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Ambassador

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**ENCORE
ISSUE**

WHAT'S WRONG WITH "JESUS"?

Seth Halpern/Editor

No other name causes as much controversy as the name Jesus. It has caused strife, arguments, wars, revolutions, lawsuits and countless deaths. Strange that a name can cause so much division. Yet, it is not simply the name "Jesus" but the person whom it identifies. Jesus was the most significant person in history. He essentially divided the calendar into before and after his short life on this earth.

So, it is interesting how many feathers are ruffled at the mention of his name. The movie, "God's Not Dead 2", from several years ago deals with this very issue. But more than in a film, this issue is an ever present lawsuit waiting to happen. The Separation of Church and

State issue (which by the way, is found nowhere in the constitution) is a very touchy subject. Teachers, coaches, and faculty who are found to be praying anytime or anywhere on school

“ *No other name causes as much controversy as the name Jesus. It has caused strife, arguments, wars, revolutions, lawsuits and countless deaths.* **”**

property have found themselves in hot water. This is not limited to schools but any public or government facility. Even many "Christian" movies will talk about God but tread very lightly around the name of Jesus. Perhaps that is because "God" can symbolize any number of

religions, faiths, or non-faiths. Who knows what you are referring to when you say "God". It is not an exclusive term so anyone can mean whatever they want when they refer to God. But

"Jesus" is a different story. Now, it has singled out a certain faith.

So, what is it about the followers of Jesus that riles people so much? It is true that many who consider themselves "followers" don't really conduct themselves in a manner worthy

of their calling. Some are obnoxious, unforgiving, judgmental, and give Jesus a bad name. However, I'm talking about those who live, behave, and communicate in a way that truly follows and pleases Jesus. Why are unbelievers so critical of them and the Jesus they follow.

Perhaps it is because they don't see a "tolerant", "live and let live" attitude from those people. After all, no one wants to hear that what they're doing is wrong or "sinful". That's not very "tolerant".

Perhaps it's because followers of Jesus say that He is the only way to Heaven. How dare you judge someone

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by Paula McBride**

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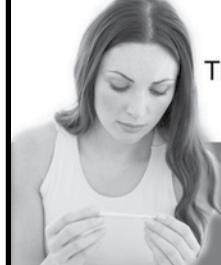
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PATRIOTISM IS NOT ENOUGH

By Paula McBride

"At a time like this, I am needed more than ever," declared British nurse Edith Cavell when she heard the Germans had invaded Belgium during World War I. Edith had been taught from a young age by her minister father that it was her duty to help others, so in spite of danger, she returned to her position in Brussels. The clinic where she trained nurses became a Red Cross hospital, and Edith cared for both German soldiers and troops from the Allied forces. Over time, Edith became involved in helping recovered Allied soldiers flee to England. On July 31, 1915, members of an escape team were captured. Five days later, Edith was arrested, and despite appeals for clemency, Edith and four others faced a firing squad on October 12.

Edith stood fearlessly facing the soldiers who were about to take her life. "I am glad," she said "to die for my country. But as I stand here I realize as never before that patriotism is not enough." Then she gave a clear, definite testimony of her personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and her assurance of salvation. Her salvation was not in laying down her life for others, but because Christ had laid down His life for her. Edith was perfectly composed as she submitted to the bandaging of her eyes. In a few moments her spirit soared as her body was pierced by



German bullets.

Patriotism to her earthly homeland was not enough for Edith Cavell because she knew she was a citizen of a spiritual kingdom. Her faith in Christ's sacrifice on the cross emboldened her to finish the work she was called to do. This month, as we reflect on our nation's heritage, we may feel we are true patriots. But what are we doing as God's agents in the world? What can we, the body of Christ, add to our patriotism that will make a difference in the lives of others now and for eternity?

One key to making a difference is personal humility. Those who are Christ's are called upon to humble themselves and pray (II Chron. 7:14). We interact with those around us with sensitive deference. We ask questions and seek feedback. We pray for the Holy Spirit to work the Father's purposes in their lives.

Another key is planning our presentation of the Gospel to those in our circle of influence. Successful sales representatives build a "story" about their product. It includes information about the product and the benefit it will be to the buyer. We Christians need to build our testimony around the truth of who God is and the validity of the Bible. God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. There are no greater promises than His.

Finally, we need to clearly proclaim our story. As we humble ourselves and pray for God to draw people to Himself, He will draw toward us those with whom we can share His message. Then, like Edith Cavell, we will have a clear, definite testimony of the living hope and glorious freedom we have in Christ. We can share His power to heal to our land because patriotism alone is not enough.

Did You Know?

- In New Testament times washing one's hands before a meal was the common practice and was observed as a religious duty, especially by the Pharisees (Mark 7:3).
- Israelites love pomegranates. The juice of pomegranates was highly prized (Song of Solomon 8:2). In the Promised Land, pomegranates were one of the fruits which were grown.
- The Israelites were promised by the Lord that they would enter "a land flowing with milk and honey" (Joshua 5:6 KJV). This indicated abundant prosperity.
- In New Testament times, the nearer a guest sat to the host the more highly he was honored. In Jesus' parable, the beggar, Lazarus, sat at "Abraham's side" (Luke 16:22).
- The importance of hospitality is often mentioned in the Bible and nomadic peoples welcomed strangers. But they had a tradition that the stranger was only welcome for 3 days and 4 hours, the length of time they thought their food sustained their guest.
- In the Old Testament, blood shed for sacrifices was considered to be sacred. It stood for the life of the sacrificed animal. As life was sacred, so blood became sacred and had to be treated with respect. So the Israelites were told not to drink blood (Lev 17:11).

