



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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FOUND WANTING OR FOUND WORTHY?

The actress Lauren Bacall writes of her beloved New York, "I came to realise how this city of my childhood and my childhood dreams had changed. I decry the fact that there are no manners anymore--is it the times? Cell phones--deafening noise on the streets, in the cars--blasting boom boxes--people walking towards you, not seeing you, never giving way so you can pass--not allowing you to get out of the elevator before they push themselves in. Is it anger and if so, why to such a degree? There are not too many smiling faces. Where has all the humour gone, or was it never there?"

A Profane Culture

So much for New York. But what of our own big cities? Is it any different? Are we any more caring, polite and considerate? No. Inter-personal relationships are now rougher than ever. Gentleness and kindness have succumbed to coarseness, crudity and callousness. But why? The great 18th century British statesman, Edmund Burke, puts it in a nutshell: "Religion (Christianity) consecrates the state. When the state is united with religion it is both sanctioned by morality and gives sanction to morality throughout society." In other words, without the sanctifying influence of Christianity permeating society we become a profane culture and godly morality---including courtesy---goes out the window.

The Broad Way

Undoubtedly we have ceased to reverence God, the God of the Bible, the source of our code of ethics and morality. We are hell-bent on casting Him to the rubbish bin of history and replacing Him with Mother Earth as the creator of the natural world which we now exalt and worship. We no longer have the "fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom" nor any concern about any accountability to Him for our thoughts, words or actions. We choose to live our lives free of any restraints that His Word imposes on those who believe despite the fact that they are intended for our own good ultimately. Instead of following the narrow way that leads to eternal life, we are content to go down the broad way that leads to destruction which the masses are following. Consider the solemn words of Jesus: "Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

He also warns us to be on our guard against those who come to us in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. That is, observe what kind of lives they lead and judge them by their fruits, for by their fruits you will know them. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practise lawlessness!'" It is so easy for us to be found wanting, either deceived or deceiving that it truly behoves each one of us to guard our way of life with all diligence. It is no time for careless living. Never forget to "enter by the narrow gate"---the same One who said, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved." That is, following Jesus by faith is the only way *not* to be found wanting. So, how do we be found worthy?

A Long List of Witnesses

The Scriptures make it clear that all who claim the name of Christ are “to have a walk worthy of the calling with which they were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”. In the 11th chapter of Hebrews is a long list of witnesses who, through faith, obeyed God and despite many kinds of suffering “subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. They were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented---of whom the world was not worthy.” Yet, for all that, God promises that they should not be made perfect apart from us---provided we are worthy.

End Time Prophecies

Chapters 24 of Matthew, 13 of Mark and 21 of Luke specifically deal with prophecies of the end times that Jesus Himself gave just prior to His arrest, trial and crucifixion. It is obvious that He wanted His followers to be aware of conditions that would exist on earth just before His return to earth in glory to set up His Kingdom here. Many of those conditions are a reality now. Jesus Christ is now preparing for His return. He employed the parable of the trees, but especially the fig tree, to make His point. He said, “When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you, likewise, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.” The nation of Israel, representing the fig tree, was reborn on 14 May 1948 and since then has “made the desert bloom like the rose’ with abundant orchards and countless other trees turning the barren desert of Palestine into a garden in the Middle East. At the same time, by the grace of God, many other new nations have emerged into world prominence in Africa, Asia and other places in the Third World.

Cares of This Life

Emphasising His words Jesus said, “This generation (the same one that sees the trees in bud) will by no means pass away till all things are fulfilled. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the earth.” He then added this solemn warning, to be heeded by all those who have at least some concern for their eternal welfare: “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be found worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Found wanting or found worthy? That is the question. Will *you* be ready when “the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God? And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” Will you really be ready?

PRAYER

Eternal Father, wonderful Counsellor, mighty Redeemer, Rock of Ages, Bread of Life, hallowed be Your name. You are worthy to receive glory and honour and power for You created all things. As Spirit-filled watchmen trusting in Christ, we thank You for blessing us in our personal relationship with You through His finished work on the cross of Calvary. Holy Father, in deep humility we worship You in Spirit and in truth through the Living Word, Jesus Christ the Lord. Sovereign Lord, thank You for Your eternal Spirit of Truth giving us the wisdom to find Your forgiveness making us justified, regenerated, free, adopted, reconciled and secure, trusting in Christ to keep us on the straight and narrow path with Him 24/7. May we never be found wanting but truly be found worthy as we turn from our wicked ways to bear spiritual fruits and pull down all strongholds of pride, selfishness, immorality, injustice and sin. Release Your Fountain of Life and Love, O Lord, to heal our land, usher in the Kingdom of Righteousness, Love, Joy and Peace and enthrone JESUS CHRIST as King of kings and Lord of lords to glorify You, Almighty God of matchless power, grace and peace. 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.