

FISHERS OF MEN

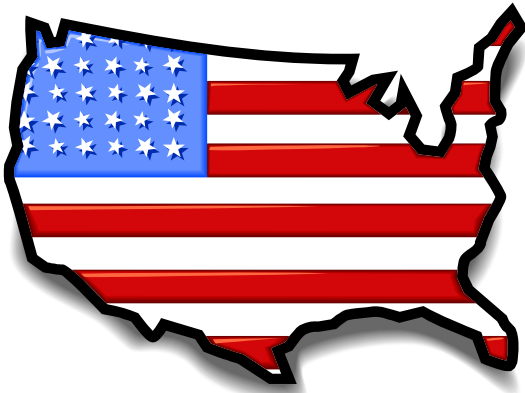
"And he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 4:19

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Fishers of Men Prison Ministries
Jesus Loves You!

A Newsletter For and By Saints of Christ in Prison

What's Wrong with America?



This nation was founded by men some 230 years ago who inscribed the principles of the Holy Bible into the foundational stones of this society.

This Nation is GOD FOUNDED and GOD PROFESSED. Many of these God-fearing men laid aside personal fortunes and even their lives to birth liberty and religious freedoms for all who would come here in the future. The city of Washington DC memorialized our Godly forefathers with a whole host of marble and stone monuments that are engraved with eternal words taken from God's Holy Book. They did this because they knew God was the key to a nation's longevity and its prosperity.

Here we are 230 years later and many of our leaders in Washington are of a different breed. Too many of them are unprincipled men who lack God's knowledge which is easily found in the Bible. Because of this, they are reduced to being full of WICKEDNESS.

The hallowed shrines with timeless words remain in our Capitol, but the Nation's greatness that they represent is being lost in their empty words and service. Our Capitol has become a city of WHITEWASHED TOMBS full of morally dead men who move about as if there was no God. They labor in the flesh on hallowed ground, to no avail. They do not honor the principles of our founding fathers, but instead, they choose for personal gain to change times and laws. In doing so, they are redefining that which God himself uttered and bring blasphemy to God and sure judgment to come.

Congress has sold itself to special interest and influence peddlers who desire to reshape our nation to a Godless society. Those who are supposed to be our leaders have chosen personal gain. Certainly not all our politicians subscribe to this way, but surely the collective body of our government is producing wickedness and is far from the moral principles our founding fathers had intended.

Moral decay has set in and eats away at the foundations that were set up by God Fearing, God Inspired men of old. Because our leaders have changed the laws and now legalize the shedding of innocent blood violence rues our big cities and our prisons cannot contain all the guilty.

Because our leaders have decided that God is no longer needed our schools are producing people who don't have a clue as to what is right or wrong morally.

Because our nation will soon forget God all together, He has no choice but to allow us as a nation to reap what we sow. *Psalms 9:17, "The wicked shall be turned into Hell and all the nations that forget God."*

There is hope for America, but time is running out. The answer is found in Ezekiel 22:30, "And I sought for a person among them that should make up a hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it."

II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land."

***God is able, are we?
Brother Allen***

A Message from MOMM



If this newsletter has been given to you by someone else, write Fishers of Men Prison Ministries, c/o Bethany Church, 5403 North Second Street, Loves Park, IL 61111. Include your name, number and address; and you will be added to the FOM mailing list. Our request is that when you finish reading your newsletter, please pass it on to someone else for his or her enjoyment and spiritual food. If you enjoy writing and have a desire to share a message with other inmates, we welcome Biblically and faith-based fiction or non-fiction articles. Those may also be mailed to the above address. No matter where you are or what your situation, God can bless you this month. Tell your family to visit the website at www.fishersofmenprisonministries.com. If you would like to share your testimony, send it to me at the Bethany address.

Love in Christ, Momm

JUST A THOUGHT



Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.” Psalm 150:6 KJV

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs22:6 KJV

Many times when we read this verse, we think of our own children. In doing so, we may have thoughts about how can we do that when were so far away. We could write them, maybe; we could talk to them, maybe. However, I'm sure that being born again we have shared the awesome life we can obtain through Christ, no matter how we went about it, even if it's only a prayer.

However, you should know by now I always have more to say and something else to consider. Proverbs 22:6 does not specify our child; God's word says a child.