THE AMBASSADOR

- ✍ **The Ambassador** is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches
- ✍ **The Ambassador** has a circulation 3,700 - 5,500 and is distributed in local churches and businesses in the community.
- ✍ The purpose of **The Ambassador** is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.
- ✍ We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✍ We believe that the atoning work of Christ (His death) on the cross and His resurrection is the ONLY means of salvation and the only way to Eternal Life in Heaven.
- ✍ We welcome editorial content from anyone wishing to promote the mission of **The Ambassador**. All articles and advertisement content is subject to the approval of the editor.
- ✍ Views expressed in *The Ambassador* do not necessarily reflect those of our sponsors or advertisers.

Editor/Publisher - Seth Halpern

Advisory - Dave Kugelman

Layout/Design - Teresa Davis

THE DEVIL'S BEATITUDES

If the devil were to write his beatitudes, they would probably go something like this:

Blessed are those who are too tired, busy, or distracted to go to church weekly- They are my workers

Blessed are those who don't help people until asked and expect to be thanked- I can use them.

Blessed are the touchy- with a bit of luck, they may stop going to church and become my missionaries.

Blessed are those who show off their good works and get on everyone's nerves- they are mine forever.

Blessed are the troublemakers- they shall be called my children.

Blessed are those who have no time to pray- they are easy prey for me.

Blessed are the gossips- thr they are my undercover agents, whether they know it or not.

Blessed are the complainers- I'm all ears for them.

Blessed are you if your read this and think it is only about other people- I want you



FROM THE ARCHIVES

"Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus"

By Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg

Reviewed by Deena Peterson

Maybe it's just me, but I've been a believer since I was nine years old, grown up in church, and sometimes.... well, sometimes my relationship with Jesus seems to grow stale.

I know it isn't Him. It's me. That's why I'm so grateful for authors like Ann and Lois, who step outside the box and write books like this one. Books that refresh my spiritual eyes and help me see things that I've missed out on, and that breathe fresh joy into my walk with Jesus.

"Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus" takes a look at the often-forgotten life of Christ as a Jew. How did He live? How did He teach? How much was He like the Jews of His time?

While no one would dispute that Jesus was God, He was also a man, and He was a Jew. When He taught, He drew on customs, knowledge and traditions that we have no concept of. What do we lose by not understanding the culture in which He walked and taught?

Which layers of Biblical teaching will come to light if we know things like what it meant for the prodigal son to ask for his inheritance while his father still lived? How much richer would our communion be if we knew of customs surrounding meals served in Jesus day?

And how much of what Jews practice today was around when Jesus walked this earth? How much is added, and how much would have impacted His ministry then? These two ladies truly have added a depth to my understanding of Scripture that



has refreshed and opened my eyes to things I'm SO glad I didn't miss!

There's a big push to say that we're all the same: Jew, Christian and Muslim. That is NOT what this book is about. But in order to get the full richness of Scripture, we do need to understand the times and culture that existed when it was written.

That's what "Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus" gives us. A fresh, new and inviting perspective that I believe will bring revival into your life as a believer. So that's why I'm urging you to get this book, and to share it with a friend or your small group...

...or your family. Put some of these things into practice, and see if your walk with the Lord doesn't develop an added dimension. I'm awarding "Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus" the Golden Bookmark for Cultural Awareness and Excellence in Writing, with a pair of worn, leather sandals as a charm.

Happy Reading!

For more of Deena's reviews visit deenasbooks.blogspot.com



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GRIEF SHARE - Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Praise Chapel Church 398 Aylor Ave.
A grief support program that meets weekly to help give encouragement after the death of loved one. Anyone can attend on any week because each class is "self-contained." For more information about GriefShare you can go to www.griefshare.org or contact the church at 530-870-0511.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
Church of Glad Tidings
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(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com

GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Wednesdays, 6:00pm,
For those dealing with the loss of a loved one.
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

EMBASSY HOUSE OF PRAYER - Every Thursday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
Church of Glad Tidings
1179 Eager Rd (Building 200) - Live Oak, CA 95953
(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com
"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13). The church today is in an all-out war against the evils of darkness. The body of Christ is called to step up and be aggressive in their prayer life.

FREEDOM NIGHT - 2nd Friday of each month
Church of Glad Tidings
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Join us for a night of worship, prayer, and freedom

BETHESDA HEALING WELL - 3rd Saturday of the Month 10AM - 12PM
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Come to receive prayer and be refreshed while soaking in an atmosphere of worship and praise. Sorry, No Childcare.

• **What Do You Need?** •
• **Find it Here** •

• Prayer List for July 2023 •

- 1-Jul **Pray for a safe and productive summer** and that families would spend quality time together
- 2-Jul **Pastors-** That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- 3-Jul **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- 4-Jul **Revival-** Pray that the college student revival would continue and spread to the nation!
- 5-Jul **World Affairs-** Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days
- 6-Jul **The Persecuted Church around the world.** Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution
- 7-Jul **Singles, Single Parents, Divorced, Widowed-** pray for those experiencing loneliness and overwhelming burdens
- 8-Jul **Human Trafficking-** Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- 9-Jul **Race Relations-** Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- 10-Jul **Global Revival-** Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- 11-Jul **Homeless- Safety, health and provision-** Twin Cities Rescue Mission, other local homeless ministries. Safety from summer heat
- 12-Jul **Marriages-** Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- 13-Jul **Local Ministries-** Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 14-Jul **California-** pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.
- 15-Jul **Pray that fathers would give Godly wisdom** and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children
- 16-Jul **Disabled-** that they would receive the assistance and support they need
- 17-Jul **Mental Illness-** Pray for those who dealing with Mental Health issues or suicidal thoughts
- 18-Jul **Life-** Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies.
- 19-Jul **Addicted-** pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender and get the treatment they need
- 20-Jul **Discipleship-** Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- 21-Jul **President-** Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden and he would radically change his life and leadership
- 22-Jul **Pray that children of fatherless homes** as well as those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- 23-Jul **Health Care Workers and First Responders-** Pray for physical protection and endurance
- 24-Jul **Israel-** Pray for safety from violence, and for the Peace of Jerusalem
- 25-Jul **Restore America!** Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation
- 26-Jul **Pray for each of us to be bold by the Holy Spirit** to speak and act in accordance with God's Word and His Way!
- 27-Jul **Unity of Churches/Global impact-** Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!
- 28-Jul **Seniors and Elderly-** Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.
- 29-Jul **Local city/county leaders-** Wisdom for leading our community
- 30-Jul **Pray for your neighbor-** for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!

