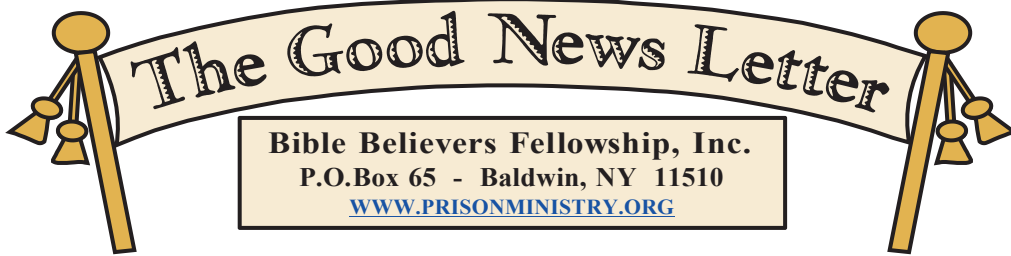




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TAX-EXEMPT

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

May 2026

FROM US TO YOU

Greetings to everyone in the name of the Lord! It's Springtime, and lots of good weather should not be far off. But we have a sadness in our hearts that has nothing to do with the weather. There has been a death in our household! Our little cat, Tiger, just died on Wednesday night, April 22nd. He was eleven years old, the youngest of any of our cats. Sasha was our first. She lived sixteen years. Her last few years were spent after we moved into our house in January 1999. Before that she lived at our apartment. She was Anne's favorite. We left her at the vet's office when she died. We were heartbroken. We think it was from a liver disease. Greta was our next. We could not bare going home to an empty house. She lasted the longest and was the heartiest. She'd even ate human food that most cats wouldn't eat. She was Eric's favorite. Eric buried her at the back of our garden. It was hard to find another cat with a sweet disposition. But we finally found Tiger, at a pet shelter after many tries and many shelters.

He seemed sweet, and was a part of a litter they had there. We were happy to bring home our little kitten, but the adjustment wasn't easy. The first time Anne tried to bring him out of the family room he clawed her arm so much that it was hard to stop the bleeding! The shelter had named him Tarzan. But he didn't look like a cat that would be flying through a jungle. So we renamed him Tiger after the attack. We obviously had to take him to the vet to have his claws removed. After we got him home, we put him back in the guestroom. He looked so pathetic, Anne felt sorry for him, despite the attack. He looked like he was wearing a lampshade on his head. He recovered in about a week. Then he was friendly again. It's a good thing that we had him declawed when we did, because after that they made it against the law to declaw your cat in New York. When he got sick recently, Eric took him to the veterinary hospital. It cost us over \$400. The disease was jaundice. He lasted a month after the diagnosis. Eric buried him in our backyard next to Greta.

It's hard when you lose someone that you love. It's normal to love an animal that you have kept as a pet. But what about humans? How about Christian humans? God tells us that if we really love Him with all our hearts, we will never die. If you don't make the Rapture of the church, you will, at least, have to go through a part of the Tribulation. And if you are a true Christian, your name will be written down in the books of life (Revelation 20:12). Your earthly body will not be needed in this world anymore, and you will be in the presence of the Lord. If you are alive when Jesus comes back, all us Christians will be taken to a safe place, not of this world. Thank God, we will miss out on the Tribulation (see Revelation 7:14). Seven years of Tribulation will come shortly after the Rapture. Christians who miss the Rapture will still have a chance of getting to Heaven through salvation in Christ. However, you will still have to go through at least part of the Tribulation.

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude

that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.' All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!' Then one of the elders asked me, 'These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?' I answered, 'Sir, you know.' And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them. Never again will they hunger;

never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes'" (Revelation 7:9-17 NIV). So those who miss the Rapture can still come to Jesus and be saved.

But it will be more difficult through the Tribulation, especially the second part of the Tribulation. God is hoping that most people will come to Him in the Rapture. The Tribulation will not be from the devil. It will be of God, in the hope that most will be Born Again. Those who are not will never get a second chance because Hell will never end. Unlike the Tribulation, it will be forever!

We don't know when the Rapture of the church will come. *"First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this 'coming' He promised?' Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation. But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men"* (2 Peter 3:3-7 NIV). Remember all the years that Noah built the ark, and yet people probably laughed at him. They all missed the ark, but it was Noah and his family that could have had the last laugh, but Noah could only pity them. He was a righteous man. Remember, you were warned!

