



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

January 2021

FROM US TO YOU

It's a new year! The holidays are over and we are all hoping that this new year will be a lot better than the last one. Remember that the time is getting shorter until the return of Christ (Revelation 19:11-21) and the devil's time of running this earth will be over for good. It's like the song says, "There's A New World Coming, and it's just around the bend. There's a new world coming. This world is coming to an end." That's great news for everyone who has repented of their sins (Matthew 4:17), and now lives daily for Jesus Christ (Luke 6:46-49)! Satan knows that his time is short (Revelation 12:12), and that's why he is working overtime to cause as many problems for the rest of us as possible. So, what should we do? *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen"* (1 Peter 5:6-11 NIV).

Remember, that the battle we face is a spiritual battle, with demons planning the strategy. *"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). The Bible says that Satan, *"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 12:9 NIV). However, Satan doesn't just come as a dragon, a serpent, and a deceiver. He also comes in other ways too. And lately, he is coming more like a giant octopus, with eight long tentacles that work toward the same goal through various means. It may seem hard for us humans to understand how so many different organizations can work together, even in covert ways, to fulfill the devil's purpose. For example, to control a population, you may come up with a strategy that seems honorable, like the eradication of a plague. The people have to be told how serious the problem is. That's where the mass news media comes in. The next generation, which may not watch the news as much as their parents, has to be told. That's where the department of education gets involved. So, both entities are working together. Then you get politicians involved, to promote the idea that the situation is more serious.

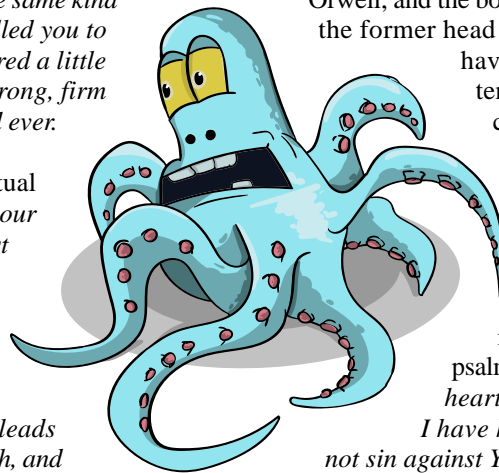
Most of the public is convinced that they have to make certain sacrifices. So small businesses close down for awhile. However, they notice that their big, more powerful, counterparts are not making the same sacrifices. They realize there is a double standard and they rebel. Then comes the governmental officials, who depend on

the large companies for their support. They crack down on the small rebels and put the full weight of the government on them. The rebels don't have the financial resources to fight back, the way a large business does. So, they are put out of business. Because they have to support their themselves and their families, they need government help. So, they become dependent on the government. That brings them one step closer to Communism. However, Communism is a philosophy that sets itself up as the ultimate power, and so prayer and worship to God interferes with its control. Therefore, churches, Bibles, and hymns are outlawed. Government control gets stronger, and only the most loyal and powerful to the cause do well.

Enter technology. In most industrial countries, like the United States, everyone has a cell phone. If you can speak to Google and get an answer, those who know how to do so, can listen in on private conversations, even in your own home. Cameras and videos are everywhere these days. It brings to mind the book "1984" by George Orwell, and the book's nemesis, "Big Brother." James Comey, the former head of the FBI has stated that "no one should have the assumption of privacy." Slowly, the tentacles come together, to work toward their common goal. So far, we have the media tentacle, the health care tentacle, the education tentacle, the government tentacle, and the technology tentacle. Their purpose is to squeeze and suppress the individual rights of any objectors to move them into compliance. So, what is the Christian to do? Here's a clue. As the psalmist wrote, in prayer, *"I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You"* (Psalms 119:10-11 NIV).

Do not depend on your church for your relationship with God. It may not be there! Even Bibles are often destroyed in Communist countries. So now is the time to read your Bible and memorize scripture. Renew your walk with God. Know the Bible in your heart and you head. Satan can destroy your body, as he has with thousands of strong Christians over the centuries and still does in many countries today. But he can't separate the Lord from you! Jesus said, *"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are one"* (John 10:27-30 NIV). It's not just total control over a country that Satan is looking to achieve, through the Antichrist (1 John 2:18 and 2 John 1:7). It's the entire world! The book of Revelation tells us about future events. Be prepared to fight the battle to win! *"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds"* (2 Corinthians 10:3-4 NIV).

