



# 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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## THE POWER OF CHOICE

The maxim for living today is, "If it feels good it must be right." Thus your emotions are to be the yardstick for your decisions and actions. If a young man's feelings for a woman are sexual he is free to follow his feelings and, one way or another, fulfill his desire. If such drugs as alcohol, heroine, marijuana etc provide an escape from reality, drowning out your sorrows, hardships and problems, go ahead and imbibe them into your system. If your desire for comfort depends on getting money feel free to get it by any means, fair or foul. If it is easier to go along with the crowd than to swim against the tide of popular opinion no matter how wrong it may be - go along with them. Above all, satisfy your physical desires: eat, drink and be merry and forget tomorrow, not realising you are a spiritual being.

### **A Different Point of View**

However, the Bible has a different point of view. Matthew 6:33 states "Seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." God is a Spirit of love and truth. He sent JESUS to die for our sins of the flesh and consequently conquered all evil. He defeated Satan at the Cross so that we can have His life, love, joy, peace and freedom here on earth. Knowing us so well our loving Creator has given much sound advice to keep us from ourselves and satisfying the physical side of human nature by "having it now" at the expense of our future well-being. The Word of God tells us that "the end of a thing is better than its beginning" (Eccles 7:8). That is, a good finish is far more important than a good start. When it comes down to life - your life and mine - the end matters far more than the beginning. Time is the essence of the matter. It adds beauty and value to some things such as a painting by Michaelangelo or Constable or the dignity of a Gothic cathedral. On the other hand, for living things it is a grim reaper that "like an ever rolling stream bears all its sons away." Time withers the fresh vigour of youth, saps the strength and dims the eye. But there is a way to make friends with time so that life grows better with age. That is to learn to live by the values that last. Savonarola once said, "Would you rise in the world? You must work while others amuse themselves. Are you desirous of a reputation for courage? You must risk your life. Would you be strong morally and physically? You must resist temptation." All this means paying in advance. Observe the other side of the picture: the bad things are paid for afterwards. Love is paid in advance, by exercising self-restraint and in service. Lust however is paid for later in remorse and regret. This requires discipline, the result of obedience to the higher moral values. Sadly our modern world is living by such low moral standards that its end has to be much worse than even now. Jesus said "without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). The best among us and the worst among us can do nothing worthwhile without Him. So, it all depends on what we are doing with our lives that defines what He will do in our lives. This world is not going to be saved by secular education or idealism but by the revelation of JESUS, as Saviour of this world. Whatever anyone's background they are a candidate for JESUS and His gift of salvation. You are called but the choice is yours.

### **Doing What is Right**

In Cairo's King Tut museum there is a grain of wheat 5000 years old taken from the tomb of the pharaohs. It is said that if it were planted it will grow. And like that seed, the incorruptible seeds of integrity, love,

reverential fear, justice and righteousness are not dead either when you believe Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour. Each one of us can allow them to germinate in our own lives. It is all a matter of knowing Who we believe. God in Christ Jesus is truth and righteousness, the devil is on the side of deception and evil. By abiding in the Spirit of Christ no matter where or when, we ally ourselves with God, the only surety of a faithful, victorious ending. Each day we are faced with choices and from those choices our future will be decided. Sow a thought and reap a deed; sow a deed and reap a habit; sow a habit and reap a character; sow a character and reap a destiny. For whatever we sow we reap. "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will inherit eternal life" (Galatians 6:7, 8). This is the promise of God which the world rejects at its peril!

### **God's Age of Grace**

The hour is late. The world staggers towards the end of God's age of grace and mercy beset with wars, terrorism, AIDS, strife, crime, drugs, immorality and corruption because it has denied the eternal values. Nevertheless each one of us has the opportunity even now to make a vital decision to sincerely repent and receive God's grace to make things right in our lives by yielding to the Holy Spirit of Life. From this day we can determine to have the best future possible. There is still time to accept God's Way of truth through His Son Jesus Christ and the godly values that will always make the end better than the beginning. Jesus gave His life to reconcile each one of us to God. He paid the price of our redemption with His own precious blood on the cross of Calvary 2000 years ago; such was His love for us. The ball is in your court. Choose this day whom you will serve. It is only when you choose to serve God that real faith is born. You come to know God and put your trust in Him. The future is unforeseeable. We do not know what lies ahead but we can prepare ourselves by making the right choices now so whatever befalls us we are ready. We may not know what the future holds but we do know Who holds the future. Do what God's Word commands – believe and accept the One who will enable you to come through this life triumphant, assured that neither death nor life nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate you from the love of God, having fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith. You know, all decisions are instantaneous. The process leading up to a decision might be long and slow but the decision is made in an instant. Now is the time to make the greatest decision of your life and put yourself in the hands of the One who has power over life and death, the power to cast into hell or to reward you with eternal life in His presence forevermore. If you will just say yes to **JESUS** you will surely hear Him say when your life's work is ended and you cross the swelling tide of death: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord." Such is **the power of choice**.

### **PRAYER**

Omniscient Father of infinite grace and mercy; the Great I AM; Author and Finisher of our faith; Hallowed be Your name. As blood-covenant children conscious of our holy calling as a royal priesthood yielded to Your Holy Spirit, we humbly come in unison to join our Great High Priest, **JESUS CHRIST**, to love and worship You in spirit and truth to intercede consistently for this dying, ungodly world. Blessed Spirit of the Living God, in the name and the authority of **JESUS CHRIST**, we come against the evil strongholds of racial hatred, witchcraft, demonic spirits, idolatry, pride and fear that control and imprison fallen mankind. We yield to You, omnipotent Spirit, to breathe the Fire of God upon us and burn out the dross and cleanse this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit with the blood of Jesus. Help us, O Lord, to realise the power in the choices we make daily and give us the wisdom, courage, faith and strength to develop a personal relationship with **JESUS CHRIST**. Through our intercessory prayers and supplication with thanksgiving, we pray for our leaders and all the lost in this land to implant Your love, joy, freedom and peace in their hearts. We pray, merciful Father, that if we have displeased You, help us to sincerely repent for we vow to set things right. We gratefully thank You, Lord God, for all Your wonderful promises which are our inheritance when we bring honour and glory to Your Name. Help us, blessed Holy Spirit, to be on our guard, keep watch and faithfully pray at all times to resist deception, compromise, apathy, fear and worry and each day to exercise the power of faith in our choices by the authority our Lord gives us. Sovereign Lord, we thank You that Your peace which passes all understanding shall keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus so we can rejoice in the joy of the Lord as we eagerly await the return of the King of Glory, **JESUS CHRIST the LORD**. We pray all this in the majestic and triumphant name of **JESUS**. Amen

**R.A.:** Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His Holy Name. Amen

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