

# Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too) on Values + Character + Relationships + the Christian Life  
**Now resources and some back issues available at [www.CrimsonWhite.org](http://www.CrimsonWhite.org)**

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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 60% of the mailing list are college students, 20% middle and high school, and 10% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 10% 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.

This letter and post cards are sent about twice a month. 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.

A second part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for each person 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 15, 2005

### Which is the Right Road

By Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., (c) 2005

We spend a fair amount of time on the road. My 6 year old van has 144,000 miles on it now. That's an average of 24,000 miles a year. And there's Marie's car, too. And a rental car here and there.

I've taken several pictures that might just turn into an "idea starter" - then I have so many, sometimes I can't FIND the one I want. Like today. This was my second choice.



Some of you may recognize this sign. Which is the right way to go?

It's sort of like Alice in Wonderland when she meets the Mad Hatter. Let's see if I can get the story right. - Alice is at a fork in the road and she says to the Mad Hatter, "Which way should I go?" And he asks her, "Where do you want to go?" "I don't quite know."

And he answers her, "Well then it doesn't matter which road you take." - Or something close to that conversation anyway.

When we travel this road, and we do often, occasionally we take the road to the left. That goes North and to destinations like Durham, NC and Washington, DC and, oh, on my "to do list" is Philadelphia. Usually we take the road to the right. That heads East and destinations like Raleigh, NC and Morehead City. - So which is the "right road"? Well, like the Mad Hatter asked Alice, "Where do you want to go?"

On a real road, hopefully, you have a destination in mind. You are headed to school in Raleigh, or home to New York, or Greensboro, or Detroit. The destination and a map help you pick the right choices that will get you to the desired destination. - More often than not, we choose East I-40 to Raleigh, pass Raleigh, take the exit for US-70 and run east to Morehead City to see Lauren and Gabriel. Oh, yes, and Matt and Jessica.

And on an Interstate highway, ... Have you ever missed your exit? If you aren't paying attention and pass the exit... well, it can be a loooooong way to get to the next exit, turn around and come back to where you wanted to be.

Life has roads and destinations and a map, too. And the roads have intersections and "exits" where you have to make choices. As you drive down the "road" of life, the first thing is to know the destination, check the map, then pay attention to take the right turns, and you should get there.

Destinations. In life there are only two. Eventually we will all end up in Heaven or Hell, and I'm not referring to Hell, Michigan (there really is such a town). If you want to get to Heaven, get out the "map book," the Bible, and read Paul's letter to the Christians at Rome, Romans. (Romans 3:23,24; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1John 1:9)

Barna Research in a survey of teens, said almost half believe that we all end up in the same destination after death regardless of how we live or what we do. That isn't what the Bible says. If you want Heaven as the destination, check the "map book." Then there is watching making choices. - But the first choice is: are you headed "up" or "down"? Are you on the right road?

*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. -



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**Conscience is God's built-in warning system. Be very happy when it hurts you. Be very worried when it doesn't.**

This is why I always try to do what I believe is right before God and people. Acts 24:16



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**Falling down doesn't make you a failure, but staying down does. Falling in the water doesn't kill you, but staying under the water will**  
 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again... Proverbs 14:16a

[Can you make the choice?]

## Pack Your Bags

By Bill Denton

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 10:37-39, NASB95)

Jim Denison served as a missionary in East Malaysia. While there he attended a small church. At one of the church's worship services, a teenage girl came forward to announce her decision to follow Christ and be baptized.

During the service, Denison noticed some worn-out luggage leaning against the wall of the church building. When he asked about it, he was told, "Her father said that if she was baptized as a Christian she could never go home again. So she brought her luggage." Raymond McHenry, Stories for the Soul (Hendrickson, 2001), p.48

Wow! Every time I hear a story like that it humbles me and impresses me. Not everyone who professes faith in Jesus and obeys him in baptism will find himself or herself in the same position as that young Malaysian girl. Many do, though, and you simply must be impressed and admire such faith and determination. It is not easy to make such a choice.

On the other hand, we may be not be looking at things correctly, and we may not be asking people to make a decision to follow Jesus Christ as clearly as we should. The truth is that family is not the only thing a person might need to "leave" when becoming a Christian.

If you are not a Christian, let me focus your attention on some things you might have to "leave." It may be necessary for you to leave your friends. You may be running with people who will sap your faith and destroy any semblance of godliness in your life. You might have to leave some habits of life behind. These habits are among the things that identify the sins for which you need forgiveness. You can't bring them with you into your new life in Christ. You must abandon them for new habits. You might have to leave a job or chosen profession behind. The reason for this is that the work you are doing might itself be ungodly and unchristian. God won't sanctify something that is innately wrong. You might have to leave your entertainment behind. The fact is that much entertainment is sensual, and filled with encouragement to participate in, or gain pleasure from, things that are sinful. Take a good look. There may be much to leave.

