

# PEACE making

So this is God reaching out to us in love with the world's ultimate peace plan. And when we 'get right' with Him even old barriers between us and others can be broken down...

...through him to reconcile to himself all things, ...by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:20

But the real challenge facing each one of us is how we'll respond to all that Easter means.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Yet how easily we can settle for a few days off and a handful of cream eggs... ignoring or rejecting Him and His great mercy... the consequences of which are surely unthinkable...

...whoever does not believe stands condemned already...

John 3:18

So what better time than at Easter to seek the Lord Jesus Christ... the Prince of Peace.



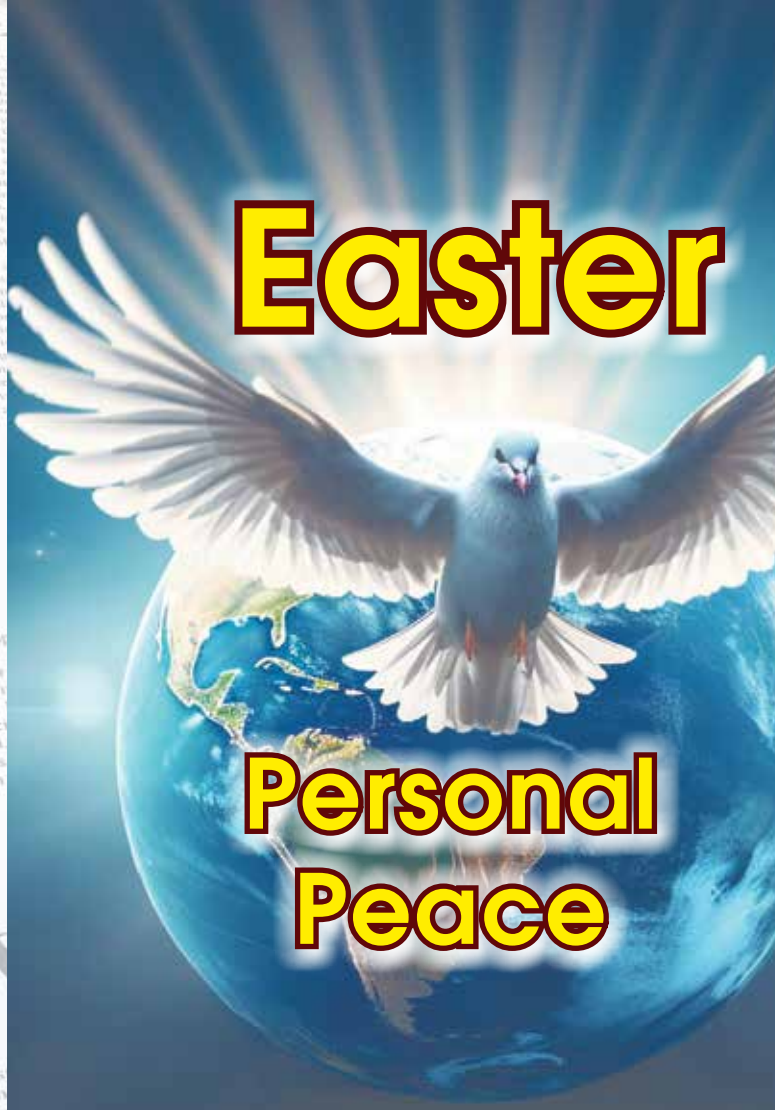
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# Easter

# Personal Peace



# Easter

For many of us today it's little more than a few days off work... disruption to our TV schedules... and a handful of cream eggs!

Yes Easter seems to have lost much of its traditional significance in more recent years.

And yet if our view of Easter amounts to little more than this then we're failing to recognise the most important event in human history.

Easter has far more relevance for each one of us than we realise...



the ultimate

# Peace Plan

Hoping you'll have a wonderful Easter this year

...through the ultimate peace plan

# PEACE initiative

The 'message' of Easter is really one of peace.

And yet as we look around our world peace seems hard to come by. But perhaps this is not surprising when even in our sophisticated society many of us can't even live in harmony with those we profess to love! God's verdict is that the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart...



The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Jeremiah 17:9

Even the best of us fail to live in accordance with the way our maker wants us to live...

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Rom 3:23

...and for this we'll face fearful consequences when one day we stand before Him to give account of our lives...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

Thankfully that first Easter, 2000 years ago, God formed a 'peace initiative' beyond all other...

# PEACE plan

From disputes between nations to a breakdown in industrial relations it's always necessary for some form of peace plan to be hammered out if reconciliation can take place. And Easter is God's peace plan through which we can be put right with Him.

As the only One ever to have lived a perfect life Christ Jesus, God in the form of man, was *'good enough to pay the price of sin'*. Crucified on the Cross of Calvary that first Good Friday, He took the punishment we deserve...

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:6

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Of course, for every peace plan to be successful it needs agreement on both sides. And therefore each of us is called to make a positive response by being honest with ourselves, seeking God's forgiveness and with His help turning away from all we know to be wrong...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...

1 Peter 2:24



And in asking the risen Lord Jesus into our lives by His Spirit... placing our future into His hands and under His authority... we not only receive forgiveness but a completely new beginning...

...if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

...with the motivation and power to live a new lifestyle pleasing to Him.

# PEACE offering

We must receive all that was accomplished on our behalf at Calvary as a free gift and can add nothing in an attempt to gain favour with God...

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Nevertheless, we can make no more positive a contribution to the world's greatest 'peace plan' than by offering ourselves as true followers of the Prince of Peace who says...



Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Luke 9:23-24

# PEACE process

Sadly today many of us reckon we'll earn acceptance with the Almighty through our own efforts to live a decent life. Yet nowhere in God's Word, the Bible, does He say this... rather the opposite...

...no-one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Romans 3:20

In fact, in His sight...

...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...

Isaiah 64:6

The only way by which we can know peace with God and everlasting security is through His Son, the Lord Jesus, who says...

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

John 11:25,26

I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

