

Prison Epistles

SHARE THIS WITH A FRIEND

I NEVER HEARD "YOU DID GOOD" or "I LOVE YOU"

I was taken to this lady's house when I was 5 years old. I will be 62 in September and I can still remember that day clearly. My mother went inside while I played in the front yard. When she came back out she told me I couldn't go with her, I had to stay there. I cried all day standing at the fence waiting for her to come back. When I was made to come inside I cried that much harder. I was crying so much that the guy who was married to the lady that was going to be "caring" for me got mad and started yelling I needed to shut up. This was the beginning of some years of much physical and mental abuse.

I remember some nights lying in bed crying, asking God what I did to be treated like this, what had I done to my

mother for her to leave me the way she did with these people. Can you imagine growing up never hearing, "you did good" or "I love you?"

I grew up afraid to speak up on things because a lot of time that ended up with me getting a beating. I can relate to Cinderella (*smile*) because I became the male version. I remember standing on a milk crate to wash the dishes because I wasn't big enough otherwise to reach the sink. If the kitchen wasn't cleaned to her satisfaction when she got home, I was awakened, beaten and made to get up and go clean up. I took all this until one day while I was getting beaten I wouldn't stand still. I was told to stand



still or get out. I got out. I was 12 years old and in the street.

I spent some nights at a friend's house, some nights

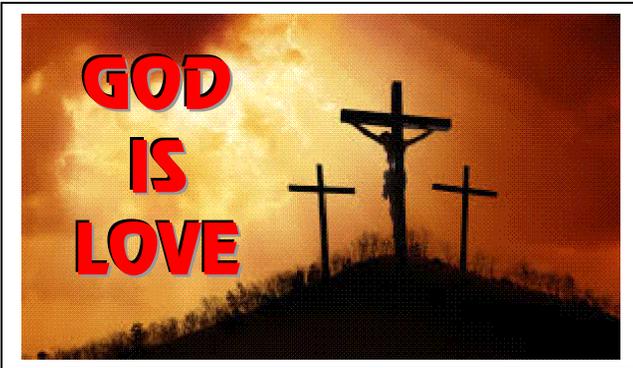
sleeping in the park or in empty cars. I spent many days hungry until I started going in stores eating and stealing food. My life of crime began. I learned from older guys how to break in cars and steal 8 tracks and whatever else had value. After that I moved up to burglarizing houses and businesses. Later I moved up to robbery. I have to admit mentally I was a mess. I was so

confused. Even when I was older I still cried and asked God why I was going through this.

2

On his way out of the cell a dope friend gave me a book about the purpose in life. I lay in my bunk and read it every day. After finishing it, I felt that God was telling me to write my Mom and tell her how I felt about the way she left

I wondered why my relationships never lasted. I would be doing great but once a woman said, "I love you," my feelings seem to change. I no longer trusted her and I did things to hurt her. I have a daughter by this wonderful woman who put up with me for many years. We



me. She hung around long enough for me to get out and we spent a week together before she passed away. My Mom finally told me that she loved me a week

separated when my daughter was about 11 years old. The last time I saw my daughter she was standing on the steps with tears in her eyes (in Las Vegas) and I was getting into my car to leave. I lost all contact with her when I came back to Texas. With all my time together I've spent almost 25 years behind prison walls. I've got almost 9 in now. So many years I've searched for love and when I had it didn't know how to accept it. It's been that way with my Father God too. I know now that He's the reason I'm still alive and kicking. I also know that God is good all the time!

before she died. I was 53 years old. God made all this possible to get some closure on this.

I'm waiting to go before the parole board and I'm still working on bringing myself closer to God. So like Jonah, I stay here in this whale's belly (prison) and I'm finally ready to be obedient and do what He wishes me to do upon my release. In closing I want to say **God is Love!!**

God Bless!!!

Sincerely yours, C.E.W., Texas

About 3 years ago I got mail from someone I never thought I'd see again. My daughter wrote me, sent me many pictures of her and my grandkids. She said she's been searching for me since she was 16 years old and finally found me here on this unit. I was blessed with a visit with her on Father's Day. I can't explain that feeling.



