



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

WINTER 2010-11

## FROM US TO YOU

This is not an easy message to write. For it is clear that the world around us is in pain and hurting. We offer no Band-aids or quick fixes to life's problems. Only an explanation of why they are occurring and how you can have the Lord's peace no matter what life brings your way (see Philippians 4:7). Peter was in prison for preaching the Gospel, in heavy chains between two guards, facing the possibility of crucifixion. But when the angel came to deliver him, Peter was so serene that he was asleep (Acts 12:6. Also, see Mark 4:37-40). These days the frequency and enormity of events is overwhelming to those who don't know the Lord. Yet to us who know Christ, it is the anger and jealousy of God the Creator in a three-prong strategy. It is to punish those who hate Him (Deuteronomy 32:41), to bring new believers to a place of repentance and salvation (Matthew 4:17), and to bring the churchgoing fence sitters (Revelation 3:16) and backsliders (Jeremiah 2:19, 3:22, 14:7) to a decisive decision. Will they relinquish their secret sins and worldly behavior (1 John 2:15-17) and repent? Or will they become angry at God and turn their backs on Him completely?

Time is short for the world, and especially for the United States! With great sorrow and a desire to warn of God's wrath before it is too late, we remind you of the prophecy against the end time nation referred to as "Babylon" (Revelation 18:1-19). It is a nation that has a mother country, such as England to the United States. *"Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost [last] of the nations shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert"* (Jeremiah 50:12 KJV). Remember the prophecy of Daniel. The last great empire before the return of Christ, will not be one nation, but a group of ten nations, such as the way the European Union will end up. It is symbolized as ten toes (Daniel 2:41-43) in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. That "Babylon," unlike the ancient desert country of Iraq, is a land of people *"...who live by many waters and are rich in treasures..."* (Jeremiah 51:13 NIV). It is a land symbolized by *"...whirring wings [such as an eagle] along the rivers of Cush [descendants of Ham (see Genesis 10:6-8), and symbolic of sin (see Genesis 9:22-25)], which sends envoys by sea [a trading nation].... a people tall and smooth-skinned, ...a people feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers"* (Isaiah 18:1-2 NIV).

People, if you love Christ, do not resent the suffering you are going through. *"Because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son... For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons"* (Hebrews 12:6-8 NIV. Also, see Hebrews 4:15 & 5:7-9, & 2 Cor. 11:23-29, Psalm 34:19 & Chapter 37). Please remember that *"...The LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God"* (Deuteronomy 4:24 NIV). The false prophets (Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:29-31, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15, Jude 1:10-13, 2 Peter 2:12-22) will tell you that you can live in sin and God will just forgive you and

allow your idolatry to continue (Jude 1:4-7). They are liars! As James wrote to the fledgling church of his day, *"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God"* (James 4:4 NIV). James was not talking about sexual adultery. He was talking about adultery to Christ! In other words, idolatry! The Apostle Paul saw the secret sins in the Corinthian church of His day. And he knew that if they continued in their sinful ways they would not make it to Heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Galatians 5:19-21). Yes, they once came to Christ and repented of their sins. But Jesus said, *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit..."* (John 15:1-2 NIV). He was not talking to the world, but to those who had already received Him! Those who had been washed clean of their sin (John 15:3). He's saying that if you do not obey Him (Luke 6:46, 1 John 2:4, 1 Samuel 15:22-23), God the Father will cut you off from Christ, and you will have no salvation!



Now what happens to those branches that are cut away from Christ? *"...Such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned"* (John 15:6 NIV). In our garden there are a lot of trees. Every Autumn the gardener blows as many, dry, dead leaves as he can and hauls them away. They are no longer receiving moisture from the tree. Our fruit trees no longer produce good fruit (see Isaiah 64:6). Our only hope, as believers, is to remain in Christ! Don't let anyone deceive you (Acts 20:30). If you don't **remain** in Christ, you will not bear good fruit (John 15:4-5 and Galatians 5:22-25). And you will burn in Hell forever!

