

This is intended for William Sykes number 2 & 3 Portsmouth Prison
Governor of this Prison Sir it is not ^{my} wish or will to go against
the rules or Regulations of this Prison and I hope and trust
through your instrumentality that William Sykes convict
number 2 & 3 will receive this into his hands and I hope
it will not miss his heart and I wish to inform him
that his wife and children Brothers and sisters are
all well at present for ought I know we send our dearest
and kindest respects to you hoping it will find you in
good health, William my advice to you is that you
obey all that are in authority over you and let
your conduct be good and try to gain that which
you have lost I mean your character let me beg of
you to pray to our heavenly father and his son
Jesus Christ to give you a clean heart and right spirit
within and then all your troubles and anxieties of this
world will be small when compared with the
joy and happiness of that bright world above William
I hope you are aware that our Blessed Lord has
caused all holy scriptures to be written for our
learning and God grant that we may hear and
read them and not to read them only but to do what
they teach us and then when the swelling of Jordan overtakes
us may we be ready to meet our saviour and him to be ready
to convey us through the valley and shadow of death to our
heavenly father arms there everlasting to dwell with him
Dear Brother I ask you to seek for Christian salvation which
means deliverance from something that is feared or suffered.
and it is therefore a term of very general application; but in
reference to our spiritual condition it means deliverance from
those evils with which we are afflicted in consequence of our
departure from God it implies deliverance from ignorance
from ignorance of God the first and the last the greatest
and the wisest, the holiest and the best of beings, the maker
of all things, the centre of all perfection, the fountain of
all happiness, ignorant of God, we cannot give him
acceptable worship we cannot rightly obey his will
we cannot hold communion with ^{him} here we cannot be
prepared for the enjoyment of his presence hereafter

But from this ignorance we are rescued by the salvation of the
Gospel, which reveals God to us, which makes us acquainted
with his nature, his attributes his character his government
and which especially unfolds to us that scheme of mercy
in which he has most clearly manifested his Glory
it is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait
for the salvation of the Lord. William a few more words
when they was leading Jesus to the cross and there followed
a great company of people which also bewailed and lamented
him but Jesus turning unto them said Daughters of
Jerusalem weep not for me but weep for yourselves
well William in conclusion i will say a little about
the contents of your Letter I believe you said your children
was the strings of your heart now i say Let Christ be
the strings of ^{your} heart i believe you went on to say that
wentworth was your place of Birth and i say Let
Christ be your salvation

William your Brother John sends sends his best
respects to you hoping the advice given will have
a good effect your sister Rebecca sends her love
to you and trusts that she will see you again before
death do you part and your sister Elizabeth sends
her kindest love to you and wish you to behave
your self under your present situation and as
for me Charles Hargreaves my desire is to point
you to the Lamb of God that takes ^{away} the sins of the
world and trust in Christ as your Physician
for it is through him we live and move and
have our being Dear William your Brother John
would give your little Boy a good school education
but your Dear Wife cannot find time to send
him to school I conclude with the Blessing of God
almighty the father the son and the holy Ghost
may remain with you both now and for ever amen
i trust the governor of this Prison is a kind hearted
Man Charles Hargreaves Park Gate near Rotherham
Yorkshire