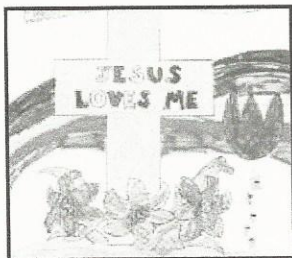


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Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

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Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?

By James Moriello

Christians believe that Jesus really did rise from the dead. But skeptics have denied this fact for two thousand years. Those who do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ today are recycling the same old arguments which have already been made. There are three lines of evidence which make the case for the Risen Jesus. I hope you will consider them with an open mind.

First, there is ample evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really did live. That there was such a man is testified to by the New Testament as well as Roman and Jewish historians. That the few folks who deny that Jesus of Nazareth ever walked the earth do not question the history of other Roman historical figures of the day is telling. People cannot wish away Jesus of Nazareth, simply because they do not want to have deal with the implications of His existence.

Second, there is ample evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really did die by crucifixion. Roman soldiers were diligent in

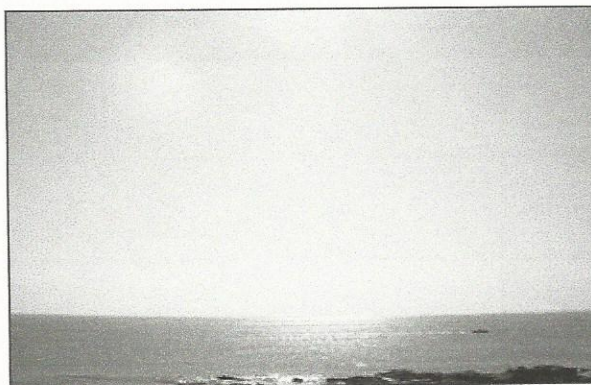


Photo Credit: RICB Staff

"He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3)

their duty to ensure the death of one sentenced to death under their law. If one who was placed under their charge were to escape death, they would pay for it with their

own lives. Therefore, although they saw that Jesus was dead, they thrust a spear into His side just to be certain (John 19:33-34). (Continued on Page 4)

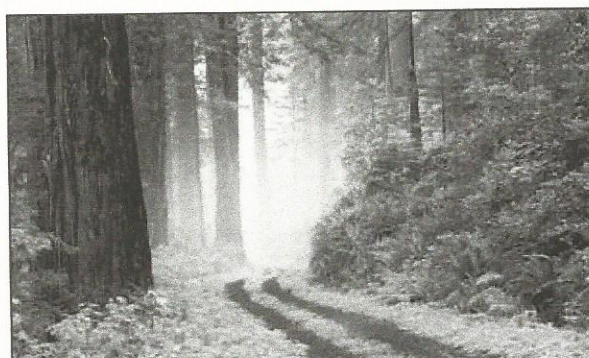
The Enduring Word and the Frailty of Man

By Gerard Lachance

"All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever" (1 Peter 1:24-25).

When 'fall' occurs at its appointed time, the dying and decaying leaves and the brown grass remind me of the 'fall' of man.

As soon as we are born, we begin to age, and are dying a physical death. Because of the first sin of disobedience to God, we inherit sin from Adam, and are also spiritually dead in sin (Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1).



"For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14)

But there is good news! "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19). This refers to the work of Jesus Christ.

The power and permanence of God and His Word are higher than the frailty and the

glory of man. "Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches" (Jeremiah 9:23).

(Continued on Page 4)

Growing in Christ Through the Word of God

By Scott Lanctot

"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

This verse speaks of longing for the truth of God's Word, testing all things Scripture with Scripture, that they be pure and holy, and seeking the pure truth about God's Word (the Holy Bible), not watered down meanings. To grow as Christians is doable if one believes on the truth written in the Bible. God does not lie, nor can He (Numbers 23:19). Faith is believing. Having the faith of a mustard seed is a beginning, and it can grow into greater faith in Jesus.