CALENDAR



10 Ways You Can Help The Ambassador Ministry

1. Pray with us and for us to not only sustain but to grow in impact. Pray for our health and for spiritual protection
2. Read it yourself – You will be enriched by reading it.
3. Share a copy or an article with someone- you will have someone in your life benefit from an article in every issue, cut it out and send it to them, or send them the whole issue
4. Leave a copy of The Ambassador when you're having coffee or a meal or waiting for your car. Use it like a tract. It may be less intimidation.
5. Monitor The Ambassador at your church: assure its presence and visibility
6. Subscribe for a friend or family member (or yourself)
7. Find new locations- ask businesses that you frequent to take some papers, deliver and monitor them
8. Deliver a small route- 1 to 2 hours each month
9. Give financially as an Individual partner, business partner, churches/ministries partner (every dollar helps to impact the community)
10. Talk to your like-minded Christian friends, family, business associates and church leadership, about helping as well.

*If you would like to help, please contact
Seth Halpern at 530-933-1385 or
email editor@ambassadornewspaper.com*

**I CAN DO ALL THINGS
THROUGH CHRIST
WHO STRENGTHENS ME.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13**



Finding Freedom in God's Perfect Peace

If you would like to experience the peace and transformed life that God can provide through Jesus Christ and you are willing to commit your life to the only one who can truly set you free from your sin, you can pray to the Lord right now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Because of what His Son, Jesus, did by dying on the cross, your sins will not be held against you by God anymore. You can experience freedom for the rest of your life on earth and then have a life in Heaven with God for eternity. God's part of the deal is already done. Your part is to confess your sins, repent (or change your ways) and believe that He is Lord. If your life is out of control, let Him take over control.

For help, questions, or more information, contact us at The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.

Kug's Kolumn

BACK TO THE BASICS

Is sharing Jesus Christ a strategy or a lifestyle? Though statistics vary, George Barna says that approximately 35% of Born Again Christians do not share their faith. (The statistic is based on sharing faith in Christ at least once during a calendar year). Many Christians are afraid to witness. They believe they are not equipped to tell others about Jesus Christ. Two thoughts: First, I believe many people underestimate their ability to share Jesus with lost people. Secondly, even if a born again Christian does not feel equipped to share the Gospel, it is their responsibility to educate themselves. Preparation is the enemy of fear. Be prepared and your confidence will grow. As Christians, do we really believe (I mean really, really believe) that people who die without Christ will spend eternity in hell? Take a moment and ponder that question for yourself. If you believe it, you will not be able to remain silent when it comes to telling others about Christ. I know I need to do better when it comes to sharing my faith.

When we first started the Christian Business Alliance in November of 1997, we were more focused

on inviting non-Christians to our meetings. We acknowledged that many people might not set foot in a church but they may attend a 'business' lunch meeting. We lost sight of that vision. Since most of us (including me) know that we fall short when it comes to sharing our faith, let's take advantage of this forum. Commit to inviting a guest each week. Especially those who don't know Christ or those who are backsliding in their faith. Seth Halpern sends an email reminder each week along with information about the upcoming speaker. In the near future, these emails will detail whether the speaker will share their testimony or present a relevant marketplace teaching. This will help each of us know who to invite based on the topic. We hope to get these reminders out each Thursday so there is plenty of time to invite a guest. The CBA meets each Tuesday at 11:45am at different locations.

For more information contact me (David Kugelman) @ 632-9292. Whether we make CBA a witnessing tool or not, we are called to share Jesus. Let's not let another lost family member or friend slip into eternity without knowing Christ.

David Kugelman is the president of the Christian Community Network which meets each Tuesday at noon at various locations. Dave welcomes your questions or comments on this article at drkug@comcast.net

Starting Over Again!

By Lee Roberts

One summer when I was in high school, without me knowing it, dad decided it was time to paint the house, and guess who the one-man work crew was. Yep! One day dad interrupted my TV show and had me follow him out to the car. There in the trunk were a couple of five-gallon paint cans and a roller. After I unloaded them, he said, "Have fun!", and drove away. As he disappeared around the corner, I thought, "Great! Now I will never know if the coyote ever did catch the roadrunner!"

Believe it or not, having to paint the house was NOT the biggest surprise of the day. That came when I opened the first can. The color I was to paint the house was the same as Pea Green soup, and it was horrible! It was so bad, I was embarrassed to be the one putting it on the house. I could not wait to get into the back yard so my friends would not see me doing it.

By the time dad came home a few hours later a good bit of the house had been completed. With a skeptical look on his face he asked, "Well, what do you think?"

My answer was, "Dad I am really glad to be living in this house."

"Really? Why?"

"Well, I am glad to be living in this house because that means when I look out my bedroom window, I don't have to look at this ugly color. So I am glad to live here, and not across the street!"

Dad then told me to take a break and without another word, he got back in



the car and left. A short time later, he came back with two more five-gallon buckets of paint, with a much better color!

I was NEVER happier to start a job all over again!

And some would love to start life all over again. Believe it or not, God allows us to do that. Now that doesn't mean we can go back relive our childhood and once again work our way through the awkward teen years. After all, who would really want to do that? Instead, God allows today to be a new starting line. Leaving our "colorful" past behind and plotting a new course, living a different life.

