



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

May 2022

FROM US TO YOU

It's Springtime, and the weather is beautiful here on Long Island. Spring is a time of renewal, spiritually like Easter. Easter is over. It's supposed to be a special time every year when we remember the holy sacrifice God's "...one and only Son" (John 3:15-16 NIV) made for us on Calvary. Sadly, to most Americans, it has just become a day of rabbits, new spring outfits, and Easter egg hunts. Even churches are following the trend. Did you see the event at the White House recently where the President was taking instructions from the guy in the bunny costume? Nothing should be as serious and holy an occasion as Easter! Consider the fact that Christ, the living Word of God, who created the whole universe (John 1:1-3), was willing to leave Heaven, strip Himself of all of His own power and glory, and come into this evil world of sin, to die an agonizing death in our place! As Isaiah prophesied, "Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth" (Isaiah 53:4-7 NIV).

In years past, God has blessed our nation and its people so abundantly due to the fact that it was founded on Christianity by Christians who loved and served our only Savior, Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5-6). However, that has changed. America's best days are behind her. God has been rejected by those who influence the population, and it has taken its toll on our society. God, who created us and gave His Son for our salvation, has been replaced by idols. Idols of sports, movies, finance, gambling, rock and rap music, fancy food, and lavish lifestyles are worshiped by the people. It has gotten to the place where even sorcerers can advertise on television and no one is shocked (Jeremiah 27:9-10 and Revelation 21:8)! Movies and television have become salacious, and drug use has become big business. And a fortune in money is spent on both every year. For many it has been a financial sacrifice. However, the Christianity this country was founded on has been put on the back burner. Yes, God is full of love (see 1 John 4:8), and a devoted Father to His children. However, He is not a genie who grants all your wishes. As the apostle Paul put it, "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).

The way God sees it, even many of His beloved children have backslidden toward the "gods" of this world (1 John 2:15-16 and Ephesians 6:12). "They made Him jealous with their foreign gods and angered Him with their detestable idols. 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. 'I will hide My face from them,' He said, 'and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful. They made Me jealous by what is no god and angered Me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding'" (Deuteronomy 32:16-21 NIV). Jesus is that Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4). No wonder there is tension, and talk of war around the world! Another cancer in our society is the general disrespect for God (Exodus 20:7). He has been treated as a religious icon from the past that modern, enlightened society has risen above. Futuristic shows like "Star Trek" talk of the worship of many gods, as if it is a normal, natural thing to aspire to. And, despite God's many warnings, homosexuality is not only condoned by our society, but taught in public school as a respected alternative lifestyle!

Yet the Bible tells us, that those who are tempted by this awful sin have hope.

Paul led many such sinners to repentance. He wrote, "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor

male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11 NIV. Also, see Romans 1:20-52). For many of you deliverance from this bondage can still be found through a humble repentance and asking for God's salvation and help (Luke 18:10-14). For it is not a natural, normal lifestyle and God did not make you this way. Satan's temptations did!

For others, their hearts are so hard that God's seed will not penetrate (Mark 4:5,16-17). They are contemptuous and mocking of the ways of God. And they are used by the devil to destroy all that is good in our society. That ship is the Titanic. Head for the lifeboat and get out fast! For, "...some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith" (1 Timothy 1:19 NIV). Jesus Christ is the lifeboat of salvation (John 14:6). "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12 NIV).

In the Lord's service, Eric and Anne Kaestner



Beware of the Little Sins

By Anne Kaestner

When I was a child, my mother had a friend named Kay. Although she was no relation to me, I was told to call her “Auntie Kay” as Mother didn’t approve of children calling adults by their first names. On one of the first visits we took to her house, we noticed all the “souvenirs” that Kay and her husband displayed openly. There was something like an ashtray with the hotel name on it, towels from an inn, drinking glasses with the name of a restaurant written across the top. Memorabilia from their trips abounded throughout the living room. Kay made it clear that she had not purchased the items, but had just taken them as reminders of places she had visited. I was about nine years old at the time and, with childlike innocence, I asked “But Auntie Kay isn’t that stealing?” “No Anne” she told me. “You pay for it. These places know that people are going to take souvenirs, so they add it in to the cost of your bill when you leave.” Kay never thought of herself as a criminal, and would have been very offended if anyone had accused her of such a thing. She was like many average, ordinary Americans who thought nothing of engaging in a little bit of larceny once in awhile. She didn’t even think of it as being wrong.

