

Prison Epistles

Forever is a long time!

In a prison cell at the Eastham Unit ad. seg. (administrative segregation), in August of 1989, I asked Jesus if He was real, to come into my life and change it because I was tired of the life I had lived up until then.

Because of my faith in Jesus Christ, on July 24, 1992, I quit a gang known as the Texas Syndicate (TS). At that time, prison and law enforcement officials considered TS to be the most violent and best organized gang within the Texas prison system and out in the “free world,” as well. TS has a rule that states that the only way out of the gang is by death. I am still in prison and I am still alive.

At the time I resigned my position and membership in the gang I was the “Chairman” of TS at the Michael Unit of TDCJ. I told my “carnales” (brothers) of my decision via a letter that was read by every member at the unit.



Everybody that read the letter commented on my decision. I remember, sadly, the comment made by one of the younger carnales at the time. He wrote, “Clyde, rethink your decision. I’ve seen a lot of people ‘pick up the Bible’ (a metaphor for someone professing faith in Christ). It never lasts very long, and soon, they all go back to their old ways.”

Several years after 1992, this young man was released from prison after having served over 16 years. He was 16 years old when he was sent there. Within 6 months of his release, he was killed in a gang related shoot-out.

I’ve met a few professing Christians who stated that God exacts vengeance on our enemies on our behalf. “After all,” they say, “God does say: ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay...’” (Romans 12:19). The word of God does say that, but I seriously doubt God had this man killed because of what he once said to me regarding my being “born again.” What I do know is that God said in Romans 8:28: “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

I wholeheartedly believe that none of us living on this earthly plane are capable of fully comprehending God in His totality.

Therefore, I will not even pretend to imply that I know, or understand, why this young man was killed when he was. But I will say that my faith in Christ has changed since the time when this man wrote what he did. My faith in Christ has grown into HOPE expressing itself through Love, and God's word tells me I have eternal life (see John 5:10-12). I most seriously doubt there is anything in the world that lasts longer than that!

There are a few of you who will read this newsletter and will feel "something" in your heart. If you want to know more about what this means, write to the address in this newsletter.



Some of you are sick and tired of the life you have lived up to now. Some of you are ready to ask Jesus Christ into your life. The words you use are not what is the most important part in this situation. The most important part is the sincerity and attitude of your heart. If you are serious, sincere, and want a change for the better in your life, the answer is as simple as this: **Ask Jesus Christ to come into your life/heart.** Get a Bible and start reading God's word, then write to this address in this newsletter.

J.R.A., Washington

GOTTA QUESTION???

Write to P.O. Box 782,
Ft Worth, TX 76101

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God Can and Will Change You But Not Until You Ask Him

I really don't know where to start. You hear of so many men telling these great stories of how they had to overcome impossible odds. Mine is not that kind of a story. From my youth I was always trying hard to please people and be something I was not. I spent many years trying to make people accept me. I was in my late teens when I started trying the worldly pleasures of pot, drinking, sex, cocaine and other bad things. I thought that if I would get married it would help me be responsible and give me a true identity. Wrong! I was still missing someone and something very badly.

In my youth it was normal for me to go to church on Sunday. Because my mom went, everyone went. However, I wasn't hearing anything that was being taught so I did not learn anything. Though I had a form of godliness (religion) I definitely denied God's right to rule my life.

With drugs in my life it was hard to tell right from wrong no matter if it was a business that was hiring or just selling some dope to make some easy cash and stay high. I was fighting with my wife in front of our children. Both of us were using and abusing each other. I was badly out of control after countless times of this but I see now that even then God was watching over and waiting for me.

The Bible says that the Lord chastens those He loves. While I was awaiting trial I was determined that I was not going to go to jail. If I made the \$120,000 bond I was going to jump bail but no one would post that bond for me. I was sent to prison for 8 years for aggravated robbery. That was the worst and the best eye-opening experience I ever had. I came to prison with low self-esteem, hate and malicious thoughts about everything and everyone, but God changed all this when I finally surrendered to Him.

Letter to a man on "Death Row"

This is a letter written to a man on death row from the Father of the man whom he had killed:

You are probably surprised that I, of all people, am writing a letter to you, but I ask you to read it in its entirety and consider its request seriously. As the Father of the man whom you took part in murdering, I have something very important to say to you.

