

PRAISE the Lord for:

- ★ Good response in terms of orders for our Dec/Jan edition of Challenge
- ★ For the great response to Carl's recent trip to Qld and NSW with a number of orders
- ★ The commencement of the main edition for Kenya beginning February 2015 with financial support from Genesis Aid
- ★ The distribution of the paper into prisons around Australia through Prison Fellowship, also commencing February 2015
- ★ The assistance from Emmaus Bible Correspondence who will do all the follow up to responses for both Kenya and Australia

Why did Jesus come to Earth as a fragile baby and not in majesty and glory?

God, the perfect Judge, says that "the soul who sins (rebels against Him) will die" (Ezekiel 18:4). Therefore His eternal law was that forgiveness of sin is only possible if another dies in their place. Leviticus 1:3 says, "If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will."

Jesus had to be born as a human being and live a sinless life "without blemish", so that His death would fulfil the Old Testament law. The angel Gabriel promised to Mary that Jesus' life "will save His people from their sins."

During His three and a half year ministry, Jesus made far more reference to hell than heaven. This underlines God's deep concern about the destiny of a soul after death, which is why we celebrate Christmas, the coming of our Saviour, in the first place.

Through His perfect life, death and resurrection, Jesus made provision to enable each human being to be forgiven of their sin, be reunited with God, and love and obey Him.

Christmas is not only about the deliverance from the penalty of sin, but from the power of sin. Jesus came because there was no other solution to the overwhelming enemy of sin. We in ourselves have no means of redeeming our souls from the curse of sin, except through the cross of Jesus.

At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus said in Luke 1:79 that He came "to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Jesus gives each one of us His light and rescues us from darkness when, by faith in Him, we are united with Him in His death and resurrection to everlasting life.



Continued over

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PRAYER needed for:

- ★ Finances to begin distributing papers into every prison across Kenya. We have support for the main edition but not the prison edition as yet
- ★ The Christmas edition as it gets used in all sorts of ways such as Carol services
- ★ Carl and John as they travel to South Africa for Military and REAP (Revival, Evangelism & Prayer) Conferences. We have been invited to share about our ministry from the platform so please pray that these meetings are fruitful in terms of interest in the paper
- ★ Carl as he heads to Kenya after South Africa to do further work in prisons
- ★ Testimonies for the Military and the South Africa main edition of Challenge. Pray that people are willing to share their stories

He explained in John 14:19-20, "Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."

Jesus said that the power to overcome sin is in the person and work of the Holy Spirit who indwells us. The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in us, including love for God and for others. "If anyone loves me, He will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him," Jesus said in John 14:23.

By delivering us from sin's penalty and power, Jesus enables us to walk in obedience to Him, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Also, as we love Jesus, the Holy Spirit will guide our decision making, just as the star directed the wise men.

Another part of Jesus' declared mission in Luke 1:79 was that He came to "guide our feet into a way of peace" in a world of conflicts of all descriptions.

The wonderful good news of Christmas is that Jesus was born to die and rise again, so that mankind may have peace with God. As a result of this peace with God, we can experience a daily peace in our walk with God in a fallen world, and can forgive others because we know His forgiveness.

Although we live in a world that is characterised by stress, worry and anxiety, we can experience the peace of God which Philippians 4:6-7 spells out for us; "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Have a wonderful Christmas.

CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE

MY RESPONSE

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