



NON-PROFIT

The Good News Letter

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TAX-EXEMPT

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

February 2023

FROM US TO YOU

It's February, the traditional month of love due to the legend of St. Valentine. Five years ago, on February 14, 2018, the two of us renewed our wedding vows along with perhaps hundreds of other couples, at a ceremony held at the Coral House in Baldwin, the same place where we held our original wedding reception forty-three years ago. Naturally, we have had our ups and downs over the years, our highs and our lows. But we were willing to do it all over again, because God brought us together and kept us that way. People ask us "What's your secret?" We'll share our answer with you. It's simple and easy. We both love Jesus Christ more than we love each other. He's not "the man upstairs" as some people say. He's not some character out of a story book. He's the Lord God Almighty, Son of God the Father, and the second Person of the Holy Trinity of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He's real. He's full of love, the very essence of it (see 1 John 4:9-10), and He cares about you and those you love.

If Jesus isn't working in your life, and your situation is a mess, it's probably because you haven't repented of your sins to God (not a priest) and asked Him to forgive you, and to come into your heart and change your life. Jesus said, *"...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (John 8:12 NIV). He will shed His Holy light on the dark areas of your problem and show you what to do about it. And as you draw closer to Him in humility and supplication, Jesus will give you an amazing peace and joy. The apostle Paul, put it this way, *"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"* (Philippians 4:6-7 NIV).

Who do you love most in this world; a friend, mother, father, brother, sister, your neighbor? Does that person love you enough to die an agonizingly painful, humiliating (Matthew 25:35-37), lonely (Mark 14:50) death in your place? Jesus Christ did. And God the Father, *"...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). God is not the one causing your problems. Satan, the devil, is (Revelation 12:9-10). He's the one causing sickness, accidents, crime, death, and misery. And he hates God for throwing him out of Heaven (see Luke 10:18), taking away his solid body (Ezekiel 28:19), and removing all the wealth, power, and prestige he once had (Ezekiel 28:13-18). Hell and the Lake of Fire were prepared for Satan and his demon helpers (Matthew 25:41), not mankind. In the meantime, Satan has been ruling this planet since God gave it to Adam and Adam obeyed the devil and sinned against God. That's because, as Jesus put it, *"...I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin"* (John 8:34 NIV). That made Adam and all his descendants

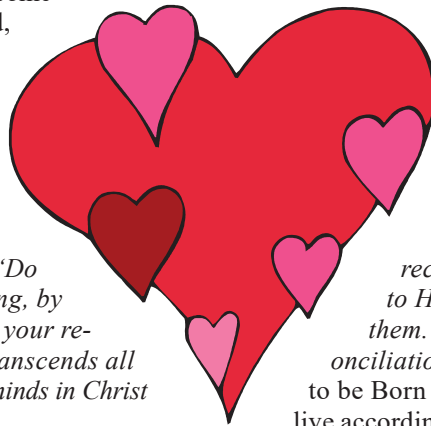
slaves to the devil. Now Adam was originally a son of God (Luke 3:38). But Adam changed master when he became a slave of the devil. A slave owns no property. What he used to own his master now owns.

People think God rules the earth. He does not. Nor does making you human make you a child of God. Jesus told the religious leaders in His day, *"...If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on My own; but He sent Me. Why is My language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 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 8:42-44 NIV). Christ is the only one who can set you free (1 Timothy 2:5-6)! *"He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God"* (John 1:11-13 NIV). *"Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"* (John 8:35-36 NIV). *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation."* (2 Corinthians 5:17-19 NIV). It's not hard to be Born Again (John 3:16). You just need to repent and live according to God's Spirit daily, turning from your past to the Lord. Keeping that salvation is the hard part (1 Peter 4:18, John 15:1-6).

*"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will **not** inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other"* (Galatians 5:19-26 NIV).

On a personal note, we want to thank all our supporters whose financial generosity makes this work possible. We also want to thank you prayer warriors out there whose prayers on our behalf are the backbone of our ministry. Please keep them up! We have many health and financial issues. May God bless all of you!