How do I know? Listen to this! *"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red as crimson, they shall be like (white) wool."*

Isaiah 1:18

What a glorious opportunity of starting all over again! To start out red, and end up white. Trading in a life of ugliness and shame, for a life of fullness and hope. Starting out in one condition, ending up in another!

Considering the end result, starting all over isn't so bad after all!



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LIFE MATTERS presented by Yuba-Sutter Right To Life

Men Should Speak Out Against Abortion. Here's Why...

By Paul Stark LifeNews.com

"I don't understand how any man thinks that he has the right to dictate to women what they should do with their body," said Trevor Noah, host of The Daily Show, last year. "Men know nothing about what it's like to be a woman."

This is a common sentiment. Men don't get pregnant, so they don't have a right to an opinion about abortion. Abortion is a women's issue. As one typical comment on social media puts it: "If you don't have a uterus then shut up."

It's true that men can't experience pregnancy, childbirth, or abortion. We can never fully know what those experiences are like, and we shouldn't pretend that we do. We can only try our best to empathize.

But it's also true that abortion is right or wrong, just or unjust, irrespective of the gender or personal experiences of any particular individual. The truth of a statement (e.g., "abortion is wrong") is independent of the characteristics of the person who happens to be making the statement. That's how reality works.

So if abortion is unjust, as millions



of women contend (including women who have experienced unplanned pregnancy, childbirth, abortion, and adoption), then it doesn't cease to be unjust when a man offers the same argument. The argument is still sound. It cannot be dismissed because of a trait of the person advocating it (a mistake in reasoning called the ad hominem fallacy). If defenders of abortion want to refute the pro-life view, they have to actually refute the pro-life view.

The idea behind what Noah and others say seems to be that an individual

must be able to have direct experience of something in order to hold a valid opinion about it. But that would mean that infertile women shouldn't have a say about abortion. It would mean that men who advocate abortion shouldn't have a say. It would mean that the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that imposed legalized abortion—a ruling decided by seven men—was illegitimate.

Take some other issues. Until just recently, no American women served on the front lines in combat. Even though

they didn't have first-hand experience, though, they had a right to express their views regarding the wisdom and justice of military actions.

Or consider infanticide. We may not understand the desperate mindset that drives a teenager to abandon a newborn baby in the Mississippi river. But we can still know that abandonment is wrong and that we should try to save the baby. We can come to a sound conclusion about an act without having a personal experience with the circumstances in which the act takes place.

What conclusion should we come to about abortion? Human embryos and fetuses of living members of the species Homo sapiens. That's science. And all human beings have human rights and deserve the respect of others and the protection of society. That's justice.

The plain truth is that abortion isn't only a women's issue. Every pregnancy, after all, begins with a man as well as a woman. Every unborn child has a father as well as a mother. The attitude of the father, moreover, is often the decisive factor in the mother's decision about whether to have an abortion. And men

CONTINUE ON PAGE 17

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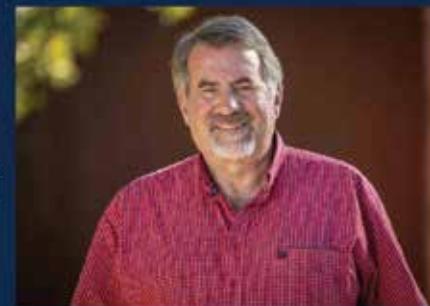
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July CCN Weekly Schedule:

7/4 No meeting
 7/11 TBA
 7/18 Luann Kurtz
 7/25 Prayer

*Schedule subject to change

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MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

The Power of Exercise and Good Eating Habits in Overcoming Depression and Anxiety

Depression and anxiety are prevalent mental health conditions affecting millions worldwide. While therapy and medication are commonly prescribed, incorporating exercise and maintaining a balanced diet can significantly contribute to managing these conditions. This article explores the profound impact of exercise and good eating habits on alleviating symptoms of depression and anxiety.

1. Exercise as a Natural Mood Booster

Regular exercise has been shown to boost endorphin levels in the brain, leading to improved mood and reduced feelings of depression and anxiety. Physical activity stimulates the release of neurotransmitters, such as serotonin and dopamine, which play vital roles in regulating mood and emotions. Engaging in aerobic exercises like running, swimming, or cycling helps increase blood flow to the brain, promoting neural growth and reducing inflammation. Furthermore, exercise serves as a distraction from negative thoughts and provides a sense of accomplishment, boosting self-esteem and confidence. The overall result is



an improved sense of well-being and a reduction in symptoms associated with depression and anxiety.

2. Building Resilience through Physical Fitness

Regular exercise helps build physical resilience, which translates to mental resilience. Engaging in activities like weightlifting or martial arts helps develop discipline, perseverance, and self-control—traits that are essential in managing and overcoming depression and anxiety. Exercise also improves sleep patterns, which are often disrupted

in individuals with these mental health conditions. Adequate sleep enhances mood, cognitive function, and overall mental well-being. Moreover, physical fitness improves body image and self-perception, leading to a more positive self-image and reduced anxiety.

3. Nourishing the Mind and Body with a Balanced Diet

A healthy diet plays a crucial role in supporting mental health. Consuming nutrient-dense foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats, provides the essential

vitamins and minerals needed for optimal brain function. Certain nutrients like omega-3 fatty acids, magnesium, and B vitamins have been linked to improved mood and reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety. Conversely, a diet high in processed foods, sugar, and unhealthy fats can exacerbate these conditions. Additionally, establishing regular eating patterns and avoiding skipped meals helps stabilize blood sugar levels, reducing mood swings and irritability often associated with depression and anxiety.

