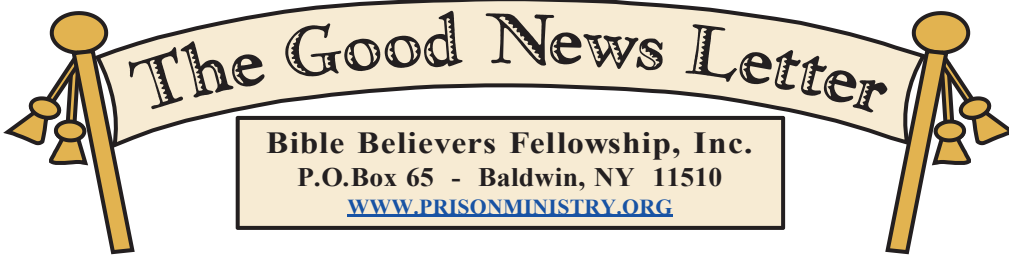




NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

August 2025

FROM US TO YOU

More than 2000 years ago, an apostle of God named Paul of Tarsus wrote a letter to a young evangelist named Timothy, prophesying the future of the human race in the last days before Jesus Christ comes back to this planet as “...*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*” (Revelation 19:16 NIV) and kicks the devil out! He wrote: “*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected*” (2 Timothy 3:1-8).

“*But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone. You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*” (2 Timothy 3:9-16 NIV).

Does any of it sound familiar to you? Let’s take it slowly and see how it compares with today. “*People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents...*” Do people love themselves? There was a time when someone would drop a piece of jewelry and someone would find it and give it back to them. Anne lost a sapphire pendent one time. A lot of people acted like they tried to find it for her. One man yelled out, “Was it insured?” Anne said it was, and she never saw it again. She feels that the man who asked her about insurance, was the one who found it. People don’t think they’re stealing something if it is insured. They are selfish. But it costs us all more in insurance. People are “*lovers of money, boastful, proud...*” People who have money tend to show off what they have to impress others. Teenagers are often “*abusive, disobedient to their parents...*” They think they are smarter, and their parents can’t relate to them. That’s because today’s children are technologically more advanced due to social media and computers.

These days many people think that they deserve the best of everything, no matter how they get it. Unfortunately, many churches encourage this type of thinking by calling Christians “king’s kids” because they are children of God. This is bad doctrine. True Christians are followers of Christ, who said His “*...kingdom is not of this world...*” (John 18:36 NIV). So, whose kingdom is of this world? “*...The prince of this world now stands condemned*” (John 16:11 NIV). The prince of this world is Satan, the devil! See what Paul, the apostle, sarcastically said about the King’s Kid doctrine (see 1 Corinthians 4:6-9). Therefor, as Paul prophesied, they are “*ungrateful, unholy.*” Have you noticed how many people there are today “*without love.*” Paul meant real love, not what the world considers love. Jesus said that in the last days, “*...many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved*” (Matthew 24:11-13 NIV). And Paul said

that people would be “*unforgiving, slanderous.*” As for slanderous, even some in the media are constantly making statements that are untrue and other media says it’s all political. And, incidentally, when Paul says, “*They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women...*” he is most likely referring to modern media, such as the television, and Internet.

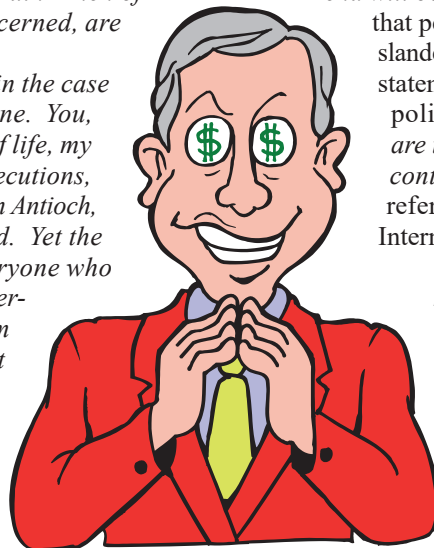
Paul said that people will be “*Always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds...*”

These days many people would rather consult a psychiatrist or a psychic than the Bible. Jannes and Jambres were the evil magicians who opposed Moses in Egypt. Their powers were from Satan, but God’s power was greater! So how did society get so far away from God? Most

people don’t read the Bibles, and too many churches are corrupt. Jesus said, “*Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them...*” (Matthew 7:15-16 NIV). People wonder why children of this generation have so much trouble concentrating in the classroom and have to take medicine for it. Past generations before Dr. Spock’s book, never had the problems with attention deficit disease children have today. Law enforcement didn’t have to create special sections of the police department to deal with juvenile delinquency like we have today. People had more respect for the laws of God in those days.

These are difficult times for all Christians. So remember, “*Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all*” (Psalms 34:19 KJV). As for us, Eric has had painful sciatica for many decades and Anne has had Parkinson’s Disease for the past 3 years. We both have arthritis in our knees and fingers. Please keep us in your prayers.

In the Lord’s Service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



SUICIDE

By Anne Kaestner

Did you know that suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States? Unlike other factors that cause death, suicide is a non-discriminatory disease. It has no preferences. It's not prone to any particular racial group or ethnic background. It has no favoritism toward any specific gender or age group. Male or female, young or old, and any age in between, can succumb to its evil temptation. It is not more prevalent in any specific part of the world. In the United States, about 49,476 people died by suicide in 2022. In other words, there were about 14.2 suicides for every 100,000 people in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Actually, from a Christian view, it is not really a disease. Doctors call it that for lack of a better term, but medicine does not have the answer. Nor does it truly understand the problem. For suicide is the result of giving in to strong temptation. So let's take a look at it from a spiritual perspective.

Suicide mostly occurs when a person feels there is no way out of his or her problem no matter what they do or don't do. It's when you feel like you are between the proverbial rock and hard place. It occurs when Satan whispers to you, "You've really done it now. There's no turning back. You've gone too far. There's no way to put things right. What a mess you've made of yourself! No matter what you do, there is no way out of this mess. Things will never be the same again. You might as well just kill yourself, because there's nothing left to live for. Just end it all and you will end up in nice peaceful grave. Go ahead. It's easy. I'll show you what to do!" But Satan is a liar! Jesus said to the Pharisees who hated Him in His day, "*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies*" (John 8:44 NIV). So don't believe Satan or his demons!

There are two very good reasons why you should not kill yourself. The first is that there is someone who knows everything about you, good and bad. And He loves you just the way you are. He can change your life and use you as you are. He will remake you, and change your lemons into lemon aid, and make you useful again to His kingdom. He said, "*Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light*" (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV). He loved you enough to die in your place. You probably know I am talking about Jesus Christ. He loves you and wants you very badly! And God can change your circumstances and change your life.

"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. 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! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation" (Romans 5:5-11 NIV). So your life isn't hopeless. That's a lie of the devil! The second reason is that if you commit

suicide, you will burn in Hell and the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 20:14-15). When you die, you **don't** cease to exist. You continue to exist, but not in the same old body. And not in this world. Jesus told us about two men who died.

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the

Prophets; let them listen to them.' 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead'" (Luke 16:19-31 NIV).

No. This is not about religion. No one gets to Heaven because of religion. Religion is about mankind's attempt to reach God, the world's way. There are religions all over the world that are different from each other. Even many Christian religions and denominations are different from each other. It's a right relationship with Christ that makes the difference. A true Church of God isn't about how the altar cloth is used or how you

take Holy Communion. It's not about how big the church is or how many people go there. It's about whether or not the people really love Jesus or not, and about whether they have turned from the ways of their past, and live according to **His** will. In the Bible story Jesus gave us in Luke 16:19-31, Jesus had not died to pay for our sins yet. So Heaven was not a place that Christians could go right away. Those who loved God and lived for Him, went to a place called Paradise. It was a type of waiting area where the righteous would go to wait for redemption in Christ. It was in the bowels of the earth, next to Hell. But it was a far more pleasant place than Hell. It was a place of refreshment where the righteous would wait for their sins to be paid for. It's not full of souls anymore. After Jesus died on the cross and paid for our sins, He went into the place where Lazarus, Abraham, and many others, were waiting for Him to pay for their sins. Jesus called it **Paradise**.

