

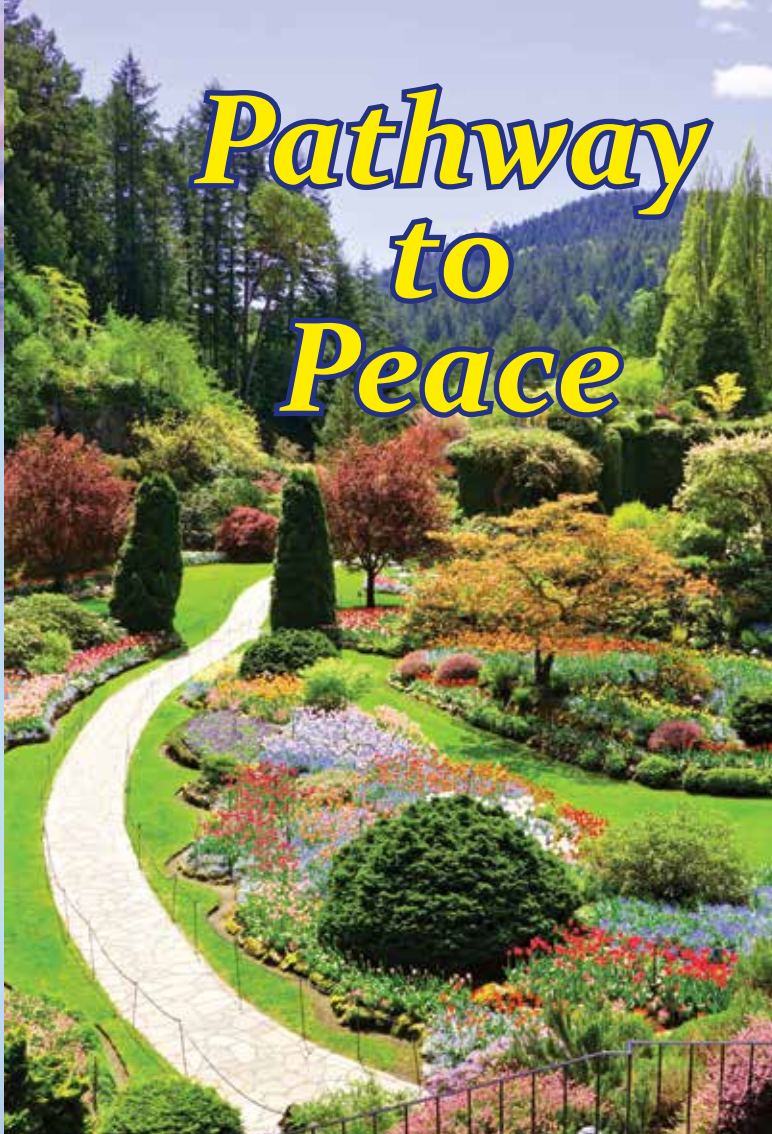


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My Contact Details:

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Tel: 01505 228208 Email: info@telitquick.org



Pathway to Peace

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All of us suffer bereavement at different times in our lives. After the initial shock of the death of a loved one there will be a very real sense of grief and loss.

No matter how much we feel the absence of someone who has meant so much to us, anguish and grief have to be faced by us all at some point... it's the cost of loving.

Time will lessen the pain but we'll probably find that hard to believe at first.

There is, however, a 'pathway to peace' in the midst of our suffering...



Death comes as a dreadful intruder... robbing us of someone for whom we've felt love and affection.

Yet there is One who understands as no other and who feels for us in our sadness.

One who is prepared to stand with us in a way that no-one else can. He's described as...

...the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles...

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

God promises never to leave us. And if we look to Him, He will prove His special faithfulness...

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalms 46:1

But when our grief is raw and we're feeling numbed or shocked, perhaps the most compelling question filling our mind is simply, 'Why?'.



Feeling pain and sorrow, we can find it hard to understand how a loving God should allow something so distressing as this. And yet, from the beginning, death was never part of His plan. It came as the consequence of man's rebellion and has dominated the human landscape ever since...



...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people...

Romans 5:12

Each of us has shared in this rebellion by disregarding God's right as our Maker to order our daily living. And one day we must all give account...

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

Romans 3:23

...God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

But God does not enjoy seeing people die...

...I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

Ezekiel 18:32

His answer to death was the sacrifice of His Son, Christ Jesus, in the place of people like us. He took the punishment we deserve and was raised to life again that first Easter Day.

When, in seeking His forgiveness, we turn from all we know to be wrong and ask Him into our lives by His Spirit to be our Saviour and Lord, our future is secured...

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

If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

Romans 6:5



This is no cold, sterile 'religion' but the beginning of a close, living, personal relationship with the One who says...

...do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

In any meaningful and lasting relationship there is real commitment... that's why the pain of separation is so intense.

In becoming a true Christian, the Lord Jesus expects that we be committed to Him, and reflect this in the way we live...

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.

John 14:21

...but He also commits Himself to us...

Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5

The LORD is near.. to all who call on Him in truth.

Psalms 145:18



God has conquered death and would not have us face eternity simply '*hoping for the best*'. Our everlasting future can be settled now as we put our trust in Christ Jesus...

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

The only satisfactory answer to death is eternal life and this is what God offers us...

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 John 5:12

...and so we find... the pathway to peace...

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

Reach out to Him today... and discover that He is already reaching out to you.