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From: Dick (no last name, enclosure)

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Dear Folks:

How is everyone? I guess that you decided I would never write to you. This isn't just a general letter, however. I have wanted to talk to you for some time about the church, and I haven't gotten around to it as I should. Of course you know that my only interest is for your spiritual well-being, and out of a deep love for you and a concern for your souls. In looking back into the past, I can now see that many of the things I said to you while I was at home in school were not the proper way to approach the subject, and that you have probably had many unkind things said to you by well-meaning members of the church of Christ. For all of these things I am very sincerely sorry, but I ask you once again to spend a few moments thinking and considering the teachings of the Bible concerning Christ and the church which He died to establish.

You will remember my mention of the work I did in North Bay, Ontario, this summer in a campaign for Christ? Well, the preacher who was there for the campaign is going to be in Lubbock during the LCC Bible Lectures February 1. I have asked John Allen Chalk to come by and visit with you while he is there. He is the featured speaker of the lectureship, I believe. You will be interested to know something about him, I am sure. He is 23 years old (only three years older than me). He has already done one series of films for the Herald of Truth nationwide television program, and was recently chosen as the first full-time radio preacher for the Herald of Truth. He will be moving to Abilene from Cookeville, Tennessee, very soon to assume those responsibilities. I consider him to be both one of finest preachers and one of the finest Christians I have ever met. I hope that you will plan to go to the lectureship Tuesday evening to hear him and see what I mean. I can assure you that he will show you nothing but kindness and consideration while he is there.

Dad, I especially appeal to you to study these things carefully, because Mother loves and respects you very much, which is as it should be, and it is difficult for her to see the real need of something which you do not support whole-heartedly. I am praying that you will give this matter one more open-minded consideration. You both know, I think, how difficult it was for me to decide to change the religion of my birth. My love and respect for you was called into question when I did it. Of course, you know that I do not love you one bit less than I ever did, but rather that I decided I would have to submit to what ever I felt the Bible taught, even if it did differ from what you believed, because I was the one who would be judged concerning my decisions, and I can account only for myself.

I am sending you two things to look at and study before John Allen come on Tuesday or Wednesday. One is a tract called "Can I save Myself" and the other is a sheet I am using in training the members here in doing personal evangelism. I will be praying that you will study them, and I am confident that you will do what ever you sincerely believe to be just and right in God's sight.

We are all healthy and happy. The children are growing up on us very fast. We miss you all, and we look forward to seeing you before too much longer. We'll do our best anyway. I saw Cline Paden last week. He may call you to report on me. Please write to let me know how your visit with John Allen goes.

Love,

Dick

RESTORING 1st CENTURY CHRISTIANITY TO THE 20th CENTURY
SIX STEPS TO A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Step # I  - "Do you ever give much thought to spiritual things?"
Step # II - "What would you say is men's greatest spiritual need?"
Step # III - "God tells us that man's greatest need is salvation. Was there ever a time in your life when you seriously thought about your need of salvation?"
Step # IV - "What would you say a person needs to do to be saved?"  
(The answer to this question will probably be unsatisfactory.)
Step # V  - "Yes, you're right, everyone ought to do these things. But what I really had in mind was: how do you go about receiving salvation?"
Step # VI - "Would it be all right if we took three or four verses of scripture, and let's see what the Bible says a person must do to receive salvation! Could we do that?"

The Spiritual Conversation Itself

"FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD." Romans 3:23
Explanation:
1. GOD is telling us that everyone on earth is a sinner.
2. I am a sinner. Bill (or George) is a sinner.
3. Everyone on earth has sinned at least once.
4. You realize that you've sinned, don't you?
5. Most of us consider sin to be unimportant.
6. God doesn't, because he compares us with HIS glory instead of other men's glory.
7. The BIBLE tells us here that we all fall short of the glory of God (Jesus Christ).
8. If we commit only one sin in our lifetime, we still fall short.
9. Jim, if God were to compare you with Jesus, would he find you as good and perfect as Jesus?  (He will say, NO!)
10. Nor I. No one can, because all have sinned.
11. Now let's see the results of our sin.

"FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH." Romans 6:23a
Explanation:
1. We have worked for sin, now it pays us a wage.
2. This does not mean physical death - it means spiritual death, eternal separation from God - it means hell.
3. But we read in the next verse that God has given us one way to escape the wages of sin!

"BUT GOD COMEATH HIS LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US." Romans 5:8
Explanation:
1. When Jesus died on the cross, he died for you.
2. He took every evil thing you ever thought, every wrong thing you ever did, every sin you ever committed. He was punished for your sins.
3. It was just as though HE had committed the sins that YOU actually committed.
4. He became guilty for you. He took your place.
5. He died for you that you might be saved.

"MOREOVER, BRETHREN, I DECLARE UNTO YOU THE GOSPEL WHICH I PREACHED UNTO YOU, WHICH ALSO YE HAVE RECEIVED, AND WHEREIN YE STAND; BY WHICH ALSO YE ARE SAVED, IF YE KEEP IN MEMORY WHAT I PREACHED UNTO YOU, UNLESS YE HAVE BELIEVED IN VAIN. FOR I DELIVERED UNTO YOU FIRST OF ALL THAT WHICH I ALSO RECEIVED, HOW THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES; AND THAT HE WAS BURIED, AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES;" 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
Explanation: Point out the three basic facts - 1. Death 2. Burial 3. Resurrection

"KNOW YE NOT THAT SO MANY OF US AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH? THEREFORE WE ARE BURIED WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH: THAT LIKE AS CHRIST WAS RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE." Romans 6:3,4
Explanation:
1. Point out that baptism is the point at which a person contacts the blood that was shed for him. Death, burial, and resurrection.
2. Ask "Jim" if he believes that Jesus Christ is the son of God. If he says yes:
3. Have you ever been baptized for remission of sins. If he says no:
4. Don't you think we should take care of that tonight?