



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 12:4

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An Easter Warning

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Once more it is Easter, the pagan holiday that the Christian Church has adopted to celebrate the Passion of Christ—His suffering, death and resurrection. For centuries those events of AD30 have been central to this the most important remembrance on the Christian calendar, but sadly Easter is steadily reverting again to paganism with its focus on chocolate eggs, bunnies, hot cross buns, holidays and pleasure. Though many will cram churches for this special time many others think little of the Christ who paid the ultimate price for the sins of mankind. Yet for all their apathy they little realise that His death on the cross of Calvary so long ago has eternal significance for each one of us. Yes, *everyone* of us!

A Tragic Mistake

Following the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on 14 April 1865, seven men and one woman were arrested as accomplices of the actual killer John Wilkes Booth. For about three months they were locked in cells with their heads encased in canvas shrouds, their hands manacled with handcuffs and their legs chained to heavy iron balls until brought to trial. Four of them were consigned to the gallows and four to imprisonment on fever-ridden Fort Jefferson Island where one died after a year. Three years later the three survivors were pardoned and the nation shamefacedly confessed that, except for two of them, none of the victims of an angry nation's vengeance should even have been charged. Man judged man—and made a tragic mistake. God too will judge man—but there will be no mistake. The Bible makes this awesome fact abundantly clear: "As for the times of ignorance, God has overlooked them; but now He commands mankind, all men everywhere, to repent, having fixed the day on which He will have the world judged righteously, by a Man of His own choosing; of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17: 30-31) What we all should realise is that the fact of judgment must be seen against the background of the cross. For God so loved His human creation that He gave His Son on that cruel cross so none of us should have to face His judgment.

The Days of Noah

In the days of Noah, about 2350BC, God saw that the wickedness of man was great, that his thoughts were continually evil. So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground." Then He sent the Great Flood as His agent of judgment. Jesus warns us: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man." In the days of Lot, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were so wicked that the Lord rained fire and brimstone down upon them and buried them out of existence. Again, He warns us: "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed." Why did God judge these people? Why must they have suffered destruction? The answer is summed up in one word: SIN. For the wages of sin is death. Sin in the heart of man, breeding pride, lust and all kinds of evil behaviour, brought about the swift judgment of God. Yet even today, in this so-called enlightened age, many people are living without the least thought of a future judgment. Modern man does not like to think of God in terms of wrath and judgment. He prefers to accept the more agreeable attributes of God—His love and mercy and forgiveness, but not His justice. Many believe that it is not consistent for God, who is love, to judge man. But, it's because God loves that He judges. If a parent, who loves his child, is always giving him what he wants and never punishes or disciplines him for his misdemeanours, he is spoiling him. To what result? An objectionable, irresponsible,

self-centred adult. Is this what we want? No. Is it what God wants? No. For, above all, He is a holy God. This means, of course, that while He is a refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble, the good shepherd, our light and salvation, in fact “the good guy upstairs”, He cannot gloss over sin. The justice of God balances His love and makes both meaningful. God’s grace and compassion never fail, and from the cross He says to the world, ‘I love you’. But when that love is spurned, the only alternative is judgment.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

If the Bible teaches anything at all, it teaches that God is going to judge man (which of course includes men and women, young and old). Again and again Jesus and writers of New Testament epistles warn of judgment. For example, Jesus said, “I tell you this: there is not a thoughtless word that comes from men’s lips but they will have to give account on the Day of Judgment”; and “The Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son”. The Apostle Paul wrote: “We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ”; and, “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”. The Apostle Peter wrote: “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment”. And, finally, the actual scene of the great Day of Judgment was revealed to the Apostle John while imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos. He wrote: “Then I saw a great white throne, and the One who sat upon it; from His presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was left for them. I could see the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, the roll of the living. From what was written in these books the dead were judged according to the record of their deeds. The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up the dead in their keeping; they were judged, each one by his works.”

A Very Strong Incentive

This is the judgment that everyone not abiding in Christ is heading towards. People from every age, in every country, will stand before God. *You* will stand there if you haven’t accepted Jesus as your Saviour. You may break appointments here and now, but this is one appointment you *will* keep. Christ is inevitable; you cannot escape Him. Judgment is as sure as the Bible itself. If you believe the Bible, you must believe in judgment. And, if you are wise, the certainty of judgment should be a very strong incentive to get right with God through repentance leading to faith and to holiness through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Today Jesus Christ is our Advocate who will save us, if we will but let Him. There comes a fateful day, however, when He shall be our Judge. A young lawyer once defended a man charged with murder. He did it so successfully that his client was acquitted. Years passed and the young lawyer became a judge. The very same man was brought into court, again charged with murder. At the conclusion of the trial the jury brought in the verdict: “Guilty.” Speaking to the prisoner, the judge said, “At your first trial I was your lawyer, today I am your judge. The verdict of the jury makes it mandatory for me to sentence you to death.” Jesus Christ will defend you now if you put yourself in His charge, but if you do not, He will judge you. What will it be?

God’s Pledge

At Easter we not only remember that Jesus died on the cross but also that He rose from the dead on the third day. That means He was alive then and He will never die. He has been alive throughout the last two millennia; He is alive now and shall be for all eternity. He Himself said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, yet shall he live.” When He was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, He became God’s pledge of a similar resurrection of all those united to Him who suffered in their stead. He has become the firstfruit of all believers who will one day be with Him in glory. Will you be one of them? The stark choice for every one of us is to share that glory or to face divine judgment. The decision is yours.

PRAYER

Almighty God and Loving Father, Creator of Light, Life and Love, hallowed be Your name. As children in Your family of faith we come to praise, love and thank You for sending the risen Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord, bearer of the Water of Life and Eternal Source of Light, who has warned us of the dark, perilous days of lawlessness and confusion that are coming before the prophesied great Day of Judgment which is fast approaching this sin-sick world. Abba Father, in fervent prayer we wait on You, beseeching that a mighty wave of repentance sweep across the leaders and ordinary people of all nations so that, in the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Him King of Glory now. Sovereign Lord, we join Your Holy Spirit of Truth and joyfully lift high the name of Jesus to draw lost souls into Your royal family so they may abide forever in Him. Convict them, we pray, through Your Living Word so they may truly *know* their God in preparation for the Day of Judgment. We ask this in the triumphant name of Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.

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.