



New England Christian Bulletin

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

“IN THE BEGINNING GOD...”

By Rick Meunier

The manner in which the Holy Scriptures open is worthy of their Divine Author. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,” and that is all that is here recorded prior to the 6 literal 24 hour periods of creation as we read them. (How much time elapsed between Genesis 1:1-2 and 1:3 is not known, but it is certain that God existed before that time). In this verse, no argument is entered to prove the existence of God. Instead, his existence is entered and affirmed as a fact to be believed (Job 36:26). No questions asked!

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JESUS SAVES! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

How Can One Escape The Judgment To Come?

By Cheryl Correia

The Book of Zephaniah clearly explains, from the seventh century BC, that Judah and Jerusalem would soon be judged by God. No one escaped this event. “Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the LORD's wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land” (Zephaniah 1:18). Many then (and now) feel secure in their wealth. Many believe in using bribery to pay off authorities. God cannot be bought. Some people may feel that these verses are for an isolated time in history. Let whoever has that mindset think again.

To escape the judgment of God, one must truly believe in Jesus Christ. “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36). We must believe in the Son of God, Jesus, who died to bring us salvation. Why? Because we are wretched sinners, and sin separates us from God. The great plan of salvation requires belief in Jesus.

He died to bring us back to God. “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24). Once one believes in Jesus sincerely, repentance will follow. According to Zephaniah, repentance was what Judah and Jerusalem were lacking, and therefore they were on a path to destruction.

The Apostle Paul preached both faith in Jesus and repentance, “testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). Judah and Jerusalem were judged, and there will be another future judgment. “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:11-15). Anyone wanting to escape the judgment to come must heed the warnings and be born again into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:1).

“IN THE BEGINNING GOD...”

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In this one brief sentence, enough is said to expose every fallacy which man has invented concerning His existence and deity. This opening sentence in the Bible repudiates atheism, because any reasonable man would accept God's existence as truth, based upon further evidence throughout Scripture (Psalm 14:1, 53:1-5).

“In the beginning God created...,” tells us that he was himself before the beginning, and therefore, eternal. It also argues that he is infinite and omnipotent, for no finite being possesses the power to create something from nothing, by merely speaking.

“In the beginning God...” is the foundation truth of all real theology. For we must believe that He is, (Hebrews 11:6), for without this bedrock belief, we could not accept the rest of Scripture as truth. False systems of theology attempt to start with man, and work up to God, (Genesis 11:4), a kind of “works” theology, that man can take pride in. We must, in all our thinking, begin with God, and work down to man.

As God was in the beginning, so also was his plan of salvation. In Eden, Adam sinned, and brought in death, (Romans 5:12), but his Maker was not taken by surprise. For in the beginning God had provided for such an emergency. The “Lamb” was “foreordained before the foundation of the world” (1 Peter 1:20). This is also true of the new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). The soul that repents, believes, and is saved will spend an eternity in a home specially prepared for him by the God, (John 14:2-3), who created all things, and was there before it all began.

Would you come to him today?

What Jesus Said About Gender and Marriage

By James Moriello

“And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’” (Matthew 19:4-5).

Some folks today seem to be confused about gender and marriage. Jesus, God the Son, was not confused. In the context of these verses, Jesus simply states the obvious to the Pharisees. Jesus says that there are two, and only two, genders. These genders are distinct and intrinsic to each individual. In other words, the gender God made you is what you are, and it cannot be changed. Science and DNA teach that obvious fact as well. Marriage was instituted by God from the very beginning, as a covenant between one man and one woman. It didn't change between the time of Adam and Eve and the time of Jesus. And it has not changed since, not even in the 21st century. Read the words of God, and they will always serve to clear up any confusion on any subject.

