

A New Life

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God”, Luke 23:34-35.

We have just celebrated the anniversary of our Lord’s Birth, and the most potent question we have today is, “Are we any better than the people of our Lord’s day regarding either our Lord’s Birth, or His Crucifixion?”

The answer, my friend, is a profound “NO”.

The most important words for any person on this earth to utter are the words that come from their mouth moments before they take their first step into eternity via the grave.

No matter what words are spoken, once that final breath is exhaled it will be impossible to rephrase that sentence.

We have just celebrated the birth of God’s Son. He was born fo a woman, whose body had sustained Him in exactly the same manner as any of us present.

The only difference between the Lord anyone present was the fact He had a relationship with a Heavenly Father, whilst out relationship is with an earthly father.

He came to this earth, and had to learn how to live in this world according to the standards required by His Father.

He lived a life as God wanted Him to live, and Satan hounded the Lord at every

chance he got.

Recently the earth weather has been in a state of turmoil. We have had many storms with high winds, and it is through some of those storms that God has been able to visibly show many of us the state of our lives.

We have had fires started by a lightening strike, burn out thousands of acres of crops.

We have seen pictures of people's homes reduce to a pile of ash, with nothing left except a memory.

We have seen floods where people have been swept away, never to return and speak to their loved ones.

But to me, the greatest and starkest I have seen in pictures was an enormous tree. The wind had snapped it off its roots just a metre or so above the ground.

The greatest revelation God showed me at that moment in time was that the centre and heart of the tree had been eaten away by many insects.

There are many Christians in the world today whose spiritual life has been eaten away by the wiles of Satan.

Jesus on this earth was no different to any other person on this earth, He lived the life His Father had designed for him. Are you living the life God has designed for YOU?

God has never approached a man and demanded that that man should live according to His desires.

God has always waited for man to approach Him, and seek to be reconciled, that He might feed man with an ability to overcome.

The baby whose birth we have just celebrated was presented to shepherds watching over their sheep.

His parents were used by God, to instruct and teach Him the basic Law of God through His formative years.

His ministry years were empowered by God.

But it is our Lord's words, overriding the agony that man was applying to His physical body, before He was placed in the grave that are the most meaningful, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do", Luke 23:34.

What most meaningful words will you use before your tongue is silenced in the grave?

I close with a statement that God commanded his prophet Haggai to make to both Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, and Joshua the high priest, and to us present here this morning, saying, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; 'Consider your ways'", Haggai 1:5.