We will end with the song by E. E. Hewitt (1898). **Sing the wondrous love of Jesus; sing His mercy and His grace. In the mansions, bright and blessed, He'll prepare for us a place. Refrain: When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!**

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



SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS

By Anne Kaestner

This is an exciting time for Christians! If you've read the Bible well enough you know that there are signs that we are living in the last days before Jesus is coming back, as He promised, for the Rapture of His church! Those who are just fair weather Christians, but really don't love Him, are not going to be Raptured. Maybe it won't happen today, or tomorrow. But all the signs of the times are here right now. When Jesus was risen, after He died on the cross, He appeared to many people. But before leaving earth on a cloud, He gave them a short sermon, and then he left them and returned to His Father. He said, "...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV).

Jesus also said, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit" (Matthew 7:15-17 NIV). That is one of many scriptures where Jesus warns the church about false prophets who speak with familiar Christian words and sometimes even quotes scripture. They act like they have something spiritual to tell you, because they come in sheep's clothing. That means that their clothing is false because their message is false. They speak to you in a way that sounds sympathetic and kind. But the message is wrong. For example, I remember when President Trump was sworn into office. He later attended a church service. I could see from his expression that he knew that the message was false and it was a surprise to him. He knew enough about the Bible to be aware that it was not a message against sin!

The speaker was a woman wearing the kind of clothing you would expect a pastor at a church to wear, clerical clothing. Her message seemed to be something about showing kindness and patience to LGBTQ people. The idea of attending a church message after taking office was a good one, if the message was a Christian one. That one wasn't! The tradition probably started decades ago, when a real Christian message was given. Now many people don't know enough about the Bible to know when something is the truth or false. On the surface it sounds like a Christian message. Words like "kindness" and "patience" sound like Christian words, and they can confuse a lot of people. There is nothing wrong with being kind and patient. And the message was presented in a church with the person wearing "sheep's clothing," as Jesus put it metaphorically. Of course, the preacher wasn't really wearing sheep's clothing. But the term implies that she was trying to deceive people with her message.

There is nothing in the Bible that says that the pastor of the church could not be a woman. It's only been in recent years that a woman has given the message in any church. It was a woman at "Release Time" that taught the Christian message to me. So I don't have any problem with women running certain church services. However, I also don't agree with the Apostle Paul saying, "women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church" (1 Corinthians 14:34-35 NIV). I do not know why Paul had such a disrespectful attitude toward women

or why he thinks their husbands would know the correct answers to spiritual questions. Jesus always treated women with courtesy and respect.

New Testament women were always treated with more consideration than Old Testament women. Jesus set the tone for this. In fact, Jesus wasn't afraid to defend Mary Magdalene, a former prostitute, to a man named Simon, whose house He was in (Luke 7:36-50). He frequently defended Mary, and didn't treat her with less respect because she was a woman. In fact, it was a woman in the church that led me to Christ for my salvation. I had no husband at the time. So Paul's suggestion wouldn't have worked for me. In fact, I was the one whom my husband credits for having such an influence for Christ that he was led to salvation. If I hadn't been able to speak and ask questions in church, I wouldn't have learned as much. Paul's statement about not allowing women to speak in church also gives us some understanding why Paul never got married. Now what about missionaries? They preach the gospel in churches they started.

Of Jesus' disciples, I personally like Peter most. He's the one who helped the new church on the day of Pentecost, understand the prophecy that was given. "Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine

in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on My servants, **both men and women**, I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and

glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Acts 2:14-21 NIV).

The message from the church speaker was the message that was wrong because, LGBTQ is not a Christian lifestyle. So the answer is don't live that way. Paul came into contact with many men who wanted to live the gay lifestyle in his messages to the men of Corinth, Greece, who preferred the gay lifestyle, but wanted to be right with God as well. Paul told them they couldn't have both. They had to choose whom they would serve. He said, "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 Corinthians 6:9-11 NIV). Sympathy, kindness, and understanding were not what they needed. It was a lifestyle that was right with God. Some of them had turned from the ways of their past, and had developed a strong walk with God.

The point is that they couldn't have it both ways. They had to choose who they would serve. To paraphrase what Joshua once said. "...if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, 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). Those who don’t serve the Lord, have a lot of choices they can make. There are a lot of demons out there, that would like to leave you astray. You could live for money, or love of country, or a gay lifestyle, etc. But there is only one God. And only Jesus Christ died for your sin! So love that which is good and not sinful. Love good things, parents, family, love them all, but love God more! Jesus said, *“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household. Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me”* (Matthew 10:34-38 NIV).

