

We All Need Good News

In the 1940's NZ was 5 days away from invasion by a foreign power.

I remember it well. There was much fear.

Every night we were glued to the "wireless" to listen to the latest events of the War.

The news was not good. London was getting a hammering night after night.

Two large British battleships were sunk in the South China Sea, the "Repulse" and the "Prince of Wales".

Our fathers dug trenches around our school ground and we practised escaping to safety and sitting in the trenches as the "planes" flew overhead.

Before the trenches were dug we marched in a long line to the waste-land behind the school and "hid" in the trees by a bank.

One day on my way home from school I saw a small Japanese plane fly over our house which overlooked Okahu Bay in Auckland.

I remember seeing the big red circle on the side of it.

They said it came from a submarine close by.

We all needed some good news Quickly

One day I was looking out our sunporch window and I could see a long line of ships entering the Waitemata.

They were battle ships and troop carriers all in grey.

Around the decks were lines of sailors and marines.

We shouted and cheered because the American fleet had arrived and we were safe at last.

They brought us candy bars. I had never seen a candy bar.

Soon the tanks rolled our streets. I remember an armoured troop carrier on the waterfront drive beside Okahu Bay. It left the road, crossed the beach and ran straight out into the water. We could not believe what we were seeing. After a tour of Okahu Bay around the yachts it ran up onto the shore and continued around the waterfront road.

The Yanks were our saviours from certain disaster.

Now we could sleep in peace and laugh again.

Today, sixty years later, we still need GOOD NEWS.

We are still at war. Each day's news tells us of conflict all around us, in fact, worse than ever before. Nations against one another. Racial hatreds. Families torn apart. **Why?**

The truth is, war is within us, and starts when we think and speak and act in ways we know to be wrong.

For this reason God has given us a law of right and wrong.

This law is an expression of God's goodness.

It is not an arbitrary set of rules to limit man, but to enable us to live in peace with God and with one another.

God has established it as a fence of protection to keep us from behaviour that is harmful to others and to ourselves.

God's law is found in Exodus chapter 20, of the Bible, in the 10 Commandments.

They are in brief:

1. You shall not have any gods before Me.
2. You shall not make any idols for yourself.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain
4. You shall keep the Lord's day for the Lord.
5. You shall honour your father and mother.
6. You shall not commit murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not tell lies about other people.
10. You shall not strongly desire what belongs to another person.

As an ordinary kind of person I have become aware that I have not kept God's Law.

The "god" of self has often come before God in my life. There have been various "idols" or things before the Lord. I have not always used the name of God with respect.

As a younger man there were many times I dishonoured my parents. The Bible says, "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer". Jesus said, "Whoever looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart".

Sometimes I have taken things that did not belong to me. I have not always spoken the truth about other people. And so on!

I SURE NEED GOOD NEWS and quick!

I have not kept God's law and so I will not be accepted by Him and receive His blessing.

Moreover the Bible makes it clear that no one who has descended from Adam and Eve has ever kept all of God's law.

Very fortunately, GOD LOVES US DESPITE OUR SIN AND FAILURE to keep His law of doing right. *"God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"*. John's Gospel chapter 3, verse 16.

For this reason He sent His Son Jesus Christ, one Person of the Godhead, to planet earth through the womb of Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit. He was born as a baby in Bethlehem 2000 years ago and lived a perfect sinless life of full obedience to all of God's law. At the end, when He was 33 years old, He gave His perfect life as a sacrifice for our sins on the Cross. He died and was placed in the tomb. Three days later He was raised from the dead by the glory of God. Many witnesses saw the resurrected Jesus Christ and their testimony is recorded in the Gospels of the Bible. After forty days He was raised up by the power of God and seated at God's right hand. One day He will come again as the Judge of all people.

This GOOD NEWS of God's forgiveness, acceptance and blessing becomes ours when we repent, confess our sins, ask for forgiveness

through Jesus Christ and turn to God to do those things that please Him.

To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives to them His Holy Spirit so that they can know God and live to please Him.

I am SO GLAD FOR THIS GOOD NEWS, because now, through believing in Jesus Christ, we can be forgiven, accepted, blessed and have an eternal inheritance in God's Kingdom for ever.

To be a receiver of this GOOD NEWS and to take God's free gift of eternal life for yourself, pray a prayer along these lines, to God from your heart, now.

"O God I come to You in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe that Christ died for my sins on the cross and rose again the third day.

I confess my sins to You, ask for Your forgiveness and turn away from sin as best as I am able.

I receive Jesus Christ into my life now as my Lord and God and Saviour.

By God's grace I will believe in Him and serve Him from now on". Amen.

Prayer, reading the Bible and fellowship with other believers, enable us to grow in our relationship with God.

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WHY WE NEED

GOOD NEWS

LIKE NEVER BEFORE

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