God was the only One who could tame me

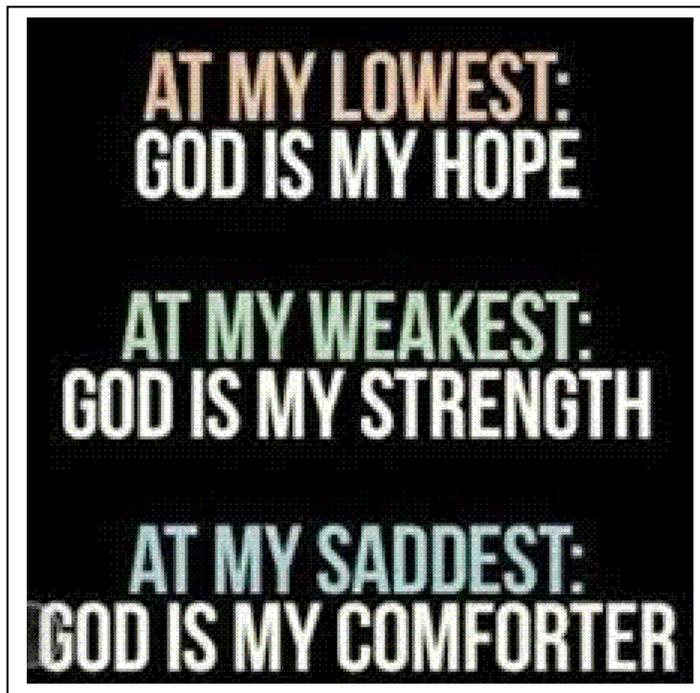
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and I was totally without God in my life. During that time I would drink and drug like it was nobody's business. I was twenty years old and I didn't really care who knew about my lifestyle. Back then I had a "closet" relationship with a gay man. But if you had asked me in the open if I was gay I'd deny it.

I thought that God wouldn't want anyone like me. I was that blinded by the devil. I thought that through all my sinning that it would be too late to give my life to Christ. I had a Christian friend and he would witness to me about God's word and would take me to this church that was under a bridge at IH 35. I had answered the altar call there one day but I didn't take it too seriousyl.

I grew up with my cousins because my brothers and sister were taken by CPS when I was six. So I looked to my cousins as my brother and sisters. We grew up in Waco. We were a pretty tight pack. But then my uncle moved to East Texas. It was during this time in my life that I got a short glimpse of who God was through the summer visit when my Uncle would bring me and my other cousins from Waco so we could spend time with each other. That was the first time I found out about God. They went to church every Sunday and lived a lot different than us kids did in Waco. To this day I thank God for the relationship my uncle and his family had with God. Because of their prayers I was finally saved in a jail cell years later. I know the difference now between head knowledge of God and heart knowledge of God.

In 1996 before I started going to jail a lot, I lived off a government SSI check



But only God knew what he had planned for me. My Christian friend remained faithful to me. I remember how at times he would show me scriptures from the Bible but I would act as if the Bible was too hard for me to understand. I just wanted to do what I wanted instead.

I continued to attend church back then and I did stop the gay relationship because I knew some things about God and that was one of the big "No no's" that God didn't agree with. I had even stopped using drugs and alcohol and was attending N/A meetings in Waco,

But I never gave my whole heart to God. I mean I had head knowledge about God but never had the relationship thing about God. I didn't realize that God was even interested in my life style. But He was and even more so now that I've got this time to reconsider life with Him involved with me. It's as if I've been going along with this ride without considering that God was at the wheel all the time. The Lord has always been there sticking closer than a brother.

I began by putting my trust in man but God soon showed me that I was doing my time all wrong. I joined a gang but didn't realize how bad they were. They told me that they were just "looking out" for each other. I was told that if I chose them that I had to first fight one-on-one then I'd be good. You think I'd realize by then but I was blinded by their friendship. No one in my family would ever write to me, plus they promised me commissary and hygiene but didn't provide it. So, I was blinded by the gang lifestyle (see John 2:15-16).

I didn't feel like I totally abandoned the Lord because the gang said I could still keep my faith, attend church and Bible studies. They even had meetings at church. It wasn't until someone pulled me aside and showed me what really was happening. At that time I rededicated my heart and my mind to God's ways and not to man's ways.

