



# 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*

---

VOLUME 8:4

APRIL 2003

## THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

In AD 312 the Roman emperor Constantine was engaged in battle with the armies of his enemy Maxentius whom he believed was using magic to help him. To offset this pagan magic Constantine decided he needed a more powerful supernatural force on his side. Just after midday as he was praying he looked up into the sky and saw a cloud formation in the shape of a cross and an inscription, “By this sign conquer.” Though not yet a Christian, Constantine took this sign of the cross and fought under it – to victory. The cross – a sign of triumph? To a spectator on Calvary’s hill it was surely anything but that. Defeat, not victory. Yet the Apostle Paul was certain it was more than defeat. He wrote, “He (Jesus) disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in the cross” (Col 2:15). Well, how did Jesus turn seeming death and defeat to a great triumph?

### **Victory Over Evil**

Firstly, He won over evil. Think of the main characters in that vital drama which unfolded on that momentous Jerusalem stage in AD 30. They included scheming Caiaphas the high priest; cowardly Pilate the Roman governor, heartless Herod the ruler of Galilee, and treacherous Judas the false disciple. The only memorial endowed by history on these men is one of infamy. In the final analysis they go down on the debit side of life’s ledger. At Calvary evil forces did their utmost to quench the fire of God’s love but instead released such a fire that was to spread right across the face of the earth. Evil crucified Christ but He triumphed in the end. Secondly, He gained the victory over suffering. When Christ died on the cross He voluntarily suffered the worst that a good man can suffer. However, though He was the Son of God He was perfected by the Eternal Spirit through that suffering and became the author of eternal salvation to all who believe and obey Him. It was fitting for Him, in bringing many sons and daughters to glory by His Spirit to be made perfect through sufferings. Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh to free us from sin, we should also adopt the same attitude because suffering in the body is good for the soul – for no flesh glorifies God!

### **Isaiah’s Prophecy**

Many centuries before Jesus came to this world the prophet Isaiah wrote foretelling His sacrifice and suffering. “Surely He has borne our sicknesses and carried our pain; yet we esteemed Him smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” And so it came to pass in the fullness of time this suffering servant hung upon a cross on a green hill outside the holy city of Jerusalem. The sins of mankind He bore in His body as He hung there stretched between earth and heaven were more than God could bear to look upon. With breaking heart Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” But it was all worth it. Weeping endured for a night but joy came in the morning of His resurrection.

### **Victory Over Death**

And thirdly, He won the victory over death. Not only evil and suffering but death did its worst at Calvary. It triumphed on that first Good Friday but its triumph was short-lived. Death held Jesus Christ in its vice-like grip that day but it was not Christ but death itself that lay broken on the ground. “God raised Him up,” cried the Apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost, “having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.” Something happened to death at Calvary, not just to a man who died,

but to death itself. Death, the terror of mortal man, the tyrant of life, took on a new look. Christ devitalised it, defeated it and rendered it harmless. There is still physical death, of course, but the spirit of man in association with God's Holy Spirit, can now live on into eternity. The letter to the Hebrews gives us this assurance: "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power over death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

#### **A Parable of Life**

A long time after World War II had ended a group of Japanese soldiers was discovered far back in the mountains of the Philippines. Completely cut off from the rest of the world they were unaware that peace had come. When they were eventually discovered one man shot himself in panic. This is a parable of life today. Many people live in ignorance of the victory the blood of **JESUS CHRIST** had won for all mankind at Calvary. Consequently they doom themselves to ultimate misery and death. Are you one of them? If you are, then come out of hiding and learn **the truth of the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ**. Know for certain that Christ did triumph on the cross over Satan, sin, evil, suffering and death. For since it was a man who brought death through sin and self into the world, a man also brought resurrection of the dead through His Spirit of life giving us life, grace, peace and freedom. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made spiritually alive to become the righteousness of God, in fellowship with Him daily.

#### **An Invitation**

At this special time of Easter when we focus on Christ's agony and His triumph over all the forces of darkness, give heed to this word from the Book of Romans: "**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 it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**" To share in His victory you must faithfully put your trust in Him who "disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross." Will you accept His invitation to open your heart and let the Son shine in, to have a personal relationship with you?

#### **PRAYER**

Holy Father of divine Grace; the Great I AM; Source of all Provisions and Goodness; Author and Finisher of our faith; O Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, nothing is too difficult for You. We are mindful, O Lord, that Isaiah 37:36 reveals how a lone angel at Your command destroyed a vast army of 185,000 Assyrians in a single night! Loving Father, as children of light we commit and submit ourselves to Your plans and purposes in unity with Your Spirit to love and thank You for Your grace in the victories that the Lord Jesus wins for us as we take refuge in You. O Father, Your statutes are our delight and we rejoice to keep Your decrees giving all glory, honour and power to You by Your Holy Spirit. We rest in Your peace, loving Father, knowing Your ultimate victory is summed up in the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**. Abba Father, we join the hosts of heaven faithfully yielded to Your omnipotent Spirit to pray effectively through us as we lift high the name of our Lord Jesus, the Captain of our Army in the spiritual conflict today.

Father, we call upon **AUSTRALIA to REPENT** of its sins of unbelief and disobedience and acknowledge **JESUS CHRIST** is our true peace and Lord of this nation though the pathway to victory often passes through a valley of sorrow and suffering. We know, O Lord, we have an unshakable peace which Jesus gives to those who believe and trust in Him who is seated at God's right hand. O God, we also acknowledge that **JESUS CHRIST** is the General of the forces of the land, the Lord High Admiral of the seas, and our Supreme Ally; woe unto those who reject and fight against Him, for they shall flee like smoke before the wind when He gives the word to scatter them. Almighty Creator, Spirit of all love and compassion, help us to worship You in holy reverence and to pray effectively in the name of Jesus to pull down all the strongholds of the powers of darkness assigned against Your people. Blessed Spirit of Truth also help us dispense God's grace and mercy to the lost and set them free to enter Your Kingdom of peace and righteousness. As we enthrone our coming King of Glory and Judge, **JESUS CHRIST**, in our thanksgiving and worship, we pray that the kingdoms of the earth may know that **JESUS CHRIST** alone is the Lord Most High and Almighty God. We pray this in the triumphant name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**R.A.:** 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 glory and honour to His Holy Name

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