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TAX-EXEMPT

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

May 2023

FROM US TO YOU

Finally, after many physical afflictions, we are able to get this newsletter out to you. Lots of people are having a hard time right now. Here in America, we have all gotten used to the blessings of God. However, sadly, this country is no longer living for God, and that’s why things have recently gotten so bad. Christ has been ridiculed, mocked, and lampooned in our sitcoms and other media, and most churches have become lukewarm religious social clubs. There is no longer holiness (1 Peter 1:15).

In our last newsletter we discussed an end time city that is mentioned in the Bible. It’s called “Mystery Babylon.” It closely resembles the United States in many ways. The Bible is filled with many metaphors, and the way Mystery Babylon is described, it is a big place. And, in the Bible, the term “city” is sometimes used to denote a large population, not necessarily a geographic location. Mystery Babylon is described as a place that was once greatly blessed by God. She becomes very wealthy through trade and makes the whole world richer. Then she becomes corrupt eventually because of her blessings. She influences the whole world with her sin. Toward the end, before her destruction, she gets to the place of persecuting God’s people (Revelation 17:6). However, eventually her cup of iniquity is full, and she is destroyed by her enemies in one hour (Revelation 18:19). For God is no longer helping her. The Bible describes her this way.

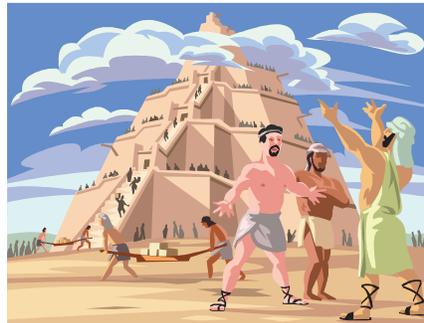
“After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: *Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries [Idolatry]. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries. Then I heard another voice from heaven say: Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn. Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her. When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come! The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more—cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood,*

bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. They will say, The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered. The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn and cry out: Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin! Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, Was there ever a city like this great city? They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!” (Revelation 18:1-19 NIV).

Of course that is unlikely to take place any time soon. However, in America, things are moving in that direction. Yes, it is shocking to believe it could happen to the United States. But how many Americans expected nine-eleven to take place? The original Babylon took place in Nimrod’s day. God had not divided the earth yet. And all the people worked together to build a tower tall enough to get into Heaven without God (Psalm 127:1). “Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.’ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The LORD said, ‘If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.’ So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4-9 NIV).

In the first Babylon all the people of the earth worked together trying to reach Heaven through their hard work and proud scientific achievements. However, they didn’t do it God’s way (John 14:6). How like America’s space program. The paradox is that the first Babel, or Babylon, was scattered by God all over the earth. The United States, like a reverse Babylon, is bringing the world together without God, in one language, and in one place. Thousands of people are illegally entering this country. So, “seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’S anger” (Zephaniah 2:3 NIV). “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5 NIV).

In Christ, we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



THE DIETY OF JESUS CHRIST

By Anne Kaestner

Who was Jesus Christ? For two thousand years, scholars, religious leaders, and even heads of state have puzzled over the question. For no human being has ever made such an impact upon the human race! Even the calendar we use dates back to His birth! Christ was not a rich man. Although He was born through the royal line of David (Matthew 1:17), His stepfather, Joseph, was a simple carpenter (Matt. 13:55). And Jesus was taught that trade as a child (Mark 6:3). Carpenters build houses. But Christ never owned a home of His own (see Matthew 8:20). He never got married or raised a family, in the conventional sense of the word (Matthew 9:14-15, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:31-32). He was a hunted man from the time of His birth (Matthew 2:13-15) to the years preceding His death (Mark 11:18). He never wrote a book, never traveled far beyond the land of His birth, and His education was unimpressive. Even so, while still only a child, His wisdom astounded the scholars of His day (Luke 2:46-47)! As the prophet foretold, "...He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His **appearance** that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2 NIV). Jesus Christ did not look like a movie star! His appeal was not superficial. Yet there was something about Him that attracted large crowds (Mark 3:20)! Many of His disciples were fishermen. Their hair was not well coiffed and sprayed in place. It smelt of the sea air, and was blown about by the wind. These men were not considered wise by earthly standards (Acts 4:13). Nor were most of those who followed Christ (1 Corinthians 1:26-29). And the ones who loved Him the most, were considered sinners by society (Luke 7:34, 7:37-48, 19:1-10). But Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but **sinners** to repentance" (Luke 5:32 NIV. Also, see Romans 5:6-10).

