



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

February 2022

FROM US TO YOU

Experts say that the winter months of January and February cause a malaise to settle over many people. The holidays are over, and so are the parties. The gifts are unwrapped and put away. And you've noticed it gets dark early. Along with the cold weather, comes a coolness of spirit. The bills are coming in as your waistline has gone out. That's the way it is for worldly folk. But not Christians. We say "This is another day that the Lord has brought. I will be glad and rejoice in it." However, sometimes you may feel like you have stepped in a spiritual mud puddle. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7 KJV). When we live for Christ and try to please our Savior, we make every effort to keep away from things that are designed by demons (Ephesians 6:12) to weaken us and drag us down spiritually. Their idea is to splash some spiritual dirt on us so that we will move away from Christ, out of guilt or fear. It's much harder for the devil to influence us when we are strong in the Lord. So our enemy, the devil, sets out to weaken us gradually.

The mud could come in many forms. More often it comes from something that triggers a temptation, such as a provocative picture you see in the subway, or on a bus. Or it may be from music you hear in a waiting room or in a department store. The trigger could be a fond memory of someone you used to know and the "fun" you used to have before coming to Christ. You feel tempted to miss those times. And the mud gets thicker. However, "when tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; 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 1:13-17 NIV). Perhaps something bad has happened to you, or someone you love, and you start to feel temptation to be angry at God. Satan will be right there with his prodding. The devil always blames God for the things he, the devil, does. But why would anyone who loved you enough to sacrifice His own Son for you deliberately cause you harm? God loves you! "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us" (Romans 8:31-34 NIV).

And we have found, in our own lives, that when we live by faith and trust the Lord, "...we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28 KJV). An example of that is in the life of Joseph (Genesis 50:20) and Daniel (Daniel 6:19-24) and Paul (Acts

16:23-36). So what do you do if you, find yourself ankle deep in a mud puddle? You take your troubles to the Lord in humility and repentance. And He washes your feet for you. Remember when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. "No," said Peter, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me." Then, Lord, Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean..." (John 13:8-11 NIV).

We know that with all the stress of modern life you are likely be discouraged, and your faith will be tested. However, if you really love the Lord, even if you step in a mud puddle, only your feet are dirty. Don't let Satan splash any more mud on you. Take it to the Lord in contrition and repentance and let Him wash your feet and make them clean again. William Cowper wrote a beautiful hymn that expresses the point more clearly. It's called, "There Is A Fountain." "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's vein. And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains. He is the Son of the Living God. He's Jesus, Christ the Holy One. And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains. The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day.

And there may I though vile as he, wash all my sins away. When this poor lispng stammering tongue lies silent in the grave, then in a nobler sweeter song I'll sing Thy power to save." As the scripture says, "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day" (Psalms 46:4-5 NIV).

One word of caution. We hear that suicide is on the rise. However, no matter how troubled your life may be right now, we want you to know that if you trust God with your problems and stay faithful to Christ, you have something wonderful to look forward to in Heaven. Suicide is giving in to the devil. You will not get to Heaven if you commit suicide, because you're controlling your own life instead of letting the Holy Spirit control it (see Galatians 5:19-25). If you love Jesus and live by faith, even with all the problems this world can give, isn't it nice to know that Jesus said there is a mansion waiting for you in Heaven (see John 14:2)? Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 NIV). "Looking at His disciples, He [Jesus] said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 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 6:20-23 NIV).

