



Church of Perth Intercessory Team

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

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FROM CRADLE TO CROSS TO GLORY

God loves us so much that He graciously gave us His only begotten Son, JESUS CHRIST – the Living Word of God - 2000 years ago to open our spiritual eyes and hearts to know God's plan and purpose for our journey on earth. God has given us 'the Bread of Life' and the Holy Spirit of Truth to guide our faith-walk as we focus on JESUS CHRIST and live by the Spirit in the New Millennium

At Christmas we remember a Babe born in a lowly manger in Bethlehem. We remember the wise men who brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We remember the shepherds in the field who came to pay Him homage. And, we remember the words of the angel: "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord." Yes, we remember the baby Jesus. But do we think beyond His birth? This Child was destined to grow to manhood and at the age of 33 to die at Calvary on a cruel Roman cross, a symbol of shame, suffering and sorrow.

Yet this despised symbol of the ancient world was to become the sacred emblem of the Christian faith. Why? Because firstly, it was on the cross that God showed His unconditional love for all humanity by sending His sinless Son to die in our place, irrespective of colour, creed, religion or culture. For the wages of sin is death and He was our substitute paying the price for all of us. Secondly, it represented triumph over death. When Jesus rose from death on the third day, 'He disarmed the rulers, the principalities and powers of this dark world and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross'. For the blood of Jesus exercises its full power through the Spirit and the Spirit manifests His full power through the blood. How was it a triumph? In three ways: Firstly it was a victory over evil. When in the dark days of England's history two bishops, Latimer and Ridley, were bound to the stake at Oxford with flames licking at their feet, Latimer said to his comrade, "Be of good cheer, Master Ridley, we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England as, I trust, shall never be put out." At Calvary evil forces did their utmost to quench the fire of God's love but instead released such a fire that was to spread right across the face of the earth.

Secondly, it was victory over suffering. Some eight centuries before Christ lived on this earth as a man the prophet Isaiah foretold His suffering: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." So it came to pass in the fullness of time that this suffering servant hung upon a cross, stretched between heaven and earth, bearing the sins of the world in His body. Listen to what He says as He hangs there. To God, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." To the thief crucified beside Him, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." And finally, "It is finished." His task was done! The price of man's full redemption was paid. Faith in the atoning power of the blood and in the personality of the Holy Spirit truly works in the hearts of obedient man. Thirdly, it was victory over death. Not only evil and suffering but death also did its worst at Calvary. On that first Good Friday the powers of darkness were victorious, but their triumph was short-lived. Death held Him in its vice-like grip that day but it was not Christ but death itself that ultimately lay broken on the ground. Something happened to death, its power nullified. "O Death, where is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory?" There is still physical death of course, but the spirit of man in association with the Holy Spirit of God can now live forever. Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand.

A long time after World War II ended a group of Japanese soldiers were found deep in the mountains of the Philippines. Completely cut off from the rest of the world they were unaware that peace had come. When they were eventually discovered one man shot himself in panic. This is a parable of life today. Many people live in spiritual ignorance of the victory won at Calvary and doom themselves to ultimate misery and spiritual death, because they have rejected God's gift of salvation bought by the precious blood of Jesus.

*Down from heaven, to a manger, Son of God, how could it be!
He, the Lord of all Creation, Came to give His life for me*

The Babe of Bethlehem became the Saviour of the world who rose victorious over the grave and now sits on high at the Father's right hand as the Great High Priest interceding for His own. From cradle to cross to glory! By Jesus' death and resurrection He brings salvation to all people who believe and receive Him as Saviour and Lord. Yes, at Christmas we remember the humble cradle in that lowly manger. But more so, the awesome sacrifice of the Babe who became a Man, defeated spiritual death and gave us the greatest hope and triumph of all. What is even more significant is that He is coming back to earth to reign in majesty as King of Glory and Lord of eternal Life and all who are His will reign with Him. What a glorious future! Will you share it by acknowledging Him as your Saviour and Lord and accept God's promise of eternal Life? Make this the best Christmas of your life. Be born again into His eternal Kingdom and wait with great expectation the return of JESUS CHRIST, the King of Glory.

OUR PRAYER

Loving God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Almighty God of Israel, the Alpha and the Omega, how awesome and majestic are all Your ways. How wonderfully we have been made - equipped to be one with You in love. How great is our inheritance and how awesome the price you paid! Gracious Father, how could we have ever known when we willingly said "Yes" to Christ that we could enter through the blood of Jesus into that peaceful, holy place of rest in intimate communion with You, even as Jesus loved You when He was on earth. Sovereign Lord, we gratefully thank You for sending Your only begotten Son to die on the cross of Calvary where He conquered death and defeated Satan through the power of the Holy Spirit and His own shed blood. This same Lord Jesus who was resurrected promises peace, joy and hope to a hopeless and helpless world where secular humanism is leading to chaos. Abba Father, we realize that righteousness comes only by faith in what You have done for us in Him.

Omniscient Father, we thank You that Your Spiritual life is in the Living Word. We acknowledge Your Word is indestructible, that it lives and abides forever - not only in heaven but also in us. Spirit of the Living God, consume the dross in us with Your purifying fire to make us vessels of pure gold to serve the true and living God. Help us to lead Your people and this nation into all end-time truths and revelation. Omnipotent Father, we pray that the fire of the Spirit will also rest upon us in protection, in provision, in anointing and in power so that the evil one will not stand before us. Holy Father, we thank You for being in the transformation business. We pray for the soul of our nation by committing our leaders and citizens to repent and acknowledge JESUS CHRIST as Lord of Australia. We pray for our leaders to have spiritual knowledge of Your Living Word and faith in the All-encompassing Power of the Blood of Christ to overcome the lies and deceit of the evil one.

It is written in Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this". Lord God, we pray that the zeal of the Spirit will continually burn in us that we may overcome all our enemies - sin, pride, sickness and the powers of hell, by the authority of the name of Jesus. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus, come! Come as King of Glory and Lord of all life. In Jesus' majestic Name we pray AMEN.

We wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a glorious New Millennium.

C O P I I Led by our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man, in love and faithfulness to bring glory to our Eternal Father in Jesus' Name Amen and Glory
[REJOICE & SHARE THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS]