



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 8:5

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O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING?

According to the old saying there are just two things we can be sure of in this life: death and taxes. We all know about taxes; they are a constant irritant that never go away. But death. That is another matter. Unlike taxes we are not plagued with that awesome reaper constantly striking during our lifetime – only the fear of it. However, the recent war in Iraq with its death and destruction and the loss of the lives of many servicemen and civilians on both sides of the conflict has heightened our fears of the reality of the spectre of death. Because science has overcome many of the death-dealing diseases of the past such as diphtheria, smallpox, polio and scarlet fever; the death of children is a rarity and women seldom die giving birth, death seemed to have lost its sting. In the main we only spoke of death when it could not be avoided. It has not been a popular subject at all! Yet death is all around us.

The World a Different Place

Since 11 September 2001 the world has become a different place. While we seem to be able to live with the fact that heart disease, strokes and cancer, road accidents and suicides are bearing away more souls today than the diseases and calamities of past centuries the fear of terrorist attacks and war brings home ever so forcefully the reality of the Grim Reaper upsetting and turning our lives upside-down. We now live in a world fraught with peril. The very real threat of terrorism in our own land has shaken our complacency and the frightening possibility of weapons of mass destruction being let loose anywhere in the world makes us fearful of death striking down both ourselves and our loved ones. For indeed people *are* dying. Those in the prime of life were struck down in an instant as they holidayed in Bali. Young people are killing themselves in large numbers on the roads, with drugs and through suicide. But we still don't like to think about death, certainly not of those close to us.

An Unwelcome Guest

What a contrast between ourselves and the people of 100 years ago! They were ever concerned with death, be it of necessity or of morbid interest. Of necessity, for death was ever present in the form of childhood diseases that carried off many youngsters, industrial accidents and mothers losing their lives giving birth to children. The spectre of death was never far away. Like an unwelcome guest it visited too frequently and often unexpectedly. So death became a morbid reality to the people of the 19th century. It was forever on their lips. The difference between the 19th and 21st centuries regarding death is this. They were not afraid to face death or to speak about it because of their faith in God and belief in His infallible Word. It was a fact. And it always loomed around the corner. And, in the main, they saw it for what it was: a doorway to another world – to heaven. But today we have lost our faith. Heaven no longer beckons for we no longer believe in it. All that awaits us, we think, is nothingness – the great eternal sleep. Our hope of eternal life has been extinguished. Death is the end! That is the hope of the hopeless. Before he committed suicide Ernest Hemingway bewailed, “I live in a vacuum that is as lonely as a radio tube when the batteries are dead and there is no current to plug into.” Without an eternal hope life has no meaning, and death is oblivion.

In the Twinkling of an Eye

The grave, however, holds no terror for those who know Jesus Christ who conquered death. Last month at Easter we again remembered the One who died and rose again. **To those who put their trust in the Christ, the Anointed One we know as Jesus (Saviour), these corruptible bodies must put on incorruption,**

these mortal bodies must put on immorality. In the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet they shall be changed. We are assured, moreover, that this same Jesus who ascended into heaven as His disciples watched shall come back in like manner. "The Lord 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 shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess 4:16-17). As someone has said, "When risen with Christ you have a Treasure, a Treasurer and a Treasury. Your life – that is your Treasure; Christ is your Treasurer; in God – that is your Treasury." **Christ is the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in Him though he may die, yet shall he live. He is the One who appeared to the Apostle John while he was imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos for his faith. He is the One who said, "**I am He that lives, and was dead; I am alive forevermore. And I have the keys of hell and death.**" (Rev 1:18).

A Building from God

The body is just the spirit and soul's dwelling place while here on earth. And "if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" To those who are united in faith with Jesus Christ by His Spirit - that is, those who accept Him into their life as Lord and Saviour - have opened the door into eternal life. The creature must touch and be transformed into the image of Jesus by the Creator Spirit or perish, for in Him only is Life. This is the enduring life; it is not ephemeral or transitory. Life in union with the Spirit of God partakes of the Divine – one of unchangeableness and infinity and eternity. Everything will eventually pass away, even the everlasting hills will change and disappear; but as we take into ourselves the spirit-filled, blood empowered life of God through Christ we are safe forever in His everlasting arms. Jesus made it abundantly clear when He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears my words and believes Him who sent me has everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." (John 5:24) He also said, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge him before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven." (Matt 10:32 - 33)

Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?

Thanks be to Almighty God who gives us the victory through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to overcome Satan by the Living Word of our testimony empowered by His Holy Spirit. Amen. Can you say that?

PRAYER

Almighty God of infinite grace, mercy and justice, forgive us for not exercising our spiritual responsibility to overcome Satan and his cohorts by appropriating the blood of Jesus through the word of our testimony in our everyday situations. Thank You, Father, that You sent Your only begotten Son, **JESUS CHRIST** to defeat death, the grave, sin and self-will at the cross of Calvary and that His blood is our life and protection in these perilous times. Father, we thank You for **who You are** and we worship You in Spirit and in truth through our praises of thanksgiving for Jesus, who left the courts of heaven to come to a world of evil for the sake of lost sinners. Sovereign Lord, by Your omnipotent Spirit, help us to commit ourselves to Christ, the Anointed One, so He may equip and empower each one of us to live a victorious life in the secret place of the Most High.

Lord God, motivate us to walk humbly, act justly and be kind to the poor and sick to help fulfill Your sovereign plans during this Age of deceit and disobedience. Lord, we thank You for Your gift of faith which is our spiritual resource to come against **all** trials and tribulations. Father, we take dominion authority to pull down the strongholds of the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms, in Jesus' name. Father, reconcile this nation under the lordship of **JESUS CHRIST** to Yourself, we pray. Blessed Holy Spirit, help us accomplish Your sovereign Will to preach the Gospel to the lost, feed the hungry, help the poor and needy and comfort the wounded. Blessed Father, thank You for preparing a chosen generation of faithful warriors to march through the land who will triumph over death and the grave through the victorious cross of Jesus, and release love, peace and hope as we joyfully welcome our triumphant King of Glory, the Prince of Peace, **JESUS CHRIST**. We pray all this in the victorious name of Jesus. 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. Amen

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