

The Prisoner

Alone in the darkness,
Of a small damp prison cell,
Is a prisoner in the row,
Where the worst of condemned men dwell.
A heart full of hatred.
A lifetime of lust.
No honor. No dignity.
No hope. No trust.
Surrounded by pain.
Questioning life's worth.
For crimes against heaven,
And crimes against earth.
The roads he chose to follow,
Were always paved with strife.
Now the penalty he must pay,
Would be his very life.
Outside he heard men working,
With his name upon their breath.
He knew that they were building,
A chamber for his death.
His heart too, was being pounded,
Along with every nail.
Now he thought of all the things,
That led him down this dismal trail.
At first, he tried to acquit himself,
Blaming everyone he knew,
But now he clearly understood,
The words of the judge were true.

All his life he failed and faltered,
And the judge had spoken many times.
He had offered him help and guidance,
To turn him from his crimes.
Oh, but he thought he knew it all,
And he was in control.
To ask for help, or turn to him,
Would only weakness show.
Now he realized,
Where that road of deceit had led.
And in just a few more minutes,
This prisoner would be dead.
A tear fell from his eye,
And trickled down his face.
He cried not only for himself,
But others he'd disgraced.
He was sorry for his sin.
A godly sorrow filled his cell.
But surely now it was too late,
For this sinner bound for hell.
And now the time had come.
The door opened with a clang,
And the sound of footsteps,
And the rattling of a chain.
Sobs and wailing,
Echoed through the stagnant air.
The penalty of death seemed so cruel,
But yet it too was fair.

And in a moment the price was paid,
With the agony of death.
For now it was finished,
With the sound of one last treasured breath.
And so, a life was given,
And the penalty was paid.
And yet the prisoner lived,
For the prisoner was saved.
When I speak of this prisoner,
I am speaking now of me.
But it was this righteous judge,
That died upon the tree.
There was a price to pay,
When my sin imprisoned me.
I was sentenced to eternal death,
But Jesus made me free.