Through Christ's love, we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



RESISTING TEMPTATION

By Anne Kaestner

Many years ago, I heard an evangelist, who was famous at the time, state a self-prophetic warning to the crowd. He said, "Sin will make a fool of you. And is it so selfish!" Just a few weeks after his statement, there were national headlines about him having sex with a prostitute. It didn't totally destroy his ministry, but it weakened it greatly. And it hurt a lot of Christians, who had looked upon him as an example. At church, the Sunday after the news came out, one woman said to my husband and me, "I'm embarrassed to tell people I'm a Christian now." Of course, the woman had her focus in the wrong place. Because our faith doesn't depend on any one human. It depends on Jesus Christ! A few weeks later, we drove part way across the country, and folks were still talking about it. People will always let you down when you make an idol out of anyone. "For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 KJV). All too often, Christians make the mistake of putting their faith in some religious leader. The whole Catholic church revolves around the Pope, not Christ. Yet the Bible says clearly, "...there is one God and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men..." (1 Timothy 2:5-6 NIV).

The fact is, if we ever expect to get to Heaven, our sin has to be paid for. And Jesus Christ was the only one to do that! Not any religious leader. He said, "...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6 NIV).

He is our only hope of living a life above sin and pleasing God! Even the most righteous of men mentioned in the Bible committed sin. David had an adulterous affair with Bathsheba and arranged to have her husband killed (2 Samuel 11:2-17). Moses procrastinated circumcising his son and God nearly killed him (Exodus 4:24-26). And Abraham did not trust God enough to keep His promise of a son through Sarah. So, he had sex with his wife's slave girl, and sired Ishmael (Genesis 16:1-12). Jesus Christ is to be our example, not other people! The Bible says, "...The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve" (Jer. 17:9-10 NIV).

If you love the Lord, you are going to want to please Him by living a sinless life. The Lord knows that none of us will ever be perfect in this life (Matthew 19:17). However, He has given us Christ as an example. "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NIV). We know that the "god of this age" is Satan, the devil. He and his demon angels are the ones who constantly put temptation in your heart to draw you away from God. Then, if you acquiesce, they spiritually point a finger at you and say, "Look what you've done! Aren't you ashamed? You sinned, and God is angry at you." They do that so that you will feel too guilty and embarrassed to go to the Lord in prayer, and ask His forgiveness. However, the Lord knows your heart (Psalm 94:11, 138:6). Nothing is hidden from Him! However, your sin and guilt build up a barrier between the Lord and you, and moves you away from the Light of Christ (John 8:12), and into the darkness, where you are more vulnerable. The deeper you get into the darkness, the easier it is to sin some more.

For example, you steal something, and then lie about it, by claiming you paid for it, or someone gave it to you. One lie leads to another. People who commit terrible crimes, like murder, have been in the darkness of sin so long, that they don't have enough light, to see how evil

they have become, or how much danger they are in. And things have gotten to the place, these days, that some phony "Christian" preachers are actually advocating certain sins to their misguided flock. As Paul told the church, "*the Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron*" (1 Timothy 4:1-2 NIV). "For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord" (Jude 1:4 NIV). As you probably know, Satan and his demons are spirits without a body, because God destroyed them (Ezekiel 28:18) after their failed mutiny in Heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). So, they have to enter into the body of a human (Mark 1:34) or an animal (Matthew 8:29-32) in order to do anything tangible. It is called "demonic possession." And the Bible tells us that Jesus and His apostles cast out these evil spirits (Matthew 8:16, Act 19:11-12). That's what Paul was talking about when He told the church that certain men and women who pose of religious leaders promote, "...things taught by demons" (1 Timothy 4:1).

However, demons don't actually have to enter to human body to influence you with evil thoughts. They can do it through strong temptation, not only in pulpits, but through the media, either written, audio,

or visual. I have found that this is especially

true in television sitcoms. There is an old adage among video executives that says,

"No one ever went broke underestimating the taste of the American public." That is

especially true with comedy. One man I heard on television said, "You can get away with anything with comedy." It probably started with the

nineteen fifties comedy "I Love Lucy." Lucy would

lie constantly, as well as steal, covet, engage in magic arts, and idolize celebrities. But it was done in such a

funny way that people were too busy laughing to think about the commandment, "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16 NIV). Or, "...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). In

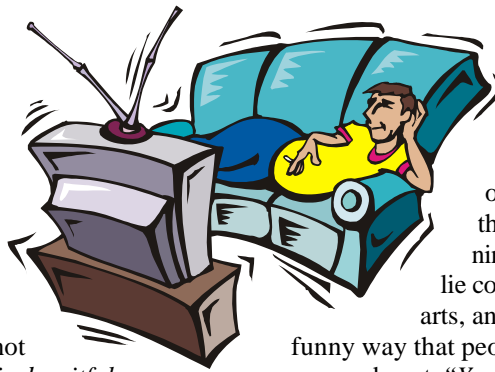
those days, people loved the show, unconcerned about the sinful influence it had on them. And it paved the way for other shows, like

"All In The Family" that would come later, and mock the laws of God.