Publication Information, Contact Information, and an Invitation to Firm Foundation

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Unless otherwise noted, Scripture taken from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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[Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI. We meet every Sunday for Worship Service at 10 am, and also every Friday for Bible Study and Prayer at 7 pm. We are a Soul Winning, Great Commission, Christian Bible Church. In addition to an active evangelistic ministry, we host tent revivals, do street evangelism, and offer beginner to advanced level independent study classes, all free of charge. All of our preaching and Bible Study is directly from the Word of God. We invite you to stop by and visit us.](#)

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 and promises) attain to eternal life (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

“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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

Man's Prayers and God's Justice

By Brian Violette

“Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies” (Psalm 139:19-22). Scripture verses such as these seem to promote hatred towards one's enemies. However, I believe that David is expressing a desire for sin to end. This part in his prayer is demonstrating that David is a man after God's own heart, and that his relationship is important. After all, sin is first and foremost against God. David loves the Lord and hates the treatment of Holy God by the wicked ways of this world. By application, the believer should also desire living in a place with no sin. The anticipation of heaven should be consuming our thoughts. First spending eternity with God, and second being in a place where sin doesn't exist. These things should bring great joy to the believer. Lastly, Jesus did teach that demonstrating love is the most important thing even towards our enemies. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matthew 5:43-44).

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). I want to focus on one aspect of the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk's prayer in 1:12-14- “Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction. You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he? Why do You make men like fish of the sea, Like creeping things that have no ruler over them?” The prophet demonstrates in his prayer a hatred for sin, and what seems like a lack of accountability from God for it. The issue seems to be that the prophet wants instant judgment/punishment for sin. But, in Habakkuk's prayer, it seems his question is answered. Judgment will come at an appointed time, and I think the prophet realized that and became thankful for the mercy God does provide. God is so great and merciful that He is willing to relent on His judgment, for He is patient towards the sinner. 2 Peter 3:9- “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

The prophet's prayer is changing tone starting in Habakkuk 3:1-2- “A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth. O Lord, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.” In the beginning of the prayer, the prophet's complaints towards God for what seemed like a lack of accountability towards this wicked world started to change. Habakkuk's attitude changed as God gave him a sense that the judgment of the wicked will come in His appointed time. That God will bring deliverance, and the wicked will fall. Towards the end of the prayer, Habakkuk expresses joy and confidence in the Lord. “Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls- Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Habakkuk 3:17-18). So we see Habakkuk's sense of confidence and trust in the Lord grow.

Editor's Note: May we experience the same Christian maturity as David, Habakkuk, and Peter.
May your confidence and trust in the Lord grow through your daily prayer.

Photo by Judy Aurelio

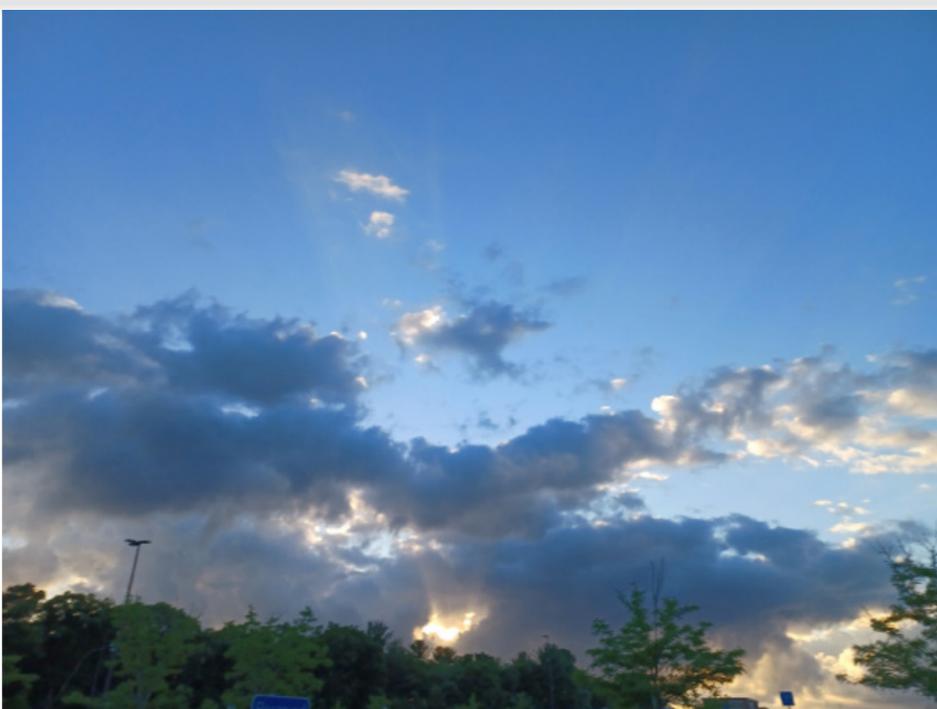
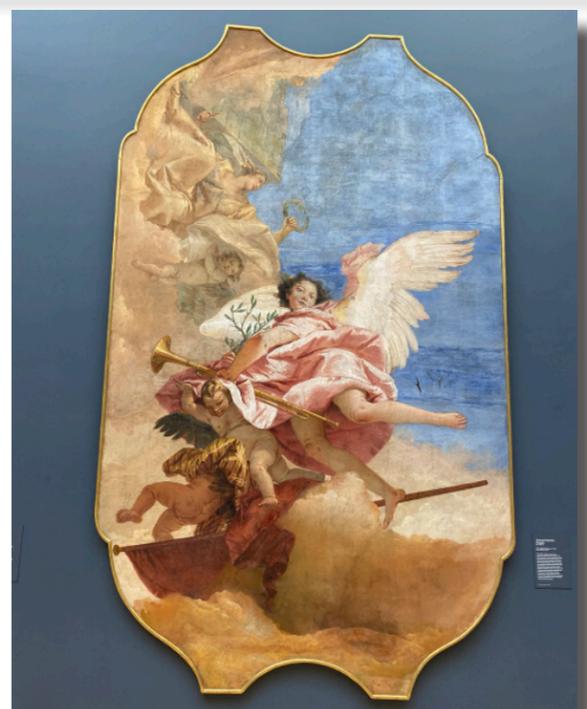


