

THE WAR AGAINST DEATH

26/4/15

This Anzac Day weekend, has reminded us of the never ending battle for freedom and the huge cost of human lives to bring it about. We do well to face the reality that national freedom isn't free at all... sacrifices (many beyond rational human understanding) have been made, some by family members and friends.

Sadly the human race has also been fighting another battle that it has never won... the fight between life and death. Every human ever born, despite selfless acts of courage and sacrifice by soldiers and civilians alike, still end up in the grave.

Let's consider a very brief record of other historically recent and unnatural deaths...

**Many millions have died from earthquake activities in the last 100 years alone (officials often underquote).*

**The black plague (14 century), is estimated to have killed 50 million people (30-50% of Europe in 4 years).*

**The total number of people killed in WWI exceeded 20 million, and WWII 70 million. (source - wikipedia.)*

**The World Health Authority estimates 40-50 million abortions are performed every year.*

Everywhere we look... death stalks the human race with a vengeance, despite our best efforts.

The bible explains the Christian viewpoint relating to death and the battle needing to be won.

*The 6000 year war... the longest battle ever fought. **ROM 5:18** Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation (physical death came through Adam and Eves disobedience to God's law); even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life (spiritual life built on a non material body comes through obedience to the gospel). If we take Adam and Eve as a starting point and compare it with the scriptural record, we come up with the following observations.*

**Total number of people who have ever lived based on Adam and Eve as a start is less than 14 billion (will all physically die, with very few exceptions). Of these billions, another group not mentioned above; died in battle.*

**From AD 30 to 2000, 70 million Christians died as martyrs (God's soldiers... Barrett and Todd M. Johnson).*

We are part of this army and our battle is still ongoing... many church members are also military personnel.

*Jesus Christ is our general and the source of our strength through the indwelling Holy Spirit. **2TIM 1:10** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: The winning side of the battle is already revealed.*

*The military mindset, is vastly different than the civilian mentality... because more is at risk. **2TIM 2:3** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **4** No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. The battle we fight is about life and death... it isn't about assets and other material possessions. **2COR 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: **4** (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) **5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; This is our battle... we fight firstly for our own survival and secondly, for the lives of others. This can only be achieved by imitating the strengths and disciplines of fully trained and seasoned soldiers.*

*Desertion is never taken well in any war. **MAT 12:30** He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. There is no neutral ground... if your not fighting God's battle then you are on the other side fighting and supporting death.*

*God has all the right equipment to keep you from spiritual harm... we don't need to fear, or quit. **EPH 6:11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. The modern soldier has amazing weapons and systems supporting them, but none are as advanced or as fool proof, as God's Spirit and power.*

*A war is not won till the enemies are totally defeated. **REV 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Just as our country has celebrated its victories in two world wars and other theatres of conflict (with a great cost in terms of human life)... let us use this freedom to fight the other great battle that will bring spiritual freedom to the whole world. It will be over soon and the world will be free to enjoy life in lasting peace and harmony... through Jesus Christ.*