Conclusion

While exercise and good eating habits are not standalone treatments for depression and anxiety, they are valuable additions to traditional therapies. Incorporating regular exercise into one's routine and adopting a balanced diet can lead to significant improvements in mood, self-esteem, and overall mental well-being. By harnessing the power of physical activity and nourishing the body with wholesome foods, individuals can take an active role in managing their mental health and finding relief from the burdens of depression and anxiety.



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Bible Trivia



"GIVING AND BEING GENEROUS"

Fill The Right Word Into The Blank Space

- Deuteronomy 15:10**
 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine _____ shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the _____ thy God shall _____ thee in all thy _____, and in all that thou puttest thine _____ unto.
 _____ hand bless works heart Lord
- Deuteronomy 16:17**
 Every _____ shall give as he is able, according to the _____ of the Lord thy _____ which he hath given _____.
 _____ thee man God blessing
- 1 Chronicles 29:9**
 Then the _____ rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect _____ they offered willingly to the _____: and _____ the _____ also rejoiced with great joy.
 _____ Lord David people heart king
- Proverbs 3:9-10**
 Honour the Lord with thy _____, and with the _____ of all thine increase: So shall thy _____ be filled with plenty, and thy _____ shall burst out with new _____.
 _____ presses firstfruits wine substance barns
- Proverbs 3:27**
 Withhold not _____ from them to whom it is _____, when it is in the _____ of thine _____ to do it.
 _____ hand power good due
- Proverbs 11:24-25**
 There is that _____, and yet _____; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal _____ shall be made _____: and he that watereth shall be _____ also himself.
 _____ increaseth fat scattereth soul watered
- Proverbs 21:26**
 He _____ all the _____ long: but the righteous giveth and _____ not.
 _____ day coveteth spareth greedily

Proverbs 22:9
 He that hath a bountiful _____ shall be _____: for he giveth of his _____ to the _____.
 _____ bread poor eye blessed

Proverbs 28:27
 He that giveth unto the _____ shall not _____: but he that hideth his _____ shall have many a _____.
 _____ lack eyes curse poor

Luke 6:38
 Give to every _____ that asketh of _____; and of him that taketh away thy _____ ask them not again.
 _____ thee man goods

Answers Page 17

Bible Word Search



Bible Wordsearch

Matt. 6:5-18

The Lord's Prayer

S	S	E	F	S	R	E	H	T	A	F	M	L	H	A	AGAINST	BREAD
Y	T	A	Y	O	W	S	E	E	S	O	L	T	D	U	BABBLING	DAILY
R	B	R	T	D	R	O	O	D	G	E	U	I	M	E	CORNERS	DEBTS
A	E	T	E	A	M	G	N	N	T	R	S	D	S	B	DELIVER	DONE
G	D	H	R	E	R	O	I	K	T	F	B	R	U	A	DISFIGURE	DOOR
A	C	H	C	L	T	D	D	V	I	R	D	A	O	B	FATHER	EARTH
I	N	E	E	S	N	U	C	G	E	O	H	W	I	B	FORGIVE	FACES
N	S	A	S	A	R	O	U	A	N	E	Y	E	V	L	HALLOWED	HEAD
S	I	D	T	E	R	R	D	E	A	I	C	R	B	I	HEAVEN	HEARD
T	N	S	B	N	E	D	E	V	O	L	K	O	O	N	KINGDOM	LEAD
M	S	M	E	E	Q	D	E	V	I	E	C	E	R	G	KNOWS	LOVE
U	O	R	E	M	A	N	I	C	F	A	C	E	S	W	OBVIOUS	NAME
S	S	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	M	O	O	R	K	A	PAGANS	PRAY
Y	L	I	A	D	Y	A	R	P	A	G	A	N	S	S	RECEIVED	ROOM
W	O	H	S	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	D	L	Y	H	REWARD	SEES
															SECRET	SHOW
															SOMBER	SINS
															STANDING	TELL
															STREET	TRUTH
															UNSEEN	WASH

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

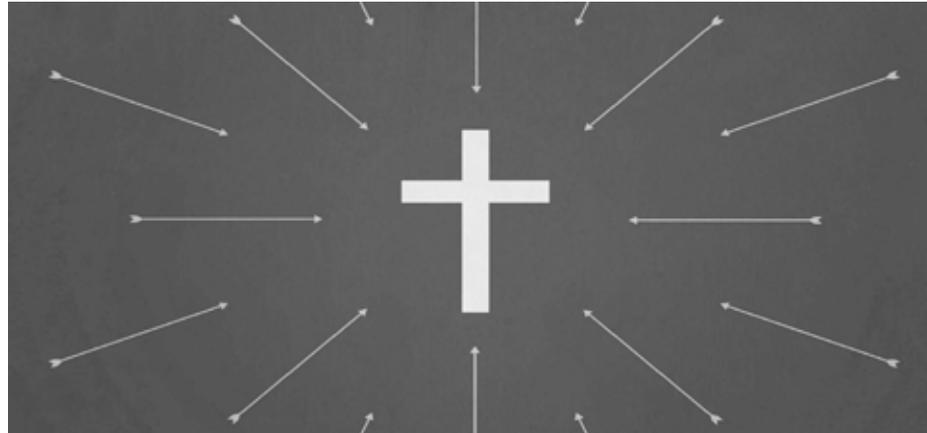
Answers Page 17

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."
 Deuteronomy 31:6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: "WHAT'S WRONG WITH "JESUS"?"

and say that they won't go to Heaven if they don't believe in Jesus. How "closed-minded" and "intolerant". Why are you the only ones who know the way to Heaven? These are very common questions of those who react to followers of Jesus. But it isn't the followers saying this; it's Jesus himself. He says "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, NO ONE comes to the Father EXCEPT through me "(caps mine) John 14:6. His followers are just stating what Jesus himself proclaimed. Maybe the question is why should you listen to Jesus? Aren't there founders or leaders of other "religions" that have made great claims who could be followed. What makes Jesus special? Well, there are many other religions and many powerful religious leaders. Here is the difference: Jesus is not telling us simply to follow his ideas or even his behavior. He is telling us to put our faith in HIM as our redeemer. He did not die because he was controversial. He died as part of the plan of God the Father, the God of the Bible, to be a complete sacrifice to pay the debt for our sin so that we don't have to bear that punishment ourselves. That is the gospel in a nutshell.

