



Church of Perth Intercessory Team

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

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IF GOD BE FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US ?

For and against! Throughout life this dualism is impossible to escape. On one side there is God, the Author of all life who presides over the things that are in league with goodness; on the other side are the forces of evil both human and satanic. From the moment we are born to the moment we die, life is a battle against enemies. Our bodies must fight against the germs that cause disease from common colds to cancer, hepatitis to heart disease. There are also our human enemies. Caesar had his Brutus, Mordecai his Haman, Jesus his Judas. Some people rub us up the wrong way, others try to take us down and others oppose us because of our beliefs.

In the realm of the spirit our great enemy is Satan the father of lies and the prince of this world who leads the forces of evil and destruction. This is he who is opposed to God and to goodness. This is he who "walks about like a roaring lion seeing whom he may devour", but the scriptures exhort us to "resist him and he will flee from you". He is indeed a malignant reality always hostile to God and to His people. He has already been defeated in Christ's death at the Cross and resurrection, a defeat that will become evident and complete at the end of the age.

Satan may be our worst spiritual enemy, yet there is someone whose impact on our lives will be even more destructive than his. In fact without the assistance of this entity Satan is helpless. For this enemy comes from within our sinful nature, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life – our will and choice. The only one who can really pull us down is ourselves. The sooner we realise this and stop blaming others the sooner we will be on the road that leads to success, happiness and be able to rejoice in the freedom forgiveness brings to our lives.

Enemies within and without! The prospects of winning through to ultimate victory are daunting. That is, if we faced the future alone having to battle all our adversaries single-handed. But we are not alone. "For who can be against us if God be for us?"

How is God for us? From the very beginning of time, before Calvary or Bethlehem or Sinai or the Garden of Eden, everyone who has accepted the grace of God through faith in His Son were given a place in the eternal purpose of God. All of us are dear to Him. Even now we are objects of plans He made before the pyramids, plans for a glorious eternal future. Everyone who accepts Jesus Christ into his life is a joint heir with Him. When the Lord stood on the Mount of Olives prior to His ascension He said, "I ascend to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God". He took us right into fellowship with Himself.

How is God for us? By the love, grace, mercy and encouragement He gives us through His Word and the Holy Spirit our Teacher. "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him and are called according to His purpose". (Romans 8:28). Have you ever seen an expensive tapestry and marvelled at its striking beauty and design? But then have you looked at the back of it? Threads run crazily in this direction and that, giving the impression it is the work of a nitwit. Yet those painstaking threads worked by a master artist produced the exquisite picture on the other side. Have you put your life into the hands of the Infinite Artist? Then, have the faith and the courage to believe that however strangely the threads may seem to run, however cruelly the needle may stab you, it is His hand at work – and back of His hand His heart.

How is God for us? By keeping us eternally in fellowship with Himself. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Here is a love bond that nothing but wilful rejection on our part can break – neither tribulation nor hardship nor hunger nor peril nor sword...overwhelming victory is ours through Him who loved us. God is for us

now and forever. There remains one more matter to be settled. In a critical hour in the American Civil War a somewhat fearful individual exclaimed to Abraham Lincoln: "Oh Mr President, I am most anxious that the Lord be on our side". Back came a typical Lincoln reply: "Well strangely enough that gives me no anxiety at all. The thing that I worry about is to make sure that I am on the Lord's side"! That must be settled. Are *you* on His side?

Are we as a nation on His side? Sadly, the answer must be no. We have turned away from the God who has chosen us to be His nation for two centuries. Like the prodigal son we have splurged our inheritance on ungodly living. Righteousness no longer exalts this nation as we flout His divine laws and slip further and further from His protecting hand into the hands of a godless United Nations. However, these wise words of Abraham Lincoln are just as true today as when he said them over a century ago: "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognise the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proved by history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord". If only we would realise that if we let God be for us as He was in the past we need fear nothing the future may hold. If we refuse to reinstate Him on the throne of our hearts and nation, the words of Daniel Webster will come to haunt us: "If we abide by the principles taught in the Holy Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper, but if we or our prosperity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity".

It's up to us all, both leaders and citizens of this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit. We commit this nation into your loving hands, Lord God. Amen.

OUR PRAYER

Our loving Father in heaven, Spirit of the Living God, we humbly come in one accord in the spirit of love and gratitude before Your throne of grace and mercy to rejoice and celebrate Your goodness for the redemption of mankind 2000 years ago. Father, we come united singing praises to thank You for the provision of Your Word as our SWORD for our daily spiritual battles. Father, we thank You that Your Word is the foundation of this world and You are LOVE and Your loving kindness is everlasting. Gracious Father, Your unfathomable love for us cost You Your all – the high price You paid for Your only begotten sinless Son, JESUS CHRIST, crucified at the Cross and resurrected. Jesus took the punishment for all mankind's sins that we might be forgiven. Jesus was wounded that we might be healed. Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness that we might be made righteous with His righteousness. Jesus died our spiritual death that we might receive His eternal life. He was made a curse that we might enter into His kingdom's heritage and blessings. Jesus endured our poverty that we might be prosperous in spirit, soul and body to share His abundance. Jesus bore our shame that we might share His glory and love with others. Jesus endured our rejection that we might have His acceptance with You, Father God. Jesus was cut off by death that we might have a quickend spirit-life that our unseen person becomes functional in spirit to commune and communicate with our Lord God's invisible Holy Spirit consistently and eternally to do our Father's will on earth as it is in heaven. Thank You Lord Jesus for interceding for us as our Great High Priest and perfect Mediator. We come before Your throne of grace and mercy acknowledging our sin of ingratitude and our sin of presumption, as we have just trampled this heritage that You have blessed us so uniquely with, we have been poor stewards. Gracious Father, we confess that this is a sin before You and we sincerely repent for it. Father, we pray that You would through Your omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent Holy Spirit give us discernment in our decisions and help us to grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST, that we each might be more responsive to Your will in our spiritual battles daily. Father, we also recognise that our negligence, our lack of diligence has allowed the pagans to take charge of our venerated institutions. Oh Father, we pray that you would help us to discern what You would have us do in response. Father, we do pray through Your mercy and Your grace for our nation's elected representatives and civic leaders to earnestly repent and renew their minds by Your Living Word to bring their thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ. We pray Father that You would show Yourself strong that You would just sweep this nation with a return to its heritage. You alone are the GOD of this universe, Your laws are the root laws from which all of our priviledges and freedom derive. Oh Father, we just bring to You ourselves with no plea except that Christ died for us. We ask this in the mighty name of Yeshua Ha Mashiach, our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST, our coming King of Glory, Amen.

C.O.P.I.T. Led by our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man, in love and faithfulness to bring glory to our Eternal Father in Jesus' Name. Amen and Glory.