



# 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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## A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION AN EASTER MESSAGE

Once again it is Easter. The shops are full of colourful bunnies, chocolate eggs and hot cross buns. Everyone is glad to have a short holiday break from work. It's a happy time. Many pack up their family and load them into the car, van or station wagon and head off for a beach cottage or somewhere to camp in the bush. Some even go to church on Good Friday to remember the passion of Christ---His travesty of a trial, the whipping, the mocking of the Roman soldiers, the cruel nails through His hands and feet on the cross of Calvary, the spear through his side, the mental anguish and the blood. Then on Easter Sunday they remember His glorious resurrection, that He rose from the dead.

### **Relevant Today**

So, what is the very important question? It is one that Jesus Himself put to his enemies, the Pharisees, shortly before His arrest: "What do you think of Christ?" It is a question that is as relevant today as it was nearly 2000 years ago. We have all heard of Jesus Christ and have no doubt thought about Him. Many have made up their minds about Him, many have not. What do you think of Christ? You know, this is one of the most difficult questions for one person to ask another, for it has great consequence for that particular person. You can ask anyone what he thinks of the prime minister, and he would give you a reply without much hesitation for he has made up his mind about him. But ask people what they think of Christ and invariably they will hedge and dodge about, seeking to evade the issue. Why is this so? Why can't people make up their minds about Christ and take their stand either for or against Him? However, in the ultimate and final reckoning it is of little importance what you think of anyone else. Kings, presidents, prime ministers and generals will soon be gone from life---and it matters little, comparatively, what we think of them. *But every single person must concern themselves with Christ.* Was He really the Son of God? Did He really leave heaven and come down to earth to show people the way to eternal life? Did He really come to seek and to save the lost of mankind?

### **His Enemies**

If you want to discover what another person is like, you go to those who have been associated with them, their friends and acquaintances---and their enemies too. Let us do just that. Firstly, let us see what His enemies had to say about Christ. The Pharisees hated Him. Why? They accused Him of "receiving sinners". While He hung on the cross, they sneered, "He saved others, He cannot save Himself." That was true. He willingly lay down His life for yours and mine and all mankind. Then there was Caiaphas, the chief priest who accused Him of blasphemy for He claimed to be the Son of God. And Pontius Pilate the Roman governor who tried Him---what did he have to say? "I find no fault in Him." What of Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver? When he saw Jesus condemned he cried out in anguish and remorse, "I have sinned against innocent blood." Then lastly the centurion in charge of the Roman soldiers, who ordered the nails to be driven into His hands and feet. What does he say? "Truly this man was a Son of God."

## **His Friends**

There was John the Baptist. While preaching by the River Jordan he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God." Then there was Peter, the rough Galilean fisherman who left his nets to follow Christ. What does he say after having spent the last three years following Him? In speaking to a great crowd after Jesus' ascension he said, "Let all the house of Israel surely know that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Among His other followers was John, who wrote, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father." Also consider Thomas, another follower who initially doubted His resurrection, but when the Risen Christ later appeared to him and he put his fingers in His wounded side and His nail-pierced hands, cried out, "My Lord and my God!" Then lastly among His friends hear what Paul, once Saul the zealous Pharisee who vigorously persecuted the early Christians, had to say. After a soul-changing encounter with the Risen Christ on the Damascus road, he became Christ's devoted servant enduring imprisonments, beatings, stoning, shipwrecks, hunger, hardship, exposure to the elements and untiring toil for Him. In later years he wrote, "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

## **God Himself**

When Jesus was baptised by John in the River Jordan a Voice from heaven was heard, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Later, when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain, again God was heard to speak: "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to Him." At the time of Jesus' baptism the Spirit of God descended on Him in the form of a dove, dwelling in Him and filling Him with its presence and power. This is the same Holy Spirit whom Christ Himself promised to baptise His followers after He had ascended---that "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses." And in this power that they received on the Day of Pentecost His disciples went forth into the world and 'turned it upside down'.

## **Witnesses of These Latter Days**

Space precludes the naming of most of the countless millions who have served Christ since He rose from the dead. However, from this vast number these two examples demonstrate in word and deed their absolute conviction that He is the Son of God. Firstly there was C.T. Studd who played cricket for England but who in one day gave away a fortune so he could serve Christ in China, India and finally 18 years in deepest, darkest Africa in his latter years. Studd has said, "If Jesus Christ be God and He died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." And David Livingstone the famous explorer/missionary of Africa, his left arm crushed by a lion and hanging limp by his side as he addressed students at Glasgow University describing his trials and tribulations and explaining why he had endured it all. "It was the words of Jesus: 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world'. On these words I staked everything, and they never failed." Jesus Christ is alive now. One day you will meet Him. Today you could meet Him as your Saviour; if not---if you reject Him---then one day you will meet Him as your Judge. What do you think of Christ? It's time to make up your mind. What will your decision be? Your eternal future is at stake!

## **PRAYER**

Omniscient Father, Almighty God, as faithful citizens of Your Eternal Kingdom yielded to Your Holy Spirit, we offer You our love, praise and worship. Thank You that, on the Cross, JESUS CHRIST conquered *all* of Satan's evil deceptions in order to set *all* mankind free. Sovereign Lord, as Your ambassadors presenting "A Very Important Question" we pray it will lead lost souls to genuinely repent and receive Him as their Saviour and Lord. Through the power of Your Spirit release Your River of Life so they may have a personal relationship with Him. And, Gracious Father, reveal to us all Your matchless grace and unfathomable love---infinite in wisdom, ingenious in creativity, supreme in authority, limitless in power, majestic in splendour, awesome in holiness and terrible in wrath! We ask all this, Father, in the majestic name of Jesus Christ, for the glory of God Almighty. Amen.

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.*