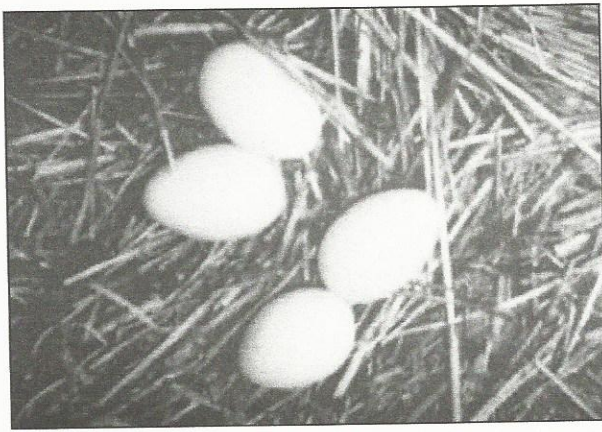
That's what Jesus wants us to do daily; to grow in His likeness and to walk as He walked. "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). Let go and let God. Give up the wheel, and let God drive the bus of your life. What is most important in your life?

"Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). Joy is to be pleased highly, to enjoy. It all comes down to what is in your heart. If God is your joy, pleased highly, and enjoyed, then your desires shall be given to you. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). God knows our hearts. We may fall

short of the Glory, but that doesn't mean that God will give up on us. He wants us to repent and get right in our hearts with Him. On our own strength, we are doomed to fail. Jesus said, "Without me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). If that doesn't humble you, I don't know what would. Don't let your heart be hardened. Seek His ways and His understanding. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

(Continued on Page 8)



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

Living Out the Great Commission this Spring

By Susan Moriello

Spring is upon us, and we are surrounded by the Lord's glorious creation. The leaves on the trees are beginning to bud, and turn a beautiful green. The grass is also turning green; a welcome sight after all that white stuff we've seen all winter. Wild flowers are blooming. The days are getting warmer and longer. "To everything there is a season" (Ecclesiastes 3:1a). Wow! "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 150:6).

Let us take this beautiful time of year to renew our relationship with the Lord. Why don't we wake up and thank Him for this day? "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Why don't we start the day by praying, reading a devotional, and meditating on His Word? Let us give the gospel to loved ones, co-workers, friends, and anyone we should meet that appears open to hear it. The most important gift that you can offer to others is God's gift of salvation. "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). This gift is the assurance that there is a home waiting with the Lord Jesus in heaven when the journey on earth is over. Imagine how wonderful it will be to see your loved ones again, in the next life, for all eternity!

This is my challenge to you today. Yes, today. "Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day" (Psalm 96:2b). Make time to do the Lord's work, as He has asked you to do. Put your fears aside and be bold for His glory! Will you take up this challenge?

At this time, I want to wish all a wonderful, peaceful, and glorious Easter. Praise the Lord! Have a wonderful, joyful, peaceful, and loving spring! Peace to you all, until next time.

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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket RI 02895, every Sunday morning at 10 am, and every Friday evening at 7 pm. We invite you come visit us as we worship Jesus Christ, hear the gospel preached, hear the Word of God taught, and sing hymns to the Lord. You can also tune in to our TV Bible Study, Tuesdays and Saturdays at 10 am, on Cox channel 18 and Verizon Channel 23.

The Four Abandoned Eggs

By Gerry Bettencourt

The four abandoned eggs, perhaps by death, wound, or predator. Distorted reflections of God as abandoning fathers, distant fathers, have given us a wrong view of fathers. Our hearts can have hope, and not feel hopeless, or helpless. He wants to give us eternal life by letting our hearts reach for that Father who sacrificed for us. He gives purpose for life. "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me" (Isaiah 49:15-16). He breathed life into you. Before you formed me in my mother's womb, You knew me (Psalm 139:13-16). God gives two lives. He gave us breath (physical life). He will give us eternal life when we receive His spiritual life. Through His sacrifice (of Jesus Christ the Son of God; Cf. John 3:16), we can have spiritual life.

High upon a waterfront hill among the rocks and weeds, there were four large eggs, abandoned by the mother bird. Perhaps she was captured or attacked by a predator, and hurt of wounded, or even killed. The reminder of Isaiah 49:15-16 is there again, and thoughts of His sacrifice of His love. For the nail prints of His hands are able to engrave upon our hands the assurance of His love, and His promise to never abandon us (Hebrews 13:5). "Behold the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear" (Isaiah 59:1). His care is constant because He alone can be constant. He is God. He says that we can take refuge in the shadow of His wings (Psalm 57:1). He longs for us, as He says. Jesus wept over Jerusalem, saying, "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing" (Matthew 23:37).