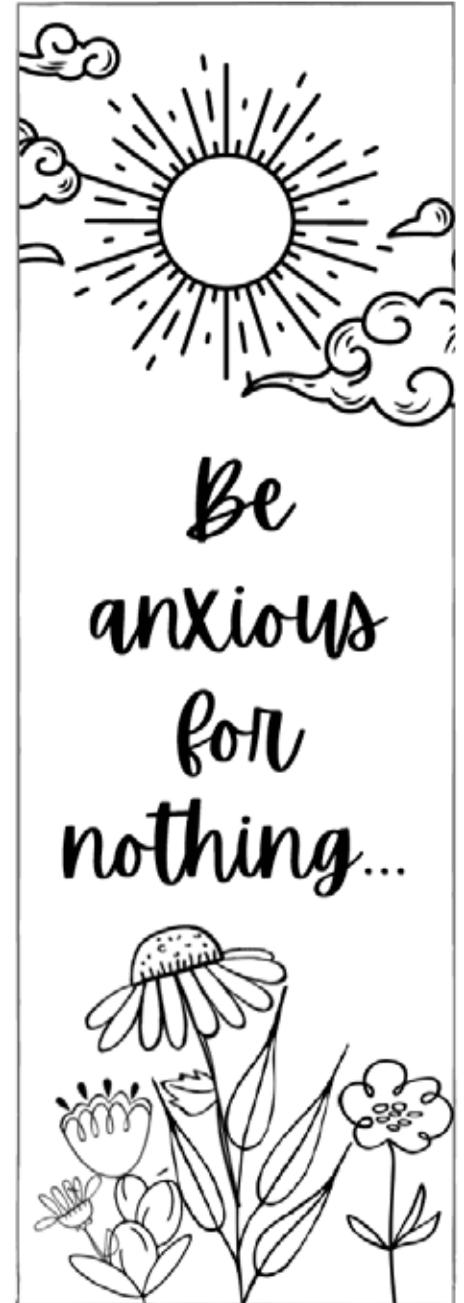
So again, my headline question is "What is wrong with Jesus?" All He has wanted to do was to take our place in



the punishment for our own sins so that we can not only have freedom from the guilt and shame of sin and the power over sin in this life, but also spend eternity with the God the Father in Heaven. Sounds like someone I should get to know instead of fighting over. Have you seen people who have met him? People who have really met Jesus at the absolute bottom of their lives in the pit of their sin (whether drugs, other addictions, poverty, sickness) know the joy of meeting and living for Jesus because he has given them new life. We print many of those stories in this paper. I haven't seen a single testimony of someone's life changing from bad to good as a result of believing committing their life to Atheism or even another religion. Jesus cleans us up but we have to be willing.

So in the final analysis, we each need to ask "What do I think of Jesus?" There are only a few options. Either we believe he was a madman, delusional about who he thought he was, or a liar who simply wanted to deceive people into honoring him. We know that he existed in history and there is tremendous evidence of the miracles, the resurrection and more. What we may try to do is to ignore him altogether, but that's not really an option. It's like turning around because you don't want to see the truck that's coming at you. It doesn't change the horrible outcome. You must decide. Indecision is a decision. So, what's wrong with Jesus in your life?

(If you have questions or would like to discuss this further, refer to p. 3 for churches you can contact that would be glad to help you)



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God and Worship ~

“Why does God command people to worship him? It seems so self-centered and egotistical.”

Here in California, we are gifted with Yosemite National Park. As you approach Yosemite from the west, there is a turnout with a viewpoint. There you look into the spectacular beauty of the valley with its dramatic granite cliffs accented with the grace of waterfalls, their roar silenced by distance as they cascade 2000 feet to the valley floor. There among the meadows and great Ponderosa pines meanders the Merced River, which name means Mercy. The view is breathtaking. Standing there, visitors who are strangers to one another, spontaneously turn and comment, suddenly caught up in a common community as they are universally awe struck by the overwhelming beauty of this panorama of natural perfection.

Why would we be in awe? What in us causes such immediate, uninhibited response to the beauty of Yosemite, to a sunrise or a sunset, to a bumblebee on a blossom, or a sea bird riding



ocean breezes just off the beach? There is something universally true about all of us. It is within the human heart to appreciate, to express awe for that which is so much greater than ourselves, reflecting so much more perfection than we know to be true of us. How much less we would be if we could not perceive beauty and, even more, not have capacity to have a personal response to beauty.

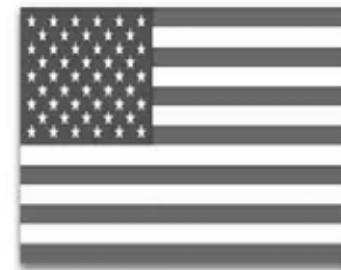
As human beings, we have an innate readiness to worship. God knows this is true of us. God also knows there is a danger in such a powerful capacity. God protects us with this guidance as Number One: “Worship no other gods but Me. Love Me with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.” Yes, at first take, it sounds egotistical and arrogant if not selfish, insecure, and competitive.

Here is why God makes this principle

Number One. Just as the human eye is automatically caught by light and by movement, our worship-oriented hearts have the potential to admire and then adore any number of things which may catch our attention. That which captures our attention can take us into devotion of that object. That which captures our devotion inexorably moves to capturing our allegiance. That which captures our allegiance becomes our master. Of all the things or people that could captivate us, it is only the true, living, loving God who will not abuse our allegiance.

