June 23, 1989

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Dear ^F2^:

"...when **they knew God,** they glorified Him not as God..."
- Romans 1:21
"...who **knowing the judgment of God...**" - Romans 1:32
"...do by nature the **things contained in the law...their conscience also bearing witness...**" - Romans 2:14,15

My earnest hope is that this brief letter finds you well and strong in the midst of very stress-filled agendas. I am always comforted in remembering that the Lord Jesus Christ spent Himself among the broken and destitute. Quite ironically, one finds oneself also confronting the powerful and rich when seriously operating in the midst of the poor. In short, you face a spectrum of issues and persons that could never be confronted wisely short of divine wisdom and personal dependence on God.

I am thoroughly convinced that God has instructed man through the Scriptures to know and understand his earthly dilemma. The volumes written by sociologists, psychologists and lawmakers hold a very small significance when compared to the valid and tested truths of God's Word.

Regardless of whom you encounter, whether a statesman or judge or murderer or thief, there is a common law to each. There is a universal dilemma to all men and a most definite intrinsic knowledge that all men have, regardless of their nation, government or heritage.

The three Scriptures sketched above declare **three things that every man knows.** First, every man has the awareness and knowledge of a living, true and powerful God. From divine perspective, a man who denies this truth is called a fool and not an atheist. The Scriptures emphatically declare that man knows there is a God and he will be held without excuse in denying it. Secondly, man inherently knows that a judgment of his life is inevitably coming that will include him. Once again, this knowledge is not gained by books or teachers, but is inborn in the heart of all men everywhere. Third, man, by divine order, has been given a conscience and an inbuilt knowledge of law that without judge or jury all men know that they are lawbreakers and that they are guilty in some way. This truth concerning personal guilt, when placed alongside a knowledge of God who will inevitably judge, surely creates a crisis.

In short, all men know three things. Man knows there is a God. Man knows there is a coming judgment. Man knows he is a sinner. If you think this through, you can easily explain why man in every tribe and nation of the world is practicing his religion. Man inherently wants peace with God.

What man in your prison does not know these three things? What legislator or corrections professional does not know these three things? The point is, each and every individual must be addressing this universal dilemma of man's desire and need for peace with God.

When I melt down the entire crisis needs of our world, I am comforted to know that all men I address are facing the same ultimate concerns. The good news is that God made a wonderful opportunity for our human dilemmas when He provided a Savior Who took our judgment and sin and provided a **pardon** for all who would believe. (Romans 5:1-11; 3:10-26)

The next time you walk your cell blocks or address your powerful courts, remember that whether rich or poor, prosecutor or defendent, powerful or weak, all you meet know three inherent truths that capsulate the entire human dilemma.

In closing, I trust for you the peace of God. May it be our joy to love those who struggle without it.

Respectfully,

Jack Crans
Director

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