When the consequences of such rebellion are put in that context, it's easy to see how a loving Heavenly Father will punish, sometimes severely, His backslidden, adulterous flock! That's why Paul wrote to the backslidden church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 3:1-3), *"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). There is something else to consider since *"...our 'God is a consuming fire'"* (Hebrews 12:29 NIV). Fire can bring both blessings and a curse. It both purifies that which can withstand the flame (1 Peter 1:7). And it burns up all the chaff (Matthew 3:12), or weeds around it. Our bodies were made from *"...the dust of the ground..."* (Genesis 2:7 KJV). That's garden soil. And the purest of earth is that which has been through the fire. The weeds are gone. And good fruit will thrive in it! *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches..."* (Revelation 2:17 NIV).

With love and concern, we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*

# LIES AND DECEPTION

By Anne Kaestner

Long before we had a ministry of our own, I once heard the wife of an evangelist state, "I believe that the hardest sin for people to break after they come to Christ is lying. I work in an office and employees come to me and tell me all kinds of lies about why they need to take time off from work." Then she said to her husband, "You know how it is when the Holy Spirit makes you aware that someone is lying?" He responded affirmatively, and she continued, "They sit there in front of me and I know they are not telling me the truth. And I think to myself, 'If I were to do that I could not sleep at night until I made that thing right.'" Several years later, after we moved into our office and I began to hire employees, I realized how right she was! I was amazed at the lackadaisical attitude Christians have toward this sin. They professed to love Christ, to be Born Again (John 3:3) of His Spirit. Some of them even had spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11). Yet, they felt no qualms about sitting there in front of me, in a Christian ministry, and lying through their teeth! There was the time a shipping clerk told me that he was going outside to put something in his car. I watched him from the window. He put the item in his car, but that didn't seem to be the real reason for his departure. Instead of turning around and coming back into the office, he walked past our building and headed off down the road. About 15 minutes later he returned, seemingly without even a twinge of guilt, and returned to the shipping office. He was getting paid by the hour. So he stole that time for which the ministry was paying him! See how one sin leads to another, like a domino affect? It's a slippery slope you go down when you choose to deceive! And you often have to tell other lies to cover up the one you started out with.

On another occasion, a secretary was told to go to the local Waldbaums supermarket, about a hundred feet from our office, and buy some milk for the lunch room. She seemed to take a long time. But she gave me some excuse about the store being busy and, since she chose to drive over there, she claimed there was a lot of traffic. The next day I noticed the carton of milk she bought said "Pathmark," a totally different supermarket! I called her into my office and asked her if she ever went to any store for us other than Waldbaums. I gave her three chances to tell me the truth. "Think clearly. Are you sure you never went anywhere else?" I asked. She was a young woman, about thirty, and clearly not old enough for memory trouble. Nevertheless, she looked me straight in the eye and lied about it! It wasn't until I mentioned the milk carton that she changed her story. She came up with some convoluted tale that began with her making an illegal left turn out of the parking lot and getting stuck in traffic until she arrived at the other store. Neither of these employees work for us anymore.

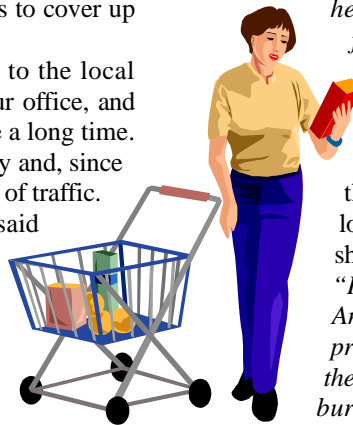
I began thinking about the account of Ananias and Sapphira. They were Christians. They worshiped among the flock even though, in those days, there was the severe threat of persecution against the church (Acts 8:1, 9:4-5). On the surface, it appeared to be a good thing they were doing. "...Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, ...sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet" (Acts 5:1-2 NIV). He could have kept the property or all of the money. However, he chose, instead to lie about it. It was as if he thought that God wouldn't know what he had done. I have always been amused at the story of Saul when God first chose him to become the first king of Israel. In those early days he was a very humble man (1 Samuel 9:21). And he didn't feel worthy to be a king. So he went and hid himself from the people. They searched diligently for him, but were unable to find him. "So they inquired... of the LORD... And the LORD said, '...He has hidden himself among

the baggage'" (1 Samuel 10:22 NIV). There is nothing hidden from God! Others may not know when you're lying but "*the eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good*" (Proverbs 15:3 NIV).

