



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 WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

Once more it is the festive season. Once again we are set to enjoy the presents, the feasting and the fellowship of Christmas. Some will give no thought at all to the real meaning of this annual celebration. Others will attend church, some for perhaps the only time this year, to remember that long ago in Bethlehem was born a Babe who was to change the world. This was the very child who later on in life was to make numerous claims about Himself and that He came to earth to give His life for the forgiveness of the sins of mankind. He said, "**I am the light of the world**"; "**I am the bread of life**"; "**I am the good shepherd**"; "**I am the true vine**"; "**I am the resurrection and the life.**" He also claimed that after He died He was going to heaven to prepare a place for His followers for He was "**the way, the truth and the life**" to eternal habitations where He would welcome them at the end of this life. Let us look at this profound statement from the lips of Jesus as far as they concern us.

I am the Way

Many people argue that they can come to God without Christ, that they can have a relationship with God without any need of Christ. But this is not so. What Jesus is not saying is that no one *may* come to the Father without Him but rather that no one *can come to the Father unless it is through Him*. He is not a kind of angel or sentry standing at the gate of heaven with a flaming sword saying, "You cannot come to the Father and the happiness of heaven unless you come in just the way I say." No, He is not saying that. What, in effect, He *is* saying is this: "**No one does come to God unless it is by Me.**" In other words, there is no way of coming to the Fatherhood of God except through knowledge of the Son; that you will never come to a knowledge of the Father unless you come through the revelation made by Jesus Christ the Son, just as it is impossible to study logarithms without knowing arithmetic. The Apostle John makes this perfectly clear in his first letter: "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also." Moreover, **Christ is the way for everyone**. You do not need riches or great intelligence to accept Christ; **you only need faith** - and this is available to all, both rich and poor, educated and illiterate, man and woman, you and me. But this way must be entered if you want to inherit eternal life.

I am the Truth

Jesus did not say, "I speak the truth", but rather "**I am the truth**". He is the truth about man. By measuring ourselves by His standard we see the truth about ourselves, our shortcomings and failures. However, when we look at Him we also see what we may be. By following Him through His Spirit in us day by day we gradually grow to maturity, measured by nothing less than the full stature of Christ. Furthermore, we learn that as human beings we are "crowned with glory and honour" and that each one of us is worth more than the entire world. "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what will he give in exchange for his soul?" The truth about us is that we were made for eternity, to spend eternity with our Creator, but this will only happen if **we accept Christ as the truth about mankind. Jesus is also the truth about God, who is a Spirit**. Not only did He say things about

God which are recorded in the Bible, the inspired Word of God, but **He was the very Living Word itself.** Moreover, He demonstrated the power of God by stilling the storm, by turning water into wine, by healing diseases and infirmities, by casting out demonic spirits, by miraculously feeding crowds of thousands with a few loaves and fish, and by raising the dead. He demonstrated the righteousness of God by never committing sin although He was tempted as we are. He was righteously angry when overturning the tables of the moneychangers and driving them with their sheep and cattle from the temple because they defiled the house of God. But He was forgiving of the woman caught in adultery. He illustrated **the love of God** in His parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. He personified **the love of God** when he cried out from the cross, **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

I am the Life

This short but profound statement points to **all Christ’s work as a life-giving Spirit.** Dead men cannot make a pathway. It is no use constructing a road if it starts from a cemetery. He taught that everyone is spiritually dead without Him. This was illustrated as He walked the dusty roads of Palestine and everything that came into His presence lived. When He met the dead body on the road at Nain; when He stood at the grave of Lazarus; and when He entered the room of the dead child – death retired and life returned. **He is also the Life because of His own resurrection.** And, as He rose from the dead so will all those who put their trust in Him. **He is the Life – new, abundant Life leading us into eternal life. He is the spiritual, vital force of the Kingdom of Heaven;** the power that alone can make humanity truly live. He is the only one who can lead from darkness into light, from death to life. He says to you, **“Look unto Me; I am sweating great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hanging on the cross. Look unto Me; I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again and triumph over death. Look unto Me; I ascend into heaven. Look unto Me; I am sitting at the Father’s right hand. Look unto Me! Look unto Me!”**

The Way, the Truth, the Life

Jesus Christ is the **Way** for those who are lost in the maze of today’s complexities of life and bewildered by the sudden onset of terrorism that has the whole world in a state of uncertainty and fear. **Jesus Christ** is the **Truth** for those who live in ignorance and error and those who are searching for meaning in their lives. **Jesus Christ** is the **Life** for all who are dead in their sins whether they realise it or not. Do you believe this? If you do **it is time to put your trust in Him** who alone can lead you from darkness into light, from death into life. Why not make this Christmas the best ever as you accept His offer to **“Come unto Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls.”** If you are prepared to admit you are on the wrong road and want to get on the path that leads to God and to glory there is no time like the present, for **today is the day of salvation.**

PRAYER

Father, I thank You for Your gift of eternal life through the grace of the Lord JESUS CHRIST. Hear me, O God, for I come to You in the Name of JESUS CHRIST and acknowledge that I am a sinner and need forgiveness of all my sin. I believe that JESUS died for my sin, becoming a curse for me that I might be washed clean in His Blood shed on the Cross of Calvary. I ask You to forgive me of all my sin in JESUS’ Name. Please help me to become the kind of person You want me to be and help me understand **Your Word** (the Bible) as I read it. I want to be obedient to Your Holy Spirit. Thank You, JESUS for becoming my sin bearer, so I am freed from my sin and stand righteous before God. I now receive **JESUS CHRIST** as my personal **SAVIOUR** and **LORD** of my life. Thank You, LORD JESUS for cleansing me with Your precious Blood so that I am now accepted into the Family of Faith in Your coming Kingdom of Righteousness. Amen and glory to God.

We wish you and your family a blessed and joyful Christmas and a peaceful and glorious New Year 2003.

RA: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring the honour due to His Holy Name. Amen

REJOICE & SHARE IN FAITH THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST