

# Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too)

Values & Character + Spiritual Life + Relationships + Fun stuff

more resources at [www.CrimsonWhite.org](http://www.CrimsonWhite.org)

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100% of our funding is directly or indirectly spent on encouraging spiritual growth, holiness, and abstinence from drugs, sex outside of marriage, and alcohol among young people.

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**Crisis, emergency, or to "just talk about something",**  
call: Your Mom; Your Dad; Your Pastor, or  
Rich or Marie Dymmel  
(336/674-7564 or 336/908-3652)

## Crimson & White? What's this?

... This letter is part of a ministry primarily to students and singles. It started with college students. Now about 50% of the mailing list is students, middle and high school and college, and 25% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 25% since, well, they're old. Articles are on character, values, spiritual life, relationships and more ... and some fun.

The theology position is "conservative," i.e. Jesus is God's Son, eternal, part of the single triune God, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified and risen, and is the *only* way to eternal life. We are free to choose Him. He has told us to be holy and that includes behaviors such as: sex outside of marriage is wrong.

Our goal is mail in your mail box about 15 times a year. We're trying to say that you are important enough for us to put this in your mailbox. We care about you and want to encourage your character growth and your spiritual walk. We also distribute a daily email devotional.

Another part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for those on our mailing list as the mail is prepared. When you get mail from us, you know someone prayed for you.

A college student reader chose the name **Crimson and White Connection** based on Isaiah 1:18 in the Bible "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 wool." The cleansing of our nature and our sins is a universal need. If you base your trust for entrance into Heaven in Jesus, God's Son, and His death and resurrection on your behalf, then your crimson stains are made white as wool. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no other way. If you admit that you can not reach God's standard, are repentant and sorry for your short fall (sin) and have asked Him to forgive you, then He has forgiven you. If you are truly repentant, then there will be evidence of that in your actions, your life. -- If the "religion police" were to arrest you, would you be turned loose for "lack of evidence"? Or would the evidence of your actions convict you of being a Christian?

**If you have chosen to accept Jesus as Lord of your life, either the first time or again, we would like to know so that we can pray for you and encourage you. Write or call us.**

**You WILL BE and ARE a slave! But you can CHOOSE your master! CHOOSE God today. John 3:16 is true. Accept no substitute!**

July 16, 2009

## Shine!

(c) Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., 3/2006, 7/2009 RDymmel@AOL.com

In my clean and organize and toss out actions lately... Marie prefers an emphasis on "toss out"... that's not the point of any of this... I came across a book I had bought... actually in 2005. In 2005 I bought it on a sale/discount table since it was 3 years old at that point and apparently not continuing to be in demand. I used it as part of a C&WC issue on March of 2006. ... As I thumbed through multiple posit-it markers... And then I decided this is about as good a book as the *Jesus Freaks* books by DC Talk and The Voice of the Martyrs that we gave away about 60 copies of between Thanksgiving and Christmas last year. And so I looked on Amazon.com to see if there would be used books available, so that if I recommend it, not to undermine the Christian bookstore industry, but that a book that was published in 2002 and might not even be available at bookstores anymore anyway, would be available. And yes, there were over a hundred copies available for only a couple bucks or less, under \$10 anyway including postage.

So I decided to use this issue of the C&WC to do a "book review" by reprinting that article and then do extensive quoting of the paragraphs I had marked in my copy. - (I actually have a couple copies available to give away... first come first served, or sent a free copy.

*In Christ,*

*Rich*

Do you have a relationship with God where you know He has accepted you just as you are? A relationship like with a loving father? If not, call me at 336-674-7564. Or call 1-888-NEED-HIM. - With God, you have never gone too far to return. -

**March 18, 2006 Shine** By Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., (c) 2006

Did I mention before that I bought a copy of Shine, a book by the Newsboys (2002, Whitaker House)? The physical rough edges, the burgundy print, the layout, the occasional quotations, ... and being on super-sale, all attracted me to get it, as well as what the content may be. So far it is following the theme of one of the songs they are known for: "Shine: make 'em wonder what you got. Make 'em wish that they were not On the outside lookin' bored (I always thought the words here were "On the outside lookin for it"). Shine, let it shine before all men, Let 'em see good works and then, Let 'em glorify the Lord."

But now I ask you to think about that a minute... How can you "shine"? What is required to "shine"? What do you need to "shine"?

