



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

July 2020

FROM US TO YOU

Lately, with all that is going on in this country and the world, two songs come to mind. They are “[This World Is Not My Home](#)” by Jim Reeves and “[New World Coming](#)” by Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil. For God is not running this present world we live in. Satan is (see Ephesians 2:1-3)! However, he doesn’t have much time left before Jesus comes back and reclaims this earth (Revelation 19:11-21). Bible prophecy is all there. Israel is, once again, a sovereign nation, as God promised in Ezekiel 20:34 and Isaiah 11:11-12. It happened in 1948. Also, as Jesus prophesied “*Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places*” (Matthew 24:7 NIV). It’s not just nations that are near each other. Modern technology has made it possible to have wars with countries far away. We humans have designed powerful new weapons and we have satellites. We’re in the space age. America now has a new branch of the military called the “Space Force.” Spying on other countries half a world away is common place these days! Many nations do it. As the angel prophesied to Daniel, we have fast means of travel and, through new technology, quick means of information. “*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased*” (Daniel 12:4 KJV).

There’s a lot to look forward to for the true children of God (John 1:12-13). Although at the present time many people are suffering. “*Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short*” (Revelation 12:12 NIV). As a result, society has lost its fear of God (Psalm 14:1-3). What has always been considered good is now spoken of as evil. But that’s not surprising. For, with Satan, good is bad and bad is good. Do you feel like you don’t quite know what to believe in anymore? Everything seems upside down. One of the reasons for that is because Satan has his tentacles into so much that people depend on. That includes education, entertainment, television, literature, medicine, movies, fashion, and modern music. Therefore, “*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).

This is especially hard for young people because they want to be popular and fit in with the crowd (see 1 Corinthians 15:33). The Biblical story of Samson is a warning to the young (Judges 13:24 thru 16:30). Don’t take the blessings of God lightly for the devil would love to destroy you while you are still growing up. Another example is King Solomon. He spoke with experience. As an old man he thought back on his life and realized that he wasted so much

of it on carnal pleasure. Therefore, without the right relationship with God, all is “*Meaningless! Meaningless!*” says the Teacher. “*Everything is meaningless!*” (Ecclesiastes 12:8 NIV). So, he sarcastically warned of the folly of giving in to temptation. “*Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment*” (Ecclesiastes 11:9 NIV). For the devil with strike with subtlety (1 Peter 5:8), just as he did with Samson. It may be when you are comfortable and happy. He is like a hungry wolf waiting to attack that foolish little lamb who wanders from his shepherd and the safety of his fold (Luke 15:4-7).

One method that Satan uses is a two-pronged attack on everything. For example, greedy corporate executives get huge salaries and labor unions see it. Therefore, they make unreasonable demands on business. Many pastors stress the love and forgiveness of God more than obedience (1 Samuel 15:22, 1 Jude 1:4, Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:29-30). Then, when the pastor gets caught committing some horrible sin, the congregation just forgives and reconciles him (1 Timothy 3:1-13). The result is that sin creeps into the congregation. That’s what Paul was upset about in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. Brethren, Christ didn’t die for us so that we can go on sinning. “*...Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin!’*” (John 8:11 NIV). Traditionally, society has been taught to obey authority. Then when sin increases in society and parents set a bad example for their children, the children lose respect for them. Teachers used to be respected, but students hear about sexual scandals among teachers and they lose respect for the whole profession. In the 1950’s and 1960’s the police were respected. However, all it takes is one, or a handful, of law enforcement officers to commit crimes with the people they arrest, and it makes it more difficult for other officers to get the respect and cooperation they need to do their job.

Another of Satan’s techniques is to compare bad to worse. Anne used to go to a flea market near where we used to live. One day she saw a man selling old copies of Playboy magazine, with displays of topless women. She told the seller that children were there and that it wasn’t appropriate to have such things displayed openly. He replied, “If I don’t do it, someone else will.” So, Anne called up the police. The officer asked her, “How old are the magazines?” She told him they looked like they were from the 1950’s or 1960’s. He laughed and said they didn’t have as much pornography in those days and refused to stop it. Sin increases like yeast in bread. So, beware, “*a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough*” (Galatians 5:9 NIV).

