



## No Fear!

In these last days I watched my sister-in-law's father die. From being fit and strong as a Mallee bull, he had a stroke one night, had another in hospital which left him half paralyzed, and then another stroke which virtually deadened his whole brain. Only the base of his brain was left working, keeping him breathing, until it was all over.

I wept as I saw him in hospital. Big strong man lying there, just breathing. Our friend, our companion, a man to whom we could go for counsel and advice. Now he's gone.

While he was still conscious in hospital, his family asked him if he was afraid of dying. He answered that he definitely wasn't. You see, he had a strong faith in God. He truly believed in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour, and he knew that when he died, he would be going to heaven to be with God. He was not afraid of death. He was prepared to die. He had no fear.

No fear. Are you afraid of *anything* at the moment? Are you afraid of *anyone* at the moment? If you are, would you like to be free from fear?

The Bible tells us that fear has its roots in "punishment".<sup>1</sup> That is, we fear because we are going to "lose something"; we fear because we are going to be "condemned" or "attacked" by another person. We fear because

some dark secret of ours may be exposed and we will be put to shame and ridicule. In other words, we're afraid of "dying" in some fashion. Have you ever said to yourself: "I'd die if someone found out about *that*"?

This fear of death ultimately has its roots in the fact of the coming Day of Judgement.<sup>2</sup> On this Day, God Himself



will judge the world and each one of us will have to give an account of every secret and public thing we have ever done in our lives.<sup>3</sup> Added to that, the Bible also tells us that we have an enemy - the devil<sup>4</sup> - who delights in trying to continually accuse us of our wrongs and misdeeds<sup>5</sup>, digging up our past and trying to throw it in our face.

The big question, therefore, is 'How can we be free from our sins and these accusing thoughts from the devil?'

Well, some people actually try to reason God away and say there is no God or sin or judgement to come, or say there is no devil, and then try to use "positive thinking" to just eliminate all negative thoughts from their conscience.

(1) 1John 4:18. (2) Acts 17:31. (3) Matthew 12:36; Luke 12:2-5. (4) 1Peter 5:8. (5) Revelation 12:10.

But you just can't live consistently like that. Everyone knows there is good and evil and that justice must be served. You can't just "redefine reality" to suit yourself.

The Bible, however, tells us there is an answer to get rid of our fears, guilt, and the accusations of the devil. The answer has to do with Jesus and believing in what He did for us, and then obeying Him.

It is written about Jesus that **"... he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."**<sup>6</sup>

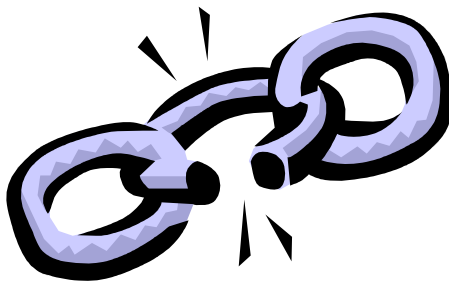
What does this mean? It means that when Jesus died on the cross nearly 2000 years ago, he actually died instead of you.<sup>7</sup> He took the death penalty you and I deserved for our sins. He took our punishment!<sup>8</sup>

The Bible says that God poured out all His wrath against humanity upon His own Son, Jesus<sup>9</sup>, and that for all who believe this, God clothes them with "righteousness"<sup>10</sup> - that is, you become FREE from your sins! The Day of Judgement becomes nothing to fear! This is how much God loved us, how much God loves YOU!<sup>11</sup>

Your sins have been dealt with!<sup>12</sup> Your guilt has already been atoned for!<sup>13</sup> However the devil is now trying to keep you in the dark concerning this truth<sup>14</sup> and wants to remind you of things which in actual fact God has already dealt with! No wonder the devil is called the father of all lies.<sup>15</sup> If you are feeling guilty for your sins after having

fully confessed them<sup>16</sup>, you are believing a lie! Jesus has paid for all your sins!!

So, how does a person come to experience this freedom from fear?



