



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

October 2019

FROM US TO YOU

This month you will undoubtedly hear a lot of talk about the pagan holiday known as Halloween. It's a modern celebration of an evil practice that occurred in the Celtic religion long before Christianity came to Europe. The Druids were the religious leaders and a form of Satanic worship was a part of their culture. Today's practice of Halloween has evolved over thousands of years. Its origins can be traced back to Druidism, the religion of the ancient Celtic tribes who lived in Britain, Germany, and France from the 2nd Century BC until the 2nd Century AD. The Druids, or wizards of the Celts, filled the roles of teachers, judges, and civil administrators. They had the supreme authority over various tribes, but were assisted by female "prophets" or sorcerers, who did not enjoy the same powers or privileges as the Druids. The Druids held their authority over the people the same way that evil leaders have traditionally retained power, through fear and intimidation.

The Druids ritualistically set aside one day every year for the purpose of honoring the Celtic god of the dead. They called him Samhain. That day was October 31st, the same day that American children traditionally celebrate Halloween! The Celts believed that Samhain assembled all the souls of the dead on October 31, the eve of the Celtic new year, freeing them to return to their homes, where their families were to entertain them. If they didn't find an acceptable welcome, the spirits would cast spells or cause other problems for the living, thus the first form of "trick or treat." Therefore, in order to prepare for the arrival of these spirits, the Druids built huge bonfires, sacrificing animals, crops, and even human beings! The fire was also used for divination.

Do you know what it finally took to destroy the ancient Celtic religion? It took the influence of Christianity, and the authority and Power of the blood of Christ! However, these days, after enjoying the blessings of God for hundreds of years, people in formerly Christian nations, have been drifting away from Christ. Consequently, they are getting involved, once more, in the forbidden realm of the occult. It may be through sorcery, witchcraft, astrology, numerology, or other evil practices, outlawed in the Word of God (Exodus 22:18 and Deuteronomy 18:10). Therefore, we are in great danger of losing the Lord's protection. For God gave mankind free choice over whom we will serve. Those preferring to look toward the powers of the devil and demon spirits may do so if they choose. However, there is a hidden price tag attached to that choice that will destroy the person involved (see James 1:13-15). And, as in the days of Christ, may even fill them with one or more demon spirits (Matthew 8:16).

Therefore, the demonic powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12) are gaining strength. When the two of us were in Salem, Massachusetts in the nineteen eighties, the city was so filled with witches that they had storefronts to invite the public. We did get to witness to one woman, but we could actually feel the presence of evil in the air. On another trip, in New Orleans Anne said she could sense the spirit of voodoo around one of the tour guides, as he drove us in his horse-

drawn carriage. For the Spirit filled Christian (Acts 2:4) sensing the presence of evil is an uncomfortable feeling. Nevertheless, He who is in us, "...is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood" (1 John 4:4-6 NIV). This world has gotten so far away from Christ, that here in New York, we see advertisements for "California Psychics" on television.

As far as "Trick or Treaters" go, we never had to deal with them for the first nineteen years of our marriage because we lived in an apartment above a store in a commercial neighborhood. The area was full of drug addicts and crime. Our apartment was on a main road between two bars. When we moved into our house in 1999 everything changed. No longer are we surrounded by bars, a bowling alley, and a pool hall. We now live in a neighborhood with pretty trees, fresh air, and families, many of which have cute little children who like to go "Trick or Treating" with their parents on Halloween. So how does a Christian deal with that? Eric's solution was to let Anne decide what to do. Anne's solution was to pray about it and ask the Lord.

Our answer was to turn a difficult problem into an opportunity to get the Gospel out. We found out about little "Chick Tracts" comic books. And we were delighted to find out that the children actually like them! Some still want candy. So we give out the "Chick Tracts" with the candy. Of course, we read the ones we give out very carefully, because we don't agree with their doctrine of "King James Bible only and everything else is of the devil." We will use the King James Version sometimes, but prison inmates find it hard to understand. Most prefer the New International Version. So we use both of them and the American Standard Version. All three have a holy anointing on them. We do rule out anything that is not an exact translation or any that adds to the Bible. As the Apostle John wrote, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19 KJV).

In closing, we want to leave you with one last thought. The world is all around us. However, if you have the Holy Spirit of God in your heart, do not compromise on your faith just to be popular with the idol worshippers. Even in America, there are idol worshippers everywhere. Idols of sports, religion, fashion, entertainment, politics, etc. Remember what God told Moses, "Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14 NIV). And our blessings come through Christ our Lord.

Have a wonderful Autumn everyone, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



Cain and Good Works

By Anne Kaestner

At times, I have been asked where all the people who lived in the earliest cities mentioned in the Bible came from. Adam and Eve were the parents of Cain and Abel, but Cain killed Abel. Up until that time there is no mention in scripture about Adam and Eve having any more children. But after God sentenced Cain to become a wanderer and a derelict on the earth, Cain replied, *“Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from Thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me. And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him. And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch”* (Genesis 4:14-17 KJV).