Do you remember what Jesus said to the thief on the cross, who defended Him to the other thief? The Pharisees and others mocked Jesus when He was on the cross. "*The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, 'He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.'* The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save Yourself.' There was a written notice above Him, which read: **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS**. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him:



'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other criminal rebuked Him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.' Then He said, *'Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.'* Jesus answered him, *'I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in **paradise**'* (Luke 23:35-43 NIV). Scripture also 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).

That means that after Jesus died for our sins on the cross, He entered into **Paradise** spiritually, and took the redeemed in Christ up to Heaven with Him. They had been waiting for Jesus to come into this world and redeem them for thousands of years in some cases. Imagine the excitement! Probably an angel told them, "Your sins are paid for. Jesus is coming!" So the scripture in Ephesians 4:8-10 is saying that after the death of Jesus, He descended, *"to the lower, earthly regions,"* next to Hell. And from there He released all those, like Lazarus who were waiting for Him to take them up to Heaven with Him. That's what it means when it says *"When He ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men."* The whole load of souls whom He was taking up to Heaven were *"His train."*

Another stupid reason people commit suicide is that fear something worse will happen to them if they stay alive. I saw a woman on the television show "60 Minutes" many years ago. She was a pretty woman and very skinny. They said that she had some horrible disease that caused her a lot of pain. I don't now remember the name of the disease. However, they said that the doctor told her that when the disease gets worse leading up to her death, the pain would be unbearable. The announcer said that she had some pills to take so that she could commit suicide when that time came. At the end of the story they said that she had committed suicide already.

So why does the Bible imply that a person who commits suicide goes to Hell? It's because God's not controlling their life. They are. And when you become Born Again (John 3:3) and you give God control of your life, you want to live for Christ, and give Him glory whether you live or die. Because He died for you! Many of the martyrs in the early church and the Protestant Reformation died in horrible ways because Satan wanted to stamp out pure Christianity. Their killers wanted them to die some slow, painful way and make them suffer so much that the public would be afraid to become Christians. The early church was run by Caesar, whom Satan could control. They said only Caesar should be worshiped. So Christians were put in an arena where spectators could watch them be ripped apart and eaten by hungry lions. Or the Roman Empire would crucify them. In the days leading up to the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Church wanted everyone to be Catholic, so they could control them (compare with Acts 20:29-30). Most people weren't educated. But the theologians of the church were. So those Catholic theologians who read and understood the true Bible, saw that what it said was totally different from the teachings of the Catholic Church. They tried to tell the people about the difference in doctrine. But when the leaders in the church found out about their teaching, they called them, heretics, tortured them, and burned them at the stake. However, true Christianity saves people's souls. It doesn't take their lives or hurt them. Jesus said, *"...Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy*

men's lives, but to save them..." (Luke 9:55-56 KJV).

No matter what something is called, it's not Christian if it's not pure. Take an 8 ounce glass of pure milk and it's good to drink. But put a drop of ink in it and you won't want it anymore. It was a full 8 ounce glass of milk. But only a drop of poison (or ink) will make it undrinkable! Christians like John Huss and William Tyndale gave their lives so that other people would know the truth. That there is no Purgatory, and only Christ can save you from eternity in Hell! As Simon Peter told a crowd in his day, *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12 NIV). *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time"* (1 Timothy 2:5-6 NIV). Both John Huss (1369) and William Tyndale (1536) were burned to death alive at the stake by the Catholic Church. Both men could have found a less painful way of dying if they had chosen to commit suicide. But they loved Christ so much that they chose to become martyrs instead in order to give Christ the glory. Also, they knew that when they died they would see Jesus in Heaven. They knew that those who would rather commit suicide than repent of their sins would choose Satan's way, and die without a Savior. Thousands of people since the death of Christ have died horrible deaths on earth before going to Heaven. But their **faith** prevailed. The Old Testament

was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Latin. William Tyndale even translated the Bible, so others could read it.