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



GAMES DEMONS PLAY

By Anne Kaestner

Has there been some spiritual harassment going on in your life that you are embarrassed about? It may be an addiction to something such as alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or pornography. Even something that's basically good, like food, can become obsessive when pushed to the point of obesity. Do you sometimes feel controlled by some type of weird irrational behavior, such as excessive neatness or a chronic desire to even things out? Towels must be hung at just the right angle. Shoes must be perfectly lined up. Or perhaps there is a person or event that you cannot stop thinking about. The memories are painful and relentless, and they are building up emotions in you that could be explosive. If so, have you tried to block them out, but they are too strong. Do you feel worried and alone and afraid to tell others about this? Is this compulsion driving you crazy? These thoughts are caused by demons, who are also called evil or unclean spirits. If you're familiar with our teaching, you will have learned that these evil spirits are fallen angels who have rebelled against God. Satan is their leader (Revelation 12:7-9).

You cannot see them for two reasons. The first is because God destroyed their solid bodies (Ezekiel 28:18) after their failed mutiny in Heaven (see Revelation 12:7-8). The second is that they exist in a different dimension, yet in the same air that we breathe. However, they can see you. If your heart is right with God, you need not worry (Luke 12:4-5). Because God's guardian angels (Psalm 91:11-12) will make sure that Satan and his demons will not be able to do anything to you that God does not allow for your testing. The best example of this is in the book of Job. Job was a righteous man who had a big family, good friends, and great wealth. The Lord had mightily blessed him because Job "...was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil" (Job 1:1 NIV). In fact, God was so proud of Job that He bragged about him to Satan. "The LORD said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the LORD, 'From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it'" (Job 1:7 NIV). I want you to notice that Satan was able to travel back and forth very quickly, because, unlike us, he is not restricted to a solid body. And the spiritual dimension he and his demons live in is much faster than ours. However, our guardian angels watch over us in the same way.

"Then the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.' 'Does Job fear God for nothing?' Satan replied. 'Have You not put a **hedge** around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out Your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face.' The LORD said to Satan, 'Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.' Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD" (Job 1:8-12 NIV). There's a question many people ask sometimes. "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Yet the Bible says, "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 NIV. Also, see Jeremiah 17:9). And Jesus even called His own disciples evil (Luke 11:13). Nevertheless, God loves us.

God loved us enough to send His Son to die in our place (John 3:16), if we acknowledge our sin, repent of it, and accept Christ as our Savior and Lord. However, we all have to prove our faithfulness to God, by being tested! Jesus told His disciple, Simon Peter, "Simon, Simon, Satan has **asked** to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for

you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:31-32 NIV). Satan seemed to really have it in for Peter. But Peter passed the tests and is in Heaven today. Church history says he was even crucified upside down, because he said he wasn't worthy to be crucified the same way as his Master. And poor Job was about to go through the most horrible test of his life. But first Satan had to get God's permission.

Satan said to God, "Have You not put a **hedge** around him and his household and everything he has?" We usually think of a hedge as a collection of shrubbery that surrounds and protects a property. But the word is also defined as to "hinder and restrict" or "enclose and bound in." It is even used in financial terms to protect an investment. So, Satan was complaining that God was protecting Job and everything he had. Therefore, Satan couldn't attack him. However, Satan could not believe that anyone would love the Lord without getting something good out of it. It's the same way with corrupt individuals. They are evil so they think everyone thinks like them. So, God decided to prove to Satan that someone could love Him, without any ulterior motive. "...God created **man** in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them" (Genesis 1:27 NIV). And when He did that He passed onto the man His personality traits as well. God gets angry (Genesis 19:24). So, does man. God gets jealous (Deuteronomy 4:24). So, does man.

