



NON-PROFIT

The Good News Letter

Bible Believers Fellowship, Inc.
P.O.Box 0065 - Baldwin, NY 11510
WWW.PRISONMINISTRY.ORG



TAX-EXEMPT

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

January 2023

FROM US TO YOU

We certainly hope that all of you had very merry Christmas. Although, conditions being as they are, many did not. News accounts speak of people being stranded and sleeping on the floor at airports after their flights home were canceled. Northwestern New York State had one of the worst snow storms on record. Some people died. And thousands of people across the country were left in the dark with no heat or electricity. Some were stranded in their cars in the snow and died. And then there were the less dramatic miseries. Anne spoke to a woman yesterday whose husband has pneumonia. The woman spent Christmas day with him in the hospital. As for us, here on Long Island, we didn't get the snow, just the rain. We had heat and power, thank God! And we spent part of the day watching an old 1951 film entitled "A Christmas Carol" starring Alistair Sim. It is based on the book, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens. It has become a sort of a Christmas tradition. They don't make movies like that anymore. Doctrinally, it is incorrect. Dead people don't become angels. Angels were created long before mankind. And some of them rebelled against God (see Revelation 12:7-9). Dead people stay dead. *"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27 NIV). They don't return to earth to warn sinners of their actions. The Bible says that when someone dies, *"...the dust [human body] returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it"* (Ecclesiastes 12:7 NIV). The only exception was in 1 Samuel 28:7-20, which God allowed because He had a purpose in it.

Despite errors in doctrine, it was still a very good film. One of the best parts was at the end, when Scrooge finally returns to his senses, like a sinner returning to God in repentance (see Psalms 51:16-17). The bubbly joy and excitement he feels after his repentance is so much like the way we felt after receiving God's Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11, Acts 19:1-7). It's a lighthearted inner glow, a natural high that's better than anything you can get from drugs or alcohol. It radiates from within outward and is not affected at all by external pressures. That beautiful joy is Christ's gift to those who are already reborn (John 3:3) in Him, who earnestly seek a closer walk with Him. In fact, before returning to Heaven, Jesus spoke to those who loved Him the most. *"...Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.' And with that He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'"* (John 20:21-22 NIV). After Jesus left them to return to His Father, 120 of them *"...all joined together constantly in prayer..."* (Acts 1:14 NIV) on the day of Pentecost.

"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:2-4 NIV). That breath that Jesus breathed on them reached Heaven and returned to them with the Holy Spirit. Wow, the power that hit them spiritually, was of God! And God gave prayer languages to them in order to help them pray (Romans 8:26). *"Now there were staying in*

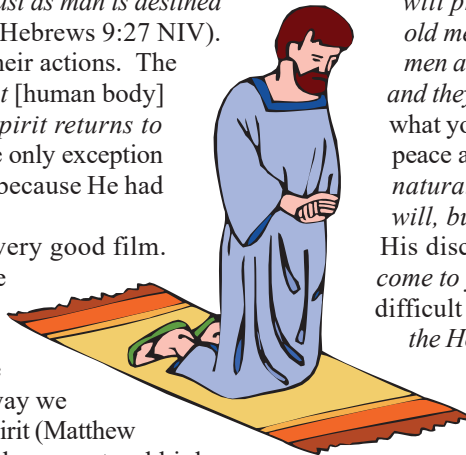
Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?'" (Acts 2:5-8 NIV). The Christians who received God's Holy Spirit were so filled with joy, and speaking in languages they didn't learn, that some folk thought they were drunk. *"Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine'"* (Acts 2:12-13 NIV).

"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'" (Acts 2:14-18 NIV). No matter what your circumstances may be, God wants to give this peace and joy to His true children, *"children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God"* (John 1:13 NIV). Jesus said to His disciples, *"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you"* (John 14:18 KJV). The days ahead will be difficult ones. However, Jesus said, *"...The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts*

be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:26-27 NIV). Jesus is coming back soon. He will overthrow the devil and set up His own kingdom on Earth (Revelation 20:4). Satan knows his time of ruling the Earth is soon to be up. That's why evil has increased (see Revelation 12:12).

All true Christians will need God's comforting Holy Spirit in the days to come as this world drifts closer toward the Tribulation. That's when God will shake up the earth (Hebrews 12:26-29) in order to bring sinners to repentance (Revelation 3:19), so they will not end up in Hell *"...Where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' Everyone will be salted with fire"* (Mark 9:47-49 NIV. Also, see Revelation 20:15 & 21:8). *"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness"* (2 Peter 3:11-13 NIV).

