

# 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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## NO ROOM FOR JESUS

A Christmas Message

Some 2000 years ago Bethlehem was crowded following Caesar Augustus's decree that a census be taken of the entire Roman Empire. As everyone was compelled to go to their own town to register, Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth in Galilee and Mary his betrothed could find nowhere to stay when They were of no particular importance and warranted no special they arrived in Bethlehem. consideration, still less their unborn Child. When the boy was born, Mary laid Him in a manger in a stable among the animals because there was no room for Him in the inn. And what was true of His birth was also true of His later life. In fact, the Scriptures record that, "He came to His own, and His own received Him not". When He preached at Nazareth they thrust Him out of the city. When He healed a madman at Gadara they begged Him to leave their region. At one time He had to pass through Samaria and the Samaritans refused to receive Him into their midst. He was a homeless wanderer. "The foxes have holes," He said, "and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." When the Roman soldiers arrested Him in the Garden of Gethsemane He was deserted by His own disciples. The religious rulers planned His destruction and the Roman authorities scourged and delivered Him to be crucified. They hung Him on a cross, forsaken and alone. Truly, while He lived on this earth, there was no room for the Son of God---our soon-coming King.

#### Post-Christian Era

In our world today there is room for many things: room for wealth, pleasure and pride; room for business, trade and industry; room for ambition, greed and worries; room for families, friends and finances. But for Christ there is little room---room in the stable but not in the inn. Christ is not wanted in this, materialistic, hedonistic, so-called post-Christian era where other religions are honoured and our own Christian heritage denied. In fact, He is rejected, ignored and so often blasphemed. He is crowded out. And why? S.D.Gordon gives the answer in The Crowded Inn. "Christ's crowding out power is tremendous. That explains why He is so crowded out. When allowed freely in, He crowds out that that would crowd Him out. He crowds out sin. By the blood drawn from His side He washes it out. By the soft burning, but intense fire of His heart, He burns it out. By the purity of His own presence, recognised as Lord, He reveals its horrid ugliness and compels us, by the holy compulsion of love, to keep it out." Yes, the bottom line of the rejection of Christ today is the presence of sin in our lives and in our society. Sin loves the darkness but fears the light. He came to bring light and reveal the world's sin---and the world hates Him for it. He represents right in a world of wrongs, truth in a world of deceit, justice in a world of injustice, and love in a world of hatred. He threatens our socalled enlightened, sophisticated, self-centred way of life to such a degree that had He come to earth today we would again crucify Him, even as they did 2000 years ago. Yes, were we true to form we would have little compassion in doing that---this Son of God who came to save us from our sins.

## So Great a Salvation

Jesus came to this earth, to a world so lacking in hospitality that he was given a borrowed cradle at His birth and a borrowed tomb at His death, for one purpose and one purpose only: He came to seek and to save the lost. And what does He have "to save" mankind from? Even as a life-saver hauls a drowning man from the sea and saves his life, so Christ came to save mankind from the penalty of his sin. The Bible makes it clear that "the wages of sin is death". So He came to rescue us all from spiritual death. That is, God, through His Son, is offering each one of us freedom from eternal destruction. The Bible also makes it abundantly clear there is no escape from the terrible consequences of our sinful folly if we ignore so great a salvation. Each one of us will eventually stand before the Judgment Seat of God, where we shall be called to account for our lives. Those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Saviour He will pardon, for Scripture teaches that "there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus". But those who have neglected or rejected His gift of salvation will be condemned.

## Name Above All Names

God does not want anyone to be condemned. Consequently, Christ, though having the divine nature, nevertheless made Himself a servant and humbled Himself; and in obedience to His heavenly Father accepted even death---death on a cross---to reconcile us to God. Therefore God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow---in heaven, on earth and in the depths; and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. No room for Jesus? Have *you* no room for the divine Son of God who is the only Way to eternal life! Be sure, be very sure that there is room for Him in your life. Consider carefully the words and sentiments of El Nathan's once well-known and loved hymn:

## Have You Any Room for Jesus?

Have you any room for Jesus, He who bore your load of sin? As He knocks and asks admission, Sinner, will you let Him in? Room for pleasure, room for business; But for Christ the crucified---Not a place that He can enter In the heart for which He died? Have you any time for Jesus, As in grace He calls again. Oh 'today' is 'time accepted', Tomorrow you may call in vain. Room and time now give to Jesus: Soon will pass God's day of grace: Soon thy heart be cold and silent, And thy Saviour's pleadings cease. Room for Jesus, King of glory! Hasten now, His Word obey! Swing the heart's door widely open! Bid Him enter while you may!

### **Eternal Destiny**

So, the choice is up to every single one of us! No one else can decide our eternal destiny. God loves each one. He loves you. He wants you to inherit His eternal Kingdom, not condemn you. However, His holiness will only allow you to receive it if your sins are forgiven. Are you in peril of neglecting His gracious gift of eternal life and incur His judgment instead? Are you seeking to avoid this great truth of life, that only through Jesus Christ can you be saved? Yet it is still not too late to do something about it. Sooner or later you must make this life or death decision. Why not make room now for Him as we celebrate the coming of the Lamb of God to earth who came to "seek and to save the lost"?

#### PRAYER

Lord God of infinite grace and mercy, Father of Glory, we join the Hosts of heaven to praise and worship You in Spirit and in truth. We thank You, O Father, that Your will cannot be thwarted; that Your grace is constant; that Your love is eternal; that Your power is irresistible and Your judgments are sure and inevitable. Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Shepherd and High Priest, seated at the Father's right hand always interceding for us by Your Spirit, helping us grow to full maturity measured by the full stature of Christ. Thank You, too, that through Your grace You forgive us for having No Room for Jesus. Deliver us, O God, from all unrighteousness and fill us with Your Presence, blessing us with a wellspring of godly wisdom as we enthrone JESUS CHRIST as King of kings and Lord of lords over this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, to the glory and honour of God Almighty. Amen.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas season and a glorious New Year in 2011.

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.