I forgive you. With all my heart, I forgive you. I realize it may be hard for you to believe, but I really do. If you will acknowledge your part in the events that cost my Son his life and simply receive my forgiveness, you will find that I have already forgiven and love from my heart. I can only hope you believe me and will accept my forgiveness.

But this is not all I have to say to you. I want to make you an offer -- I want you to become my adopted child. You see, my Son who died was my only child, and I now want to share my life with you and leave my riches to you. This may not make sense to you or anyone else, but I believe you are worth the offer. I have arranged matters so that if you will receive my offer of forgiveness, not only will you be pardoned for your crime, but you also will be set free from your imprisonment, and your sentence of death will be dismissed. At that point, you will become my adopted child and heir to all my riches.

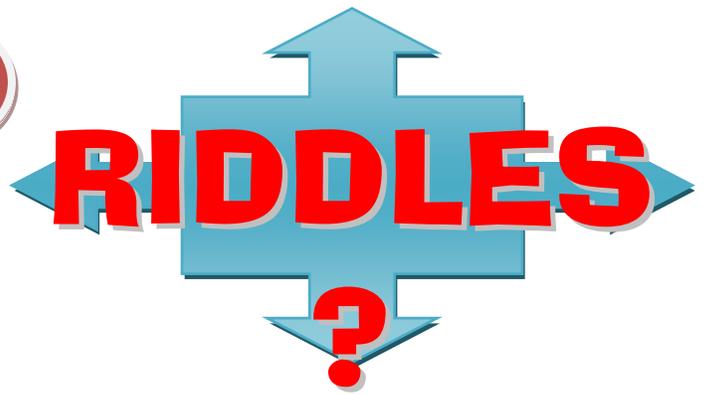
I realize this is a risky offer for me to make to you -- you might be tempted to reject my offer completely -- but I make it to you WITHOUT reservation.

My cellmate constantly asked me to go to the church service to hear him play "Amazing Grace" on the piano. After about 4 months I finally went and I heard my cellmate play and the minister preach as well as. I picked up a Bible after the service and began reading as a pastime thing. One evening I started reading the book of Philemon in the Bible about a slave who had run away and then became a Christian. That story gripped my heart. The next morning I went to the phone to call home and found a Bible tract on salvation laying there by the phone. I picked up the tract and went back to my cell without even making the call. I lay down on my bunk and crawled under the cover to be away from everyone. I confessed to God my need for the Lord Jesus Christ who had paid the full penalty for my sins and received Him into my heart. I told the Lord that I did not want to be who I was anymore. I said that I needed Him to change me by the power of the Holy Spirit. From then on I devoted myself to serving the Lord. That was in August of 1995.

Unfortunately, after getting out of prison I strayed from the Lord and His way and soon found myself back in prison. Now, here for the second time, I think I have finally learned what the Lord said, "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." I still have troubles but I try to keep my eye on the Lord. And, if I fall, I run to the Lord confessing my faults and He cleanses me as He promised that He would in 1John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

I have let down my wife, my children and my friends and yet the Lord Jesus Christ still sees value in me. If he can value me he will also value you! I like to remember what the Lord told Cain, "And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." By the grace of God we can rule over the sin in our lives. It is your choice, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). He will take away the burdens you have been living with for so long.

S.G., Wynne Unit, Huntsville, TX



Also, I realize it may seem foolish to make such an offer to one who cost my Son his life, but I now have a great love and an unchangeable forgiveness in my heart for you.

Finally, you may be concerned that once you accept my offer you may do something to cause you to be denied your rights as an heir to my wealth. Nothing could be further from the truth. If I can forgive you for your part in my Son's death, I can forgive you for anything. I know you never will be perfect, but you do not have to be perfect to receive my offer. Besides, I believe that once you have accepted my offer and begin to experience the riches that will come to you from me, that your primary (though not always) response will be gratitude and loyalty.

Some would call me foolish for my offer to you, but I wish for you to call me your Father.

Sincerely, The Father of Jesus



"TGIF"

"Thank God I'm Forgiven"

Aspire to Inspire before you Expire!

God has no grandchildren

No man ever played a song that others could appreciate when he was tooting his own horn.

THE CROSS:

What man thought of God!

HELL:

What God thinks of rejecting His Son!

1. I always send you in the right direction,
I'm arrayed in black and white,
Ignore me and lose my protection,
No more than two words are in sight.

What am I?

2. I have an eye but cannot see.
I'm faster than any man alive but
have no limbs.

What am I?

