



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 MATTER OF PRIORITIES

A Christmas Message

When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem to partake in the national census there was no room for them to stay in the inn because the town was so crowded. Consequently they were forced to stay in the stables that all was true and happened just as the Scriptures recorded in telling the life story of Jesus, the Saviour who was born in Bethlehem in a manger in Bethlchem. He wrote: *We saw Thee not when Thou didst come to this poor world of sin and death; Nor e'er beheld Thy cottage home in that despised Nazareth; But we believe* and when their Babe was born they lay Him in a manger and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes. At the same time there were shepherds out in the fields tending their sheep when suddenly an angel stood before them and said, "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!'" The coming of Jesus was God's sign that mankind was to be saved for the sin which befell the human race when Adam sinned because it was all too clear that man was unable to save himself from the helpless situation that now beset him.

A Hymn of Faith

The hymn writer, John Hampden Gurney, was inspired to write of the faith which believes *Thy footsteps trod its streets and plains, Thou Son of God. We did not see Thee lifted high amid that wild and savage crew; Nor heard Thy meek imploring cry, Forgive, they know not what they do! Yet we believe the deed was done which shook the earth and veiled the sun. We stood not by the empty tomb where late Thy wounded body lay; Nor sat within the upper room; nor met Thee on the open way. But we believe that angels said, 'Why seek the living with the dead?' We did not mark the chosen few, when Thou didst through the clouds ascend, first lift to heaven their wondering view; then to the earth all prostrate bend; Yet we believe that mortal eyes beheld that journey to the skies. And now that Thou dost reign on high, and thence Thy waiting people bless, no ray of glory from the sky doth shine upon our wilderness: But we believe Thy faithful words, and trust in our redeeming Lord.*

It is only by faith that we believe in Christ and all He did for the salvation of the human race. And how do we get that faith? The Bible tells us how. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." The Bible also says, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness and with the mouth confession is made to salvation." Throughout the last two millennia countless souls have been saved by simply obeying this injunction from God's holy Word. One such believer is the hymn writer who penned this: *I am not skilled to understand what God hath will'd, what*

God hath plann'd. I only know at His right hand stands One who is my Saviour. I take Him at His word indeed, Christ died for sinners---this I read. For in my heart I find a need of Him to be my Saviour. Yea, living, dying let me bring my strength, my solace from this spring, That He who lives to be my King, once died to be my Saviour.

The Choice Is Yours

Will you know the terrors of the grave or the joys of heaven? The choice is yours---eternal life or eternal separation forever from God. Will you face an eternity of darkness or look forward to eternity with God the Source of light? Won't you heed the words of El Nathan the hymn writer? *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!*

God Highly Exalted Him

It is all a matter of priorities. God does not want anyone condemned to a Christ-less eternity. God so loved the world that Christ left His heavenly home to come to earth as a normal human being, taking the burden of a servant and in obedience to His heavenly Father accepted the agony of crucifixion in order to reconcile us to God. Therefore God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him a name which is superior to any other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Are you sure that you have no room for Jesus? Are you sure that you have no time for the Son of God through Whom is the only way to everlasting life? Be sure, be very sure you know what you are doing. This is a choice that each one must make. No one else can decide your eternal destiny. God does not want to condemn anyone; He wants us all to inherit His Kingdom.

Covered by the Blood

However, God's holiness will only allow you to receive it if your sins have been covered by the precious blood of Jesus that washes away all your sins. Are you in danger of neglecting His gracious gift of eternal life and incurring His judgment instead? Are you guilty of evading this issue? If you are, you are a fool! Whether the world recognises the fact or not, Christ is alive. And just as He lives we can too share in the life-giving Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead and so we can shout victoriously along with the Apostle Paul: O death, where is your victory? O grave, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, but God be praised, He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Centre your life around Him and you will be richly blessed. Why not pray: Lord, though my heart be filled with joy or pain, grant that it never may find no room for Thee, like that benighted inn at Bethlehem.

PRAYER

Almighty God, Omniscient Father, we praise You for Your divine plan for all of us to receive eternal salvation through Jesus Christ. We thank You for revealing Yourself to us as we have a personal relationship with Him as Lord. As a matter of priority we sincerely pray for those who don't have Jesus Christ to pray this prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I believe You died for me and that Your precious blood cleansed me of all my sins. I want You to be my Lord. Thank You for dying for me, forgiving my sin and granting me eternal life, my Lord and Saviour. Guide and lead me by Your Spirit every day of my life. May I crown You as King of kings and Lord of lords in Your coming Kingdom of love, joy and peace. Amen.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas season and a glorious New Year in 2013.

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.