"...Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder



is God. By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise" (Hebrews 11:6-11 NIV).

The point is that most of us don't generally know what will cause our death. It's all about our faith! When three young Hebrew men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 1:7) were told by the king that they would have to bow down and worship the golden statue or be burnt alive in a fiery furnace, they didn't know whether God would save them or not. But their faith in God was so strong that they would rather face the king's wrath than give in to him and deny their God, that they loved. They knew that when they died, their hearts would be right with God and that therefor, being dead would be a blessing. They would get to Heaven. So they made Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, angry at them when they refused to obey him. The king wanted to give them time to reconsider his demand. *"Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"* Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, *"O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown* **(Continued on Page 4)**

into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up” (Daniel 3:15-18 NIV).

So they were told that they would have to be put into the fiery furnace. “Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace” (Daniel 3:19-23 NIV). “Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, ‘Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?’ They replied, ‘Certainly, O king.’ He said, ‘Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods. Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!’ So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them” (Daniel 3:24-27 NIV).

True Christians who truly love the Lord today serve the same God that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego served. But where is that type of faith today? I remember one time when I was watching “The Ten Commandments” movie on television. They got to the part where Moses was up on the mountain getting the Ten Commandments from God and the Jews had forced Aaron to make a golden calf to be their god. The advertising came on and I switched channels. The other channel had the Oscars on. God spoke to my heart as I saw people going up an escalator. At the top was a row of golden Oscar statues. I thought to myself, “What are they but golden idols that people worship, and give their lives for?” It’s so sad that so many people value these man-made statues. They can’t do anything for you! Even if the devil makes you rich and famous from worshipping them, what good will it do you if you end up in Hell and the Lake of Fire throughout eternity! Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley are still worshiped by some people. But what does it profit them now that they are dead?

Our ministry has had experience working with prison inmates. One problem some of them have is that they can’t believe that God could forgive them after all the things they’ve done. I remember one man in particular who was a pedophile. He said he just couldn’t believe that God would still be able to forgive him after all the things he had done with little children. He wanted to come to God, but he just couldn’t forgive himself. We tried to tell him that God forgives us when we confess our sins and ask Christ to be our Savior, no matter how horrible the sin are? I don’t know for sure if he ever came to Christ and felt God’s redemption, but I think he probably did. For the Lord has a way of reaching people through the Holy Spirit. “...Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come

to call the righteous, but sinners’” (Matthew 9:12-13 NIV). And the Bible says, “‘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. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword’ For the mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 1:18-20 NIV).

The devil, Satan, doesn’t understand that kind of love, because he is the essence of evil. But with God there is forgiveness, if your repentance is real, and you humble yourself before God (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:7). Don’t listen to the devil. For “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him” (1 John 4:8-9 NIV). Jesus also said, “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). So do not trust the lies of the enemy. Satan wants us all to burn in Hell with him (Matt. 25:41, Rev. 21:08). Because that’s where he’s going (see Rev. 20:10). Trust “...the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29 NIV).

God can forgive you no matter what you’ve done! His holy blood can wash over you and put you on the right road to Heaven (Matt. 7:13-14). And your name can be written in the Lamb’s book of life. Because, “If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:15 NIV). “He said to Me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But 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” (Rev. 21:6-8 NIV).

Now if you come to the Lord in repentance and salvation, you will be saved from God’s wrath, but you still have to pay back whatever debt you owe to society. Whatever money you borrowed will have to be paid back. Whatever punishment for a crime you committed you will have to accepted. However, your new relationship with God will give you the peace and joy to handle it. As Paul told the Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (Phil. 4:4-8 NIV). I heard from a former prison inmate that he knew a man that became a Christian in prison. He received the death penalty for his crime. He told the executioners, that he was going to sing a Christian hymn, and to wait until he got to a certain part of the song before they put the poison pellets in his IV. He died praising Jesus and glorifying God.