Jesus said that one of the signs of the coming Rapture is the increase of false prophets on the earth. Socialism and Communism is also a sign. When I was a little girl in England, before I came to the United States, one of my cousins became sick and was in the hospital. I think it was a throat problem. England has, as with much of Europe, a National Health System. So the government pays for all medical care, through taxes. Everything went well medically. But her mother wanted to take something sweet for her daughter to eat while she was in the hospital. She said that the problem was that all the nurses would make a patient that received something sweet to eat, share it with all the other nearby patients. So anything she took would not last her very long. She would have only a small portion of whatever she received. That’s socialism!

It wouldn’t happen in America. What belongs to someone just belongs to them. If they choose to share it, that’s their choice. No one is going to take it away from them to share with the group. New York City now has a socialist mayor. We don’t know yet how that will work out. So we’ll just have to wait and see. Sharing information is good, especially the Gospel, which may lead someone else to accept salvation in Christ. Some things should be shared. However, taking away someone else’s belongings to share with the others is theft. And the Bible tells us, *“You shall not steal”* (Exodus 20:15 NIV). Of course Socialism or Communism has nothing to do with Christianity. So when you live by a different set of rules, it’s not necessarily going to turn out the same way.

Margret Thatcher once stated, *“The problem with Communism is that you eventually run out of someone else’s money.”* Nevertheless, one of the forerunners to the Rapture is Socialism or Communism. The joy of living a free, Christian lifestyle is a gift of God. Other things should not come first, before the Rapture. The United States of America has never been a socialist or Communist country. But when changes are made for the downturn of a country, it is not a Christian country anymore. Jesus said *“... ‘When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.’ Jesus then left them and went away”* (Matthew 16:2-4 NIV).

Signs of the times are all around us. If you watch old television shows from the 1960’s, you will notice a difference from their lifestyle compared to today. The families in the shows spent more time in church. When someone in the family got married, they did it in a church. They didn’t talk about sex as much. And talk shows didn’t use filthy language. These days they don’t even bleep words out as much, and more needs to be bleeped out! In 1963 there were 90 %

Christian Families in the United States compared to today. Today there are only 62%, including Catholic. And many come from countries all over the world. And, these days, some come illegally. So people who may write the scripts keep that in mind and want to get bigger audiences. So, it seems that, instead of us turning the viewers toward Christianity, the scriptwriters were influencing Americans away from Christ.

Back in those days you didn’t see stories that had young women in bikini bathing suits. These days they are in many shows. The old show “I Dream of Jeannie” producers wanted to give Jeannie more than a bare midriff. But they thought it would be inappropriate. Not only did they tone it down, but, in the early episodes, the actress was pregnant, but they managed to keep it hidden. Notice that in old television shows, the husband and wife characters had single beds, even in an animated show, like “The Flintstones,” that was the case. The decision to change that didn’t come until 1964. They had higher standards in those days. Many of those new people come from countries where they speak English, such as Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, India, parts of Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. So language was no obstacle.

Christianity was taught in public school until Madalyn Murray O’Hair launched her lawsuit against it on April 13, 1919 to September 25, 1995. She was an Atheist. This led to the ruling in 1963 by the Supreme Court, ending mandatory Bible reading and prayer in public school. This was such a landmark decision that it seemed to open the door to other Christian law suits right up to the present day. Abolishing school dress codes seem to be the next rule that came undone. I was in my junior year in high school. It felt strange to have such a choice as far as clothes were concerned. All my life there had been some rule about what we got to wear to school. I actually felt a bit disappointed. I liked to have some restrictions in school. I was outnumbered. Most kids liked the new rule’s regarding wear what you like. That’s why many students today dress like bums. Rules and laws are becoming passe, which means out of fashion.

Just as political slogans, such as “defund the police” are popular these days, there are political gaps in our spiritual landscape where there is such a difference in countries around the globe, that they lead to counter culture. That means mainstream thinking doesn’t get enforced anymore. People don’t want to live under previous existing laws. They want to abolish the old way of doing things, and want to start new. It’s part of the “Counter Culture” movement that is has become so popular today. Apostasy is another problem signifying that we are in the last days before the return of Christ. It is the apostasy in the church. The Bible is the Word of God. So true Christianity is what is spelled out in the Bible. The word “Christianity” uses the word Christ, so it is about Jesus Christ. If you’re a Christian, you are telling people that you are a follower of Christ. But we have so many denominations in the Protestant church, and then there’s the Catholic Church that calls itself Christian.