God has compassion (John 3:16). That's a trait that man is capable of as well. And God wants to be loved. So, do we humans!

In fact, that's why God created us in the first place. However, "the LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and **His heart was filled with pain**" (Genesis 6:5-6 NIV). Just as we humans feel emotional pain when our feelings are hurt, God does too. In fact, none of us would be alive today if it wasn't for a man named Noah. Because, "...the LORD said, 'I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.' But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God" (Genesis 6:7-9 NIV).

There's something very special about men like Noah and Job, and several other people mentioned in the Bible, such as Joseph, Daniel, Ruth, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. Without people like them, God wouldn't have any reason to maintain the human race. The righteous make it all worthwhile. Yet today the majority of society has lost its fear of God. For our Creator not only wants to be loved. He wants to be respected as well! However, "the fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile..." (Psalms 14:1 NIV). Some of the most educated and socially admired people today are fools. Worse still, many of them are in positions where they influence others and lead them astray. Yet Job was no fool. He feared God! And it frustrated and annoyed Satan that he couldn't attack him. For Job had been under God's protection. Therefore, Satan challenged God to let him test Job. So, God removed the hedge of angels who had protected Job. I imagine that protection must have been something like the "...cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life" (Genesis 3:24 NIV). That was to



keep Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden. Yet to keep the devil and his demons away from Job God had probably used a stronger “hedge.” But now the Lord had removed it and all of Job’s possessions were vulnerable. However, God put one restriction on Satan. He could not touch the man himself. So, Satan started his nasty work.

“One day when Job’s sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, a messenger came to Job and said, ‘The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!’ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, ‘The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!’ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, ‘The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!’ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, ‘Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!’” (Job 1:13-19 NIV).

How many people would have their own personal pity party if even one of those things happened to them? Most worldly folk these days would get drunk, or take drugs, and blame God for their troubles. That’s how you get fools who kill innocent people in order to get back at God. They can’t attack God directly, so they attack innocent people thinking they are hurting the Lord. Many times these days, they increase their stupidity by committing suicide, thinking they will escape punishment. Meanwhile Satan, who caused the misery in the first place, is laughing as the fires of Hell are stoked up that much hotter awaiting the fool who did his bidding! If they stayed alive and went to prison, they might have learned the truth about God and repented of their sin. There are many good chaplains in the prison system. We’ve heard from a lot of them. And we’ve heard from many Christian inmates over the years too. They tell us how glad they were that they went to prison, because that’s where they accepted Christ as their Savior and Lord. We love helping to influence their decision. Our God will even forgive the most horrible of sins, if the person will only repent and turn to Christ (Matthew 9:13).

How did Job react to so great a loss? *“At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.’ In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing” (Job 1:20-22 NIV).* Would you have been so gracious? For most people, it’s not likely. This annoyed Satan even more, because Job was giving glory to God with his actions. Some time passed and Job remained faithful. So, on another occasion, God invited Satan back to speak to Him. Again, the Lord started bragging about Job and how much he loved God. This irritated Satan, the devil, even more. He just didn’t understand how any human could be so faithful. So, he concluded that Job had not been hurt enough. *“‘Skin for skin!’ Satan replied. ‘A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to your face.’ The LORD said to Satan, ‘Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took*

a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes” (Job 2:4-8 NIV).

Righteous people can usually handle some misery without sinning against God. But did you ever get to the point that your pain was so severe, and so many horrible things were happening at once that you didn’t feel like you could handle it anymore? Satan and his demons like to weaken us first. Then, at that point where you feel your weakest, they attack the hardest, when you feel like you’ve no strength left! That’s what happened to Job. I gained a little bit better understanding of the way that Job felt when I went through the worst trial of my life in 2001. I had been having severe skin rashes for decades before that, and never knew the reason. I’d been to many dermatologists, and they couldn’t figure out what was causing them. Worst still, some of them blamed me for scratching the rash. I didn’t use a piece of pottery, as Job did. But I couldn’t help but scratch, because when I resisted, the compulsion to scratch just increased in intensely. The itching would get better for awhile. Then in the Spring of 2001 the rash came back, even stronger than before. The dermatologists couldn’t get rid of it. I covered my legs with three layers of bandages, but nothing really helped much. I thought I’d go crazy from the itching. I couldn’t sleep, so it kept me awake at night. I tried to hide my misery from my husband, Eric, because I didn’t want to weaken his faith. But he could see the misery I was in. So, one night he prayed that God would take away some of my suffering and give it to him. I didn’t know about his prayer until the next day, but it reminded me



