In the Name of Jesus

Why

Are

You

In

Jail?

To God alone be Glory

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

2 Cor. 5:15

Chaplain Stephen H. Funck Baltimore City Detention Center 401 East Eager Street Baltimore MD 21202



People get in jail because someone "messed up". Sometimes it was the person inside, sometimes someone else messed up. All are "innocent" awaiting trial. All, in or out, are guilty sinners, imperfect before God.

Some people who mess up are not arrested and get away with it. Some victims of another's action are found guilty. Mistakes are "normal". People suffer for their own and suffer because of other's actions.

The Bible says we have three enemies: The Devil, The World and Our own Flesh. I do not understand people who do not believe in the devil yet claim to believe in god. They make their god the cause of evil. They need to get rid of that god. Looking at life and thinking, it is obvious Satan is very powerful, very sneaky, never gives up.

We need protection, rescue. We are no match for Satan. When times are good, evil is leaving us alone. Evil is laying plans and setting us up for attack. (False) pride goes before the fall!

The World is not just temptation, enemy nations, criminals, sickness, pollution. Good government, organized churches, officials, ministers, are all flawed. In their attempts to do good, they can do much harm.

We know our flesh, mind, is not really under our control, looking out for our best interests. We are in constant struggle with ourselves. People who complain about God, because He is not doing what they want, know full well, if they ran the world, if they were god, everything would be far worse.

God knows everything. God is power. God is in control. God knows the future and the past. God is wise. God is love. God is eternal.

How can God deal with this Satanically afflicted flawed world? What can God do with you? With the other person? He could make us all puppets, overpower our heart and mind. God is Love, that would not be loving. Our humanity, dignity, rests in freedom. God allows us to think and do what we want. We hurt ourselves, we are hurt by others, in that freedom.

All things work together for God's glory and our good, IF we are willing to receive the good God has for us! The only reason a person is in Jail, or anywhere, is because God knows it will glorify God and may be good for the person.

You are in Jail because God knows it MAY BE good for you, IF you decide to seek the blessings He has prepared for you. Offer yourself to Him. Give Him authority over your soul, your mind, your heart, your hands, your mouth. Wisdom is a gift from God. Pray for wisdom, courage. Ask Him to take you under His wings, that you would be in Him and He would be in

you. Ask Him to lead you to fellow Christians, for discernment who is real and who is false.

Thank, praise, serve, obey! Surrender! God will be glorified by you forever. I pray it will not be because of the righteous judgment you receive. God in Love does not want anyone to suffer. Some would hate to be in heaven, worshipping, praising, being a saint, perfectly loving, holy, forever. Since they would be miserable in heaven, in love, God gives them another place, hell. It is not a happy place, even though it also reveals the glory, wisdom and love of God.