



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

LATE AUTUMN 2016

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

The Trump Controversy

As a Christian ministry we generally don't like to get involved in political matters. True Christianity is about the love of God, who saw us helpless human beings as slaves to sin (John 8:34). As such, enemies to all that is holy. Nevertheless, God loved us, even in our wretched state and sent His Son to pay the high price of redemption to buy us back from the depth of depravity we were in. *"Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:7-8 NIV). It wasn't just the pain, but the shame Christ suffered! To be exposed naked on a cross was to expose the shame of sin all of us are born with. For in our natural, unsaved condition, *"...There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God"* (Romans 3:10-11 NIV). *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23 NIV).

Christ loved us, not just in His death, but in His lifetime here as well. He would heal the sick and cast out demons (Mark 1:39). Crowds followed Him and many loved Him. He never had any trouble with the honest sinner, not even the demon possessed. But there was one group that hated Him with a passion so great they plotted to kill Him (see John 8:37). Those were the hypocrites in His day. He had no sin, but they found ways to accuse Him. They complained that His disciples didn't always wash their hands before a meal (Matthew 15:2). They condemned Him for healing people on the Sabbath day (Luke 13:14-16). They chose to ignore all the good He did and magnify everything they didn't agree with out of proportion.

Of course, we are talking about the religious leaders in those days. They yielded great power over the people. They saw themselves as righteous because they were descendants of Abraham (Matthew 3:7-10) and, in their eyes, they kept the Ten Commandments. Yet in reality, they failed at the two most important commandments of all, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments"* (Matthew 22:37-40 NIV). If you don't love God, you will not love your neighbor! And the Pharisees and other religious hypocrites didn't feel they needed any salvation. They thought they were born righteous because they had religion. But religion without Christ is worthless.

So who loved Jesus the most? It was the repentant sinners whom Christ redeemed! For the greater the sin, the greater the forgiveness. There's an account in the Bible where *"...One of the Pharisees invited*

Jesus to have dinner with him, so He went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair; kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is - that she is a sinner.' Jesus answered him, *'Simon, I have something to tell you.'* *'Tell me, teacher,'* he said. *'Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?'* Simon replied, *'I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.'*

'You have judged correctly,' Jesus said. *Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give Me any water for My feet, but she wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give Me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing My feet.'* *'You did not put oil on My head, but she has poured perfume on My feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been*

forgiven - for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.' Then Jesus said to her, *'Your sins are forgiven.'* The other guests began to say among themselves, *'Who is this who even forgives sins?'* Jesus said to the woman, *'Your faith has saved you; go in peace'*" (Luke 7:36-50 NIV).

It's easy for those who live in sin to condemn someone else who has been caught in sin. But, as Jesus said to those who chose to throw stones at a woman caught in adultery, *"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her"* (John 8:7 KJV). This woman was not a Christian. Like all of us, she was born into sin. She knew no other way. Sure there were the Ten Commandments. But without the love of God working through us, we cannot even keep God's laws. For, without the Holy Spirit controlling our lives, we are slaves to sin (see Galatians 5:19-25 and Romans 6:6).

Dr. James C. Dobson has said that Donald Trump is a newly reborn Christian. We have heard other rumors to that effect as well. We can't confirm that one way or another, but somehow feel from his actions and current demeanor, that it is true. The late Corrie Ten Boom once said that she believes that when God forgives us of our sins, He buries them in the deepest ocean. Then He puts up a sign saying, "No Fishing!" There is

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nothing in all creation that is as special to God as repentant sinner. Those who condemn Trump the most for something that happened eleven years should look in the mirror of God themselves, the Bible, and see how they measure up.

Who among us isn't ashamed and embarrassed about something they did in their life that they would not want others to know about? For most of us, only God knows the true depth of our sin and the things we want to forget about our past. As the late Reverend David Wilkerson once said (and we paraphrase), "Even when we want to live for God, Satan points an ugly finger at our past and continues to condemn us for it in our minds." Who are we to accuse those whom God has forgiven and washed clean in His blood? Are we so righteous that we have never done or said anything wrong? The name Satan means "accuser of the brethren" (see Revelation 12:10-11).