(Continued, column to the right)

(God Loves You and Will Never Abandon You)

(Continued from Column to the Left)

Consider the sacrificial story of the mother hen covering her eggs to protect them with her wings as an oncoming fire approaches. She covers them under her wings. However, as she is burned, her eggs hatch and the baby chicks come forth, showing God's grace. His love is greater than a mother's love, since she may forget her baby, but He would never forget His people. He is the God who gives us breath. His sacrifice gives us spiritual life. That is love unforgettable.

Yet intermingled around the four abandoned eggs was "Queen Anne Lace." A beautiful wild flower, yet intermingled was the poison ivy. Here was the good and the evil surrounding the four abandoned eggs' nest. Within eye's view was the beautiful rose. It has beautiful fragrance, yet its branches have thorns.

There was more to the message of the four abandoned eggs. There was the care of the ever present Father who will never abandon. There was the care of the shelter under His wings, our refuge. There is the care through the evil and the good. There is the hope in despair given. The eggs, the rose, the hope, and the reminder; He will not forget nor abandon you.

These four abandoned eggs were given to me to see more than just four abandoned eggs. God led me to a (spiritual) place where I was taught to see sacrifice. That You give, Lord, and how I might give my trust to you. As I need to trust You to "lay my Isaac down", as Abraham did, to see that God can be trusted when we give Him our most treasured possession. As a significance and an action before God, I was able to bring those four abandoned eggs to a place of rocks and grasses to give back to God the lesson of the four abandoned eggs, releasing them to Him as Isaac was laid down by Abraham, saying in action, "I trust you, God." Jim Elliot said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Release. May our hurting hearts take refuge under His wings. God is not a place but a Person. He is the God who loves us.

(John 3:16; Deuteronomy 31:8; Psalm 9:10; Hebrews 4:16)

Verses from the Bible for Children and Families to Live By

Compiled by RICB Staff

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.' And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4).

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (Ephesians 5:22-24).

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water

by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one

flesh.' This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband" (Ephesians 5:25-33).

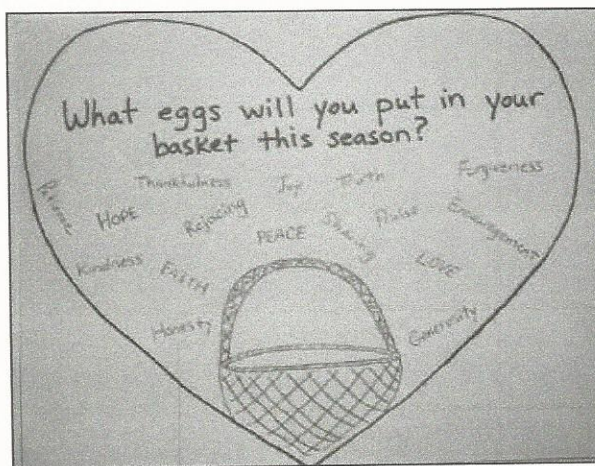
"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

What Makes You Happy? "Now godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6)

By Tanya Hay

Let's talk about what makes us happy. More specifically, let's talk about non-material things that make us happy. Many children today may say their toys or a particular video game make them happy. Many adults may say a new car, a new house, or more money. But when we add in the words "non-material", it brings in a whole new range of answers. For example, non-material happiness may be triggered by the smell of fresh

cut grass, the feeling of sand beneath your feet, the sound of a newborn baby's cry, or the sound of a child's giggle. The list is endless. If you think about it, I am sure that there are many simple things that you can't buy that take you to a happy place. Whether it be a smell, sight, or sound, they are all gifts given to us by God. Be aware, open your mind, keep a positive attitude. Be mindful, and make a conscious choice to recognize and enjoy all of these 'happy moment' opportunities. They are all awesome gifts from God!!!!



Artwork by Tanya Hay

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

WORD SCRAMBLE

(WORDS ARE IN THE HEART ABOVE)

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Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear circled in the boxes.

Then unscramble them for the final message.

Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead (Continued from Page 1)

By James Moriello

That the Jews clearly believed that Jesus was dead is evident in their request for someone to guard the tomb into which Jesus was laid, fearing that His disciples would steal the body and perpetrate a hoax (Matthew 27:62-66). That the disciples and followers of the Lord believed that Jesus had died by crucifixion is evident by the eyewitness accounts in the New Testament. The Apostle John and Mary the mother of Jesus both witnessed His death by crucifixion (John 19:25-27). Furthermore, it is clear that the Romans, the Jews, and Jesus' followers all knew where the tomb was in which He was buried. The body of Jesus was wrapped according to the Jewish custom, with one hundred pounds of spices and linen cloths (John 19:38-42). The belief that Jesus did not literally die began to be circulated decades later by a religious sect known as Gnostics, who saw fit to alter the historical facts to fit their belief that Jesus was Spirit only and could not have been completely human. Since then, others have argued that Jesus did not die a

physical death. The argument is either that someone else was crucified in Jesus' place, or that Jesus only swooned but revived later. So we are left with three options. We must believe that all those involved in the crucifixion were

utterly incompetent and blind, or that Jesus was deceptive in feigning death, or that Jesus of Nazareth was in fact crucified. Logic tells me that the latter makes sense in light of the facts, and the New Testament proves this truth in

my spirit. I do not need a hoax such as the Shroud of Turin (which cannot be authentic if one believes the biblical record of the manner of burial and injuries to the Lord) to confirm my faith, for my faith is in God through Christ Jesus.

The third line of evidence that Jesus really did rise from the dead is His resurrection. Biblical scholars disagree as to the number of post-resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ, but all agree there were at least ten separate recorded appearances. The final chapter of each of the four gospels each record at least one of them (Matthew 28:9; Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:15-31; John 21:5-19). The Apostle Paul records a post-resurrection appearance of Jesus to "over five hundred" people at once, and challenges skeptics to go ask these eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:6). The resurrection turned scared men into people who were willing to die for their belief that Jesus rose from the dead.

Do you believe that Jesus lived, died, and rose again? And if so, what will you do about it?

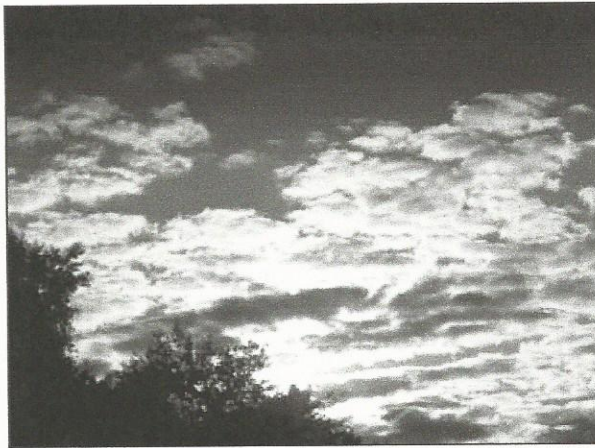


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"He is risen, as He said" (Matthew 28:6).

Job or Ministry?

If your concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is faithfulness, it's a ministry.

Some people have a job in the church; others get involved in a ministry. What is the difference?

If you're doing it because nobody else will, it's a job. If you're doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job. If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you do it because someone else says it needs to be done, it's a job. If you do it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to be excited about a ministry for our Lord. People may say, "Well done," when you do your job. The Lord will say, "Well done," when you complete your ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great church is filled with people who are involved in ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job. If you have a job in the church, give it up and find a ministry. God doesn't want us feeling stuck with a job, but excited and faithful to Him in a ministry.

The Enduring Word (Continued from Page 1)

By Gerard Lachance

"But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:24).

In his sermon, "The Withering Work of the Spirit" (C.H. Spurgeon, July 9, 1871), the preacher queries, "The grass, what does it do? Droop? Nay, wither. The flower of the field: what of that?

Does it hang its head a little? No, according to Isaiah it fades; and according to Peter it falleth away. There is no reviving it with showers, it has come to its end."

When springtime promises new flowers, leaves, and green grass, we as God's children (believers) can truly be assured of our resurrection by the power of the Holy Spirit in us through Christ Jesus.

"Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee, by Whom you were

A Reason to Rejoice!

By Tanya Hay

We all have them. They sometimes come as "one of's" and sometimes they seem to come non-stop. We don't like them and they are usually completely unexpected. I'm talking about every day challenges, problems and trials that we go through. In life, trials are inevitable, and most of the time totally out of our control. What we can control is how we handle or react to these situations. Often times we complain, give up, or feel sorry for ourselves. How often do we embrace a challenge and see it as an opportunity? Probably not very often, but we should! God allows trials to come into our lives, and they help us to develop and strengthen our character. We need trials to strengthen our faith in Him! The next time you're facing a trial, problem or challenge, rejoice! Welcome the problem as a friend, don't shoo it away. This friend will help to further enhance your Christian walk. There is no

problem too big for our Father, so trust Him. Don't face the problem alone, and learn from the experience. You will gain spiritual wisdom by trusting in Him. By embracing the challenge you make a negative situation a positive one and you also learn a life lesson from it!