Let's get back to "Shine." ... (p.46-47) "There's a reason that "Shine" comes before "Make them wonder" in the title. It is a truth we often forget or ignore: We can't make people wonder about Christ if our light isn't first shining. We can't make them wonder what we've got if we haven't got it! So when Christ says, "Let your light shine," He's saying, in essence, "Remember who the Light is. Let Me shine through you.""

What sets you apart? Are you doing "good works"? - I admit it, I haven't gone and

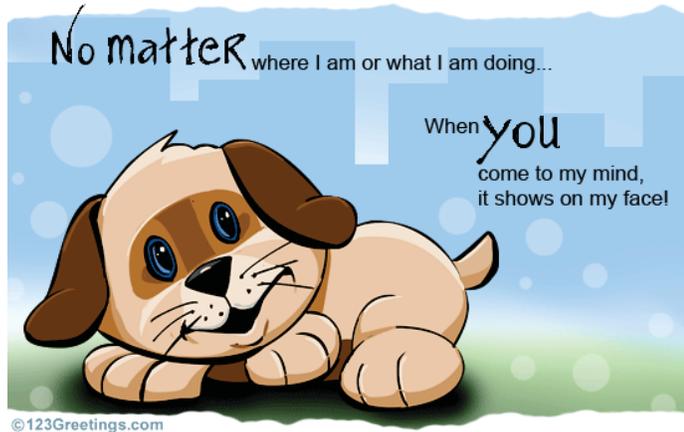
 **From my mail box...** *mostly my e-mail in box)*  
... mail will be edited to protect your privacy. [I will ALWAYS delete things that would identify you from e-mails you send me unless you specifically tell me I can use your name.]

Subject: RE: C&WC - July 9 Date: 7/9/2009

Hey Rich, I thoroughly enjoyed today's edition. Thanks!!  
-Janelle :) Campus Box \_\_\_\_\_  
[Janelle gets the C&WC as a pdf file attached to an email.]

Subject: Re: C&WC - July 9 Date: 7/10/2009  
Rich: Lots of writing. When do you sleep? Good stuff here.  
You've remained faithful to this ministry for a long time -- since before I met you in the mid-90's (I think). How may [we] support you?  
Robert

7/11/09  
May you get a much blessing from this, as I goy [got]  
Frank  
[savedfromemail/whenYouComeToMind-Smile]



To: YOU  
Date: TODAY  
From: GOD  
Subject: YOURSELF  
Reference: LIFE

Now, you have a nice day.

God has seen you struggling, God says it's over. A blessing is coming your way.

If you believe in God, please send to ten people (including me) please don't ignore this. You are being tested.

YOU HAVE 20 MINUTES TO TELL 10 FRIENDS THAT YOU Care for THEM (INCLUDING ME)  
[I sending this along to ... we'll just say "more than 10."  
Thanks, Frank.]

worked on a disaster relief team. I've encouraged some to go. I've promoted it. I've promoted and gone to and taken men to Promise Keepers. (Have you gone? Gals can go and volunteer in a hundred ways.) Now "good works" won't save you. But out of gratitude to God, he has asked you to be set apart. Be different. - Out of 5000 students at Wake Forest, 100 are going to do disaster relief work in the Gulf area. And when you do "good works" people do notice. Sometimes it may make the 10 o'clock FOX News or the newspaper. Most times not. But people do see what you do. And God sees.

If you have a light in you, Jesus in you, do you "hide it"? Let your light shine! - One of my students is making a copy of a table (I brought her pictures and dimensions) that I made as a copy of a table I saw at the Henry Ford Museum. (Decades ago I used to teach wood-shop and this was one of the projects I designed for my students to make.) It is a stand for a candle. And as the tall candle burns down, you can raise the table top so it remains high to shed light around the room.



Matthew 5:15-16 (KJV) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

"People living in a culture where what is true and real has been trivialized will welcome an authentic manifestation of the life of Christ when it is communicated consistently and with love so that the difference is inescapable" (p.43-44). If you really like Fords or Chevys or a particular brand of clothes... I can't tell you how much kids wear A&F logo clothes, or a couple of my students talk about their cars. If you have Jesus, shouldn't that truth be even more important?! Standing at the crosswalk in the morning, I see a couple kids with shirts with some kind of Christian message. I've seen a couple stand up in front of hundreds of peers and tell what Jesus has done in their lives. Not just a candle... a torch. And when you put a bright light in a dark room, some will turn away. But others will be curious as to what the light is all about.