The truth is a lot of people need to think about packing their "bags." Baptism is part of the dividing line between the old man marked by sin, and the new man marked by righteousness. In baptism we are buried into the death of Jesus, then we rise to walk in newness of life (Rom 6). When you choose to follow Jesus, you must also choose not to continue in the same old life. Pack your bags. God will take you on a life-changing journey. Don't plan on returning.

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*In this Slice of Infinity, he refers to the Song of Songs by Solomon. Song of Songs is often pretty hot stuff, if you get what I mean. When the museum collection tour came through not far from here, we went to see part of the history of the Bible. It was really cool stuff. It was just before Valentine's Day and I bought a single page from a certified pre 1650 copy of a King James Bible, over 350 years old. The page I bought for Marie contains Song of Songs, Chapter 6 verse 3: "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." -- True love requires a decision, a choice, to make a commitment.*

06/14/05 - Slice of Infinity # 918

## A Deathless Seal

Jill Carattini

If musicians are the popular philosophers of our time, as many have observed, perhaps they are also our psychologists. The message of the musicians is hopelessness, confusion, and cynicism. The diagnosis is similar.

G.K. Chesterton once noted that people who are in love have a natural inclination to bind themselves by promises. One only has to listen to a few love songs to see this truth in human nature; we find a constant flow of promising and vowing. Yet we also find countless melodies reveling in casual love and promiscuity. But isn't this natural instinct to bind oneself with promises remarkably incongruous with a world dancing to the philosophy of boundlessness in the pursuit of pleasure?

The diagnosis for love is understandably a message of confusion. The boundless pursuit of pleasure bombards the senses in every direction, while the natural desire to find a love worthy of promise remains a contradictory cry of the heart. The idea of true love is met with cynicism—a concept left for Hollywood.

The Song of Songs is the book of the Bible that speaks most explicitly about human love, with words far-reaching into the heart and heartache of this current day. In one powerful verse the bride declares to her bridegroom: "Set me as a seal upon your arm, as a seal upon your heart. For love is as strong as death; its passion as fierce as the grave" (Song of Songs 8:6).

Love and passion impel us to place that seal upon our hearts, to bind ourselves to one another. The sheer fierceness of its nature calls for careful boundaries. Yet this is not a verdict meant to be followed simply because it is a good thing to do, a moral virtue we ought to follow. Like Christianity itself, it is good because it is first true: Love is as strong as death. Like all of the deepest questions of life, love is something to be reckoned with. As Ravi Zacharias notes, when you honor the sanctity of love, the person is exalted and pleasure ensues. But when you seek pleasure for its own sake, it is the person you profane and weariness that ensues. Promiscuity empties pleasure of the meaning for which it was created. There is more to life than pleasure itself; there must be a context for it.

The cry of the human heart for love will not fall silent until it has found that for which it ultimately searches. In the same place where the lingering questions of the meaning of life and the fierceness of the grave are answered coherently, sanctity in love is exemplified and found fulfilling. The remedy is comprehensive.

In his love and by his death, Jesus Christ seeks to bind himself eternally to your heart. At this inexplicable truth, the heartfelt response of the hymnist comes to mind:

O to Grace, how great a debtor,  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it—  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

May this be the vow that guides our hearts to love well.

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"A Slice of Infinity" is aimed at reaching into the culture with words of challenge, words of truth, and words of hope.

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## About YOUR mailbox

As I was updating the database, I noticed that there were FORTY students that I count as college Seniors and 12 HS Seniors. That is 52 students that are potentially changing addresses, 40 NOW and 12 in August. Only TWO have sent me updates.

# PLEASE

email me your new addresses for "during the school year" and "home for the summer and holidays" addresses. If the P.O. returns 30 of those in August, at 92c, it will cost \$27.60 in return postage.

I have started deleting rather than begging. If you move, stop-out of school, change schools, your parents move, whatever, and the Post Office starts returning the mail or notifies me of a change of address, I will try to get in touch with you. It will probably be a sticker on the C&WC by your address. If I don't hear from you, I can only assume that you aren't getting the mail or aren't noticing the stickers or aren't reading it. When I mailed the last issue I also sent 12 postcards saying "You have been

# DELETED

from the C&WC mailing list." This issue I will be sending out 7 more DELETED post cards. We spend over \$5 on average with every issue for return postage and follow-up mail. That times 18 issues amounts to over \$90 a year getting the right addresses. Help us by emailing your new address when you know you're about to change an address, or maybe you just don't want to get the C&WC anymore.

