



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

Brothers & Sisters

January 2007

IN FASHION OR IN FAVOUR?

In writing to the church in Rome the Apostle Paul exhorted the believers there to "be not fashioned according to this world". No doubt he was thinking of an imposing paganism which was all around the Christians of Rome. With its love of pleasure, its imperial pageantry, its idolatrous temples and its glorification of power, the pagan world cast its glamour over the new Christian converts. But beneath the beauty of form and colour, the magnificence of ceremonies and parades and the collections of art and riches was a corrupt, insincere and sinful world. The Christians had to choose between their Lord and this world that was hard to escape or resist. Of course the world of today has changed. The Spirit of Christ has provided a kernel of truth and faith in Him which has developed during the last 20 centuries and Western society is not arrayed in arrogant hostility of the claims and ethics of our Master. Or is it? The war between Christ and the world may have changed its form, just as swords have been replaced by guns etc. Nevertheless, the principle that underlies all forms of warfare, that of spiritual truth versus materialistic deception---pleasing either God or man, not both---is still relevant.

Worldly Fashions

Materialism, we know, is temporary and transitory and the fashions of this world are changeable and uncertain. While many new fashions may be relatively harmless, the apostle warns against conforming to worldly fashions that are in rebellion to God. Whenever society forms its own moral standards without reference to the eternal moral order of God as revealed in His Word, these new moral fashions appear. So, today, everywhere we see signs of this revolt against the old ideas of reverence, modesty and courtesy, under the pretence of moving on to more progressive ways of thinking and acting. Christians beware! God cannot bless what is not according to His plan and purpose. The Church must choose and cling to His law and grace in faith—to uphold His righteousness under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the power of His Spirit. As soldiers of the Cross we *must not* conform to the fashions of this world that will lead us to be disloyal to our Master. Sadly, however, the churches have steadily succumbed to the pressures of the world, rendering it more and more impotent.

"User-Friendly" Gospel

In the past few decades churches have gone to great lengths to modernise in order to keep up with the times. This has led to increasingly radical changes in the format and type of services. Sadly, however, instead of setting an example of godliness and set-apartness they often strive to make the gospel "user-friendly" by sacrificing biblical teaching and preaching and worshipful music on the altar of so-called entertainment and have emulated worldly music concerts which focus more on performance than on true spiritual praise and worship. With a constant, unending stream of songs flowing from the pens of song-writers vying with each other for the lucrative royalties paid by those who use them, congregations have little time to become familiar with their lyrics. Long gone are the glorious hymns which helped sustain the faith of many for centuries. In fact, the tragedy is that a vast majority of young people today are missing out on the rich spirituality found in these great, inspirational hymns of the faith. Even as the enemy has taken control of the world's music with its emphasis on the constant boom-boom of the drums, the wailing of off-beat guitars, smoke and other effects, raucous "singing", coloured lights and dark clothing, he has also infiltrated the Christian music scene. Consequently, as the churches more and more seek to please youth they cut off many of the older generation by

adapting the depraved style of modern music to contemporary forms of worship. Moreover, there is also the commercialisation of Christianity that is rampant in various church circles where the god of mammon has reared its ugly head in the guise of business enterprise. No wonder an increasing number of older Christians no longer support these churches and are resorting to meeting together in home fellowships for prayer, worship and Bible study. There seems to be no alternative! The important question is: Are churches more in fashion with the world or are they in favour with God and truly know Him and obey His Word? It's hard to be both!

A Christian Voice

Jesus said to His followers, "You are the light of the world. You are the salt of the earth." Yet how can we be light if darkness is allowed to engulf this fair land without even a murmur of protest from the Church? How can we be salt when all that is rotten and degraded is undermining the nation's morality and we are mute? If ever a nation needed a Christian voice to thunder against its sins it is Australia today. Like Samson of old we have been lulled to sleep and bound. The Philistines are upon us. They have robbed us of our God-given heritage. Our moral values have been undermined; our family structure is in jeopardy; our nation sold out to overseas interests. Many churches seem to have adopted the philosophy of the three wise monkeys: see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil. But does it please God to see His Word mocked, His values denigrated and His Son blasphemed? Does it please Him to listen to the screams of the unborn as they are destroyed in the womb, or the acceptance of homosexuality as a normal way of life, or the destruction of the family unit through easy no-fault divorce, or the vile pornography that floods into our lives every day through the media—TV, the internet and films? No wonder we have been afflicted by the worst drought in our 200-year history! Shame on our churches for their silence in such a time of desperate need! Oh, how we need an awakening of God's grace!

Humanist Dogma

Jesus warned His followers that in the last days "they will lay their hands on you and persecute you". Be sure, even now the anti-Christian sentiment in Western nations is rising. Whereas once conservative Christian values were the norm in society, they are now increasingly held up to ridicule. Feared and loathed by socialistic world planners, committed Christians are under siege through godless education systems indoctrinating the younger generation with anti-Christian humanistic dogma, and the media with its light-hearted approach to both infidelity and homosexuality, designed to blow every vestige of Christian virtue out of their young lives. Next on the agenda comes persecution. When the laws of this land make abortion, homosexual conduct, euthanasia and other abominations legal it will be a criminal act to denounce them publicly. Our so-called "tolerant" society now demonstrates, in the name of political correctness, intolerance for Biblical truth and standards while at the same time fawning over non-Christian religions ranging from Buddhism to Yoga. Even Islamic so-called "holy men" with outspoken views on Western society—especially women—are treated with kid gloves by those in authority. Not to mention the Victorian Racial and Religious Toleration Act under which two pastors were convicted and heavily fined for inciting racial hatred by merely holding a seminar on the Koran!

A Call to Repentance

"Like a mighty army moves the Church of God," writes the hymn-writer. But where is the army? What battles is it fighting? What victories has it won? Undoubtedly it has won souls. But what of our nation, is it not worth saving from the mire of sin into which it has sunk? Beloved Christians, it is time to rise up and be counted. As one voice, let us be heard calling this nation to repentance. We *must* admit that we have failed God. The immoral state of our country is a damning indictment against His Church. We *must* repent as the Church and proclaim His truth boldly. When we do, *God will hear us and have mercy on this land of Australia.* Jeremiah 18: 7-8 assures us of this: "If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned." Come on, Church, in the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Who Himself conquered all the powers of darkness arraigned against Him, be *this* mighty army. Be not fearful, apathetic or discouraged, remembering the Lord's promise that he who overcomes shall eat of the Tree of Life; be dressed in white; be a pillar in the temple of God; shall have power over the nations; and will sit with Christ on His throne. Surely, *this* is the time to "run with resolution the race that is before us, our eyes fixed on JESUS, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, to stand firm, resist the devil and "overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony", and truly make Australia *the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit.*

Wishing you and your family a blessed and 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 in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

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