

## **WS F&CB MENTOR MESSAGE #76**

**October 20, 2021**

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### **Updates and Reminders**

Don't you love it when seemingly unrelated things come together? Earlier this week I had a conversation with one of the men at Walker who struggles with believing that he is truly forgiven for his crimes. He lives in fear that at some point the wrath of God will be directed at him. His only hope, he believes, is to live in perfect obedience, believing that by doing so he will placate God.

Then today during my morning walk I listened to a Tim Keller sermon on Galatians 2. Keller said that we find the Gospel in the center of the tension between moralism and what he called love-ism. The moralist has a point, obedience does matter. But love-ist has a point too. It is the love of God for sinners that compels him to accept them.

The key is Galatians 2:20, *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me.* Because my sin was imputed to Jesus and his righteousness was imputed to me, my old man has died, and I have been resurrected in Christ. The love of God the Father for Christ the Son compels him to forgive me, the one resurrected in Christ, and make me his own.

But, also, *The life I know live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and give himself for me.* I do live life in this world. What I do matters. Obedience matters. But I live this life through faith in Christ, forgiven. Loved and accepted. It is not a question of meeting some impossible standard of perfection and thereby giving God a reason to not smash me in his wrath, like my friend at the prison fears. It is simply a matter of walking in faith, of living with my eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of my faith.

Then during my devotions this morning, I read 1 John 2:1.

- John writes so that his readers *may not sin*- verse 1a. Obedience matters.
- *But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*- verse 1b. If we sin, and we will, we need not fear the wrath of God. Jesus is on our side, pleading our case before the Father: "That sin is paid for Father, I paid it, I've already absorbed the wrath for that sin. There can be no more."

Yes, I love it when several things come together. I'm looking forward to the next time I see my friend at the prison so I can share these things with him.

### **UPDATES**

Though we have been back at Walker meeting with our mentoring partners for over a month and a half, things are still not back to normal there.

First, thank you for your cooperation with wearing masks. That has gone so well that is has given them confidence to begin letting other groups in, as long as they wear masks. Even as the latest Covid surge begins to recede, they will likely ask for mask wearing through flu season.

Participation with people from the outside is still extremely limited. Most ministries have not yet resumed. They are reintroducing those slowly. We ask for continued patience.

### Special events.

- **Family Day.** There will not be a Family Day this year.
- **Veterans Day.** Several people have asked about the Veterans Day celebration. That will be limited to inmates only
- **Christmas Fundraiser.** they do hope to be able to hold the annual Christmas Fundraiser, though no decision has been made yet. Let's pray that they can do so. It is usually a highlight of the year.

**Services.** Worship services continue to be inmate led only with no one from the outside participating. That ay change soon.

### REMINDERS

1. As mentioned above, please continue to wear a mask from the time you enter the Bunker until you are back in the parking lot.
2. Warden Clark has asked that there not be more than five (5) people in the Bunker at one time, including officers and staff. Please gather outside the Bunker before going in.
3. We are occasionally asked if a mentor may have more than one mentoring partner. The answer is no. Let me explain.
  - a. When that has been tried before it has led to conflicts between the two mentees.
  - b. There is potential for jealousy if one believes that the other is getting more time or attention.
  - c. Often during a mentoring session, the other mentee will interrupt and seek the mentor's attention.
  - d. Warden Clark would also prefer that mentors only have one mentoring partner at a time.
4. ***If you would to mentor more than one man, we do have other opportunities.***
  - a. We were just starting mentoring at Bledsoe County Correctional Complex in Pikeville, TN when the latest Covid surge caused a pause. That should soon resume.
  - b. Just yesterday I met with the chaplain at Hays State Prison in Trion, GA about starting to mentor there. Lord willing, that will start by the first of the year.
  - c. If you are interested in either of those opportunities, ***please let me know!***

Much love, my friends,

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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