In Christ's service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



The Human Spirit and Its Body

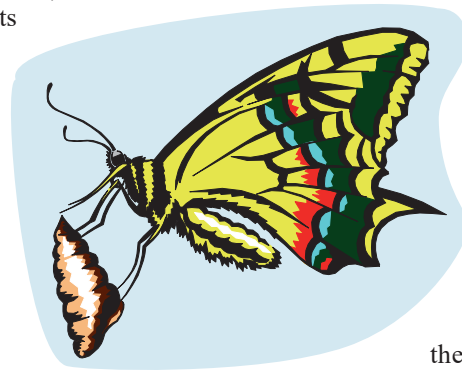
By Anne Kaestner

No one on earth ever had more riches, influence, or power than King Solomon. In his youth he had served the Lord. Consequently, God had blessed him with both tremendous wealth, honor, and wisdom. The Queen of Sheba had traveled from a distant land in order to meet him. After she had spent some time talking with him, *“She said to the king, ‘The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard’”* (1 Kings 10:6-7 NIV). Then, as Solomon grew older, he began to love his possessions and all the good things God had given to him, more than he loved God. He married foreign wives who led his heart away from God, and toward the demon gods (1 Kings 11:4, Nehemiah 13:26) that had been worshipped in their pagan cultures. He even built temples for them. All of this was repugnant to the Lord, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matthew 6:21 NIV). At the end of Solomon’s life, when he finally returned to God, he wrote one of the saddest books in the Bible, Ecclesiastes. In it, he recalled the wasted life he’d lived, and how he had been all wrapped up in his own pleasure. There is a bittersweet quality to Ecclesiastes because Solomon had finally come to his senses and realized that what is really important in life is not that which is temporal, but that which is eternal (Matthew 6:19-34)! You can read about Solomon’s lifestyle and final thoughts in Ecclesiastes 2:1-10, 2:18-20, 11:9-10.

When we are young and healthy, we do not think about eternity much. We take life for granted and assume the distant future is a long way off. But, as we know from news reports, even young people can die. As I get older, the pleasures of this world don’t excite me as much anymore. For they are just distractions from keeping us from thinking about what is really important, eternity. Someone told me recently that she got a Couch bag for Christmas. She was shocked when I didn’t know what a Couch bag was. (I later found out that Couch is a trendy, upscale store that sells very expensive items.) She was young, well-dressed, and attractive, as I had once been. And so something like an expensive bag was important to her. Maybe it would have been to me as well when I was her age. However, now, in comparison to eternity it is so trivial a thing. For the Bible says, *“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).

One thing that really hit home with me after my mother’s death from cancer in early April 1993 was how short life really is! I had never actually considered the possibility that my mother would one day die. She had always seemed such a fixed part of my life. She had always been there. There had been a stability to my life in knowing that. Then all of a sudden, in what seemed like just a few fleeting years, she was dead at only sixty-six years old! Then what? We enter into eternity. And that’s forever. People often have trouble understanding why God makes certain decisions in our lives. Why do people get sick? Why do little children die of horrible diseases? Why does God allow His children to go through so much suffering? The answer is simple. God, unlike mortal man, looks at us in terms of eternity. And if He loves us, He makes judgments about us based on the eternal

ramifications they hold. Everything that we do in this ministry is for the sole purpose of promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ, and His way to salvation. It is important because you will not live forever in your human body, but you will exist forever! Some day your spirit will leave your body. Then your body will begin slowly to decompose and return back into the dust from which God created it. But your spirit will never die, because it is eternal! *“The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being”* (Genesis 2:7 NIV). There are those who have been confused over the years with talk about “soul sleep,” the belief that after death we are all asleep in the grave until we are awakened by Christ at the sound of the Trumpet (see 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54). At that time, both those of us who are alive, and those who have died in Christ, will all get new bodies and be united with Him in the clouds. Christians refer to this event as “The Rapture of the Church.” However, I do not find any evidence in the Bible to support the doctrine of “soul sleep” (Romans 8:10). As Solomon put it, when the silver cord that attaches your soul to your body is cut by God, your soul leaves your body and your body decomposes back into dust *“and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it”* (Ecclesiastes 12:7 NIV). It doesn’t sleep in the ground.



From the time of death until that time that we are to receive our resurrected bodies, we will be very much awake. At the moment of death your inner body will be set free from its outer shell, rather like a caterpillar shedding its earthbound body and receiving a new lighter body that can fly. No, we will not develop wings. Our inner bodies look a lot like our outer bodies, except that they are transparent. However, you will only receive your “solid, glorified, resurrected body” at the time of the Rapture. Between the time of death and the Rapture, you will have the use of your “inner” or temporary body. It will be a “spiritual body.” Both the “saved” as well as the “unsaved” have “spiritual bodies” upon death.

