



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 GREAT ESCAPE

On Anzac Day this year a massive rockfall which killed one of their workmates at the Beaconsfield goldmine in Tasmania trapped two miners in a small cage nearly 1000 metres underground. One of the miners was knocked unconscious in the rockfall and the other almost suffocated by the weight of rocks which had buried him up to his head. For five days the men huddled together to stay warm and, sustained by a single muesli bar, desperately mustered the will to live as they yelled for help and wrote letters to their families on their arms and overalls with a pen. On the sixth day rescuers were able to make contact with the two miners and supply them with food and encouragement. Then for another eight days the entire nation followed the tortuous, painstaking rescue as their mates cautiously wormed their way to the trapped men. Finally, after two weeks they were lowered through the rescue hole and brought to the surface. And all Australia gave a collective sigh of relief as they rejoiced in the miraculous rescue. Saved by the GRACE OF GOD! Subsequently one of the commercial television stations paid the two miners \$2.6 million dollars for a two-hour interview titled *The Great Escape*.

Jaws of Death

Indeed it was a great escape from the very jaws of death. Yet there is a far greater escape offered each one of us that we dare not ignore. In fact, we ignore it at our peril. The Book of Hebrews poses the most important question of all when it asks, *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”* What salvation? *The salvation of our souls.* To save, of course, means to rescue from destruction as when a lifesaver hauls a drowning man from the sea. But what do we really mean “a great salvation”? What are we to be saved from? Firstly, guilt. The American pilot who dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima was so guilt-stricken that he spent years afterwards in and out of mental institutions seeking release from his guilt. But who could forgive this man, beset by guilt for destroying 100,000 lives and maiming countless others? None of us may have done such great harm to anyone, but all of us have certainly transgressed against God’s laws. And the only One who can pardon us is God Himself, because all sin is transgression against Him. The Bible assures us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all wrongdoing.”

Spiritual Emptiness

Secondly, despair. Before he died by his own hand, the author Ernest Hemingway wrote, “I live in a vacuum that is as lonely as a radio tube when the batteries are dead and there is no current to plug into.” The prominent playwright Eugene O’Neill wrote, “Life’s only meaning is death”; and Arthur Miller’s play *After the Fall* is the story of the hopelessness of existence. We live in an age of spiritual emptiness for many who are caught up in an endless, soul-destroying pursuit of material happiness without even glimpsing the true purpose of life. So we find people, both young and old, committing suicide in unprecedented numbers because life to them is meaningless, “full of sound and fury, signifying nothing”. But there is an antidote to emptiness and despair. *It is hope.* For at the heart of salvation is hope---the hope of eternal life. Because Jesus rose from the dead, believers are saved not only in this world but for eternity, for they too will share in His resurrection.

The Fear of Death

Thirdly, the fear of death. We all know that life will end in death. That is inevitable. Yet the thought of dying is something most of us push from our minds. We don’t want to think of death because we are afraid of it. And why not? For what do we imagine death to be? An eternity of blackness---oblivion---preceded by a period of suffering? Perhaps. Certainly nothing to be desired. Yet, though our bodies must perish, God promises life to

our souls if we put our trust in Him--like Job, who proclaimed, "Though He slay me, yet will I praise Him".

There is also much assurance in the words of Hebrews 2:14, 15---"Since the children of a family share the same flesh and blood, He (Jesus) too shared ours, so that by His death (on the cross) He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, and liberate those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." Moreover, those who sincerely put their trust in Him can shout triumphantly with the Apostle Paul, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting, O grave, where is your victory?" "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (See 1 Corinthians 15.)

The Wages of Sin

How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? There is no one, not even God Himself, who can answer that question. Romans 6:23 says unequivocally: "*the wages of sin is death*" Each one of us is a sinner who must pay that wage of death. So how can we escape our due punishment? If we read on, we find the answer, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." By the grace of God we can escape the wage that sin merits through Jesus, God's Anointed One. But if we neglect this great salvation, how then shall we escape? There is no affirmative reply, but there is a negative one: We can't! The fact is that while Christ may force Himself upon our attention He never compels us to submit to Him. But when He has gained our thoughts He subjects Himself to our wills. The great tragedy of life is to close the door of our hearts to Him. On the other hand, the crowning glory of life is to open our lives to Him and let the King of Glory come in.

A God of Judgment

Well, what then are the consequences of neglecting His great salvation? Many people believe God to be a God of love and that He would never condemn anyone. But He is more than a loving God. He is a holy, just and righteous one too. His love must be tempered with justice if right is to prevail. The Bible teaches that He is a God of judgment. Indeed, Jesus warned of judgment: "Every idle word that men should speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." (Matthew 12:36) Each one of us will stand trial before God. Those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, the One who paid for their sin on Calvary, will be pardoned by God. The Scriptures guarantee this: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1) However, those who have neglected (rejected) the salvation offered through God's only begotten Son, will be condemned. When He came to this earth 2000 years ago He came as Saviour, not as Judge. In fact He said, "I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My words has that which judges him---the Word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

Ultimate Reckoning

In this world today countless millions of people refuse to face the fact that Christ will one day be their Judge. Where do *you* stand? Are you an escapist running away from the spiritual realities of life? If so, you won't get away with it. Certainly not in the ultimate reckoning! Are you in peril of neglecting His great salvation which will enable you to escape His judgment? God loves you; He wants you to inherit His eternal kingdom and rule with Christ. He doesn't want to condemn anyone, not wishing that any should perish. But His holiness will allow you to come into that glorious Kingdom of His dear Son *only* if your sins are forgiven. This can only happen, however, through acknowledging that Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life and that no one comes to the Father except through Him. Consider this: the Son of God willingly suffered and died on a Roman cross for you. Invite Him into your heart and you become a child of God and co-heir with Christ. The choice is yours.

PRAYER

Sovereign Lord, the Great I AM and God of infinite mercy and grace, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. Gracious Father, as the redeemed of the Most High God, washed in the blood of Jesus and yielded to Your Holy Spirit, we offer You our praise and worship this day. Abba Father, we sincerely thank You for the redemption that is ours through the death of Christ, Your beloved Son, on the cross of Calvary where He paid the full price for our Great Escape from eternal judgment and set us free from the bondage of sin. We rejoice that the victorious cry which resounded from the empty tomb 2000 years ago, "Set free, set free," has echoed down the centuries and still is our great hope and assurance today. Thank You, Father, that Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd, who will lead everyone, who in sincerity makes **this prayer** their confession of faith, to the green pastures of a victorious and abundant life: *Heavenly Father, I surrender to You in the name of Jesus whom You sent to die for my sins on the Cross. Forgive and cleanse me with His precious blood from all unrighteousness. I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that You raised Him from the dead and that He lives forevermore. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, I pray, and enable me to live a victorious life. I now acknowledge Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, Almighty God as my Father and the Holy Spirit as my Comforter. I am born again into the Royal Family of Faith. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Amen and glory to God.*

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

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.