In Christ's service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



CONSIDER THE COST

By Anne Kaestner

The employees were all gone for the day. It was late, and I was tired and hungry. However, despite the lateness of the hour, I was still at my computer working on an article for the next issue of the newsletter. At least the office was quiet and no one was pestering me and ruining my concentration. I was deep in thought when suddenly the phone rang. It was a woman trying to sell me something I didn't want. I told her I wasn't interested and hung up. I was just starting to get back to work when the phone rang again. It was the same woman. She told me that I shouldn't have hung up her because, she said, she was a Christian too, and I should have listened to what she had to say. I told her that she was wasting the time I was spending doing God's work and that if she were a Christian, she ought to be something better than a telemarketer. Then I hung up again. There are a lot of people all over the world who call themselves Christian. But are they?

One of the most misunderstood portions of the Bible involves these words of Jesus. He said, "...anyone who does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:27-33 NIV).

Therefore, Jesus told His followers to count the cost before making the decision to follow Him. For it is better not to accept Christ at all than to receive His salvation then turn away from Him and become a hypocrite (Hebrews 6:4-6). There is nothing Jesus hates more than hypocrisy (Matthew 23:13)! The bad examples of those who claim to know Christ but live an evil life, turn more people away from Christ than anything else! To "carry your cross" means being willing, if necessary, to suffer for Christ as many have (2 Corinthians 11:25-28, Hebrews 11:35-38). Putting Christ first is not something to be taken lightly. Just before Jesus was arrested, He told His disciples that He was going away. "Peter asked, 'Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for You.' Then Jesus answered, 'Will you really lay down your life for Me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times!'" (John 13:37-38 NIV).

"Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. 'You also were with Jesus of Galilee,' she said. But he denied it before them all. 'I don't know what you're talking about,' he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, 'This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.' He denied it again, with an oath: 'I don't know the man!' After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, 'Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.' Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, 'I don't know the man!' Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: 'Before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly" (Matthew 26:69-75 NIV). However, Peter loved Jesus so much that he did lay down his life for Him in the end. Three days later, after Jesus rose from the dead, He and Peter spoke of it again. "When they had finished

eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love Me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed My lambs.' Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love Me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of My sheep.'"

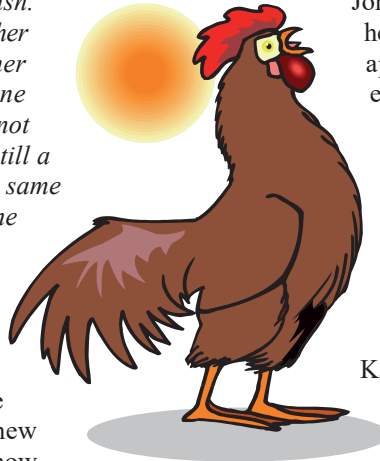
"The third time He said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love Me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love Me?' He said, 'Lord, You know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed My sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, 'Follow Me!' Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them... When Peter saw Him, he asked, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus answered, 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow Me'" (John 21:15-22 NIV). John was the other disciple. Jesus chose him to write the book of Revelation when he was the only one of the original apostles left. Church history stated that John was almost boiled to death in hot oil, but it somehow didn't happen. Instead,

John was exiled to the Aegean island of Patmos, where he was "in the spirit" (see Revelation 1:10) when Jesus appeared to him and gave him revelations about the end times before the Lord's return. John was the only one of the original twelve to die a natural death.

Simon Peter was afraid to be considered one of the Lord's disciples originally when Jesus was arrested and put on trial. So, Peter denied Jesus three times (John 18:17-27) as a result of his fear. Later on though, when he was a much older man, he was arrested. And this time the fear was gone. "...perfect love casteth out all fear..." (1 John 4:18 KJV). So, if you don't have that perfect love, you're going to have the fear. But when your heart's truly right with God, your love is so strong that it is more powerful than the fear. And church

history tells us that Simon Peter, in his older age, died a horrible death of crucifixion, upside down. Because, he said, he was not worthy to die the same way as his Lord, the right side up. And so, Peter suffered even more in the end. But, through Christ, he was able to overcome that fear. Because he no longer put himself first. He put the Lord first! And that's the place God wants us to be in our walk with Him. Until we crucify our selfish nature (Galatians 2:20), none of keeping the law or keeping the commandments will be to any avail (Ephesians 2:9-10). Jesus said don't fear man. The most that man can do to you is kill your body. He said fear God, who has the ability to not only kill your body, but also put your soul in Hell to burn there forever (Luke 12:4-5). Because that involves what is eternal. God is much more powerful than the devil! Satan is a loser! So if your faith is in him, you will spend eternity suffering with him in Hell and the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10-15).