Therefore, the questions seem to be, “If Adam and Eve were the first people to ever live, and all of us came forth from them, and they only had two sons, Cain and Abel, where did all the people come from who would kill Cain without God’s protection? Where did Cain’s wife come from? And who was already living in the land of Nod, the area in which Cain settled?” The Devil has had a lot of fun with this over the years. And people who want to ridicule the Bible, or question its validity, often use this as an example. However, the answer is very simple. As Jesus told the religious leaders in His day, *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me”* (John 5:39 KJV). The entire theme of the Bible is based on two subjects, (1) The distinction between God’s laws and holiness, and mankind’s fall into sin and (2) God’s love for us and His method of atonement through His Son Jesus Christ. So the Lord doesn’t want us to get sidetracked from these two basic messages that really originate and end in the same place, with Jesus Christ.

Remember that *“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I Am”* (John 8:58 KJV). Moses was the one who received the Ten Commandments from God, on Mount Sinai, and the subsequent Jewish laws that came after it. *“And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you”* (Exodus 3:13-14 KJV). What did Jesus say? *“Jesus said unto her, I Am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”* (John 11:25 KJV). *“Jesus saith unto him, I Am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”* (John 14:6 KJV). The Lord’s disciple, John, knew Jesus when He was on earth, but when Jesus appeared before him in the book of Revelation, He had a very different appearance (Revelation 1:13-16).

John wrote, *“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I Am the first and the last”* (Revelation 1:17 KJV). John’s reaction to seeing Jesus as He really is was very much like the experience John received years earlier, as it is recorded in Matthew 17:1-7. Nevertheless, it was the same Jesus Christ, the same “I Am” who spoke to Moses, who came

to earth to be our suffering Savior and appeared to John in the book of Revelation! In fact, one of the reasons why the religious leaders of His day became so incensed at Jesus was because He continually used the term “I Am” referring to Himself! In the Hebrew language the term I Am is *hayah*. It is defined this way, “to exist, i.e. be or become, come to pass (always emphatic, and not a mere copula or auxiliary).” In the Hebrew language that name is considered holy as it is the name that God gave to Moses as His own. So the Pharisees and Sadducees thought Jesus was blasphemous (Mark 2:7) to use such a term pertaining to Himself. But Jesus told them, *“How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me”* (John 5:44-46 KJV). In other words, they didn’t believe that Jesus was God because they didn’t want to believe it. So the Old Testament and New Testament were really all about God’s Son, Jesus Christ (John 1:1-14).

Getting back to Cain and Abel, yes Adam and Eve had other children besides those two and Seth (Genesis 4:25), who was the ancestor of Noah. However, Cain and Abel were specifically mentioned in

the Bible by name because God wanted to give us a message through the account relating to them (Genesis 4:1-13). He wanted us to know that we can’t purchase our salvation with good works, no matter how sweet the fruit of our labor may be, that only the sacrifice of pure, innocent blood would suffice. For that reason the blood of lambs, bullocks, goats, birds, and fowl flowed like a stream day in and day out during Old Testament times. Even before God’s laws were given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, the righteous knew God’s Covenant and offered up sacrifices to Him according to His direction (see Genesis 22:1-13). However, the righteous also knew that the blood of lambs and bullocks could never pay the price for their sins.

The price tag grew more all the time because sin increases. All they were doing was pushing the sin back a little bit. The animal

sacrifices were like a man on a sinking ship, trying to gather up the water around him in a bucket and continually toss it overboard. Meanwhile, the ship is still sinking! All he is doing is delaying the inevitable until help arrives to save him from death. Jesus Christ became that help for Old Testament believers and remains the only salvation for us today! That’s why *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”* (John 14:6 KJV). Also, see John 3:16). Once Jesus died on Calvary, the final debt we owe to God was paid in full, but only for those willing to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. He said, *“Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me”* (John 6:54-57 KJV).

Up until that time, Jesus had been giving out free samples of His love and compassion. He had been healing the sick, casting out demon spirits from people (Matthew 4:23-24), feeding the hungry (Luke 9:12-17), and teaching the ways of God. But there comes a time when those who claim to love and serve Jesus will be tested. A newborn bird will depend on its mother for food at the beginning. The mother bird will find the food, chew it up into small pieces so



that it is easy for her chicks to digest, and place it right into the mouth of her offspring. But she's not going to be able to do that forever! Eventually the baby birds are going to grow big enough to learn how to find food on their own. The Lord protects His loved ones as a mother bird protects and nurtures her young. "He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart" (Psalms 91:4 NIV).

