, saying, "He saved others, himself he cannot save." And probably the devil at the same time tormented him to the utmost of his power; and hence it is said, Luke xxii. 53. "This is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Under these sufferings, Christ, having cried out once and again with a loud voice, at last said, IT IS FINISHED, (John xix. 30.) "and bowed the head, and gave up the ghost." And thus was finished the

greatest and most wonderful thing that ever was done. Now the angels beheld the most wonderful sight that ever they saw. Now was accomplished the main thing that had been pointed at by the various institutions of the ceremonial law, by all the typical dispensations, and by all the sacrifices from the beginning of the world.

Christ being thus brought under the power of death, continued under it till the morning of next day but one. Then was finished that great work, the purchase of our redemption, for which such great preparation had been made from the beginning of the world. Then was finished all that was required in order to satisfy the threatenings of the law, and all that was necessary in order to satisfy divine justice; then the utmost that vindictive justice demanded, even the whole debt, was paid. Then was finished the whole of the purchase of eternal life. And now there is no need of any thing more to be done towards a purchase of salvation for sinners; nor has ever any thing been done since, nor will any thing more be done for ever and ever.

Jesus Christ is God: Seven Proofs Found in the Bible

By James Moriello

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

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

1) Jesus is the Creator. Genesis 1:1 teaches that God is the Creator. Colossians 1:16 teaches that "all things were created through Him and for Him". The writer of Hebrews tells us that God the Father affirms that Jesus "in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth" (Hebrews 1:10).

2) Jesus is eternal. By definition only God can be eternal (Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17). John 1:1-18 speaks of the eternal Son of God who was there in the beginning. He will be there forever too. The Bible also says that His "years will not fail" (Hebrews 1:12).

3) Jesus has the essential nature of divinity. "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9). This means that the divine nature exists in Christ, and He is therefore God. Jesus Christ is a partaker of the same nature as God the Father in the most complete sense, equal with God, and possessing all of the divine attributes (John 10:30; Philippians 2:6). It was necessary for Him to lay aside certain attributes such as omnipresence (being all places at all times) during His Incarnation, but Jesus never ceased being God at any time. He was always God, became the 'God-Man', and ascended to the Father to resume His work as the Second Person of the Godhead forevermore (Ephesians 4:8-10).

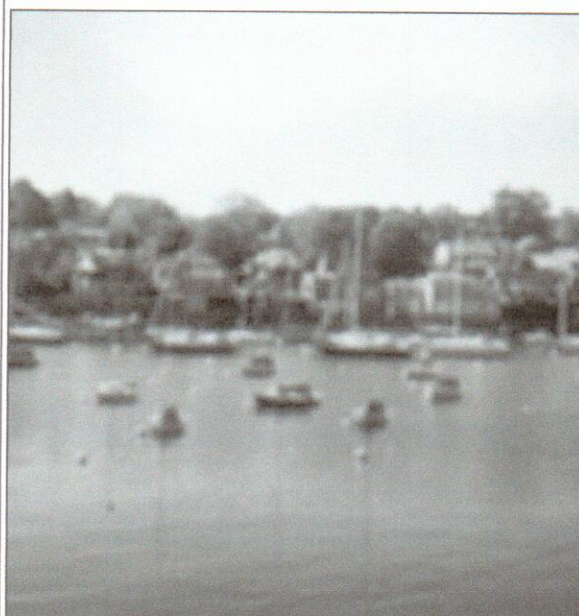
4) Jesus Christ has the authority to forgive sins. Only God can forgive sins (Luke 5:20-24; Psalm 103:12). Therefore, Jesus must be God.

5) Jesus Christ is sinless (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22). Since only God is without sin, Jesus must be God. This also qualifies Him to redeem and justify sinners (Romans 3:23-24).

6) Jesus accepted worship (Matthew 28:9; John 20:28-29). No man or angel would ever accept worship.

7) Jesus had the power to raise Himself up from the dead. He claimed this for Himself and He did indeed prove all of His claims by His Resurrection from the dead (John 2:18-22; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7).

The question remains for you. What do you believe about Jesus Christ? Consider these things seriously. Look up these Scriptures in your Bible. May God bless your precious soul.