Believe me, you are being watched, wherever you may be! You can't see into the spirit world. But certain "watcher" angels see you and record everything you say and do (Revelation 20:12). The word "watcher" (Daniel 4:13, 23) is actually used in the King James and New American Standard versions. In the New International Version they are called "messengers." Just because they are not visible does not mean that they are not there. God knew about it when the secretary I mentioned lied to me. He knew the deceitful heart of the man who claimed he just wanted to put something in his car. The "watchers" were keeping a record of it all (Daniel 7:10, Rev. 20:12) and the demons (Deut. 32:17, Psalm 106:37, Matthew 7:22) were happy that they were able to turn the hearts of these people away from the truth and therefore, helping to erect a wall of guilt between them and their Savior. If only they knew how seriously their lies were jeopardizing their walk with God! What happened to Ananias and Sapphira didn't happen in the Old Testament under the harsh penalties of the law. These were New Testament Christians! Nevertheless, God was furious at them. The Holy Spirit welled up in Peter and he "...said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit... What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.' When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died... Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him" (Acts 5:3-6 NIV).

Now what about all those women who feel that, as Christians, it is their job to be loyal wives and stand by their husbands? Sapphira was one of those wives. She didn't want to make her husband look bad. But he had been gone for three hours. So she went into the temple to find out what had happened. "Peter asked her, 'Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?' 'Yes,' she said, 'that is the price.' Peter said to her, 'How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.' At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband" (Acts 5:8-10 NIV). Yes you should love your spouse, and all your family, especially your family in Christ (John 13:34). But they must not come before the laws of God (Matthew 10:34-37, Mark 12:30-31)!

There are different kinds of lies. God actually approves of some of them! One example of this is when the midwives were ordered by Pharaoh to kill all the male babies born to the Jewish women. "The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to... Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, '...Why have you let the boys live?' The midwives answered Pharaoh, 'Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.' So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, He gave them families of their own" (Exodus 1:17-21 NIV). Another example is in the case of Rahab, the prostitute, who lied to protect Joshua's spies (Joshua 2:1-6) and the Lord blessed her for it! And there's the story of David's first wife, Michal, who lied to her father, King Saul, in order to save David's life (1 Samuel 19:13-17). A modern day example of this kind of righteous lie occurred in an account



I heard about an American evangelist who took a tour of fellow Christians to China as a means by which to visit with the missionaries there. Upon their arrival a customs officer asked them what was in some boxes they brought with them. "Bread," they replied. In actuality, the boxes contained Bibles the evangelist was smuggling into China! This is the kind of lie God approves of, because it gives Him glory. And anything that gives God glory, and accomplishes His will, takes precedence over any other commandment. Notice that the first three commandments have to do with our relationship with the Lord Himself. Then the remaining have to do with our relationship with other people. But the will of God must always come first!

Another category of lies involves righteous people who allow human fears and lack of faith to get in the way of their walk with God. Two examples of that are found in the life of Abraham, when he told his wife to lie, and say she was his sister. The first time it was to Pharaoh (Gen. 12:13) and the second time to Abimelech (Genesis 20:2). Truth is Sarah was his sister (Gen. 20:12), but she was also his wife! So Abraham was being disingenuous. This was definitely a lack of faith. On another occasion, the Lord told Abraham, "...Sarah your wife will have a son.' Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?' Then the LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD?...' Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, 'I did not laugh.' But He said, 'Yes, you did laugh'" (Genesis 18:10-15 NIV). God was not happy about Sarah's lie, or Abraham's, because they both showed they did not fully trust the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6). There is nothing that makes the Lord more proud of us than our faith and confidence in Him (see Matthew 17:20 and Luke 7:9). And nothing displeases Him more than our lack of faith (Hebrews 11:6)!