Once your guard is down, through comedy, it becomes that much easier for Satan to influence you through other means, such as R or X rated movies. My husband and I watch old shows that had a moral base like "My Three Sons," "Wagon Train," and "Highway Patrol."

But we haven't been to a movie theater or anything similar, since the early nineteen eighties. It is little wonder that popular movie and television stars become idols. The devil is so proud of their influence toward sin that he honors them with "Academy Awards" and "Emmy Awards."

I remember, one time, I was watching the old Charlton Heston movie, "The Ten Commandments" on television. It dramatically illustrated how God had spectacularly delivered His Hebrew people from Egyptian slavery, even making a pathway through the Red Sea for them to cross, and drowning the soldiers who had pursued them. But their gratitude didn't last very long. For while Moses was on the mountain top receiving the Ten Commandments from God, the Hebrews were fashioning a golden calf out of their jewelry. And when Moses came down from the mountain there was mass worship of this "pagan image" going on! About three thousand men were put to death



as a result of this (Exodus 32:28).

During the advertisements I flipped channels and watched a portion of the news. The camera focused on a huge crowd of people in California who had been waiting on line for hours in order to see the Academy Awards. After they were allowed into the building, they moved up an escalator to another floor. And there, against the wall, stood a row of large golden Oscar statues, roughly about the same size, and exactly the same color, as the “golden calf” I had seen worshipped on the “Ten Commandments” just seconds before! But “idols” and “pagan images” don’t always have to be in gold, as evidenced by the huge statue of Elvis Presley in Memphis. My husband, Eric, and I actually saw the Elvis statue when we were once in Tennessee. We also decided to visit the Elvis Presley home, “Graceland.” I saw his gold Lamé outfit. I saw his gold records. I saw his many cars, and his own plane, and many other things. And I thought to myself, “Is this it? Is this what he gave up eternal salvation for?” Jesus said, “*What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (Mark 8:36-37 NIV). “*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ...*” (1 Peter 1:18-19 NIV).

It has been reported that Elvis grew up with a Pentecostal background. So, he knew about salvation. I once heard it said that Elvis was to perform at a certain location. When he got there a huge banner went across top of the stage, saying, “The King.” Apparently, Elvis said, “I am not the king.” Then he pointed up to Heaven and said, “He is the King.” Those, who knew Elvis well, said that he was never happy, especially in his latter years. He was heavily addicted to drugs, and constantly under emotional pressure to make enough money to keep his staff employed. While on the tour of Graceland, I asked one of the guards, “Was Elvis free to walk around town and do some shopping?” “Oh no,” the guard responded. “Once he was in Las Vegas, and he was looking through a key hole in the door. He saw lots of big stars walking around in the lobby freely, and no one was bothering them. He said, “That looks easy,” and he stepped out of the door. Immediately, he heard a woman yell, “That’s Elvis,” and a lot of people began to gather there. He ducked back inside right away.”

How many people would lie, steal, or murder for success? Elvis had it, and it imprisoned him! He wasn’t even able to look out the window of his house! The tour guide told us that his “window” was a camera monitor of the grounds. I once heard the late actor, Peter Falk, interviewed on television. He said, “People think success brings happiness. But it doesn’t.” Worldly success is a hollow thing. Once you reach the top, there is nothing else left to achieve. The only thing that truly satisfies is the right relationship with Jesus Christ. When you are young, you don’t tend to worry about dying. But after 40, the years go by very fast, and you look back on your life and evaluate the achievements you’ve made and how unimportant they were when you face eternity. Even your good works will mean nothing when you face death. For, if you get to Heaven, “*it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*” (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV). Nothing this world has is worth losing your soul over. Jesus said, “*What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (Matthew 16:26 NIV). As the saying goes, “Soon this life will all be past. Only what’s done through Christ will last.”

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). I want you to notice the two categorizes of sin, (1) The first is, “the lust of the eye.” That could come in any form from covetousness to pornography. When the very attractive, sexual murderer, Ted Bundy, was interviewed, just prior to his execution in the electric chair, he blamed all his murders on pornography. Never underestimate the misery this sin could cause for you and others! (2) “The boasting of what he has and does,” is the second one mentioned. That’s an opening for all kinds of temptation, such as hatred of those who keep you from achieving your desire and murder in order to achieve it, to hypocrisy and snobbery, like the Pharisees (Matthew 6:2-4). It leads to greed, which is idolatry.