Credit: RICB Staff

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18)

Adoption: Realizing our Inheritance as Children of God in Christ Jesus

By Craig Greenslade

Growing up, I always thought I was different from everyone else. Even as young as five years old, there was something just not right in my life. I felt alone. A child should never have a sense of loneliness, but I did. When I was eight years old, my friends told me that I was adopted. They proceeded to tease me about it, and from then on I was treated differently. I quickly confronted my parents about my adoption, though I didn't quite know what that meant. Being so young, I only understood some of what they tried to explain to me. I understood one thing though. I would always be different. I would never find my "real" parents.

Now, years later, I found myself being adopted a second time. This time it would be by my "real" Father. "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Romans 8:15-17). Christians are adopted sons of grace. "Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:23).

Christians are already God's chil-

dren, but these are references to the full realization of our inheritance in Christ: the resurrection, as the final stage of our adoption. The first stage was God's predestination of our adoption; the second is our present inclusion as children of God.

I feel so blessed to finally know my Father. I'm even more blessed to know that my Father knows me. I'm going to do my best to make my Father proud of His adopted son. I love Him very much. Thank you, Dad.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified" (Romans 8:28-30).

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:1-3).

Fear not, I will Help You; Overcoming our Fears

By Brian Violette

Isaiah 41:13: "For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'"

As humans, we have many fears. Some people may be afraid of animals like snakes or sharks, other people may have a fear of darkness. Other fears are of heights, commitment, intimacy, rejection, public speaking, and even death. The one fear we all should possess is godly fear. Proverbs 14:27- "The fear of the Lord is the fountain of life." Godly fear is an appropriate fear to have. Too many people try to make God like a genie granting their wishes, while living for themselves, living like hell in no fear of God. Psalm 111:10- "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever!" To fear the Lord is to recognize God for who He is; holy, almighty, pure, righteous, and all-knowing. While we humans are weak, sinful, and needy! We are naturally born under the wrath of God because of our sin nature, the flesh. We are separated from God, His holiness. If you want to test your character, use God's standards, the Ten Commandments. If you fail one, you fail all of them in God's eyes. The just God that He is will send you to hell! Hell the furnace of fire, the weeping and gnashing of teeth, where the "worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44, 46, 48). That is your destination unless you take the only path to Heaven given by God through His only begotten Son Jesus. Put your faith in Jesus, only His spotless blood is the atonement for all your sins. 2 Timothy 1:7- "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." As believers, we know where we are going when we die. Why? Because of our faith in Christ, God judging us His Son's work, not ours, praise the Lord. To fear God does not mean to live terrified of Him, but just to know what He is capable of doing, and not be paralyzed by it. An example of this is the Sea World trainers that swim with killer whales. The trainers know what the whales are capable of doing to them physically. But through that relationship developed over time they get in the tank with the whales, and not paralyzed by their fear.

(continued on page 8, right column)

Out of the Mouth of Babes: Basic Questions about the Christian Faith Answered, continued from Page 1

5. How is our church (a Christian church) and Catholic churches alike? And how are they different?

a. We are alike in that we believe in the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit), we believe Jesus is God, and we celebrate communion and offer the sign of peace on Sunday mornings.

b. The main difference is our authority. At Firm Foundation Christian Church, we believe that the Bible is the only source of God's objective truth (2 Timothy 3:16). The Catholic Church also believes that church tradition is an equal source of truth. They get teachings from traditions and their Pope and his councils. The problem is that these are the teachings of men, not the teachings of God, and many of these teachings of men are very wrong. The Catholics pray to Mary and the saints, but the Bible teaches that we should pray to God alone (1 Timothy 2:5). The Catholic church has priests that they call "father", but the New Testament church is not supposed to have priests but elders (or pastors) and deacons only (1 Timothy 3:1-13). Jesus also commands us not call any man father (Matthew 23:9). The Catholic Church calls their service a mass because they believe that they are really sacrificing Christ again. This denies the finished work at the cross and violates the clear command of Scripture (John 19:30; Hebrews 6:6). The Catholic church baptizes babies, but in the Bible only people who understand and believe the gospel are baptized.

6. How do you know there are 3 wise men?

a. We do not know how many wise men there were. The Bible does not say (Matthew 2:1-12). We know there were at least 2, but there could have been many more than that.

The reason people usually think of 3 is because there were 3 gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

7. I have a friend that does communion. What is necessary to receive communion?

a. In order to receive communion, one must have faith in Jesus, being able to understand and believe the Gospel truths as written in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Communion is serious, because it is a form of worship, so when we receive communion we have to be really sorry for our sins (1 Corinthians 11:23-28). If you feel you are ready to have communion for the first time, talk it over with your parents, your Pastor, and your Sunday School teachers.