I can almost positively say that in one respect our institutions are very similar. It appears as if the new intakes are getting younger and younger. It never ceases to amaze me. In my institution it seems for the most part that not only are they younger, but cocky, arrogant, disrespectful and lazy. They come in thinking this is a game, a place to sit back and kick it. There are also those who see the reality in this and use this time wisely to their advantage.

In my present place of residence, most of us who have time basically keep to ourselves and can be intolerable to this rapidly growing younger group. Oh, maybe, occasionally we converse briefly with them. Even once in a while, one comes along that we click with and we talk a little more...kind of taking them under our wing.

However, God has allowed me to see these younger women in a different light. Not one of us wants our own children to end up where we are; and these younger men and women are someone else's children. God's word tells us in Matthew 18:15, “And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name, welcomes me.” NIV

See, these young people are still part of our future generation; not to mention that I am sure for the most part at one time, all of us were either cocky, arrogant, disrespectful and/or just as lazy. No...well remember when we were teenagers/young adults? Ever thought your parents didn't have a clue (cocky)? Ever thought you could do something and just get away with it (arrogant). Ever drive too fast, play music a little too loud in public (disrespectful)? How about... have you ever been told or asked to do something and you put it off because you just didn't feel like it or were too tired? (lazy) We need to be mindful that we have come from different upbringings, cultures, environments, families, backgrounds, etc. Perhaps in some respect, they may be similar, but what may hurt me may not faze you and vice versa. Everyone perceives things differently, but everyone's feelings are valid. Granted, most of the time in our environment, emotions are weaknesses and we can't always have answers to our questions. But we know one who gives us strength in weak moments (Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9) and we know the one who can give understanding (Proverbs 4:1; Proverbs 8:5; and Proverbs 28:56)

It's easy to witness to someone who seems to be receptive, sometimes we even pursue someone because we like the person for some reason or perhaps the Holy Spirit leads us. We have no right to be picky. Obviously, God isn't, He has saved us and there was someone who reached out to us even when we weren't so loveable.

So, encourage, press in and teach a child. Just one can make a difference because after perseverance and in God's time that one can make a difference to someone else all because we took the time and showed him or her God's love. First we need to see them as God does; God's children. So look again.

*With all my love and prayers,
Your Sister in Christ, Missi*

COMMUNION



At some point in the growth of the Christian the question of "What does God want me to do?", or "What is God's will for my life?" arises. In Romans 12 Paul gives guidelines for living as a redeemed people. Throughout this section, we learn how to live our faith each day.

Quickly, I would like to point out that the will of God for the Christian can be divided into two parts: (1) **Christian character.** God's will in this area is the same for all Christians (Gal. 5:22-23). (2) **Christian service.** God's will for a Christian service is different for everyone. It is tailored by the gifts God gives us as well as the circumstances that He arranges in our lives. Romans 12 teaches that we are to do those things that display right

character and loving motivation.

In order to display right character and loving motivation we must do three things:

(1) Read and understand the Bible, God's Word (Deut. 8:3; Ps. 119:11). Hiding God's word in our heart is a deterrent to sin. This should inspire us to memorize the word, but memorization is not enough.

(2) Be obedient to what you learn. Being exposed to the Scripture is not enough. It is much more important to obey it, to do what is says (James 1:22). Satan knows the Scriptures (Matt. 4:1-11), but he failed to obey them.

(3) Rest contently in our life situation. 1 Tim. 6:6 teaches a key principle to spiritual grow and personal fulfillment. Godliness with contentment is great gain. We should honor God and center our desires on Him (Godliness Matt. 6:33), and we should be content with what God is doing in our lives (Phil. 4:11-13).

In conclusion, if we cultivate and nurture our walk with God, and patiently develop our spiritual gift by concentrating on reading/understanding the Bible; being obedient to what we learn; and resting contently in our life situation, the right opportunities for service will come automatically for it is ultimately God who is at work in us to do His will (Phil. 2:13).

PART II

The second part of this message answers the question: Does God care about the details of the service we are engaged in? If yes, why doesn't the Bible provide specific detailed advice for Christian service? The answer to the first question is "yes," God cares about the details of the service we are engaged in. The fact that God has created our abilities and personalities so that we are able to do the job on earth that He has in mind for us proves He cares. To answer the second question, I provide the following three reasons:

(1) Christians walk by faith not sight (2 Cor. 5:7)

Christians must trust that God is the Sovereign Almighty One who controls the universe for the spiritual benefit of His people. We are to carefully and prayerfully weigh the things we know which affect our choice of service and rely upon the Lord to shape and guide our lives into the right path of service.

