# Mr. Eternity,

Arthur Stace was brought up in Sydney, Australia, in a home in which his father was a drunkard and his mother ran a brothel.
Early in life he began to drink himself and alcohol got such a grip on his life that he was soon reduced to drinking methylated spirits and stealing food to stay alive.
When he was forty six he found himself in a 'centre for needy men'. It was a place that providedfood for those who were down and out, but before they received the refreshments they had to listen to a Gospel message. That day God spoke to him and after the service he went out into University Park and kneeled under a fig tree and asked Jesus Christ to be his Saviour. There was a great change in his life and the Holy Spirit now gave him power to resist the temptation of alcohol; even when his friends continued to invite him to come out drinking with them.

About two years after his conversion he heard a preacher say he would like to go through the streets of Sydney shouting the word 'Eternity'. As Arthur listened he determined that he would go through the streets of Sydney and write 'Eternity' on the roads and pavements— and he did just that for the next thirty-three years until his death in 1967. Approximately every one hundred yards he wrote 'Eternity' and it is estimated that he wrote that one word half a million times. The funny thing is that before, Arthur could hardly write his own name. He had no schooling and couldn't have spelt 'Eternity' for a hundred quid. But it came out smoothly, in a beautiful copperplate script. He couldn't understand it.
Many news reports were made about the word 'Eternity' appearing all over Sydney.
At first they didn't know who the mysterious writer was, so he became known in the city as 'Mr Eternity'. In the 1990's an Australian TV network made a documentary about Arthur that was shown all across Australia. Then in July 1997 they erected a plague in Sydney Square as a permanent memory to him with the word 'Eternity' upon it.
But the greatest acknowledgement of Arthur's impact upon Sydney was the fact that as part of their millennium celebrations the city officals had the word 'Eternity' displayed in lights on the Sydney Harbour Bridge for millions of views to see.

All Arthur Stace wanted people to do was to think about Eternity and that is what I want to encourage you to do. As we have just entered into a new year the temptation is to be taken up with time but let me exhort you to give earnest consideration to eternity. Remember eternity is real, it will never end and it is vital that you think of the question— Where will you spend eternity?

Eternity

With permission Taken from The Paper Pulpit by Rev. David McMillan.

## #112 THE KEEPING POWER OF GOD

**John 17:12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name:

*This signifies that Jesus was going out of the world. He would be no longer with his disciples, for this is to be understood of his bodily presence, as he is always in them, and they in him, for his spiritual presence through the Holy Spirit, the Comforter is assured to be with his people whilst they are on earth. Jesus was engaged with them, surrounded by the people and the temptations of the world. and now performing his last offices with his disciples.*

those that thou gavest me I have kept,

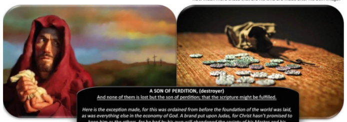
*The children of God are a gift to the Lord Jesus Christ. They belong to him and always will, by example, through instructions, and miracles, but he had a duty of preserving them from apostasy. For the Father's name and honour as well as Christ's are at stake in their preservation, for both will suffer if they fail, fall or sink.*

and none of them is lost,

*Not one of them will ever be lost, and this is assured by the keeping power of GOD ALMIGHTY.*

**John 6:39** And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

What a great consolation to his children, as God cares for the sparrow and the lily. How much more those that are his who are made after his own image!



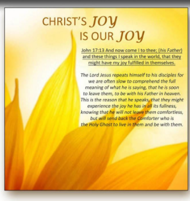
**A SON OF PERDITION, (destroyer)**

And none of them is lost but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

*Here is the exception made, for this was ordained from before the foundation of the world was laid, as was everything else in the economy of God. A brand put upon Judas, for Christ hasn't promised to keep him as the others, for he had by his own will abandoned the society of his Master and his fellow-disciples, and given himself to the Devil's will.*
*What a terrible way to leave this earth with a name that is linked as one who betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ, because he had the character of a destroyer. He was a traitor and a murderer, and this shows that Jesus knew the heart and character as that of a wicked man, who was appropriately named a son of perdition, so he died in his own sin.*

**I KNOW MY SHEEP**

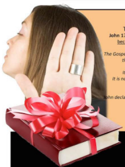
**John 13:18** I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.



## CHRIST'S *JOY* IS OUR *JOY*

John 17:13 And now come I to thee; (*his Father*) and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

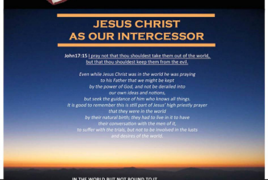
*The Lord Jesus repeats himself to his disciples for we are often slow to comprehend the full meaning of what he is saying, that he is soon to leave them, to be with his Father in heaven. This is the reason that he speaks, that they might experience the joy he has in all its fullness, knowing that he will not leave them comfortless, but will send back the Comforter who is the Holy Ghost to live in them and be with them.*



**THE WORD AS A GIFT & THE WORLD'S HATRED**

**John 17:14** I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

*The Gospel, the commission to preach it, and the effects that follows, namely, the world's hatred of them, because this word is not of men, nor agreeable to the carnal mind and reason. It magnifies the grace of God, and destroys boasting in men. It is not compatible or acceptable to the carnal interest, worldly views and lusts of men, just as light drives away the darkness, and can have no fellowship with it. John declares this very concisely that the disciples and any born again believer is not of the world, for it has a very loose grip on them, and no hold on Christ.*



