



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:9:12

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WHY JESUS CAME THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS

It's Christmas again, that exciting time of the year when people everywhere are spending millions of dollars, shopping and splurging, festooning and feasting as they celebrate another annual festival of peace and goodwill. But from all this frenzied activity will they have caught the real meaning and message of this holy season, or will they merely have gone through a set ritual in keeping with custom, tradition and sentiment? In a world obsessed with materialism and pleasure, of what significance is the fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago? In fact, why did He come at all? Why did the Son of God come to that remote Palestinian village atop the Judean hills; come to a manger in a stall for cattle, by starlight while shepherds watched their flocks by night; come to a mother's love and a king's hate? Why did He come to a world so lacking in hospitality that He was given a borrowed cradle at His birth and a borrowed tomb at His death? He tells us why in the 19th chapter of Luke's gospel: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." The Son of Man, Son of God came on the greatest mission ever recorded; and He was the greatest missionary to ever come into the world.

A Variety of Missions

Throughout history men have gone forth on an endless variety of missions. Alexander went forth to conquer the world; Caesar went forth to subdue his enemies; Socrates went forth in search of knowledge; Columbus went forth to discover the new world; Armstrong went forth to reach the moon. Warriors have gone forth to rout their enemies; travellers have gone forth to view distant regions; philanthropists have gone forth on errands of mercy; but the Saviour went forth from heaven to earth to submit to shame, to endure scourging and to suffer death for the human race, to seek and to save every one of us from our lost condition. And, what is more, He is still seeking to save us. But what do we mean "to save"?

Spirit, Soul and Body

To save is more than a religious term. It means to make whole – spirit, soul and body. You see, it is not only a matter of the future but of the present as well. It is not just to rescue you from a future hell but to deliver you from your present self; not only to rescue you for a future heaven but to release you for present service. To be saved, first of all, is to be pardoned of all your sins. The very instant you put your trust in Christ Jesus and be baptized into His death your past is blotted out as though it had never existed. Every sin you have ever committed in thought, word or deed is gone – only by this miraculous gift of regeneration. The Scriptures assure us that "as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us". This is what happens as soon as one vital condition is met: accepting Christ as your Saviour, the Holy One who shed His precious blood and died in your place, for "the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord" as we abide in His Spirit of truth and righteousness.

Indisputable Facts

The coming of the Christ (the Anointed One) into the sinful world is the result of two indisputable facts: the infinite love of God and the need of sinful man. That is, God's grace responding to the lost state of man. Lost! Think of it. The word conjures up images of a hunter trapped in the snows of northern Canada; a ship off course pounded by the fury of the sea; a child lost in impenetrable bush; or a plane days overdue at its destination. We are lost because of our sinful nature; we have gone away from the Father's house and are wandering in the wilderness of a wicked world. We are lost because we have gone our own self-righteous way, ignoring the right but narrow path that leads to Life. Without Christ we are lost to ourselves, lost to holiness, lost to happiness and peace, lost to heaven, and lost to God. What glory we ought to have rendered to God; what good to man; what

fulfillment to ourselves! When we use our talents to merely gratify our selfish desires surely that is a noble thing lost, a precious piece of spiritual machinery whose power is wasted and its potential squandered

Lost!

Lost! This condition includes all men and women. It embodies the Zulu in his African village, the American tycoon in his penthouse, the Australian drover on an outback station, the English housewife in her suburban townhouse, the Al Quaida terrorist in his mountain hideout. It includes us all - you and me. We are lost - until we have been found and saved by God's grace. For "all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way." But then along comes the Son, sent by the Father to bring us back onto the path that leads to abundant life. This is the real meaning of Christmas

Giver of Eternal Life

God came in the flesh in the person of the Son of Man, not to be a great teacher writing books or founding schools; not to conceive His own philosophy to be considered alongside those of Plato, Confucius, Rousseau and the rest; not to build a mighty empire along with Caesar, Charlemagne or Napoleon; not to begin a new order or to head a new sect. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Man came primarily, profoundly, peerlessly as the Saviour, as the Bearer of Sin, as the Giver of Eternal Life and Spirit of Light. He came to seek and to save the lost. He came to save the millionaire or the monarch lost in his pride and luxury. He came to save the prodigal, lost in the pleasures of sin. He came to save the woman of the streets, lost in her ancient trade. He came to save the scholar, lost perhaps in his intellectual pride or dazed and despairing in the confusion of his theories and the futility of his philosophies. He came to save the politician, lost in the machinations of his party. He came to save the average man and woman, lost in the humdrum life of materialistic suburbia.

"The Light of the World"

Jesus came to save not only those who are lost, but to save those who are lost to the fact that they are lost. He came to save a lost anybody, a lost everybody, a lost you! He came to save You! You are of infinite value to God the heavenly Father. Believe it! In his famous painting, "The Light of the World", Holman Hunt depicts Christ knocking at the door. The door is shut and there is no latch. When a fellow artist pointed this out to Hunt, he replied, "Ah, my friend that is the whole message of the picture. There is a latch - but it is on the inside of the door." The Saviour knocks on the door of your heart that He may come in and make you an overcomer who will eventually sit with Him on His heavenly throne. Will you open your heart to Him? Open it in a simple, personal, unwavering act of faith in Him as your Saviour and Lord? Make this Christmas the most memorable of your life and rejoice with John Newton in the words of his famous hymn: "Once I was lost, but now I'm found".

PRAYER

Loving Father, Most High God, Creator of the heavens and earth and the Source of all our provisions, we thank You for Your loving kindness and goodness toward us. Omniscient Father, as blood-bought children, living by faith in Jesus Christ, we come with hearts filled with praise into Your awesome presence to worship You in spirit and in truth. In the beauty of Your holiness we lift high the Name of Jesus during this festive season and pray that Your spirit will draw the lost into Your Kingdom of truth, righteousness and justice. Holy Father, thank You for loving this sinful world enough to give Your only Son to be crucified, cleansing all who come with His precious blood to set them free from the evil schemes of Satan. Gracious Father, we give You glory that Jesus Christ is now seated at Your right hand as our Great High Priest interceding for all who seek Him. Through Your Spirit, we pray, draw lost souls to genuinely repent and claim their salvation in this Sinner's Prayer:

SINNER'S 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.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas Season and a glorious New Year 2005.

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.