

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)

JESUS SAVES! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

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Called to be Living Saints

By Steve Jackson

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

We are not to be like the world, but are called to be living saints. Therefore our conduct should be fitting of the title Christian. For we are followers and disciples of Christ. And if He is our teacher, the one we would choose over anyone else in this world, let us make Him proud and show the world what He has taught us. Or do you consider His teaching as optional? Are you the one who says “I am a Christian, I believe in God”, but live as the rest of the world? Dressing like the world, speaking like the world, listening to filthy music and watching filthy videos as though it is no big deal? When you walk through a store or the office or the gym, do you fit in with everyone else or do you stand out as different, a bit peculiar?

As Christians we are called to stand out from the crowd, though not in any worldly sense. What makes us different from the unbeliever is the life and light of Christ we have inside of us. It’s not our good looks or our creativity or even our achievements. For if we have one of these blessings, they are gifts from God and nothing to take pride in, but a reason to offer thanks and praise to our King. What should be noticeable to those around us is that we are not dressed like everyone else, we do not seek the attention of others and we do not partake in the common life of sin

the world has to offer; Because Christians are to live a life of humility in service to our Lord and Savior.

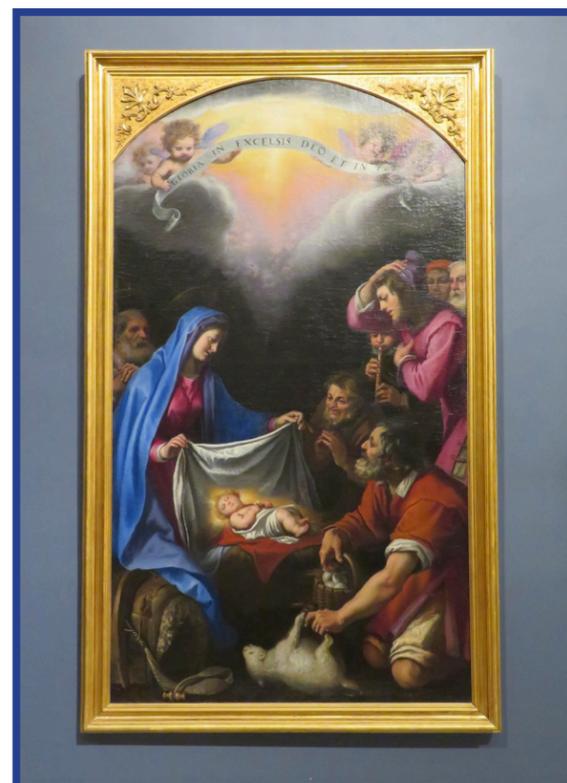
Paul says to “present your bodies a living sacrifice” (Rom 12:1). To whom are we presenting ourselves? To the world or to God? There is no middle ground, and there is no option to please both. For “those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom 8:8). What is your purpose as a Christian and how are you fulfilling that? Are you transforming your mind? Are you learning from Christ as His disciple or are you content to let His sacrifice wash you clean and offer nothing in return but a half hearted thanks?

The world is encroaching on our Christian values and principles. Who will stand for Christ when persecution comes knocking like a raging storm? It won’t be those who have built their house on a foundation of sand and ignored Christ’s teaching as something mundane and optional. Do not be like the foolish man, but as the wise who treasures every word of Christ. And “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Put aside foolish thoughts and empty ventures. For “the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).

I say all of this with love and concern, for the wind is blowing and the times are changing. Hatred for the truth is growing rapidly and the world is pushing bigger and bolder lies every day. Are you standing with Christ on the rock, against the torrent of lies and deceit? Or floating down the lazy river of conformity and non confrontation?

Brothers and sisters, we have been called out of darkness and into the marvelous light. We are living saints, sanctified and set apart to be the light of the world. And we are the only ones who can stand up and speak against the lies of the wicked one. But how shall we do that if we hide our light under a basket and conform ourselves to the world?

