

WHO CARES FOR YOU?

Facing the UNEXPECTED

Due to the recent economic downturn, many people's lives have taken an unexpected turn. Investors watched in disbelief as shares on the stock market plummeted. Businesses were put into receivership. Many people lost their life's savings and pensions overnight. People who had taken out mortgages suddenly found themselves unable to make the repayments.

Welfare benefits have been slashed, leaving many of the most vulnerable members of society facing poverty. Unemployment has reached an all-time peak, resulting in mass emigration. Today many people, whose homes have not already been repossessed by the banks or building societies, live in constant fear of eviction. No one was prepared for these eventualities.

As you face life's unexpected challenges, it is good to know that the Lord understands what you are going through and that He cares. He understands our sorrow. He said, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people...I have heard their cries of distress...Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them."¹

Facing the UNFORGETTABLE

There is an even greater loss with which many people are trying to cope each day. Nothing devastates a person more than the loss of a family member.

Friend, perhaps today you are broken hearted because of the death of a loved one. The elderly parent, for whom you provided 24-hour care during a long illness, is now gone and the loss is so hard to bear. Maybe your spouse of many years has passed away and you are left to face the trials of life alone. Now all you have left are your wedding photographs and fond memories.

Perhaps you are traumatised because a miscarriage, a complication at birth, a cot death or a serious medical condition has taken your child. Your heart breaks as you sit beside the empty cot and reflect on all the plans you had for your little angel.

Are you are shocked and devastated because of the unforgettable, tragic death of a teenage son or daughter as a result of suicide? You keep asking yourself, "How could this have happened?" There are so many questions left unanswered and you just cannot come to terms with the loss of your loved one.

In your darkest hour you may be asking, "Where is God?" We are assured in the Scriptures that 'The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.'² He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favor has come.³ In fact Jesus is standing at the door of your heart. He said, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."⁴ He will come into your life and heal your broken heart if you ask Him to do so.

Are you UNPREPARED?

Friend, today you may feel as if you have lost everything of value. Your financial difficulties and family problems have caused you great stress and sadness. You may feel there is nothing else you can lose. But there is! Whether you are wealthy or poor, you can lose your most valuable possession - your soul. Jesus asked this pertinent question – “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”⁵

According to the Scriptures, we are all sinners - ‘For the wages [penalty] of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord’.⁶ This includes spiritual death, physical death and, for all who die in their sins, eternal death, which is conscious, everlasting punishment in Hell. ‘But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.’⁷ And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment’.⁸ Have you prepared for the future? Are you ready to meet God?

God’s Love – UNDESERVED

Jesus came not just to deal with our sadness and sorrow but to deal with our sins. ‘This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”⁹ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”¹⁰ Jesus purchased for us a pardon by paying the penalty for our sins when He died on the cross as our substitute and sin bearer.

This pardon will be put to your account when you:

ACKNOWLEDGE the fact that you are a sinner - ‘For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard’.¹¹

ADMIT your need of a Saviour - ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner’.¹²

ASK God to forgive your sins - ‘But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness’.¹³

ACCEPT by faith the gift that Christ purchased for you - ‘For the wages [penalty] of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord’.¹⁴

God’s Care for YOU

Here is a suggested prayer:

‘Dear Lord, healer of broken hearts and Saviour of sinners, I believe that on the cross you bore our griefs, carried our sorrows and paid for our sins. I come to you in sincere repentance, humbly asking you to come into my aching heart, forgive my sins and grant me the gift of eternal life.’

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Scripture References:

1: Exodus 3:7, 8

2: Psalm 34:18

3: Isaiah 61:2

4: Revelation 3:20

5: Mark 8: 36, 37

6: Romans 6:23

7: Revelation 21: 8
10: Luke 19:10
13: 1 John 1:9

8: Hebrews 9: 27
11: Romans 3:23
14: Romans 6:23

9: 1Timothy 1: 15
12: Luke 18:13