

Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982



August 31, 2018

MEC Spotlight Prayers

Save the Date:

The evening of November 3rd for MEC's fall event

Speaker will be Rich Scherber from MN Adult & Teen Challenge

Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing Good People

Should one have an opinion of themselves as a good person? The first response might be, yes of course and there is a scripture that says as a man thinks that is the way he is. (Prov23). However, looking at the context gives us a different understanding. It refers to someone who says certain things but his heart is not with you and indicates that we should not overwork or to depend on our own understanding or riches. It includes warnings to not eat with misers, waste pleasant words, speak wisdom to fools, have poor boundaries, take advantage of others, let children go without discipline. It instructs us to be wise, to be faithful and gives the best description of alcoholism that was ever given. It speaks about deception.



Criminals and addicts do not think of themselves as such. "[They can view themselves as good, moral and righteous - maybe even more so than others. Being kind to babies, loving animals, being helpful to the disabled and elderly, believing in God, praying sporadically (especially to get out of trouble or

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Real Inmate Prayer requests: Names changed for confidentiality

Winston – I would like you to pray for me. I've got something called a rule 25 coming and it refers me to treatment. I know that I've done bad and I recognize that but I ask for another chance. I just want to get out and be with my family. I want to do good but I don't think prison will be the solution. I pray that I will be blessed during the next step in my life. I pray that I get out, I really do. Jesus, I have just become a man of God. I know that I'm new and don't understand a lot but I ask You that You bless me!! I would like for you all to give me a blessing. Thank you & I really appreciate it!!

Scott – Help me follow the obedience of the Lord and form my relationship with Him and open my heart to [be] a new



creation and help [me in] the spiritual battle. I want to really follow the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. Thank you for your prayers. Freely photo: Samuel Martins

Beth— A home, have been living in car with daughter since the end of July

Jerry – Pray for the truth in this situation. This case has made a mess and is not of God respecting everything I know in God and all the things and people in my life. I would never harm anyone criminally and to accuse me of this terrible crime is beneath me and is confusing without understanding. So, I believe in my heart that God will have the final say as always. God delivered me from these same foes before, but being obedient to my mom here I am now dealing with more mess that is not of God. Thanking God for the Holy Spirit comforting me these six months I sit stagnate with only my prayers contenting my flesh.... How long???? Amen Spotlight Prayers Cont. on pg. 2

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consequences), attending services occasionally, appreciating aesthetics, being creative, and saying they believe in the brotherhood of man, the golden rule and noble ideas are all ways of making one think good of themselves but often happen while continuing crime.



Doing good and the belief that hard upbringing leads to illicit activities can allow people to excuse crime, cause people to think someone is not committing it or allow for lax supervision. Often theft will be followed up with generosity.

Association with good people and religion help boost one's self esteem, but it needs to be contrasted with negative actions (and I would add attitudes) and their effect on others. Guilt and remorse can be insincere or can be genuine but transient.

People can have shame for wrongs committed and also have it for doing good if they think it will



make them appear sentimental or weak. Good beliefs can be spoken and believed at some level, whereas a deeper look would probably show some self-doubt or pretense.]” (Yochelson & Samenow TCP vol. 2 pages 299-302) In unhealthy thinking and actions if helping others takes some sacrifice, there probably won't involve necessary follow-through

There were certainly some scribes and pharisees that were righteous and followed God's decrees well, keeping the commandments and looking out for orphans and widows. Others, who fought against Christ considered themselves as doing God's work. If people in addiction, crime and (false) religion think they are good but still have negative, even evil, going on, what is the reason for this and the solution to uncovering and solving this problem?

Satan is an accuser and deceiver so the first line of defense would be having eyes, hearts and thoughts open to God's truth and love. Truth involves understanding

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Kim – I have just been told how much time I will be going to prison for and that will be 3 and a half years. I want you to just pray that Jesus keeps me protected and covered in the Blood and doing His work. I have completely given my life to the Lord and I will glorify His name and speak the Gospel for the rest of my life. All glory be to God – - Amen

Freely photo: Ismal Paramo



Carrie - Court date: 8-27-18. I would like prayer that I get to go to treatment for a better way of living.... not only for myself, but that my mother will be able to sleep at night knowing I'm healthy and safe. Also, my kids will know their mother will be the mother I'm meant to be.

