



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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IN REMEMBRANCE An Easter Message

April is a month of remembrance. Every 25 April the people of Australia and New Zealand hold services across their respective nations to solemnly commemorate the landing of the Anzac troops at Gallipoli at dawn on that fateful day in 1915 when, in the face of withering Turkish gunfire, these gallant soldiers stormed ashore to create a legend that will never die. At the conclusion of their eight month stay at Gallipoli, having suffered the loss of 9000 men and a further 16,000 wounded, their leader Lieutenant-General William Birdwood said, “Our eight months at ‘Anzac’ cannot help stamping on the memory of everyone of us days of trial and anxiety, hopes, and perhaps occasional fears, rejoicings at success, and sorrow---very deep and sincere---for many a good comrade whom we can never see again. I firmly believe, though, it has made better men of every one of us, for we have all looked death in the face so often, that the greater realities of life must have been impressed on all of us in a way which has never before been possible. Bitter as has been my experience in losing many a good friend, I, personally, shall always look back on our days at ‘Anzac’ as a time never to be forgotten.” We, too, who now celebrate the 96th anniversary of that historic occasion, shall never forget that day when this nation was born. Indeed, the Anzac spirit will ever live on---it will never die!

Holy Communion

Most times the remembrance of Easter also falls in April. This year is no exception. Christians the world over choose to commemorate the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They desire to follow the Lord’s injunction to “Remember Me” in the sharing together of Holy Communion. But *how* should we remember Him? First of all, we remember Him as the Word made flesh like His fellowmen yet who lived as no one else had ever lived before, or has ever lived since. At a time when the world was full of darkness He left the glory of heaven with a message from God for all whose hearts were weary and whose minds were dark. He came proving by the very nature of His life that what He said of Himself was true. Sickness and disease disappeared at His presence; blind eyes were opened; deaf ears were unstopped; even the dead arose at His command. For almost 2000 years, His life has been the greatest hope and comfort for countless people. The world has been made wiser and better, richer and nobler; men and women have been made holier and purer by it; He has transformed nations and even civilisations down through the ages. Our western way of life would have been much similar to that of the pagan east had not Christianity been taken to that part of the world.

Sealed with His Blood

Secondly, we should remember Him as the Holy One who closed His life by the sacrifice of Himself---the One who sealed His testimony with His own blood. Yes, we commemorate His death. In the Communion we remember His words, “This is my body which is given for you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Why did He die? Because He

knew that at His death, the power of His blood would enable us to conquer sin and death so we could be reconciled to the Father, of whose grace the Son's self-sacrifice was the ultimate testimony. While the followers of Christ believe He is alive now, having risen from the dead, and that He is clothed with glory and honour, they still choose to remember Him as the humble, self-sacrificing Saviour who died for them---for the following reason. The Apostle Paul explains, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not reckoning their trespasses to them...for He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Personal Connection

Thirdly, the mode of remembrance chosen by Christ reminds us that through faith we have the same kind of personal connection with our Lord as the first disciples enjoyed as they sat around that table in the upper room. We are no more remote from His love, no more out of His influence than they were. All that He was to them He can be to us though our outward circumstances are very different from theirs---through the Holy Spirit in us. Indeed, the inward significance of Christ's work and power to save the lost remains the same today. In remembering Him in the Communion we don't seek a crown, the symbol of a king who rules over the world, nor do we focus on the rewards promised to all who believe. By His Spirit we seek to renew our connection with the Christ who eagerly desires to have a close relationship with us, to purify our natures and to influence our wills; because it is only through this affinity with Him that we maintain spiritual growth. In taking the bread of Communion we imbibe Him who said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world". Moreover He said, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him".

Heavenly Counterpart

Finally, the Holy Communion has its heavenly counterpart. It is written, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the Kingdom of Heaven"; and "Many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven...blessed are they who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" The Communion supper was truly a foreshadowing of that heavenly banquet. Remembering Jesus at Easter is a worldwide practice throughout Christendom as Christians of all persuasions honour Him. Millions see Him as the only hope for a world that is fast losing sight of reality as nations stagger blindly into the unknown future, ignorant that He is coming back soon to defeat the forces of evil now seemingly triumphant as darkness reigns in many hearts and places. All who eagerly await His return in the days ahead, though concealed from the mind of material man, believe the inspired words of the prophet Daniel that "those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever". While the world continues to grope in a misty way searching for the meaning of life, those who remember JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God, put their faith in Him who died for them and surrender their lives to Him, are not in darkness, being children of light, so that the Great Day of the Lord will not catch them unawares when He returns to set up His Kingdom on earth. Will *you* be one of them?

PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, omniscient Father, as Your army of prayer-warriors we join the Hosts of heaven to thank You for ultimately causing all things to fall into line with Your purposes for rebellious mankind. Sovereign Lord, help us to fervently pray for a New Pentecost to sweep the face of the earth in these perilous days before You pour out Your divine retribution prior to sending Your beloved Son back to our world as the climax of the ages. Holy Lord, we pray that even now the power of the blood of Jesus Christ will be released as we thankfully remember Him as the Redeemer of the World. Gracious Father, deliver a harvest of lost souls from the bondages of the forces of evil; may they sincerely repent, surrender their all to You and have their minds renewed so they may receive Your gift of salvation, acknowledging JESUS CHRIST as Lord and Saviour. O God, sweep this mighty harvest of lost souls into Your Family of Faith as members of the coming Kingdom of righteousness, joy and peace. We pray all this for the glory and majesty of our Almighty Father and God. 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.