Eric and Anne Kaestner



The Prince, the Bride, and the Holy City

By Anne Kaestner

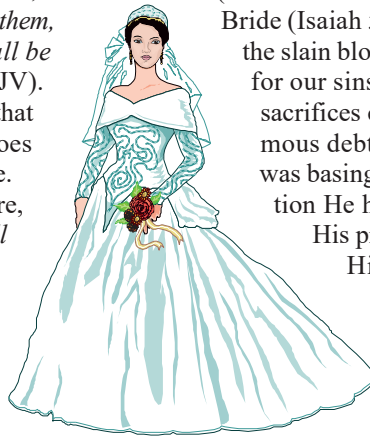
Unfortunately, this world is filled with problems. Mankind has sinned against God, his Creator, and has been reaping the painful consequences since the days of Adam. However, there's another Adam. He's the Last Adam, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:45). As a result of this Adam, those of us who love and serve the Lord are, therefore, no longer citizens of this world system, as far as God is concerned. For our true home is in Heaven. The Lord thinks of His Church as a city. With all the chaos and misery we face in this world, a better world is coming for the Holy City of God. The city I am speaking about is a spiritual entity called New Jerusalem. You will not find it on a map, neither should it be confused with ancient Jerusalem, King David's Capital City, which is a physical city located in Israel today (see Galatians 4:22-26). One of the definitions for "city" is "The inhabitants of a city considered as a group." It refers to people. This is the way New Jerusalem is described in the Bible. For it is not streets and buildings that God is concerned with, but human hearts! Therefore, while the Lord's Bride will eventually be given a physical home in which to dwell (John 14:2), the true City of God is not a place, but a people (Hebrews 12:22-23)! The apostle John wrote, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Revelation 21:2-3 KJV). Most people reading these verses quickly conclude that the "tabernacle of God" refers to a building, but it does not! For Jesus is the tabernacle of God spoken of here.

Another name for tabernacle is temple. Therefore, "Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' But the temple He had spoken of was His body" (John 2:19-21 NIV). Jesus considered His body a temple! As for the Lord's Bride, the true Church, Paul wrote, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV). Why are we, who truly love Him, considered part of His own Body? It is because we are His Bride (2 Corinthians 11:2)! For in order to redeem us, Christ needed to take our infirmities upon Himself. The way that was accomplished was through marriage! "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... His purpose was to create in Himself one **new man** out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death **their** hostility" (Ephesians 2:13-16 NIV). That is the reason why scripture tells us that one of the mysteries accomplished by Christ on Calvary was that He was able "...to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace" (Ephesians 2:15 NIV). Remember, Christ is the replacement for Adam. Adam was originally one total person, both male and female! The Bible says, "Male and female created He **them**; and blessed **them**, and called **their** name Adam, in the day when they were created" (Genesis 5:2 KJV). On Calvary Christ went through a similar process to that of Adam. However, in the Lord's case, what occurred was not physical, but spiritual!

As Eve was created from Adam's own body, and came into being

as a result of Adam's rib being broken off in order to form her, Christ's body was broken for us on Calvary. We were then able to become spiritually married to Him, just as Eve had been married to Adam through the brokenness of Adam's body. Christ had to become one with us in order to redeem us from our sins. "For He himself is our peace, who has made the two one..." (Ephesians 2:14 NIV). Christ is the Last Adam. The original Adam was a complete man who became two separate units united together again through marriage (Genesis 2:23). In order to save us, Jesus had to take our sins upon Himself. The way He did that was through spiritual marriage! For just as Eve was separated from Adam's body and became a distinct entity, yet formed from Adam's own flesh, Christ had to take a spiritual part of us upon Himself in order to suffer our pain and pay our debt. Once this was accomplished, He brought us forth out of His body. For although those who loved and served God in Old Testament days were set apart as His people, there was no family relationship prior to the Lord's death. They lived on the promise of His coming, just as an engaged woman might live on the promise that her fiancé will come to her at the appointed time, and they will be united together in marriage (see Matthew 25:1). Old Testament believers were betrothed to their Redeemer in spiritual marriage (Hosea 2:19-20), and sometimes referred to prophetically, as His Bride (Isaiah 54:5-6). That was based only on the Old Covenant, the slain blood of lambs and calves, which could never truly pay for our sins. The sin of mankind is so great that these animal sacrifices could barely even pay off the "interest" on the enormous debt owed to God (Hebrews 10:4-7). That's why God was basing their relationship totally on the promise of redemption He had prepared for them. As long as they believed in His promise (Job 19:25-27), they were sanctified through His prophesied Word (John 1:1-14). Their salvation was not based on works, but grace (Romans 4:2-3). Abraham, Moses, and other Old Testament prophets believed and trusted in the same Jesus Christ that we put our hope and faith in today! "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" John 8:58 NIV. Also, see Exodus 3:14. "Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant" (Hebrews 7:22 NIV). For we don't just live on the promise of His coming, as they did. We live on the result of it! Therefore, "...we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV). We, God's people, were not really made His beloved Bride until the Lord's death on Calvary. For that is when He "set the captives free" (Ephesians 4:8).

