



THE CHALLENGER

Our WEB address: thehourofgraceandpower.org

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

April 2009

Please Help Me!

~ AN APPEAL FROM MANY PRISONERS' LETTERS ~

BY THE EDITOR

FIRST of all, I have no *personal* help to share with you. "I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from where comes my help. My help comes from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1,2). No mere human has the words that will turn your life around. Only God can perform the needed miracle. You must look to Him to do so. Everything provided by God for your eternal benefit is revealed in a book called the Bible. It is His authoritative Word of instructions. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Your word. Your word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:9,11).

The entire Bible is a revelation of God's salvation through His Son. In the Old Testament, His Son, Jesus Christ, was prophesied and in the New Testament He is revealed. God forces His intentions upon no one. He plainly states the fact of man's sin and reveals to us His only Savior. Where do I find this? In the Bible which He has made available to you.

We Are Sinners!

This is not my personal conviction. This is the plain statement of God. To discover how sin entered into the first earthly family, read the third chapter of Genesis. God reminds us that all humans are victims of Adam's transgression against God. "Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Many sinners say they are a sinner the same as professing Christians say they are a Christian. Declaring ourselves as one or the other does not make us one.

Your problem is not your mother-in-law! (I'm being facetious!) But seriously, many people see their problem as almost insurmountable. Friend of mine, your problem is not drugs, alcohol, temper, lying, cheating, sex, or anything else. IT IS

A new addition to our web-site!

Pastor Porter's Personal Pen

Look for it at: thehourofgraceandpower.org

A new communication will appear every few weeks featuring scriptural Truth as it relates to current happenings in our day.

You won't want to miss it!

SIN! All that I have mentioned here is the consequence of your sinful heart and mind. Stop blaming your conduct on somebody else's action against you. You are without an excuse. I had to visit one of my church youth who landed in jail. His group of fellows stole a brand new tool chest. They were stopped by the police for speeding; and upon seeing the police following, they threw the tools out of the window. (Not too smart!) When I asked the young man why he stole the tool chest, his reply was that the owner should not have left his brand new tool chest in his car with the trunk lid open!

Neither Adam nor Eve took personal responsibility for their actions. The man blamed the woman and the woman blamed the serpent. Read it in Genesis, chapter three. This is the action of sin. We are deceived and lied to. (John 8:44) It is past time for you to recognize what sin has done to you. Worse yet, what it has done to your family. Your children, who had no choice in their father or mother, do not deserve to be years without their father in the home. Only God knows what your wife is going through, not to mention your mother. All of this grief is the consequence of sin. Someone has sold you a bill of goods. How can you live pleasing yourself when God created you for His plan and purpose. By the way, this can mean joy, delight, and peace now and for all eternity. Friend, don't miss it all. It can begin now! (Matthew 11:28)

Never will we recognize our sin until revealed to us by the Holy Spirit: "When He (Holy Spirit) is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). One reason Christ means so little to so many people is that they have not realized what He

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Please Help Me! (continued from page 1)

has accomplished for them. If He died for sinners, then I must be one before He died for me personally. It is easy to admit you are a sinner like most everyone else. The question you face is this: Are you the sinner God says you are in His Word? Look at your deeds and works! By the way, it is your works that send you to hell. That is the final abode of the damned. (Revelation 20:12,13) As a sinner, you are under His wrath, not His love. "He that believes on the Son has everlasting life; and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). That famous verse John 3:16 repeats the same truth. We either believe God's Son or we perish in hell for all eternity. We are under either God's love or His wrath. Which is it with you? Never will you become a Christian until you see your sinful condition through the Scriptures. This takes time and energy on your part. You are not ready to hear from heaven until you acknowledge and repent of your sin, revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. Repentance means turning from sin toward the Savior. You will repent or perish in hell. (Luke 13:3,5)

Who Saves Me?

When the jailor asked Paul and Silas the question how to be saved, he was given the following statement: "Believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED and your house" (Acts 16:31). You don't believe in a Jesus you hear about. He is the only ONE revealed in the Scriptures. Keep your Bible closed and you will never meet Him. Again, He is revealed to you in the Scriptures. Cry out to Him. "For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Admit you are the sinner He has shown you in His word. Trust Him to do for you personally according to His promises.