Put on the armor of God, the armor of light and stand proudly with your Savior. Stand with your Christian family and stand for the truth. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” and prove to yourself what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Remembering that “faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17). Not that we must earn our salvation, but that knowledge with action is dead faith. Peace to you all, with love in Christ.



Kid's Corner

I was recently at a Scarecrow Festival, admiring all of the creative ideas that people come up with. In front of the yoga studio was a scarecrow in tree pose, in front of the fire department were fireman scarecrows, and in front of the barber shop was a barber shop quartet made out of brooms and very well presented.

David and Goliath were depicted outside of the church. David was a much smaller size than Goliath, who was quite large and had the face of Andre the Giant, the famous wrestler, on it. A little girl and her family were looking at this particular presentation and the little girl asked what it was. A family member said it's a story from the Bible. As they were walking away I heard the little girl ask, "Is it a scary story?" And the family member's answer was, "No, I don't think it is."

If that little girl and/or her family happen to read this newspaper publication, I want to tell them that, no, it is absolutely not a scary story. It's actually a comforting story.

The story of David and Goliath teaches us about how with God nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37).

David was a simple shepherd boy who slayed a Philistine giant with a simple slingshot and a rock. The amazing God who helped David overcome the giant is the same God who helps us overcome big things today. It teaches us that God can use anyone to accomplish His plans. If you'd like to know the whole story of David and Goliath, you can read it in the Bible. It can be found in 1 Samuel Chapter 17.

The Bible is full of stories which exemplify love, faith, trust, and hope. Children's favorites include David and Goliath, Jonah and the Whale (the book of Jonah), and Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6). I highly recommend reading one of these stories today as they are reminders that with God, all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26)

Amen.
- Tanya

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

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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).

JERUSALEM DAILY NEWS

26 CHISLEV (DECEMBER), 5 BC

Reprinted by Firm Foundation Christian Church

HEADLINES WORTHY OF FRONT PAGE NEWS.

BY ANAH EBED*

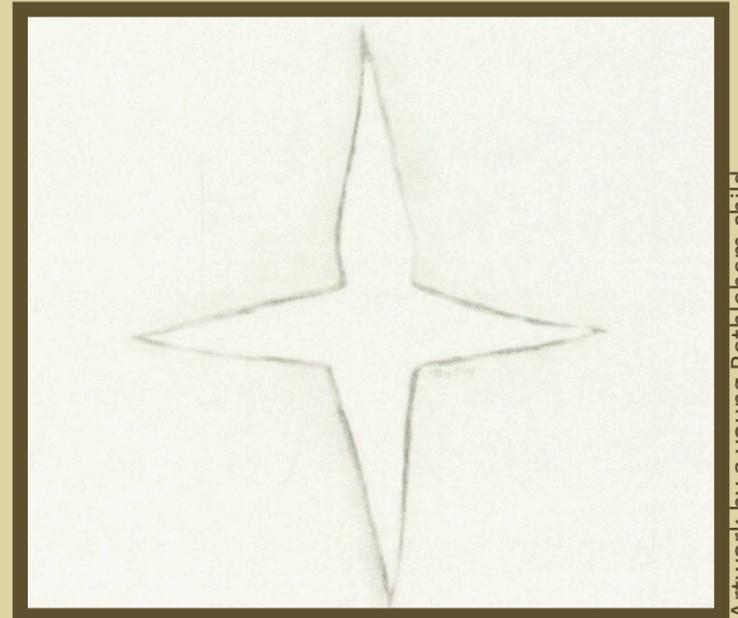
*The author's name, "Anah Ebed", means "Humble Servant."

Is God's Word trustworthy?
"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

After much research and study of the Tanakh, we have **great news** to announce.

The prophets of old prophesied God's Word, predicting future events, part of which has been fulfilled, and part of which are yet to be fulfilled. The prophecies, in many cases, are mere shadows of what is to come. I ask a genuine question, 'Do you believe God's Word is truth?' "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). So the things revealed in Scripture are for our study, and for the growth of our faith.