Years later, after I was newly married, my husband and I attended a wedding. At the reception, we sat at a large table with a group of other guests. They were mostly young men, in their twenties and thirties. The waitress placed an attractive bread basket on our table. It was painted in shiny gold and helped to add to the ambiance of the occasion. A little while later, she came back to clear away the dishes and noticed that the basket was gone. I hadn’t seen who took it, but, judging from the comments that followed, it was clear that it had been someone at our table. The waitress became very upset and asked us all where it was. When no one owned up to the crime she took on a worried expression and walked off. After she left, some of the men began to ridicule her. One of them made a remark about the bride’s father, and how much money he was spending for the reception, and how petty the waitress had been to make such a big deal about a wicker basket. But I felt sorry for her. She was undoubtedly concerned for a reason. In most situations like this, it is the employee that gets the blame when something is taken. Often she may be asked to pay back the cost of the missing item out of her own salary. In other cases, she could be fired.

Nevertheless, whenever this occurs, the thief will nearly always take a self-righteous attitude and will attempt to cover his or her sin with arrogance and a deceitful defense. Notice the similarity in the line of logic used to excuse the two thefts. They were both rationalized away on the pretense that the stolen items were covered in the cost of whatever was being purchased. What’s interesting is that the same type of people who steal without consciousness of guilt are also the same ones who will complain about the social depravity and evil in this world. The further away a person is from the Light of Christ (John 8:12) the more easily they will see the sins in others, but never in themselves. There are many people in prison today who do not consider themselves criminals. I’m not referring to individuals who were convicted of a crime they didn’t commit. I am referring to people who were convicted and sentenced for an offense that they had rationalized away to such an extent that they didn’t even consider it criminal behavior. How many hardworking, seemingly good citizens regularly cheat on their taxes but justify it in their own minds by complaining about the tax system? How many Americans go out drinking every weekend and then get behind the wheel of a car when they’re so intoxicated they can barely walk? Employee theft is another big

problem nationally. Millions of dollars has been lost by corporations nationwide due to the thievery of their own staff. Too many people don’t consider it stealing if they take something that belongs to someone they are close to, such as a relative or an employer. This is unfortunate, because they are robbing people who have trusted them, and they are betraying that trust!

I once knew a young man of about 23 years old. His name was John. I met him one day when he was visiting the church I attended back in the 1970’s. John had been a newly reborn (see John 1:12-13, 3:3, and 1 Peter 2:2) Christian who had just turned to the Lord a few weeks earlier. When I first met him it was hard to imagine the type of life he had been saved out of, but John came from a very troubled background. From an early age he had lived a life of crime and drugs. He described his own criminal record as being “a mile long.” Nevertheless, he had heard my church’s radio broadcast and came out to visit us one Palm Sunday. We became friends, and I was overjoyed at the wonderful Spirit I saw in him. He was filled with the peace and joy that only Christ can give! (See John 14:27, Philippians 4:7, John 14:27, and 2 Corinthians 1:1-24.) John’s walk with Jesus was new and beautiful. He wasn’t working at the time, and had no responsibilities since he lived with his mother. So it was easy for him to spend his days before the Lord, praying and reading his Bible. The trouble began when reality entered in. It started after he took a job that was offered to him by a member of the church that had led him to the Lord. John’s new boss was very different from those he had worked