It Will Be Evident

You will know when it happens. Not by some strange feeling, but by the changed life with Him living inside you in the Person of the Holy Spirit. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). Here is where your sinful habits fall by the wayside. You keep your knees bent in prayer and your Bible open, reading it every day. Then will you begin to grow in spiritual strength. God has much to tell you of His provision through His Word. Read it! You can obey it now that you are in His family. (Philippians 4:13) God has given you an entire book in the Bible, telling what a Christian will be and do. (I John 5:13) Read it at least ten times right away. It is the easiest understood book in the entire Bible. If the truth in this small book (I John

is not real in your life, you are not yet saved. (Keep reading your Bible.) What a hypocrite to claim salvation and not be a demonstration of God's work within. (Galatians 2:8-10) Everlasting life means God's resurrection power within. Imagine claiming it without any demonstration? He is the Lord Jesus Christ! You have moved under His absolute authority. (I John 2:3-10) That word "commit" in verse nine means "continues in or practices." Of course we can still sin, but, oh, how offensive it is to the Holy Spirit within us. When we do sin, we follow the admonition of I John 1:9. Now be sure to remember, we do not obey according to I John in order to be saved. Not one thing can a sinner do to please a holy God. First John tells us our action *because* we have been saved. We are not saved by what we do. It is the miracle that God performs within us that He classifies us as His own — a Christian, a Christlike person. (John 1:12)

Well, there you have my help in understanding the power of God Who can live within you. Be sure to remember that when Christ died on that cross, it was for the payment of your sin debt. There He suffered hell for you. Either Christ died for your personal sin or you die in your sin and land in hell. God has done everything necessary for you to be saved from sin and its horrible consequences. You trust in His work, none of your own. When you get saved, let me know about it. If you have any further questions, write to me. I'm your friend, Dwight Porter.

From Box 400

We want to sincerely thank you for the cassette sermon, "Who Is This Jesus." We greatly appreciate your time and generosity in helping us assist the men at this facility. Our population is now over 1400, and our need increases. May God bless you and your ministry.
— a chaplain (ID)

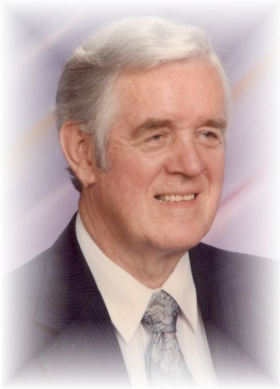
Your CD, "Paul's Joy," is a good one! Not only was it a good sermon, but your sound quality has really improved on CDs. Keep it up! I placed some of your printed radio messages on a coffee table and the guys grabbed them up right away. Your cassettes have been given out.
— Illinois

I am enjoying your Bible study lessons. The questions are not easy and the lesson material is very informative and effective. I thank God for the couples who are giving their time to help those of us who want to learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you.
— an inmate (WI)

On behalf of our Christian community, I want to thank you for your recent contribution to our tape and video ministry. With your help, this has become a huge success. The resources you sent have been checked out regularly by the men and have proven to be a blessing to them and their families.

You are helping to get the Word of God into the hearts of men who are often forgotten, and I believe with you that the seen sown will produce a harvest in their lives.
— a chaplain (WA)

Personal Word



It was on February 1 in the Sebastian Community Baptist Church that I sat waiting to deliver my ten-minute report to this church who supports our ministry. Little did I realize what was coming.

A Bahamian pastor rose to give the main message. He began by telling the congregation about hearing a broadcast while in his teens and indicated how vital that program was to his meeting Christ and serving Him. Then he looked in my direction and said that the broadcaster was Dwight Porter! He told of preaching my sermons all over the Bahamas. He lived in Nassau and never missed our daily broadcast. He kept my printed messages on file. He reported that he never expected to see me in person. Wow, what a pleasant surprise!

Later, he told me of his education process, his pastorate and school. He had a friend take a picture of the two of us. As we neared the exit, leaving the church, I saw three young people waiting for me at the door. They asked for cards announcing our web-site. One of them told me of just getting out of prison. While there, he read all of our literature made available. He asked if in any way he could assist in our present ministry. I promised to get in touch with him should a need arise. He was the second person to volunteer in that church family. We have a number standing in line to help us get the job done. How wonderful! How encouraging! I thank God for raising up people who see the difference in our messages and want to become a part of our fellowship. If you pray for us, you are making a difference in the lives of many hearers and readers. I may never have the privilege of personally meeting you, but in heaven we shall rejoice together, bringing in the sheaves.

Pray for Us!

Your assistance to this ministry is not just giving away literature, cassettes, CDs, and visiting our web-site; you are taking part in a worldwide effort to reach men and women with life-transforming Truth through God's Word. We are bringing others face to face with their sin and God's provision to rid them of it. We are reaching people who are hungry for the Truth, and others who do not know they need it. We thank God for friends like you, who help us communicate God's plan for each individual.

Believe me, our confidence is not in our own effort or ability, but in God's eternal Truth and His infinite power to use it in every situation. We invite you to have a part in the lives of others. Remember, we operate within our means and we are content with whatever the Lord provides. This ministry belongs to Him. We welcome your participation. Pray for us!

You Can Help Us!

We have small cards printed and ready for distribution. Many people will look up our web-site if informed of it. We need people to distribute these announcement cards. Will you help us?

