



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

*Can you believe it's November? Thanksgiving is almost here. We should express our gratitude to the Lord every day. The Apostle Paul said, **“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

*Unfortunately, the news on the international and national scene has been turbulent and I know some of us are going through hard times. But God is waiting to hear our praise and thanksgiving even in these most difficult times. I admit I don't understand exactly how eternal life will look. However, according to the Bible it is going to be awesome. **Revelation 21:4** says, **“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying or pain.”***

When I get down and blue, I try to think of something pleasant that I have experienced. For instance, I was thinking about a trip that my Kathy and I took to Milan, Italy. When my company sent me out of the country, I would usually take my wife Kathy along with me. Having her with me always turned out to be a delightful experience for both of us. No matter where we went Kathy always seemed to find a unique tourist attraction. On this trip we visited The painting of the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci. This beautiful work of art is housed in Milan's Santa Maria delle Grazie Church, centrally located in Milan. It can be found on the wall of the dining/kitchen area of the former Dominican Convent.

Unlike traditional frescoes, Leonardo used an experimental mixture of tempera and oil-based paint on a dry wall, which led to its gradual deterioration over time. The use of contrasting light and shadows made The Last Supper a pivotal work in Renaissance art.

When you enter the building you must pass through three separate, air pressurized, rooms to control the atmosphere. The third room is practically all glass. No visitor is permitted in the dining/ kitchen area. As we moved through the three rooms, our docent explained the painting is environmentally protected by this air management system. Our docent also drew out of the painting one of the most popular superstitions acquainted with this piece of art.

Having seen this original, beautiful work of art, I have a question for you. Are you superstitious? If so, did Friday the 13th that we experienced last month (October) bother you?

Did you know the origin of this popular superstition actually has roots in our Christian faith, dating back to the story of Jesus' Last Supper in the Upper Room and His crucifixion.

Counting Jesus and the twelve Apostles, there were thirteen people at the table of the Last Supper. There are those who believe Judas, Jesus' betrayer, was the "unlucky 13th." Could Judas have been the last guest to arrive? There are those who think so!

Friday has also been considered an unlucky day of the week. The Last Supper was on a Thursday, and the next day was Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion.

Some people grow more superstitious as they age, however most tend to pay less attention to things that have little or no basis in fact. Still, humans have a reputation for being inherently superstitious, especially when informed by a previous experience. For example, if someone wears red socks on the day of an exam and that person does well on the test, he or she is likely to wear the same red socks on the date of the next exam.

*However, what about us in the context of our faith? We are advised to fear the Lord, but there is no indication that we should be illogical in our thinking. **I Timothy 4:7** provides some guidance with this passage: **"have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness."** In other words, don't fall victim to unfounded beliefs or practices. Instead, we are to focus on our faith and the truths of God's Word.*

Colossians 2:8** provides further insight with this passage: **"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."

Unfortunately, we see this playing out in our world today, to the point that we appear to be more vulnerable than ever to unfounded myths and rumors, due in large part to the unregulated messaging on the Internet. This has led to an erosion of empathy for one another and a general degradation in the way we treat others.

If we're not careful, we might lose our grip on our very soul. That's not a superstition but a potential reality that none of us wants to experience.

During this present riding season, remember to shine for Him and reflect His love to all those around you.

As always, keep on doing the good stuff. I look forward to seeing you down the road!

I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving Season as we all rejoice in the Lord and joy in the God of our salvation.

*Riding with Jesus,
Bob Dillon
www.newliferiders.com*



God bless America.

***Jesus said, "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all."
Mark 16:15 (The Message)***