The first bride, Eve, was taken out of the body of the first Adam, our original father. Therefore, those of us who have become married to the Last Adam, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:45), have come out of His body, and His spilt blood! When the original Bride, Eve, was formed for and from Adam, "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man" (Genesis 2:21-22 KJV). This scripture tells us very clearly that an incision was made in Adam's body, and an operation was performed on him. God didn't need anesthesia to make the man fall asleep. He just willed it. Moreover, like any human operation, when the body is opened up, and a rib is taken out of a man, blood is spilt. God then "...closed up the place with the flesh" (Genesis 2:21 KJV). From that incision in the man's side, spilt blood, and broken rib, a woman was formed. What occurred on Calvary was due to the work of Christ, the Last Adam. He undid the damage created by the first



Adam. In the Bible death is often referred to as sleep (Matthew 9:24, Acts 7:60, 1 Corinthians 15:6). Therefore, when Christ died for us on Calvary, it was symbolic of the sleep God brought on Adam so that He could bring forth out of Adam, a bride. The Bride of Christ came forth out of the Last Adam the same way. *“The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs”* (John 19:32-33 NIV). Spiritual “sleep” was the first connection between the original Adam, and the Last. God formed Eve out of the first Adam’s side, one of his ribs. In the case of the Last Adam, *“...one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water”* (John 19:34 NIV). The first Adam *“...said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”* (Genesis 2:23-24 KJV). With the Last Adam, Christ had to leave His Heavenly Father in order to take us as His wife, thus redeeming us from the household of Satan. St. Paul wrote, *“For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church”* (Ephesians 5:30-32 KJV). Therefore, since Jesus is the *“...Tabernacle of God...”* (Revelation 21:3 KJV), and we have become part of His flesh, we are also tabernacles of God! (See John 2:21.) Millions of tabernacles (human bodies housing our human spirits) create a huge city. That’s why the Bible tells us that we, the Lord’s Bride, are His Holy City New Jerusalem! We have been cleansed by His blood, and washed in the water that gushed from His own wound. That is why, *“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). That’s why *“Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God...”* (Psalms 87:3 KJV).

“Now wait a minute,” some of you might say. “How can we as a people be a city?” What is a city, but a type of kingdom? Moreover, the term “Kingdom of God” is mentioned 69 times in the New Testament alone, and occurs in 68 verses. Yes, Heaven is very real, and the Lord’s Bride will live there someday. However, those of us who are still alive today, and have not yet gone home to Heaven, are still legal residents of the Kingdom of God, because it refers to a citizenship as well as a place. If, for example, you are an American who is temporarily living overseas, you are still part of America, even though you are away from home, for “America” is really more than a geographic place, it is also a people. Now take a look at Isaiah 54, and notice that God the Son (vs. 5) is speaking to His beloved bride, who, in those days, consisted primarily of the Hebrews. However, in the same chapter, He speaks of His bride as if she is a building (vs. 11 and 12). Now move over to Revelation and you will notice that Jesus refers to His church/bride the same way when He says, to *“Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of My God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from My God; and I will also write on him My new name”* (Revelation 3:12 NIV). That’s because, while there is a physical city called New Jerusalem, there is also a collection of people, the redeemed of Christ, whom the Lord thinks of as His bride. These people are also referred to as New Jerusalem. The physical city of New Jerusalem will have streets