I asked the Lord to give me the strength to walk away from the gang. And when I did the natural fight was almost too

4

much, however, I cried out to Him in the heat of the battle. They beat me twice as much then as they had the first time!

The gang "Intelligence Officer" at the prison wanted to know all I knew. I refused to give him information not wanting to make things worse on me. Little did I know God even protected me through that struggle and I was placed in Seg. I finally got out of Seg in 1999 but not before I got bad news from home! My uncle on my Mom's side of the family visited me. He said my mother had passed away and it seemed my own life went with her too! That was when things really seemed to get worse. I went back to the cell wishing I could go to the funeral but it wasn't about to happen, the warden refused my family's request.

When I got out of Seg I was placed in Safekeeping. I had tried cutting my wrist and was sent back and forth to Psychiatric Unit's Jester 4 and Montford thinking if they gave me the right medication I could get rid of all the pain. Once again I had turned my back on God and I didn't know what else to do. I was mad, scared and somewhat returned to the mire of mud. I started to dabble into homosexual affairs and before the year 2000 I was placed back in Seg.

I remember other inmates talking about Y2K and that the doors will fly open because of the computer scare and what not. I started having bad dreams of my mother lying in her casket and I

couldn't take it. I began to hear voices in my mind.

5

one on one talk with God and He won the battle with my crazy life.

After being back in Seg for some 90 days, I decided to turn to God again by picking up my Bible and walking away from the gay lifestyle of Safekeeping. It was during this time something awesome began to happen. I stopped taking the medication and began praying more instead. I had some difficult times because I couldn't seem to stop getting write-ups. I was placed in Solitary Confinement.

I was trying to win the soul of a young man named Timothy. He was gay and was down stairs from me directly under my cell and I would speak to him through the vents (keep this in mind, I've got no physical evidence to prove any of this to this day) while I was in solitary. Timothy wanted to get saved but was "riding" with a gang member who was his cellie and he was afraid of what they would do to him. I lead Timothy through the sinners pray and the word found in Roman 10:9-13. Timothy began speaking to me about heaven. To make a long story short, unfortunately, Timothy lost his life at the hands of his cellie.

I had run the streets at a young age and everyone who knew me knew that there was something wild about me. Back then God was the only One who could tame me. I was always in and out of Juvy Hall, whether it was P.I. or walking off with stuff that wasn't mine. It took a jail cell to get my attention and in December of 1996 I had a serious

The Lord brought me through all this and even though I have backslid from what God had planned for me, this isn't over yet. Because of His grace I remain to be led by Him even now. God is showing me that there is no greater love than what He accomplished at Calvary. I have been "born again" for about eighteen years now.

I ended up being released from prison in 2002 on parole and have never really shared this with anyone before.

J.R., Texas



**DON'T
WORRY**

**Don't worry about tomorrow.
It will be okay.
God's got you covered,
In every single way.**

**All you have to do is listen
To what He has to say.
He will give you comfort
Each and every day.**

**God gave His promise
Our part is to pray.
Let the Lord Jesus
Save you and me today.**

By Donna K.

“SET OFF”⁶



of heaven but instead to a place of everlasting torment for eternity.

And to add to the anguish is the fact that they chose it to be this way! They chose to reject the gracious offer of Jesus Christ who paid the full penalty for their sins. They could have been set free at any moment in their life if they had only surrendered to His offer. Instead they put it off, sometimes even mocking it, until it was too late.

This does not have to happen to you. Jesus Christ already took your place on that awful cross and in hell. You need not go there because He has already gone for you. But you must give your present sinful life to Him so that He may give you a new life. With Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you will never be “Set Off” by God, but will rather be welcomed home as one of His beloved children!

“Set off!” Such terribly painful words. All hopes and plans dashed. A gnawing, relentless pain is attached to these words. It can leave you with feelings of hopelessness and depression. You want to shout, “It can’t be! It just can’t.”

You may have had plans for your future. You were going to be free. Now they are all smashed and broken by those two terrible words over which you have no power now to change!

