



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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BUILD ON THE ROCK

A group of boys in America broke into a hardware shop one night. However, they were not thieves; they were pranksters setting out to play a joke on the store proprietor. When he arrived next morning he found nails priced at \$20 a kilo and lawnmowers marked at 8 cents and 25 cents each. A toy car that a child could ride in was priced at 5 cents and a fly swatter \$44. The pranksters had spent their time switching the price tags on the merchandise. Today we find a dramatic change in moral values, as though someone has crept in and changed the price tags on goodness, virtue, decency, respect, honour and honesty while we were asleep. In fact, the whole world has cast aside the time-tested values and replaced them with a mess of pottage. Situational ethics, wherein nothing is absolute, have superseded the traditional Christian values we have lived by for decades. Dark, powerful forces have been at work undermining them through the media (television in particular, but also films and the internet) and changing our outlook on what really was good and worthwhile, so that we no longer are sure as to what is the best way to live, or even what is right or wrong. Like zombies, it seems, we accept without demur the steady collapse of our moral standards as our capacity for righteous indignation is blunted by the violence and immorality constantly thrust upon us without shame or accountability.

The Only True Foundation

The trouble is that, beguiled by material possessions, we have rejected the only true foundation on which to base our lives. Yet when the chips are down it is only the eternal values that will endure; the rest will pass away like the morning mist. As the Bible says, “The things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are unseen are eternal”. In other words, in a world of such rapid change as we have today, and the future so uncertain, it behoves us to ensure that our lives will withstand whatever comes along, whether good or bad. That means building them on the rock, not on sand. Just as Jesus said, “Whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them, I will liken to a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain descended, the floods came, and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. Now everyone who hears these sayings of mine and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matt 7: 24-27)

The Rock of Ages

But, it must be clearly understood that the foundation must be Jesus Christ Himself, whom God has highly exalted and given a name which is above every name, the One who once was dead but now is alive forever and who holds the keys of Hell and Death. It is Jesus to whom every knee will one day bow and to whom every tongue will confess that *He is Lord to the glory of God the Father*. This is basic and needs to be emphasised at a time like this when people build their faith on a foundation of good works or humanism or science. It must be built on faith in Jesus Christ alone for He is the Rock of Ages, the spiritual Rock that accompanied the Israelites as they wandered for 40 years in the wilderness. “For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (1 Cor 10: 4.) He too is “the stone which the builders rejected that has become the chief cornerstone”.

Two Types of Construction

So much for the foundation. What of the building itself? The Scriptures make it clear that there are two types of construction possible. One is valuable, being typified by gold, silver and precious stones, while the other is worthless, being symbolised by wood, hay and stubble. Any work done in the power of the Holy Spirit by a follower of Christ that brings glory to God and not to man is "gold, silver and precious stones". On the other hand, anything done for Christ that is centred on self-interest and personal ambition or done slovenly with the poorest of materials will be only "wood, hay and stubble". "Behold," says Jesus, "I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me, to give every one according to his work." (Rev 22: 12) This is not a matter of salvation, for we are saved by grace through faith in Christ as a gift from God and "not of works lest anyone should boast" (Eph 2: 9). Nevertheless, everyone's work will be made evident on the great Day of the Lord because it will be revealed by fire.

The Fire of Judgment

A friend once said to Mark Twain: "I am worried. The world is coming to an end." "Don't be worried," the famous humourist replied. "We can get along without it." Mark Twain may not have known it, but he spoke the truth. We will get along without it one day, for God will fashion a new world, by destroying the present one by fire. The fire of judgment will fall upon a wicked world; but as well it will be a fire of cleansing and purification. On that great Day when Christ returns the symbolic fire will play around the buildings we have built. Fire, in fact, is the symbol that always attends the Divine appearance in the Bible. There was Moses and the burning bush, Isaiah and the fiery coals, Daniel's friends and the fiery furnace, the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. On that Day of Judgment it will be a searching test that burns up all that is dross and leaves the pure gems---a purging fire that consumes all that is combustible and leaves only that which is solidly built on Christ by faith.

Reward for Work Done

Everyone who builds his life on the foundation of Jesus Christ shall be saved. That is irrevocable. It is sealed with the precious blood He shed on Calvary, the endorsement of the new covenant between God and all who put their trust in Him. At this final testing, however, God will determine what each one will receive as a reward for work done in His service, whether good or bad. As the Scriptures say: "If anyone's work which he has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet only as through fire." (1 Cor 3: 14-15) At this climactic time when the traditional standards on which we as a nation were founded have been so terribly undermined, it is vital that our lives and those of our country as well be built on the Rock of godly values. The years are passing quickly and this world of ours is hurtling along at a breathless pace as we approach that Great Day of the Lord. How wise are we? Or how foolish? If we have been building on the sands of hedonistic materialism, surely it is now time to *repent* and fix our roots onto the Rock of the Ages, JESUS CHRIST, so that we shall be well prepared, confident that "we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens".

PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, the Great I Am, Eternal Father of infinite mercy, we rest in Your immeasurable grace through faith in Christ Jesus who paid the penalty for our sins on Calvary's cross, redeeming us through His precious blood. Abba Father, as covenant children chosen before the foundation of the world and empowered by Your mighty Holy Spirit, we lift high the matchless name of Jesus who alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Thank You, Lord Jesus for being our great high priest, interceding for us as we bring our prayers and petitions to the Father through You. We pray, blessed Spirit, baptise all believers and anoint them with power from on high to be Your witnesses and boldly proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to those who are lost. Gracious Lord, send Your Spirit of Refining Fire to burn out all our apathy and rebellion and false gods whom we have allowed to enter this country which really belongs to You. Father, release Your River of Life to flow across this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, sweeping millions into Your Kingdom of Righteousness, Peace and Joy, all eagerly awaiting the coming King of Glory, **JESUS CHRIST**, the Rock of our lives, at His promised return to earth. We earnestly pray all this in Christ's triumphant and majestic name. Amen and glory to God.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of 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.