

A photograph of a beach at sunset. A long wooden pier extends into the ocean, with several people silhouetted against the bright sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a dramatic sky with orange, yellow, and blue tones. The foreground shows the sandy beach and gentle waves. The image is framed by a dark blue background with a white and teal curved graphic element in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

Comfort in Crisis

Covid-19 has left us all feeling vulnerable and scared. In times like these we need an anchor, a hope for the future and comfort which far surpasses our own panicked crisis-response. We may ask the 'why' questions, try to ignore the pandemonium or channel our concern into helping others, but none of these give us a positive hope for the future. True comfort, despite the Covid-19 crisis, comes only from the "God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3), who has a message for you today.

The God of Creation sees and knows what is happening.

The God who cares for the sparrows, knows the number of grains of sand at the Goolwa beach, and can tell you how many hairs are on your head, is the same God who understands every fear, anxiety and care that each of one us has. There is not one thing happening in this world, of which God is unaware. We can turn to this God for help. He wants a relationship with us. King David had a special relationship with God. He was able to say, **"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him I will trust"** (Psalm 91:2).

The Everlasting God has a plan for this world.

God has a carefully detailed prophetic program, outlined in the Scriptures. So far, every single one of His past prophecies has been fulfilled in minute detail. The Everlasting God wants only the best for His Creation, so He warns us if there is

something coming which will cause us hurt and harm. This current crisis is probably a warning that end-time judgments are not far away for this world. God has no wish that you experience any of these judgments. In His Word, God gives us a warning that our sin has put a distance between us and God and we are not right with Him (Isaiah 59:2). This current time period, though rocky and uncertain, is clearly still part of God's day of grace and is an opportunity for you to have your sins forgiven, and know peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. **"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"** (2 Corinthians 6:2).

God loves us!

True love is always exhibited in action. The sacrificial giving of so many medics, health-care workers and key workers in society is very commendable, and proves their love for their fellow humans. God has sacrificially shown and proved His love towards us. He has given the very best of Heaven for us - His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God sent Him into the world to be our Saviour (1 John 4:14). When Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice for sin on the Cross at Calvary, He opened up the way back to God for us. It is God's desire that every single person on earth enjoys a relationship with Him, knows true peace and happiness because their sins have been forgiven, and will live forever with Him in Heaven. **"[God is] not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"** (2 Peter 3:9).

God gives peace.

Our God is a giving-God. He gives earthly comforts and blessings to each one of us, whether or not we are aware of it. The peace, calm and comfort of God is available today to those who trust in Him, to those who ask for it. This is not a temporary feeling of 'mindful' euphoria, but a deep lasting peace and calm which will outlive the current Covid-19 crisis, and last through the future, into the great eternity after death.

This peace and comfort is available to you today, through faith in Christ Jesus, who came to bring peace and everlasting life:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” - John 3:16.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” - Acts 16:31.

(Appropriate precautionary hygiene practice has been used in the distribution of these leaflets)

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