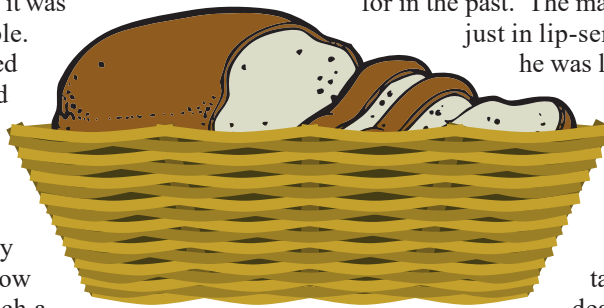
for in the past. The man, a restaurant owner, loved the Lord, not just in lip-service, but in lifestyle as well. Therefore, he was law-abiding (Romans 13:1-8). And, much

to John’s dismay, he deducted all the appropriate taxes from his paycheck.

Therefore, John complained to me that he wasn’t making enough money and that all his previous employers had paid him “off the books.” Then came the temptations of everyday life in New York. Drug dealers seemed to know he’d been a junkie,

and John told me that they would try to get him to buy their wares. Another problem arose one day after he’d been witnessing about Jesus to a neighbor. He was so enthusiastic about winning souls for the Lord that he gave away his sister’s Bible without her permission! This caused an argument between him and his mother.

John had been delivered from a terrible life of crime and drugs, but it was the little things that became his stumbling block, the little sins that Satan uses to hook people right back into the lifestyle from which Christ had delivered them (2 Peter 2:20-22)! And in John’s case it worked. Slowly he began to drift away from Jesus and I watched with horror as I saw him fall back deeper and deeper into his past. I prayed for him often. I tried to witness to him. The pastor of our church prayed for him. Other members of the congregation tried to encourage him to return to the Lord, but nothing worked. John was miserable living for Satan, but he was also unwilling to return to the Lord. It was a very sad, frustrating time, but I knew that there was nothing I could do to help him. Only Jesus could do that, and John had to reach out to Him. The end of John’s life was horrible. I remember seeing him in the hospital after I visited him one day. The police had found him unconscious on a park bench and had taken him there. After that, months went by, and I never heard a word from him. Then one day I phoned the Christian friend of his who had led John to the Lord. He wasn’t home, so I left a message. When he returned my call it was a week later, and he told me that John had died. During his last days he was so dangerous, due to the



drugs, that his mother and sister had left the home they had shared with him, and moved in with a relative. When they returned, they found John lying in a pool of blood on their kitchen floor. He had been dead from a brain hemorrhage for about a week, and his body had begun to decompose. I was told that it smelt awful. Satan knew he couldn't lure John back to drugs when he was strong in the Lord, so the devil set out to weaken him first. It was the little sins that trapped him. And it will be the little sins that will trap you too, if you try to live in both worlds! (See Matthew 6:24.) Remember that it only takes a small bit of bait to catch a very large fish!

Another one of Satan's favorite techniques is to compare evil with evil, and Christians do this frequently. That's why you hear so much talk about morality in the church. A man may feel superior to his adulterous neighbor if he has never had an illicit affair, but Jesus said, "...I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28 NIV). That's why it's sinful when Christian women dress in provocative clothing with low cleavage and tight skirts up to their thighs. It's because it promotes lust in the opposite sex! And it's not just sinful to engage in lustful behavior, it's also wicked to entice someone else to sin (Proverbs 9:13-18, Isaiah 3:16-17, 1 Thessalonians 4:2-5, and 1 Timothy 2:9-10). A Christian woman may say, "I want to get married, so I want to attract men." Lady, you're not going to attract a man worth marrying if your manner of dress sends off a message of promiscuity! (See 1 Timothy 5:11-12.) Another thing young Christian men and women have trouble with is flirtation. Now let's define our terms so that this will not be misunderstood. When I use the word flirtation, I'm not referring to casual conversation or friendly discourse between members of the opposite sex. It's normal for young people to joke or tease each other affectionately, and to express a general preference for the company of one person over another. However, teenagers and young adults are very impressionable in regard to peer pressure and the social climate of the times, which, unfortunately, is controlled by certain industries such as fashion, motion pictures, advertising, television, music, cosmetics, secular publishing, and many others. These industries do not adhere to Biblical teachings and, quite frankly, they often do the devil's work! So what may have been considered flirtation in Victorian days is not the same thing today. These days flirtation means making obvious sexual overtures, not necessarily with words alone. It's conveyed in body language, facial expressions, tone of voice, and direct eye contact. And it is not the message that a child of God should be sending!