Jesus said, *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only He who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!’”* (Matthew 7:21-23 NIV). So there’s a lot of people who are living dangerously. They think they’re Christians, but they’re not because they’re not living as Jesus told them too, and probably never repented of their sins and asked Jesus to forgive them (see *(Continued on Page 4)*



Matthew 4:17). It seems that there is a spiritual famine in the church these days. I am not talking about all churches, for there are still some good churches around. But there are a lot of lost ones too. When the leadership doesn't understand the Bible, they form their own opinion of right and wrong. Just as Jesus stated in the scripture, they assume facts that don't apply to them. So, if there's apostasy in the church, all those individuals that turn to their church for help and direction are led astray.

As a result, in many cases, the people that go to a false church are spiritually malnourished, and have different ideas about spiritual things. Some are also becoming more popular with the young. Many, who are Democrats, tend to have more socialistic views. The Republican Party didn't come about in America until President Lincoln was shot and he died. Yet lately, there has been a resurgence of ideas regarding ownership of private property. We are not sure yet how far this will go, but socialism does not work well with Christianity. As I said previously, socialism is when you don't have total control of your own property. When the government is a socialist, it steals from the people in a legal way, called taxes. There seems to be global chaos all over the world, when governments chose to establish socialism as a way to fix financial problems in government with socialism as a solution. And a global pandemic is a very rare thing. Recently the world had a pandemic. This also is sign of the last days. Medical doctors work together, in search of a cure. So in countries where this is happening at the same time, it also causes friction and distrust.

So there are many signs that the Rapture is about to happen. The best thing to do is be ready for it. *"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory'"* (1 Corinthians 15:51-54 NIV). Globalism is also another problem. Countries all around the world have their own idea of whom to worship. When those countries live so close together, there are going to be disputes over doctrine and religious views. Only Christians will go up in the Rapture of the church. So it doesn't make a bit of difference what your father or mother believed, or what the custom of your family believed, there is only one Creator and only one Savior. It's Jesus Christ. And only those who trust Him, and put Him first, will go up in the Rapture in the clouds, just as He did when He left them after He rose from the dead.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it" (John 1:1-5 NIV). In Christianity, there is only one important thing to understand. There is God. He designed all of us. God has a Son. Both God the Father and His Son, whom we call Jesus, made us into human beings, to be God's adopted children. Our original parents, Adam and Eve, through their sin, made us sinful (Genesis 3:1-24), and God allowed His own Son to die a horrible

death on a cross, in order to pay for our sin and make us children of God again. We could not pay for our own sin because we are not holy enough. We were stupid enough to serve the devil, who caused our sin. The devil is going to die eventually because he tried to take the place of God (Revelation 12:7-10). If we choose to worship the devil, we will serve him forever in Hell, a place of unbearable heat. But God loved us so much that He didn't want us to suffer in Hell. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him"* (John 3:16-17 NIV).

Jesus, our only possibility of a Savior, came into this world to die for our sin. That's why God our heavenly Father, must come first in our life, since he did so much for us. Jesus, to redeem us from sin, suffering unbearable agony both before the cross and while on it. So how could one ever do so much for us? Only God could love us so much! He came in the flesh the first time. He is coming again the second time to take us home to be with Himself. He hopes to spare us from going through the Tribulation that He is going to bring about to encourage those who are not saved to give their hearts to God. Or, to put it another way, *"According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of*

the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NIV).

There is absolutely no reason to spend all eternity in Hell. It wasn't made for humans to go to. As Jesus said, *"...Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matthew 25:41 NIV). If you're already a Christian, rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus loved you enough to die for you, a horrible death on the cross. You may not feel worthy, but what's really impor-

tant, is that God thinks that you are worth dying for. Who else would love you that much? Ask yourself which member of your family would die for you, even if they could. Which media idol would you believe could love you so much to die for you? The answer is probably none. Your favorite idol can drive you to Hell, but he or she cannot keep you out. Only Jesus can do that. Only He loves you enough to die for you. The question is how much do you love Him? *"See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the LORD is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob"* (Deuteronomy 30:15-20 NIV).