of gold (Revelation 21:21) and big pearly gates, but the real value of the city is not gold or fine stones, it is the people (1 Peter 1:18-19). We were all originally brought into this world system contaminated with the sin of our original father, Adam (Romans 5:12-19). However, through marriage to Christ, we can be delivered from the household of bondage into which we were originally born. For the first Adam ended up falling under the control of Satan. Nevertheless, we can become children of God, through marriage to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (John 1:12-13). Our ancestors were born into the bondage of sin (John 8:34 and Romans 7:14), the same sin that all of us were born into today. However, those of us who have been “Born Again” (John 3:3), and have left our previous master, Satan, have become a “New Creation” in Christ Jesus (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), and are no longer under Satan’s hold and power. That doesn’t mean that Satan won’t send strong temptation against you in order to try to sway you back into his family of the dead (Luke 9:60), because he will. God will allow Satan to tempt you, up to a point, in order to test your commitment to Him (Job 1:8-12, Luke 22:31-32, 1 Peter 5:10, James 1:13-17, and Revelation 2:10). If you can be easily swayed back into Satan’s household, you didn’t really take your commitment to Christ seriously, and the Lord doesn’t want a halfhearted Bride (Revelation 3:15-16). Being a serious Christian puts you at enmity with the god of this world (Matthew 4:8-9, John 14:30, Ephesians 2:2-3), Satan. *“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). This means powerful demonic beings that rule under Satan over his kingdom of the dead (Ephesians 2:1). That’s why those of us in the army of Christ (Revelation 19:7-8, 14), need to *“...take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand”* (Ephesians 6:13 KJV) because our weapons are Spiritual, that is from the Holy Spirit! They are not earthly! For all that is earthly falls under the control of Satan, and obviously, the devil isn’t going to fight against himself (see Matthew 12:25-26). Therefore, his

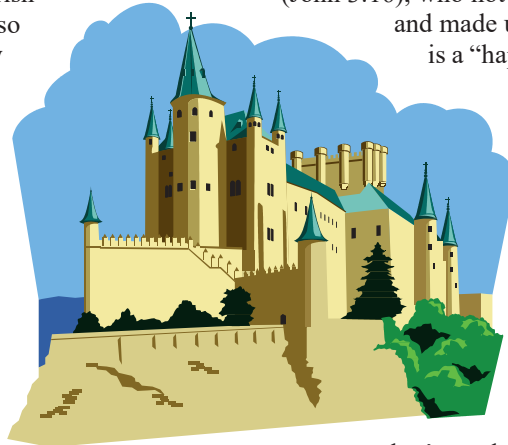
strategy is to divide and conquer God’s kingdom! That means you and me, Christian. For if you are truly a servant of Christ, washed in His blood, and clothed with His righteousness, you are part of His Kingdom. Remember that *“Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is from another place’”* (John 18:36 NIV). These words of Christ hold so much truth for His people today! For Satan has been trying, through the use of false prophets (Matthew 7:15, 2 Corinthians 11:13-14, 2 Peter 2:10-22, Jude 1:3-16) to separate and weaken God’s people. That’s why there are so many different branches of the Christian faith. God isn’t a schizophrenic, nor is He subjected to cognitive dissonance. He has only one opinion on each subject, His own! Therefore, the church makes a mistake when she expects God to acquiesce to her way, instead of being a loyal bride and obediently following her Lord and Savior, and His plans.

This world was created by God according to a master blueprint. It was not made in chaos, but in perfect symmetrical order and purpose (Proverbs 8:22-36). At the time of creation this planet was perfect in every way (Genesis 1:31). The world wasn’t at war with itself, for God was running it! Yet since the fall of mankind (see Genesis chapter 3) that has changed, and Adam, who was given original control over this world system, rebelled from God and consequently changed masters. That’s how **(Continued on Page 4)**

The Prince, the Bride, and... (Continued From Page 3)

Satan ended up running this world system, and that's why those who love this current world are enemies of God (James 4:4). For the world we live in today will eventually be destroyed by fire (see 2 Peter 3:10 and Matthew 24:35). *"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"* (2 Peter 3:13 KJV). The devil has been fighting against us, to destroy and doom mankind since the time Satan fell into sin and rebelled against God (Isaiah 14:11-15). The confusion we face in this life does not come from God, because confusion brings fear. *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV). Human society is filled with confusion because it is made up of sinful human beings who live in a perpetual state of rebellion (Isaiah 59:1-3). As a people, we have sinned against God, and He is the Light that illuminates all the darkness around us (John 8:12). Therefore, when people are so far away from the light that they live in darkness, there is no illumination to see the truth. For the truth is found in He who said, *"...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me"* (John 14:6 KJV). Why are there so many different concepts and views of the truth? You'll see preachers and theologians on television talk shows. They are all happy to discuss their own opinions on what they feel Christianity ought to be. They're not receiving their nourishment from the Vine of Christ, (John 15:1-6) so God can't speak through them. Therefore, they use their platforms as a means by which to further their own ideas (Jeremiah 50:6, Ezekiel 22:24-28, 2 Corinthians 11:13, Jude 1:4). Many of these men say that salvation is found in social programs and good works (Ephesians 2:8-9 and Isaiah 64:6). Others say that Christianity means obeying certain rules and regulations of the church. But the church did not die for us on Calvary, Christ did! Therefore, *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12 KJV). Salvation is not found in the Lord's Bride, but in the Groom, Jesus Christ (Matthew 9:15, 25:1, John 3:28-29).

