



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

Brothers & Sisters

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A CALL TO OVERCOME

The Book of Revelation contains seven promises to overcomers in the seven churches. To those who abide in the faith, the Lord will grant numerous blessings in the realm of power when He comes to reign on earth to those who have overcome in this life. The question for us who are spiritual players on the world stage today is: What are we to overcome in these climactic days just prior to His return? In a nutshell, our spiritual adversary the devil who walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. For our warfare is not against flesh and blood but against the evil spiritual forces in the heavens. This today means an antichrist sentiment and conduct that will steadily become a flowing torrent, so that when the Antichrist himself finally appears he will be welcomed by countless millions, including many former Christians who are of a kindred spirit. The Apostle Paul warned of this very thing. He foretold that in the latter days false prophets would infiltrate the church, preaching another gospel and another Jesus. Many such prophets have already appeared, teaching another gospel, even as a different gospel was preached to the Galatian church in Paul's day. The antichrist spirit is invading the hearts of many apostate Christians even now because they are like-minded with him, ignoring the specific injunction of the Apostle John: "Love not the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2: 15) John is warning us that those who still love the things of this world have opened themselves to the spirit of antichrist. Keep in mind, however, that those who are righteous in Christ and worship God in spirit and in truth, are prime targets of the antichrist. Paul makes it clear that he "opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." (2 Thess 2:4) Satan wants to destroy true worship and to rob God of all praise because he wants it for himself. Therefore, the antichrist spirit comes against true worshippers with fear, doubt, ignorance, apathy, pride, lust---anything to interfere with true worship

Spirit of Lawlessness

Fortunately, this spirit of lawlessness is at present being restrained by the Holy Spirit. It is the power of Jesus' Spirit in His church that holds back Satan's march toward anarchy and mayhem. Indeed, if God were to lift His Spirit from on-fire churches and godly believers, our country would soon become a hell on earth. Yet careless, lazy Christians---those who have not forsaken their sins, who are still engrossed in the things of the world---will not be able to stand in these last days. They will be overcome by evil. Such halfhearted believers do more than fall *away* from the Lord. They also fall *into* bondage. Remember, we are God's temple. But for some, another spirit has invaded their temple. The Spirit of God is gone and lust, pride, covetousness and slander all reign supreme, and what is pure, holy and divine are consumed by a mysterious spirit of lawlessness. How could such a terrible thing happen? Because, whereas once the Spirit of the living God possessed this holy temple, so many Christians have grown careless and dropped their guard in this critical life-and-death battle of the spirit.

Control of the Media

The Apostle Peter refers to such people. "For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'A dog returns to his own vomit', and 'a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire' ". (2 Peter 2: 21, 22) They no longer walk in righteousness and holiness and now the spirit of antichrist sits in the temple of their hearts. How did this happen? Most commonly, by his taking control of the media. Through the debased, filthy movies and promiscuous sitcoms spewed out day in day out

from the TV networks, movie houses, the internet etc, the antichrist spirit has corrupted many jaded Christians through the eye-gate into their very souls. The spirit of degeneracy, exemplified in the media through foul language, the promotion of homosexuality and permissiveness, constant extreme and gratuitous violence, is taking a heavy toll on the moral values that are basic to faithful Christian living. With its bias against what is sacred and holy, lovely and good, it promotes a culture of death mindset that considers abortion a right rather than a sin and euthanasia as an acceptable termination of life for the elderly and infirm.

Immoral Cesspool

The spirit of lawlessness is growing bolder and our society is fast descending into an immoral cesspool. The antichrist spirit now pervades our schools, our courts, our streets and our homes. And sadly this evil is also moving into the church. This spirit is the motivating force behind "outsider friendly" churches being built on "feel-good worldly music", skits and dramas and other kinds of entertainment because people don't want to hear reproof. They want no conviction---so they hear a gospel that is almost devoid of repentance, judgment and the Cross. They are told all about God's grace and mercy, how to cope with problems---but nothing of His judgment and hell. In fact, they are being lulled to sleep in their sinful lifestyle. Nevertheless, this is exactly what the Bible warns of---churches with forms of godliness, but without power. One may well ask: Who brought the devilish music of the world into the church? Who turned weekly prayer meetings into "entertainment night" at the church? Who has taken the fire out of Christians to fight against such social evils as unrestricted pornography, abortion as a birth control measure, the image of woman debased by feminist manipulators, and the acceptance of homosexuality as a normal way of life? It is the spirit of antichrist and it is telling Christians they can drink from two cups---the Lord's cup and the cup of demons! In such times as this, we need to be clothed in the whole armour of God to remain unconquerable in this war between good and evil.

A Holy Remnant

Paul gives thanks to God for a holy people who remain loyal, faithful in such perilous times. This holy remnant will rise up against the spirit of antichrist and stand strong. They will never be overcome. They will overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. This holy remnant loves JESUS CHRISTI, the truth. They are not afraid to be reproved. They examine themselves in the light of God's Word, so God is able to sanctify and renew their mind and spirit. Indeed, if you open your heart to the truth, the Lord will establish you in it. And when the evil spirit of this world comes in like a flood, Satan will be unable to make any inroad into your heart. The antichrist has a rod, signifying authority. But his power and reign will not be over you. On the contrary you will overcome him! "I have written to you... because you are strong, and the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one" (1 Jn 2:14). "And this is the victory that overcomes the world---our faith" (1 Jn 5:4). The writer of Hebrews, having lauded the powerful examples of his "Heroes of Faith", goes on to exhort us: "With all these witnesses to faith around us like a cloud, we must throw off every encumbrance, every sin to which we cling, and run with resolution the race for which we are entered, our eyes fixed on *Jesus*, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, making light of its disgrace, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12: 1, 2) interceding for us.

The Man of Sin

We know there will be a great falling away in these last days. We know that the spirit of antichrist will overtake many believers who are turning aside from the faith. We know that the church has been preaching for years about the coming of the Antichrist. We have been expecting the appearance of the Man of Sin, the son of perdition. In fact, quite a few believe he will be revealed in our time---that he is alive now somewhere on the earth. A man totally possessed by Satan, he will be well received by the world when he appears on the international scene. He will eventually demand the devotion of all mankind when he sets himself up as God before the entire world. And the only reason he hasn't been revealed is because his time has not yet come. But one day the Holy Spirit will lift His restraining hand, and the Man of Sin will be revealed in full power. The Scriptures assure us, however, that when this evil man's time is finished, he will be destroyed by God, for we read: "And then he will be revealed, that wicked man" Let the spirit of antichrist come. Be assured, he will have no power over you; you will not be moved, because you shall be firmly established on the truth of God's Word. You will be found in God's house, worshipping from a pure heart. Your faith and hope will overcome all that the enemy brings against you---because Jesus sits enthroned in the temple of your heart. Doesn't He? That makes you an overcomer. Hallelujah!

Wishing you and your family a blessed and glorious New Year 2008.

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.