

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.*

"Take up your cross, and follow me"

March 2005

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

This newsletter is an update to encourage you who are still in jail or prison who aren't convinced if or how God will guide your life. Please keep in mind that this concern is common to most people that come to the Lord.

On February 18, 2002, I got on my knees and asked the Lord to come back into my life and give me another chance. I couldn't understand why since I was saved I didn't live like it. There were so many things that were wrong in my life. Nothing was going the way it was supposed to. I had a very large cocaine and heroin habit, and I could not stop. I had no victory in my life. I could not get victory over temptation. I had victory just a few short years earlier, but it was gone now. I no longer had control in certain areas of my life. I asked God to guide me and teach me the things I didn't understand so that I could live right. All I understood was that somewhere along the way I stopped following the Lord. It was that simple. I had made some choices that dem-

onstrated that I loved this present world more than I loved God. I wanted to sin more than I wanted to do what was right in the eyes of God.

During my last sentence I spent the time getting to understand what God expected of me. As a child of God there were certain things that I needed to get right before I could grow. As far as I see we are either going forward or backward. There is no middle ground. We are either obedient to the Word of God, or we're not. This letter is primarily for saved people. A lost person can't please God nor can they serve Him. Only after we get saved do we have a choice to follow the Lord. Before that we were:

1) Children of our father 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.

2) Children of wrath. **Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

3) The lost are condemned because they reject the truth. **John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

4) They love darkness better than light. **John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

5) They received not the love of the truth. **2 Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of**

the truth, that they might be saved.

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

7) What does one have to do to get saved? **Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy**

mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be

ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall

Contents: "Take up your cross and follow me".

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 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.

make you free.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

But what about those of us that have already accepted Christ? Why haven't things gotten much better? Where did the joy, the fire, the burning desire to know Him go? We had a new outlook on life along with a desire to do right at any cost. We had a confidence that was not easily defeated. Where did it go? Well, I can speak for myself based on my own experience. When my life got turned upside down, again, it was because I took my eyes off of the Lord. I want to compare some of my experiences with what the Bible says some of these causes are.

I did not deny myself. I was still self-willed and didn't read my Bible as I should have. I was ignorant about the Word of God.

I had my eyes on what I could see; the things that are temporal. **2 Corinthians 4:18 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.**

I didn't fight the good fight. **1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good**

Sometimes I had my eyes on other Christians. I saw what they were doing and compared myself with them and not with the Word of God. Paul stated to his followers to follow him only as he was a follower of Jesus Christ. I didn't always follow the Holy Spirit. **John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall**

I liked nice cars, clothes, money and some things I won't get into here.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

I was not giving up worldly desires to follow Christ. **1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 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.** The Word of God tells me that these things are going to pass away. **1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**

fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

I wasn't trying to run the spiritual race. **1 Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the**

not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

We, each and everyone of us, gives account of ourselves when we stand before God. We need to pay attention to what the Bible tells us to do. **John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him**

I loved this present world more than I loved righteousness. **2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.**

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

I was friendly with the world. **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.**

mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

whom he hath sent. Just because someone seems to be getting away with something doesn't mean it's ok with God. The Bible tells us that not everyone is a child of God. **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.

It also states that not everyone who believes they should go to Heaven gets there. **Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonder-**

ful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Remember lost people cannot save themselves nor can they serve the Lord, or please Him. **Proverbs 21:4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.**

I needed to get right with God

and stay right with Him. **Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

teousness.

We must remember: **2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

We do not want to be handed over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh. **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.**

If we are saved, we are not God's enemy. We can be:

1) Disobedient. **1 Kings 13:26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of**

the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.

2) Rebellious. **Isaiah 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:**

3) Stubborn. **Judges 2:19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.**

I understand that the three previous verses were from the

Old Testament. For someone who doesn't believe the Old Testament is for today, here are some New Testament verses which show the Old Testament was written for our learning. **Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Second: **2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

If you are in a church that doesn't teach or preach out of the Old Testament and you're not reading it on your own, you are denying yourself a vast

source of Biblical knowledge necessary for today. So much is revealed about how God deals with people and how He works through us.

I want to encourage people to keep following Christ. It is necessary to have victory in your life to be in the will of God and not grieve the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 4:30 And grieve**

not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

I also want to encourage parents of drug addicts and inmates to continue in prayer and obedience to the Word of God in their own lives. My mom prayed for me many years before her prayers got answered. **Ephesians 6:18 Praying al-**

ways with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

I still believe the best witnessing tool is a good testimony. God can draw all men to Him through our obedience to His Word. It's when we get out of the way that God's light shines

brightest. **Matthew 5:14** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. **15** Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

As it says in: **Matthew 7:2** For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. **3** And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? **4** Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own

eye? **5** Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. No one likes a hypocrite.

You may be one of the people that reads these newsletters because it gives you hope for your sons and daughters. Believe that if God can work in my life He can work in any junkies' life. All one has to do is ask Him.

For those of you that just want the peace of God in your heart the instructions are the same. Read your Bibles and see what God says on the matter. **James 1:5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew

thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Just a little update on my own life. In June 2005 I will have been out of jail for three years. I had been praying to God for that to be my last time. In September I will have finished up my first three years of Bible institute with the possibility of doing three more. No cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, sex or many of the snares that had taken me before I gave my life to the Lord. Remember giving my life to the Lord did not happen at the same time I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. It took chastening. **Revelation 3:19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. I would refer to it as self inflicted pain and misery.

In October, I will be getting married. Lynnette and I are planning on going to Malawi, Africa in October 2006 for a survey trip. **Isaiah 6:8** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

If the Lord continues to bless my walk someday I may be doing this newsletter from a foreign

mission field. I consider it a blessing from God to have the opportunity to serve Him. I also know it is necessary for me to follow Christ to have continual victory over the snares of the Devil and to have peace in my heart. **1 Corinthians 9:16** For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! **17** For

if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the *gospel* is committed unto me. **18** What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel. **19** For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

Now, I am truly ready to take up my cross and follow Christ. **Romans 11:29** For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

I pray you find your calling **1 Corinthians 7:20** Let every man abide in the

same calling wherein he was called., and then obey the Lord by taking up your cross and following Him.

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Until next time, may God bless you.

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□ **Take up your cross and follow me** □
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