Photo by NECB Staff



FALL TENT REVIVAL 2022!

Great Bible Preaching and Public Worship
Find Faith in God through Jesus Christ, or
Find your Faith Again at the Christian Tent Revival!

Location: Firm Foundation Christian Church
Saturday, October 1st , 10 AM until 1 PM
84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI
401-765-0107, www.firmfoundationri.com

Plenty of Parking Available-----Free Bag Lunch Provided

Rain or Shine-----Bring the Entire Family

Old Time Preaching Ministry

If you are looking for doctrinally sound Bible preaching and teaching, tune in to WNRI 1380am and 99.9fm on Tuesday at 7pm, and Saturday at 4pm. Where the “Old Book” is still used.

Psalm 138:2 (KJV): “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

Study His Word And Know

By Scott Lanctot

Someone recently said to me that preachers behind the pulpit are selling a dream. My response was, "Absolutely not." A Bible believing church should and probably will be preaching Christ crucified and risen. Far from a dream, to save the lost soul, they preach hope, that one must believe. "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve" (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).

We are to acknowledge that we are sinners in need of a Savior. That fact accepted will change your life. Also through the Scriptures, we are to learn and grow. "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). This simply means not to just take the preacher's word for it. All our questions can be answered in His written word, the Holy Bible. I would submit that going to a Bible believing church which will preach the whole canon of Scripture, attending a Bible Study, and reading God's Word daily will prove profitable. Being a Christian means confession of sin, repenting of sin, and walking with the Lord, and not with this sinful world. We are to grow Christ-like daily and bear fruit as worthy repentant sinners.