So, #1 is to GET the Light. And #2 is to let your light SHINE!

**God's Graffiti**  
by Tim Bertram  
www.christiancartoons.com



When you hitch a ride with God...you'd better hang on!

## *Let's look at some paragraphs I marked in my copy of Shine by The Newsboys...*

Maybe I better give you the reference data so you can search for the book if, like I'd hope, you decide to hunt down a copy for yourself. That is after all the purpose of doing a "book review."

### ***Shine make them wonder what you've got***

by The Newsboys, (c) 2002

Whitaker House, ISBN: 0-88368-772-0

359 pages, paperback

Okay, now, on with mostly samples from the book, with a few of my comments added in.

In the Preface, p.9, talking about the authors:

"(1) They understand that *individual* destiny can never be discovered apart from *corporate* destiny. Who we're with determines where we're going; therefor, identification with a local church is not an option. This membership is not nominal (in name only), but vital and indispensable."

Let me interject here just a tiny bit. - I recall a recent sermon, speaker, whatever, I don't remember... except to recall the point that those who call themselves "nominal Christians"... There is no such thing in the Bible as a "nominal Christian! Either you are or you aren't! And if you are then you need to be "walking the walk and not just "talking the talk." And there are those that are "in church" on Sunday morning, but ... it reminds me of something Billy Graham has said, "That one of the biggest mission fields is sitting in the pews of churches. As many as 75% of those aren't saved." Hmmm. How about it? Do you consider yourself a Christian but you only "talk the talk" on Sunday morning for an hour? Or maybe you even talk the talk all week long? Or maybe you talk the talk AND walk the walk, but it's an "act," what you think you're supposed to DO. - It's not about what you DO, it's about inviting God to live IN and THOUGH you.

Back to the book...

Still in the Preface, still talking about the authors, The Newsboys, p.9: "(4) They understand that the Christian life is a progressive work of sanctification and that the process is never completed this side of eternity."

Side bar:

I've had someone say to me, 'I thought you had "arrived."' - Nope. It's like learning... The more you know, the more you know you don't know. - And about "learning," it's like Jethro on the Beverly Hillbillies. He had made it all the way to the 3rd grade! He thought he knew everything there was to know. And you know people who "know it all," and most of you know that they DON'T know it all. - The Christian life, progressively learning to walk in a relationship with God... well, it's like you and I are going to do a vertical JUMP to the moon. Ready? Jump! Maybe you jumped 12 inches and I jumped 13 inches. I may have jumped higher, but we are BOTH still SO far from the target, the moon, Perfection in our lives... well, the only way will be through God's grace.

p.11: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:16"

p.23: "The gospel will persuade no one unless it has so convicted us that we are transformed by it. -- Brennan Manning"

p.23: "Two teenagers meet for lunch. One wears a shirt that announces, Jesus is the reason for the season," and the other a jacket with the words "Jesus rules." Their lunch conversation centers on the latest church gossip. A husband and wife seated nearby exchange glances. The wife says, "If that's the way they talk about each other, I certainly wouldn't want to go to *their* church." "

p.25: "Through our lives people learn the message of the gospel. If what we say and what we do don't match up, we create confusion and cause people to reject the message."

p.27: "The one thing that is central to the message of the Gospel is the one thing we seem to forget so easily -- Our *lives* are the message."

p.43-44: "One definition of postmodernism is "the fragmentation and promiscuous trivialization of values, symbols, and images." People living in a culture where what is true and real has been trivialized will welcome an authentic manifestation of the life of Christ when it is communicated consistently and with love so that the difference is inescapable."

p.44-45: "Today, many of us are tempted to make the Christian faith into something that sounds appealing to people's self-interests, as if it's merely a self-help method. Yet this approach ignores the reality of our need to die to ourselves and take up our cross daily in order to →→

follow Christ. The Gospel is the Good News, but it's not always the news we want to hear, and it's not always packaged in the way we want to view it. We need to get back to the basics of the Gospel because if we try to make it trendy, we will fail."

p.46-47: "There's a reason that "Shine" comes before "Make them wonder" in the title. It is a truth we often forget or ignore: We can't make people wonder about Christ if our light isn't first shining. We can't make them wonder what we've got if we haven't got it! So when Christ says, "Let your light shine," He's saying, in essence, "Remember who the Light is. Let Me shine through you.""

