

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.*

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,.....

Please visit our web site at: www.2ndccn.com

September 2005

In this issue we are going to look at the Biblical principal of separation. One of the most destructive things I did in my early Christianity was not to separate from people that were not living in a manner which was conducive to my spiritual growth. The Bible covers three groups from whom Gods tells us to separate from.

1) The lost. **2 Corinthians 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? **15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? **16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **17** **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and**

touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2) Backslidden Christians. Look at 1 Corinthians chapter 5. The sin is explained in verse one. **1 Corinthians 5:1** It is reported commonly *that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.*

In verse 5 we find that the man is saved is told us in verse five. **1 Corinthians 5:5** To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

God's instructions to the rest of the congregation (other Christians) is in verse eleven. **1 Corinthians 5:11** But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a

fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

When we are told "not to eat with such an one" the Bible is referring to fellowship.

3) The third group we are told to separate from is heretics. **2 John 1:9** Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

You will run across all three of these groups in prison. They are also in the free world but in prison you can't actually go anywhere to separate from them. You will have to learn to practice this Biblical principle right where you are at.

As always I will tell you that

you must spend time with the Lord. You do that by reading His book. He wrote down our directions for godly life. **2 Peter 1:3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

You must read the Bible and learn God's general will for all Christians before He will reveal His specific will for you. Just reading the Bible will not be enough. You must put it into practice. You must call upon the Lord to help you apply scriptures to your daily life.

As I said earlier, one of the

most destructive behavioral patterns I demonstrated involved not applying God's principal of separation.

You might ask is it that important? The Bible gives us the answer to that question. **1 Corinthians 15:33** Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Contents:

- 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.
 - Free: Bible study lessons in Spanish & English.

Even though this material is primarily 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.

You see we can never be good enough to get our lost and backslidden friends right with God. After all, we couldn't get ourselves right with God, it took Jesus Christ. We witness to them about Jesus Christ and let them make their own decision. We will never correct a heretic. The Bible tells us after the second admonition stay away from them. **Titus 3:10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; 11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.**

When the Word of God tells us to let our light shine, it is referring to the new life we now have. **Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.** The light is Christ that dwelleth in us. **1 John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is**

the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Jesus Christ is the Word, the life and the light. **John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.**

Jesus Christ is the light that came into a dark, godless world. **John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was**

made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 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.

The light we are to reflect is Christ in us. We are not to reflect our old nature nor our natural man. **1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Our lost friends will never un-

derstand us. **1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**

We can't reflect Christ by hanging around with our old, lost, unsaved, Hell bound friends. We need to focus on our new life and, thus, our Saviour. We are called to be holy. **1**

Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

We just don't fit in the world any more. If we try we make ourselves the enemy of God. **James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the**

world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Our light only shines when we reflect Christ, not when we return to our filth. **2 Peter 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing**

in the mire.

Some of you are in prison because you returned to your own vomit. You refused to separate yourselves from the filthiness God brought you out from. Your life was so wonderful before you came to the Lord you just couldn't wait to get back to that familiar pain and misery that brought you to your knees in

the first place. **Psalms 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. 3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.**

It truly is likened to a sow re-

turning to the filthy muck. God brings us out of our sin-riddled life and after awhile we start to think that it wasn't that bad. We believe that if our sin gets us in trouble we will just call on God to get us out of it again. You know, use Him like a credit card.

God doesn't work like that. He will not be as gracious and mer-

September 2005

2

2nd Chance Christian Newsletter

ciful the second or third time around. We know better.

In Galatians, we see another biblical principal that goes with our everyday lives. It is called the principal of reaping and sowing. **Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit**

shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

You see, everything we do in life produces fruit. Some people say what comes around goes around. We really do reap what we sow. The Bible tells us we either sow seeds of righteousness or seeds of unrighteousness. When we come to the Lord and ask Him to come into our lives to cleanse us from our sin we still have to live right. If we continue to sin (sow

seeds of unrighteous) we will harvest the same old results (reap) and our lives don't appear to have changed.

Part of harvesting different fruit for our labor is to sow different seeds.

This is where living a separated life comes in. We need to separate from the old leaven. Leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible. **1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven**



leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Not only do we need to purge ourselves from sin on the inside (personal), but we need to purge our lives from the influence people have on us from the outside. We need to get away from the lost friends and family. We must live in a way that allows God to use us for His glory. He can't do that if we continue to live in and around the same ungodly places we did when we got saved.

The world will not be able to see the difference in us if we continue to live in the same manner. I realize that the next set of scriptures is long. I considered not putting all of it in the newsletter, but there are still many in prison that don't

have Bibles to look up scriptures. **Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers**

with them. 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. 14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but



understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

When I failed to separate in my early Christian life, it got me locked up again. I was not strong enough to overcome temptation over prolonged periods of time. This is one of the most common problems I hear about from other inmates. Usu-

ally they only write me after they get locked up again.

When God tells us to separate it is for our own good. It's because God knows that we can't be in the presence of sin without giving into temptation. It is for our own protection. It's not because God doesn't want us to have fun. It's because God knows how destructive sin is in



a Christian's life.

This topic has come up a lot recently. I have had Christian friends approach me recently and ask questions about this topic. This should not be foreign to any child of God. Read the Bible. Believe what God has to say on how we are to conduct ourselves. If we knew better than the Lord then we wouldn't have had to come to Him in the first place.

Remember if we want victory in our lives we need to live a victorious life which is a Christ centered life. If we believe that Christ has risen from the dead and has victory over death and Hell then we need to reflect that in our daily life. **Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

We have life dwelling within us. **John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

When we were unsaved we were a child of the devil. **John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the 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.

Now that we are a child of God we must live like one if we want God's blessings in our life. **Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (we no longer have to sin) 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, (we could not keep the law because of sin) God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, (in the likeness of sinful flesh but without sin, holy and perfect) and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after**

the Spirit. 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded (to allow one's life to be dominated by sin) is death; but to be spiritually minded (to be led by the Holy Spirit) is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity (enemy) against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have

not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (if you don't have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you then you are unsaved) **10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin;** (the sinful nature no longer has control over you) **but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (make alive) your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.** (resurrect us) **12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.** (we do not

owe our flesh anything, therefore we should not feed its' desires. We do owe Jesus everything so we should live Christ like) **13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.** (yield to the Holy Spirit) **14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

God can't bless sin. That is why many of you, that are saved, are currently in prison.

+++++

2nd Chance Christian Newsletter

Mark Beha

P.O. Box 184

Martville, N.Y. 13111-0184

E-mail: mbeha@rochester.rr.com

Web site: www.2ndccn.com

Phone: 315-754-0776 / Fax: 315-754-8321

Emmanuel Baptist Bible Church

Pastor J. Bryant Lago

P.O. Box 129

15564 Route 104

Martville, N.Y. 13111

www.ebbcmartville.com

Phone: 315-564-6087

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.

September 2005