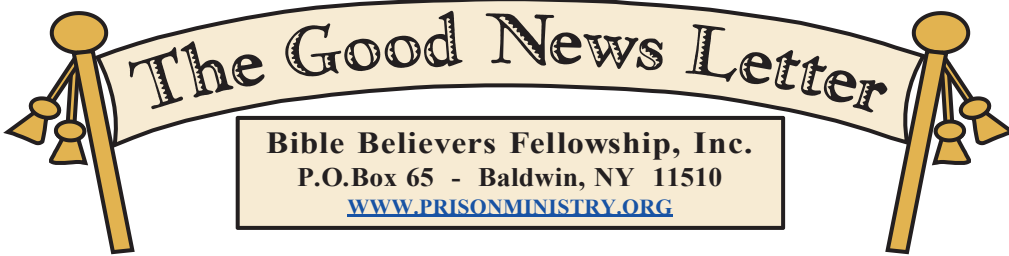




NON-PROFIT



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TAX-EXEMPT

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

March 2025

FROM US TO YOU

If you are feeling stress in your life right now, it's not unusual. Winter weather frequently is a time that people feel stressful. A lot of it has to do with the weather. Spring is a time of renewal. Flowers begin to pop up. Lawns start to look a lot greener, and people begin planning their vacations. Summer is a time of relaxing. Winter coats and heavy clothes are left at home. It is a time of barbecues, beaches, and travel. Autumn is a season people prepare the holidays, turkey dinners, warm soups, gift wrapping, and parties. However, January through March is often a depressing time when snow and ice are formed, transportation is difficult, and last year's bills start to add up. So let's put that all aside and do what the adage says, count your blessings! And there are some that you surely haven't considered. Pollyanna was right.

If you're an American, be happy that the nation's many expenses are coming under scrutiny since DOGE was formed. (That's the Department of Government Efficiency.) That may put more value in your life, and the possibility of a nice refund. You spend so much in taxes! Wouldn't it be nice if DOGE is able to give you a tax refund? Isn't it irritating that the former administration wasted so much of your tax money on such trivial and evil things? That's going to stop! The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is one of the most ridiculous wastes for Americans. Newsmax outlined some of the waste as follows:

- \$1.5 million to “advance diversity equity and inclusion” in Serbia’s workplaces and business communities. (A type of Communism.)
- \$2.5 million for electric vehicles for Vietnam.
- \$2 million for sex changes and “LGBT activism” in Guatemala.
- \$6 million to fund tourism in Egypt.
- Millions to EcoHealth Alliance — which was involved in research at the Wuhan Lab (Remember Covid?).
- Hundreds of millions of dollars to fund “irrigation canals, farming equipment, and even fertilizer used to support the unprecedented poppy cultivation and heroin production in Afghanistan” benefiting the Taliban.

Newsmax also stated that DOGE has discovered that much of the wasted money was spent on certain liberal news media outlets in the hope of getting favorable coverage. (Is that what they call a “kick back”?) It is said that the newspaper POLITICO seems to have received money also. How sad it is that this country, which was originally founded on the Word of God, has fallen so far away from the light of truth, and the Gospel that it used to embrace. 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 said this to the Pharisees, who hated Him. They hated Him because Jesus exposed their lies and deception. Satan absolutely hates being exposed! And the illumination of truth exposes those who do evil and break God's laws. The evil ones like to keep their works of darkness covered up. But the truth of light exposes it! So those who do evil

lash out at the one who exposes their deceit, and they try to hurt them.

That's why they hated Jesus. He said, “*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God*” (John 3:19-21 NIV). Christians, don't let the devil tempt you to do that which you know is wrong. He will try to trick you by twisting it around to sound pleasing. The Apostle Paul sadly spoke to the leaders in the church he started in Ephesus and said, “*I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified*” (Acts 20:29-32 NIV).

Don't let the devil con you with deceit and trickery. You don't have to reveal things that are personal to you or not their concern. But always tell the truth, no matter what! Jesus said, “*Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops*” (Luke 12:3 KJV). They say that light is the best disinfectant. And disinfectant kills the infection that might kill you if it is not stopped. So don't cover up someone else's evil because they're a friend. “*A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother*” (Proverbs 18:24 NIV). If you're a Christian, Jesus is your friend! He has

already taken your punishment upon Himself because He loves you. The Apostle Paul said, “*Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible*” (Ephesians 5:11-13 NIV).