Another question for the reader, 'Do you believe that God can take dry bones and bring them back to life?' That takes belief and faith. Scripture must be seen with spiritual eyes. "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your



Artwork by a young Bethlehem child.

Have You Seen This Star?
Do you believe that the Messiah is born?
Let us know today.



brethren. Him you shall hear" (Deuteronomy 18:15). A Prophet, Whom are they speaking of? "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High" (Genesis 14:18). A priest of God, whom are they speaking of? We Israelites are looking for signs. "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Immanuel, which means, "God with us." Scripture is clear that "God with us" is coming in the flesh. The prophet gives the birthplace of this One to come. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting" (Micah 5:2). This passage of Scripture is interesting. It tells us that a Ruler will come from Judah, from King David's lineage. This coming King, Who is Micah speaking of? Scripture even gives us the time of Messiah's coming. "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times" (Daniel 9:25). This clearly speaking of a future event when the Messiah, the Anointed One, is coming. So with all this Scripture compiled from the prophecies from God to His prophets written for our learning, without further ado, I am happy to report that on 25 Chislev, the long-awaited Messiah has come into this world.

Amen.

Birth Announcements for 25 Chislev

BETHLEHEM—JESUS.

A baby boy was born to Joseph son of Jacob and Mary daughter of Heli. Jesus was born outside the city of David due to circumstances. According to some, Jesus' birth was announced by shepherds and attended to by shepherds. Jesus is a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of the tribe of Judah, and of the lineage of David and Solomon. This places Jesus in the Messianic bloodline. The family intends to stay in Bethlehem for some time and eventually return to their home in Nazareth of Galilee.

KERIOOTH—JUDAS.

A baby boy was born to Simon son of Hezron and Salome daughter of Elias. Judas was born at his home, and he was welcomed into the world by his relations. Worthy of note is the unusual event of a certain man of God who commented that it would have been better if Judas had never been born. Judas is a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of the tribe of Judah, but not of the lineage of David. Judas is therefore excluded from the Messianic bloodline. The family intends to stay in Keriouth, their ancestral home, where they currently reside.

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

26

CHISLEV

High 54, Low 39,
Partly Cloudy,
Chance of Showers

27

CHISLEV

High 57, Low 43,
Cloudy,
On and Off Rain

28

CHISLEV

High 55, Low 40,
Cloudy,
Steady Rain
Showers

29

CHISLEV

High 52, Low 36,
Cooler,
Partly Sunny

30

CHISLEV

High 54, Low 38,
Partly Sunny,
Chance of Showers

1

TEVET

High 56, Low 43, Cloudy,
Rainy with Occasional
Downpours

2

TEVET

High 58, Low 48,
Relatively dry and
overcast

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION IN FULL SWING!

BY JACOB BAR JONAH

Chanukah, the “Feast of Dedication”, in remembrance of the rededication of the temple in the days of the Maccabees (165 BC, on 25 Chislev), is in full swing. This feast is associated with lights, and sometimes called the Feast of Lights. The historical book of 1 Maccabees 4:52-59 (RSV) gives us the historical narrative of that history which was written of in advance by the prophet Daniel (Daniel 8:9, 11:28-35).

“Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred and forty-eighth year, they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering which they had built. At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed Heaven, who had prospered them. So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and offered burnt offerings with gladness; they offered a sacrifice of deliverance and praise. They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests, and furnished them with doors. There was very great gladness among the people, and the reproach of the Gentiles was removed. “Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with gladness and joy for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.”

Come up to Jerusalem and join us as we rejoice at the deliverance that Adonai has accomplished, and look forward to His future deliverance to be accomplished by Messiah!

ATTENTION CHILDREN OF ISRAEL!

Are you tired of excessive taxes from Rome?
Have you had enough of the Roman census?
Do you want to bring an end to Roman rule?

