



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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January 14, 1987

Dear Superintendent:

I pray that you've already begun a great 1987. Although busy, we enjoyed some wonderful moments as a family this Christmas and do look forward to getting to know you better.

By now, some of you must be saying, "What's this preacher doing in Corrections?" Do you know, I am more and more convinced that Corrections and the application of spiritual truths go hand in hand! There's an old phrase we all use called "Law and Order". If you take away the spiritual, you not only lose "law", but you also most definitely lose "order". If God is not given authority to address truth, rights and wrongs and human behavior, who takes His place?

Although I am very convinced that Corrections, Law Enforcement and the Court systems function best as under God, let me share a sampling of Bible passages that speak very carefully to many areas you confront every day. A quick reading of the following verses will be difficult. I would suggest that you allow yourself careful meditation of each issue knowing that the Scriptures are abundantly filled with attention to your daily professional agendas and philosophies.

Corrections -- II Timothy 3:16,17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Pardon -- Isaiah 55:6,7 "Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. 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."

Law -- Romans 4:15b "...for where no law is, there is no transgression."

Romans 5:20 "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

Romans 7:10,11,12 "And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good."

Jeremiah 6:19 "Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."

Galatians 3:13,24 "Christ hath redeemed us from the **curse of the law**, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree...Wherefore the **law was our schoolmaster** to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith."

Justice -- Jeremiah 9:23,24 "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, **judgment** and **righteousness** in the earth: for in these things I delight saith the Lord."

Mercy -- Lamentations 3:22,23 "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because **His compassions fail not**. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."

Sin -- Romans 3:10,20,23 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin...**For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.**"

Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft (drug abuse), hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Repentance (Penitentiary) -- Luke 15:7 "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one **sinner that repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Punishment of Evildoers (Committed to those in government authority) --

I Peter 2:13,14 "Submit yourself to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the **punishment** of evildoers, and for the **praise** of them that do well."

Romans 13:3,4 "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good and thou

shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister (servant) of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister (servant) of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

Retribution (Avenge) -- Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Romans 12:19b "...For it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Separation (Incapacitation) -- Luke 16:24-26 "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

Recidivism (Continual Repetition of Nature of Sin) --

Romans 6:12,16,23 "Let not sin reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof...Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness...For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

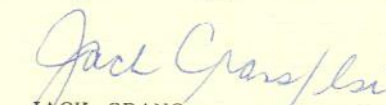
Restitution (Propitiation - To satisfy a Holy God, Christ paid the price of His own life for sin, thus satisfying or making it possible for God to forgive the guilty sinner.)

Romans 3:24-26 "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of Him which believeth in Jesus."

These subjects are deep and treated throughout the Old and New Testaments of Scripture. My intention in sharing them with you is to hopefully assist you in gaining greater understanding in the potential impact of God's Word when applied!

Thanks again for letting me share these thoughts. I remain anxious to serve you!

Respectfully,


JACK CRANS
Director