Nevertheless, the Lord often overlooks our fears and human frailties as long as we love Him with all our heart and try to please Him (Psalms 103:13-14). Many lies among God's loved ones are committed out of fear. Peter is another example of that! He told Jesus, "... 'Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know Me'" (Luke 22:33-34 NIV). And when Peter was tested, he denied Jesus three times, just as the Lord said he would (Luke 22:55-62). If Peter had not conquered his fear, he never would have gotten into Heaven (Matthew 16:25-26 & Revelation 21:8). But Peter's love for Jesus eventually grew very good fruit (Matthew 7:20 & John 15:1-8). He repented of his sin and was reunited with Jesus after His resurrection. It was then that Jesus told Peter he would die for Him (John 21:15-22). Nevertheless, Peter remained faithful to the Lord and he was eventually crucified upside down because, he said, he was not worthy to die the same way as his Savior. How did Peter conquer his fear? It was through his great love for Christ and his faith in Him (1 John 4:18-19).

There are many other examples of lies, sarcasm, or misrepresentation among God's people, some good, some sinful (Genesis 26:7, 27:19, 2 Kings 6:17-20, 8:10, 1 Samuel 27:8-12, 21:2, 21:10-15, Jeremiah 38:24-27, 1 Kings 22:2-16). Even Jesus was disingenuous with His brothers in John 7:1-10. He told them that He was not ready to attend the Feast. The reason why he told them that was because, if the Pharisees saw Him there, they would try to kill Him. But soon after they left, Jesus left for the feast secretly. However, I don't want to give you the impression that God condones lying. Remember

Ananias and Sapphira? Jesus said, "...I am the way and the truth and the life..." (John 14:6 NIV). Jesus is the personification of truth! Now, what did Jesus say about the devil? He said, "...**When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies!**" (John 8:44-45 NIV). Lies are the natural way of life of those who follow their master (Ephesians 2:1-2), "...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceiveth the whole world**" (Revelation 12:9 KJV). By contrast, the truth is the normal way of life of all who love Christ. The only time it is acceptable to lie is when the will of God takes priority over it, as in the examples I have given. Satan and his demons (fallen angels, see Revelation 12:9) love to deceive. Jesus is hated to this very day by people who would rather believe a lie than the truth (John 3:19-21, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-13). And the people Satan loves to deceive the most are those who love the Lord! That's why Paul wrote to the Corinthians "...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 11:3-4 NIV. Also, see Galatians 1:6-12)! That's why Satan and his cohorts use false doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1-2). They twist scripture (2 Corinthians 11:12-15, Acts 20:30) around in order to deceive the naive in Christ (see Ephesians 4:14). And they are constantly attacking those who want to speak the truth in love (Isaiah 59:15, John 8:40, Galatians 4:16).

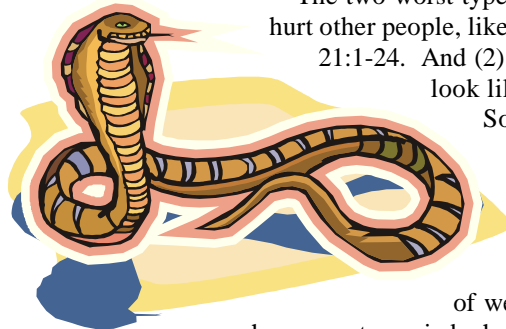
The two worst types of lies are those that (1) are designed to hurt other people, like the lie orchestrated by Jezebel in 1 Kings 21:1-24. And (2) those told by Christians, making believers look like liars, thereby making Christ look bad.