When compared to murders, rapes, and arson, the flirt seems harmless by comparison. But it is what I call a "staircase sin." For example, most heroin addicts didn't start out that way, they began by smoking marijuana. Most rapists became addicted to pornography before they attacked their first victim. (Remember how the infamous serial killer Ted Bundy blamed his crimes on it.) In the same manner, countless married men and women have been led to adultery due to the charms of a flirt. And many single people have been nearly destroyed this way. I can still remember an event that took place long ago. I was only a child at the time, and I was with my family. We were sitting on a New York City subway train when my Dad noticed the front page of a newspaper. There was a picture of a disheveled, and somewhat disoriented middle-aged woman sitting on the side of a wooden pier by the beach. She had tried to commit suicide, but the police had saved her life. My Dad recognized her because she was his cousin. He told us how, at one time, she had been a strong Christian

who truly loved the Lord. She used to go around carrying a Bible and witnessing to people about Jesus. Then she met a married man who took a special interest in her. She was single, and hoping to get married to a nice single Christian guy. But the years went by, and the loneliness was painful, so she ended up having an affair with the man. It was a bad situation, because when we reject the laws of God and yield to the bait Satan is dangling in front of us, very often we not only lose our relationship with Christ, but we also lose the thing for which we traded our faith! When this occurred to my Dad's cousin, it nearly destroyed her. But, thank God, the Lord is merciful! He is "...a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" (Psalms 86:15 NIV). He does not hit us with a sledgehammer every time we sin against Him, because, like a loving husband (2 Corinthians 11:2), Jesus wants us to repent of our sins and return to Him.

However, God has emotions, just as we do. He feels pain and sadness when He is rejected (Genesis 6:6), so there are limits even to His abounding love. To quote a famous evangelist, whose crusade I once attended, "**Sin will make a fool out of you, and it is so selfish!**" Unfortunately, and to my great disappointment, his words turned out to be self-fulfilling, for just a few months later, a major scandal involving him was plastered all over the media. The problem with staircase sins is that they are so deceptive. That's why Christians constantly try to have one foot in the world and one foot in the church. But Jesus said, "*I know thy works, that*

thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16 KJV).

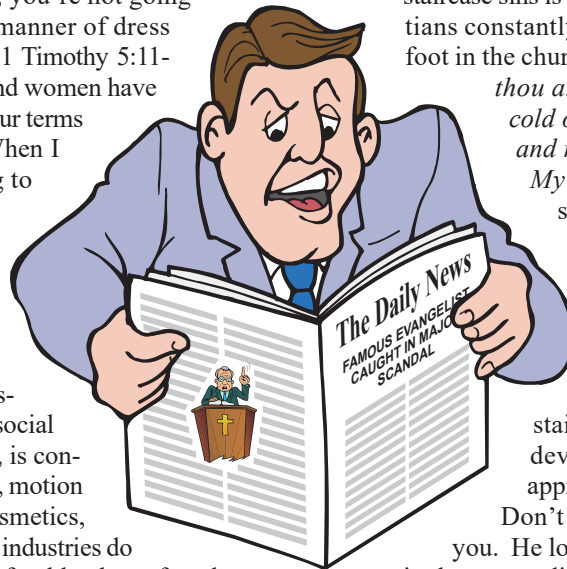
Little sins that you think you can get away with at a moment of spiritual weakness always lead to bigger sins later on! That's how Satan drags us humans down deeper and deeper into his rot of evil so that we will feel too guilty to repent. You see that's the next step. After you've taken his evil

staircase down further than you should be, the devil tells you that you're not worthy to even approach the Lord, and that God is angry at you.

