



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

August 2021

FROM US TO YOU

Here in America we are living in very dangerous times. On our southern boarder people from all over the world are streaming into our country, with little if any deterrence from the current administration. Most are seeking our nation for its tradition of freedom, good standard of living, and God given human rights that have existed since our foundation on Christianity. Even our country’s motto has been “In God We Trust.” Sadly, at the same time that so many people are seeking refuge here, we are slowly suffering and decaying internally. For all that has made America great and a magnet to people all over the world, is being taken away from us. Like a cancer causing a slow painful death, all that we once held precious is being eroded by Atheistic liberals who prefer to worship erroneous man-made concepts and ideas that are being imposed upon us by government and taught to our children in public schools. We call our nation the “United States of America,” although in the last decade or so it has become more like the divided states of America. The divisions are mostly between ethnic and political ideologies.

However, those of us who love and serve Jesus Christ and know their Bible, recognize that this is a spiritual attack that is not localized but widespread. All these attacks on our traditional way of life and our Christian culture come from one central source. So, “*be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*” (1 Peter 5:8 NIV). However, be aware that our enemy, Satan, the devil, does not work alone. He has an army of fallen angels to help him. Their solid bodies were destroyed by God after their failed mutiny in Heaven. So, they work in the spirit world, hidden and invisible. They influence people’s minds to do evil.

And the further away a person gets from Jesus Christ, the more influence they have over them. Originally God gave control over this world to Adam (Genesis 2:2-29). But when Adam sinned against God (see Genesis 3:1-13), Satan got control over the systems of this world. And in recent decades, in formally Christian nations, Christianity has become so watered down that our safety and freedom is in danger and crime has gotten out of control.

So be aware that the evil strategy behind all the crime and anti-Christian rhetoric we see today does not come from a human source. “*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*” (Ephesians 6:12 NIV). You’re probably wondering why God doesn’t put a stop to it. This is why. God keeps His word. He created a perfect man, with no sin in him. Adam was a friend of God, and a type of son (Luke 3:38). However, Adam was not, by any means, equal to Christ, who is a part of the holy deity of God. Christ is also known as the living Word of God. “*For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one*” (1 John 5:7 KJV). Christ Jesus was there when mankind was conceived (John 1:1-3).

Jesus redeemed us from sin, but we must receive Him. And He’s coming back to defeat the devil when the period of time God gave Adam to rule this world ends, and Satan’s time will be up. Jesus was there when Satan attempted his failed coup in Heaven. Satan’s “*...tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth...*” (Revelation 12:4 NIV). In other words, Satan influenced one third of God’s angels to mutiny with him. “*And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him*” (Revelation 12:7-9 NIV). Jesus said, “*...I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven*” (Luke 10:18 NIV). They fell to the earth. There was a trial afterward that resulted in Satan and his fallen angels losing their solid bodies for their failed mutiny and other sins. God said, “*...So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching*” (Ezekiel 28:18 NIV).



When God originally made His angels, He made them with different talents, strength, and intelligence. The fallen angels retained all that after their fall. God originally planned to make them that way to enable them to achieve different holy purposes. Some angels were designed to have important rolls over angelic nations before mankind was even created (such as Ezekiel 28:19). After Adam sinned against God, by doing Satan’s will, Adam forfeited all his authority over the earth. Therefore, Adam became

Satan’s slave, along with all his offspring. And, as Jesus stated, “*...everyone who sins is a slave to sin*” (John 8:34 NIV). Consequently, Satan, the devil runs this world right now, with the aid of his angels, who are called demons.

When Jesus gave His future Revelations to His apostle, John, He addressed them “*To the angel of the church in Ephesus...*” (Revelation 2:1 NIV), “*To the angel of the church in Smyrna...*” (Revelation 2:8 NIV), “*To the angel of the church in Pergamum ...*” (Revelation 2:12 NIV), etc. And God gave certain angels royal positions. When the angel Gabriel, spoke to Daniel, he said, “*...No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince*” (Daniel 10:21 NIV). He was probably saying that Michael was the angel over Israel and the Jewish people. Satan also has certain fallen angels, called demons, doing his sinful work among groups of people and sinful nations. But stay close to Jesus Christ. He is ultimately stronger. Satan is a defeated foe who will end up in Hell (Revelation 20:10). And remember what John said to those Holy Spirit filled believers who love Christ. “*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world*” (1 John 4:4 NIV).

In the Lords service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*

LIVING ABOVE SIN

By Anne Kaestner

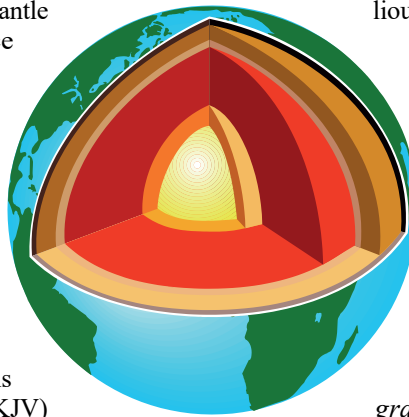
My husband and I often like to watch old television sitcoms from the 1950's and 60's. Perhaps it's due to a bit of nostalgia about the way things used to be before television became so blasphemous, sleazy, and political. We don't watch contemporary entertainment, and haven't in decades. However, recently we saw a 1950's episode of "Superman." The story was supposed to be sci-fi, but it was so out of date that I was amused by it. The story was about a mining company drilling so deeply into the earth that they disturbed another intelligent life form living in the center of the earth. It made an interesting story. However, the writers apparently didn't know much about science. For the center of the earth is so hot that no human-like creature could exist there. You can see the heat when it occasionally erupts through a volcano or an earthquake. In reality, discovering the Earth's core did not occur until 1906 when Richard Dixon discovered it. He found that earthquake waves moved much slower through the center of the Earth than other parts. Beno Gutenberg, a German-American seismologist began studying earthquake waves in 1913 at the University of Gottingen. Since then, we have learned a lot from them.

Today we know that the Earth is actually made up of four layers. The top layer, which we live on, is the CRUST. It is twenty-five miles thick. Right underneath the crust is the MANTLE, which continues for 1,800 miles down from the crust. Beneath the mantle is the CORE, which is 1,360 miles deep from where the mantle begins and then at 3,160 miles beneath the surface of the earth, the INNER CORE begins. It consists of 815 miles to the center of the earth. Scientists have determined that the core of the Earth lacks rigidity and is probably liquid. One might guess that that's where the "Lake of Fire" is that is mentioned in the Bible. Scientists claim that at the Inner Core "P waves" increase in velocity, probably indicating a change back to solid again. The Bible tells us that the center of the earth is the location of Hell and the Lake of fire (Acts 2:19, Deuteronomy 32:22). It also states that it contains sulfur, which the King James Version of the Bible (KJV) calls brimstone. It tells us that those who die without a redeemer will pay for their own sins in Hell. It says, "...the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death" (Revelation 21:8 NIV).

When scientists know so very little about the center of the Earth now, why do you suppose it is that thousands of years ago, the writers of the Bible knew that the center of the Earth contained liquid fire and brimstone (sulfur) unless, the Bible is what it claims to be, the inspired Word of God? There is no life in the center of the earth. Our natural bodies would be burnt up in an instant! However, the Bible tells us that dead human beings and demons do exist there. The center of the earth is the location of not only Hell and the Lake of fire, but also Past Paradise. That's where the righteous would go after death in the days before Christ paid for our sins. Jesus told the thief on the cross, "...I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43 NIV). What a day that must have been! For some of those awaiting redemption in Paradise had been there for thousands of years. That included Job. With all that Job suffered at the hands of Satan (Job 1:1 thru 2:8), he still declared in midst of his misery, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27 NIV).

The Bible tells us what happened when Jesus died and His spirit entered inside the earth. Imagine the excitement there must have been! "Jesus is finally here," they must have shouted. "He's paid our debt and He's taking us up to Heaven!" "This is why it says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men' (What does "He ascended" mean except that He also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe)" (Ephesians 4:8-10 NIV). However, Jesus did stop off and enter Hell before He took His group up to Heaven, "...and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built" (1 Peter 3:19-20 NIV). I can imagine what He said to them. Probably something like, "You bunch of fools! You could have been sharing in this joy with those I'm taking home with Me, but you preferred to follow Satan and his sinful pleasures that didn't last. I died for you too, but you never repented of your sins and asked God's forgiveness. You never changed direction as my servant Noah did. Now you can continue to burn in Hell until the judgment day, when you will be thrown into the Lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

Scripture tells us that there are many, like them, who will miss out on Heaven due to their love of sin and their willful, rebellious nature (see Matt. 7:13-14). "For since the creation



of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are **without excuse**. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:20-22 NIV). Eric and I were in Washington D.C. in the mid 1990's. There were statues everywhere, even though the Bible says, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth" (Exodus 20:4 KJV). In pagan cultures, where they don't know any better, it can be more easily understood. However, in former Christian nations, people have no excuse. Bibles are easily available. Prayer and repentance are easy, once you swallow your foolish pride. You don't have to do it in church, or through a priest. Jesus told us to just talk directly to God, in humility and submission. People seem to think that they can buy their salvation with their money, good works, or sacrifices.

As King David said in his prayer to God, after his terrible sin with Bathsheba, "You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (Psalms 51:16-17 NIV). Jesus illustrated His point about humility by giving us an example. He told us, "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted'" (Luke 18:10-14 NIV).