Do you have “challenges,” giants to battle like David did Goliath, like Angela and I do? It is a choice how you handle it. Will you listen to the “giant” or God? David listened to God. He was so confident that he took five stones. One idea is that David was thinking, “What if I miss with my first shot?” In those days whole families of brothers, like David’s brothers went to war. That’s why David even shows up, to check on his older brothers. In 1Chronicles 20 verse 5 you’ll find that Goliath came from a whole family of giants. I think David fully intended that God would have him take out Goliath and his brothers! They were probably all there. When David takes out Goliath... they ALL ran from David and his God.

## I’m Back

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005

After 5 weeks of being on the mainland with family and friends, I am back home on Molokai. While driving to my parent’s house from town one day, the song “Voice of Truth” by Casting Crowns came on the radio. If you are not familiar with the words, they go:

*Oh what I would do to have the kind of faith it takes to climb out of this boat I’m in on to the crashing waves. To step out of my comfort zone into the realm of the unknown where Jesus is and He’s holding out His hand. But the waves are calling out my name and they laugh at me, reminding me of all the times I’ve tried before and failed. The waves, they keep on telling me time and time again, “Boy, you’ll never win!! You’ll never win!!”*

*Chorus: But the Voice of Truth tells me a different story. The Voice of Truth says, “Do not be afraid!” And the Voice of Truth says, “This is for My glory.” Out of all the voices calling out to me, I will choose to listen and believe the Voice of Truth.*

*Oh what I would do to have the kind of strength it takes to stand before a giant with just a sling and a stone surrounded by the sound of a thousand warriors shaking in their armor wishing they’d have had the strength to stand. But the giant’s calling out my name and he laughs at me. Reminding me off all the times I’ve tried before and failed. The giant keeps on telling me time and time again, “Boy, you’ll never win!! You’ll never win!!”*

*But the stone was just the right size to put the giant on the ground and the waves aren’t looking so high from on top of them lookin’ down. I will soar with the wings of eagles when I stop and listen to the sound of Jesus singing over me. I will choose to listen and believe the Voice of Truth!*

How many times do we feel the waves and giants in our lives laughing at us? One of the things that the Lord has been growing me in recently is trust. Do I truly trust what the Voice of Truth is saying or is my focus on the crashing waves and intimidating giants? Do I have the faith to climb out of the boat on to the crashing waves?

God has put several ‘giant’ situation is in my life over the past couple of months that if I were to listen to the giants, I would be hiding. But Christ is holding out His hand saying “Trust me. I will not let you fall! Don’t be afraid!” This is the Voice of Truth that I have to make the conscience effort to listen to. Jesus Christ’s voice of truth is a quiet voice that can easily be drowned out by the noise of the waves and giants. There have been numerous times that, like Peter, I take my eyes off of Jesus and I start sinking beneath the waves. Jesus is faithful to pull you up from beneath the crashing waves if you ask and trust in Him.

In several of the gigantic situations that I mentioned earlier, Jesus has me trusting that even though I don’t know the outcome- He does and it will all work out for His honor and glory!!!

So friend- will you choose to listen and believe the Voice of Truth!!!

I enjoyed spending time with those of you I saw while I was on the mainland. Jared and Laura’s wedding went beautifully! I look forward to hearing from each of you. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. If you have specific prayer requests, please let me know!

Please be in prayer for the island of Molokai and All God’s Children Preschool. **We are still collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education and Campbell’s Soup (Pepperidge Farm) labels.**

Much love and God’s blessings,  
Angela D. Calhoun  
PO Box 9 Hoolehua, HI 96729

I’d rather be ridin’ a mule on Molokai!!!

”The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?” -Psalm 27:1

## GOD’s graffiti by Tim Bertram



Little David, Big Giant, BIGGER GOD!!!

” For YOU have armed me with strength for the battle” 2 Samuel 22:40.