Christ was born Jewish. But it was the Jews who hated Him the most (John 5:15-18)! Although He "...came to that which was His own, ...His own did not receive Him" (John 1:11 NIV). Yet if they had received Him, He would not have been their Messiah! For Hebrew scripture stated that the Messiah would be "...despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering..." (Isaiah 53:3 NIV). People talk about self-esteem. Well, Jesus was not held in high esteem by the hierarchy of His day! As Isaiah foretold, "...we **esteemed Him not**" (Isaiah 53:3 NIV). It is a normal human desire to want to fit in with one's peers and to be popular. However, Jesus Christ never fit in with the things or people of this world! "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a son, He learned obedience from what He suffered" (Hebrews 5:7-8 NIV). "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:12-13 NIV). Why is that? As Jesus told the religious leaders of His time, "...You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world" (John 8:23 NIV. Also, see 2 Corinthians 6:14). Near the end of His life Jesus said, "...the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on Me" (John 14:30 NIV. Also, see Matthew 4:8-11). He was saying, that although He was tempted in every way (Luke 4:2 and Hebrews 2:18), He did not sin against God (Hebrews 4:15). Therefore, Satan had no legal hold on Him!

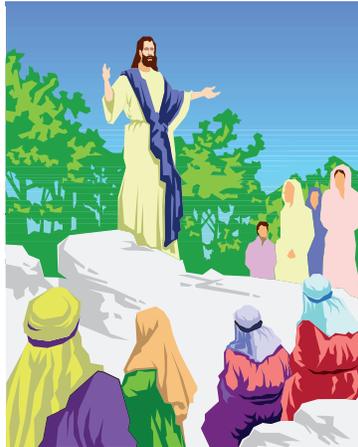
Nevertheless, Christ allowed Himself to be arrested. "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led

like a **lamb** to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7 NIV. Also, see Genesis 22:8, John 1:29, Matthew 26:62-63, Mark 15:3-5, and John 19:9-10). He could have avoided capture. His disciples were willing to fight on His behalf. Simon Peter even took a sword "...and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear..." (John 18:10 NIV). However, Jesus rebuked Peter. He told him, "...Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given Me?" (John 18:11 NIV). "Do you think I cannot call on My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" (Matthew 26:53-54 NIV). "...And He touched the man's ear and **healed him**" (Luke 22:51 NIV). How many children, if you were to ask them what they want to be when they grow up, will say, "I want to be despised and rejected by my own race. I want to be treated with contempt in my own hometown, suffer many sorrows, and be betrayed by a friend. I want to be tortured by strangers, mocked by leaders of my own faith, and publicly humiliated. Then I want to be beaten with a whip, crowned with thorns, and nailed to a cross naked until I slowly die in agony?" The question is ludicrous because all of this is the very antithesis of the natural desires of the human heart.

Yet that was the life of Jesus Christ (Mark 6:1-3, 14:43-46, Matthew 26:38, 26:67-68, 27:26-31)! How many loving parents would want their child to live such a life? Yet, "...God so loved the world, that He gave **His only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV). That does not mean that God loves this world system (1 John 2:15-17). It means that God saw the pitiful state of the human race and had compassion for us, knowing that "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" (Isaiah 53:6 NIV).

It is a common belief that all of us were born children of God. We were not (John 8:44)! We were born children of Adam! And Adam was originally a son of God (Luke 3:38), which is not the same thing as being "...the only begotten of the Father..." (John 1:14 KJV). Nevertheless, as a result of his sin, Adam changed masters, and became an adopted son of the devil. It was a relationship that enslaved him and all his descendants after him. "...For a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him" (2 Peter 2:19 NIV. Also, see John 8:34). Even so, through repentance to God and salvation through Jesus Christ, we now have the "...power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12 KJV). Yet none of that is to be confused with the position of God the Son! For salvation through Christ places us right back into the condition that Adam was in prior to his rebellion. It cleanses us of sin and reconciles us to God the Father (Colossians 1:20-23, Ephesians 2:16). However, Adam was never deity! He was a **created** being. The flame of life within him was lit by God Himself. "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life..." (Genesis 2:7 NIV). Until then, there was **no life** in Adam. It was the very **breath** of God that made the man "...a living being" (Genesis 2:7 NIV). The Bible tells us that "...our 'God is a consuming fire'" (Hebrews 12:29 NIV). So, Adam received the characteristics of fire through the breath of his Maker. He received light, energy, warmth, and the ability to reproduce indefinitely without diminishing the original flame.