p.48: **"Be the change you want to see."**

p.50: "We will start being effective when we stop trying to change other people and instead change ourselves. To shine, you will have to fill yourself with Christ. This means you first have to empty yourself ... If we haven't seen people transformed from the inside out, we haven't really done anything that's lasting."

p.51-52: "Jesus wouldn't have said we are the light of the world if we couldn't *be* the light of the world. The trouble is that we have forgotten what that means - or we never learned it in the first place. We are not just "meant" to be light. Light is who we *are*. Jesus didn't say, you *can* be the light, but "You *are* the light." That means His light is already inside us. When we remove what's obstructing His light, nothing in the world can stop us from being seen."

p.53:

Shine: make 'em wonder what you got  
 Make 'em wish that they were not  
 On the outside looking bored  
 Shine, let it shine before all men  
 Let 'em see good works and then  
 Let 'em glorify the Lord

"Shine"

*Going Public, Shine: The Hits*

p.55:

Nothing is wonderful except the  
 abnormal and nothing is abnormal until  
 we have grasped the norm.

-- C. S. Lewis

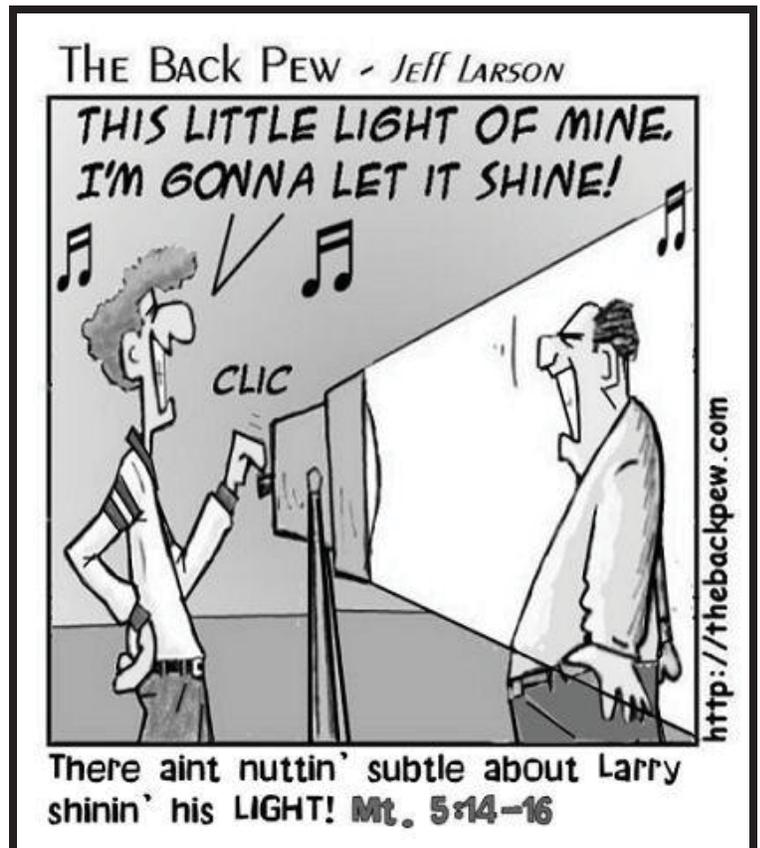
p.71: "... The kingdom of God is beyond a doubt the central theme of Scripture. It is the framework, or paradigm, that guides our understanding of everything else in life.

Probably the greatest proof of the centrality of the kingdom is Jesus' command in the Sermon on the Mount: "But seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ..."

p.79: "It's a mind-boggling concept, isn't it? God becoming a servant? God becoming a man, entering the harsh environment of the fallen world as one of us? The nature of His kingdom is upside down from anything we would *imagine* -- let alone *do*."

p.83: "Having some experience in this matter, we know that it can be a tough things for males to release control os their lives to God. It is very tough, especially for a young man, to say to anybody, "You're the Lord over my life," because he wants to feel strong. Males in their teens think they are indestructible. They're going to live forever and conquer the world. It's very difficult and humbling for them to say to another Entity -- as great and as powerful and as magnificent as the Creator is -- "You're in control.""