(2) Our attention and energy must be directed to cultivating and nurturing our walk with God (1 Tim. 4:16)

As we focus upon being faithful, patiently developing whatever skills God has given us, we will find that the right opportunities for service will come (Matt. 6:33). Faithfulness is the true measure of how successfully Christians are doing the will of God (1 Cor. 4:2);

(3) It is God Himself who is at work in the believers to do His will (Phil. 2:13). Only God knows exactly what His will is in every situation and only God has the ability to do His will as it should be done.

The message of Romans 12 is that it does not matter what a Christian does in his service, for if a person's heart is right, his service will be right.

He Leadeth Me, Your Brother Eddie

A Poem for God

By: Jessica

Whenever I think about You
It puts a smile on my face.
I often wonder if I were to lose You,
Could You ever be replaced?

Could I find that affection
You comfort me with when I'm sad
Or the blessings and smiles
When You're trying to make me glad.

Could I find great companionship,
Someone to wipe away my tears,
To listen to my problems
And help me through my fears.

I know You've tried to show me
The path I'd taken is wrong.
I'm sorry that I didn't listen,
But now I sing Your songs.

I love You more than ever before,
You've taught me so much.
I can't wait to pray to You nightly
And await Your Holy touch.

Today I know so much
That I didn't know before.
You are my sun, my trees, my world...
And there's nothing I want more.

Thank You, Lord, for being My Father,
My Savior, My Best Friend.
Thank You for showing me the light,
So we can meet face to face in the end.



The Glue that Keeps Me Together



“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Ph. 4:6,7) The words that I have begun with are the sum of what is keeping me together at this time. I simply mean that the words of scripture were what my inner man held to for stability and peace.

Sometime in an individual's life, a person is supposed to know their direction and what their plan is, however basic it may be. For many that seems to be an easy task. There are those, like me, who have a hard time putting it together to where it will bring about the desired goal. What was thought of in our youth is now more imagination than reality and this is due to the way things have changed as we grew up. You see, I don't feel that I have a given direction or plan in my life. I'm able to design you a house, reupholster your furniture, or make any sewing repair that is needful. Yet, that isn't telling me who I am or what I ought to be doing. God has used me to minister to individuals, to act as a counselor as it were, yet I'm not able to see what I'm to do.

Before I was locked up, I was heading down a dead-end road that was leading to my death. At that time, I didn't care, nor was I looking that far ahead in my life. Now, I'm wanting to care and wanting to put meaning to my life. However, I feel that I'm being hit in the face with uncertainty/doubt, not knowing the direction before me. Yes, I know that it's an attack from the devil, but it doesn't help me to put things together so I know I'm going in the direction God would have me go.

In prison, beyond physical freedom being sought, one's goal in life is looking to stay alive and not let this place or the people in it get to you. At times, that is not as easy as it seems. Where is the direction or plan in one's life while in a prison? If you do not have a foreseeable out date, how can you have a direction or plan? You can make all the illusive goals/plans you want, but if you can't see a meaning, what is the drive that can/will keep you going. We are taught in the scriptures not to be concerned with tomorrow (Matt. 6:25, 34) as it isn't given to us, just today. You learn from yesterday. That in mind, I do as I'm able to give God my best (Ph. 4:5) in all that I do daily, yet I feel a void in my inner man/spirit. A part of me is saying, “What more is there?”

I also battle over another problem within me... that of having a helpmate. You might say wife or companion, but the bottom line is I do not have one (Gen. 2:18). The devil throws this in my face as well; and it adds to the things I've already shared. On occasion, I've had to be put in check, sometimes rather abruptly, by a sister in Christ. I fear that there will be times yet to come that it'll take place again and I do not want to destroy any relationships that God has united, be it friendship or a marriage.



The urge/desire to be sure within myself is there, knowing God's Word is shared properly and not for self-will is strong within me, which is what I want most of all. Nor just for myself, but for everyone I'm in contact with. The battle with the demons of satan is quite hard and I'm not always sure how will I fare in all this.

For the last month, month and a half, these are the things that I've been up against and not doing too well dealing with them. In sharing this, I expressly hope you will be able to see more clearly the individual before you...namely me...*Your Brother in Christ, Clyde*

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