So if you claim to be Born Again and are known to be a liar, you do not love the Lord! You love yourself more! One example of this occurred soon after Eric and I were married. One of the women who went to our church got pregnant out of wedlock. Everyone at the church knew that

she was not married when the pregnancy occurred. She hastily got married and then told everyone that the wedding had taken place months earlier, in secret. Yes, it was good that she didn't have an abortion, but just because she didn't pile murder on top of the fornication, doesn't make it right. That's like saying that a rapist is a good person because he could have killed his victim and he didn't. It seemed foolish to me that she told an obvious lie about it. Understandably, she was embarrassed about what happened. But if she had told the truth, there would not have been as much whispering and gossip behind her back. To make matters worse, the pastor's wife held a baby shower for the woman in the old sanctuary of the church, the one where the Holy Spirit had once brought weeping sinners to a place of repentance and left them feeling clean on the inside (Luke 18:13). These days people have gotten so used to sexual sins that they don't seem so bad anymore, even to Christians. In Biblical times, a woman could be stoned to death for having a baby out of wedlock (Deuteronomy 22:21). In parts of the world today, a woman can still be killed for this. The man also was guilty of fornication. But he didn't claim to be Born Again (John 3:3). More is expected (Luke 12:47-48) of those who claim to love Christ (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 10:8, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3, Colossians 3:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Jude 1:7).

Sin is a type of cancer. And just as cancer grows and spreads into areas of the body that had previously been healthy, so does sin, if it is not brought out into the open and cut from the body. Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthian church about this type of thing (1 Corinthians 5:1). The Corinthians had

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## LIES AND DECEPTION (Continued From Page 3)

bragged to Paul about their Christian love and forgiveness of sinners among them. And Paul wrote back telling them that they were putting these sinners ahead of their relationship with God. If they continued to do it, without a reprimand (Matthew 18:15-17, 2 Corinthians 10:2, 13:2, 13:10, and Ephesians 5:11), the other church members would become more complacent about the sin in their lives, and it would alternately hurt the **body** of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)! Jesus said, "...If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into Hell, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' Everyone will be salted with fire" (Mark 9:47-49 NIV). This refers to sin within the "body of Christ," the church (Ephesians 5:25-32). She should have been honest about the pregnancy, asked God for His forgiveness, and confessed her sin and shame (Psalm 51:1-17, Luke 18:10-14) to the church as well, asking them to forgive her. Yes, I know that this is hard to do. But if a worldly person like Tiger Woods can come out publicly and admit his sin, with great contrition and remorse, how much more a redeemed child of God (see 1 Peter 1:18-19) should do so! He felt bad because he had broken the laws of Buddha. How I wish Christians loved Christ as much as other religions love their idols! Remember that those who will not get into Heaven include anyone that "...loveth and maketh a lie" (Revelation 22:15 KJV). This brings to mind men who claim to love a woman in order to have sex with her and women who tell a man they love him in order to take advantage of him financially. There is no Purgatory mentioned in the Bible anywhere. So if you don't get to Heaven, the alternative is beyond your worst nightmare (Mark 9:47-49, Luke 16:19-31, & Revelation 14:9-11)! And it will never end (Matthew 18:8, 25:41, Jude 1:13)!

Over the centuries thousands of believers have been tortured and killed in ways so horrible we don't even want to think about it. Some could have escaped if they had renounced Christ (see Matthew 10:38-39). But they refused to do so in order to preserve for us a pure faith (Philippians 1:9-11). That faith has been trampled upon and defiled by the lukewarm (Revelation 3:16), counterfeit church (Galatians 1:6-10, Jude 1:4) of today! Since this world system is being run by the devil (Ephesians 2:2, 6:12), it's not just individuals that are affected. It's governments and institutions! The further a nation falls away (Deuteronomy 32:28) from Jesus Christ, the more Satan will gain control over the minds of the people (Deuteronomy 32:15-22). Things have gotten so bad that these days, the educational system teaches the lie of evolution as if it were a fact (Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-4). The medical society teaches that homosexuality is not a sin but an alternative lifestyle (Genesis 19:1-11, Judges 19:22-30, Romans 1:24-27, 1 Cor. 6:9). And many television shows and movies endorse nudity, filthy language, the occult, and violence. It's based on the lie that God does not exist (Psalm 14:1, 53:1, Romans 1:18-25).

