

Please Help Me!

~AN APPEAL FROM MANY PRISONERS' LETTERS~

Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

FIRST of all, I have no *personal* help to share with you. I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from where comes my help. My help comes from the Lord, which made heaven and earth (Psalm 121:1,2). No mere human has the words that will turn your life around. Only God can perform the needed miracle. You must look to Him to do so. Everything provided by God for your eternal benefit is revealed in a book called the Bible. It is His authoritative Word of instructions. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Your word. Your word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against you (Psalm 119:9,11).

The entire Bible is a revelation of God's salvation through His Son. In the Old Testament, His Son, Jesus Christ, was prophesied and in the New Testament He is revealed. God forces His intentions upon no one. He plainly states the fact of man's sin and reveals to us His only Savior. Where do I find this? In the Bible which He has made available to you.

We Are Sinners!

This is not my personal conviction. This is the plain statement of God. To discover how sin entered into the first earthly family, read the third chapter of Genesis. God reminds us that all humans are victims of Adam's transgression against God. Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Romans 5:12). For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Many sinners say they are a sinner the same as professing Christians say they are a Christian. Declaring ourselves as one or the other does not make us one.

Your problem is not your mother-in-law! (I'm being facetious!) But seriously, many people see their problem as almost

insurmountable. Friend of mine, your problem is not drugs, alcohol, temper, lying, cheating, sex, or anything else. IT IS SIN! All that I have mentioned here is the consequence of your sinful heart and mind. Stop blaming your conduct on somebody else's action against you. You are without an excuse. I had to visit one of my church youth who landed in jail. His group of fellows stole a brand new tool chest. They were stopped by the police for speeding; and upon seeing the police following, they threw the tools out of the window. (Not too smart!) When I asked the young man why he stole the tool chest, his reply was that the owner should not have left his brand new tool chest in his car with the trunk lid open!

Neither Adam nor Eve took personal responsibility for their actions. The man blamed the woman and the woman blamed the serpent. Read it in Genesis, chapter three. This is the action of sin. We are deceived and lied to. (John 8:44) It is past time for you to recognize what sin has done to you. Worse yet, what it has done to your family. Your children, who had no choice in their father or mother, do not deserve to be years without their father in the home. Only God knows what your wife is going through, not to mention your mother. All of this grief is the consequence of sin. Someone has sold you a bill of goods. How can you live pleasing yourself when God created you for His plan and purpose. By the way, this can mean joy, delight, and peace now and for all eternity. Friend, don't miss it all. It can begin now! (Matthew 11:28)

Never will we recognize our sin until revealed to us by the Holy Spirit: When He (Holy Spirit) is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8). One reason Christ means so little to so many people is that they have not realized what He has accomplished for them. If He died for sinners, then I must be one before He died for me personally. It is easy to admit you are a sinner like most everyone else. The question you face is this: Are you the sinner God says you are in His Word? Look at your deeds and works! By the way, it is your works that send you to hell. That is the final abode of the damned. (Revelation 20:12,13) As a sinner, you are under His wrath, not His love. "He that believes on the Son has

everlasting life; and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36). That famous verse John 3:16 repeats the same truth. We either believe God’s Son or we perish in hell for all eternity. We are under either God’s love or His wrath. Which is it with you? Never will you become a Christian until you see your sinful condition through the Scriptures. This takes time and energy on your part. You are not ready to hear from heaven until you acknowledge and repent of your sin, revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. Repentance means turning from sin toward the Savior. You will repent or perish in hell. (Luke 13:3,5)

Who Saves Me?

When the jailor asked Paul and Silas the question how to be saved, he was given the following statement: Believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED and your house (Acts 16:31). You don’t believe in a Jesus you hear about. He is the only ONE revealed in the Scriptures. Keep your Bible closed and you will never meet Him. Again, He is revealed to you in the Scriptures. Cry out to Him. For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13). Admit you are the sinner He has shown you in His word. Trust Him to do for you personally according to His promises.

It Will Be Evident

You will know when it happens. Not by some strange feeling, but by the changed life with Him living inside you in the Person of the Holy Spirit. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Here is where your sinful habits fall by the wayside. You keep your knees bent in prayer and your Bible open, reading it every day. Then will you begin to grow in spiritual strength. God has much to tell you of His provision through His Word. Read it! You can obey it now that you are in His family. (Philippians 4:13) God has given you an entire book in the Bible, telling what a Christian will be and do. (1John 5:13) Read it at least ten times right away. It is the easiest understood book in the entire Bible. If the

truth in this small book (1John) is not real in your life, you are not yet saved. (Keep reading your Bible.) What a hypocrite to claim salvation and not be a demonstration of God’s work within. (Galatians 2:8-10) Everlasting life means God’s resurrection power within. Imagine claiming it without any demonstration? He is the Lord Jesus Christ! You have moved under His absolute authority. (1John 2:3-10) That word “commit” in verse nine means continues in or practices. Of course we can still sin, but, oh, how offensive it is to the Holy Spirit within us. When we do sin, we follow the admonition of 1John 1:9. Now be sure to remember, we do not obey according to 1John in order to be saved. Not one thing can a sinner do to please a holy God. First John tells us our action *because* we have been saved. We are not saved by what we do. It is the miracle that God performs within us that He classifies us as His own, a Christian, a Christ-like person. (John 1:12)

Well, there you have my help in understanding the power of God Who can live within you. Be sure to remember that when Christ died on that cross, it was for the payment of your sin debt. There He suffered hell for you. Either Christ died for your personal sin or you die in your sin and land in hell. God has done everything necessary for you to be saved from sin and its horrible consequences. You trust in His work, none of your own. When you get saved, let me know about it. If you have any further questions, write to me. I’m your friend, Dwight Porter.

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