Don't believe it. That's a lie! God isn't angry at you. He loves you, but He knows that you are heading in the wrong direction. Another problem with staircase sin is that it frequently results in more sin, because it's like a drug that you become addicted to. That's why it's foolish to believe in such a thing as a "little white lie." There is no such thing! A lie is a lie, and liars will be among those who are condemned to an eternity of torment and misery in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 21:8).

A few years before we began this ministry I heard the wife of a well-known evangelist discussing this. She described how, even though she ran an office filled with supposedly Christian employees, she had caught many of them in lies. Now that I also run a Christian organization with my husband, I have noticed the same thing! On one occasion a male employee told me (not asked, but **told** me) that he was going outside to put something in his car. I was busy, so I reluctantly nodded affirmatively. After it seemed that he had been gone a long time, I looked out the back window onto the parking lot. His car was there, but he was nowhere around. About ten minutes later, I happened to be in our front Reception Office when I saw him through the window walking back toward our building, from the opposite direction! Even if he did put something in his car, he was still being dishonest with me, and I was saddened, not so much from a perspective of being his employer, but because I had expected better from a man who went around telling everyone how much he loved Jesus!

(Continued On Page 4)



On another occasion I sent a secretary over to a local supermarket to pick up some supplies for the office lunchroom. She had gone on errands like this before, and she knew she was supposed to go to the local Waldbaum's supermarket. It seemed like she was always gone a long time when I sent her on trips like this, but she always had some excuse about the line being long or whatever. Then, as my husband and I were getting ready to leave the office one day, I noticed that the milk in the refrigerator had the name of a different supermarket on it. The next day I called her into my office. I asked her if she ever went to any other store when I sent her out for supplies. "No," she told me, with an innocent look. "Just Waldbaum's." I asked her the same question again in about three different ways, each time followed by a "think carefully now, are you sure that you didn't go anywhere else?" "No," she replied each time, "Just Waldbaum's." "Then why," I asked her, "does the milk say Pathmark?" It was then that she suddenly "remembered" that she had been to Pathmark **the day before!** It was followed by a long, highly suspicious story that began with her making an illegal turn out of our office driveway. People, God does not take this type of dishonesty lightly! (See Acts 5:1-11.)

Neither of these employees work for us anymore. I had to terminate both of them. But it wasn't simply due to the lies they had told. There was a consistent spirit of rebellion (1 Samuel 15:23) in the hearts of both of them that went on for many months. We had prayed for them, and asked God to change them into Christians we could trust, but that never occurred. And finally the situation got so bad that the Lord made it clear to us that we would just have to let them go. Now I understand exactly what the evangelist and his wife were talking about when they said that lying and dishonest behavior are two of the most prevalent sins that Christians commit. What's worse, the Lord's people don't even seem to realize how bad this is! Back in the forties and fifties the general public had more respect for the truth, and a greater fear of God (2 Samuel 23:3 and Proverbs 1:7), than Born Again believers have today! This type of thing is pandemic in the body of Christ!

