

"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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THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

We live in a world of deceit, corruption, duplicity, half truths, fraud, spin, dishonesty, cheating and outright lies. Where have truth, honesty, integrity, honour, trust, sincerity and virtue gone? Our world today is one where truth is trashed and lies are lauded. Sound morals and strong character are frequently mocked while immorality is praised, paraded and protected. Old true and tried maxims are twisted in knots. The solution to debt problems is increased spending. The antidote to government waste is more government. Freedom of speech is a cover-up for vulgarity and filth. Gender is no longer clear-cut but a choice open to interpretation and the dividing line between male and female is becoming increasingly blurred. Today everyone has a choice to act, dress or live as either man or woman or anything between. Worse, anyone who disapproves can be silenced with lawful measures. Society has come to accept that gender-confused individuals must be placated and so, instead of helping them to overcome such tendencies that lead to self-destructive anti-social behaviour, they are encouraged to continue down this path that will ultimately lead to the demolition of their personalities.

Old Values Rejected

Our world today has rejected the old values in the arts. We nod owlishly when confronted by obvious fakery in art; we blithely accept crude and blasphemous literature, TV and films; we fall over ourselves to be entertained by the vilest of musical entertainers. Morality has been flipped on its head. Freedom to forthrightly proclaim our faith is being overwhelmed by the freedom of deviants to aggressively practise their homosexual activism, constantly cranking up the pressure to popularise deviant sexuality. At the same time we have removed pressure on singles to marry, married couples to stay together through thick and thin, and children to treat their parents as authorities to be obeyed. All physical discipline---that the Bible commands parents to impose to correct bad behaviour---is considered cruel and abusive. Moreover, with teachers unable to discipline students, classrooms increasingly become seedbeds of churlishness and rebellion. Perpetrators of evil acts such as aggravated assault, rape and even murder are so often seen as not responsible because they too have been victims of violence.

Political Correctness

Political correctness---the bane of truth and commonsense---has so embedded itself in our way of life that we are being forced to call evil good. It is just as it was in ancient Israel, resulting in these words of warning from the prophet Isaiah: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Remarkably, too, in our world so governed by reason, primitive religions and paganism are experiencing a renewal. Whereas paganism would once have been regarded as anathema to the Christian faith, it is now accepted in our multicultural nirvana as just another religion. One contributing factor to this course of events is the latest craze for environmentalism as "save the planet" proponents have discovered that their goals mesh with those of the pagan earth worshippers. Many now reject and ridicule the "Father God" of Scripture in favour of "Mother Earth" and other versions of feminine spiritualism---as well as the heretical belief that human beings pose the greatest danger to other life on earth.

Why Have We Changed?

But why? Why have we changed so much in a mere twenty or thirty or so years? Why indeed has the world turned upside down in such a short time? At the core of the problem is an assault on truth as defined in God's Word. That is, God must be completely excluded and His holy Word dismissed and disparaged. Even so, it is that Word that explains mankind's departure from truth and common sense that once undergirded Western society. It is the Holy Bible, so often scorned and belittled in today's age of scepticism and unbelief that explains the very nature of our problem---the existence of a spiritual realm beyond our ken. Nevertheless, that is the reality. In writing to the Ephesians the Apostle Paul made the issue crystal clear: "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." In another letter, he explained the resistance he encountered among the pagan cultures where he took the Gospel of Christ in this way: "Even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded."

The Great Dragon

The god of this age is not Almighty God the Creator, it is the very "god" that John the Apostle described as "the great dragon...that serpent of old, called the devil and Satan who deceives the whole world, (and who) was cast to the earth." Satan, the evil one who is vehemently opposed to God and all that is good, is constantly working to destroy man's faith in God with *lies* and *deception*. The devil *hates* mankind and is hell-bent on destroying the greatest of God's creation whom he would have us believe are just animals of no more value than any other creature. Jesus spoke truly of him when He said, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and is not rooted in the truth; there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is speaking his own language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." Satan has hoodwinked the world---to such an extent that we have accepted his lies and followed him blindly down the road that leads to terrorism, violence, unhappiness, meaninglessness and ultimate death.

The Word of Truth

God sent His Son Jesus to save the world through faith in Him. He came to reveal Truth to a world mired in lies and lost, to a world in bondage to the wiles of Satan. However, to all those who put their faith and trust in Him He says, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." His Word of truth also assures us that, "he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life". On the other hand, "he who disobeys the Son shall not see that life; God's wrath rests upon him". Finally, consider this wonderful promise from the Word of God: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage leading you back to a life of fear but a Spirit that makes you sons. God joins with our spirit in testifying that we are God's children; and if children, then heirs---heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if we share His sufferings now in order to share His glory hereafter." Ah! That is real freedom. **PRAYER**

Lord God Almighty, our loving heavenly Father, as blood-covenant heirs to Your Kingdom, we thank You for reconciling the world to Yourself through the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary. Holy Lord, help us to be still and listen to Your voice of truth to gain transcendent wisdom from Your Living Word. May the truth of Your Good News set all captives free from bondage and deeply repent of their selfishness, greed, pride, deceit and lies. Dear Lord, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving we ask Your blessing on "The Truth Will Set You Free" so that parents will discipline their children according to Your Word; political leaders will cease worshipping their power and pride and realise that they must be honest people of real integrity; and judges will administer true justice in the courts. Gracious Father, we thank You that Christ is the key which unlocks the golden doors into the Temple of Divine Truth, so we gladly enthrone HIM as King of kings and Lord of lords of Your coming Kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy to the glory of the Almighty God and Divine Creator. 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.