In the story of Lazarus and the Rich Man mentioned in Luke, both Lazarus (who was “saved”) and the Rich Man (who was “unsaved”) had died. Lazarus was in Past Paradise, which was a special chamber near Hell where the Old Testament righteous awaited Christ to redeem them (see Luke 23:43 and Ephesians 4:8-10). However, the Rich Man ended up in the real Hell, that could be compared to a “City Jail” where a convict is held while awaiting trial. All “unsaved” people who died back then ended up in this place. It’s still there, and it is constantly receiving new people into it. After the future trial and judgment mentioned in Revelation 20:11-15, these “unsaved” people will then be cast into “The Lake of Fire” which is like the federal prison. It will be a place of no release, no appeals, and it will last forever. These days those who die in Christ go straight to Heaven. As you will see from the scripture in Luke, both Lazarus and the Rich Man had bodies. They obviously weren’t human bodies. Their human bodies would never be able to survive the heat of Hell. It is in the center of the earth, and extremely hot! When Hell overflows, the Lake of Fire bubbles up from the center of the earth, and pours out of holes in special volcanic mountains, flooding the surrounding earth with its hot liquid fire (see Deuteronomy 32:22). So those awaiting judgment in Hell, need bodies that can withstand the heat! They are spiritual bodies. Those who die and go to Heaven to be with Christ also have spiritual bodies. However, they are not yet “Glorified, Resurrected” bodies. You will notice that the Rich Man though dead,

still had a body, but it wasn't the body he'd had while on earth. That had been buried already.

The scripture says, *"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).*

The Bible isn't real specific about this. But it does speak of a "spiritual inner body" that each of us has beneath our regular human body. Paul, speaking of the Lord, says, *"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being"* (Ephesians 3:16 NIV). Paul compares the process to the plant world. He says, *"So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body"* (1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NIV). When you sow a seed, a flower is able to begin the process of growth. But during the winter months certain flowers wither and die. Although their outward bodies seem dead, just beneath the surface life is still there. And in the springtime, that flower comes back to life again. The substance of the flower never really died. Only the outside visible shell of the plant died. The inside of the plant was still alive. Paul is saying that we humans die on the outside of our bodies during the process of death, but the inside does not die.

If you peel away the outer layer of an orange, you don't kill the orange. The inside fruit is still there, fresh and delicious. The outside of an orange has a thick protective layer. But the inside of the orange has a different type of layer. The different segments of the orange are held together by whitish colored membranes that entwine around the clear inner skin. So, I believe that what Paul is saying is that inside our human bodies, there is another body. It's a spiritual body. While on this earth we have human bodies. After death, the silver umbilical cord (which cannot be seen with human eyes) is cut, and the spirit of the person leaves their body. If they die in Christ, they go to Heaven right away. If not, they go to Hell immediately.

You may have heard about a book written by actress Shirley MacLaine called "Out On A Limb." I never read the book, but they made a television movie about it that I saw years ago. MacLaine somehow got involved in the occult, and one of the events she spoke about in the book was also portrayed in the movie. It took place

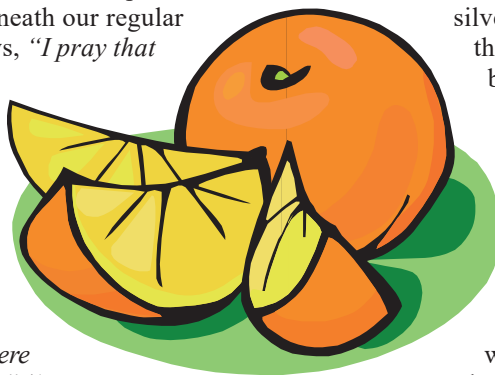
in Peru. She had an "out-of-body experience." Christians know this as an occult practice referred to as "astral-projection." It requires the help of demon spirits to achieve, although I doubt that the people engaging in this activity know this the first time around. She recalls her spirit leaving her body and floating upward, up into outer space. As her spirit left her body, she saw a beautiful silver umbilical cord. In the occult realm this practice is very popular. However, I've heard of one account of a young woman who thought that astral-projection was great fun until one day when she was unable to re-enter her body. Eventually God allowed her spirit to return to it, but the experience frightened her so much that she repented of her sins and became a Christian. The Bible also speaks of a silver cord. Solomon wrote about it. He said, *"When men are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets... and desire no longer is stirred. Then man goes to his eternal home and mourners go about the streets. Remember Him [our Redeemer]—before the SILVER CORD is severed, ...and the dust returns to the ground it came from [human body], and the spirit returns to God who gave it"* (Ecclesiastes 12:5-7 NIV). In Revelation 4:2, the Apostle John explains how God enabled him to travel in his spiritual body into Heaven, in order to witness the events he later wrote about. Many people who have been badly injured have had out-of-body experiences. Lots of them, while clinically dead, remember floating around the top of the operating room while the doctors tried to restart their heart. But they weren't totally dead, because the silver cord hadn't been broken yet. Only