Q&A, TV Bible Study, Arianna

1. How was God living if He wasn't born from Mary?

a. Jesus was alive forever in heaven before and after He came to earth (John 1:1). He chose to be born as a baby and to live on earth for at least 2 reasons. First, to relate to the human condition in the sense of growing up and dealing with temptations. Jesus was 6 at one time, so He understands what that is like. Second, and most importantly, Jesus came to die for the sins of the world. If God did

not come, we could not go to heaven. 2. How will God never die, because He lived over 2,000 years ago?

a. God lives forever. Death has no power over Him, and He proved this with the Resurrection. People die, but their souls can live forever in heaven with Jesus if they choose to trust Him in faith.

3. How can God live? He was never born.

a. God is eternal. Someone or something must have been there in the beginning to create everything. The sun, moon, plants, animals, and people did not just appear out of thin air! That would be ridiculous.

4. Who were Jesus' disciples?

a. Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholemew, Thomas, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus, Simon the Canaanite, Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:2-4)

b. There were fishermen, a tax collector, common people, and even a political guy among them. In the Bible, we also read of men and women, rich people and poor people, children, and even soldiers following Jesus.

5. Why did God choose Mary to give the birth of Jesus?

a. Mary was humble, had great faith, and loved God very much (Luke 1:26-55). She was very blessed to be chosen for the honor of bearing the Lord in His humanity.

b. There have

been many other faithful women who have lived, like your mom. Why did God choose Mary and not one of these other godly ladies? Only God knows the answer to that question.

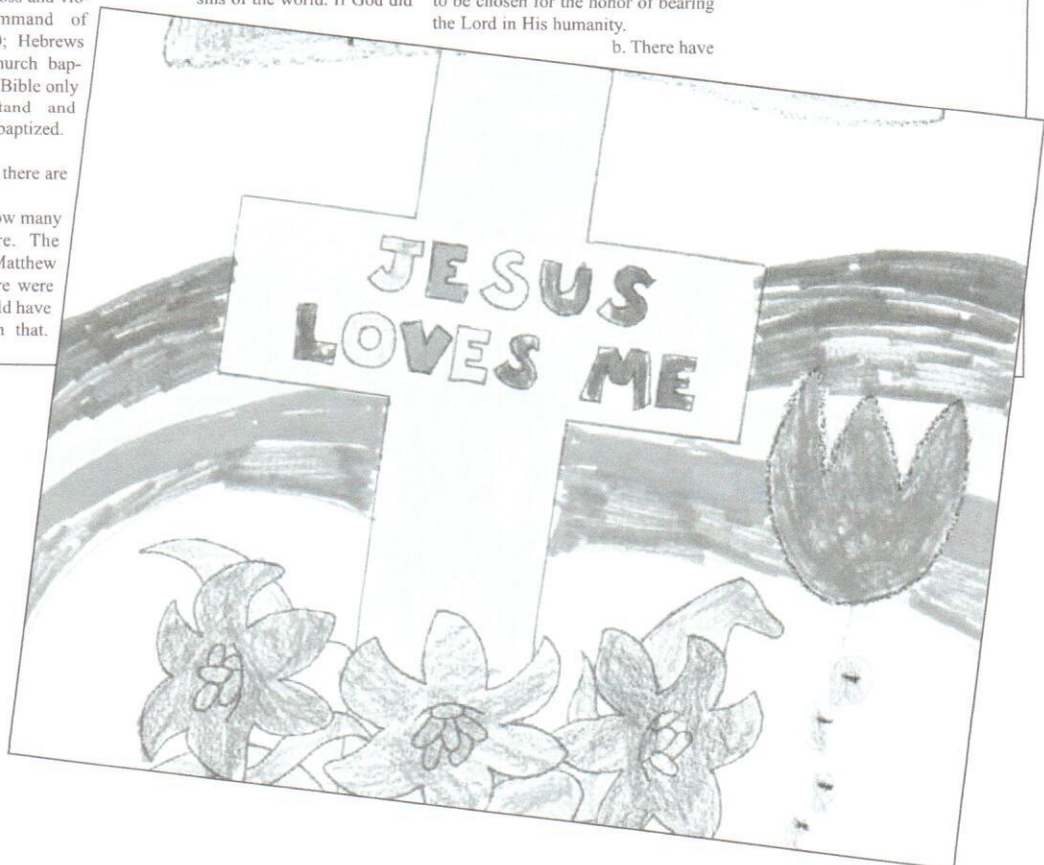
6. How can God hear us even if we are whispering?