Join us at the East Gate on 28 Chislev at the ninth hour.

Samuel the Tanner will be presenting.

Perhaps Messiah will come and redeem us from the

Roman bondage.

NOTES FROM THE SHEPHERD'S ALMANAC:

THE TEMPERATURES ARE NEAR AVERAGE AGAIN THIS YEAR. AS USUAL, THERE WILL BE REGULAR RAINFALL THROUGHOUT JERUSALEM AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. FROST IS POSSIBLE AT THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS. HOWEVER, THE PASTURE LAND, BY AND LARGE, IS GOOD FOR THE SHEPHERD COMMUNITY ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR, AS THERE IS MUCH GREEN GRASS AND VEGETATION AVAILABLE FOR FEEDING THE SHEEP.

WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION IN BETHLEHEM

By Aaron Ben Judah of the Nazareth Post

Early last week I was informed by the Editor of the Post that I would be traveling to Bethlehem for what I thought would be a routine story. I was being sent this great distance, to get the thoughts and feelings of people, having to return to the place of their birth, because of a decree given by Caesar Augustus. The population, under the jurisdiction of Rome, was being ordered to enroll in a taxation, that would bring bring more subsidies into the Roman empire. The Romans wanted to ensure no one was overlooked. This was the first enrollment made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. For some reason, unknown to me, the editor wanted me there by 25th Chislev. Booring!!!

I arrived a day early, and I am glad I did, because I think I got the last available hotel room in Bethlehem. It certainly wasn't worth the shekels I paid to stay in this dump. I think hotel managers were putting beds in utility closets, and charging exuberant prices, because they knew there would be a demand, and the asking price would be given. (I think I may return at a later date, to do a story on their unfair business practices). So I got about my task of interviewing overtaxed travelers of their plight. Not a lot of interesting news, but a lot of murmuring, complaining, and griping all directed toward a faceless ruler from Rome.

As the day wore on, I noticed a young couple that that were looking to somehow find lodging somewhere. He was leading his wife around on a donkey, and it was apparent, that she was great with child, and ready to deliver at any moment. I started to follow them with an interest I couldn't quite explain, but I did see that they were afforded some lodging in a stable. Oh! If only my room were larger, I would have exchanged my lodging for theirs.

The day turned to night, and I was busy finishing my article for the post, when I noticed some unusual activity near the stable where this young couple was staying. As I approached the stable I asked the men that were there, (who claimed to be shepherds), what was going on. They stated that an angel had appeared to them, and told them that a child had been born in the city of David which is Christ the Lord. Was I hearing them right? The Messiah, the Christ? As I peered into the stable all I saw was an innocent baby with his father and mother.

Could this little baby be the long promised Messiah, the very Christ? I grabbed my writing instrument, and began documenting the things that I had witnessed. Wow!!! I wonder if I will be bringing back a story to the Nazareth Post, that will turn out to be the greatest story ever told?



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was very disturbed by your response to Starstruck in Jerusalem yesterday, which gave credence to the idea that a certain Jesus who was born yesterday in Bethlehem may be the Messiah of Israel. Many people believe that the Messiah will come and right all wrongs and throw off the Roman bondage once for all. Many of us do not accept that He will come as a baby, as this seems a strange teaching to us, and we have studied the Scriptures from childhood. I look forward to your reply, and if you will insist on giving print to those who believe that this child is Messiah, then I am cancelling my subscription at once.