Photo Credit: RICB Staff

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

sealed for the day of redemption" (2 Corinthians 5:5; Ephesians 4:30).

"Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you" (1 Peter 1:25).

I pray that that this article will glorify God, edify the church, and teach the body of Christ ac-

cording to His will, and show the State of Rhode Island and its leaders the reality and the power of God in the preached gospel. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

How Should Christians Respond to the ISIS Threat?

Editor's Commentary

The question is a complex one, and every answer given seems to beg another question. However, I will attempt to answer the question on several different levels from a Christian perspective.

The best and first response of the Christian ought to be to pray and seek a divine response. The first order of prayer is for those who are suffering at the hands of ISIS because of their Christian faith. "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also" (Hebrews 13:3). The second order of prayer is for those who are suffering or oppressed for any reason, for they share the same dignity as we do. "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27). Perhaps the most difficult thing for us to stomach is the widespread abuse of women. The third order of prayer is the most difficult. We are to pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:44). After all, it is only God who can change hearts. As difficult as this may be for us, how much more so it is for those who have watched their loved ones murdered and abused by the invaders of their towns and villages.

It is also important to identify ISIS and other like minded groups in terms of their motivations and aims. These Islamic groups have the stated



Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)

aims of waging a holy war and instituting a caliphate (an Islamic theocracy). To do so, they are waging an aggressive offensive war throughout the Middle East without regard to national borders. In order to strike fear into those who oppose them, they engage in public beheading, mass murder, rape, and torture.

A hotly debated topic today is whether Christians should support a war on ISIS and its allies. President Obama considers us a pluralistic nation, not a Christian one. Further, he seems to suggest that we do not have moral standing, contrasting ISIS warfare with the Christian crusades of centuries ago. The President may know

his history, but his application is irrelevant. No Christian celebrates the excesses of the crusades, and the Bible condemns them. So we need to live in today and call a spade a spade. The Bible says that there is "a time of war" (Ecclesiastes 3:8). Augustine and others have developed what is known as "just war theory", which essen-

tially states that there are situations in which nations must act to defend the peace and protect the oppressed. For example, nations had to act to put a stop to Hitler's Holocaust. It is not okay to stand by and watch genocide.

Let our first response also be our last. Let us pray.

Bible Trivia

Test your Bible knowledge! Can you go seven for seven? The questions are taken straight out of the Bible, from the last three chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. The reference is given for each one after the question.

1. What payment was given to Judas to

"For Your Word has given me life" (Psalm 119:50b)

betray Jesus? (Matthew 26:15)

2. At the Last Supper, what did the wine in the cup represent? (Matthew 26:27-28)

3. When Jesus identified Himself as the Son of Man who would sit at the right hand of the Power, what did the High Priest accuse Jesus of? (Matthew 26:65)

4. How many times did Peter deny Jesus before the rooster crowed? (Matthew 26:75)

5. What was the name of the man who

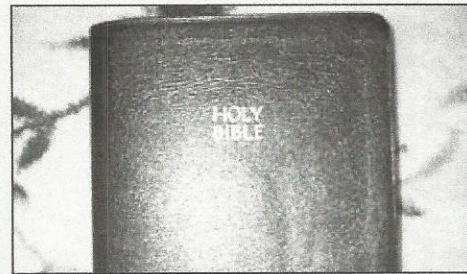


Photo Credit: RICB Staff

was compelled to carry Jesus' cross? (Matthew 27:32)

6. What did the sign say that was placed over Jesus' head at the cross? (Matthew 27:37)

7. Who rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb, so that the women could see that Jesus was not inside, but was risen from the dead? (Matthew 27:2-6)

Sayings: Pithy Christian Sayings with an Element of Truth to Them

Be Fishers of Men.... You catch 'em, He'll clean 'em.

A family altar can alter a family.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord!

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Give God what's right, not what's left!

Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts."

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Having truth decay? Brush up on your Bible!

He who angers you, controls you!

He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!

Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

Never give the devil a ride! He will

always want to drive!

Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

"Pray" is a four letter word that you can say anywhere.

Prayer - Don't give God instructions - just report for duty!

The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

This Church is "Prayer Conditioned!"

To be almost saved is to be totally lost.

WARNING: Exposure to the Son may pre-

vent burning!