Mary – I am daughter of God! Pray for thoughts of suicide to go away and stay away. I am doing ok now [but want these to not be bothering me.] My cousin was shot by a sibling and her grandmother died recently. Pray for my plea bargain to be accepted My kids still love and care for me and I love them with all of my heart.

Denise – Pray to rebuild my relationship with the LORD

Carissa – Native American woman and did not know if she wanted to follow Christian or Native American ways, but she has been coming regularly and is coming along in her faith. Her sister was also here

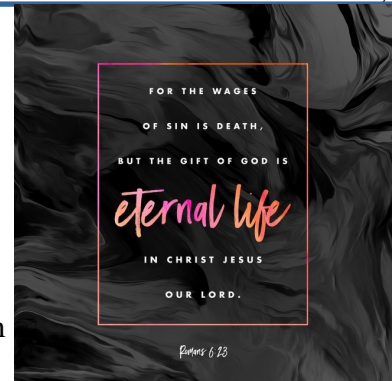
Ministry Friend Shout Out to Connected Families

Connected Families is here to help parents who feel stuck in their current parenting challenges by offering practical, inspiring, and spiritual mentoring. The way of parenting you'll learn here is infused with God's grace and truth and informed by child-development research.

Many resources offered online at their website:
Helps you understand and connect with each other

<https://connectedfamilies.org/>

in us and the goodness of God, the positive and the negative in us and in situations. God's Holy nature and His right to bring justice is involved. Judgement, understanding, conviction, forgiveness and the power to change are concepts we have discussed already as the foundation of this heart work. Romans 2 should be read in context; "We will each face the consequences of our work. God's kindness leads to repentance and not repenting is despising His kindness, patience, longsuffering, forbearance, restraint and goodness." (Combined versions.)



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Understanding the 3 R's can help. Regret is wishing that you had not done something or something had not happened because of consequences – it can make a person feel bad and even better about or sorry for themselves because they do; Remorse goes deeper. Remorse is feeling bad for person harmed or and the negative attitude and action that you did or participated in. It bothers you for the fact that it hurt someone. These need to lead us to Repentance which is changing your mind and agreeing with God. Letting Him soften your heart, turning and going in the right direction, doing the right thing are a part of it. Repentance replaces bad fruit with good. It includes amends to make right what you can and a change in our attitudes.

Facing sin and saying you will not do it will lead to falling or succumbing to temptation. Facing and listening to God, instead of the world or sin will cause the sin to fall off behind you.



2 Corinthians 7:10 N.L.T. says it this way. "For the kind of us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual already know that trying to change on your own and failing over and over again and giving up. Our Spirits die, Satan tells you that you cannot change. Trusting love and the power to change awakens our spirits and gives life. "The thief comes and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (N.A.S.B. Jn 10:10)

sorrow God wants regret for that kind death." You probably leads to discouragement God and receiving His only to steal and kill and

When a person does kind deeds we often do them for self-serving reasons without realizing it. One program goes so far as to ask their clients to stop doing good deeds for a certain amount of time and then to start doing them again when they are able to evaluate their motivations and do good things for others when they have a better or more correct motivation. When we realize that we do good things for selfish reasons, are sorry for that and do good deeds for God and for others without expecting a reward or in order to build ourselves up we are maturing. Learning God's Word, Prayer, Worship and Fellowship are key concepts in this. Daily or more often inventories with amends and accountability are a very important part of lasting change.

It was helpful to try different inventories. The one that finally reached my heart had me share childhood experiences and connect with the thoughts, feelings and beliefs that had formed from those experiences. This allowed me to recognize pain that needed to be let go of, lies that needed to be discarded and truth and love that God intended me to experience as His child. Once that was all uncovered, it would be easy to forget to continue to do inventory and to fall back on the old defaults. Christ says that He is the vine and we need to remain in Him. Doing so leads to depth of solid love that allows for handling trials and developing fun and joy.



Please let us know if something is difficult to understand or if it helps you! We hope PTLH articles can be published. Your feedback included in changes to this will help those who are coming to Christ and changing lives .

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