Therefore, if you have repented of your sin and been “Born Again” in Christ (John 3:3), “*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God... Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.*”

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices” (Colossians 3:2-9 NIV). The sin of excessive pride causes bragging about how wealthy you are, or how successful, or how much you have achieved. My husband, Eric, belonged to a van club before we were married. He won a lot of trophies for his talent of customizing his van. However, after he accepted Christ as his Savior and Lord (Philippians 3:20), and received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 18:25 through 19:7), he threw out all his many trophies. Like the hymn says, “So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down, I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.”

Notice the two groups mentioned in the scripture, “*...the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does...*” were responsible for the original human sin of Eve. First came the devil’s temptation, after he had entered into the body of a snake. “*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman”* (Genesis 3:1-4 NIV). Eve knew it was wrong to disobey God. However, she continued to listen to Satan, and his temptation. First, he had to get her to distrust God’s judgment. Then he had to make her feel she would be missing out on an exciting experience, if she obeyed the Lord. So, Satan gave her that bait he dangles before us all. In Eve’s case it was forbidden fruit.

Satan continued, “*‘For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it”* (Genesis 3:5-6 NIV). Adam knew it was wrong to eat that fruit (1 Timothy 2:14), but Eve was (Continued On Page 4)



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the bait that Satan used to trap him into sin. For he couldn't resist giving in to his wife. How many men are led into sin by the bait of a beautiful woman? How many women are led into sin by the bait of an exciting man? As Paul told the church in Corinth, *"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough"* (2 Corinthians 11:2-4 NIV). So, don't let anyone, even a religious leader, convince you of anything that differs from the Word of God (Galatians 1:6-9)!

Sexual sins are one of the hardest vices for people to lay down. A great man of God, named Samson, had that problem. Samson had been especially selected by God to protect his Hebrew people from the Philistines. To do this, God had endowed Samson with great strength. The secret of his strength was in his hair. However, the demons (fallen angels) of the Philistines were determined to stop Samson from succeeding. So, they looked for his vulnerability and realized that it was his sexual lust. So, the men the demons controlled found a prostitute named, Delilah, to be their bait. God did many great works through Samson, but it was Delilah who destroyed him! Part of the problem was that Samson had become so used to the blessings of God, and his prestige among the people, that he took his relationship with God for granted. Delilah was a Philistine, who had a different agenda. *"The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, 'See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.' So Delilah said to Samson, 'Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued'"* (Judges 16:5-6 NIV).

You might think that Samson, a man of God, would have more sense. However, Delilah was to him, what the forbidden fruit was to Eve, too irresistible to ignore. Still Samson did not reveal his secret right away. *"Samson answered her, 'If anyone ties me with seven fresh thongs that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man.' Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh thongs that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. With men hidden in the room, she called to him, 'Samson, the Philistines are upon you!' But he snapped the thongs as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered. Then Delilah said to Samson, 'You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied.' He said, 'If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man.' So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, 'Samson, the Philistines are upon you!' But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads. Delilah then said to Samson, 'Until now, you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied.' He replied, 'If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become as weak as any other man.' So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric and tightened it with the pin..."* (Judges 16:7-14 NIV).



The closer to the light of God (John 18:12, Acts 26:18,) you get, the more wisdom you have. Similar to Adam, even a man as chosen and greatly blessed by God, like Samson, can become so stupid when he starts to fall into the darkness of sin. That's because sin doesn't begin with the action. It starts with the spirit, which influences the mind, which motivates the body. *"...Again she called to him, 'Samson, the Philistines are upon you!' He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric. Then she said to him, 'How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength'"* (Judges 16:14-15 NIV). Delilah was only a young, beautiful woman. She didn't have great strength or physical weapons with her. However, she was able to achieve, through sexual cajoling, what all the army of the Philistines could not. *"With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. So he told her everything. 'No razor has ever been used on my head,' he said, 'because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.'"*

"When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, 'Come back once more; he has told me everything.' So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. Then she called, 'Samson, the Philistines are upon you!' He awoke from his sleep and thought, 'I'll go out as before and shake myself free.' But he did not know that the LORD had left him. Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, 'Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.'"

When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, 'Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain'" (Judges 16:16-24 NIV). By now, Samson must have realized what a fool he had been. However, it was too late to undo what had happened. You see, the devil doesn't always come to you with horns, pitch fork, and tail. Sometimes he uses a soft and beautiful package!

Then, Samson turned back to God. *"While they were in high spirits, they shouted, 'Bring out Samson to entertain us.' So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, 'Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.' Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the LORD, 'O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.' Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, 'Let me die with the Philistines!' Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived"* (Judges 16:25-30 NIV).