Watch your step carefully! Everyone else does!

We don't change the message; the message changes us.

We set the sail; God makes the wind.

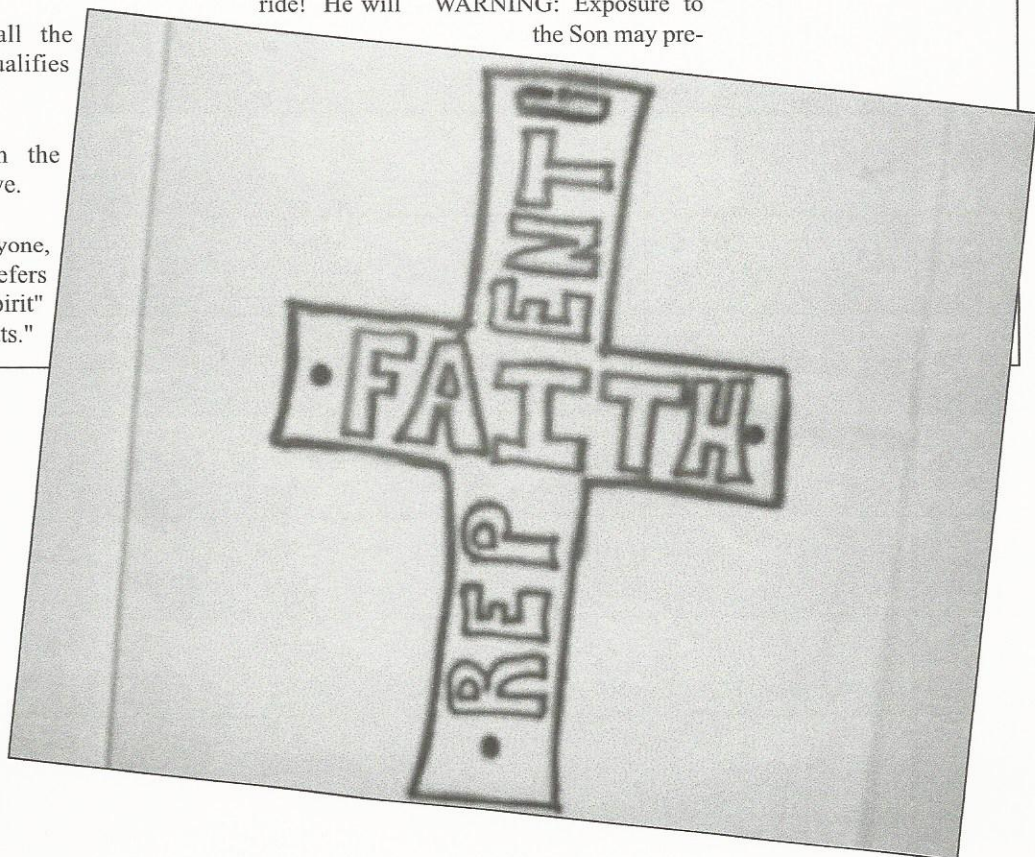
We're too blessed to be depressed.

Wisdom has two parts: 1) Having a lot to say. 2) Not saying it.

You are not who people say you are. You are who God says you are.

Artwork:
Al Hay

"Wisdom is the principal thing" (Proverbs 4:7a)



"Wonderful": Ways in which Jesus is Wonderful

By James Moriello (from the Sermon Delivered 2/22/15)

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah spoke of Jesus, calling His Name "Wonderful", saying, "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6). Let us consider some of the ways in which "the Angel of the LORD" (Judges 13:18), who is Jesus, is "Wonderful".

1. Jesus is a Wonderful Friend. "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). "A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity" (Proverbs 17:17).

2. Jesus is a Wonderful Healer. "Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying

out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" (Matthew 21:14-16). If Jesus has healed your body, give Him glory! If Jesus has healed your soul, give Him glory!