Nominal and lukewarm Christians (Revelation 3:16) are in abundance. However, true Christianity has a price tag with it. The devil runs this current world, not God (see Ephesians 2:1-5). To the true Christian, Jesus said, "This is My command: Love each other. 'If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute



you also. *If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also*” (John 15:17-20 NIV). There are many pastors, especially in the media, who are prosperous. But it seldom happens to those who really love the Lord! (See Revelation 3:17-19 and James 5:1-3.) Over the centuries, many apostles, missionaries, and other strong servants of God have had all kinds of trouble. Jesus said, “...**In Me** you may have **peace**. **In this world** you will have **trouble**. **But take heart!** I have overcome the world” (John 16:33 NIV). It’s not an outward peace, the kind the world gets when everything is going well for them. It’s an inward peace, “...*the peace of God, which transcends all understanding...*” (Philippians 4:7 NIV). It’s a peace the world doesn’t understand. They cannot fathom how someone can be in such horrible danger, but still be tranquil enough to fall asleep, as Jesus did in Luke 8:22-24 and Peter did in Acts 12:6. It comes from the Holy Spirit (John 14:26-27). It’s a tranquility of soul that every true believer will need as the days grow closer toward the Lord’s return. It is a peace that doesn’t depend upon outward events. And it’s most active in the most dangerous, painful times. Christ suffered for us and, if we remain faithful, we also will suffer for Him (see Acts 5:40-41, 16:23-25) in different ways. Perhaps you may lose your job, or your friends and family will turn against you. Life will get more difficult. Things that use to be easy will become more difficult. As Christians, this type of suffering does not pay for our sin. Only Jesus could do that (John 1:29)! But it does pay the maintenance on it!

As a Christian, if your faith and trust is only in the things you can perceive with your senses, you are not following Jesus Christ. “*For we walk by faith, not by sight*” (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV). “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*” (Hebrews 11:1 KJV). We humans have five natural senses. They are, sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. Have you ever heard the expression, “I’ll believe it when I see it”? That’s not the attitude that God is looking for! False doctrines have misled many Christians to believe that, once they become Born Again (John 3:3) all their troubles will just float away, and God will make them rich, healthy, and important in this world. They believe they are “King’s Kids.” (See the Apostle Paul’s sarcastic response to the Corinthian church pertaining to this doctrine in 1 Corinthians 4:8-14.) However, “*Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world... My kingdom is from another place’*” (John 18:36 NIV). So if you want all the good things that this world has to offer, and you want to live like a prince in this world, you have not been following the true Christianity, but a counterfeit version of it! (See Galatians 1:6-10.) Yet to those who are willing to live by faith, and allow Christ to become “...*sovereign Lord...*” (2 Peter 2:1 NIV) of their hearts and lives, Jesus made us a promise. He said, “...*In Me* you may have **peace**. **In this world** you will have **trouble**. **But take heart!** I have overcome the world” (John 16:33 NIV. Also, see John 15:19-21, 17:6-16). Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), but the peace He brings does not come from this world, or the things of this world. It is a supernatural peace that can only come to those who no longer lust after earthly things (1 John 2:15-17), but instead, live for the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15).

When the Jews were slaves in Egypt, it was a type of spiritual symbolism of the bondage of sin that enslaves all of us before we are set free by repentance to God (Matthew 4:17, 6:9-12), and redemption through Jesus Christ, “...*His only begotten Son...*” (John 3:16 KJV). God chose a man named Moses to become the vessel through which He would deliver the slaves from the bondage of Egypt. I remember years ago when I was going through a particularly difficult test of faith in regard to this ministry. Like most of us, when these

tests come upon us, I wanted God to take it away. I prayed, “Why is this happening to me Lord?” The answer came immediately. In my heart I felt the Lord say, “It is because you don’t get the victory unless you go through the battle.” However, we who love Christ, are no longer “of this world.” For our Lord is not “of this world” (John 17:6-16). Therefore, the battles we fight are not carnal battles, but spiritual. Consequently, since Satan controls all that is of this world (Matthew 4:8-10), we cannot fight against him with carnal weapons! Moreover, if we are citizens of the Kingdom of God, we are a part of His Heavenly army. As such, we cannot plan the strategy for spiritual warfare! Jesus Christ, our Commander and Chief, does that! Yes, the enemy may seem so vast, and we may feel so puny in comparison. But, “...*thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s*” (2 Chronicles 20:15 KJV). That’s why, “*the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have Divine power to demolish strongholds*” (2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV). What kind of strongholds? Demonic strongholds of Satanic power! We cannot overcome them through human ability or carnal wisdom. Only the Divine, Holy Spirit Power that we receive through Jesus Christ, will win spiritual battles for us!

