

2nd Chance Christian Newsletter

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Choose Your God/god

November 2003

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I was visiting an inmate the other day and he kept talking about how it was going to be different when he gets out. He had a job lined up and was going to go to church. His life was going to be different.

Now, I'm not going to cast any doubt on this mans sincerity, but he sounded like myself and so many other inmate friends of mine in the past. We were sincere too. Sincerity doesn't get your life changed around. There are a lot of people that mean well and will go to Hell. They're also sincere.

A good job wont get your life right with God. All the money in the world wont help a sinner stop sinning or get them into heaven.

1 Timothy 6:10 (KJV) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Now I'm not saying we need to stay poor and wear the same

clothes for the next ten years. What the Bible tells us is if we put the riches of this world before following Christ it will interfere with our relationship with the Him.

Matthew 13:22 (KJV) He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (KJV) Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

The greatest riches from God are in heaven not on earth (ie the gift of eternal life). We can

still be blessed on earth but we must understand earthly riches are only temporary. **2 Corinthians 4:18 (KJV)** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

To start with the Bible tells us there are many gods: **1 Corinthians 8:5 (KJV)** For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

The spelling for these gods and lords is with a small g and small l same as with: **2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV)** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The god of this world is Satan: **John 8:44 (KJV)** Ye are of *your father the devil, and the*

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Special points of interest:

- Free: English & Spanish John & Romans
- Free: Blessed Promises Booklets (English Only)
- Free: ABC Salvation Booklet
- Free: The Destructive Power of Secrets Booklet.
- I have a few English Gift & Award Bibles for free. Just write and I will mail out what I have and put any extra names on a list and mail others out as I get them in.

Even though this material is primary free for inmates and rehab patients we will try to fill any request to send material to any lost or backslidden soul as God provides

Definition of the month: VOW

Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of The English Language:

VOW, 1, To give, consecrate or dedicate to God by a solemn promise. When Jacob went to Mesopotamia, he *vowed* to God

a tenth of his substance, and his own future devotion to his service. Gen. xxviii.

2, To devote

VOW, To make vows or solemn promises. He that *vows*, must be careful to perform.

Numbers 30:2 (KJV) If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Those of you that have decided to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour: **1 Corinthians 6:20 (KJV) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

1 Corinthians 7:23 (KJV) Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

In the Old Testament we are given an example of the choice we have to make. **Joshua 24:15 (KJV) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will**

serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Many of you have said that you want to serve the Lord, but have you established it in your heart? The Lord knows our thoughts: **Genesis 6:5 (KJV) And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** We cannot keep our inner most secret thoughts from the Lord. **Luke 12:2-3 (KJV) For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the**

light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (KJV) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

The Bible makes it clear that if you make a vow to the Lord you had better keep it. **Numbers 30:2 (KJV) If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.**

If any of you have made promises to the Lord now or in the past and have not kept them or don't plan on keeping them, you would be better off

reconsidering that thought.

Ecclesiastes 5:4 (KJV) When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

A simple, common vow in jail is, O-Lord if you get me out of this I will start doing right. I will start going to church and learning about you. I'll do

what ever you ask.

Deuteronomy 23:21 (KJV) When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

Now, I'm going to tell you about some of the gods that were in my life in the past. I'm

sure a lot of you can relate with what I'm going to say.

First I want to establish how we fall into temptation. **1 John 2:16 (KJV) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

These are the three areas that Eve fell into: **Genesis 3:6**

(KJV) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, (Lust of the flesh) and that it was pleasant to the eyes, (Lust of the eyes) and a tree to be desired to make one wise, (Pride of life) she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband

with her; and he did eat.

These are the same areas that Christ was tempted in: **Matthew 4:3-11 (KJV) And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread (1st temptation, Lust of the flesh). But he an-**

swered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast

thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone (2nd temptation, pride of life). Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the king-

doms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me (3rd temptation, lust of the eyes). Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Some of you are in your own personal wilderness right now and dealing with these same areas of temptation. You don't have to be locked up in jail to experience that. I know a lot of people that are in their own spiritual prison that are walking around free from the steel and concrete.

To continue the story about

Christ, He overcame temptation and thus defeated Satan in life. Hebrews 4:15 (KJV) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

Jesus Christ overcame the world and the lust in the world when He over came temptation in the wilderness. This makes the next verse true. 1 John 4:4 (KJV) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. If you've accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour you have access to that same power. What are you doing with it?

Jesus Christ also defeated Satan in death when God the Father raised Him from the dead. Ro-

mans 6:9 (KJV) Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

- When we accept Christ's payment for sin: in the eyes of God we were crucified on the cross with Christ.
- When we accept Christ's death we also accept his resurrection from the dead.
- The faith we have in Christ being raised from the dead brings with it the promise of eternal life for the believer. Romans 6:8 (KJV) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

This is what separates Christianity from all the various religions in the world. Jesus Christ is the only one who was raised

from the dead and stayed that way. That is why the tomb was empty. Luke 24:3-5 (KJV) And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

God is not the God of the dead. Luke 20:38 (KJV) For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

1 Corinthians 15:55-58 (KJV) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my be-

loved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

We will not see the second death if we choose the God with a capitol G. Revelation 20:6 (KJV) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resur-

rection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (which is Christ). Colossians 2:9 (KJV) For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) And without controversy great is the

mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

John 1:1 (KJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 (KJV) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 14:6 (KJV) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

We have a different set of promises if we choose the god with a small g. **Revelation 19:20 (KJV) And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

Revelation 20:10 (KJV) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:14 (KJV) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 21:8 (KJV) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Now, let me tell you about the different gods in my past. Heroin was my god for many years. I never looked at it that way

but based on the Bible, I worshiped my drugs. I worshiped them enough that I almost lost my soul for them. I followed drugs no matter where they took me. I risked my freedom and my health to the point that I should have died on more than one occasion. I've been shot at four times; twice by the police; once by the Military Police, and once by the civilian police.

I've robbed my mom on more than one occasion. I ended up in a Federal Prison, in local jails on more than 10 occasions, homeless, rehabs, psychiatric wards and ended up in bed with more women that I didn't know than I would have if I was in my right mind. I have hepatitis C and several other health problems that can be attributed to

my god.

You see, my god never promised me anything like what God does. There was no promise of eternal life or a relationship with God the Father, only death, both physical and spiritual. **Romans 6:20-23 (KJV) For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now**

the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

How long do you think you can tempt God? **Luke 4:12 (KJV)**

ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What god are you serving? Sex, drugs, money? **Matthew 6:24 (KJV) No man can serve two**

And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Once you die, it's too late.

Psalms 14:1 (KJV) The fool hath said in his heart, There is no

masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Who is the God / god of your world? Are you serving Satan as I was? Do you even know the spiritual source of your God / god? Do you care? The Bible says: **Romans 14:11-12 (KJV) For it is written, As I live, saith**

God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

WHAT GOD/god ARE YOU SERVING?

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