Sooner or later everyone's secrets will be exposed. “*Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God*” (1 Corinthians 4:5 NIV) or the reverse! So let us pray that America will return to the Lord, that He will use our leaders to make America great again. Then, hopefully, we will once again become what President Reagan used to call, “A shining city on a hill.” Perhaps, when DOGE recoups enough money that was wasted by the previous administration, the United States will be able to repair our roads, construct new airports, bridges and tunnels, build new parks, modernize our hospitals and defense, and make America better than it has ever been!

In the Lord's service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



Your Spiritual Buttons

By Anne Kaestner

We all have spiritual buttons. It's that thing that seems to affect our emotions and senses so much. With me, it's remote controls, especially the ones for the television. I get very upset when I lose control of them, and they don't work correctly. For instance, it drives me crazy when I want to put on the mute button, but it doesn't work and the sound keeps blasting away when I'm trying to talk to someone. With my husband, Eric, it's money. He hates being "ripped off" financially. When he buys anything, his first consideration is, "How much does it cost? Can I get something like it that is less money?" I found out about Eric's financial button when we first got married. After 44 years of marriage, I've gotten used to it, but it has taken some time. He'd rather buy something that I don't think tastes as good as long as the price is cheaper. God must have had that in mind when He gave Eric the job of watching over our ministry's budget. He shops very carefully when he buys things for the ministry as well!

My mother's button was England. She refused to become an American citizen because she was so proud of being English. She said that she would not disown her country. She was a war bride. She got married to my Dad in New York in 1948, returned to England for a "short" vacation in 1949 and refused to come back to the US. She missed her mother and siblings too much. My Dad went to England to live with her. He was there for nine years, during which time their three children were born. I was the oldest. Mother returned to the United States in 1961 when my Dad threatened to divorce her. Her three children came with her, including me. Mother lived in America until she died in 1993, minus many frequent trips back to England to see her birth family.

When we first came to America in 1961, I adjusted very well. So did my siblings. But my mother was miserable. I was put into the third grade. I'd come home from school and tell Mother what I learned about the American Revolution, and she'd get annoyed and start telling me the English side of it. Sometimes she'd get angry during dinner and become livid when she saw one

of us eating with a fork the American way. We were supposed to eat the English way to please her. She'd even complain when my Dad ate dinner the American way. He'd say to her, "Winnie, I'm an American!" "But you lived in England for nine years," she'd say. One time my sister, Penny, earned her wrath by eating the American way. Mother could not handle it anymore. She picked up a piece of cutlery and threw it at her. The utensil flew about two inches over Penny's head. Penny was six years old. After awhile, I began to lose my English accent. We were living in Queens, New York, and I just started to pick up the local accent a bit. One day when I was talking to her, I didn't pronounce the word "stupid" the English way. Mother was furious. She called me a little traitor to England and slapped me across the face.

Penny and I made friends easily, but Mother was always on the edge of having a nervous breakdown. That was until I told her that I met a lady at the park who said she was English. The woman, Kay, was a recreation leader for the New York City park department. She was born in Dublin, Ireland, but had some relatives who moved to England. So Kay thought it sounded more prestigious to claim to be English. Mother went with us to the park one day and met her. They became good friends. Kay would take her lunch with her on work days and eat it at Mother's house. Years later, Mother said, God must have sent Kay into her life to help her get over the separation from her (birth) family. Frankly, that's debatable. Kay was Catholic, and a very worldly woman. She opposed anything godly and would mock

fundamentalist Christianity, and especially me.

Then there's a different kind of button. It's temptation. Satan knows just what buttons to press when he wants to build a wall of separation between us and God. To the gambler, he knows just what buttons to press to get someone sucked into that deep hole of guilt and despondency when they give in to that sin. To the alcoholic, it's wine or booze. To the drug user, it's the drugs. And so on and so forth. When I was younger, my buttons involved romance. I used to love reading romance novels and listening to contemporary romance type songs. I loved movies and sit-cons too. Gradually they began to get worse over the years. I don't have much time for secular reading anymore, unless it's about science (like geology), history, or politics. But years ago I loved the movie theater, even if I had to go by myself. And I enjoyed sit-cons of the 1970's, like the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" or the original "Star Trek."