Unbeliever in Bethany

Dear Unbeliever in Bethany,

You may consider your subscription cancelled. Our Editor, Wet and Cold in Jerusalem, has already resigned on account of this issue, so I am now Interim Editor. We cannot but report the facts, and cannot report fake news, nor can we flag truth as misinformation. So I will reiterate my response from yesterday, and the reader may make up his or her own mind. Some have attributed this star to astronomical phenomena such as comets and solar movements. However, we believe that this is the fulfillment of ancient prophecy. In Numbers 24:17, Balaam prophesied, "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel." Over fourteen centuries ago, God gave Balaam a view through time which showed that the miraculous appearance of a unique star would proceed the coming of the King of Israel. In Micah 5:2, the Scriptures provide the exact place of the birth of the King of Israel, Bethlehem Ephrathah. Surely it is no coincidence that the star has appeared there. Magi from the east have seen His Star, and have shown themselves to be wise men, in that they followed the star and have come to seek the King. It has been widely reported by certain evangelistic shepherds that the glory of the Lord shone around them at the announcement of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judah. We believe that the star and the manifestation of light are both manifestations of the Shekinah Glory of God. If it were an actual star or a comet sighting, it certainly would not abide in one place for such an extended period of time.

The Lord Bless You,
Benjamin the Pharisee, Interim Editor



Do You Desire Liberty or Tyranny?

By James Moriello

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17). Where is the Spirit of the Lord more evident than in the place where God-fearing Christians are? “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16). The absence of Christian presence and witness results in a void, which evil people are all too eager to fill. “For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way” (2 Thessalonians 2:7). When people who have the Spirit of God step aside, lawlessness reigns. Unrestrained sin requires greater controls in society and leads to tyranny, since when good men do nothing, evil men will take the reins of the power structures within a society.

The strongest biblical prevention against tyrannical government is continued revival of God’s people and adherence to Bible standards of conduct and law. If you desire liberty, make your peace with God through Jesus Christ, and get in the game. If you desire tyranny, then you are probably pleased with one party rule, top down edicts on everything from Covid lockdowns to repeated attacks on the First and Second Amendments of the Constitution, and the removal of prayer and Christian heritage from schools and the public square. Anti-Christian forces have succeeded in taking control of the government bureaucracy, schools, educational institutions, media institutions, and even in some cases, churches.

When the church begins to look like the world, it becomes ineffective, and the devil is well pleased with that, When you hear the terms misinformation and disinformation, think thought police. When good becomes evil, and evil becomes good, and people accept it en masse, we are heading for tyranny and divine judgment (Isaiah 5:20). The misnamed ‘Respect for Marriage Act’ is an act that disrespects God’s perfect design for that institution (Genesis 2:24). We do not oppose interracial marriage between one man and one woman. It is the marriage between people of the same sex that we oppose, on biblical grounds. The provision about interracial marriage was added by liberal politicians in order to cloud the issue and as a political move so that the supporters of the act could falsely claim that opponents to the act are both homophobic and racist. We are neither. We are Bible-believers. The murder of babies in the womb under the guise of choice not only breaks God’s commandment, but also deprives the unborn baby of his or her right to life enshrined in our founding documents. The ‘Inflation Reduction Act’ spends more money that we do not have, and that we must print, thereby increasing inflation, which is a hidden tax on us all, and is especially destructive to the poor.

So, friends, the conclusion of the matter is that as Christians, we must stand for Christ, and stand for Bible principles of freedom. We must affirm God’s truth and always speak what is true and right, and be good testimonies for Jesus Christ. Our founding fathers were men of God who understood all of these principles, and applied them personally and nationally. And look at what a great country that has been forged. But it’s on the line. What do you desire, liberty or tyranny?

Are You Really a Christian Disciple?

By Scott Lanctot

Christian, have you put much stock in your discipleship? “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Scripture tells us what discipleship really is. “Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 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 14:25-28). That word “hate” simply means to love less. You must put Christ Jesus first in your life. “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

Furthermore, take up your cross daily, and do according to the Scripture. “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:13). You must make your election sure. You must be all in. There is great cost to discipleship. Do you count the cost? Do you walk with the Lord, and not with this sinful world? It may cost time and energy, and you may have to put distance between from family and friends who are not all in for Christ. You could add to the list. The point is that there is a cost, The question is, ‘Are you willing to pay the cost?’ Putting things in proper perspective, consider our Savior. The cost to Him was His shed blood. He paid our sin debt in full on that cross. What will you do for Him who has done it all for your salvation? The foundation which we stand on was laid by Christ Jesus. “When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation” (Proverbs 10:25). So now what do we do, after the foundation has been laid? “Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10). No longer pleasing yourself, growing daily to be more Christ-like, and pleasing Him comes from our knowledge of the Scriptures. The Holy Bible—Read it and know God.

