

FAITH, LOVE, ACTION! – Visiting the Prisoner

May 3-4, 2025

“If we are the body, why aren’t His arms reaching? Why aren’t His hands healing? Why aren’t His words teaching? And if we are the body, “Why aren’t His feet going? Why is His love not showing them there is a way?” – ***Casting Crowns, “If We Are the Body”***

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV) – “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”.

Romans 12:1 (NIV) – “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship”.

Matthew 25:34-36 (NIV) - “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me’”.

Revelation 20:4 (NIV) – “I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years”.

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Matthew 25:37-40 (NIV) – “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’”.

“The deeds described here are not attempts to merit God’s favor; rather, they arise from a love of Christ that results in compassion toward others” – ***NLT Study Bible, published by Tyndale House***

Romans 3:22b-24 (NIV) – “There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus”.

“The harlot, the liar, the murderer, are short of it; but so are you. Perhaps they stand at the bottom of a mine, and you on the crest of an Alp; but you are as little able to touch the stars as they” - ***Charles Moule***

Romans 8:1-2 (NIV) – “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death”.

Romans 8:1-2 (MSG) - “With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ’s being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death”.

Psalms 34:6 (NIV) – “This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles”.

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“It was at that moment, in 1987, that I began to pour out my heart to God. Everything seemed to hit me at once. The guilt from what I did...the disgust at what I had become...late that night in my cold cell, I got down on my knees and I began to cry out to Jesus Christ. I told Him that I was sick and tired of doing evil. I asked Jesus for forgive me for all my sins. I spent a good while on my knees praying to Him. When I got up, it felt as if a very heavy but invisible chain that had been around me for so many years was broken. A peace flooded over me” –

David Berkowitz, ariseandshine.org

“I was once a prisoner, but now I’m free” – **David Berkowitz**, ariseandshine.org