



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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June 23, 1987

Dear

"Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes."
-- Psalm 119:155

When E.F. Hutton speaks, I do not listen, but rest assured that when God speaks, I am all ears! Did you catch the profound yet simple wisdom of the Scripture quoted above? God says that there is a definite correlation between wickedness and "not seeking His statutes". He even goes beyond this life and warns that the ultimate result of not seeking the Word of God will be the impossibility of salvation. Now I think these words are true and certainly worth our unanimous approval.

The Word of God (the Holy Scriptures, the Bible) marks the touchstone and reservoir of all truth. We either believe it or we do not. There is certainly no middle road, for we must either admit that God has clearly spoken to us or we live in the vague and uncertain presumption that truth is not an ultimate possibility and many must somehow grope through the darkness hoping to find the source of understanding and truth. I think this latter philosophy, which flatly denies the overriding authority of Scripture, lends itself to a weak and mediocre system of law and order, truth and justice and rights and wrongs. It yields an establishment without a foundation and an existence without purpose, principle or plan.

As one would take time to study the one hundred and nineteenth Psalm, an overwhelming sense of awe could possibly be one's reaction. God's Word speaks so powerfully as to the exciting and life-sustaining impact of His revealed Word. The Scriptures here are referred to as precepts, laws, ordinances, testimonies, statutes, judgments and the way. The writer finds himself in overwhelming situations of difficulty in some of the following descriptive words: horror, trouble, anguish, enemies, despised, oppressed, persecution, affliction and reproach. How often in places of leadership we are in these predicaments: enemies rising up, many seeking our failure and many discouraging our desire for exemplary service.

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Here the writer of Psalm 119 claims his solid position as he rests in the Word of God. He declares that he is happy (blessed), not ashamed, strengthened in heart, comforted, thankful, having good judgment, sound, zealous, shielded and possessing great peace. He exalts the Word of God as having given to him: order, safety, a heritage, light, soundness, comfort, strength, wisdom, right judgment and even a heart that could sing.

As one would study the depths of this one passage, they would find that there was a definite discipline in the writer's life and a love for the revealed Word of God. He says concerning the Scriptures that he walks in the law, diligently seeks the law, respects, meditates in, longs for, chooses, devotes to, speaks of, remembers, inclines towards, makes haste to, delights in and highly esteems the Word of God.

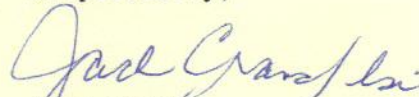
In just a few days, several members of the F.B.I., Secret Service and Police will meet together for a deepening agenda of leadership and its commitment to the overriding wisdom and direction of God. It is certainly my hope and prayer that one day many in Corrections will meet for this same purpose. A Fellowship of leaders is growing and I wish you so much to be a part. Psalm 119:63 says, "I am a companion of all that fear Thee and of them that keep Thy precepts".

I welcome you to continue to consider what place the Scriptures hold in your mind and heart. There's great potential and future hope in Corrections when God, through His Word, is given the opportunity of directing our thoughts and agendas.

I highly esteem you -- I more highly esteem the Lord!

May He richly encourage and bless you!!

Respectfully,


JACK CRANS
Director

JC/lsi