3. Right at this moment everyone in
the world, no matter who they are, is
doing this exact same thing.

What is it?

4. What goes up and down but
doesn't move?

What am I?

5. I work hard most every day,
Not much time to dance and play,
If I could reach what I desire,
All like me would now retire.

What am I?

6. I am black when I'm clean and
white when I'm dirty?

What am I?

7. I am a king but also a common
device of measure.

What am I?

From Satan's Slave to God's Son

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I picked up a murder case while I was strung out. I was sent to the Ferguson unit in Texas. It was the devil's playground! I was really bad in those years. The unit was known as the Gladiators Farm...and that's just what it was.

I started hanging around with folks from San Antonio because it was nearest to my hometown. Everyone thought I was from that area. I got involved with the Mexican Mafia because there was a war erupting between the Mexican Mafia and the Texas Syndicate. I decided to run with LaEme as it

I was born in Chicago, Illinois but raised in a small border town in south-west Texas named Eagle Pass or El Aguilon in Spanish. People on the street knew me as Tone. I was a member of the Mexican Mafia for close to 27 years. I say was because now I am a warrior for the Lord. Thanks to Jesus Christ, He changed my life around.

I started sniffing paint at a young age and one of my

brothers, who is now deceased, turned me on to weed. I also started drinking at an early age. Thus I was giving my folks a lot of problems because of the way I was living. My grades began dropping at school and I finally dropped out. I got a



job and being on my own I just cut loose. I came back home and another brother who is also now deceased was shooting chiva (heroin). When I saw that he was feeling OK I wanted to do some too, so I did. I then followed him into Mexico and found out where he was getting it. Soon I got up the courage to buy some for myself.

The dealer there knew who I was just by looking at me. He said, "What are you doing here? I know who you are and your older brother. In fact, you have a brother doing time up in Washington." But he was cool and sold me some. He said it was a favor to my brother in Washington. After that, I was hooked.

I started mixing heroin with coke and also started speed bawlin. And sure enough,

was known. I did not know that my brother up in Washington was a member of T.S.

When he came to Texas I put in for a visit with him but the administration said, "NO!" and told me that I must be out of my mind because he was a high ranking member of T.S. and they knew of my

association with the LaEme.

In 1988 I went home but with bruised ribs, a steel rod added to my leg and four screws with lots of bad memories of the on going war. Little did I know that Satan had me on a string and was in control of my life.

By that time I met my wife and we had a family of 3 daughters. Then I ran into a really good friend from my Barreo, my hood named Las Minas. We got together and he invited me to his church. My wife and I each cried out to the Lord and asked Him to be our Savior resulting in each of us being saved in 1993. While I was attending church more and more Satan was also moving fast. I got involved with heroin, coke and weed again. By day I looked like a good Christian but at night I was doing my own thing. I left

my Christian friends, got into trouble and wound up in prison again in the late 90's.

I got out again and promised the Lord I would stay clean. I took no drugs for a couple of weeks until I ran into my friends from the Mexican Mafia again. By then my wife was tired of the way I was living because the gang came first, then her and then my daughters. She and my daughters left me so I got strung out on heroin and was running around with the devil in full force.

I started recruiting people for LaEme and dancing away on drugs and alcohol big time. Little did I know that the Feds were on my trail. They picked me up and I did Federal time. Then the State picked me up and here I am again.

While in jail this time another one of my brothers died. This drove me to ask the Lord for help because I was tired of the way I was living. Just like He had promised, He came and helped me. One thing I had asked the Lord was that I wanted to know about my older brother up in Washington. I left the gang and joined the GRAD program. It is a program for x-gang members here in Texas. The Lord opened doors for me.

I received a letter from a couple by the name of Jay and Belva here in Texas. When I opened it a picture of my family fell out!...and then more pictures fell out of the letter! The letter said that they knew my brother in Washington and he was looking for me. They had been a lot of help to my brother and now began to be a big help to me also. Later they lead me to a pastor who became my spiritual mentor who began teaching me a lot through Bible studies and pastoral visits. I am presently in an awesome

study of the book of Acts period. Another older couple, Russell and Barbara, have written to me and are now on my visitor's list. I know they all are helping me because of Jesus Christ in their hearts.

And so, those of you in prisons or out in the free world, if you are lost and do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior, let me tell you that Satan is a liar. He is only here to destroy and kill you...but Jesus Christ came to give you life. He is the only way and I can tell you all this from experience. Life without Christ is not worth it. You will lose more than you think you will.