But this pain of being temporarily “Set Off” is nothing compared to the realization that must hit people who hear these words, “*Depart from Me you cursed. I never knew you,*” spoken by Almighty God to them. This will not be a one, two or three year “Set Off.” It will be forever! What despair must strike those who die and then realize that they are never going to the freedom and joy

How would you like to

KNOW

ALL YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN!

YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE!

YOU’RE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN!

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD!

Write for

“How to be BORN AGAIN”

and

“EVIDENCE of Salvation”

P.O. Box 782,

Ft Worth, TX 76101



7

RIDDLES?

A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell.

~C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

Let God's promises shine on your problems. ~Corrie Ten Boom

God's gifts put man's best dreams to shame.

~Elizabeth Barrett Browning

God enters by a private door into each individual.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

There are no atheists in hell.

~Unknown

Apart from God every activity is merely a passing whiff of insignificance. ~Unknown

What could be more foolish than an atheist who keeps talking about something he claims does not exist! ~Unknown

There are none so blind as those who will not see ~Unknown

1. What two things can you never eat for breakfast?

2. What tastes better than it smells?

3. What asks but never answers?

4. What is round on the ends and high in the middle?

5. If you look at the numbers on my face, you won't find 13 anyplace!

6. What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?

7. Paul is a 6'4" tall butcher, wears size 12 shoes and has a 54" waste. What does he weigh?

8. What is the only word in the dictionary that is spelled incorrectly?

FATITH IN JESUS CHRIST

is not just mere intellectual (mental) assent to the fact that He died in your place for your sins.

**"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
(Romans 5:8)**

It is a full commitment to placing your whole life in His hands and trusting Him for all things, including your eternal life.

**"Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths."
(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

Saving faith involves genuine repentance, admitting that you are a sinner and deliberately turning away from your sinful life and in

humility fully giving yourself to Jesus Christ and trusting Him for your salvation.

**"...God...now commands all men everywhere to repent...He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man (*Jesus Christ*) whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
(Acts 17:30-31)**

"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."
(John 3:16-18)**



**"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
(John 3:36)**

God knows Me!

**And He loves me
anyway!**

It may well be that I shall never, ever, fully know or understand all of God's love and concern for me. It is very likely that I will never understand all the perfect qualities of His character. But I praise Him for His magnificent grace for He fully knows me in every detail and yet deals with me in complete mercy and impeccable wisdom.

For the child of God, to be known by Him should be the greatest encouragement in the universe. During all of our lives we are interacting with people who do not *really* know us, much less understand us. Many of our problems in life arise from a lack of knowledge and adequate understanding of one another.

It may be frightening for many people to realize that God knows us through and through. We may feel threatened by such knowledge. However, for the

9

person who has acknowledged their sins and their need for Jesus Christ as their Savior, this is great news! And, that is for these three special reasons...

1. God knows all the intricacies of my genetic makeup. He is fully aware of all the interrelated characteristics which were inherited from my parents, grandparents and former forbearers. He knows precisely why I am the unique individual that I am. No one else, not even my parents know this much. But God knows me in this intimacy. He understands exactly why my inherited features influence me to behave as I do. Consequently He can treat me with utter integrity and complete understanding, tempered with compassion.

2. Only God is fully aware of all the environmental influences which have been brought to bear upon my life since the day of my conception. No human being does, not even my mother. It is this infinite, incredible knowing that enables Him to deal with me in forgiveness and love. He knows all the strains, stresses and pressures that shaped me. He alone can properly appraise the impact made on me by my parents, my home, my siblings,

my school, my playmates, my teachers, my friends and all other human associates. He knows the experiences, the griefs, the triumphs, the adventures, the work, the failures, the impact of books, videos and thousands of other influences that molded me. No one else does or can. Not even I can fully know myself or understand my behavior.

3. Only God can clearly and fully understand my thoughts, all my hopes, all my fears, all my imaginations, all my emotions, all my deliberate choices and all my subconscious impulses. And, because He does, He deals with me in mercy, kindness, patience, longsuffering, justice and total integrity. Oh, the grandeur and graciousness of such a Savior, such a Friend and such a Father!

