

Easter is seen as a great time to get away: a few days of freedom to enjoy your favourite fishing spot or relax from the hustle and bustle of life.

However, for Christians, Easter is a most precious and significant time because of what was achieved by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul gives us something of the incredible meaning and significance of the cross. In Romans 7:18-25 he outlines the dilemma he faced. He declared that he wanted to do good, but the harder he tried the worse things seemed to go: *“For I know that in me dwells no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.”* (v.18)

Paul’s own conscience told him what he needed to do, but the more he tried to do good the more he failed.

Paul reveals that in reality we all go through the same battle. Some try to win by religion. If I go to church or pray or read a Bible and so on this will enable me to do good.

Some become legalistic and put in place a whole host of do’s and don’ts, endeavouring to do good. Sadly the more do’s and don’ts the greater the level of guilt associated with the failure involved which inevitably comes.

Others try all sorts of good works to balance the scales of life in their favour. Despite these genuine attempts to appease God the emptiness and guilt remains. Why?

Paul discovered that whilst the law was good, in that it revealed his natural inherited ability for sin, it did not have the ability to deliver him from that sin. Why?

Well Paul discovered that this sin nature is a law in our lives, just like gravity is a law in our world. No matter how often you throw a ball up into the air, it will come back because the law of gravity

works on that ball to bring it back to earth.

Thus trying to resist sin in our own strength is like trying to resist gravity. As we discover the futility of trying to resist gravity we give up. This is exactly what happened to Paul. He discovered that he couldn’t live the Christian life in his own strength or indeed know consistent victory over sin. So we read his cry for deliverance in verse 24: *“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”* Then in verse 25 he trumpets the answer: *“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*

How then does God achieve this deliverance? Chapter 8v2 gives us the clear answer, *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

Let me go back to my gravity analogy. I live near Perth airport and enjoy watching aircraft landing and taking off. I am always amazed how a 747 gets off the ground. A fully laden 747 weighs around 400 tons. Whilst that aircraft remains stationary it is bound by the law of gravity. However, once in the air it breaks the bonds of gravity and is replaced by the law of aerodynamics.

This is a picture of what Easter is all about. When Jesus died and rose again he was enabling every human being, potentially, to experience the reality of having the law of sin and death replaced by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

Verse 3 indicates the effect of this exchange. *“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.”*

That is what Easter is all about – new life, an exchanged life as Hudson Taylor called it, in Christ Jesus. May you know and live the reality of this life.

Carl Carmody – Editor Challenge

Challenge Direct Deposit details :

BSB: 066162 (Commbank)
Account: 00900455

WWW.CHALLENGENEWS.ORG

PLEASE TURN OVER

Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311 or fax (08) 9453 3006
Email: info@challengenews.org

Trezona Information

The Trezona family were scheduled to depart our fair shores for the USA on February 22nd. Unfortunately the procedure has been taking longer than initially advised and is still being reviewed by the US Immigration service. The Trezona family sold their

home in November and have been house sitting and staying with family and friends since that time. Once approval is received it will be about three weeks before they can depart. Please continue to pray for them and the timely response to the visa application.

Challenge Prayer Information

- **India** – Pray for the work as it re-gathers momentum to get newspapers printed and distributed. There have been staff changes and unexpected administrative costs. This project needs another \$20,000 to meet the need.
- **South Africa** – Continues to bear much fruit and responses continue to come in as people hear the gospel. Mature Christians are required on the ground who will commit to discipling these new baby Christians. Funding is a continuing issue for extra editions of the paper, for Bibles and discipleship materials.
- **USA** – The first prison edition for the US was produced just prior to Christmas and it was very encouraging and exciting to receive response slips from this edition. Again we are looking for sponsorship of this prison edition from within the US and pray that the Lord may open up the prisons in other States to the Challenge paper. **Carl Carmody** and **Bob Walker** spent the month of March in the USA. Pray for follow-up and interest to continue to grow for churches to reach out.
- **Australia** – The feedback we receive is both encouraging and discouraging. The encouraging part is the response slips we receive in the office and hearing the response from churches as they reach the local community. The discouraging part is hearing of some who seem to be losing heart in communicating the gospel “because Australia is tough ground”. Continue to pray for these people and churches that the Lord may open the hearts and ears of those receiving the gospel message. Pray for the distribution of the Challenge paper (Easter edition) that each paper will be an effective seed and that people will respond to the gospel.

Challenge Praise Information

- **USA** – The response to Prison edition by the authorities and prisoners responding to the gospel.
- The Lord has been very gracious to us in supplying financial gifts for the work locally and globally. We praise Him for what He is yet to supply for the financial requirements of this coming year. Thank you for being a part of this Kingdom business.
- In **Australia** there has been much rejoicing as men and women respond to the gospel message. We praise the Lord that He has chosen to use a small group like us to bring a message of hope to the nations. Our prayer is that His Name may be glorified through all He does.
- We thank God for the addition to our staff of a young journalist, **Kathryn Eaves**. Please pray for her as she settles in.

MY RESPONSE

Post to: Challenge Literature Fellowship, PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 6985 or Fax to **(08) 9453 3006**

Name: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

With God's help I would like to be a partner in supporting the ministry at Challenge in the following way(s):

Prayer: Please send me updated payer information

Financial: Please receive my: Monthly Quarterly Yearly One time contribution of:
 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: \$ _____

To be used for _____

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiry Date ____/____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Please make all cheques payable to **Challenge Literature Fellowship**

