

**G'day Partners and Friends!**



**We are a blessed nation, No, not 'the lucky country' but we are a blessed country! Ever wonder why? Certainly it's not because we are better, smarter or richer than anyone else.....but it is God's Grace - His undeserved, unearned favour being poured out on those who believe and receive His Grace. Much of this stems from our Christian Heritage! Even our name means 'Southern Land of the Holy Spirit' and it speaks of the Christian foundations of our nation.**

**I love Romans 5:17 which says: "For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who RECEIVE abundance of grace and of the GIFT of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ." Look at that - those who RECEIVE the abundance of grace and the GIFT of righteousness will reign in life. Not working at it, not trying, not continually striving and failing - but just taking the Lord at His Word and receiving it!**

**And what about Galatians chapter 3. is tells us. "Therefore**

**know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham." (verses 7-9) ALL the Nations shall be blessed - that includes Australia - if we what - BELIEVE!!!**

**And what about verses 13-14. "Christ HAS redeemed us from the curse of the law.....that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus (that's us who believe), that we might receive the promise of the Spirit".....how? Through our Good works? No - through faith!**

**We are a blessed nation, 90% of our founding fathers were believers - men and women like Capt. James Cook, the first preacher Rev. Richard Johnson who arrived in the first fleet, Capt. Charles Sturt, as well as many of the early leaders and politicians such as three times Prime Minister Alfred Deakin (who wrote a book on Prayer and Praise). Our laws and legal system are based upon Bible Principles. Australia's oldest parliament NSW, governed most of Australia and many of the South Pacific islands including New Zealand. It continues today to open with this prayer: "Almighty God we humbly beseech thee to vouchsafe thy blessing upon this parliament, direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of thy glory and the true welfare of the people, our State and Australia. Amen"**

**A similar prayer is said in our Federal Parliament by the President, who, upon taking the chair each day, reads the following prayer: "Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy special blessing upon this Parliament, and that Thou wouldst be pleased to direct and prosper the work of Thy servants to the advancement of Thy glory, and to the true welfare of the people of Australia. Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will**

**be done in earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen"**

**Does that mean all Aussies are saved? Of course not, but what it does mean is that our nation has been founded by Believers and is founded upon Christian principles! So on Australia Day take some time to celebrate, acknowledge and be grateful for our Christian Heritage - the faith of our founding fathers. Australia Day is much more than Beaches, BBQS and Booze!**

**Jesus is Lord over Australia - not Buddha or Allah or any other 'God'.**

**Col Stringer**