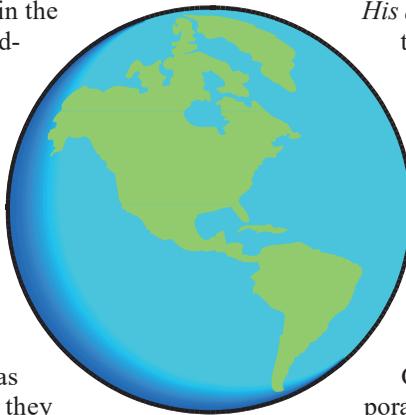
How did God do this? He did it through His Holy **Word**. "In



the **beginning** was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with **God**, and the **Word** was **God**. **He was with God in the beginning**" (John 1:1-2 NIV). At the very beginning of all things, before the universe was even made, God existed. And **someone else** existed with Him. That Person was also God! Are there two Gods? No. There is only one (Psalm 96:5 and 1 Timothy 2:5). However, take a look at the wording that God uses when He says, "...*Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...*" (Genesis 1:26 NIV). A similar statement is made when "...*the LORD God said, 'The man has now become like one of Us, knowing good and evil...'*" (Genesis 3:22 NIV). Then, again, God speaks of Himself in the plural when He says, "*Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other*" (Genesis 11:7 NIV). That's because, when it refers to our Creator, the word "God" does not apply to one person, but a unilateral Trinity, or **family of three!** "*For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one*" (1 John 5:7 KJV). [You may not find that scripture in some of the modern translations of the Bible. It is not in the New International Version, which I use a lot. However, the translators added it as a footnote at the bottom of the page.] The Holy Trinity is one of the hardest things for people to understand, but it is really just a matter of semantics. The Hebrew word for "God" in Genesis 1:1 is Elohiym (H430). In Strong's Bible Dictionary it is described as the plural form of "a deity or the Deity."

Now, getting back to the "Word" of God, He's the individual who was responsible for making everything in the universe, including us (John 1:3). He is the embodiment of all **life** and **light** (John 1:4). But there's something else about Him. The Bible tells us that He was actually here among us on planet earth! However, He was not recognized by the people that He Himself created (John 1:10)! So, how did He come into this world? "...*The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth*" (John 1:14 KJV. Also, see Luke 1:26-33). Most people associate the name Jesus Christ with the man who was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. Yet they do not consider His preincarnate personage! However, long before He was born of the Virgin Mary, the person we call Jesus Christ was **with** God (John 17:5). He was there when all the plans for the human race were being drawn up, and construction on planet earth began. Through the inspired writings (2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16) of Solomon, God the Son recalls the joy They shared together. He said, "*I was there when He set the heavens in place, when He marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when He gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep His command, and when He marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at His side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in His presence, rejoicing in His whole world and delighting in mankind*" (Proverbs 8:27-31 NIV. Also, see Proverbs 30:4). God the Father was the Architect of the universe, but God the Son was the Builder!

Actually, the human race did not really exist at that time. However, the blueprints for all of us had been worked out to the tiniest detail (Psalm 139:15-16)! God knew, even before the earth was made, that you would one day exist. It was never His will for mankind to drift away from Him and become a slave to sin. But He knew that we would. So, the plan for our salvation was drawn up even before God breathed His breath into the nostrils of Adam! For He did not want "...*anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9 NIV). And, despite the enormous cost of giving us life (1



Peter 1:18-19), God knew ahead of time that certain individuals would love and serve Him. Therefore, "...*those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son...*" (Romans 8:29 NIV. Also, see Ephesians 1:5, 1:11-12, 2:10). You see, that was originally God's plan for all of us (Genesis 1:26)! Therefore, after mankind fell away from God (Genesis 3:1-24), the Lord's plan to restore us to Himself went into effect. Christ became the replacement for the original Adam who brought sin upon the human race (1 Corinthians 15:22). Ten centuries before Christ's departure from Heaven and His birth through a virginal Jewish maiden, Solomon wrote, "*The LORD brought Me forth as the first of His works, before His deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before He made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world*" (Proverbs 8:22-26 NIV).