of the love of Christ. The rash lasted a full year. I had prayed and prayed, but to no avail. I begged God to make the torment stop. I sometimes had to wake up Eric to help me get to the bathroom at night. The pain of my wounds was so great that I needed help to walk.

Whenever I changed my bandages I clawed so deeply into my skin and muscle that I felt like demon spirits had control of my hands. I couldn’t stop scratching, even long enough to take more medicine. The doctor said it looked like I had “done rounds with a tiger.” Finally, it ended and I stopped going to the doctor. When I saw him about another problem half a year

later, he was stupefied that it had healed so well. There wasn’t even a scar left on my legs! He said he had planned to put me in the hospital for skin grafts and plastic surgery. I knew that God had healed me! A few years later the rash got bad again, this time on my feet. I tried to treat it myself. However, in 2013, my remedy gave me an infection which put me in the hospital for eleven days. The first few days I couldn’t even walk. But with physical therapy I was finally able to do so. It took two hours of surgery to finally discover the source of my chronic rashes was a very rare autoimmune disease called cutaneous vasculitis. Since then, it’s been treated by a rheumatologist. Thank God, it’s not as bad anymore and I can finally sleep well at night!

As for Job, Satan wasn’t satisfied with what Job had already suffered. He decided to push Job beyond the point of endurance. *“When Job’s three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads” (Job 2:11-12 NIV).* Job needed comfort, that’s for sure. But he didn’t get much from his friends! Somehow, they had become convinced that Job had committed some horrible sin and God was punishing him for it. They tried everything they could to convince Job to repent of his terrible sin and

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beg God's forgiveness. However, Job knew that he had not committed such a sin and would not yield to their prodding accusations.

From my own experience I know how annoying it can be when someone wants you to "admit" something that is not true. Job knew he had not committed such a sin as their accusations insisted. They thought they were trying to help Job by getting him to repent so that God would remove his suffering. But Job would not acquiesce. He was deeply depressed and totally confused about why this had happened to him. Nevertheless, he would not turn against God, even when he concluded that God had turned against him! And, in his misery, Job uttered one of the greatest statements of faith in all the Bible. *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"* (Job 19:25-27 NIV). The book of Job is one of the oldest books in the Bible. Experts believe it may be as old as the 6th century BC. That makes Job's statement of faith all the more powerful!

God got the glory in the end. The Lord was disappointed that Job would doubt His love. However, He was angry with Job's three friends for their condescending attitude. He *"...said to Eliphaz the Temanite, 'I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has... My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has'"* (Job 42:7-8 NIV). *"All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him [Job] before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought upon him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring. The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first... And he also had seven sons and three daughters"* (Job 42:11-13 NIV).

Satan and his demons affect everyone in different ways. They can cause disease (see Matthew 4:24). They can cause you to do something stupid and make a fool of yourself (Matthew 17:14-18). They can make you look straight at an object and not be aware that it is there. Demon activity can range from the mildly annoying to the downright dangerous! Have you ever felt the bizarre urge to close your eyes while driving? Or to use a knife to hurt yourself or someone else? Demons are putting these thoughts into your mind! And they love to humiliate people. For example, they will cause someone to fall off of a bicycle, then influence others to laugh at them. And there's a certain type of demon called a poltergeist, who will cause disturbances in a house or somewhere else. People will see objects flying around, objects will break, or light switches will turn on or off seemingly by themselves. However, the devil and demons hate to be exposed. So, a psychiatrist will blame some innocent member of the family and say that they are doing it. They will claim that it is subconsciously with their mind, through some suppressed emotion. Psychology, "the wisdom of man" will not accept the reality of a devil, or demons.