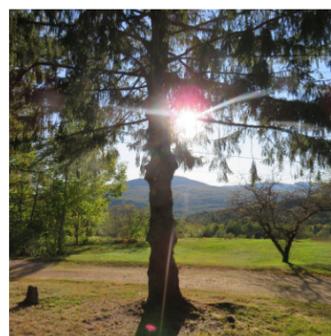
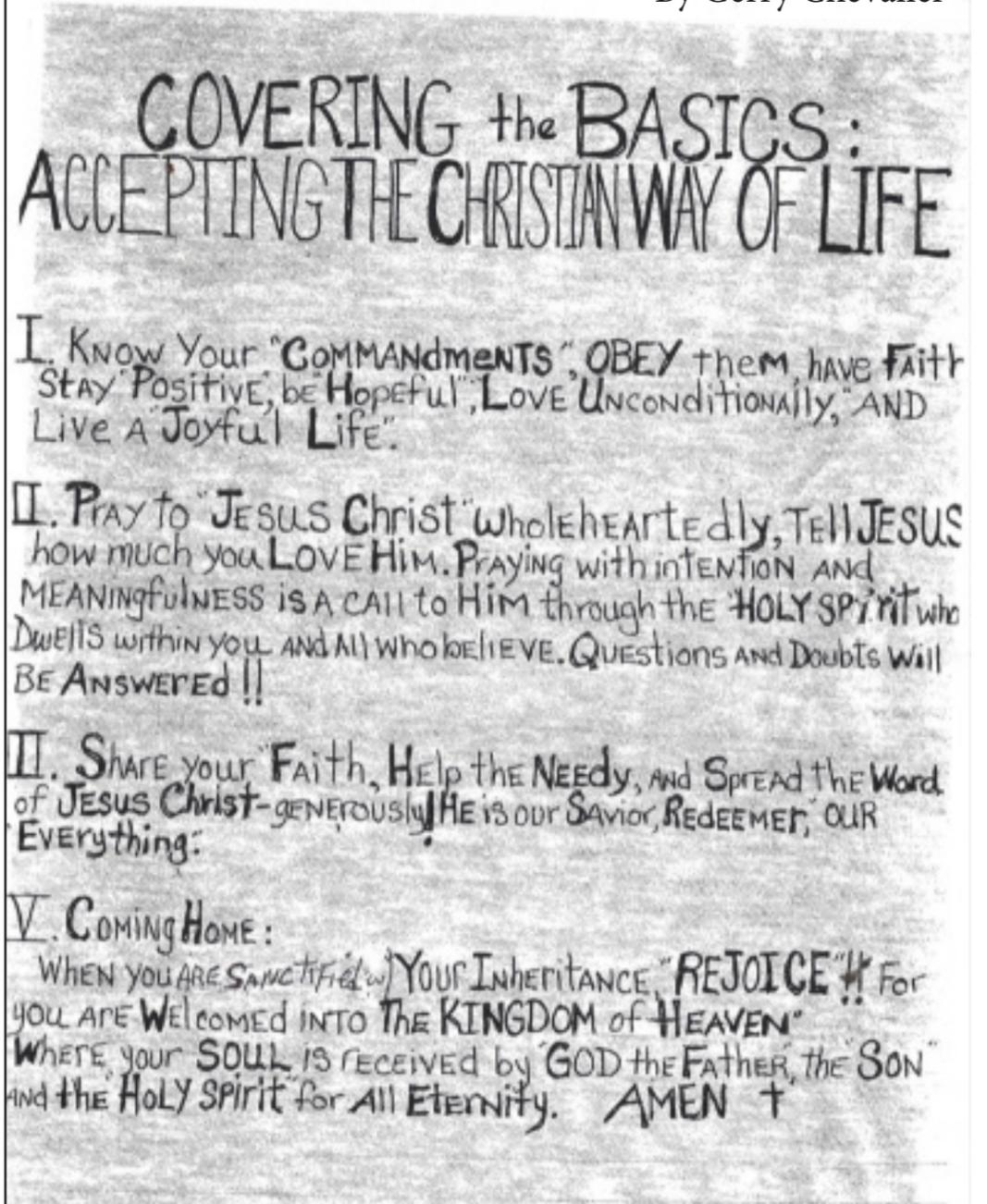
At a Bible believing church, you will hear of heaven and hell, man's sin nature, the wrath of God, and how to avoid the wrath of God. "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). You are either going to believe this verse or not. The fact remains that what you will choose will determine your eternal state. The preacher that is selling a dream has a motive other than Christ Jesus, does not care one way or another about your eternal destination, or they would be preaching the gospel of truth. "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things" (Philippians 3:18-19). A blood bought Christian can draw from Scripture. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Study His Word and you will know the truth. If you don't study and know the truth of the Bible, you will be led astray. Jesus gives us warning. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:15-20). Remember that you were warned to test all things. Be a good steward of your time, to know truth from error. We must be diligent students of His Word.

There are only two gospels preached. The first is the truth and the second is a false gospel that will profit you nothing, but it will separate you from God. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry"; (2 Timothy 4:3-5). A true blood bought believer in Christ Jesus who studies His Word daily will not fall for fables, but will expose them.