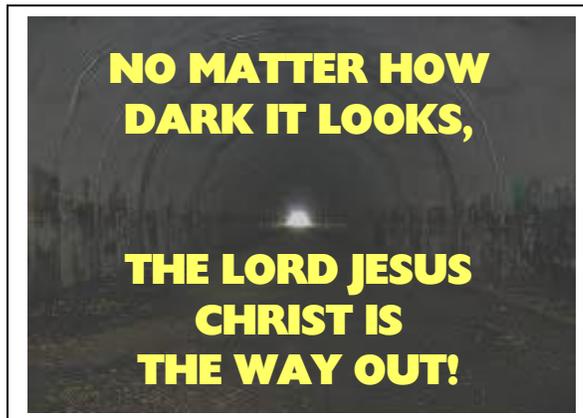
I ask you to check your past and see all that you have already been through.

There is a way out and it is through the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know how to write or use words in the best way, but I hope you will see what I went through and how I have now come to know the Lord. Even though I am presently locked up, I am free...really free from Satan

and myself.

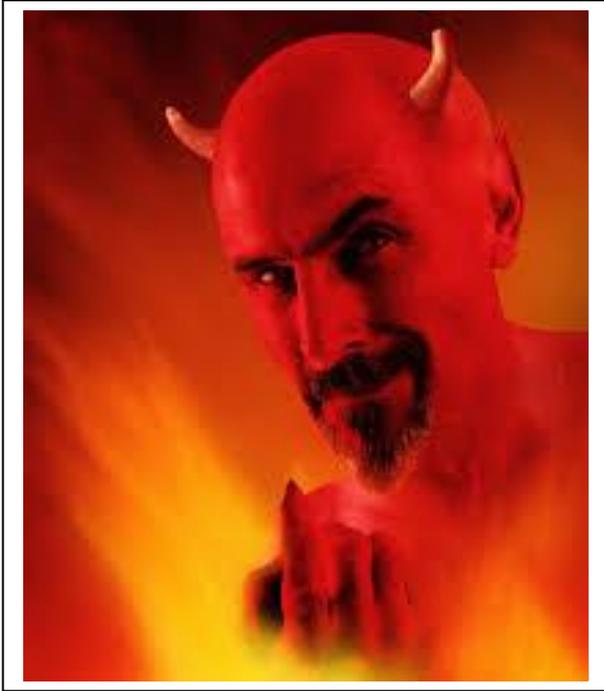
If you would like to know more about how you too can be free of the guilt of your sins and come to have life, real life, write to the address in this publication. I know the Lord will bless you if you will surrender yourself to Him.

A.A., Huntsville, TX



DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL TESTIMONY FOR JESUS CHRIST, HOW HE SAVED YOU FROM THE GUILT AND PENALTY OF YOUR SINS AND GAVE YOU PEACE AND A NEW LIFE?

**Write to...P.O. Box 782,
Ft Worth, TX 76101**



Listening to
SATAN'S WHISPERS
was how I lived in
Satan's
playground of sin.

In August of '08 I came home from serving time in prison where I had not had any toxins in my system for some time, but after 2 months that changed. I responded to Satan's whisper that only one beer would not hurt me and besides it was a holiday time. Boy, was I wrong!

Coming home from prison I had the dream every man wants. I had a car, a home with a fence around it, children, a dog and a wonderful wife. What more could a guy want? I had married my "precious queen" and she laid the foundation of our home. I was a "stay at home dad" playing with the kids and the dog while my wife worked.

Now, remember what God has said that "the thief (Satan) comes to steal, kill and destroy" and that's just what he was doing in

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my life. I lied to my good loving queen almost everyday about my drinking but she could tell just by looking in my eyes. Even though God had given me His precious daughter to be my helper, lover and wife, I still was not satisfied. I was not eating right but I thought I was in control. I began looking for what I was missing in a can... a can of beer.

God is faithful and He was sending out warning signs that something was about to happen in my life, but I didn't listen to Him. I was arrested but made bail. For 5 months I stopped drinking, we were going to church and doing well in our marriage but then I again listened to Satan's whispering and went back to drinking.

My daughter by a previous relationship died and I did not get the opportunity to even say goodbye to her and tell her that I loved her. I was blaming others for my problems. I again went to jail and this time was looking at some hard time. At that time I was the only one working and bringing home an income. Now I left my wife with no money and the rent almost due. My wife had had a very difficult background and now she felt like no one loved her.