I want you to get the sense of who it is that is really talking. That passage was certainly not referring to any human man! It was not Solomon who worked alongside God the Father as He set forth the boundaries of the Earth (Proverbs 8:29)! It was God the Son! It was the One who said, "*I am the Alpha and the Omega... who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty*" (Revelation 1:8 NIV). He is, because He existed before anything else in the universe was even created. He was, because He "...*became flesh and made*

His dwelling among us..." (John 1:14 NIV). And He is the One who **is to come!** The Word of God is Jesus Christ! He overcame this world (John 16:33) and even His own death, so that **through Him**, we may also become overcomers for God (Romans 12:21, 1 John 2:14, 5:4)! He was, is, and will continue to be rejected by the lost of this world. "*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them*" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV). And we know who the temporary "god" of this world is. It is Satan, the devil (see

Matthew 4:8-10, Revelation 12:9). He is currently ruling over the earth (Ephesians 2:2) for the period of time that God originally gave to Adam (Genesis 1:26-28). But Satan's time of sovereignty will soon be up (Matthew 8:29, Revelation 12:12) and Jesus Christ is coming back! But this time, it will not be as the suffering Savior. It will be as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:11-16).

Jesus Christ was a Jew and a direct descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was the father of all the Israelites (Genesis 32:28). He had twelve sons. One of them was a man named Judah (Genesis 35:23). Exactly ten generations later, from the tribe of Judah, a man named David was born. He became King of all Israel (2 Samuel 5:12). Jesus Christ was able to trace His ancestry from all of them (Matthew 1:2-16)! In every detail, from His birth in Bethlehem (see Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1) to His death by crucifixion (Psalm 22:16 and Isaiah 53:5), Christ fulfilled all the prophecy about the coming Messiah. As He told the religious Jews who rebuffed Him, "...*if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins*" (John 8:24 NIV). Jesus Christ was the only person who was ever born on this planet who did not come from human seed. His mother, Mary, was a **virgin** when He was conceived (Luke 1:27). Mary was made pregnant by God (Luke 1:35)! When Jesus called Himself the "Son of Man" (Matthew 16:13), He was referring to the fact that He was born with human flesh through the body of a woman. So why didn't Jesus call Himself the "Son of Woman?" It was because whenever God makes a statement, He

(Continued on Page 4)

always thinks back to the **original** of everything. The original woman was Eve. However, Eve came from Adam! So, God did not see Eve as a separate entity. He saw her as “one flesh” with her husband (see Genesis 5:1-2). Therefore, whenever the Bible talks about Man in a general sense, it is referring to **both** men and women! Consequently, Mary came under the broad category of “Man” (Genesis 1:27, 5:2).

Now, why would God bring His only begotten Son into this world through normal human birth? Some people would have expected Him to arrive in all His power and glory. However, if He had come into this world in His natural form (Revelation 1:13-16), God’s plan of salvation could not have been carried out! When Jesus briefly appeared as He really is, even His own disciples were afraid of Him (Mark 9:2-6 and Revelation 1:17). So, God brought His Son into this world in an inconspicuous manner so as to achieve His goal. This made Jesus vulnerable to the contempt and abuse of the mortals that He had created. When Christ came into this world, He left all His power as God in Heaven. If He had retained that power while on Earth, no one would have been able to crucify Him! Just prior to the Lord’s crucifixion, God’s “...only begotten Son...” (John 3:16 KJV), was flogged severely (Isaiah 50:6, Matthew 27:26, John 19:1). The Romans used a whip made of several strips of leather into which were embedded, near the ends, pieces of bone and lead. Very often victims died from the beating alone. Their backs would stream with blood. Jesus endured this for you! Then, with a crown of thorns digging deeply into his scalp (see Matthew 27:29, Mark 15:17, John 19:2), He was forced to carry His own cross, dripping blood all the way until finally, He was too weak to carry it. So an African man named Simon of Cyrene (Matthew 27:32 and Luke 23:26), was given the task of carrying it for Him. With a back ripped apart from the beating, Jesus was then stripped naked and laid upon a wooden cross. A hammer was taken and placed against His wrists and thick nail spikes were thrust into his skin until He was nailed to the cross, hands and feet. This procedure causes unbearable pain, as the bones in the body are pushed out of joint. Through the inspired writings of David, God the Son prophesied His coming agony. He said, “...a band of evil men has encircled Me, they have **pierced My hands and My feet**. I can count all My bones; people stare and gloat over Me. They divide My garments among them and cast lots for My clothing” (Psalms 22:16-18 NIV. Also, see Mark 15:24). Then the cross was raised up with the full weight of Christ’s own body being supported by three bloody wounds. He was then crucified between two thieves.

