

THE BULWARK

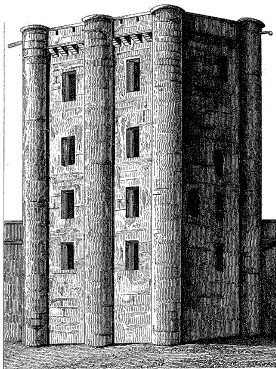
September 27, 2026

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*"Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following"*
Psalms 48:13

"YOU HAVE THE RIGHT..."

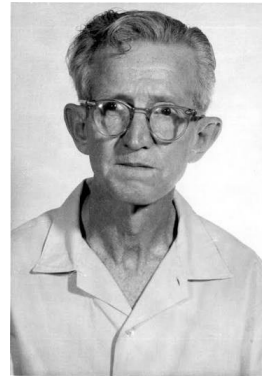
Clarence Earl Gideon made poor choices along life's pathway. Gideon found life difficult living at home with his mother and step-father, so at the ripe "old age" of 14 he quit school and by his definition "accepted the life of a hobo and tramp". For about a year he traveled around before one thing led to another and he wound up in jail in Hannibal, Missouri. He escaped but was found shortly thereafter and sentenced to three years in a reformatory. He served one year and was paroled. He was in and out of jail over the next three decades. He married four times and had six children. In 1961 he was living in Florida, when he was accused of stealing \$50 from a jukebox in a bar. Gideon was too poor to hire a lawyer and had to defend himself, he was found guilty and sentenced to five years for petty larceny. At the time only those on trial for a death penalty were provided a state appointed attorney.

Gideon said he was innocent of the charges in a note that he wrote to the United States Supreme Court, asking that his case be reviewed. One year later, the now historic case of Gideon v. Wainwright, ruled that people who cannot afford the cost of an attorney that a public defender be provided them. Clarence Earl Gideon, with a court appointed lawyer was retried and acquitted. He had been given an advocate.

Now comes the application to each and

everyone of us, spiritually speaking. We are guilty. We are in dire need of an Advocate. Praise be to God who at His own expense offers an Advocate., but not just any advo-

cate but The Advocate, His Son. *"My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world."* (1John 2:1-2)



In Christ we find exactly what we desperately need, One to be our Advocate. Throughout the New Testament the comforting words of John, Paul and others remind christians to work so as not to sin, but should sin enter in, we do have Christ. *"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* (1Timothy 2:5) *"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brothers so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted."* (Hebrews 2:17-18) Jesus has done everything to offer us freedom, and that in it's highest concept.

Jesus is also our high priest and one who can sympathize with our weaknesses, *"but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence..."* (Hebrews 4:15-16) Indeed we have been "given the right..." (wbe)