We also need to be reminded of the prodigal son who left his life of ease and comfort, choosing instead, to live a life of carnality and sin. Seeking to bring him to repentance, God showed him how shallow his fair weather friends were after his money was gone. He fell so far away from the Lord that the only job he could get was feeding the pigs. He was so hungry that *"He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'* So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate" (Luke 15:16-24 NIV).

Jesus said, *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"* (Matthew 7:1-2 NIV). There are many hypocrites out there who are quick to jump on the proverbial band wagon and accuse Donald Trump. But Jesus said, *"...by their fruit you will recognize them"* (Matthew 7:20 NIV). How many of us would have such love for their country that they would jeopardize all that they own, and have worked for all their lives, to move their nation in the right direction? Aside from the incredible amount of time and personal wealth Mr. Trump has spent trying to restore America to the stature it once had, he has put his personal reputation on the line and made himself vulnerable to abuse and attack.

When Mr. Trump lived a life of sin and debauchery there were no serious attacks from the media or the cultural elite. He was worldly, as they were. Yet now that he wants to restore our economy and elevate our place in the world, he is under serious attack. And we are old enough to remember the hatred endured by President Richard Nixon by the liberal left and their media. Nixon ended the draft and the terrible carnage of the Vietnam War that was dramatically increased by Lyndon Johnson. He lowered the voting age to eighteen. He said if young people are old enough to fight for their country at

age eighteen, they should be old enough to vote as well. He opened up diplomatic relationships with Red China and Russia, paving the way for Christian missionaries to get into their countries. Under his direction, he sent supplies and weapons to Israel to protect the Holy Land during the Six Day War. Yet all that was ignored by the hypocritical liberals. For all they could see was Watergate. And they made his life a living hell as a result of it, so great was their hypocrisy. We do not want that to happen to Donald Trump. It would be so unfair!

By contrast, the Democrats remain loyal to their candidate, Hillary Clinton, no matter what she had done. As Secretary of State, she doled out favors to anyone in exchange for huge sums of money. They were supposedly given for speeches or donations to her private foundation (which delivers only about 10% of its funding to the needy). She sold twenty percent of our nation's supply of uranium (used for making nuclear bombs) to Russia. She did nothing to protect the lives of our Ambassador and his staff in Libya. As a result, he and three of his staff were killed. And she put our nation's security in jeopardy through her mishandling of classified information on her emails. Yet the Democrats remain dedicated to her and shield her from prosecution.

Why then are so many Republicans eager to condemn Mr. Trump? He has not done a fraction of the things Mrs. Clinton has done? Have we no forgiveness in our heart for someone who just wants to do good for our country? Mr. Trump may only be a new Christian, but he

is willing to fight to restore Christianity in this nation. Mrs. Clinton wants to bring in so many Muslims (many of whom may be terrorists) that Christians could eventually be greatly persecuted by the proponents of Sharia law!

We believe Mr. Trump has already repented of his sin which occurred eleven years ago. He has asked everyone to forgive him. If we refuse to forgive others of their past sins, God will not forgive us of ours (see Matthew 6:14-15)! We also want to remind you of a parable of Jesus. *"Two men went up*

to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men - robbers, evildoers, adulterers - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:10-14 NIV).

Since we have a prison ministry, we have been astonished over the years by the beautiful letters we have received from even the worst of sinners. Sometimes God has to humble us greatly in order to bring us to repentance. Yet it has been our experience that the deeper the sin, the greater the love of God shines among those He has forgiven and redeemed.

In closing, we want to ask all our readers to pray for God's will in this election and return us back to traditional Christian values. We want to stand with the candidate who hates the suffocating burden of political correctness, which has run amok worldwide. Because this is a special message and not our regular newsletter, we will be back again for our Winter 2016-17 issue. So until then, blessings to everyone and be well in the will of God.

Eric and Anne Kaestner

