



# 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*

Volume 11:12

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## THE PRINCE OF PEACE A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Early in December, 1914 the armed might of Germany faced miles and miles of mud-filled trenches manned by hard-faced British, French and Belgian soldiers. For months the Allies and Germans had been engaged in a desperate war of attrition. Yet as the Christmas bells rang out in more peaceful places, a miracle took place on the battlefields of France and Belgium. Soldiers on both sides threw down their rifles and offered each other the hand of friendship. Snow blanketed the battlefield as the Scots Guards stood to arms at 6.30 am on Christmas morning. The battlefield was strangely quiet. By 8 am only a few shots had been exchanged. Then the miracle happened. A small group of unarmed Germans mounted the parapet of their trenches 400 yards away. Slowly they began to walk towards the British trenches. One of the Germans spoke up, "The men felt it right we should come over and wish you a Merry Christmas. We trust you to keep the truce." As they conversed, a brass band struck up in the German trenches and with great gusto the Germans sang *O Tannenbaum*, to which the British replied with *Silent Night*. Soon, right along the war-scarred line the spirit of Christmas moved. Opposing groups of soldiers met in No-Mans-Land and exchanged tinned plum puddings for sausage, jam and sauerkraut. Photographs were taken of mixed groups together, and together the British and German troops shared their Christmas dinners. The truce lasted a week; but the Army Brass on both sides at last prodded their somewhat reluctant forces into resuming battle again. The war that was to cost the lives of ten million men began again in all its fury. But for one week the power of peace and goodwill, the spirit of Christmas, overcame the terrible hostilities of the battlefield. For Christmas is a time of peace and goodwill: a time when we remember the birth of JESUS the Prince of Peace 2000 years ago. Yet, 700 years before, Isaiah the prophet had prophesied His birth: "Unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders, and His name will be called...Mighty God, Everlasting Father, *Prince of Peace*."

### **The Glory of the Gospel**

This Child is a gift of grace. In this lies the glory of the Gospel to restore fallen humanity. It is this that makes it a Gospel (good news). And what does this gift of God carry with it? Three things. First, a remedy for distress: "*Come unto Me, all who labour and are heavy laden.*" Second, a new life: "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature.*" Third, power to live victoriously: "*I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.*" The question for us all, however, is this: Can we trust Christ? For Christianity is based on trust; it is left to each one of us to either *have faith in Him*, or to reject Him. There can be no sitting on the fence. You must accept Him as the Son of God or not at all. He made this quite clear when He made such claims as these: "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone has faith in Me, even though he dies, he shall come to life; and no one who is alive and has faith in Me shall ever die...I give them eternal life and they shall never perish...I have come that they may have life and have it in all its abundance." In fact, all our hopes for the future must rest on Him, and on no one else. Why? "For we must all have our lives laid open before the tribunal of Christ, where each must receive what is due to him for his conduct in the body whether good or bad." Our entire future throughout eternity depends on Christ. You are dead in your trespasses and sins until He gives you life---and He never will until you're ready to accept it. But the moment you decide to accept Him, He will come into your life and be your Lord and Saviour.

## **Unrest and Conflict**

"His name will be the *Prince of Peace*." How our world longs for peace today! Yet how elusive it is! Like festering sores that keep breaking out, wars are forever erupting somewhere or other. Be it Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East, Africa, Sri Lanka or North Korea, unrest and outright conflict exists on much of planet Earth. However, great as this longing is, it falls short of the peace that the Prince of Peace came to bring---not an outward peace, the ending of hostilities among nations, but an inward peace, the peace of an enlightened life. True peace comes through the Spirit of truth---only found in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. It is also the peace of a purified life, free of past sins because those sins are washed away in His precious blood shed on the cross. And it is a solaced life. None of us live our lives untempted and untroubled. Like sailors on the sea of life we all experience times of fair sailing and storms that threaten to sink us. But, just as Jesus stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee, He can still the storms in our lives and give us His peace that passes understanding. When the angels spoke to the shepherds on the night of the first Christmas, their song was of peace. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men with whom He is pleased." So God is pleased with men. But which men (and women, of course)? He can't be pleased with the hedonistic, apathetic and foolish ways so many of them live. No! But He *is* well pleased with those who trust in Christ.

## **The Last Adam**

Christ Jesus, God's Anointed, is the Head of a new humanity, "the last Adam". Whereas the first Adam was a carnal, fleshy being, the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. The first man was made of dust of the earth, the second man is the Lord from heaven. The man made of dust is the pattern of all men of flesh, whereas the heavenly man is the pattern of all those born of the Spirit. He fulfils the divine ideal of man, and the proof of what we all can become. As the only One to rise from the dead, He is the first-fruit of all who have died throughout the ages. "For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." Jesus Christ can transform our sinful human nature and make us well pleasing to God. By His Spirit you can become someone of beauty and value to God, but only as the Son of God reigns in your heart and life---only as you open the door of your heart and let Him in.

## **God Loves You**

How can you receive Christ? Firstly, accept the free gift of God's grace whereby He gave His Son to die on Calvary's cross for you. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that everyone who has faith in Him may not die but have eternal life." Secondly, repent of your sins. Jesus said, "Unless you repent you will...perish." This means, not only to be sorry for your sins but to leave them behind you. Thirdly, receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. John 1:12 says, "But to all who received Him, who have given Him their allegiance, He gave the right to become children of God." In other words, stop trying to save yourself, but put your faith in the One who died to be your Saviour and Lord. Fourthly, confess Him publicly. Jesus said, "Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven." Lastly, be baptised in His Spirit and become part of the Body of Christ on earth, His Church. Do all this and you will be born again of the Spirit into the Royal Family of Faith. Make your decision and commitment to Christ *now*. "Now is the accepted time...now is the day of salvation." Make this Christmas the best of your life; for "Unto you a Son is given...the *Prince of Peace*"---that you might have eternal life; that you might be a child of God; that you might be a co-heir with Christ and share His glory throughout all eternity. Hallelujah!

## **PRAYER**

Almighty God of infinite grace, holiness and peace, have mercy on us as we offer thanks that You are a covenant-keeping God and beseech You to forgive our national arrogance, selfish ambition and stiff-necked pride. Help us, O Lord, to boldly proclaim the Christmas message of redeeming grace to the lost among both leaders and ordinary citizens of this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit. Grant, O Lord, that they will receive the wonderful gift of Your dear Son as Saviour and Prince of Peace as they sincerely confess their faith in Him through this prayer: *Father God, I love You. I surrender my all to You in the name of Jesus whom You sent to die for my sins on the Cross. Forgive me, I pray, and cleanse me with His precious blood from all unrighteousness. I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that You raised Jesus from the dead and that He lives forevermore. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit of power and enable me to live a victorious life in Him. I now accept 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.*

*Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas Season and a Glorious New Year 2007.*

*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.**