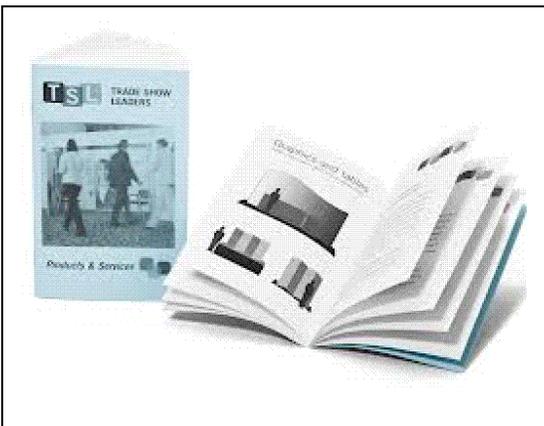


About that time in prison I read in a booklet that said I needed to admit that I was powerless over alcohol and my life had become unmanageable. A prison guard heard me saying to myself in a shower, "What must I do to be saved?" When I got

out of the shower I had a conversation with the guard about my drinking and how it had led me back to prison. At first I was trying to recover for all the wrong reasons. I had asked God to save my marriage and help me stop drinking and lying to my wife, but then I saw that God Almighty was trying to give me full forgiveness and a new life! Finally, I allowed God to recover me and things changed.

I had tried it my way and every time I did I wound up back in prison. So I decided to try it God's way. On July 18, 2011, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord and what a journey it has been for me since then! It has not all been an easy road. I have had to learn to trust Him with all my heart. I needed to learn to love God as He loves me and put Him first in everything. I had to believe in His word to guide me in life. I had to learn forgiveness. I made a list of all the people I had harmed and I made an effort to make amends with them...most of all my precious queen, my wife.

I was still missing something. I needed to understand more of what God wanted me to do, how He wanted me to live and love Him. At a time when I was especially troubled, a dear Christian brother by the name of Will gave me a post card that offered a free non-denominational Bible study course. I decided I had nothing to lose so I filled it out and sent it in.



I received the studies and returned the answer sheets faithfully for about 2 months. Then I received a letter from the minister asking me if I would like him to come and



visit me. I asked, “Lord, why would this man want to come and see me?” I was scared and anxious, but I wrote and told him “OK.” Satan began whispering again, “this preacher does not care about you but just about himself.” I called on the Lord to help me resist these words. God caused me to remember that He had never misled me and I could trust Him.

To my surprise, when the minister came I felt God's love in the room and lost all my fears. First we got to know each other then we started studying God's word. When I got back to the dorm I told brother Will about the time I had with the minister and we both praised the Lord for it. God had helped me with many other problems in my life and He was now helping me to understand His word better.

I still had a lot to learn and through regular pastoral visits and letters the minister helped me with a lot of my issues. I truly believe that this preacher loved the Lord and me too. Now I understood what God wanted me to do in my life. Before I was living only

for myself but now I live for God, my Redeemer for He now lives in me and I thank Him for it.

I never had a real childhood and that was part of the reason I was in and out of prison. Now I am “born again,” like the Bible says. I have a new spiritual life since I asked Jesus Christ to save me. 1Corinthians 13:11 says “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” I have now put away the things that I had wanted like drinking and lying that lead me to prison and being away from my lovable wife and with messes, sadness, hurt and pain.

I want to encourage you to trust in the Lord and remember that God already knows your heart so please don't try to play with Him. Give up listening to and serving the devil. If you surrender your life to Jesus Christ He will make you a new man like he says in 2Corinthians 5:17, “If any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” Do you see what the Lord is offering you if you give yourself to Him by trusting in His love that He demonstrated for you when He went to the cross in your place to pay for all your sins? All your sins will be forgiven!

As a child my mother controlled me. I love my mom but she chose some man over her own kids and that hurt us all so badly. My sister raised me. She was like a mother to me. After high school my mom divorced the man she was with but by then my life was already messed up. I had a place of my own, was drinking 24/7, into drugs and



smoking weed, with girls and thought life was just a big party. All that while I was looking for love, real love, but in all the wrong places. I blamed my mom for the way I turned out until the minister helped me to see that I made a lot of choices on my own so I was the one really to blame. He helped me to forgive my mom like the Lord has forgiven me. God says in 1John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” and it's true! I saw that I could forgive my mom, but since she has not changed in her ways I do not have to trust her.