These things seemed so harmless at the time, but Satan always starts with something that seems innocuous. Then, a little bit at a time, he changes the recipe and adds a little bit of poison, increasingly adding more as he begins to stir it up. For instance, the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" seemed so innocent at first, a single woman moving to an apartment alone and starting a new job. Then, several years later, they had an episode where a married male coworker rings the

doorbell to her apartment, and Mary answers the door, wide open, wearing nothing but a short towel. She supposedly had just come out of the shower. She didn't let him in. It just seemed inappropriate to me. However, the hidden message seems to be that if the likable star of the show thinks it's alright to do that, it must be alright for other women to do that. Things were very different back in the early 1960's when the actress was on "The Dick Van Dyke Show." She played the wife of a television writer, and her and her television husband slept in separate twin beds. In those days it was considered inappropriate to have a male and female actor sharing a bed together, even though they played husband and wife.

Then there's the original "Star Trek" show. When you get used to watching a show, you start to like the main characters and think of them as of friends. So when they state that they think a certain way, it has an influence on those watching it. The story line was based on the idea that there is intelligent life, like humans, on other planets, and if we delve far enough into outer space, we might find them. They treat God, our Creator, as one of many forms of deity that people worship. And on "Star Trek," they imply that all religions are equal, even Christianity. They never fooled me about this, but they probably fool a lot of gullible people who watched the show. There are no people on other planets! The only other intelligent life that God ever created were angels, and one third (Revelation 12:4) of them rebelled against Him (Revelation 12:7). Jesus wasn't going to travel through the universe, dying on crosses to pay for the sins of people on other planets. The planets and stars were put in the sky for us on earth. "And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.' And it was so" (Genesis 1:14-15 NIV).

As for movies, it's like the old adage about cooking a frog. It seems very true in this case. Put a living frog into boiling water and the frog will jump out of the pot. But put him in cold water, then gradually turn up the heat, and the frog relaxes so much that it gets



cooked. Over the decades, movies have added so much slow poison to films that they have changed them exponentially. Years ago, as films became more disgusting, a rating system was developed. G was for general, PG was to be seen with a parent or guardian, R was restricted, and X was totally obscene. Even that seemed to become more relaxed over the years. My husband and I stopped going to the movie theater early in our marriage, around 1981 or 1982. Frankly, I got tired of being offended by the blasphemy, the filthy language, and all the vulgarities that seemed so frequent at the time. I'm sure that it's worse, if possible, today, but I haven't been, so can only assume.

People don't understand why it is that they are so drawn toward unhealthy pursuits such as alcoholism, pornography, cigarettes, gambling, and drugs. The Bible tells us the reason. It also tells us why, when humans start experimenting with such things, it's very hard to stop. It's because it's a form of idolatry! When Satan got control of this world system away from Adam (Genesis 3:1-24), he brought in all his fellow angels who mutinied with him against God (see Revelation 12:7-9). It was an attempted coup. However, God won the war. As a result, a trial was held for those who attempted the coup. One of their initial punishments was the destruction of their solid bodies. Originally, all angels were made with solid bodies, similar to what male humans have. [Contrary to what you see in paintings and Christmas cards, there are no female angels. The first woman was Eve, who had been a part of the first man, Adam (Genesis 2:22-23). That's why Eve was called a **woman**. Adam was given the seed of human life, which male humans would inherit.

And Eve was to be a type of human incubator that the baby that was sired in her body would grow in. That's why Eve was created. The Bible says, "*God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it...'*" (Genesis 1:28 NIV). So there are no baby angels. Heaven did not need to be repopulated (see Matthew 22:30)! And, as with humans, they were given talents and abilities that enable them to do their jobs. Some of them were given talents similar to those that some humans have, such as art work, sculpture, singing, or playing music instruments, etc. Most, if not all, angels are much more powerful than humans.

However, instead of being loyal to God, one third of them chose to be loyal to Satan, who was originally a powerful heavenly angel. At the beginning, his name was Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12 KJV), but God later changed his name to "Satan," which means, deceiver of the whole world (see Revelation 12:9 KJV). The Bible says that God said to Satan, "*You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you*" (Ezekiel 28:14-15 NIV). Apparently before his fall, Satan had been very attractive physically. Therefore, he was very vain about his appearance. However, God was so angry at the mutiny and their many sins, that He burned up their solid bodies. God said, "*Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries [solid bodies]. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.*" (Ezekiel 28:16-18 NIV). This all happened before God made Man.