Lastly, if you do not want people to mock you, do not be like the church at Ephesus in the Book of Revelation. “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love” (Revelation 2:4). Trust in Christ alone, and not yourself and apply these words. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). We know that we are helpless and hopeless without Christ Jesus as our foundation. We will hold fast to what is good. “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession” (Hebrews 4:14). May we say with the Apostle Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). Amen.



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,
Mondays at 7 pm, 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 ap-
proved to God, a worker who does
not need to be ashamed, rightly di-
viding the word of truth”
(2 Timothy 2:15)

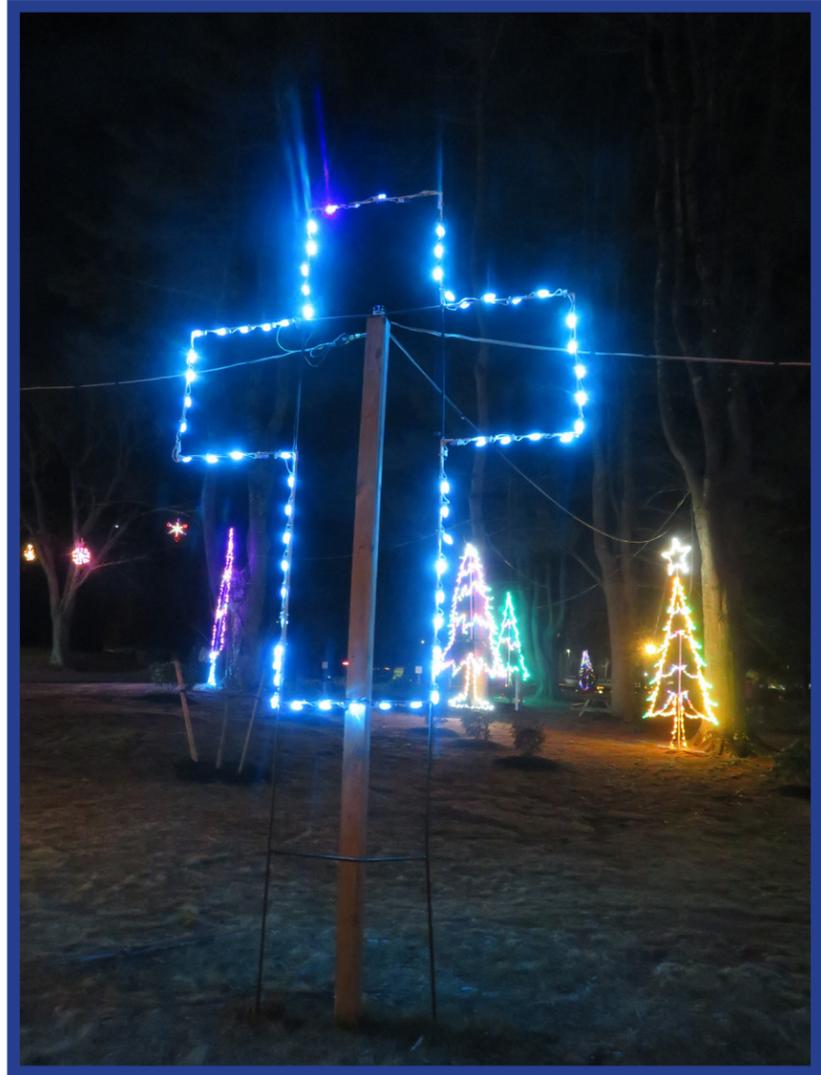


Photo by NECB Staff

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.”