



**NORTHEAST OHIO
BIBLE COLLEGE**

We Major in Ministry

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

WWW.NEOBC.ORG 51049 Calcutta-Smith Ferry Road, East Liverpool, OH 43920 (330) 382 - 1151



From the
desk of the
President:
Joe Croft

Welcome to part three of the responses I get when I ask, "If you died today, would you go heaven or

hell?" In this newsletter, I want to discuss the debate of "I'm saved by grace" vs. "I'm saved by baptism." What I find interesting in this argument is that this discussion arises between God-fearing people on both answers. The problem with most of these debates is that there is no solution. The answers I get from most people are that we agree to disagree, or your church believes one way, and our church believes another way. In these cases, there's conflict and frustration, and again no common ground, no resolution.

Let's answer this debate in truth and love.

Are we saved by grace? For those who take this side, you are correct. The Scripture that backs up that doctrine is Ephesians 2:8. It says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God"

Grace is unmerited or undeserved favor or, to say it in another way, grace is God doing for us what is utterly impossible for us to do on our own. We can never earn salvation; it is God's gift. Without Jesus dying on the cross, none of us could go to Heaven because, as Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." God sent His

Son, Jesus, to Earth to die for our sins so we could have the opportunity for eternal life in heaven. My dear friends, that is grace. Thank you, God, for your grace.

Instead of stopping there and ending the discussion, let's look at the other argument; that we are saved by baptism. So, are we saved by baptism? You know, when I say baptism, I'm talking about immersion. The Scripture used by this doctrine is I Peter 3:21. It says, "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." We also see that in Acts 2:38 that baptism was for the forgiveness of sins and to receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit. I see no other way, since the Church started on the Day of Pentecost, that we can, scripturally, have our sins forgiven and receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. So, for those who take this side of the argument, you also are correct.

Now, let's make sense of the two sides of the argument. Grace is God's part in salvation. Baptism, along with belief, repentance, confession, and a life of obedience, is man's part in salvation.

Let me illustrate it. Two men climb the same mountain from opposite sides. One man says the mountain is steep, rocky, and dangerous,

"Study to show thyself approved unto God... Rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

while the other man says it is smooth, grassy, and beautiful. They argue, but the truth is both men were right. Same mountain, different perspectives. If they had switched sides on the mountain, they would understand the other's perspective. Climb both sides. Biblically, put grace [God's part] and baptism [man's part] together from both sides. As the commercial for Alka-Seltzer™ ends with, "oh what a relief it is." Christians, let's come together in the unity that Jesus prayed for in John 17:19-23. As my friend and mentor Don Cooper always has taught, "never give up your beliefs easily, but always be willing to examine them."

Be Blessed,
Joe



We welcome
a new Board
Member:
Covey Wise

Covey has served as an evangelist for Monroeville Christian Church since 2013. Covey and his wife Katie have been married 25 years. They are both graduates of Florida Christian College. Covey is currently pursuing a master's degree at Louisville Bible College. They have five children, Cody (married to Hannah), Josiah, Nathan, Leia, and Hunter. Their entire family is actively involved in various church ministries of their growing and thriving congregation in southwest Pennsylvania. Covey and Katie have a special interest in helping married couples and families. They are certified to facilitate marriage courses and have helped the marriage and parenting ministries in their congregation grow. A few years ago, due to a growing demand at MCC, they started a homeschool co-op which has grown every year. They firmly believe that the marriage and family ministries should be primary ministries of any local church. If things are not going well in the home, people will not want to be more involved in the church! In addition to their ministry efforts,

Covey works as a licensed Real Estate Agent and oil and gas landman. In addition to serving as a board member for NEOBC, Covey also serves as a trustee for the Hunter Trust. Covey's favorite passage is Philippians 2:5-11 which reads:

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."



We Welcome an
Adjunct
Professor:
Amy McCoy

I am Amy McCoy, the newly appointed English professor. I have collaborated with Don Cooper for several years, focusing on counseling training and co-authoring several publications. Don extended an invitation for me to join the English faculty to optimize the structure of the Greek language program.

I reside in Columbiana with my husband, Tony, my two sons, Tressel (22) and Hayes (17), and my two dogs, Deebo and Sammy. I have a BSN, RN degree and have published one book and two poems. I attend Lake Mount Church of Christ. I am so excited and blessed to have this opportunity and look forward to what the future brings.

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Interesting facts about the resurrection of Jesus

1. It Happened on the First Day of the Week

Jesus Christ rose on Sunday (Matthew 28:1).

- This is why early Christians began worshipping on Sunday.
- It's called "the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10).
- The Resurrection marked the beginning of a new creation — a new week, a new covenant.

Preaching insight: Just as Genesis begins with light on day one, redemption begins with light breaking from the tomb.

2. The Tomb Was Guarded and Sealed

Pontius Pilate authorized a Roman guard and seal (Matthew 27:62–66).

- Roman seals were legally binding.
- Roman guards could be executed for failure.
- Yet the stone was moved and the tomb was empty.

This makes the Resurrection claim historically bold — it happened under official security.

3. Women Were the First Witnesses

In all four Gospels, women discover the empty tomb first (e.g., Matthew 28:1–10).

In first-century Jewish and Roman culture:

Women's testimony was not considered legally strong. If this were invented, male disciples likely would have been written as first witnesses.

Instead, Scripture preserves the surprising truth.

Apologetic strength: The account reflects authenticity, not propaganda.

