



# REPENT AUSTRALIA

*"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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## HOW COULD JESUS DIE FOR ME?

We have just celebrated Easter. It has been a season of Easter bunnies, chocolate eggs, hot cross buns and holidays. But of course these are just the trimmings. The centrepiece of Easter is the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. For no fact is more central to the Christian Gospel than that **Christ died for our sins, was resurrected and is now seated on the right hand of God as our Great High Priest.** Yet none is more difficult for the modern mind to accept. How could it make any difference here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that a young Hebrew was executed in the first century in Palestine? The question today is not, "Is Christianity true?" but rather, "What difference does it make?" In fact, do I need anyone to die for me? Through the lack of an awareness of sin people see no need for forgiveness. Nevertheless a sense of guilt does eat away at many a soul, upsetting the emotions, causing conflict within. But if we are to cope with life this guilt has to be dealt with. **Sin is a disease, which, like cancer, eats into the vitals of one's personality.** The outlook is dark indeed for both the individual and for society at large unless we find a way to manage it. **And that is why I need a Redeemer,** someone who has paid the penalty for my sin. When Jesus died on the cross He suffered just as any man; He endured all the physical agony just as we would. And His mortal body succumbed just as any mortal body would. He was a human being dying in place of other human beings. Yet He could have escaped that death had He chosen to, previously making it very clear to His disciples that He would be mocked and shamefully treated and spat upon ... that they would scourge and kill Him and on the third day He would rise from the dead. But, knowing it was God's plan for Him to die in Jerusalem He set His face as a flint towards His destiny on Calvary ... as the sin bearer of the world. The Scriptures tell us that **Jesus was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"**. From the very beginning God knew it would be necessary for **Christ to die so that man's sin could be forgiven.** As someone has said: "There was a cross in the heart of God before there was one planted on the green hill outside Jerusalem."

On the south coast of China overlooking the harbour of Macau Portuguese settlers built a massive cathedral. But a typhoon some centuries ago brought it down in ruins, except for the front wall. High on top of that jutting wall stood a great bronze cross. In 1825 Sir John Bowering was shipwrecked in the vicinity. Clinging to some wreckage he at last caught sight of the giant cross, which led him to safety. Later on he wrote the words of a hymn, which has been sung by millions: *In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering o'er the wrecks of time; All the light of sacred story, Gathers round its head sublime.* According to the Scriptures **"God so loved the world He gave His only Son"**. Why then was His sacrifice necessary if God did so love the world? Why not just forgive and forget and let bygones be bygones? Well, it is not quite that simple. As the Bible states: **"The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord."** God's holiness demands justice so **Christ the sinless One died for us.** He paid the supreme penalty that we may live. The Bible makes it crystal clear that sins can only be forgiven on the grounds of shed blood ... **"without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sins"** (a life for a life). And whoever accepts this sacrifice for themselves "shall not perish but have eternal life". Think for a moment about that sacrifice. Firstly He was

viciously scourged with 39 stripes. Then a crown of long, vicious thorns was roughly thrust on His head so that trickles of blood ran down His face and beard. At Calvary spikes were driven into His hands and feet. His bones were out of joint and His chest caved in through the agonising process of crucifixion. Yet though He suffered so He nevertheless implored, **“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”** Moreover, because He bore the sins of all mankind the Father, the God of All Holiness, turned His face away and Jesus cried out in anguish, **“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”** It broke His heart! **God gave His best, His Son, His perfect sacrifice for you and me.** What love! What unsurpassing love! **“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”** He lay down His life for both friends and foes alike. However, because He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross, God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, that **at the name of JESUS every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and even under the earth and every tongue will confess that JESUS CHRIST is LORD.** He who was made a little lower than the angels is now crowned with glory and honour because He suffered death so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. Jesus died nearly 2000 years ago. But His sacrifice is enduring in its effects until the end of the age. **“For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being made holy.”** He died once and for all.

Long ago the prophet Isaiah gave this word to his people: **“Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”** That is His offer to you this Easter. But if you ignore or reject His gracious provision how shall you escape the judgement of God? He challenges you to recognise that without Him you will one day stand before the Judge of All the Earth entirely dependent on your own righteousness which the Bible calls **“as filthy rags”**. If you honour the sacrifice of Jesus, the Father will smile upon you with forgiveness and cleansing of your sin and grant you eternal life. **The choice is yours.**

### **OUR PRAYER**

Reign in us, sovereign Lord; Creator of the universe; our Redeemer, Sanctifier, Provider, Healer and Author of Faith. Abba Father, we come united with contrite hearts, clothed in the blood of JESUS, in the presence of Your Holy Spirit to gratefully thank, love, exalt, praise and worship You for **what You have done for us in CHRIST JESUS on the cross of Calvary.** Almighty, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, thank You for Your gift of **GRACE, JESUS CHRIST, the TRUTH. LORD JESUS,** we thank You for conquering death, defeating Satan and exposing his evil schemes. Blessed Holy Spirit, thank You for taking the finished work of the cross to prepare born-again children of God to be effective vessels in the Body of Christ. Release Your omnipotent power in us to heal the sick; to sustain the tempted and tried; to strengthen the weak and weary; to deliver the captives; to care and defend the helpless, the poor, the widows and the orphans; to bind up the broken-hearted and to lead the lost into the Kingdom of God. All glory be to God for **‘Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path’** (Ps 119:105)

**LORD JESUS,** thank You for being our Rock of Ages, our King of Righteousness and Glory, the Source of all provisions and the answer to all our problems – spiritual, material, physical, financial, social and emotional. Sovereign Lord, You are our wellspring of manifold wisdom, our door of deliverance, our pathway of peace, our roadway of righteousness, our highway of holiness, our gateway to glory and our victorious Captain. Blessed Holy Spirit, thank You for dwelling in us to empower, anoint, teach and equip us as spiritual warriors to break all demonic strongholds of unbelief, pride, disobedience, fear, deception, legalism and false cults in the name of Jesus. Spirit of all Excellence, help us release the Truth of Your Word into communities throughout this land – for liberty is only found in **CHRIST JESUS, the TRUTH.** Spirit of the Living God, we invite You to visit prayer groups across this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit to prepare the Body of Christ for the coming of our **King of Glory.** We prayfully ask this in the name of Y’shua Ha Mashiach, our Lord and Saviour, **JESUS CHRIST. Amen.**

**R.A.:** 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.

**[REJOICE & SHARE THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS]**