



# 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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## THE CROSS AND THE CROWN

### An Easter/Passover Message

Most people associate Christianity with the cross. Its founder is the incarnate, risen and exalted Son of God who died on the Cross. Salvation is gained through the Cross. It is the Cross, not the manger or the empty tomb that has always been the Church's prized and beloved emblem. Outwardly, at least, all Christendom has gloried in the Cross that symbolises the service Christ did *for* us. It also symbolises the nature of the service He expects *of* us. It reminds all who would claim to be Christian that life is no easy path but that it requires true faith and devoted sacrificial labour; that the Lord expects those who are His own to bear their cross whatever it may be with cheerfulness and unselfishness---and in these perilous times to accept an ever-growing threat of persecution. Jesus Himself said "that in the last days they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to synagogues and prisons and you will be brought before kings for My name's sake".

#### **Lowest Common Denominator**

The world is steadily following the lowest common denominator as it continues to plumb the depths of human depravity. The verdict of the "Jury" of world opinion has no understanding of the real spiritual issues at stake as it leads the people down the sewer of human behaviour. Therefore it is imperative that we listen, not to the "Jury", but to the "Judge", the Lord of heaven and earth. In His mercy, He has shown us the way by speaking to us from Genesis to Revelation. Should we deny any part of His Word we become part of the Jury, choosing our own way and our wicked hearts will inevitably lead us astray. The battles we face have all been fought---the victory was won at the Cross. Truth was nailed to a tree because the Jury decided, and today Truth is again nailed to the tree of death by the Jury. For example, in England Muslims and homosexuals may speak out freely at work and in the street, but if Christians quote from the Bible they could go to jail.

#### **Godless Governments**

Godless, humanistic governments are steadily undermining our God-given freedoms in the name of political correctness as antidiscrimination boards seek to stifle our right to speak freely in the name of Christ and proclaim that He is the Way, the Truth and The Life. Undoubtedly, the anti-God forces are becoming increasingly aggressive in their war against Christians. Once conservative Christian values were the norm in our society, but those who hold such values are now held to ridicule, and even considered as enemies of the people.

#### **Our Dilemma**

The great challenge of 2013 is to decide between the Jury and the Judge. The answer to that dilemma will determine what happens concerning marriage (homosexuality); what happens concerning the culture of death (euthanasia); in fact what happens about every issue we face as a nation and as a church, or personally in our own lives in this year of 2013. Who will we serve---the Jury or the Judge? Should we choose the former, as a nation we will be taking us further down the slippery slope to ruin.

### **Subtle Indoctrination**

Those feared most by the socialist world planners (the Jury) are those with a strong faith in God--- Bible-believing Christians. That is why every effort is being made to nullify their influence whether through control of education, mocking their values, ridiculing them personally or through lawful persecution. Many Christians are not really aware of the subtle indoctrination of their children through the media with its constant portrayal of promiscuity and the light-hearted approach to both infidelity and homosexuality. Yet the constant sympathetic presentation of these anti-Christian standards are nothing less than anti-God time bombs designed to blow every vestige of Christian virtue out of the lives of all who blindly imbibe this moral poison through their TV screens, Internet and Face book.

### **Physical Persecution**

Next on the agenda comes physical persecution. The passing of laws making it illegal to speak out against abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality and other unchristian abominations or false religions will undoubtedly place Christians in the firing line for hefty fines or worse. Our lawmakers are steadily following a program to expand debased and perverted conduct and are, at the same time, destroying decent and upright behaviour. Surely there is a crying need at this time for a united Christian voice and a determination to nail God's colours to the mast, bearing the Cross, come what may. Bearing the Cross, of course, means to deny the verdict of the Jury and accepting the judgment of the Judge. In doing so, it means that in bearing the Cross we shall also wear the Crown.

### **The Crowns**

This Crown, unlike the crowns of the world, will never pass away. It is incorruptible. It is a crown of righteousness, a crown of glory and a crown of life. The **Crown of Righteousness** is laid up by the Lord for all who love His appearing. On the Great Day of the Lord His faithful ones will be clothed in white, the white of purity. Their names will be in the Book of Life and Jesus will confess them before the Father and the holy angels. The **Crown of Glory** symbolises the lustre that shines from the glory of God on those who are accepted into His glorious Kingdom. The **Crown of Life** represents full, free, abundant, everlasting life. They will have access to the Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden of God where there shall be peace, joy and happiness forever. What a glorious transaction---a brief time of suffering for an eternity of blessing and honour and praise!

### **Latimer and Ridley**

When in the dark days of England's history during the reign of "Bloody Mary" two bishops, Latimer and Ridley, were bound to the stake at Oxford. With flames licking at their feet, Latimer encouraged his companion with the words, "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, we shall light such a candle by God's grace in England as, I trust, shall never be put out!" Previously at Calvary evil forces had done their utmost to quench the fire of God's love but instead released such a blaze that was to spread across the face of the earth. This fire now needs to be rekindled and set ablaze in the towns and cities of Australia to sweep across a nation besotted with sin, and triumph through the precious blood of Jesus shed on the Cross. It is time to bear the Cross that we may wear the Crown!

### **PRAYER**

Lord God Almighty, the Alpha and Omega, we acknowledge that our Lord Jesus Christ faced all our testing on the Cross in order to save us for His glorious Crown. As our High Priest, He understands our weaknesses as He Himself faced similar trials. As Christ's followers, facing the demonic powers now trying to take our cities and citizens through deceit and deception, give us strength through the wonder-working power of Jesus' blood to pull down all his strongholds and put them at the Judge's feet. In earnest prayer we release His River of Life to deliver us of all our worries, fears and suffering as we bear the Cross. As Christians, born of the Spirit we pledge ourselves to a life of spiritual advancement in 2013. Since Jesus suffered for us in the flesh, may we arm ourselves with the same mind for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that we should live no longer for the rest of our time in human lusts but for the will of God. Thank You, Lord, that as we rejoice in the Cross we know that we will be crowned with the Judge's glory, life and righteousness. 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.**