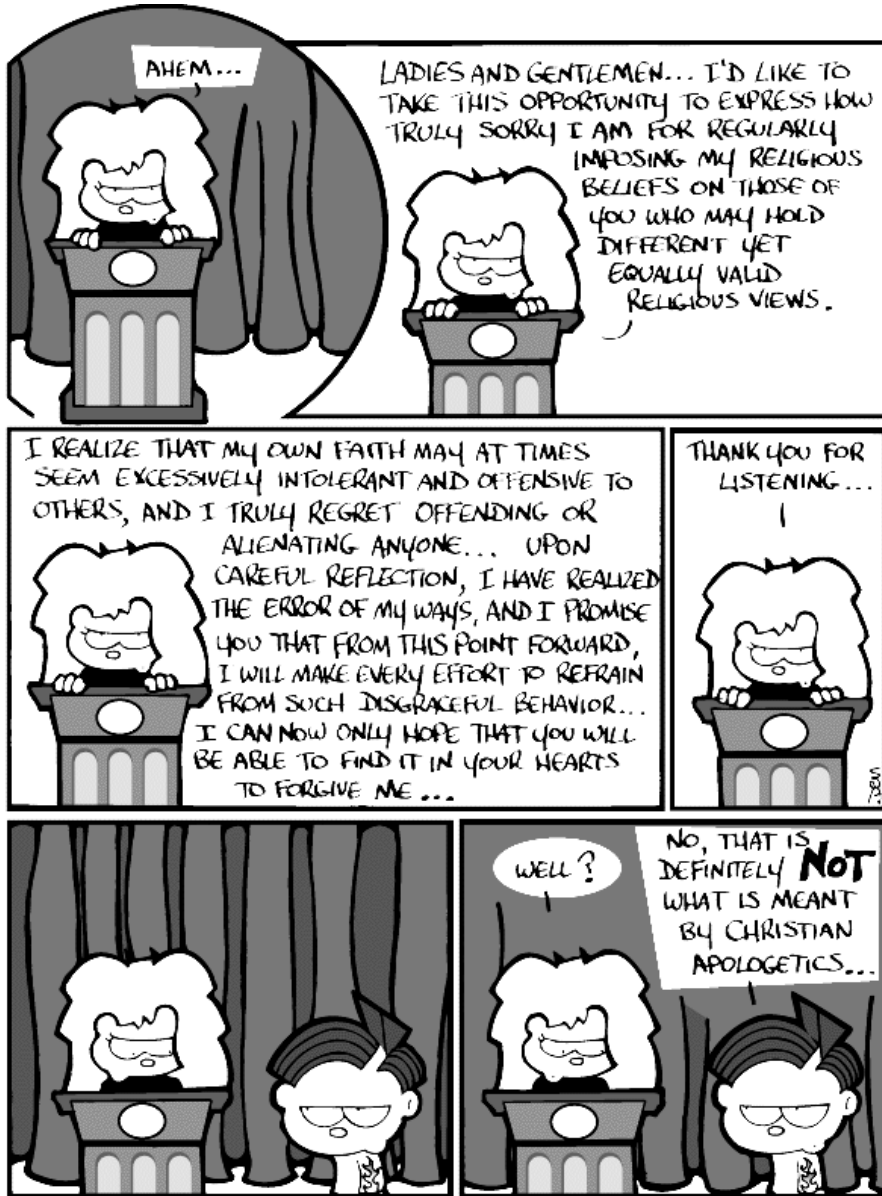
## Kartoon Knuggets



Are you saving up those General Mills **BOX TOP\$ FOR EDUCATION** coupons and Campbell’s labels (includes Goldfish crackers, too) for the school Angela teaches at? Most people, I’d bet, just throw them away. Don’t use a 37¢ stamp to send 4 coupons worth 40¢.



But when you’ve saved up a bunch, they can sure use them. Maybe even stick in a 1, 5, or \$10 bill in a folded sheet of paper and put it in the envelope too.



## Do you know what you believe?

Paul said, “and *be* ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1Peter 3:15 KJV). Or “Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have,” (NCV)

If someone says, “That’s nonsense,” or, “Why do you believe that?” Can you answer them?

Well, a start is, “That’s what I read in the Bible. And the Bible has been shown to have a miraculous history and has yet to be proven wrong, even in historical and geographical facts. Archeologists have used the Bible to discover lost cities that are buried in the desert sands.”

Good books to read are things like Josh McDowell’s *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* and Dr. Morris’ *Genesis Flood*. Both of these men started out to prove the Bible in error. The more they researched and found, well, they eventually became believers in the Bible and the God of the Bible.

Another fact that is undeniable is, “This is what happened to me. ...” Your personal story is unattackable. It happened to you. It is your testimony.



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## Who is more irrational? A man who believes in a God he doesn't see, or a man who is offended by a God he doesn't believe in?