The problem with the Church of Christ today is that it is not relying enough on the wisdom that comes from God, but is trusting too much in human wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:4, 2:14, and 3:19). Too much human flesh is involved, and not enough of the Spirit of God (John 3:30). As a result, Christians are getting in God's way, and preventing Him from doing good things for His people. God is a gentleman, and will not force Himself on anyone. If you want to rely on human wisdom to solve life's problems, God will allow it, and you will suffer the dire consequences (Romans 8:7-9). Because, as Christians, *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds"* (2 Corinthians 10:4 KJV). This scripture refers to Satanic strongholds of power and influence that have an evil grip on people and nations. That is what the Bible means when it says, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Ephesians 6:12 KJV). "Flesh and Blood" refers to the human nature. That's why, *"...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption"* (1 Corinthians 15:50 KJV). Through our normal human nature we cannot make it to Heaven (see Romans 8:7 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-3). These days there are too many people walking



around claiming to be Christians, when they have not yet been delivered from the sinful lusts and passions of their past! God will give new believers some time to repent of these things, but remember Lot's wife, who was delivered from the destruction of Sodom only to look back longingly on her past (Genesis 19:26), and lose her salvation. For, *"Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God'"* (Luke 9:62 NIV).

Human nature has always been in search of an alternative to God's own Son, Jesus Christ. That's why you hear about "Superman" coming from another planet to save mankind, or fairy stories about a wealthy prince from a faraway kingdom coming to the aid of a poor, disadvantaged lady in distress, such as Cinderella. The prince sweeps her off her feet and rescues her. At the end of the storybook there will usually be a colorful drawing of the Prince's home, a beautiful castle up on a high hill set against big puffy clouds and a rainbow. The prince is seen riding on a white horse, and he is dressed in regal apparel. The end of the storybook usually states, *"And they lived happily ever after."* Sadly, in this world there is no human prince in shining armor who will come to your aid and change your life. However, Satan would like you to believe that there is, because he loves to counterfeit the things of God. Even so, the news is good, for God can do far better for you than some one-dimensional storybook character! He has offered us His own begotten Son (John 3:16), who not only gave His life for us, but also married us, and made us His Bride (Ephesians 5:25). In Christ there is a "happily ever after." He is the only "happily ever after!" He is our Prince of Peace (see Isaiah 9:6), and He's coming back to this planet for His beloved Bride! He has said, *"In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am"* (John 14:2-3 NIV). Jesus will return to this world and the armies of Heaven will be coming back with Him (Rev. 19:11-14). People, I

don't need to tell you that this world is a lousy place. But those who put their hope and faith in Jesus Christ have a better world to look forward to! For there really is a kingdom of beauty and peace, and a Prince who left Heaven in order to redeem us. The first time, He came to Earth to save us, and He will come back again to deliver us from the tribulation to come, if we are found worthy to escape it (Matthew 25:1-12 and Revelation 3:16) for it is not far off. That escape is called the Rapture of the Church and is spoken about in 1 Corinthians 15:52-55 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Life may seem unbearable right now and, like Cinderella, you may feel like you're living among the ashes, but there is salvation available in the Prince of Glory, Jesus Christ!

As in Mark Twain's book, "The Prince & The Pauper," Jesus Christ has changed places with us and accepted our fate. He has taken, in His own body, the punishment for our sin! There is only one prince worth believing in. He is the one who will soon be crowned, King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 17:14, 19:12-16). He, our Prince, has loved us, taken pity on us, and has delivered us from the misery of our original earthly kingdom into the glory that is His in Heaven. He has done this through His own spilt blood! He has married us into His own Family, and sanctified us through His blood! For without becoming one with Christ, we have no salvation. *"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Corinthians 15:57 NIV). This will be our happy ending, and this is how our true story will end (Revelation 21:2-5).