Our Savior didn’t have to do it. But He did it anyway! He endured it all, because He loves you and me so much! Therefore, if we are to be saved through Him, we must, spiritually speaking, become crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)! He must become our total life support. We must consume Him (John 6:21-58) in our hearts. When we do this, and trust Him (Proverbs 3:5-6 and John 14:1) no matter what trials and tests of faith come our way (1 Peter 1:6-7), we have new life. We receive it from the same source that Adam received life originally. We receive it from God the Son! Jesus had taught these things to His disciples. Then, the same Son of God who breathed air into the lungs of Adam, “...**breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’**” (John 20:22 NIV). At the time, Christ’s disciples were upset because He told them that He would be leaving them soon. But He said, “...*It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you*” (John 16:7 NIV). Sure enough, on the day of Pentecost,



not long after the Lord had risen from the dead (Mark 16:6), and returned to His Father in Heaven (John 20:17), the disciples and Jesus’ mother and brothers were assembled together (Acts 1:14). By then the Lord had arrived back in Heaven. And He kept His promise to them. He sent them the Holy Spirit! The **breath** that came from the Lamb of God (Genesis 22:7-8, John 1:29, and Revelation 5:2-9) now reached them with power and fire (Matthew 3:10-11)! “...*Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...*” (Acts 2:2-4 KJV).

Now, what does God expect from you in return for His salvation? “...**Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord...**” (2 Cor. 6:17 NIV). The church these days seems to think that Christianity is like a big love boat where everyone loves everyone else and no one judges anyone (Leviticus 19:17, Luke 17:3, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 1 Peter 4:17). It’s the “I’m OK, you’re OK” philosophy. But that is not holiness! If you have been truly Born Again in Christ, you should have turned from the sinful ways of your past and the idolatry of this world (James 4:4, 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Peter 4:3, 1 Peter 1:14-16, and Philippians 2:15). You are supposed to be different! For “...*the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*” (1 Corinthians 2:14 KJV). So, you cannot remain in the natural human state that you inherited through the first birth and the lineage of Adam. Therefore, “**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will**” (Romans 12:2 NIV). The only way to do that is to have the mind of Christ. “*For who has known the mind of the Lord that He may instruct him? But we have **the mind of Christ***” (1 Corinthians 2:16 NIV). How do you get the mind of Christ? You live by His Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 5:25). When you do that, His Spirit will grow spiritual fruit in you. And why was mankind originally created? It was to “...*be fruitful and increase in number...*” (Genesis 1:28 NIV).

Christian martyrs spilt their blood by the gallon in order to preserve for us a **pure** faith! They died in horrible ways (see Matthew 23:35, Luke 11:51, Hebrews 11:35-38, and Revelation 2:13). Many of them were tortured to death, burned at the stake, fed to wild beasts, skinned alive, or even crucified! We not only owe a debt to God, but we also owe a huge debt to them! Therefore, the things of God cannot be defiled! Moreover, the Deity of Christ is not some new doctrine I have made up (Galatians 1:11). It is the most fundamental aspect of the Christian faith! If our faith were not in something greater than mere man, the church would not have survived the test of time. However, it was God the Son who died on Calvary for our salvation! Then He rose from the dead (Luke 24:34), never to die again! And because He lives, we can live through Him! He not only purchased our salvation with His own blood (1 Peter 1:18-19), but He gave us the power to live above sin! He did not die so that we can sin with impunity. He died in order to **free** us from the power of sin and death. There was no higher price that God could pay for us, than the blood of His own Son! Was it because we are such good people that Christ died for us? No! “*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 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 5:6-8 NIV).