Sadly, Satan corrupted everything good that God had given him,

and influenced his fallen angels to do so. And the Bible says that, after the mutiny, 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). Jesus said, "*...I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven*" (Luke 10:18 NIV). Then God decided to make man. "*...When God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created **them male and female** and blessed them. And when they were created, He called them 'man'*" (Genesis 5:1-2 NIV). I deliberately highlighted this verse because many woman think that when God uses the word "man" in scripture, He's only referring to the male gender. Not true. Adam was created as a combination of both male and female. God later separated the woman from the man (Genesis 2:21-23). But when God declares something He is always referring back to the original. So when the word "man" is used in scripture and God is speaking generally, not to or of a specific man, He is referring to both men and women.

Getting back to the point, God gave control of this world to Adam (Genesis 1:26-28) as a result of Adam's sin (Genesis 3:1-24), that's how Satan gained control of the human race. It's because, as Jesus said, "*...everyone who sins is a slave to sin*" (John 8:34 NIV). Adam's disobedience to God and obedience to his wife, who obeyed Satan, made them slaves of the devil. And the children of a slave become the property of the slave's owner. That means all of us were born through Adam's blood. Christ is the only human who was born through



the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). His mother, Mary, was a virgin. That is why we have to be Born Again (John 3:3). Jesus Christ took the place of Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45) and, when we are reborn spiritually through Him, we are "Born Again" (John 1:12-13). The temptation Satan uses to control a person through a specific sin comes from either the devil specifically, or one of those demons (fallen angels) who mutinied with him (Ephesians 6:12). And certain demons seem to hold a magnet to people who are predisposed, or vulnerable toward that sin. The Bible says, "*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*" (Colossians 3:5-6 NIV). Therefore, if you have a temptation toward lust, be sure to stay away from pornography no matter how strong the demon of lust is pressing your button! Satan and the demons who temp people toward lust want to enslave you! "*Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, **everyone who sins is a slave to sin.** Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever'*" (John 8:34-35 NIV). So resist sin and remain in the family of God (John 15:1-8)!

If you love and serve God, through His Son Jesus Christ, He has redeemed you from slavery to Satan and his demons. So don't backslide into the slavery of sin again by giving into temptation. As a son of God, you will be God's child, His son or daughter forever. Many who were once saved, have fallen away from Christ because Satan knew what buttons in them to press. He knows our vulnerabilities, so be faithful and strong. Remember how much God loves you! There's nothing in this whole world that's remotely worth your salvation (Matthew 16:26)! And don't make the mistake of thinking it's easy to repent and return to God. I backslid for about five years long ago, and it was a difficult struggle to return to the Lord. The more you sin, the tighter Satan will have a grip on you. Satan affects people's thinking and their mind. He will fill you full of all kinds of guilt and tell you that God doesn't want you and is angry at you, so there's no point in going to Him. Besides, the devil will say, if you return to God, you'll miss out on all the sinful

(Continued on Page 4)

pleasures that are waiting for you. Don't listen to him! Stay away from temptation.

As I type this, I feel reminded about the evil serial killer, Ted Bundy. When they showed him being brought into the police station, after his arrest, I was watching the scene on television. And I could see the demons in his eyes! That's what can happen when you fall so deeply into sin and the slavery is complete. You can become demon possessed (see Matthew 8:16, 28-32)! Bundy was interviewed on television from Death Row at Florida State Prison several days before his execution. I didn't see the demons in his eyes anymore. Demons are not obvious. They can't deceive you if they can be seen. So even "...*Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light*" (2 Corinthians 11:14 NIV).

During the interview, Bundy implied that his sin temptation button had been pornography. He had developed a craven for all types of it. Eventually it got such a strong hold in him that it drove him to kill women. He didn't feel that he had any strength to control it anymore. Something evil had gained control of him! Don't get sucked into sin. It will destroy you! Ted Bundy was an attractive man. That's how he enticed women to go with him! However, I saw the pictures that were taken of him after his execution in Florida's electric chair. He was bald, as his head had been totally shaven, and he looked awful!

