



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 13:12

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GOD'S GREATEST GIFT A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*There's no other time, the whole year long/ Which can fill your heart so full of song/ Days jammed with shopping, music and fun/ Days when the baking never gets done/ Evenings of wrapping gifts purchased with love/ Reminds of **The Greatest Gift** sent from above/ For no better gift has ever been given/ Than that precious gift which was sent us from heaven. Though men may give diamonds, a mink, or a car/ They'll never shine brighter than Bethlehem's Star/ It has shone through the ages and even today/ Its rays shine most brightly to show men the Way/ And His name is **Jesus**, known among men/ For He shall save many from guilt and from sin. In this blest of all seasons, our hearts too should sing/ As the angels sang praises to Christ, the new King/ Their praise filled the heavens with glorious light/ And led lowly shepherds to worship that night/ Let us always remember in the hustle of things/ That the day of our Christmas marks the birth of a King.*

The Prince of Peace

Christmas is a time of peace and goodwill, even at a time when wars and strife are raging in various parts of the world. It is the time of the year when Christians celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace who came to this earth 2000 years ago. Jesus came as a Babe born in a lowly manger, grew up as an ordinary young man in an ordinary family to mature manhood. But He was more than an ordinary man; He was the Word made flesh of whom the Apostle John wrote, "And we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth". In other words, He came from the Father, "out of the ivory palaces into a world of woe" on a mission of the greatest consequence to the human race to reconcile us to God. In coming down to this world, He emptied Himself of outward glory, yet within Him there nevertheless "dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily". Jesus did not simply clothe Himself in a human body, but also took to Himself a human soul. His manhood was complete; He became the man Christ Jesus, the Anointed One of God. Not only so, but also "as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" by His Holy Spirit.

The Heavenly Host

And what were the circumstances of His coming? Though there were great and wealthy men in Palestine at the time, scholars of deep learning and ascetics who had left the comforts of home and gone into the desert to fast and pray, yet it was to lowly shepherds that the angels announced His birth on the lonely hills near Bethlehem. The world was shrouded in night when Christ came, and out of its inky darkness appeared the heavenly illumination. An angel brought a message to those fearful shepherds as the stillness of the night was shattered by the strange invasion of the heavenly host: "Be not afraid, for behold I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day a *Saviour, who is Christ the Lord*." Through the long, dark ages man had striven to overcome the sin in his life by his own efforts, but had failed. Now at last God by His grace was going to undertake man's helpless cause. God, who of old heard the Israelites' cries in Egypt under the taskmaster's whip and sent them a saviour in Moses and who repeatedly delivered them from their enemies, finally undertook to deliver a sin-bound world through His Son. Then suddenly a multitude of the heavenly host began praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest!" This today is the lost chord in the Christmas anthem. And only as it is recovered throughout our city, our state, our nation and this world shall we be able to sing the other half of the angelic chorus: "And on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

Sins Forgiven

Christ the Saviour is born in Bethlehem; grows up, then goes out into the world where He preaches about the Kingdom of God, the need for repentance, heals the sick, feeds the hungry, comforts the afflicted. And throughout all the teaching, healing and helping, one message comes through loud and clear, "Your sins are forgiven". To the paralytic let down through the roof, to the thief on the cross, to those who crucified Him, He offers forgiveness. Indeed, they called Him Jesus, meaning Saviour, "for He shall save His people from their sins". That exactly is why He came---to seek and save the lost. And to save is not just a matter of the future, but also of the present. It is not only to rescue you from a future hell but to release you from your present self. To be saved, first of all, is to be pardoned of all your sins. The very instant you put your faith in Christ as your Saviour, confess your sins and repent of them you allow His Spirit to work His Kingdom principles in you.

God's Twofold Motives

The motives of the coming of Christ were twofold: the love of God and the need of man---God's love roused by the lost condition of man. This is a condition that includes every one of us. We are all lost until we have been found and saved. "All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned every one to his own way." But then to us all comes the Son, sent by the Father to establish us on the path that leads to our salvation. He is God's Greatest Gift to the human race, God coming in the flesh in the person of His beloved Son---not as a great teacher writing books or founding schools; not to originate His own philosophy to be written alongside Plato or Confucius; not to build a mighty empire along with Caesar or Napoleon; and not to begin a new order or promote a new sect. **Jesus Christ**, Son of God, Son of Man, came primarily, profoundly, peerlessly as a Saviour, as the Bearer of Sin, as the Giver of Eternal Life. Jesus Christ came to save the millionaire and the monarch lost in their pride and luxury. He came to save the prodigal lost in the pleasures of sin, promiscuity and debauchery. He came to save the scholar lost in his intellectual pride or confused by the futility and perplexities of his man-made philosophies. He came to save the ordinary man and woman lost in the humdrum existence of their lives in materialistic suburbia. He came to save not only those who are lost, but to save those who are lost to the fact that they *are lost*. **He came to save you!** You are of infinite value to God, God who loved the world so much He gave His only Son to die for your salvation. But if you are lost to God, you are not truly fulfilled; your real potential is not fully realised and your true purpose in life is wasted and lost.

A New Creation

Holman Hunt's famous painting *The Light of the World* shows Christ knocking at the closed door which has no latch. When a fellow artist pointed out to Holman Hunt that he had forgotten to give the door a latch, he replied, "Ah, my friend, that is the whole message of the picture. There is a latch---but it's on the inside of the door." The Son of God knocks on the door of your heart so He can come into your life by His Spirit to build your faith, preparing you for here and for eternity. This Christmas could be a memorable one for you, when you come to know that you are forgiven of *all* your sins, free of selfishness and guilt and walking in newness of life. The Scriptures assure us: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." In other words, when you accept Christ as your Saviour your sins are washed away in the precious blood He shed on the cross and you shall stand before God at the judgment cleansed of all your sin. Keep in mind that one day "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad". What is it to be---lost or found? The choice is yours!

PRAYER

Dear Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth, hallowed be Your name. As heirs of Christ we worship and thank You for the Greatest Gift of Your Son, JESUS CHRIST, the living Word of Truth, Light and Life who is now seated at Your right hand interceding for us by Your indwelling Spirit. Thank You, Lord God, that He is the Executor of Your will, granting us as Your army of prayer-watchmen power to be lights in the midst of the deep darkness in this lost, deceived world. Indeed, enable us, O God, to pull down the satanic principalities and powers of unbelief, deception and false gods and lay them at Christ's feet. Sovereign Lord, we bless You for the supernatural road-map in Your holy Word showing us how to live in Your River of Life and be spiritually anointed with fresh oil daily to bring lost souls to genuine repentance for their sins. May many millions accept JESUS CHRIST as Lord and Saviour, we pray, to bring renewal to the Church and revival to this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus majestic name; for the honour and glory of the Father, God Almighty. Amen.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas season and a glorious New Year in 2009.

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.