a. God hears everything we say, no matter how quietly we try to say it. He also sees everything. Even more than that, God can read our minds and our hearts (1 Samuel 16:7). Since we know that God does not want to hear bad words or mean things, we should try not to speak things that would make Him sad. We can't get away with anything with God, no matter what, and we always get in trouble when we try to. We can pray to ask God to keep our hearts clean, and He will help us (Psalm 51).

7. How can God hear everyone talk at once? Don't you think he'll get confused?

a. God is not limited like us. He never gets confused. He not only hears our every word, but He knows our every need. If you are sick, or you scrape yourself while playing, God knows that and He cares about that. He knows and cares about everything in your life. The Bible even says He knows how many hairs are on your head (Matthew 10:30). You are very special to Him. Jesus loves you.

Picture by Alexandra Hay, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength" (Psalm 8:2)



Belief in the Resurrection, By C.H. Spurgeon, continued from page 1

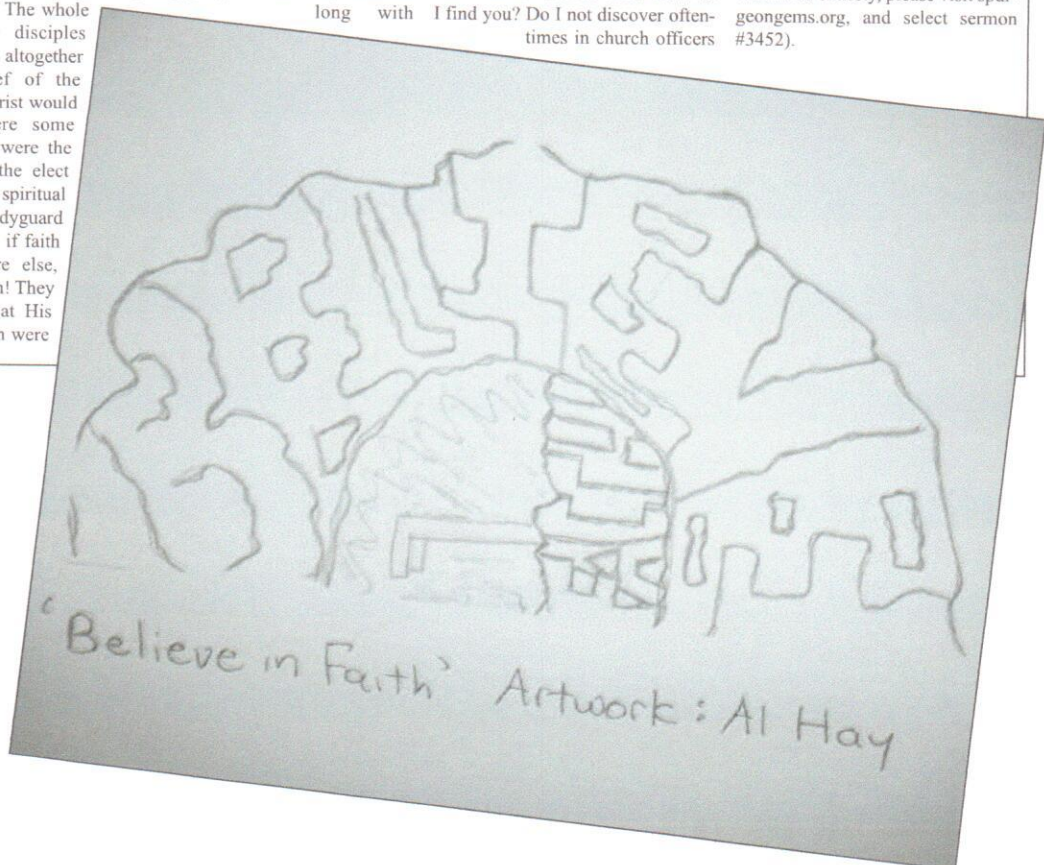
As you read this Chapter through, you meet with first one instance and then another of this general incredulity about a thing on which all ought to have been sound believers! You find, first, the women—very tender, very loving, always accustomed to minister to Christ's necessities in the days of His flesh—now their very love leads them to an unbelieving act! If He is risen and He said He would rise, what need of grave cloths? What need of precious ointments, and spikenard, and spices in which to embalm Him? 'Twas love that said, "Embalm Him," but 'twas unbelieving love that made them think the thing was necessary to be done! All through those tender hearts, wherein so much of heavenly ardor for Christ was found, there was also found this leaven of mischief. But the men—the stronger sex, will not they, also, their hearts being full of love and having walked with Christ, having strong judgments, many of them, having noticed and weighed what He said—will not they believe? No! Peter and John, though they went to the sepulcher, went there with heavy hearts, evidently with no expectation such as would have been excited by the belief that Christ had risen. The whole brotherhood of the disciples appear to have gone altogether over to an unbelief of the thought that Jesus Christ would rise! But there were some favored ones—there were the eleven. These were the elect out of the elect, the spiritual lifeguard, the very bodyguard of the Savior! Surely, if faith is extinct everywhere else, we shall find it in them! They were in the Garden at His Passion, some of them were