Even to this day, a conspiracy still exists regarding the murder of President Kennedy. Normally I never promote Hollywood movies, especially those made after 1970. But I was amazed and delighted at the research that went into the movie JFK. About ten years earlier I purchased a set of videos entitled, "The Men Who Killed Kennedy." They were produced by the BBC. It proved to me that, without any doubt, Lee Harvey Oswald did not kill John Kennedy! And from the copious evidence I've seen, I think he was actually trying to prevent the murder! Demon spirits probably planned the assassination as far back as the sixteenth century or earlier! It is believed by some that, among others, the following prediction by Nostradamus referred to



the President's murder. "The ancient work will be accomplished, and from the roof evil ruin will fall on to the great man. Being dead, **they will accuse an innocent of the deed**, the guilty one hidden in the misty woods." If you believe Nostradamus, "the woods" could refer to the "grassy knoll." The BBC documentary actually shows a fuzzy blow up of the real killer, dressed like a Dallas police officer, smoke coming from his rifle, where he was hiding in the grassy knoll. There were many others who had been hired as a part of the murder plot. As for Oswald, he was clearly observed by three witnesses, the building superintendent, a pregnant co-worker, and a police officer just 74 to 90 seconds after the last shot. They said he was sitting calmly in the lunch room of the Book Depository Building, appearing normal, not sweating nor out of breath. If he had committed the murder he would have had to travel four floors down within a matter of seconds, pausing to hide a heavy 6.5 millimeter rifle with a four-power scope, along the way. Moreover, Oswald was not a very good marksman! There is a great deal more evidence available online and in book stores. But the JFK movie (I only saw the television version) makes it concise, interesting, and easily understood.

I also have great suspicions about other assassinations that have born the definite signs of government cover-ups, such as Robert Kennedy's, Martin Luther King's, and even the murders of "Jack the Ripper." I have a strong belief that the real culprit was in fact, Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, who was the grandson of Queen Victoria and an heir to the throne of England! He had motive, he caught Syphilis from a prostitute and hated prostitutes because of it. He had means, access to horses, carriages, any kind of transportation available in those days. And he had opportunity, as a member of the royal family, he was considered above reproach and beyond suspicion. Eventually the Prince's Syphilis got so bad, and his behavior so bizarre that his family confined him to a hospital. The official cause of his death was blamed on influenza. But records can be altered, especially by those of high political rank! And it has long been rumored that the real cause of his death was Syphilis. After the Prince was hospitalized, the murders mysteriously ceased.

This world system is not being run by God. It is run by Satan (Matthew 4:8-10, Ephesians 2:2). But Satan's time of rule, and that of his demons, will eventually end (Matthew 8:29, Revelation 12:12). When it does, Christ will return to the earth to set up His kingdom (Revelation 19:11-21). These days, other than politics, there doesn't seem to be much visible difference between the church and the world. Jesus said, "...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven" (Matthew 5:16 NIV). Where is the light (Matthew 5:14) that should be among believers today?

One of the first things I noticed about Christians in the church that led me to Christ, was their honesty. As a child, during a church service one day, I turned to another little girl and asked her, "Is that money you are giving in the collection plate yours or is it your mother's?" It was the type of thing I would have lied about back in those days. "It is my mother's" the girl replied. I was impressed with her honesty. It was one of the contributing events that brought conviction upon me and led me to Christ. Some day the books will be opened in Heaven and every lie will be exposed. For those who truly love and obey (1 Samuel 15:22-23, Matthew 7:21-21, & Luke 6:46) Christ, Paul wrote, "... 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him'..." (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NIV). "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, ...the idolaters and **all liars**--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death" (Revelation 21:8 NIV).