However, Jesus Christ has the Power to set you free (John 8:34-36)! Just about everybody, even strong Christians, get some form of spiritual harassment that they can't control on their own. The world's answer is obvious. Those who don't know the Lord will tell

you to seek professional help. By that they mean to see a psychiatrist or someone similar. Even some backslidden Christians, who call themselves "Born Again" (John 3:3) and should know better, often resort to this fruitless remedy. World-wide psychology and psychiatry are considered prestigious arts. Consequently, that which is associated with these fields is also respected. However, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death"* (Proverbs 14:12 NIV). Our society has fallen to the place where, psychology is revered more than the Word of God!

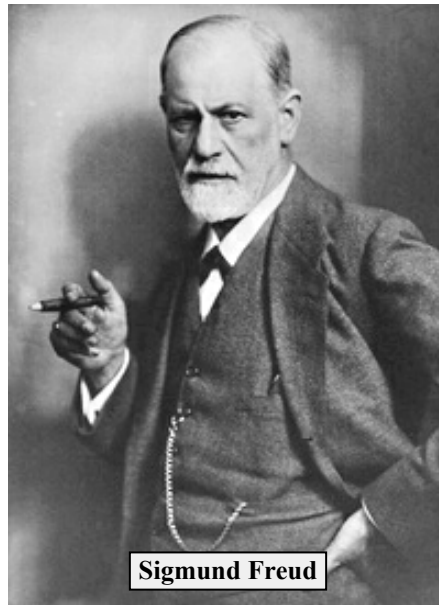
Although is the father of the modern version of these arts, they did not begin with him. They began with Socrates (470?-399 B.C.), a Greek philosopher, and idol worshipper. It was Socrates who initiated the question-and-answer method of teaching as a means of achieving self-knowledge (1 Corinthians 2:14). His theories of virtue and justice have survived through the writings of Plato, his most important pupil. Socrates was tried for corrupting the minds of Athenian youth and subsequently put to death (399 B.C.). Plato passed the ideas he learned from Socrates on to his favorite student, Aristotle (384-322 B.C.). However, over the many centuries, as Christianity began to spread throughout the world, interest in the theories of ancient Greek philosophers diminished.

Then along came Sigmund Freud and they were, once again, brought back into society. In the days of the Apostle Paul, the new church in Corinth was very close to Athens, Greece. It was considered a center of deep intellectual study.

The Athenians were very proud of their culture, for in the eyes of the world, it had achieved great prestige. Athens was a city filled with universities, culture, and the beginnings of a democratic society. It was famous for its philosophers, such as Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates. The Corinthians were greatly influenced by Athens. However, Paul admonished them writing, *"Do not deceive yourselves... For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: 'He catches the wise in their craftiness;' and again, 'The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile'"* (1 Corinthians 3:18-20 NIV). Nevertheless, the Greeks thought of themselves as being very wise and enlight-

ened. Yet they were living so far away from the true light, Jesus Christ (see John 8:12), that their eyes had become accustomed to the darkness. So, they had no illumination to see their own sin. This same attitude infiltrated the church in Corinth.

Therefore, these new believers had a long way to go before God would be able to grow good fruit in them. Like many people today, the Corinthians wanted salvation. They were willing to give up some of their past in order to please God. But they wanted to please God on their terms! Yes, they wanted redemption in Christ, but they also wanted to bring along all the baggage from their past and add it onto their walk with God. Therefore, Paul had a difficult time getting it through to them that God wasn't interested in their great worldly success or all their human wisdom. It was all built on a bad foundation (Matthew 7:24-27). So, Paul told them, *"...when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:1-5 KJV).



Sigmund Freud