

I came across a very interesting poem the other day, and I would like to share it with you in hopes that it will provoke your thought:

Some wish to live within the sound
Of church and chapel bell;
I want to run a rescue shop
Within a yard of hell.
(See Corrie Ten Boom's Jesus is Victor)

This shows to me an incredible spirit; a great love for the souls of men and courage to deal with those who are 'sinners'. The idea of being in the thick of the battle; of risking your own safety to save someone else. It reminds me of Raoul Wallenberg, the man who saved so many Jews during World War II simply by dressing as a high ranking German officer and transferring prisoners from their captors to his supervision and then escorting them out of the country. He lived his life a hair's breath from hell every time he did it, and it was only for others that he did it.

What a fascinating attitude! Christ had it, too. He was not a general who directed from afar, but he came to the battle front himself. He came to earth, to the thick of the battle for the sole purpose of saving souls. And he also was not afraid to work with 'sinners', even though his reputation suffered for it by those who accused him of being the friend and associate of sinners.

How about us? Are we interested in saving those who are saturated in 'sin'? Do we want to heal the sick, or just gather the healthy so that we can isolate them? I am afraid that we have lost the ability to work with real 'sinners'. We have lost confidence in the power of good over evil, and are afraid of being contaminated by sin. It is so much easier to 'abstain from the appearance of evil', like it is easier as a spectator to cheer our team on from the safety of the stands.

I count myself guilty as charged. Somehow we must strengthen our concern for healing, and our love for sinners. We must realize that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. The purpose of the church is to lead sinners to salvation. We must not be afraid to work that last yard to rescue the perishing.

God's grace is offered to us all, no matter how dirty in sin that we are.