Some churches, especially the Catholic church, discourage per-

sonal praying. That's talking directly to God in prayer. Yet Jesus taught Christians how to pray. He gave us a sample prayer. *"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one'"* (Matthew 6:9-13 NIV). Even if they had never repented of their sins (Matthew 4:17), past generations who had been born in formally Christian nations, generally had respect for God and the good sense to fear Him. These days society's relationship with God has sunk so low primarily due to five influences; the media, secular education, psychologists, psychiatrists, and false prophets. People engage in sins they see in movies and on television. If some favorite character does it, people think it's alright for them to do the same. God fearing Christians from past generations would be appalled if they saw what passes today as normal or an "alternative lifestyle" or "the new morality" (which is really the old immorality). You hear people say, "the old rules don't apply anymore. Things are different now." Yet God is the same. *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, 'says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty"* (Revelation 1:8 NIV).

Satan's influences are all around us. *"But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows"* (James 1:14-17 NIV). It has gotten to the place where those who love the Lord and live by His laws are treated like some relic from a previous generation. They are sometimes called "prudes" or "squares" and are often ostracized. Even many church folks have been tarnished by modern rules of what is socially permitted. But remember, God is not running this world (Matthew 4:8-10). Satan is! And he wants to take as many of us to Hell with himself as possible (1 Peter 5:8-10 & Revelation 12:12). So, what does the Bible say about all of this? *"Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets"* (Luke 6:22-23 NIV).

Back in the days when I was single, a friend of mine called me up one night very upset. She had just been at a doctor's office, and the doctor said to her, "You mean, you are 22 years old, and you're still a virgin?" My friend wasn't even Born Again (John 3:3), but she was raised with moral values. That was several decades back, so things are probably worse now. But the point is, that for those who want to obey the laws of God, it is very difficult when society makes you feel like a social outcast or a freak! Words can hurt, but beatings can hurt worse. And the Apostle Paul had many of them (2 Corinthians 11:23-27). Yet he boldly stated, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes... For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.' The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being under-*

stood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:16-21 NIV).

It's hard to be a real Christian these days. Not only is Satan constantly trying to cajole you back to the wide gate and the broad road *"...that leads to destruction, and many enter through it"* (Matthew 7:13 NIV), but you're *"...strangers and pilgrims on the earth"* (Hebrews 11:13 KJV). And when you are a true and sincere follower of Christ, you don't fit in with the worldly crowd, or even nominal Christians. That's because, *"the man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (1 Corinthians 2:14 NIV). There's something else too. They will claim that you think you are better than them. But in reality, you are just refusing to commit the sin they do, and it makes them more conscience of their own sin. That was the problem Joseph had, and he was hated by his own brothers (Genesis 37:1-5). Little David had the same problem, (1 Samuel 17:23-29), or even Jesus (John 7:1-8). When I was about eighteen years old I worked as a cashier in a supermarket. When they were not busy but bored, the other cashiers would steal gum and chew it or do the crossword puzzle in a magazine they had there to sell. They would offer me some of the stolen gum, and get annoyed when I refused it. Sometimes I would take a pack of gum myself and pay for it. I was not very popular with them.



One of the worst sins mentioned in the Bible is one of the most acceptable by today's standards. That is homosexuality. The apostle Paul wrote, *"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God"* (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NIV). My heart goes out to people who suffer with these kinds of sexual anxieties. Today there is even a term for the group called a LGBTQ community. That stands for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer." A woman I used to know told me a sad story about her nephew. She said that he had been born with both male and female genitalia. However, his birth certificate said he was male. Yet his emotions were all female. He struggled with the conflict all his life. Then he decided to seek surgery. He saw a doctor who was willing to do the surgery, but he was told that first he would have to wear women's clothes for a period of time. I think it was a year. But he didn't want to do that either. He wanted to be one specific sex, female. In the end he gave up hope and committed suicide. I can't even imagine what he must have suffered all his life. What a horrible situation to be in. So, I can sympathize with someone like that.

However, there are others who take a more militant attitude in the LGBTQ community, the type who march in a "gay pride" demonstration. Doing so is so abhorrent to God that He even destroyed two sinful cities for it, Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:20 thru 19:25). Two once great empires, the Greek and the Roman, were so strong at their zenith of power that no other nation could conquer them. However, they, like today's formally Christian nations, endorsed and even promoted homosexuality. But they became so morally weak within that they eventually fell apart from their internal corruption. That said, I want to make it clear that **(Continued On Page 4)**

it's not the person struggling with his or her own identity that is to blame. Here's an example of what I am talking about. In early 1993, there was a lot of talk about "Gays in the Military." I'll never forget seeing a well-publicized portion of a Senate hearing on the subject, in which two homosexual navy officers spoke as witnesses.