on Tabor at His Transfiguration, three of them, at any rate. They were in the chamber where He raised the dead. They had seen His miracles, they had, themselves, distributed the bread which by a miraculous power He had multiplied for the feeding of the multitude. They had seen Him walk the sea—one of them had, himself, walked on the liquid wave and found it marble beneath his feet when Christ had bid him come. They had marked the tempest hushed, they had seen devils expelled, many marvelous displays of Divine Power had they, all of them, beheld! These choice ones, especially those three mighty, those chosen three, would surely believe! Yet they also were tainted with this same evil—they had not such a faith in their Master as they should have had. And now this was but, I think, a portrait of what has been, ever since—the great mischief in the Church of God. This sin of sins—unbelief—is still at this very hour too common among the people of God. Suppose I talk to the mass of God's people, the quiet, humble people, who go about their business and serve God in their households. Shall I find them all full of faith, giving glory to God? No, I am not long with

some of them but I hear their doubts as to whether they are His or not! I hear some of them singing—"Do I love the Lord or no; Am I His, or am I not?" True, I see many of them happy and joyful, contented and trustful, but not always so, even they. Sometimes even these seem to give way to fears and suspicions—and they half think that He has forgotten to be gracious—will be mindful of them no more! Truly is it written, "If the Son of Man comes, shall He find faith upon the earth?" He may look for it, and look for it long, for among His own believing people, yet is faith all too rare a thing—hard to be found! It is true it is in its essence always in the Church, but yet so feeble that oftentimes the fire is rather that which trembles in the smoking flax and almost expires, than the spark that seeks the Sun, the Father, the flame from which at first it came! Now suppose I turn away from the mass of Christians and select for myself those that take office in Christ's Church, appointed by Him, gifted, and given, as the result of the ascension, to the Church as the Church's treasure? My Brothers, what shall I say about deacons, Elders, and such like in the Church of God? How do I find you? Do I not discover oftentimes in church officers

a slackness of enterprise, a fear lest this should be too great a thing or that too venturesome? Have I not heard—though certainly I may say I have, by God's Grace, not experienced—have I not heard that sometimes those that should lead the Church have held her back, and those that should be first and foremost to sustain the Christian ministry in every holy effort, have they not been, sometimes, a very drag upon the wheels to hinder it? And if it is so in their official acting, I fear it is not much better in their own private capacity before God. Alas, O Israel, your captains are weak! Your mighty men tremble! But suppose I select those God has especially favored and made the winners of souls? Do I find these at all times confident in the God whose Gospel they proclaim? Are they always calmly reliant upon that eternal power which has ordained them to their work? We must, each man, speak for himself, but I fear the most of us might take up a wailing for ourselves and confess that we, also, too often must say, "Lord, I believe. Help You my unbelief."

(Editor's Note: To read this sermon in its entirety, please visit spurgeongems.org, and select sermon #3452).