→→



This idea of teenagers thinking they are indestructible and even immortal... Last week in Michigan, a 14 year old girl didn't come home one night. Next morning she called and said she "wanted to go to the beach with her [17 year old] boyfriend on a warm summer day, but her mother said no, absolutely not. She had better come home or she would be in big trouble. Jessica never made it home." ("5 Young Lives Lost on Train Tracks." AP, July 10, 2009.) The 19 year old driver raced around the stopped cars, past the crossing gate, to beat the train. Going 67 mph, the train crashed into the car pushing it one mile down the track before stopping. Killed were the 14 year old, and 4 guys, ages 19, 17, 19, 21.

Whether 14, 19, 30, or 60, it's hard to give control over your life over to God. We like to THINK we're in control, but face it... How much control do you really have? Oh, there ARE lots of choices we can make, good and poor. But - well, for me, it came to a "show down" and surrender when with 4 degrees, and loads of experience, and over 400 resumes sent out and I hadn't been asked for a single interview... I knew \*I\* was not in control or able to "make it happen." Turning it over to God to use me where He wanted to, has been "interesting" and "exciting." He has used me over and over in multiple places since that day. ... Oh, it was about 2 weeks after that when I was hired to teach Freshman math classes at a university. I think I'd been sort of following and doing His will, but I thought \*I\* was in charge for years. Now it's different. Very different.

p.87-88: "Changing our thinking does not mean reading a few Bible verses every day, but a genuine *commitment* to an entirely new way of looking at our priorities, attitudes, and actions. It is a paradigm shift. The way we normally think and reason often causes us to strive and struggle with ourselves and others -- and God. But God says to us, in effect, "If you think in the kingdom way, things will fall into place, because they will be in alignment with My heart and will. All the pieces will fit into the puzzle. There won't be one little piece that you try to jam into place to try to make it fit. You will find perspective for your entire life -- past, present, and future. Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

p.89: "Actually, the kingdom is right side up. It is *we* who are upside-down because we are used to thinking according to the "old man." ..."

There is a song I first heard by a group called "Truth"

a few, maybe at least ten years ago called "Living Life Upside-down." Part of the lyrics go, "... you say we've risen to a new age of truth... but I say, what if we've fallen to the bottom of a well thinking we've risen to the top of a mountain? What if we're knockin' at the gates of Hell, thinking we're Heaven bound? What if we spend our lives thinkin' of ourselves, when we should of been thinking of each other? What if we reach up and touch the ground, to find we're livin' life upside-down?" (I found this link for a YouTube video of "Russ Lee - Living Life Upside Down [Original] Slideshow" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=vleYNuhBGNO](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vleYNuhBGNO))

p.108: "We make excuses when God invites us to participate in teh kingdom: "I'll serve God when I'm out of school and don't have to use my time studying," or "I'll serve God when my children are older," or "I'll work at a business for a few years and then serve God when I have more money.

We say these things because we misunderstand the kingdom. We are thinking of certain things we might *do* for God, instead of thinking of what He wants us to *become* in Him. Anyone can commit himself or herself to living in the secret of the kingdom -- allowing the life of CHrist to shine through us as we decrease and He increases. When we do this, Jesus Himself will enable us to produce a harvest -- not in our strength, but in His."

p.111: "The choice is ours. We can decide to seek God first. We can truly hunger and thirst for God's righteousness, seek His will for our lives, become who He wants us to be, and reach out to others through the love of Christ.

The alternative is to wait until life causes us to crash and burn, until we have no place else to go, until we're backed into a corner and God has our attention so that we finally have ears to hear. The only way to find purpose, peace, and fulfillment, the only way to have a life that truly works, is to discover the secret of the upside-down kingdom: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." [Matthew 10:39 NIV]

If you make the choice to move forward, we guarantee that you will never be the same."

p.126: "**The spirit of the world prefers religious formulas and rituals to genuine relationship with God because they eliminate the need for accountability. God desires a relationship of mutual** →→

**trust and love with humanity that builds intimacy and promotes personal responsibility.”**

p.142: "When we're satisfied with doing things for God rather than having fellowship with Him, this shows that we're still at the center of our lives rather than the Lord."