As is true of all God’s commandments, “Worship Me alone” is one of God’s ways of protecting us and helping us prosper.

Rev. Dan Prout is president of Sierra Ministries International, SierraMinistries.org.



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A View From The Pulpit - Hearing the Heart of our Local Pastors

“Staying Power”

By Doug Hileman

Gateway Calvary Chapel, Marysville

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” John 15:4

Abiding in Christ is not me working. It is staying in His presence, staying connected, and being with Him. It is hanging out, talking, asking questions, making observations, requests, relaxing with Him and enjoying the moment. It is praying, seeking guidance, having fellowship, getting renewed, expressing my heart, listening for His heart, and sharing each other's burdens and visions. I envision myself sitting at His feet as a student, climbing up on His lap as His child, clasping my hands and pleading for mercy for myself and others. It is lying face down before Him in worship and dancing before Him in joy. It is having a Shepherd to shepherd conference, (I'm a pastor) and praying for others according to His leading. It is Him giving a pep talk before the big game, and final instructions for the same.

In all this, the emphasis is not on



what I am doing. It is mostly just being—being happy that I am in His company, and that He, surprisingly enough, seems to be happy with mine. This aspect of abiding requires blocks of time dedicated to nothing else. I desperately need these unhurried open-ended sessions where it is just me, Jesus, and the Bible. Where the pressure of producing Bible studies or sermons is set aside for the time being.

Where I can relax and luxuriate in the slow pondering of a scriptural question, or to seek His guidance or His will for an upcoming decision. It is where the world can be shut out for a time, and I can hear His voice, FINALLY! That's how it should feel—a sigh of relief, a sense of anticipation, a desire just to receive something—anything—that He wants to lay on me at that moment.

Reminding myself of His grace and

absolute acceptance, I wrap myself in the security of that astonishing fact, and I come boldly just as I am instructed to come so that I may enter His throne room with honest spontaneity. Sometimes I come with singing, sometimes with tears, and sometimes with silent fullness of spirit.

It is the silence of abiding that seems to be the most powerful thing to me. While I wordlessly worship and pour out my gratitude for all that He has become to me, He causes my heart to burn within me as He opens up the Scriptures, just like it happened with the two disciples on the Emmaus Road in Luke 24.

My ability to abide in Christ as I navigate through a busy work week is utterly dependent upon having these types of blocked-out-from-everything-else encounters with Jesus. Making time for such a meeting of the minds is possible—for most of us, anyway—when no one else is awake, and when there are no distractions or interruptions. That means either very early in the morning or late at night. Will it cost me some sleep? Probably. Is it worth it? Absolutely. Can I get by without it? Who would want to?

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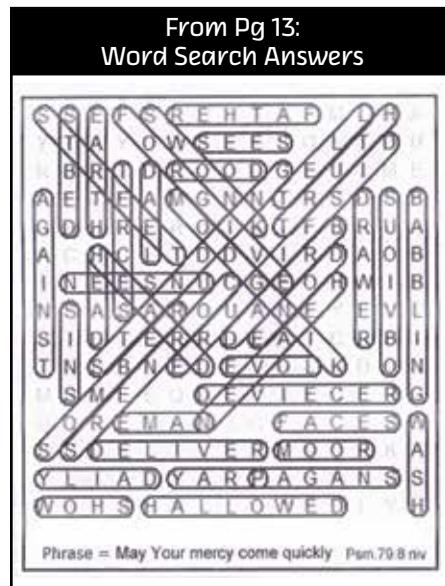
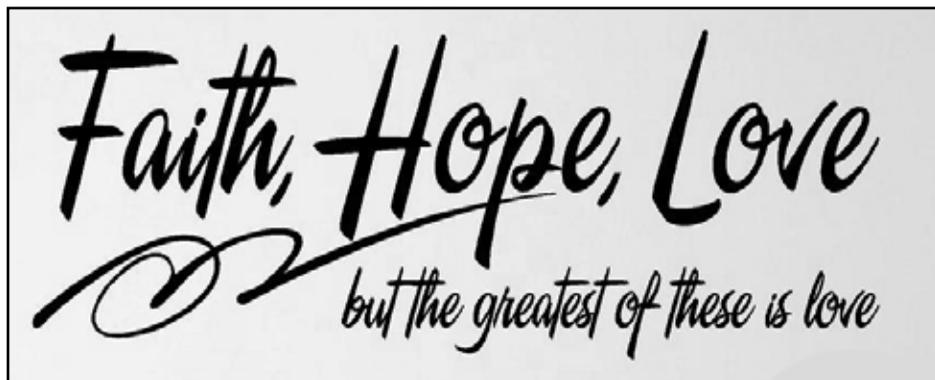
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9: "MEN SHOULD SPEAK OUT..."

can experience the same traumatic aftermath of abortion that many women do.

Men are inescapably part of the issue of abortion. Fathers of unborn children, especially, have a personal stake and a personal responsibility.

But the most important reason men should speak about abortion is the same reason that women should speak about abortion. They should speak in order to defend the lives of those who cannot defend themselves—the little girls and boys who have not yet been born.



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Just For Laughs...

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, which came in a little white box to use as his house.

He took the box back home, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he knocked on the box and asked the centipede, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked



again, "How about going to church with me and receiving blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet.

So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. Finally, the guy decided to give the centipede one last chance. This time he put his face right up against his pet's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to

go to Church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a rather annoyed little voice came out of the box,

"I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on."