4. The Stone Was Not Rolled Away to Let Jesus Out

It was rolled away to let people see in.

After the Resurrection, Jesus:

Appeared in locked rooms (John 20:19)

Vanished from sight (Luke 24:31)

Could be touched and could eat (Luke 24:39–43)

His body was physical but glorified.

5. More than 500 Witnesses Saw Him

Paul writes in:

1 Corinthians 15:6 — more than 500 people saw the risen Christ at one time.

Many were still alive when Paul wrote — meaning his claim was publicly testable.

6. The Disciples Went from Fear to Boldness

Before the Resurrection:

- They hid behind locked doors (John 20:19).

After:

- They preached publicly.
- They endured persecution.
- Many died for their testimony.

People may die for something they think is true —

but not for something they know is false.

7. It Fulfilled Specific Prophecy

Examples:

- Psalm 16:10 — "You will not let Your Holy One see decay."
- Isaiah 53:10–12 — He would suffer yet prolong His days.

Peter directly connects Psalm 16 to the Resurrection in Acts 2.

8. The Resurrection Is the Foundation of Christianity

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:14:

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile." Christianity doesn't stand on moral teaching alone

—

it stands on a historical event.

9. Even Jesus' Enemies Admitted the Tomb Was Empty

The explanation recorded in Matthew 28:11–15:

"They stole the body."

Notice:

- They did not claim the body was still inside.
- They admitted the tomb was empty.

The debate was never whether it was empty — but why.

10. It Changed the World's Calendar

Our dating system (B.C. / A.D.) centers around the life of Jesus.

One empty tomb reshaped global history.

We've had a good start to our winter/spring 2026 semester: We did have one snow week. We had to cancel classes, but otherwise it's been a great semester. Classes this semester are:

Romans II (finishing up from Fall 2025 class)

The Gospel of John II (finishing up from Fall 2025 class)

English

Biblical Theology: being taught at NEOBC as well as at Keystone Christian Church

Joshua

Revelation: being taught at West Liberty Christian Church

Be watching our website: www.neobc.org and our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NEOBCollege> about summer semester.

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We here at Northeast Ohio Bible College (NEOBC) want to wish you all a very blessed Resurrection Day. We pray that your celebration of what Christ did for us on the cross lives in you every day.

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley

Lyra Davidica

C G/B C F C G7/D C

Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - - le -
 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le -
 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - - le -
 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - le -

4 C/G G7 C F/A C F C/E G7/D C C/G G C G7/D C

-lu - ia! Earth and heaven in cho - rus say, Al - - le -
 -lu - ia! Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le -
 -lu - ia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le -
 -lu - ia! Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - - le -

8 C/G G7 C G D7/A G/B G C/E G7/D C

-lu - ia! Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 -lu - ia! Death in vain for - bids him, rise,
 -lu - ia! Dy - ing once, He all doth save,
 -lu - ia! Made like Him, like Him we rise,

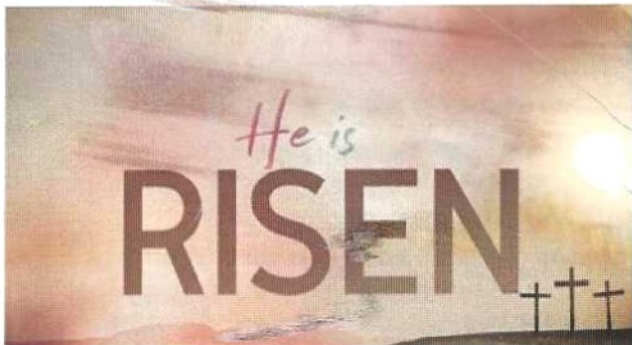
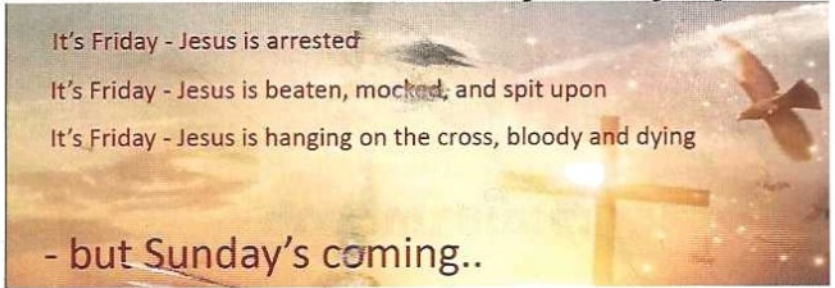
11 G D7/A G G7/D D G G7 C

Al - - le - lu - ia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and
 Al - - le - lu - ia! Christ has o - pened
 Al - - le - lu - ia! Where thy vic - to -
 Al - - le - lu - ia! Ours the cross, the

14 F C F C C/G G7 C

earth re - ply, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 grave, the skies, Al - - le - lu - ia!

CMKhar@kravchuk.com



How can I get involved with NEOBC?

- Prayer: Cover us in your prayers.
- Partner: Become a financial partner. We are a 501C3 non-profit.
- Participate: Join us for classes either in person or online.



NEOBC
 NORTHEAST OHIO BIBLE COLLEGE
 51049 Calcutta-Smith Ferry Rd
 East Liverpool, OH 43920
 (330) 382 - 1151
 www.neobc.org
 neobc51049@gmail.com

2000 7591827566
 PITTSBURGH PA 150
 26 MAR 2026 PM 6 L



Pine Lake Christian Church
 636 Pine Lake Rd
 Sebring, OH 44672

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