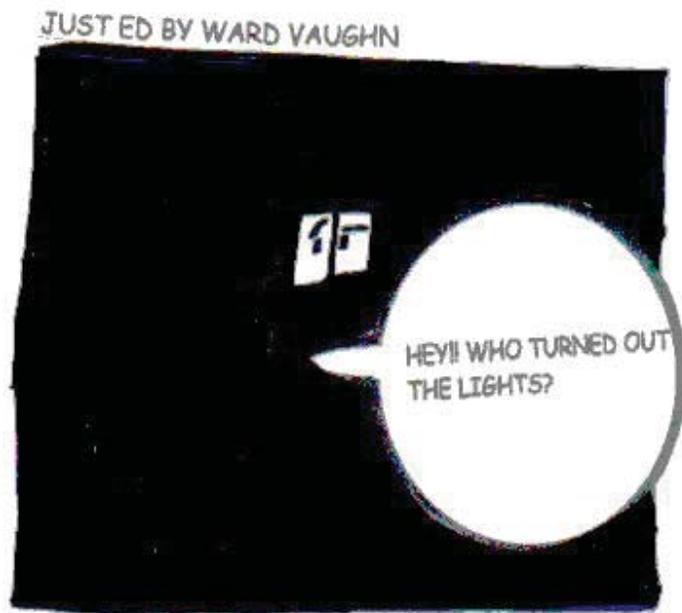
p.142: "Sometimes when people make their first steps toward beginning or renewing intimacy with God, they struggle a bit with how to go about it. That response is natural with anything that feels like new territory or a new experience. Any new relationship takes time to develop and grow. ... You should give your relationship with God time to grow at its own pace and trust that God will meet you each step of the way. He desires this relationship even more than you do, and He's patiently waiting for you."

p.147: "No one ever really told me that God would accept me just the way I am, rules or legalities aside. And this is so important for *everyone* to know: God accepts you just the way you are. You don't have to change *anything* in order to come to Him. I hope that someone who really needs to hear this message will have a chance to hear it through this book.

God's grace is such an important thing. I wish I had understood it sooner. I wish someone would have spent as much time telling me about grace as they spent telling me that my sideburns were too long or that I couldn't wear jeans to recess, or some crazy rule like that.

I didn't learn what grace really meant until recently, and it changed my life dramatically..."

Well, that concludes my excerpts from less than half the book. Are you excited about Shine? I encourage you to get the book and read ALL of it.



JOHN 8:12b \* I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; HE WHO FOLLOWS ME SHALL NOT WALK IN THE DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

(Roger Bothwell's stuff is used with permission)

**- Spring of Life -**

**H. Roger Bothwell**

46 for 2006

[www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv20/5165.htm](http://www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv20/5165.htm)

**EZ Pass**

I love my EZ Pass. In the east we have lots of toll roads. Every few miles we have to stop and pay. Sometimes on holidays the lines are long and we inch to the tollbooth. But there is EZ Pass, a wonderful electronic device on the windshield that lets you bypass the long lines. You zip through the Fast Lane and the computer automatically charges your credit card. It's sort of like Monopoly. You pass "Go" and proceed right to jail where you can immediately pay and get right out.

I used to worry about God's Judgment. It was the place where I was going to have to pay. I would have to listen to all my sins being read from some horrible record book totally shaming me before everyone I knew. Then I had to wait to see if I was going to be lucky enough to receive God's grace. But I found John 5:24. Listen to this. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Isn't that grand? It's like having an EZ Pass. There will be no waiting in line. We believe Jesus. We accept His offer and we do not come to condemnation. The moment we accept Jesus we pass from death to life. This is even better than an EZ Pass. There is no charge to my credit card. Jesus paid for it. Don't you just love the Gospel? This is such good news.

I'm Roger Bothwell and my address is [roger.bothwell@verizon.net](mailto:roger.bothwell@verizon.net) or 151 Old Farm Rd. Leominster, MA 01453. Thank you for your support of our faith ministry.



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The C&WC may be copied and redistributed ONLY if distributed FREE. We'd like to know if you are doing that, ... just so we know.

July 16, 2009

Shine

**You can't be good enough to deserve heaven. And you can't be bad enough to be beyond God's forgiveness.**

Someone PRAYED for YOU and mentioned YOU before God's throne as this was prepared for mailing. God bless and watch over you today.

[www.CrimsonWhite.org](http://www.CrimsonWhite.org) for back issues and other stuff

**A publication so dangerous it now comes with a warning label.**

Yes! This is a subversive, challenging, counter-culture publication. That's what Christianity is - a counter-culture. This should have a warning label.

**WARNING**

Do not read the Crimson & White Connection unless you want your HEART ENCOURAGED and your MIND CHALLENGED and

*Becoming independent is good. Being independent from God isn't.*

I Know  
the  
future! -  
God wins.

..., make 'em wonder what you got, ...