

3/28/11

GREETINGS I'M PRESENTLY INCARCERATED AND HAVE BEEN SINCE MAY OF 2007. I KNOW YOU'VE HEARD IT, READ IT MANY TIMES OVER "I'M INNOCENT!" IT'S TIME TO HEAR IT ONCE MORE. FROM A TEEN I BEGAN TO SMOKE MARIJUANA UNTIL MY EARLY TWENTIES. AFTERWARD I GRADUATED TO PCP, FROM THERE TO CRACK COCAINE. MANLY I WAS A FUNCTIONAL ADDICT. WHEN IT BEGAN TO INTERFERE WITH MAJOR WORK AND MY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES I ATTENDED REHABILITATION. TWO, TO BE EXACT BUT THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY. THIS IS JUST A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF WHAT PROBABLY WAS THE CAUSE OF MY MENTAL BREAKDOWN MANY YEARS LATER. WHICH ALLOWED A UNJUST JUSTICE SYSTEM TO TAKE YEARS FROM MY LIFE. I'VE STUDIED MANY RELIGIONS. FROM A CHILD LIVING IN A RURAL AREA IN VIRGINIA. RIGHT DUSNESS WAS INSTILLED IN ME. BELIEVING IN A HIGHER POWER AND EXTREME CONSEQUENCES KEPT ME

ON A STRAIGHT LINE MY ENTIRE
LIFE. MY DRUG EXPERIENCES DIDN'T
APPEAR TO ME TO BE VENTURING OFF
THAT STRAIGHT LINE. TODAY I STILL DON'T
THINK SO, BUT I GUESS IT'S A MATTER
OF OPINION. HOPEFULLY THIS POEM
WILL GIVE YOU A IDEA OF WHO I AM
WHO I HAVE BEEN AND WHO I WILL
CONTINUE TO BE. STAY TUNED I HAVE
MANY STORIES TO SHARE OF MY LONG
AND HARDSHIPFUL INCARCERATION PERIOD.

PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

OR YOU WILL NEVER TEACH

GRACE WAS STOWED UPON ME BEFORE
I COULD SPEAK,
THAT'S WHY AT MY WEAKEST I'LL NEVER
FEEL WEAK;

YEARS AFTER I MADE THE DECISION,
I'D NEVER GIVE HOMAGE TO ANY
RELIGION;

I GAVE UP TITLES AND RITUALS WITH-
OUT EVEN A CARE,
SEEING THE CREATORS MESSAGE EVERY-
WHERE;

WHEN YOU ACCEPT OUR HEAVENLY
FATHER WITHOUT WONDER,
HIS MESSAGE WILL BECOME CLEAR AS
THUNDER;

I WAS TAUGHT GROWING UP RIGHT
FROM WRONGS,
MY WISDOM PROGRESSED AS TIME
WENT ALONG;

WITH RIGHTEOUS PRINCIPLES EMBEDD-
ED INSIDE,
AT THE BEGINNING OF MANHOOD I BEGAN
TO REALIZE;

WITH PRINCIPLES, HONESTY AND A
SPIRITUAL SENSATION,
I WOULD STILL BATTLE WITH WORLDLY
TEMPTATION;

THE TIME HAS COME TO DOCUMENT MY
THOUGHTS,
SHARING MY PRINCIPLES SO THEY
MAY BE SOUGHT;

I CAN'T SAY COMPLETELY BUT
I BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE,
IT CONTAINS INFORMATION FOR

ETERNAL SURVIVAL;

THE TIMES WE LIVE IN NEEDS NO
VINDICATION,
IT'S ALL BEEN FORTOLD IN THE BOOK
OF REVELATION;

DISEASE, LUST OPEN FORNICATION,
THINGS THAT ARE PREVALENT
IN THIS GENERATION;

IF YOU POSSESS THE LIGHT SHINE
IT UPON OTHERS,
SO THEY MAY DO SO TO ANOTHER AND
ANOTHER;

THAT'S WHERE DIFFERENT BELIEFS
COME IN,
WE MUST WORSHIP TOGETHER OR
DIE FILLED WITH SIN;

I'M NO SCHOLAR BUT THIS MUST
BE TRUE,
IF IT WASN'T WHO WOULD KNOW
WHO;

I CAN ACCOUNT FOR CAUSES REVEALED
TO ME,

THAT'S ALL THAT I NEED TO
SEE;

AS A PROFESSOR IS TO COLLEGE,
IS TO THE ONE WHO'S GAINED
SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE;

YOU WILL SPEAK TO MANY AND
SOME YOU MAY NOT REACH;
THE KEY IS TO PRACTICE WHAT YOU
PREACH.

As Payne

LIVING A RIGHTEOUS AND ISOLATED
LIFE AT THE AGE OF 24 MY FATHER
SAW THE NEED FOR ME TO WITNESS
THE GRAVE INJUSTICES IN OUR JUDICIAL
AND CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM. SOMETHING
ME AND MANY OTHERS SHOULD WITNESS
FIRST HAND. ALL OF MY FUTURE POEMS
AND STORIES COMES FROM A PERSON THAT
HAT DOESN'T CONSIDER HIMSELF TO
BE A CRIMINAL. THAT PERSON IS ME.