Brad Stine  
[www.bradstine.com](http://www.bradstine.com)

## - Spring of Life -

H. Roger Bothwell

Reprinted with permission from <http://www.religionworld.org>

### "I Don't Need This Any More"

My three-year-old granddaughter had a cold. Her mom is a good mom and boiled her pacifier. A horrible thing happened. Mom got busy and soon the house filled with the smell of melting rubber. Both mom and pacifier owner ran to the kitchen to discover the tragedy was huge. The owner's face registered major loss and despair as she realized she would never again suck her "passie." Her mom is a good mom and bundled her up for a trip to the store. A brand new replacement "passie" was called for.

At the store the selection was meticulous. Two were selected and they had to be as much like the old "passie" as possible. Soon they were safely in hand as mom now went about more shopping. About 20 minutes passed when they approached the checkout. A now 20-minute-old little girl looked up at mom and said, "I don't think I'm going to buy these. I don't need them anymore." That was it. The choice was hers. The victory won.

How I wish we adults could exercise such purpose and strength. The next day when someone got very tired and stressed she said, "I need my "passie." Mom pretended not to hear and asked, "What?" A few moments of silence passed and the reply came, "Oh, nothing."

When we identify something in our life that needs to go, how grand it would be if we would pray for strength and say to it, "I don't need this any more."

I'm Roger Bothwell and my address is 151 Old Farm Rd. Leominster, MA 01453. Thank you for your support of our faith ministry.

<http://www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv14/3855.htm>

### The Red Toyota

It was a red 2000ish Toyota. (I have no idea what year cars are anymore.) It was sitting in our school parking lot with its lights on. I wanted to help so I went over and tried to get to the light switch but it was locked. It was frustrating to know in a few hours the owner would have a real problem and I could not help.

As I drove away leaving that 2000ish Toyota with its lights sucking the energy from its battery I wondered if there are times when God wants to help us but can't. While it is true God is all-powerful and could force His good sense on us He will not violate our power of choice. To do so would shatter the principle of love, which only exists where there is choice. Love is not love when it is coerced. Once coerced it becomes benevolent tyranny.

I could have broken a window of the Toyota to gain access to the light switch but the broken window would have been a violation of the owner's property. My solution to the problem would have been worse than the immediate difficulty. Should God violate our freedom by imposing His wisdom on us, His

intervention would have long-term effects worse than the fruit of our immediate danger.

God could have forced Eve away from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil but had He done so everything He has asserted about freedom and choice would have been a lie. See Titus 1:2 ["God promised ... And God cannot lie" NCV]

I'm Roger Bothwell and my address is 151 Old Farm Rd. Leominster, MA 01453. Thank you for your support of our faith ministry.

### [Know your destination - travel light.]

<http://www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv14/3842.htm>

### No Carry-on

I hate to wait for luggage after a long flight. It seems like forever until the buzzer buzzes and the conveyor belt starts. I stare at the opening carefully watching each bag that breaks into view. It is so disheartening when the conveyor belt stops and my bag hasn't come out. Now I have to make a trip to the baggage claim office, fill out forms and hope my bag shows up before I make the return trip home.

Therefore, I do my best to take the bare minimum so I only have a carry-on and don't have to check anything. That means one pair of shoes. (The ones I'm wearing.) They will have to do for formal occasions and afternoon hikes. I need to get used to taking the minimum because someday I am going to take the most important journey of my life and I can't take anything, not even any carry-on.

All I get to take is a perfect character. No, I am not being arrogant. I can be sure of that because it is a promised gift and God always keeps His promises. Perfection is always a gift. It comes with forgiveness. Paul wrote, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." (I Corinthians 15:52-53) And then we are on our way into eternity. How grand!

I'm Roger Bothwell and my address is 151 Old Farm Rd. Leominster, MA 01453. Thank you for your support of our faith ministry.

[On choices, promises, destinations]





**Crimson & White Connection**

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***PLEASE, keep your addresses current with us. If you graduate, if you move, if you go off to school, camp, ... tell us. Drop an email to: [rdymmel@aol.com](mailto:rdymmel@aol.com)***

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

**July 15, 2005**

Which is the right road  
Angela and the giants  
Apologetics  
and much more

**A publication so dangerous it now comes with it's own warning label.**

**WARNING**

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

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

**Most people wish to serve God -- but only in an advisory capacity.**

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God 1Peter 5:6

**Decisions (choices) can take you out of God's will but never out of His reach.**

“And even if our faith fails, He remains true— He cannot prove false to Himself.”

2Timothy 2:13 (The Message)

Resources and links at [www.CrimsonWhite.org](http://www.CrimsonWhite.org)