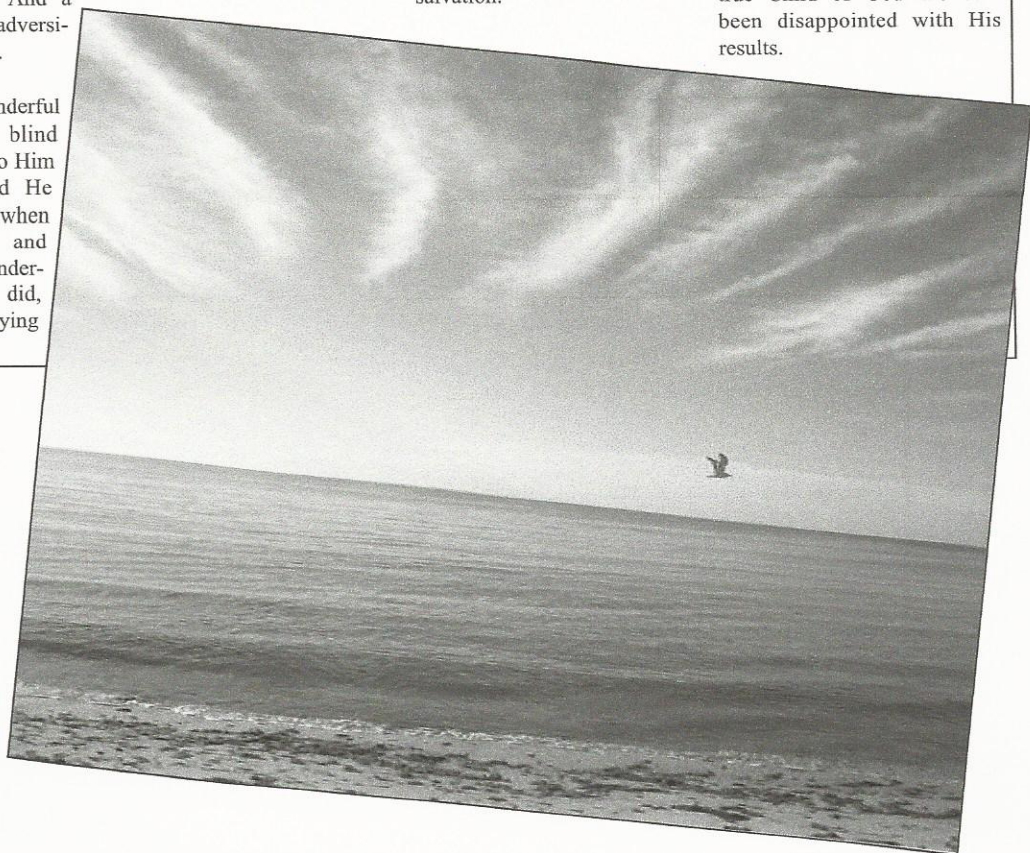
3. Jesus is a Wonderful Teacher. "And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matthew 7:28-29). "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:13-15). Jesus taught God's truth with divine authority. Jesus also taught by example.

4. Jesus is a Wonderful Helper. "Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted" (Hebrews 2:17-18). Jesus stands at the ready waiting to help us when we ask Him for help.

5. Jesus is a Wonderful Lord. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus always has our best interests at heart. He proved it even to the point of offering up Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, that we might share in the riches of His salvation.

6. Jesus is a Wonderful God. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16).

7. Jesus is a Wonderful Savior. "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). "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus loves all people and each person. He is not only able to save, but He is willing to save. He desires to save your soul today, and become your Wonderful Savior. If you are done trying to save yourself, try Jesus. No true Child of God has ever been disappointed with His results.



"Seagull Over
Yarmouth Sky",
Credit: RICB Staff

Growing in Christ (Continued from Page 1)



By Scott
Lancot

"The upward call of God in Christ Jesus" is to keep moving forward, not staying idle, to keep growing in the likeness of Christ. The call to Christians is to seek things above and not earthly things; not seeking man's ways but God's ways. Jesus came to teach, preach, heal, to do the will of the Father. The will of the Father was that Jesus was to die for our sins, as a sacrifice for us. A Man that knew no sin died, so we could be saved (2 Corinthians 5:21). We have Jesus' teaching when He took on human flesh to go by. He never wavered or fell short. He was tempted, but never fallen by temptation (Hebrews 4:15). Let our eyes look up towards Him who knew no sin, as our perfect example. God said, "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16), and "Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25). Praise God!

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown" (1 Corinthians 9:24-25). "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). Do not seek men's approval. The things of this earth are temporary and passing, but our race is for a lifetime, done a day at a time, with Christ on our side.