Speaking of the Israelites, the descendants of Jacob, the Lord promised to protect them "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and He made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock" (Deuteronomy 32:11-13 KJV and 1 Corinthians 10:3-4). God had compared His love and protection for them to that of a bird that flies high above the troubled seas below. The type of bird that is used in this analogy is big and strong and she makes her home on the **solid rock**, where she guards and protects her young (Exodus 33:21-22. Also, see 1 Peter 2:4-8). When we, God's people, make our home on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:24-27), we are high above the struggles of this world, spiritually. Like Simon Peter, when we keep our eyes of Jesus, we can walk on water (Matthew 14:28-31), above the sea of despair and confusion! The Lord is sweet like honey, "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. O fear the LORD, ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him" (Psalms 34:8-9 KJV). It is from Christ that we receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-22 & Acts 2:1-4), often symbolized by oil (1 Samuel 16:13 & James 5:14).

What Jesus was really saying in John 6:54-57 was that we need to depend on Him the way little children depend on their mother to supply their nourishment (Matthew 6:25-34, 18:3-4). And Jesus was speaking of spiritual nourishment! He said, "I Am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples" (John 15:5-8 KJV). We need our **spiritual** food and water from Christ. Remember what Jesus said to the woman by the well (see John 4:13-14). This is what He was telling His disciples.

You see, up until that time people had been following Jesus for the "loaves and fishes" (John 6:1-13), what **He** could do for them. He hadn't required anything of them. He was giving of Himself sacrificially whether He was healing the sick or feeding the hungry. But then there came the day of reckoning. A manufacturer anxious to get people interested in his new product may give out free samples for a while but, obviously, he can't do that indefinitely. He wants people to buy his product, to like it enough to be willing to pay the price for it. What is the price that Jesus required we pay for His salvation? It was our obedience (2 Thessalonians 1:8), faith (Matthew 17:20), love (Mark 12:30), devotion, and eternal commitment to Him (Mark 13:13)! No further blood sacrifices would be required or desired. Christ was to be the ultimate blood sacrifice for sin for all time!

We cannot buy our way into Heaven with good works! Only

Christ could pay the price for us! But there are certain requirements made on us if we wish to accept the Lord's salvation. We cannot just accept Jesus as our Savior and then return to our sins as if no commitment was made. Jesus didn't die to save us **in** our sin. He died to save us **from** our sin! "...Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and **sin no more**" (John 8:11 KJV). He said, "And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works **unto the end**, to him will I give power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26 KJV). To put it another way, "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26 KJV).

Jesus was asking for a total commitment to Him. That means that we must depend on Him for our physical and spiritual needs the way children depend on their parents to provide for them. Little children don't worry about the rent payments, or whether Daddy will lose his job, or about who's going to win the next election. They trust their parents to supply their needs for them and they don't concern themselves with worries about materialistic matters (Matthew 6:19-33). We are to believe in Christ as children believe in their parents

to take care of them. When Jesus said, "...whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die..." (John 11:26 KJV), He didn't mean to just believe in His existence! "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did" (James 2:19-22 NIV).

So this is the type of faith or belief in God that the Lord was referring to when He said that we need to eat His body and drink His blood. He wasn't speaking literally. He was speaking **figuratively**. We

live for Him daily, not just one day a week! The symbolic demonstration of our devotion and commitment to Him is when we take Holy Communion (Matthew 26:26-28). This is why it is so important that the bread we eat be unleavened. It's because it is symbolic of Christ, who has no sin. Yeast or leavening in the bread is symbolic of sin (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). It is equally important that the wine we drink during Holy Communion be real wine, because it is symbolic of the blood of which "...cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7 KJV). Grape juice has impurities in it. It is a cheap, man-made, mass produced concoction. It has no cleansing ingredients, as wine does (see Luke 10:34 and 1 Timothy 5:23).

The body of Jesus was crushed for us on Calvary, as grapes are crushed to make wine. He was like a vessel poured out for the sins of the world (Psalms 22:14 KJV), as wine is refined and poured out from vessel to vessel, strained as grain is sifted in a sieve (Amos 9:9 and Luke 22:31). Then, finally, He was buried in a dark place, as wine is buried in a wine cellar. Grape juice doesn't go through that process! Then, as the choicest of wine (John 2:9-10), ready for human consumption, He rose out of the tomb, a dark place, to shine as the Light of the World (John 8:12) the salvation of mankind, ready for the harvest of souls (Luke 10:2)! Spiritually, we need to be washed in the Holy blood of Christ. It is the

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only way that our sins can be cleansed away. Remember what Jesus told Simon Peter after Peter saw his Master kneeling before him.