Christian Basics

By Gerry Chevalier



Kid's Corner

A Poem by Jamie, Age 16

The voice of the Lord is beautiful.
 He lead me through the darkest valleys.
 Lead me through the fire.
 The lamp unto my feet.
 The guiding Savior of the Lord.
 You alone satisfies my soul.
 Alone you are my strength
 My anchor in the waves
 Yes Lord you are my redeemer.
 In my darkest of thoughts you were there.
 You are here.
 You are love.
 Despite my flaws and imperfections you love me.
 You use me.
 You see me.
 You care for me.
 You see beyond my act, to see the heartbreak that lies behind my eyes.
 You alone are my healing.
 Yes Lord you alone are my strength.
 Steadfast I hold.
 Holding on to you.
 For you have never failed to pick me up.
 Never failed to lift my head.
 Yes Lord my eyes are stayed on you.
 When darkness demanded my life you called me back to life.
 Set my path before my feet.
 Oh Lord you are my peace.
 From birthed this life set apart.
 A holy life protected from head to toe.
 Yes this life undergoes tremendous amount of pain,
 But still remains on her rock.
 Yes Lord,
 I will remain.

“In a recent Sunday School lesson, I used oil and water as an example of us, as believers, being submerged into the world. The water represented the world around us and the oil represented us as believers in the Lord, Jesus Christ. When the oil was dropped into the water, it separated itself and rose to the top. That’s what God wants us to do. He wants us to stand out and rise above worldly issues. Even though we seem to mix together, we are never really one with the world when we are true blood bought believers in Him.

Dear Jesus, we want to remain faithful to you and to be separate from this world. Please help us to always remember that we are yours. Amen.”
 -Tanya

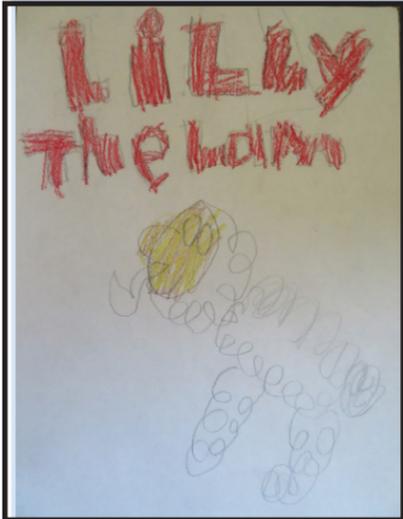
1 John 2:15
 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

John 17:16
 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Romans 12:2
 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...



Autumn, 10



Everett, 8

What does the Bible say about singing?

Psalm 47:7
 For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding.

1 Chronicles 16:9
 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!

James 5:13
 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

Psalm 96:1-2
 “Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.”

1 Chronicles 16:23
 Sing to the Lord, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day

A Word To Enablers (Proverbs 19:19)

By James Moriello

“A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.” (Proverbs 19:19)

One of the things that is a scourge on our young (and sometimes old, or at least old enough to know better) people today is the willingness of parents (and others) to enable them to continue destructive and/or self-destructive behaviors. It is one thing to aid somebody who is legitimately down and out due to industry unemployment, is elderly, or is legitimately disabled to the point that there is no job they are mentally or physically able to do. But there are some who will make no effort at all to raise their own circumstances. The Scripture says, **“If a man will not work, neither shall he eat”** (2 Thessalonians 3:10). So much for the idea of universal national basic income and every other sort of socialistic policy. The padding of unemployment benefits by our government through the recent crisis has created disincentive to work, and so businesses struggle to find anyone willing to work, or return to work. Honest work for honest pay is honorable, even if it is only a little, so long as **“they work in quietness and eat their own bread”** (2 Thessalonians 3:12).

The one who relies on others to pay their way as a way of life despite being able-bodied has no incentive to make effort to better themselves. The sickness spreads to the enabler. For it is written, **“For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.”** Just as a parent can create dependency in an adult child in this way, socialism tends to do the same to the society on an even larger scale.

