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*Ministering to
prisoners for over
50 years*



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

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Dear Friends of IPM,

Putting the Lord first in our lives is vital to our daily Christian walk. We recently received a letter from Kasey C., in a Louisiana Prison, Kasey wrote: *"Pray that I continue to learn and grow and that I continue to seek Him first above all, whether in here or out there. Keeping Him first is my priority. I don't want to lose sight for a second."*

In the Psalms, David declared his priority of seeking the Lord. He was a man of many accomplishments, yet he desired just one thing of the Lord. *"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple"* (Psalm 27:4). David had a heart after God. He wanted to enquire of the Lord and to behold His beauty. He had a passion to know the Lord and walk in tune with Him. This is what the Lord desires for all of His followers. He wants us to know Him. He wants to reveal Himself to us.

Likewise, the Apostle Paul said there was just one thing that he did, even though there were so many things he did throughout his ministry. *"I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14). What was the "one thing" Paul was pursuing? He was pressing on to know the Lord. He was focused on the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus the Lord. Everything flows out of Him. All we need is found in Him.

(over please)

In His earthly ministry, Jesus perfectly portrayed a life focused on the one necessary thing. *"As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth (feeds upon) me, even he shall live by me"* (John 6:57). Jesus' priority on the earth was His relationship with the heavenly Father. Jesus taught that as it was with Him, so it was to be with His followers. As He lived because of the Father, so we will live if we feed on Him by trusting in Him, depending upon Him, looking to Him, and counting on Him.

Like Kasey in Louisiana, may we desire to seek the Lord and put Him first in our lives above all else. May we truly confess: *"For to me to live is Christ..."* (Philippians 1:21). This message is vital for all who follow Jesus Christ, whether inside or outside prison walls.

We give thanks to the Lord for all who desire to partner with us in proclaiming these wonderful truths to needy souls in prisons across the nation.

Keeping the Lord First Above All Else,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

(for all of our "Chaplain Ray Family" and the IPM team)

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is Smokin' & Jokin' (The Sandy Fatow Story), by Joanne Jacquart.



"For to me to live is Christ..."
- Philippians 1:21