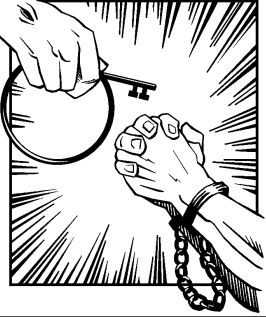


makes you free, you

Therefore if the Son



shall be free indeed.

Voice of Freedom



A Ministry of
Cedar Valley Community Church



Prison Ministry Good News Letter

Volume 6, Issue 4

February 2009

The Letters of Love

by Roger Montz



May the grace and peace of God the Father be with each of you. It is by God's unending grace that we are saved from the eternal death we deserve because of our sinful nature toward our pure and righteous God.

If any of you are like me, you may have asked, "Why on earth would God love me?" This question comes to mind when I think about all of the horrible sins I have committed. I think about this question when I fall back into sinful ways time and time again and ask God to forgive me again and again and again. I think about this question when the world around me seems cruel, unforgiving, and believes that anyone who did such an awful crime does not deserve to be loved and should be put behind bars. I believe that everyone, at some point in their life, has felt unloved. I believe that some of you, my brothers and sisters, are feeling unloved, forgotten, and unworthy to be loved by a God so powerful, holy, righteous, and the creator of everything seen and unseen.

To better understand why God loves us, look in the book of Genesis. In Genesis 1:27 we read, "So God created man [that's us] in HIS OWN image; in the image of God He created us; male and female He created them." Then in Genesis 1:31 we read that, "God saw everything He had made, and indeed it WAS VERY GOOD." Now we need to ask, "Since God can create absolutely anything that only the mind of God could possibly think of, why would He create something that He would not like or hate?" Adam and Eve were created in God's image. We were also created in God's image, for nowhere in the Bible does it say God re-created another male or female.

Reread the previous paragraph again. It is the reason why God loves you and me. We have read or heard the story about Eve biting a mouthful out of an apple [or fruit of some kind that only grew on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil]. Then she offered Adam a bite. God's one, simple commandment for Adam and Eve was: do not eat the fruit which grows on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Because Adam and Eve broke this commandment, sin, or willful rebellion against God, entered the world. Now recall the words "In His image." Adam and Eve were the first and only couple. One of the images qualities of God includes eternal life, so Adam and Eve had eternal life. I believe that is why God did not whack them out of existence.

Absolutely nothing unclean or sinful can stand in the presence of our holy God. That is why God had to expel Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, a place here on earth where God's presence shown in all glory. The other place where God resides is heaven, which meant sinful Adam and Eve and all their descendants could not reside in heaven. In human eyes and understanding, the day Adam and Eve left the presence of God was the darkest hour the earth has every known. But God loved His creation, and He still loved Adam and Eve. On that sad day, from the loving heart of God GRACE sprang forth. God knew man would continue to sin and knew in that condition man could never enter a holy heaven for all eternity. Instead man would be doomed to live for all eternity out of God's presence in hell. Our loving, all knowing God saw the outcome of sin, and spoke into existence the words of John 3:16-17, "For God so LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." These verses are the proof of God's everlasting

love for us, and the following are the letters of God's love.

L **LONGSUFFERING** – If it was not for the longsuffering of Christ Jesus, I would not be writing this Voice. For forty-six long years Jesus must have grieved in ways beyond my comprehension as He watched my total rebellion and rejection of His saving grace, year after year. I wonder how many times He thought about the agonizing hours He hung on the cross of Calvary . . . for me . . . so I could live again in the presence of God. It is hard for me to fully understand why Jesus continues to love me . . . even now as I slip and fall, repent again, then slip and fall again. I am sixty-one years old, and it is safe to say that for sixty-one years my Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, has continuously demonstrated His longsuffering for me. The words Paul spoke are my own words that I repeat back to my Lord. May these words also be yours, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. AMEN." (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

O **OVERFLOWS** – In the Garden of Eden Jesus was with His Father God, for scripture is clear: "Then God said, "Let **US** [God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit] make man in **OUR** image, according to **OUR** likeness." (Genesis 1:26a) Just as Adam and Eve turned their backs toward

"Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." (Ephesians 5:2 NAS)

the Giver of Life, Jesus, so have all their offspring through all the ages. As Adam and Eve walked away, I can not help but think that Jesus saw and understood the will of His Father, that the day would come when the burden of restoring mankind would fall on Him. On the sad day when Adam and Eve broke their relationship with God, Jesus knew that He would one day be sacrificed and die the death sentence of hell that God the Father had declared for man. But what wondrous joy followed because through Jesus mankind was able to choose to live again in the presence of God.



I believe Jesus foresaw the Friday at 3:00pm where He would proclaim, "IT IS FINISHED." I believe this statement meant that the state of mankind was restored back to where they could choose to live in the presence of God.

Jesus shed His blood which is saying He died for our sins, the death we deserved. The Love of God was poured out to us, and by the overflowing blood of Jesus, all of our sins are covered, past, present and future sins. The day before Jesus died and rose again from the grave, Jesus spoke these words of the love and grace of God, "Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. For this MY blood of the New covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.'" (Matthew 26:27-28) Please take serious note to the words "MY BLOOD." It does not say, "My blood and your blood." The covenant of restoration was signed unilaterally by Jesus, for Jesus knew full well we could never live up to the terms of the covenant and never sin again. Jesus loved us so much that in spite of knowing we would continue to sin, He was still willing to die, be raised up from hell and be restored back to His Father in all honor and glory forever and ever, AMEN.

own blood." (Revelation 1:5) The shed blood of Jesus is binding and cannot be broken. God's own words declare, "And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Acts 2:21) The shed blood of Jesus validates us as God's children and will always withstand any criticism because, "I Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And the Spirit and the bride say, "come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:16)



EVERYONE -- These are the words of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus: "Pilate therefore said to Him (Jesus), "Are You a King then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a King. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. EVERYONE who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37) Everyone of the truth reading this Voice of Freedom is hearing the voice of Jesus. Before Jesus was arrested He prayed this prayer for you and me. Hear Jesus' words and rest in His peace, "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You have sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the LOVE with which You LOVED Me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:24-26)

YES, JESUS LOVES . . . YOU!



VALIDATING – The word valid means, "having legal force; properly executed and binding under the law, well-grounded on principles or evidence; able to withstand criticism or objection." (Webster's college dictionary) Only Jesus can and will judge who will be restored to God and live with God forever and ever. Only Jesus can and will judge who will go out of the presence of God forever, in hell. Jesus is the Supreme Judge, and His shed blood has the legal force and power to say, "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Through your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18) His shed blood was properly executed, "From Christ Jesus, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His



Remember !
Invite other inmates to your Christ-Living Chapel Services and Special Events.

Mitchellville Ladies!
Worship with CVCC
Friday, March 20; 7 p.m.
in the Sacred Place.



Mount Pleasant Men!
Worship with
Heart Surrender Ministry
Wednesday Evening
March 18;
6-7:15 p.m.
in the Chapel

If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, or if for any reason you would like to be taken off, please send a note to: Voice of Freedom, Cedar Valley Community Church, 3520 Ansborough Av., Waterloo, IA 50701.

Waterloo, Iowa 50701
 3520 Ansborough Avenue
 Prison Ministry

