

Highland

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houses in the country, seashores, mountains; and you also desire these things very much. But everybody does that. Whenever you choose, you can retreat into yourself." No doubt some women and men locked away and doing time found this encouraging.

"You are a runaway if you run from reason and good sense; you are blind if you shut the eyes of understanding; you are poor if you 'need' another, when you do not have – in yourself – all that is needed and useful in life." I'm sure we knocked that one around for a while.

"We are made for cooperation, like feet, like hands, like eyelids, like the

rows of teeth. To act against one another then is contrary to nature." A particularly good reminder for people squeezed into small spaces for long periods of time.

"Do every act of your life as if it were the last, laying aside all carelessness and running away from what your head says is right ..." A good invitation for inmates (and chaplains) to do some deep reflection.

"Within is the fountain of good, and it will always bubble up, if you will only dig."

Chris reads and discusses his new book, "A Freethinker's Gospel: Essays for a Sacred Secular World," at 6 p.m. Oct. 23 at Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, in downtown Asheville. Please join him for this free event.