**"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed!"**  
Jesus

Well, you first need to fully confess your sins. The Bible says: **"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."**<sup>17</sup> You need to humble yourself<sup>18</sup>, and confess to God and say: 'God, I am a sinner; have mercy on me', and be specific in naming your sins, and then decide to stop doing them. You also need to go to those you have offended, beginning with those you have hurt the most, and ask for their forgiveness.<sup>19</sup> Second, you need to put your trust in Jesus Christ<sup>20</sup>, and say thank you to God for the forgiveness which Jesus won for you. Third, you need to make a decision to obey Jesus in all that He tells you to do.<sup>21</sup> Then, and only then, do you enter into this gift of freedom and joy and NO FEAR! You enter into the realm of God's grace<sup>22</sup>, and there is no better place to be!

(6) Hebrews 2:14,15. (7) 2Corinthians 5:14. (8) Isaiah 53:4-6. (9) Romans 3:25. (10) Romans 3:21-24; Isaiah 61:10. (11) John 3:16; 1John 4:10,11. (12) Romans 8:3-4. (13) Hebrews 9:14; 10:17-22. (14) 2Corinthians 4:3-4. (15) John 8:44. (16) 1John 1:9. (17) Proverbs 28:13. (18) 1Peter 5:5,6. (19) Matthew 5:23,24. (20) Acts 16:31. (21) Romans 1:5; Matthew 28:20. (22) John 1:17.

Do you want to be free from fear? You can be! This truth will set you free! Humble yourself. Confess your sins and turn from them. Trust and obey Jesus. But then believe the truth that God has now clothed you with His goodness. God declares you to be clean! Hallelujah! NO FEAR!!

Let us pray:

*Heavenly Father,*

*I confess my sins, and wish to turn away from them.*

*Thank you so much for forgiving me my sins!*

*Thank you that you have made me clean in your sight through Jesus your Son.*

*Help me to go to those whom I have offended and ask for their forgiveness, too.*

*I worship You, Lord, and I want to live for you now.*

*Rebuke Satan for me, and get rid of his accusations against my life, because the blood of Jesus has made me clean.*

*I give you all the glory, Father, through Jesus Your Son.*

*Amen!*

## **Laughs on us**

“Doctor, doctor, I’ve  
swallowed my camera!”

“Let’s hope nothing develops”

## **My Answer**

**Q. Dear chaplain, how can God be totally in control of the world if there is evil happening all around us? Isn't God supposed to be good?**

**A.** Let me say up front that the Bible tells us that this world is only temporary; the entire thrust of the Bible is to prepare us for the new world to come. There is coming a new heaven and new earth in which no evil will dwell, in which there will be no more suffering, crying, and death.<sup>1</sup>

In saying this I am not being "escapist" and trying to avoid the question. But it does force us to ask other questions: "Why is there evil now? What is God's purpose in allowing evil?"

For these questions, there is enough evidence in the Bible to be able to piece together coherent answers. Simply stated, evil exists now because:

a) that is a necessary outcome of God creating creatures with a free will who are actually not God themselves (only God is perfect; there is only one God; there can only be one God<sup>2</sup>; so God cannot create "other Gods");

b) through our contact with evil we are meant to learn to "fight" evil from the core of our being<sup>3</sup>, cry out to God for help, and thereby become totally dependent on God. In doing this, God through Jesus Christ actually purifies us from evil and makes us fit for heaven.

When the Bible says that God is in control of the world, it means that God is in control of this whole process, and

(1) Revelation 21:1-4. (2) Mark 12:29. (3) cf Judges 3:1,2.

evil cannot "run out of control" like a *China syndrome*. At every moment there are defined limits beyond which evil cannot go. Even the devil himself is under orders from God - there are limits to what the devil can do.<sup>4</sup>

In summary, God is allowing evil in the world to "purify us" and prepare us for heaven. All people who willingly submit to God in this process will be made fit for heaven by Him.

Do you hate evil? Good. Are you as a result totally trusting in God and relying on Him for everything? That is what God wants for your life!

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(4) cf Job 1:12; 2:6; Revelation 20:7-10

## News & Events

You're invited to our next  
**CELEBRATION  
SUNDAY**  
*a Christian Worship  
Service  
for the whole community!*

• **Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>**  
\*\* THIS WEEK !! \*\*  
(the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month)

• **5pm - 6.15pm**  
(followed by supper!) 

• **Preston Nth East  
Primary School Hall**

*Bring your whole family!*



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A ministry supported by Regent Baptist Church  
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