Finally, I would like to speak a word to enablers of addicts. How many times will you bail that person out of jail at your own expense? **“For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.”** Your friend or loved one has no money for rent or food. So you pay rent and buy food to meet these needs, while they now have all of their own money to pay the packie or the local drug dealer. I speak tongue in cheek here, but why did you not buy the drugs and alcohol for them so that they could pay the rent? Gift cards and food stamps are sold for money to feed the addiction, so don't think you are doing a favor by sharing these either. Why do you hate your adult child so as to deal with them in these ways? **“For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.”** How will the pattern ever be broken? Yes, they will resent your refusal to continue to enable, and say all manner of evil things, and this will be very hard on you. But it is the loving thing to do. When you stop being the safety net, then at that point God can step in. Who knows if Jesus Christ may save that soul once he or she comes to some sense, that the prodigal may return (Luke 15:11-32)?

Tune into Firm Foundation in Christ Television for some In Depth Verse by Verse Teaching through the Books of the Bible!

In Northern Rhode Island-Cox Channel 18/Verizon Channel 23, Tuesdays at 10 am and Saturdays at 10 am

Statewide in Rhode Island-Cox Channel 14/Verizon Channel 33, Wednesdays at 3:30 pm and Sundays at 4 pm

**“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”
(2 Timothy 2:15)**

On Changing Churches

By James and Susan Moriello

Church hopping has become endemic in modern American Christian church culture. Church-goers of all ages have been taking part in this low accountability mindset for many years now. It has become common for “Christians” to recruit other “Christians” to change churches to come to the “latest and greatest” new or newly rebranded, modern, contemporary, worldly oriented churches. I speak mainly of the kind of church that is seeker-sensitive, which talks less about the need for repentance and heaven and hell, and/or calls their worldly brand of entertainment with dark lighting and concert effects “worship”. These “converters” are little concerned about the Kingdom of God or the division of families. Sadly, as a result of all this, churches have increasingly become divided upon generational lines. This tends to work contrary to the goal of solid discipleship, and causes division within the Body of Christ. Bible believers ought to be unified in purpose, and moving people from church to church does not accomplish any unity. Since worldly churches require lower commitment, people give less, so they need to gain numbers to make sure their offering coffers are full. They gain numbers, not by preaching Christ more, but by offering other attractions that will appeal to a broad cross section of the worldly minded folks.

When You Should Not Leave a Church

1. Acts 2:42 provides the four ingredients of a healthy church. “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” The preaching and teaching must be doctrinally sound and available not only on Sunday morning but throughout the week. Fellowship must be around God’s Word. Breaking of Bread is the celebration of Communion, which the early church did every week (Cf. Acts 20:7). Prayers, public and private, should be regularly offered. If you have all these, stay put.
2. Because of your own needs and motives, e.g. to find a place where there is a pool of eligible people of the opposite sex to date.
3. If outlets to use your spiritual gifts are made available to you, even if they don’t meet your specifications (which is actually a good thing when you think about it, why would you want to glorify yourself?).
4. When the Word of God is put first, and the sermon is central to the service.
5. When Jesus Christ is the main celebrity, and growth in grace and knowledge of the faith are stated and followed through goals.
6. Just because someone else has an issue, or because they are doing it. If they don’t have good cause, they may well be out of God’s will. “Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch” (Matthew 15:14).
7. Because you have some feeling. Remember, test all your feelings against the Word of God. The bar is high to leave a church. The more transience, the more God’s kingdom work may be disrupted, resulting in one very happy devil.

When You Should Leave a Church

1. When the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not preached clearly at each and every service- “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
2. When something other than Jesus is the main thing, such as entertainers on the stage, or there are endless appeals for money.
3. When doctrine and clear precepts of the Word of God have been compromised. For instance, when sin, repentance, and heaven and hell are seldom mentioned. Or when sin is tolerated, not spoken against, or endorsed.
4. Geography could be a reason to leave, in order to worship closer to home, since being in the same city or town as where you worship will allow you to minister better in the area where you live. It’s always best to attend church in the city or town in which you live, if a good Bible church is there.
5. If outlets to use your spiritual gifts are not made available to you, but I must qualify this, we’re not talking about your preferences as to how to use them. For instance if the church rightly does not allow women to speak in the church (Cf. 1 Corinthians 14:34), then follow the Bible, not your own sinful desire to act contrary to it.
6. When there is financial or other scandal in the church.
7. When God calls you home, and Jesus Christ welcomes you into heaven.