Bible Trivia Answers · From Pg 13:

1. **Deuteronomy 15:10** - Thou shalt surely give him, and thine **heart** shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the **Lord** thy God shall **bless** thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine **hand** unto.
2. **Deuteronomy 16:17** - Every **man** shall give as he is able, according to the **blessing** of the Lord thy **God** which he hath given **thee**.
3. **1 Chronicles 29:9** - Then the **people** rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect **heart** they offered willingly to the **Lord**: and **David** the **king** also rejoiced with great joy.
4. **Proverbs 3:9-10** - Honour the Lord with thy **substance**, and with the **firstfruits** of all thine increase: So shall **barns** be filled with plenty, and thy **presses** shall burst out with new **wine**.
5. **Proverbs 3:27** - Withhold not **good** from them to whom it is **due**, when it is in the **power** of thine **hand** to do it.
6. **Proverbs 11:24-25** - There is that **scattereth**, and yet **increaseth**; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal **soul** shall be made **fat**: and he that watereth shall be **watered** also himself.
7. **Proverbs 21:26** - He **coveteth greedily** all the **day** long; but the righteous giveth and **spareth** not.
8. **Proverbs 22:9** - He that hath a bountiful **eye** shall be **blessed**; for he giveth of his **bread** to the **poor**.
9. **Proverbs 28:27** - He that giveth unto the **poor** shall not **lack**: but he that hideth his **eyes** shall have many a **curse**.
10. **Luke 6:30** - Give to every **man** that asketh of **thee**; and of him that taketh away thy **goods** ask them not again.

OP/ED

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PERCEPTION PROBLEMS

By Jon Skillman

"In the Christian life, it's not how you start that matters, it's how you finish." "Being a Christian is a process." "Spiritual satisfaction is not a good thing... It means you have stopped growing."

These three thoughts from different Christian authors came to me in a rare moment of clarity. They have helped explain some of the misconceptions I have tripped over on my walk.

First of all, being born again brought with it a rude awakening... There is only one God... And, I am not He! I also came to realize... It's not all about me. Wow! This was a bitter blow to my delicate yet ample ego, and it sent me reeling into the bummer tent to pout and ponder.

But with regular church attendance, aggressive bible treatment and counseling by mature Christians, I learned that I was never really in control in the first place. Oh sure, there's that free will thing, but I only utilized it to better my worldly standing, which I now realize, was but a grain of sand on the ocean floor (Ouch again). I have to tell you this being born again can be pretty painful.

Anyway, much has changed in my life and all for the better, too. Yet there are things I still struggle with. For example: Even though God's

word explicitly tells me it is not my job to judge, I still work very hard at it. I think I do this because I perceive myself as being pretty darn good at it. But I'm beginning to understand that my judgment of others is from my perception. I have learned that only God can see into a person's heart, and He can even see things that person can't. In effect, human perception is about as accurate as congress's cost projection on healthcare.

My initial perception of prayer, or more precisely, God's answer to it, was a bit off too. I thought whenever I encountered difficulty all I had to do was pray and presto! Everything was peachy. Well it didn't always work out that way, and when it didn't, I got a little tiffed at God. I have since discovered that God answers go w-a-y beyond my perception and understanding. Sometimes "No" is the better answer... And sometimes the answer is "Wait" (oh I hate that one). But wait is often followed by "I have something better for you." This brings the old proverb; "Patience is a virtue," into play because all things are done in God's time, not mine. And all things are seen from His perspective, not mine.

Lord, may I never be satisfied... Continue Your good work in me, so that I can finish strong in Christ.

FREE FOR ALL!

What do you think of when you read the word FREE? Perhaps you think of freedom and liberty. The lack of restriction and/or bondage. Maybe you think of the best price of all...Zero! I always look for the "Buy One get one FREE" ads. I love to get something for nothing. Don't you? The problem that comes with that is the sense that the "Free" item seems to lose value. I've been to garage sales where there was a box of free items that no one would touch but they would pay good money other items of similar value. I've even been told that when people slapped a FREE label on something there was less interest.

The Ambassador has always been Free to our readers and I wonder if it has lowered its perceived value because of it. Many who read The Ambassador faithfully, and those who contribute to its production, know the value of it- the value of having a publication that not only represents our values (no pun intended) and brings the hope of the Gospel to the marketplace in our community. Yet, I fear that there are many who don't see the value in it. The inspiring stories, testimonies of God's power, information on important issues and events. These seem to be lost among many, many people in the church. The value of The Ambassador is in the contents within. I believe (and have for 10 years) that each and every issue carries in it life giving words. These are not usually my words (there are many contributors) and they are NOT on the level of scripture, but rather point people TO scripture AND to Jesus, the One that all of scripture points to. Whether to encourage them through a trial, connect them to others



Seth Halpern - Editor

to partner in ministry, or to challenge them to cease compromising and rededicate themselves to following Christ in holiness, the Holy Spirit can work in the hearts of readers on each and every page.

There's another thing that is free and often taken for granted. It is much, much greater than The Ambassador - God's gift of Salvation. Unfortunately, many people enjoy the free gift of salvation, but don't consider what it costs. It cost Jesus, the Son of God, His very life. What has it cost you? This Independence Day we light fireworks, have BBQ's and enjoy family and friends. Perhaps we think of freedom. I wonder if we think about the cost of those freedom fighter over two centuries ago and the cost they paid for freedom? Probably not. But the cost that they paid and even more the cost that Jesus paid should change us. His death and resurrection that we celebrate at Easter, did change us whether we are aware of it or not. It changed our status before Holy God, cleansing us of sin, so that we can have a relationship with our Father in Heaven. I admit that sometimes I don't place appropriate value on this God-bestowed Grace and Mercy. I want to change that this year. How about you?

The Ambassador accepts opinions and editorials (op-ed's) as long as they are well-written and less than 450 words. Op-ed's will be published purely at the discretion of the editor. If you would like to submit your op-ed, please email it (written in MS Word) to editor@ambassadornewspaper.com.

The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for the next issue.



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