God can decide when that will take place. When the silver cord is broken, the person is then dead, and their body begins to return to dust. The process begins with rigor mortis.

This seems to be a good time to explain something else on this subject. People who claim to have seen ghosts, always state that they are made up of a cloud-like, vaporish substance, as dead humans are. However, the Bible indicates that when we humans die, we either go through the small gate on a narrow road that leads to Heaven or the wide gate and broad road that leads to Hell (see Matthew 7:13-14). Because, *"...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27 KJV). We don't come back and haunt the earth. However, demons do! For, *"...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). In the New International version of the Bible, which I use, the angels who helped Satan with his mutiny are called demons. God destroyed their solid bodies (Ezekiel 28:18) as part of their punishment. They live among us in another dimension. And they deceive people into believing they are dead humans. They are not.

We all originally descended from Adam. Adam's body was just a lifeless piece of flesh that God had created out of the dust of the ground until He breathed life into it (Genesis 2:7 and James 2:26). Adam's body eventually died, and returned to dust, but the life that God breathed into it didn't. Today Adam is either in Heaven or Hell; the debate goes on in religious circles. After death takes place, our outward body is destroyed, but the inner body remains. It is our spiritual body. I heard that a medical doctor who had a death experience but came back to life, remembers that his spiritual body looked just like his human body, except that it was without any reproductive organs, (see Matthew 22:30) and that it was made of, in his words, "a cloud like material" (see Luke

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24:39 and James 4:14). When the Bible speaks about the “Resurrection in Christ,” it refers to the new glorified bodies that Christians will eventually receive. But only those who died in Christ. The worldly folk will just stay in Hell in their spiritual bodies until the day of judgment. None of the people in Hell will have anything to do with the Resurrection, because it is just for God’s people. The Apostle Paul spoke of the Resurrection in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. The Bible also mentions it in Luke 14:14, 20:34-38, John 5:25, and Daniel 12:2. It is at that moment that we will receive our Resurrected Bodies, much better bodies than our temporary spiritual bodies!

Our Resurrected Bodies will be like the one that Jesus had after He rose from the dead (Philippians 3:21). He was able to eat a meal (John 21:13-14). He was solid and could be touched, as doubting Thomas found out (John 20:27). But He was also able to appear and disappear at will (Luke 24:31). He was able to walk through solid matter that our present human bodies could never penetrate (see Luke 24:36 and John 20:26). He was able to do this because His new glorified body was made in such a way that its molecular structure was different, and not subject to the limitations that our present bodies have to deal with. For years, I had trouble understanding how a solid body could walk through a wall, but now the Lord has given me the knowledge of how it works. If you were

to look at the human body under a microscope, you would discover that it is mostly made of water. Within that fluid there are certain molecules that float around. They are so densely held together that it seems to us that our bodies are solid. We can’t walk through a wall because the molecular structure of the wall is in the same basic pattern as the molecular structure of our bodies. However, the type of body that Christ had after He rose from the dead, and the type that we will have at the time of the Rapture, is not made the same way as the human body. The molecular structure of our glorified bodies will make it possible for us to walk through a wall because the molecules in our bodies won’t be hitting up against the molecules in the wall anymore and blocking our path, as currently is the case. The liquid in our bodies will pass through the molecules in the wall. And the liquid part of the wall will pass through the molecules in our bodies. Or to put it another way, if you have a big jar filled to the top with marbles you will not be able to put your hand into the jar and touch the bottom of it from the inside. The marbles will be blocking your way. However, if you have the marbles distributed throughout a thick liquid, as the molecules in our body float in, then you will be able to pass your hand right through the liquid, bypassing the marbles, until it reaches the bottom.

