

# Who Really Cares about Prisoners?

## **WHO REALLY CARES?**

Who cares? This is one of the basic questions that we (prisoners) ask ourselves. Who in this world really gives a second thought about me as my soul rots away in this prison cell? Some of us are fortunate enough to have a few friends or family members who have not deserted us, but many of us don't have these few loved ones who visit and write to us on a regular basis.

It does not matter if we have, or have not, family or friends who have kept in touch despite our coming to prison—we all ask the question, Do they really care for me? Are they really genuine in what they say? One of the biggest fears is that those who say that they love us will turn out to be false. No matter what is said to reassure us, we always have doubts in our minds: Can I really be sure of their love?

## **YOU CAN BE SURE OF ONE PERSON!**

"There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). Ordinary friends will certainly let us down and disappoint us; but as the Bible tells us, there is one that will stick closer than a brother ever would. He can be totally relied on in every situation and His love has been proved beyond a doubt. This friend is God.

You may say that God has not been a friend to you nor has He shown His love towards you. But I must ask the question: Has He not? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Is not this the ultimate expression of love towards you? "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Can anyone prove their love or friendship better than this? "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Jesus showed his divine friendship and love by dying for His people. But why was this necessary? It was necessary because we are all sinners, and the wages of sin is death (see Romans 3:23 and 6:23). It took Christ's death to save us from the consequences of our sin: "Without shedding of blood [there] is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). Christ died to redeem sinners from the guilt and power of sin: "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold ...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

## **THIS LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP IS OFFERED TO YOU**

Christ gave His life for His friends to save them from sin and its consequences, but who are Christ's friends? Christ answers us Himself when He says, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14). He commands, "Repent...and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

As the apostle Paul told the people of Athens, God "commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). Those who are Christ's friends are sorry for their sin and seek to turn away from it—they have repented. And they see Christ as the only one who can make them acceptable in the sight of God—they believe the gospel. Are you one of Christ's friends?

In John 3:16 the Saviour says that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Christ offers you not only salvation from your sin and its consequences, but also His friendship and love if you will only repent and believe the gospel. "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). This is Jesus' personal guarantee!

So when you are sitting in your cell asking "Who cares about me?" you can answer, "Christ cares for me and has proved it by dying for sinners like me!" "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:6,7).

Why do you sit and long for a friend who really cares about you when there is one who will stick closer to you than any brother and who has held out His hand for you to grasp? What is stopping you from taking this outstretched hand and gaining a friend who will never let you down, and who will always be there when you need Him? "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8).

Come and taste that the Lord's love and friendship is good, and find out for yourself that the man or woman who trusts in the Lord is blessed indeed!

*This tract was written while the author was serving a life sentence in H.M.P.  
Maghaberry, N. Ireland.*

*He has since been released and is now serving the Lord as a free man.*

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