## JESUS CHRIST AS OUR INTERCESSOR

**John17:15** I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

*Even while Jesus Christ was in the world he was praying to his Father that we might be kept by the power of God, and not be derailed into our own ideas and notions, but seek the guidance of him who knows all things. It is good to remember this is still part of Jesus' high priestly prayer that they were in the world by their natural birth; they had to live in it to have their conversation with the men of it, to suffer with the trials, but not to be involved in the lusts and desires of the world.*

**IN THE WORLD BUT NOT BOUND TO IT**

*It wasn't the desire of Christ that they be removed from the world as some in the past have attempted by isolation, for you cannot remove the world from the people. Their evil thoughts and lusts and desires will follow them like a bloodhound and bring them down and consume them in their lusts. So let every one consider the short time we have and use it wisely in preparing for heaven, and the rewards that can be accrued by dedicated service to our Lord.*

**TO LIVE ABOVE THE WORLD**

**John 17:16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

*These words of prayer give a reason for the hatred of the world, as the disciples are not closely associated with its sins etc., but by their preaching and living give an example to lift others to the level of life the Lord desires in his people. The scriptures, or the titles of the Lord Jesus, should never be downgraded, but the desire should be to encourage people to raise the bar of living and worship to a better standard, which the Lord Jesus did, teaching from their life that the people knew, so they worshiped God, loved their neighbour, lived honestly, looked after the poor etc.*

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

*Right from the third verse in Genesis, God separated the good from the wicked, or the light from darkness that represented sin, again Abram from his family and then from the other nations, and now the sanctification of the apostles as ministers of the word. Their separation from the world was necessary for their work and office; they were sanctified or separated from their mother's womb for this purpose, and now by Christ when he sent them forth, with a fresh commission, after our Lord's resurrection.*

**OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE**

**John 17:18** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

*The Lord Jesus came into the world made of a woman, made after the law. He was a divine, distinct person from his Father while he was in the flesh, coming in the form of a human being needful to be obedient to the request of his Father, yet this shows that as Mediator, he had a divine warrant and authority, to send his disciples also into the world.*

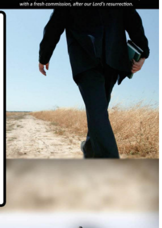
**TO BE SET APART**

**John 17:19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, (separated, consecrate to service)

*The Lord Jesus was essentially and infinitely holy as God, and as a man he was holy in his conception and birth. He was filled with the Holy Ghost at his baptism, to fulfill all righteousness and was holy in his life and in his death, so being separated, and set apart for his office as Mediator, which, though done by the Father, is ascribed unto him.*

that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

*Here is a wonderful thing that only the Lord Jesus Christ can do; without his blessing and sanctification, the words of men are fruitless. That they might be made pure by the effect of sanctifying himself, that is, that they might be made pure by the spilling of that blood which cleanses from all sin. By this only can men be made holy, and it was because the Saviour so sanctified himself, or set himself to this work so unreservedly as to spill his own blood, that any soul can be made pure and fit for the kingdom of God, who have turned from works for salvation, to completely trust in Christ's once for all never to be repeated substitute sacrifice on the tree on Calvary.*



**CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR HIS PEOPLE**

**John 17:20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

*Not for the apostles only, but for all who shall be converted under the preaching of the gospel. They will all need similar grace and be exposed to similar trials. It is a matter of unspeakable joy that each Christian, however humble or unknown to men, however poor, unlearned, or despised, can reflect that he was remembered in prayer by "him, Christ," whom God heareth always." We value the prayers of pious friends. How much more should we value this petition of the Son of God! To that single prayer we who are born again, blood-washed Christians owe infinitely more real benefits than the world can ever know or bestow. And in the midst of any trials we may remember that the Son of God prayed for us, and is still interceding for us, and that his prayer was assuredly heard, and will be answered for all who truly believe, and are washed from their sins in Christ's precious blood.*

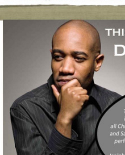
## The Unity of the Spirit

**John 17:21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee,

*That they be united under Christ as brethren. Born again, blood-washed saints of God are all redeemed by the same blood, and are going to the same heaven. They have the same wants, the same enemies, the same joys. Though they are divided into different denominations, yet they will meet at last in the same home in glory.*
*Nowhere in the scriptures is there a rebuke for the many churches, Paul wrote to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, and to the Hebrews.*
*Peter wrote to the stranger scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.*
*John wrote to the seven churches which are in Asia, but there isn't one rebuke for being separate churches, for they are all one in Christ Jesus as soon as they are born again by the Holy Spirit from heaven, and have been united together under one head even the Lord Jesus Christ.*
*There is an interesting verse of scripture in,*

**Revelation 7:9** After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

*Here are multitudes of saved people in heaven standing before the throne of God, from all over the world, yet there is something missing. There is no mention of any particular church or denomination, for these are begun by men following a group or a certain person other than Christ.*



## THIS IS THE DECIDING FACTOR

that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

*To be in God and in Christ is to be united to God and Christ in the spirit. The phrase used here denotes a union among all Christians founded on and resulting from a union to the same God and Saviour. The indwelling Spirit of the Father and the Son is the one perfect bond of union, and this is one thing that cannot be broken because it is written in,*

**Isaiah 49:16** Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands.

AMEN and AMEN.

**THANK YOU FOR READING**

Feel free to forward these articles to family and friends.

**Any Questions?**

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