Here is what you can do: Place one in all your correspondence, payments of bills, and in other correspondence you have. I had a lady in my church who took gospel tracts to enclose in bill payments. (She also put them on the desk of the company president.) Place the cards in public places, parks, walkways, etc. Just lay them down on tables, banisters, chairs, or anywhere to be seen. If someone sees one, he will usually pick it up. Hand them to people, especially the younger generation, as they are into many web-sites. Let's direct them to the gospel. Remember, anyone in the entire world has access to our web-site. Let them know of ours, with one page given over to the gospel. Can you believe they can read and hear our messages! Will you help us to gain many more participants? Let me know how

More Box 400

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who supplies all our needs and Who gives us increase by His great love. I have received a copy of *The Challenger* and as usual I read it immediately. There is always so much truth and unfiltered facts that I just want to let you know, Brother Porter, that I really appreciate your direction and view. As a prisoner for some time now, I want to keep pressing forward, for the time of Jesus Christ is rapidly approaching. The Spirit of God is being poured out for all who will accept it and walk in the obedience of the Father. I really enjoyed "Do You Know for Sure?" I will keep you in my prayers and hope you will pray for me.

– California

I have recently completed your Bible Study Course and have all of your literature I can get my hands on. The Holy Spirit has used you to enrich my life and has created a spiritual desire in me that I have never known before.

– Texas

My heart rejoices when I read letters from inmates who are receiving your literature. I look forward to meeting these in heaven, knowing that God used the Hour of Grace and Power to reach them. We count it a blessing and a privilege to be part of His work. We pray daily for more doors to be opened and that the Word will fall into the hearts of those who have ears to hear and eyes to see.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of His work through your ministry.

–Florida

The Imprisoned Christian's Prayer

Father, I'm sitting in this prison cell and I can't do anything to get myself out. I've made a mess of my life. I thank You that You found me here. And I praise You that You did not need a key to my cell to come to me and minister to me eternal life through Your precious Son, Jesus. I am so glad You have issued to me a "full pardon" from Your holy throne in heaven. O Lord, if it were not for Your holy Presence here in this tiny, choking space of a cell, I know that I could not keep my sanity and have any hope at all for the future. Thank You for the fact that Jeremiah 29:11 is a direct promise to me — You do have wonderful "plans" for my life. You DO plan to give me a "future and a hope" in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

One thing that I ask of You is that You will give me the grace to live out my life and my sentence "one day at a time." I will awaken each morning and praise You with the words, "This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it." I declare through the love and power of the Lord Jesus that "Father, it is no longer all about me! My life does NOT belong to me any longer, but I fully and gladly surrender myself into Your powerful and loving hands." I expect to meet You each day of my life, both here in prison and in whatever life that You give me when I am released. I will counter the thought "You will never get out of here" with the thought "I will not remain here one day longer or shorter than that which is ordained and appointed by Almighty God."

Lord, I pray for my fellow prisoners. I pray that you will uncover in each one of us the falseness, fakery and deceitfulness that has been a "natural" part of our lives for so long. Truly come here in this prison and give us a real and powerful revival by the visitations of Your Holy Spirit. Let the convicting power of Your Spirit come over our lives and give us the true understanding of both our sin and the need to truly confess it fully and repent of it sincerely through the strong Name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, Father, I pray that I actually spend the rest of my time here seeking Your holy will for my life. I pray that I may be empowered by the grace and strength of Your Holy Spirit to cover myself and others with the blood of Jesus, so that Satan will steal no more from us than he has already stolen. I pray that I may see this incarceration as a "call" to the ministry. I pray that you will replace my loneliness with the divine fellowship and intimacy with You, O Lord. I will study the Word and other good works. I will develop a powerful and life-changing devotional life that will allow myself to build up myself in my "most holy faith." For the answers to all these requests, I submit my will and life to You in and through the great Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior, Amen.

— California

Box 400 Continues . . .

Thank you for continuing to be God's channel of blessing to me through your Christ-honoring literature. The church is growing more apostate as time goes on. The gospel gets watered down more and more, and more restrictions are being imposed to restrict the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the working through yielded servants like yourself that keeps me going. Keep up your faithful work. I look forward to praising Him forever together with you and your staff one day soon.

— an inmate (CO)

It wasn't until I landed in prison that I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. *The Challenger* has always been an inspiration to me and helped me tremendously during my four+ years of incarceration. Be assured that once I am on my feet, you will hear more of me and from me. I request your cassette, "Trained for the Throne," along with your free literature sheet. I appreciate all you have done for me while in and out of prison. I will continue to pray for your ministry which brings hope to prisoners around the globe.

— a prisoner

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OUR OPERATION

We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

~ WEB SITE ~

thehourofgraceandpower.org

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*"Be you steadfast, unmovable, always
abounding in the work of the Lord . . .
You know your labor is not in vain
in the Lord"* | Corinthians 15:58

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~ AVAILABLE ~

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