

# Prayer Update 954

Wednesday 11 December 2019

## *God's Word for this week ...*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ... Then God said, "Let Us make people in Our image, according to Our likeness ..." So God created people in His image; in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27).

## **THE WORD**

God created people for fellowship with Him. Tragically, even the first two people He created, Adam and Eve, disobeyed Him and lost intimate fellowship with Him – and every person since has failed to always obey God, many not even believing in Him, or if they do, they are not interested in a relationship with Him – He is irrelevant to them.

In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

## **CONVICTION**

People's only hope for a permanent relationship and loving fellowship with God is the conviction that there is a loving God Who cares for them, and the conviction of their sin which separates them from Him. God is holy and we are called to be holy, even as He is holy (Psalm 99:9; 1 Peter 1:15-16). Also see 2 Timothy 4:1-2, "proclaim the message, be persistent, ... **convince**, rebuke and encourage ..."

## **REPENTANCE**

We have a problem! We can be convinced there is a God and that we have disobeyed Him and are separated from Him, but not really know Him or have any real relationship with Him. What can we do? Both the prophet John the Baptist, and Jesus said, "**Repent**, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near." (Matthew 3:2; 4:17)

## **FORGIVENESS**

OK. So we believe in God and know we are not perfect. We're sorry and will try not to keep doing wrong. Is that all? No! This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ... If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will **forgive** us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:5-9)

## **RECONCILIATION**

By faith in God's Word, conviction of sin and repentance, we are forgiven, cleansed by Jesus' blood and reconciled to a holy God Who loves us so much that He sent His only Son to pay the penalty for our sin and reconcile us to Him – an eternal life of love and fellowship with God our Creator, Jesus our Saviour, by the power of the Holy Spirit. For if while we were enemies, we were **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, we will be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)

**Please pray:** Billions of people throughout the world have never heard this life-transforming message, or have so far not responded to Jesus' call, "Follow Me". As we celebrate His birth, pray for every effort to share the Gospel and bring them to the Lord to receive His salvation and be born again into the Kingdom of God. **Praise God** for our salvation!