

# Searching *for the missing*



**PEACE**

**H**ave you ever found yourself wondering if there is something more to life – something more than just the endless round of existence that seems to consume our lives day after day?

You get up in the morning, you go off to uni or to work, you come home, perhaps hit the books or hit the town with your mates, maybe even go to a concert. You come home and flop down in front of the TV and watch other people living out their 'pretend' lives. But somehow inside, in those more 'reflective moments', you're left wondering, *"What is this LIFE really all about?"*

For many, this endless round of living leaves them with a deep, inner sense that there's something missing! There is a piece of life that they just don't seem to have found. This search for the missing piece leaves many feeling uneasy

and unfulfilled. The truth is, it's not just that we feel there is a piece missing, but there is an inner sense of **PEACE** that is missing.

## **HOW CAN WE FIND THE PEACE THAT ALL OF US AS HUMANS SO DESPERATELY LONG FOR?**

Many of us try to find that peace by filling our lives with all kinds of activities and interests. For some it's a matter of sinking themselves into their studies or their careers. For others it may be a matter of trying to milk from this life every enjoyable experience they can, before it's too late.

The search for peace leads many to try and buy their way to happiness! *"If only I could get a new ipod or have a chance to travel, perhaps a new job, a new car, a new house, a new..... whatever....., then I'd really be happy."*

BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY THINGS WE GET,  
NO MATTER HOW MANY NEW EXPERIENCES WE HAVE,  
MOST OF US ARE STILL LEFT FEELING RESTLESS AND DISCONTENT.  
WE JUST DON'T HAVE THAT INNER SENSE OF PEACE.

In the Bible, God actually tells us why we can't seem to find that inner sense of PEACE. It's because we've all tried to live independently of the God who made us. We've all tried to live life our own way, doing it the best we can. But God says in doing so we've all missed the mark (God's plan and standard for our lives). This missing of the mark is what God calls sin. And it is our sin that has separated us from Him.

BUT IF SIN HAS SEPARATED US FROM GOD,  
IF SIN IS THE BASIC REASON WHY WE CAN'T FIND PEACE,  
THEN WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Well, the message of the Bible is that God has actually done something for us already! He sent His Son, Jesus Christ into this world so that He might accept the punishment for our sin. What was the punishment that our sin deserved? God had already decided long ago that the punishment for all sin would be death.

When Jesus Christ died upon the cross around 2000 years ago, He was actually accepting the punishment that all of our sin deserved, even though we weren't even born yet!

Because He paid the penalty for our sins and rose again, He is now able to offer to each one of us, true forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life.

WE WHO ONCE TRIED TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY OF GOD CAN NOW KNOW REAL PEACE WITH GOD AND CONSEQUENTLY REAL PEACE WITHIN.

How can we know this peace? By simply acknowledging the fact of our own sin; by turning from our selfishness and sin, and surrendering our lives in faith to Jesus Christ who died in our place.

If we will, God has promised that He will not only forgive us, but He will remove our sin and give us a brand new life – one which is lived in peace with Him – one which will last forever!

If you would like to discover this new life, this life of peace with God and peace within, then tell God right now by praying something like this....

*Dear God, I know that for too long I have ignored you and tried to live life my own way. I have tried to find peace and happiness but acknowledge that my sin, my selfishness has separated me from you. I thank you that you sent Jesus Christ to die for my sins. Right now I want to turn from my selfishness and sin and I want to surrender my life in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ. Please forgive me for all my sin and give to me the new life you promised, a life which is lived in peace with you and a life which will last forever. Amen*