(Continued below)

Where Do You Attend Church? An Earnest Challenge, and an Invitation

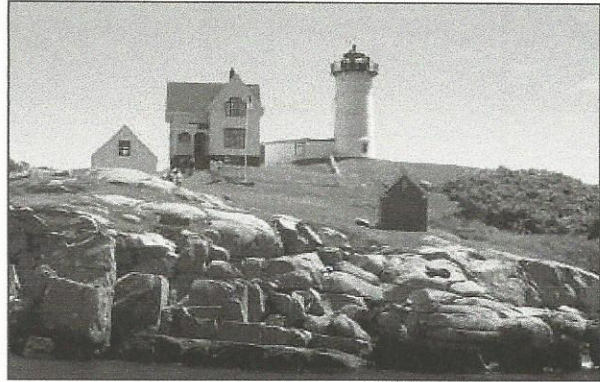
By RICB Staff

The Christian who does not attend church is a disobedient Christian, and is like a fish out of water. The Bible warns us against "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25).

If you profess to be a Christian, and you refuse to come out and publicly worship the Lord with other believers, ask yourself these questions. Am I really a Christian? Am I playing the hypocrite, while pointing at others? Are my priorities in order? What kind of testimony am I to my neighbors when they see me doing other things on Sunday?

Some of you have had bad experiences in the past. Maybe you feel as if you have been let down by the church. That may be true, but God has never let you down. Are there too many sinners in the church? Well then, you shall fit in quite nicely, for God's house is a hospital for sinners. Perhaps your pride is holding you back. Are you, in fact, avoiding accountability, and trying to come to God according to your own terms?

Now, do not go to just any church. Be sure that the gospel is preached, and that the Bible



"Nubble Light". Photo Credit: RICB Staff

is held up as the standard of truth. If a church tells you that traditions of men are of the highest importance, or that tongues are a necessary part of the salvation process, we recommend that you do not go there. There are

several Bible-based churches in the state that you can go to.

Firm Foundation Christian Church, located at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, invites you to visit us this Sunday at 10 am.

Coming to Christ (Excerpted from the Sermon "How Faith Comes")

By C.H. Spurgeon

"Well," says one, "but we cannot personally come to Christ right now." No, I know that you cannot, but you can do what is very much like it. I recommend every man who finds faith to be a difficult thing, to carefully read through the four Gospels, asking the Holy Spirit to enable him to believe what is recorded and revealed there. I usually find that the greatest doubters are the people who do not read the Bible. Holy Scripture has within itself a mighty convincing power, and when men lie soaking in it, it soon penetrates into their very souls! A man says, "I cannot believe," and yet he does not read or hear about the very thing that is to be believed! He keeps out of the way of it and yet says, "I cannot believe it." If there is something in the newspaper today, about which you felt compelled to say, "Other people seem to believe it, but, somehow, I am unable to do so. I would be very glad to believe it, but I cannot." What would you do? You would read the statement again! You would refer to any other account that would be likely to confirm it. You would candidly examine the whole affair to see whether it was true or not. Yet how few, how very, very

few have thus come to Holy Scripture, it- self, and virtually listened to Jesus, Himself, and then have gone away and still said, "We do not believe." Unless they are really given up to hardness of heart, the result, in every case, seems to be that when they search the Scriptures, and seek to know what Christ did and said, they are soon subdued by His sweet power and are found sitting at His feet, believing in His name! If anybody has not done this and yet remains an unbeliever, I charge his unbelief upon himself as his own fault and sin. If I will not examine the evidence, I am to blame if I do not believe the Truth of God!

Growing in Christ Through the Word of God (Continued from the column above)

By Scott Lancot

We have a home in heaven as believers. Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). Do not give up. Press forward. I hope you added up the cost when you started the race. "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it" (Luke

14:28). The military told me not to ever give up and quit; that could be my life. They were talking about the body, but what Jesus talks about is your eternal soul. The desire of the heart is what it all comes down to. In one of our recently preached sermons, it was noted that God does not want a "part time lover" ("Your Soul," By Brian Violette, 3/1/15, at Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI). He wants all of you.

Spring Changes

By Tanya Hay

Have you had enough of this snow? Even I, who typically love the white stuff have had enough. Great news! Spring is on its way! All of the white mounds that currently surround us will give way to warmer days and soft green grass. A change of season brings about a change in the way things look and feel. When we make a change within ourselves, we also look and feel different. Making a change to trust in God will make you

look and feel happier. When you truly trust in Him, you will live knowing that you are never alone. Letting go and letting Him handle your worries lightens the load. Trust in Him today and in all the days ahead. This change will make you feel better than you ever have!

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).