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



Credit: RICB Staff

"I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only" (Psalm 71:16)

About Firm Foundation Christian Church (the publisher and distributor of this newspaper)

Firm Foundation Christian Church of Woonsocket exists to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ by any and all means possible. We believe in the inspired Word of God which is without error in all that it affirms. Scripture (The Bible) provides the basis for our Christian faith (2 Timothy 3:16). We believe in the Divine Nature of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 5:6; John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11). All men and women are sinners by nature in need of a Savior. We need God's grace and mercy (Romans 3:10-23; Isaiah 45:22). That Savior is Jesus Christ, who paid for all our sins at the cross (Hebrews 10:12). Those who trust in Him in faith (believe upon His Work—His death and resurrection—and Promises) attain to eternal life (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:8-9).

We invite you to join us at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI (we have been meeting at the St. Ann Arts and Cultural Center, formerly St. Ann's Church since 2009). Sunday service is at 10 am, Friday Bible Study is at 7 pm, and we also meet for prayer. All services and meetings are one hour. Our TV program airs on Cox18/Verizon23 Tuesdays and Saturdays at 10 am. This Easter season, we have a special Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 7 pm and Easter Sunday service at 10 am. You may contact us at 401-765-0107 or check us out online at www.firmfoundationri.com.

May the Lord richly bless you, dear reader. Amen.

Find a Good Bible Believing Church

By Billy Sunday

You say, "I'll be a Christian and go to heaven without a church." Yes, and you can go to Europe without getting on board a ship or airplane. The swimming is good, but the sharks are waiting for those who take that route. If a man is saved, he should look for a good Bible-believing church right away!

"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).

Activists Attack Religious Liberty

By James Moriello

On February 26th, 2014, Governor Jan Brewer of Arizona vetoed Arizona Senate Bill 1062. The purpose of that bill was to afford legal protection for those who, because of sincere religious convictions, choose not to serve same sex couples in certain contexts, especially those contexts which relate to unions and weddings. All American citizens, regardless of belief system, should be appalled that conscientious objection on religious grounds is being assailed.

This was not an "anti-gay bill", as many media outlets suggested. Rather, it was a "pro-religious freedom bill", intended to protect those who object to the oxymoron of "same-sex marriage" (Genesis 2:24) from frivolous lawsuits. In New Mexico, a photographer was sued for refusing to photograph one such ceremony. In Oregon, a family owned bakery was successfully sued and put out of business for this cause as well. The Attorney General of Washington state is using the long arm of government to do the same to a local florist. Surely there were other businesses willing to provide these services. Why then were these Christian owned businesses singled out as targets for lawsuits and media spectacles? Perhaps there is an underlying agenda.

The agenda is a progressive one, and those behind it will apparently stop at nothing to achieve it. There are eight steps to the agenda. First, there was the decriminalization of behavior that is considered unnatural and sinful according to the Bible (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27). Second, there was societal recognition of the behavior as "alternative". Third, there were legal civil unions. Fourth, same-sex weddings became legal. Fifth, small businesses were forced to accept this "new normal". Sixth, corporate America was forced to recognize the same. Seven and eight are yet to come, and rest assured, the attack is coming. Seventh, religiously based groups or groups that were founded on religious principles will be accused of discrimination. Eighth, our churches will become targets. I don't speak of the liberal Christian groups who have already lost their moorings. I speak of those of us who hold fast to our Bibles no matter what. Be ready, persecution is coming. Pray that the Lord brings revival on the land and stems the tide.

Fear Not, I will Help You, continued from page 5

By Brian Violette

God wants people to follow Him out of love rather than fear, and to overcome fear we need to think more about His love. (1 John 4:17-19)—The Consummation of Love

Now the avoidable fears. Fear is Satan's tool to stop us, prevent us, rob us from becoming our best. Fear plants doubts in our head about ourselves or our abilities. Fear of people can be stumbling blocks that cause people to fall. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." The fear of man can rob us, not just physical fears but mental fears. Proverbs 29:25 - "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe." Let's look at David in the Old Testament. David writes in Psalm 27:1 - "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" In 1 Samuel 17:33-37, Scripture describes David's lack of fear because of his reliance on God. There are two acronyms for the word fear I'm going to use. Face Everything And Run, like the soldiers did when they saw Goliath. These soldiers thought Goliath is too big and ran from their fear. On the other hand use fear like David: Face Everything And Rise. David probably thought Goliath was big too, so big that he couldn't miss him with his slingshot. What are the Goliath's/ fears in your life? What is preventing you from being your best? What fear is robbing you from God's best? Will you use fear to run from or rise to a challenge? Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God with you wherever you go."