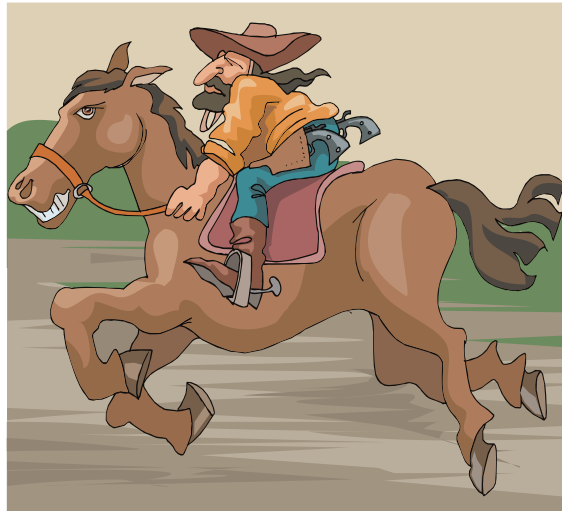
I remember a Christmas party I had planned years ago. I invited a woman I knew from a church we were attending, but she told me that she would be out of town. When not enough people were available I canceled the party and accepted the invitation of another parishioner who invited me to a big Christmas dinner she was having in her home. Can you guess who else was there? It was the woman who had told me she would be out of town. When I asked her about this, she simply stated that she hadn't wanted to hurt my feelings. I would have preferred that she had told me the truth!

Jesus told the religious leaders in His day that they were all a bunch of liars. Then He told them that, as liars, they were not the children of God, but rather the devil! The Lord said that Satan, "...was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44 NIV. Also, see 1 John 3:8-10). Excuses abound in the church, but excuses won't save you. Christians try to get by with just enough religion to make them feel "saved." Yet those who truly love Jesus don't look for excuses to sin against Him, they do all they can to please Him and live a life beyond reproach! Peter warned the church, "As obedient

children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:14-16 NIV). The trouble is the general philosophy that a small amount of sin is not a bad thing. Even some pastors have taught their congregations that it's permissible for them to sin a little bit every day. Their parishioners have come to believe that God isn't looking when they take something that doesn't belong to them or when they tell a lie. Yet "the eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good" (Proverbs 15:3 NIV). Jesus didn't tell the woman caught in adultery, "Don't sin as often." He said, "...Go, and sin **no more**" (John 8:11 KJV). In these last days, the conscience of people has been "...Seared with a hot iron" (1 Timothy 4:2 KJV). The forces of spiritual darkness are so strong that even many Christians are being deceived by them (Matthew 24:24 and 2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

I once heard the account of a job search that was being conducted back in the days of the pony express. A rider was needed to carry the mail over a steep and narrow mountain road. Many men were interviewed for the job. One of them explained that he was such a good rider that he could race his horse along the very edge of the cliff and do it in record time. Then came another applicant. "I'm a good rider," he said. "And I have a fast horse. But that cliff

is very steep, and there are many loose rocks along the edge. So I stay as close to the mountain as I can get." He got the job! Too many Christians today like to coast along the edge to see how many sins they can commit and still get to Heaven! Many years ago, as I sat in a church sanctuary as a child, the Lord used one particular hymn to draw me to the altar where I tearfully repented of my sins and accepted Christ as my Savior and Lord. That Hymn was "Rock of Ages." What was it about that particular hymn, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee; let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power."



It told me that I couldn't survive in this evil world any other way but to hide myself in the cleft of the Rock, Jesus Christ (Exodus 33:21-22, Deuteronomy 32:4, Matthew 21:42-44, and 1 Peter 2:1-9), the way a shy little child hides behind the legs of her father! (See Matthew 18:3, Luke 10:21, and 1 Peter 2:2.)

All these years have passed since then, but I still need to cling to that Rock, and stay as close to Him as I can get, and so do you. For it was on a rocky, blood soaked hill named Calvary that Jesus bled and died for our sin! This is a wicked, filthy world that we live in today, and yet too many Christians have been reluctant to give it up (John 15:18-19, 1 John 2:15-17, and James 4:4)! Lot's wife felt the same way as she made her escape from Sodom, and she did what she was told never to do. She looked back longingly on her past, and God turned her into a pillar of salt! (See Genesis 19:26, and Luke 9:62.) It's not easy to live for Christ in this world, for "Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey..." (Isaiah 59:15 NIV). But the best way I know to survive is to cling to the solid Rock of Christ Jesus. And as Joshua stated so long ago, "...if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served, ...or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15 NIV).