I was in touch with someone who was on Florida's death row shortly before Bundy's execution. The man I knew had become a Christian. I asked him if he knew Ted Bundy. He told me that he asked one of the chaplains there if he thought Bundy had repented of his sin and came to Christ. He told me that the chaplain had said that Bundy was the type of person who would tell you what he thought you wanted to hear and didn't tell the truth. People in that very deep sin think that God will not forgive them even if they repent. They know that it's too late for good works (see Ephesians 2:8-9) and they think that even God couldn't forgive them, and their sin is beyond hope. However, Jesus said, "...*go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*" (Matthew 9:13 KJV). Don't underestimate God's love for you, or His power to forgive. "*The Lord is ...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9 NIV).

Then there's the button for gambling. When he was a young man in his thirties, my Dad had a gambling button. He was living in England during those years. He used to gamble on horses. Sometimes he would even place bets over the phone. I was very young then, but I think he probably went to the racetrack as well. He was not making much money at his job so it was important that he not waste any of it. He struggled with that button for years. I was only between four and six years old at the time, but I could see how ashamed he looked when he told my mother how much money he had lost. In fact, I don't remember a time that he ever made money gambling. So it was all based on wishful thinking. Thank God he finally gave it up! However, people have actually killed themselves over gambling, especially at gambling casinos such as Los Vegas, Reno, or Monte Carlo. It has broken up marriages and ruined lives.

Then there's the button for drugs. I knew a young man who attended the church I use to attend when I lived in Staten Island. He had become Born Again (John 3:3) at another church, in New York City, but my church had a radio show, and he came there for a visit and attended a few times. He had lived a life of crime, but repented

of his sins and had accepted Christ as his Savior. The man's name was John. I never knew him before he was saved, but when I first met him he was full of the Holy Spirit and a very sweet guy. I noticed that he really loved the Lord, although he didn't know much about how to live for God. And he had not yet made enough of an effort to get off the drugs. He was getting his fix regularly from the city's methadone treatment clinic. He still wanted Christ in his life, and he had given up crime, but he thought that he could have both Christ and the drugs. However, it doesn't work that way. Like King Saul (1 Samuel 16:14) and after a while, the Holy Spirit departed from him and an evil spirit tormented him.

You can have either Christ or your sinful button, but you can't have both at the same time! That's because sin is idolatry. If you don't love the Lord enough to make a serious effort to give up the idolatry, the Holy Spirit will leave you, even if you've accepted Christ and repented of your sin. It seems that when Satan got control of this world from Adam (see Genesis 3:6-19), he put certain demons that mutinied with him in charge of specific sins. They expect to be treated as gods. In pagan cultures they are worshiped as gods. But in reality, there is only one God. The Bible tells us that when the Jews backslid away from God, they started worshiping these demons who convinced the people that they were "gods." "*They sacrificed to demons, which are not God—gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear. You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.*"

The LORD saw this and rejected them because He was angered by His sons and daughters" (Deuteronomy 32:17-19 NIV. Also, see John 3:3).

John began to backslide to his past. Fairly soon the demon of drugs gained back his control of John, and he became enslaved all over again. When you consider the humiliation, pain and agony that Christ suffered to break the chains of slavery that Satan had on the sinner, if the sinner is not willing to put forth enough effort to give up the sin, God will leave him or her. After a year or so, John felt like all hell had broken loose to reclaim him. I didn't know him at that time, he had regressed into such deep sin. But, after he died, his friend (who led him to Christ) told me what had happened, and I began to put the pieces together. Two people at his church who knew him were given dreams that saw John in Heaven. So John must have come to his senses and repented again. He must have told the Lord that he wanted to return to Him, but didn't have the strength to give up the drugs, and he did not want to live a life of bondage to the drugs anymore. He had backslid so far into sin that this world didn't have anything he wanted anymore. He wanted to go home to Heaven. He knew he wasn't worthy, but he knew how great God's love had been. He loved the Lord and didn't want to disgrace Him anymore (Hebrews 6:4-6). And he probably asked God to let him die and go to Heaven. And God acquiesced.

Frank, John's friend who had taken him to church, where John had accepted Christ, told me what had happened. John had gotten so out of control that his mother and sister had left the apartment they shared with him. They went and stayed with friends or family for a few days. When they decided to return, they look Frank with them, thinking he might help John calm down. It was too late. John was already dead. He was only twenty-six years old, but he had died of a brain hemorrhage. Frank said there was blood all over the apartment and John's body stunk so bad that the whole apartment smelled of it. John had put on the kettle to make himself a cup of tea, but the kettle was dry, and the burner was still on, and a tea bag sat in an empty cup on the stove top. So please let Christ control your buttons and only live for Him!