To sum up, the Bible seems to say that on the inside of our human bodies, we have another inner body that our souls are contained in. As you know, you can’t get to the tiny little pulp-like pieces of an orange until you have peeled away the outside skin. And even then, the inner membrane still protects the pulp. If the inner membrane wasn’t there, the tiny little pieces of bright orange pulp wouldn’t have anything in which to contain them. When we die, our outside body is too badly damaged to sustain life. At that moment, our inner body (which contains the spirit) leaves our human body. It is connected to our human body with a silver umbilical cord. If our human body is repaired quickly enough, our spirit, which is still connected by the cord, is able to re-enter our human body. However, once God chooses to cut the spiritual umbilical

cord, our souls will never be able to re-enter our bodies, and we are dead! Christ was the first one to receive a newly resurrected body. While dead and buried for three days, He was absent from His human body. But in His spiritual body He was able to go into Hell and preach to those awaiting judgment (1 Peter 3:18-19). At the time of the Rapture our disintegrated or decayed, earthly bodies will be miraculously brought back to life by Christ. They will be renovated by God, the way an old dilapidated house might be renovated. But instead of simple restoration, our bodies will be re-made into a much-improved form, thus becoming “glorified.” They will be much better bodies. Going back to 1 Corinthians 15:44, Paul seems to be saying that even though our dead human body may be buried in the ground at the time of death, our spirit will not be with it. Our spirits (thoughts, mind, consciousness) will be in our spiritual bodies, which will be either in Heaven or Hell. However, at the time of the Resurrection, our human bodies which are buried (or “sown,” to use Paul’s analogy in 1 Corinthians 15:35-49), will have been miraculously changed by God. At that time, when our “glorified” or “resurrected” bodies are risen from the graves, or sea, or wherever, our “inner spiritual bodies” will re-enter their old homes, which now will have been changed into the same type of “glorified body” that Christ had after rising from the dead. So, 1 Corinthians 15:51, which says in part “...we shall not all sleep...” is referring to the condition of the human body, not the soul.



At nighttime, most of us usually sleep. It rests the body. But our mind is still wide awake, in a spiritual zone often involving dreams. Our spirits don’t need rest. It’s our human bodies that need rest. And scientists have proven that brain waves are still active even when a person is in a deep sleep. Have you ever awoken from a sound sleep to a type of strange thud in your body? Sometimes you may feel as if you are falling right before you wake up. The thud occurs when your spirit, which had left your body while your body rested, re-entered your body quickly. That is why Jesus said of a young girl who had died, “...*The girl is not dead but asleep...*”

(Matthew 9:24 NIV). Real death, occurs only after your silver umbilical cord is broken by God. So, while our bodies may be “sleeping” or resting in the grave, our spirits do not sleep. They will remain very much awake at the time, but not in their human bodies. They will be in their spiritual bodies. In fact, because our spirits need no sleep, those of us who get to Heaven someday will never experience night anymore. Night is the time created by God for people to rest while in their human bodies here on earth. But in Heaven we will no longer have human bodies. We will have either spiritual bodies (before the Rapture) or glorified bodies (afterward) that never need sleep (see Revelation 22:5). Those of us who die in Christ will then live with Him and serve Him forever. Like Jesus after being raised from the dead, we will be in our new resurrected bodies. The Bridegroom (Isaiah 54:5, Matthew 9:15, 25:10, and Revelation 19:7-9) will finally be united physically and spiritually with His beloved bride.

So consider the wisdom of Solomon, “*The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one Shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil*” (Ecclesiastes 12:11-14 NIV).