After God delivered the Jews from slavery in Egypt, they wandered through the desert for 40 years in search of their Promised Land (Exodus 12:25). However, the land that God planned to give them was not so far away that it should have taken 40 years to find it. So why the delay? It was because, from God’s perspective, their earthly pursuit for the Promised Land symbolized a believer’s pursuit for Heaven (see Hebrews 11:8-10). Therefore, they needed to become totally dependent upon God and live by faith. Here are some metaphors I want to explain. Pharaoh is symbolic of Satan. The desert represents the earthly Kingdom of God, where we will not survive unless we live by faith. And the Promised Land is a metaphor for Heaven. Those of you who have been reborn in Christ “...*used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness*” (Romans 6:17-18 NIV). However, “...*I want to remind you that the Lord delivered His people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe*” (Jude 1:5 NIV). “Did not believe” means those who refused to trust God despite the circumstances. In this context, the word “believe” does not mean merely acknowledging the existence of God (James 2:19-20). It means total trust, confidence, and dependency upon Him. It means living by faith!

Now, about Moses. Did Moses claim to be a “King’s Kid”? No! “...*Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth*” (Numbers 12:3 NIV). He wasn’t interested in wealth and prestige. He had received all of that in Egypt (Hebrews 11:24-26). Yet God didn’t use him when he was young and healthy, and had the riches and power of an Egyptian prince. God waited until Moses was 80 years old before He gave him his ministry. “...*God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things... so that no one may boast before Him*” (1 Corinthians 1:27-29 NIV). Most of you know the story. Moses was obedient, and went and spoke to Pharaoh on God’s behalf. However, instead of the situation getting better, it got much worse! Not only did Pharaoh refuse to let the slaves go, but he made their lives even more miserable (Exodus 5:6-9). And, typical of the way that people are, the slaves blamed Moses (Exodus 5:20-22)! Moses went to God in prayer. However, the Lord wasn’t at all concerned. All that had



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happened was a part of His plan!

Moses did not understand why God didn't just make Pharaoh release the slaves immediately. But he trusted the Lord anyway! Sometimes, we believers are put into a situation where there appears to be no way out. We put our faith in God! However, instead of the problem going away, it just gets more stubborn. That's the way it was with Pharaoh! Even though God used Moses to bring all kinds of afflictions upon the Egyptians, Pharaoh, like a huge mountain, would not be moved (see Mark 11:23-24 and Exodus 14:23-28). However, Jesus said, "...if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:23-24). Also, see Exodus 14:10-30). Of course, that will only apply to those who have been spiritually "crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20), and have made the will of God their first priority (Matthew 6:33, Luke 22:42, and James 4:1-4). Also, notice that the very first Commandment that God gave to Moses was to put God first, before anyone or anything else in our hearts. It was "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:2-3 NIV).

This reminds me of the story of Lot's wife. She was warned by the angels who delivered her safely out of Sodom "Don't look back!" (See Genesis 19:17.) Yet she had been living in Sodom so long it had become a part of her lifestyle. And she didn't want to give it up. "But Lot's wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt" (Genesis 19:26 NIV). Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife!" (Luke 17:32 NIV). Count the cost! Once you come to Christ, you cannot put anything before Him. Even your family must not come before God. Jesus "...said to another man, 'Follow Me.' But the man replied, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God'" (Luke 9:59-62 NIV). And 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. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life [physically] for My sake will find it [spiritually]" (Matthew 10:34-39 NIV).

Shadrach, Meshach; and Abednego counted the cost of serving God, and He delivered them from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:16-26). Daniel trusted God, and He saved him from being killed by lions (Daniel 6:12-27). However, it doesn't always work that way. "...Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes

by faith. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going... For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise... Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them... By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible... And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions; quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies... Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised [Heaven. For Jesus had not come into the world yet to pay for their sin.]. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect" (Hebrews 11:1-40 NIV).



thing better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect" (Hebrews 11:1-40 NIV).

False prophets have led many good Christians away from Christ and salvation. Simon Peter put it this way. "These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: 'A dog returns to its vomit,' and, 'A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud'" (2 Peter 2:17-22 NIV). There really is no purgatory. So think the matter through thoroughly and consider the cost. Are you willing to turn your back on all the past pleasurable ways you lived when you lived according to your carnal nature, no matter what it may cost you, and live for Christ, or die in your sins? "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15 NIV).