The most famous part of the conversation took place when South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond told them that the gay lifestyle is not normal, and asked if they had ever sort out medical help for their problem. One of the men had frequently been a guest on a number of political shows around that time, where he had seemed rather arrogant. Therefore, I expected a hostile response from him, but that was not the case. He softly admitted that he didn't like being "gay," but had come to the conclusion that he had no choice in the matter. As for seeking medical help, he reeled off a number of key professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, each of which had stated categorically that there is nothing wrong or perverted about the homosexual lifestyle.

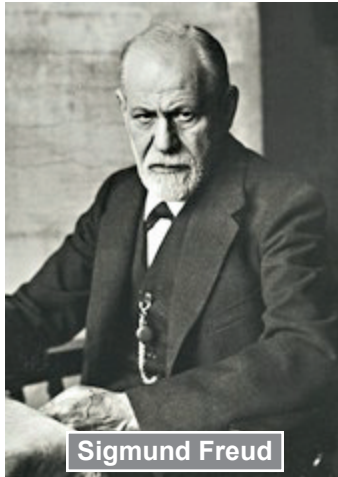
My research on the subject has disclosed that influences leading up to these medical verdicts began in modern society as early as 1896, with the published writings of an Austrian physician named Sigmund Freud. Freud, though greatly unpopular with the established medical community of his day for his unorthodox methods and conclusions, did manage to establish for himself a small community of international friends and associates, such as American psychiatrist Abraham Brill, and British psychiatrist Ernest Jones (1879-1958). Therefore, even after Freud died of cancer in 1939, his literary works continued to have a life of their own. In 1957, a study was made at U.C.L.A. on homosexuality. The results led up to a decision in 1974 by the American Psychiatric Association, to remove homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders. Other organizations followed, and "Gay" lobbying groups became better organized, creating the current social climate that has caused homosexuals to not only come "out of the closet" but to also boldly defend what they have come to believe is, for them, normal sexual behavior, which they expect other people to respect.

What does the Bible say about this? *"Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ... Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done"* (Romans 1:22-28 NIV). Don't follow fools who lead you into something that makes it harder for Christ to reach you with His love and forgiveness. If you're in this situation, Satan is undoubtedly putting up a barrier of guilt between you and your Savior.

Don't you know that Satan controls all the carnal things of this world. He controls the media, and all the major industries of this world, fashion, entertainment, medicine, education. And he corrupts them all! Stop listening to the world's wisdom. *"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: 'He catches the wise in their craftiness'; and again, 'The Lord knows that the*

thoughts of the wise are futile'" (1 Corinthians 3:19-20 NIV). *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever"* (1 John 2:15-17 NIV).

I once read a "Dear Abbey" (or was it "Ann Landers?") column in the mid 1970's. A homosexual man had written to the columnist, asking for help. His desperation was apparent. "I have been to counselors and psychiatrists all my life," he declared. "But all they want to do is to get me to adjust to my homosexuality. I don't want to adjust. I want to stop being this way! Is there anything you can tell me that will offer me some hope out of this lifestyle that I hate?" Unfortunately, her response was just a listing of secular agencies that deal with the issue. How I wanted to tell him the truth! To give him the answer! But I knew that writing to him in care of the columnist would be futile. The secular media is one of the greatest proponents of this lie of darkness. However, homosexuality is not a natural condition. God did not make you that way! Nor is it a state from which there is no escape. So, what has the church of Christ done about it? Not much! For despite the hostility that has often been vented against men and women suffering this awful temptation, Jesus died for all the descendants of Adam, even those living under the torment of this tenacious sin.



Sigmund Freud

The lists of sins that plague the human race are endless. Some of them are shoplifting, murder, lying, drunkenness, gluttony, adultery, etc. However, Jesus loved you enough to pay the horrible price for your sin so that your past can all be forgiven. And if you truly seek deliverance, He will help you through the torment you have suffered. My husband, Eric, used to be an alcoholic before we were married. He couldn't start the day without a beer. I didn't even know that until he told me, after we were married. Now he doesn't even like the taste of alcohol! God totally delivered him from it. Jesus said, *"...I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"* (Matthew 9:13 KJV). However, the more you put into something, the more you get out of it. If you want to

be able to live above the misery of sin, and feel clean before God, you must develop your own personal relationship with Christ, through prayer, Bible study, and worship. And God will lead you to people and places where you can get help.

You may have been thinking that God doesn't love you. But don't believe the devil's lies. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him"* (John 3:16-17 NIV). *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!"* (Romans 5:6-10 NIV). In closing, I want to leave you with one last message from the Word of God, *"'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'"* (Isaiah 1:18 NIV).