It is this dimension of being known to the utmost depth of my being that has drawn me to Jesus Christ with unbreakable cords of love...His love.

For, although He knows the best, He also knows the worst, knows the noble, knows the wrong and knows the deep yearning of my spirit to be like Him and He treats me with utter truth and understanding.

10

I dare not try to bluff Him for He knows before I would begin. So in fearless contrition, I can cast myself upon His compassion like a small child leaps into the air off a high object into the arms of their father. I may come to Him at any time completely assured that He fully understands me through and through.

Oh, the marvel of His
LOVE!

Oh, the wonder of His
CARE!

Oh, the greatness of His
GRACE!

**HE is mine
and I am HIS
forever!!!**

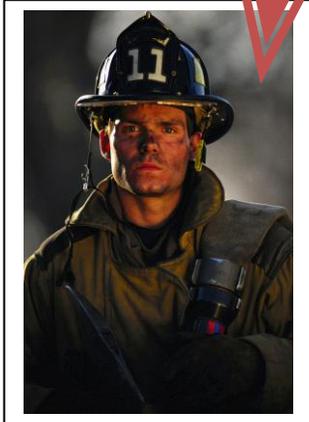
RIDDLE ANSWERS

- 1. Lunch and Dinner**
- 2. The tongue**
- 3. An Owl**
- 4. The word OHIO**
- 5. A Clock**
- 6. A postage stamp**
- 7. Meat**
- 8. Incorrectly**

Can you honestly say...

11

I DON'T CARE!



A fireman dashes into a burning building to save you and later dies of smoke inhalation.

Would you think,
"I DON'T CARE."

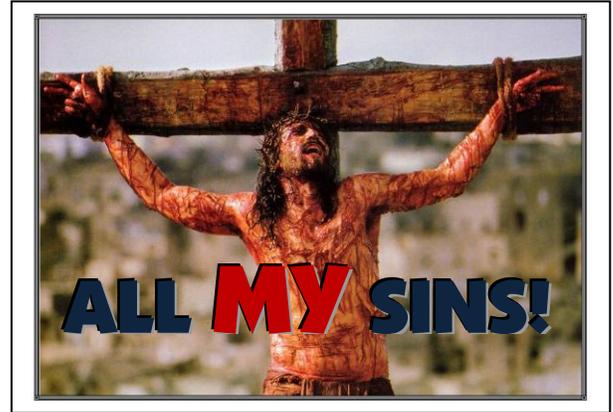
The plane is spiraling out of control. The pilot shoves the only parachute to you and insists you jump, and you do, as he rides the plane into the ground.



Would you think,
"I DON'T CARE."

Almighty God has shown His tremendous love for you...

"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." (I John 4:9)
iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)



Jesus Christ suffered to bring us to God...

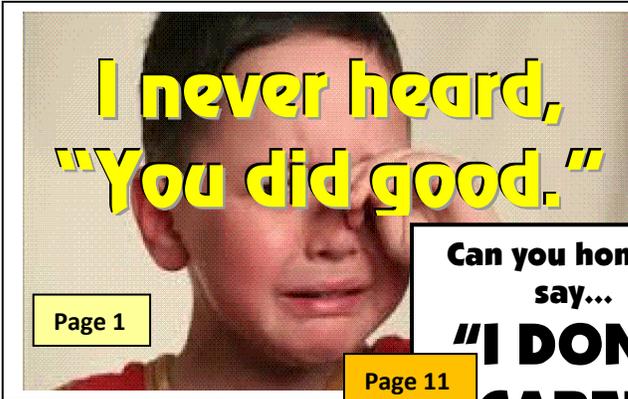
"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit"

(I Peter 3:18)

"For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"
(Romans 10:13)

We really hope
YOU CARE
for He cares
for you!

Prison Epistles



I never heard,
"You did good."

Page 1

Page 11

Can you honestly say...
"I DON'T CARE!"



A Full Commitment

Page 8

Page 7



Page 8



Page 3

ONLY GOD



COULD TAME ME!

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

GOTTA SPIRITUAL QUESTION??? Write to P.O. Box 782, Ft Worth, TX 76101