“He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, ‘Lord, are you going to wash my feet?’ Jesus replied, ‘You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.’ ‘No,’ said Peter, ‘you shall never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered, ‘Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me.’ ‘Then, Lord,’ Simon Peter replied, ‘not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!’ Jesus answered, ‘A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean...’” (John 13:6-10 NIV). Peter had already been cleansed of sin, through his commitment and faith in Christ. So he didn’t need to be washed again. He just needed his feet washed. Because, as we travel through this dirty, sinful world, **“...we walk by faith, not by sight”** (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV).

What God was demonstrating to us through the account of Cain and Abel, is that we cannot pay the price for our own sin. And that is why they were mentioned in the Bible! No matter how good our fruit may seem to us (Genesis 3:6), good works will not cancel out the debt we owe to God! But there are those who will not accept this. Like Cain, they want to buy their way into Heaven. The Pharisees and Sadducees were like this and Jesus called them hypocrites and vipers (Matthew 23:29-33). But many of the followers of Jesus were also unwilling to give up their lives as they had known them, and live for Christ (Matt. 8:21-22)! They were unwilling to turn their backs on their past, on their sins and earthly attachments, and follow Jesus. And they were shocked at the statement Jesus had made in John 6:54-57. They were so far away from God that they didn’t even understand what Jesus was talking about. *“From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him”* (John 6:66 KJV).

But *“...Jesus said... No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”* (Luke 9:62 KJV). We must not look back longingly to our past life of sin. (Luke 17:31-32). Speaking of when He returns for His faithful church, during the time of the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) Jesus said, *“On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife!”* (Luke 17:31-32 NIV. Also, see Genesis 19:26). In other words, leave all traces of this sinful world behind. God has everything you will need waiting for you in Heaven!

Cain thought he could buy his way into God’s favor, and the Bible gives the account of what transpired as a result of Cain’s anger. So Cain and Abel were mentioned for this reason. However, nowhere in the Bible does it say that Cain, Abel, and Seth were the only children of Adam and Eve. God had told them, *“...Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...”* (Genesis 1:28 KJV). Bringing more people onto the earth, through normal human procreation was one of Adam and Eve’s primary functions! *“And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died”* (Genesis 5:3-5 KJV). Notice here that even Cain and Abel aren’t mentioned in

the family tree of Adam. Why? It’s because the Bible is mainly just concerned with the family tree of Jesus Christ!

Now take a look at all the scripture given in Genesis 5:1-32 and you will find the list of generations from Adam all the way up to Noah. Anyone who was not in the line of Noah wasn’t mentioned there, but Genesis 5:4 tells us that Adam fathered sons and daughters. It doesn’t tell us how many, but the implication is that it was a lot. After all, Adam lived to be 930 years old! Seth wasn’t even born until Adam was 130 years old! Adam’s wife was named Eve, *“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living”* (Genesis 3:20 KJV). One of Eve’s main functions was to bring new people into the world! So just because the Bible doesn’t mention by name the other children that Adam and Eve produced doesn’t mean that Adam and Eve didn’t have other children. They must have had many of them.

And in those days, it was quite permissible to marry a member of your own family. For example, Abraham’s wife Sarah, was also his sister (Genesis 12:13 and 20:12). So undoubtedly, the offspring of Adam and Eve married each other, for there was no one else to marry. To try to explain the reason for that, I’ll use a strange example. In modern times it’s hard for us to understand why people did the things that they did in those days and why God allowed it then, but not now. However, let’s take something contemporary, like a photocopy. The original would have the best quality. However, if you make a copy of it, it won’t be bad. Now take each copy and make a copy of it. The first few will probably be in good shape. But each subsequent copy will get worse and worse. Adam was the original. So the generations closest to him will be of a better quality physically, albeit not spiritually. Therefore, brothers and sisters could marry back then.

Now compare Genesis chapter 5 with Luke 3:23-38 and you will see that it is in the reverse order. But it is essentially the same genealogy, except for the fact that the Genesis record only goes up as far as Noah then stops. It is picked up later in other areas of the Bible. So even

though the Bible doesn’t tell us about all the people that ever lived on the earth, it’s not important to the theme of man’s fall into sin and his redemption through Christ. Salvation through Christ is!

Alright, so we know we can’t please God by doing things for Him or by sacrificial giving the way that Cain did. Does regular church attendance please Him? *“The Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: ‘Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. What kind of house will you build for Me?’ says the Lord. ‘Or where will My resting place be? Has not My hand made all these things?’ ‘You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: **You always resist the Holy Spirit!**’”* (Acts 7:48-51 NIV). Our God lives in the hearts of those who love Him! So don’t go to church hoping to meet God there. Take Him with you in your heart! Do not choose what you will do for God and what you won’t. Let Him lead you according to His Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-25). Therefore you need to have the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-7) in order have your spiritual antenna pointing in the right direction. For the Lord, *“...has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace...”* (2 Timothy 1:9 NIV).

