

Hello!!

I hope you and your family are well! I ran across some old pictures the other day and it's prompted me to reach out to you. I think the last time I saw you in person was a few years back in the Reidsville Belk. I'm really glad we ran into each other and had a chance to briefly catch up.

I wanted to thank you for always being such a stand-up guy. Although you were quite terrifying when we were younger (and still to this day, if I'm being honest) I always respected you. You were always a great father and the love and commitment you showed your family was obvious and inspirational. Sadly, your level of dedication is a rare quality. You are truly a special and wonderful type of man. Thank you for being a positive example to me of how men should care for their families.

I wanted to thank you for the time you spent announcing the starters and commenting on our games. Even now I'm smiling while remembering how awesome it was. Thank you for making our games so special and for always supporting the Lady Cougars!

I also wanted to thank you for inviting me to join your family vacation after graduation. That was the longest I had ever been away from my parents. You went out of your way the entire time to make me feel welcome and safe. Thank you for that! Looking back that was still one of my favorite vacations.

Simply put, I'm so thankful for your powerful presence in my life. Thank you for always welcoming me into your home and life. I'm so grateful to you and I wanted to take this time to tell you that I love you. Thank you for

everything!

I had a scare recently with a family member who contracted COVID, and I wasn't sure they would survive. It was especially scary because I wasn't sure of their spiritual state. I became very aware that if they passed away, I may never see them again, that they may not be with me in God's Kingdom. I vowed to share the gospel with everyone especially those I loved.

My church has been focused on studying the doctrines of the Bible, especially the Moral Inability of Man or the doctrine of Total Depravity. This doctrine is vital to people understanding who they are and how they are saved from eternal separation from God. Due to the nature of man's sin, for a person to come to Jesus for salvation, God must take the initiative. God's divine initiative is the first step in anyone's salvation. Understanding this strips all boasting and claims of self-righteousness from everyone. If you are in Christ, it is because God has shown you mercy and initiated your salvation.

I think we share similar beliefs about the afterlife and that you believe in the God of Isaac, Jacob and Abraham - the one true, living God. I'm pretty sure that you are a believer that Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself for our sin and paid the price for our salvation and I look forward to spending eternity with you in God's Kingdom! If I'm wrong, I want to urge you to accept the free gift of Salvation.

When Adam accepted the fruit from Eve and ate (known as the fall), he plunged the whole world into sin. Every molecule on the earth was cursed with sin. Every person to ever live, would be born with a sinful nature. We sin without trying and without ceasing. 1 John 1:8-10 tells us

that, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." We are doomed to a life and death separated from God.

We need to be saved but we CANNOT save ourselves. After disobeying God, Adam and Eve realized they were naked and tried to cover themselves. They tried to save themselves from the shame of their nakedness. Now, people are still trying to cover the shame and stench of their sin by spending hours at church, giving to charitable foundations and living good "Christian" lives. These things are nice, but they will not save your soul from eternal separation from God. If we could save ourselves with works, there would be no reason for Christ's death.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) tells us "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." God is Holy and righteous, He cannot allow the price of sin to go unpaid. Thankfully, He is also merciful and gracious. He loved us all so much, he made a way for our sin to be paid in full. He has provided us with a perfect covering so that we can have intimacy with Him and spend eternity in His wonderful Kingdom. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Jesus' brutal death on the cross, paid the balance for every person's sin. When we believe in Him and accept Him into our hearts, we are covered with his purity, righteousness and sanctification! Praise God! If you have not accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior,

please do so now. Don't waste another second in the shameful, nakedness of your inherited sin!

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

I am a sinner. I have sinned and will continue to sin as long as you allow me to live. I am a vile creature in the midst of your perfect glory. I am undeserving and wretched. I need you. I love you because you first loved me. I believe that your Son died on the cross to save my life. His death paid the price for all of my sin. Cleanse me with His blood and let your beautiful Holy Spirit guide my life so that you can use me to advance your Kingdom. In Jesus' Holy name, I pray. Amen.

Again, I love you and because I love you, I am compelled to share. I read a powerful devotional recently titled "One of Them (Bringing Bold Faith to a Broken World)" on the You Version Bible App by New Mindz, LLC. There was a part that really spoke to me. They state, "we must realize that this world is like a house on fire and everyone in it is destined to burn forever unless they escape. The escape – the only way out of this deadly fire, is to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. That's it!

And here's the problem. There are Christians who recognize we are in a fire and know how to get out of the burning house, yet they choose to step over and around the sleeping bodies of those who do not know there is a fire. They ignore and avoid those who don't know how to escape. As "one of them," you are offended and angered by the possibility that people may go to hell because you neglect to share Jesus with someone who God has allowed to cross your path for that very reason.

As “one of them,” you understand the mission to get as many others out of the fire as possible. As “one of them,” you shake off the fear of being mocked, ridiculed or even persecuted as you embrace the call that God has placed on your life. You are “one of them;” so you know that sharing the Gospel story of Jesus isn’t a role reserved only for pastors and preachers. You are “one of them” – so you welcome every opportunity to be a light in dark spaces; to share the love of Christ with a stranger who has never heard the Gospel or seen it lived out.

As “one of them,” you see the burning house as your personal search and rescue mission. You are qualified. You are called. You are never alone because the One who made you “one of them” is always with you. The fire is still burning, and lives are at stake. You are on assignment, and someone needs you to show them the escape from death is through Jesus Christ. Continue the mission!” Powerful, right!

My most sincere prayer for you is that you have or will accept the free gift of salvation from eternal separation from God. I pray that you share your faith with your family and those closest to you. My family and I have a daily devotion set every day at 6:00pm. We read roughly five daily devotional books, answer questions and listen to scripture. It’s been a wonderful addition to our family dynamic. You are more than welcome to call and join us. My number is 336-XXX-XXXX. If not, that’s just fine, you could always call or text just to say hey! I’d love to hear from you!

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15 (NKJV)