One of my downfalls was that I was

allowing my mom to interfere in my marriage. In Ephesians 5:31 God had written these words for us, “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife and they shall be one flesh.” I was not doing this in my marriage before, but now that I belonged to God

and could understand and live according to His word, I changed this and found the peace that living for Him gives.

Looking back, my life was filled with unrighteousness and I don't want to live that way again. I want the better way of life that God has for me. I still cry sometimes at night because of the way that I left my wife and the things at home when I got locked up. But, I am under the care of God now and this trip to prison saved my life and my marriage and maybe the lives of others. I also cry sometimes now because I love God and He has showed me mercy instead of justice. He has given me a new beginning and I look forward to living it with my special queen, my wife.

The Lord loves me and He loves you too. What I gave up was the Devil's playground. What I gained was salvation and a life of peace with God. I am still locked up now, but I have peace because I am in God's hands. I am now a winner no matter what comes in life. God has showed my wife a new husband and I truly love her.

Ask yourself if you are tired of the outcome of your life as you have been living it. Then trust in God. Try His way by surrendering and calling on Him to save you from your sins and from yourself. You will be fully satisfied with what God will do to and for you. You will never find a reason after that to leave God.

If anyone thinks that God can't change a person, they are very wrong. God said that through Him all things are possible. If a person really wants God in their life, forgiving and directing them, He will do it! He will help them as He helped me. Trust God and love Him with all your heart.

God has brought Christian brothers and sisters into my life to help me overcome the past. They have shown me how to love and trust God, how to forgive myself and others and how to understand His word. I want to thank them for being used of God in this way and for praying for me. I want to thank them for the help they have been to my wife also. Jay and Belva are two who have loved



Here is a verse that I really love and appreciate, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you," James 4:7. I am a witness of what God can do for you if you will only let go and let God in your life instead of following Satan's whispers.

I know there are people out there who want to see me fail again, who will judge me by my past life. I am praying that they will stop looking at my past and see what Christ has done in me now. Those who want to see me fall did not help me in the past like my God has. They did not give me mercy and love as God has, and maybe it is because they need God in their lives too.

God so much that they love me too. Please continue to keep me and my wife in your prayers. I still struggle with some habits and Jay is helping me with this.

One more thing, my prayer is for all the men and women who are in prison as I still am, that you will find the comfort and joy that can only be had at the feet of Jesus. Drink from the cup in His hand, lay back against his loving breast and feel His heart beating for you. Rejoice in knowing that His love for you is deeper than you will ever grasp and just melt into His peace.

**JRD, Michael Unit,
Tennessee Colony, TX**

“Rejoice in
the Lord
always.
Again I will say,
rejoice!”

(Philippians 4:4)

Go back with me in history a couple of thousand years. Let's go to the city of Rome, Italy to a drab little room, perhaps surrounded by high walls. Inside we see a man on the floor. He is an older man. His shoulders are perhaps drooped from many years of exposure to storms, times of hunger, sleeplessness, long travels by foot and boat, beatings, homelessness, persecuted, defamed and hard work. Perhaps he is balding with age.

It is the apostle Paul! The apostle who was bound only by the will of God and is now in chains.

He is writing a letter. No doubt it is a complaint letter to God. No doubt it is a list of grievances about the very hard life he has lived when he has all this time been God's faithful servant. He certainly had reasons to be bitter and complain!...but he doesn't.

Instead, he is writing a letter that two thousand years later is still known as a treatise of joy...the Book of Philippians.

Although Paul was writing from prison, it is significant that the words “joy” or “rejoice” occur some sixteen times in this letter, reflecting the practical hope of the Christian. Read it and see for yourself!



RIDDLE
ANSWERS

- 1 ONE WAY street sign
- 2 A hurricane
- 3 Getting older
- 4 A staircase
- 5 A doctor who wants to heal everyone
- 6 A chalkboard
- 7 A ruler

The Lord Jesus Christ said...

"For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (John 3:16-20)

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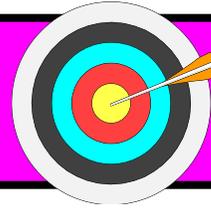
LISTENING TO SATAN'S WHISPERS!



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The Lord Jesus Christ said, "You MUST be born again."

Some Christians who are only and sufficiently a part of the church the Lord is building, of which all and only His children belong (Acts 2:47)
 P.O. Box 782
 Ft Worth, TX 76101