



# *The Anglican Herald*

*The Anglican Catholic Church in Western Australia*

*Second Edition: No.8 – November 2019*

## What about Sin and Salvation?

Sin is a word you don't hear very often. Society doesn't like the idea of any of its behaviour being considered sinful.

Nobody likes to be told that something they do is sinful. We feel offended by such a suggestion. We like to think we are in charge of every aspect of our life and we don't want anyone telling us what is right or wrong. We demand the right to make our own choices.

Being Christian therefore presents us with a problem. We are asked by God to accept His design and purpose for our life. We are asked to accept the choices made for us by God. We are asked to concede that God is in charge of every aspect of our life.

While Australia has always been a secular nation it has generally based its foundations on the Judeo-Christian Tradition. We can no longer claim to be a Christian nation, if we ever were one. Like so many other nations we have done away with one of the basic elements of civilised society – we have abandoned the absolutes.

The things we used to accept as right and wrong are no longer black and white – we have painted them grey. We've taken the view that if it is good for us then it must be ok. Basically we are saying I'll do what I want and stuff everybody else. We might well expect this view from a bikie gang or indeed the criminal brigade in general but it has slowly impregnated the attitude and practice of society as a whole.

**If we don't sin – why do we need salvation?**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us: but, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

1John 1. 8-9

*According to the classical definition of St. Augustine of Hippo **sin** is "a word, deed, or desire in opposition to the eternal law of God."*

If we accept this definition as I believe we must, then we will see that mankind is in trouble. Apart from Jesus I don't believe anyone has not at least thought of a word, deed or desire in opposition to the law of God. The fact is – mankind is sinful and needs some way to escape the consequences.

As Christians we have come to believe and accept that God has sent His Son Jesus to be the means of mankind's escape from the consequences of sin.

### **Jesus has died on the cross and risen again For the forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God**

The problem is that in general we can no longer decide what is right or what is wrong. Having decided that our own wants and desires are our right and that no one has the right to interfere; we live our lives as though we are the only person that matters. We have a selfish attitude – it is our way or no way.

If any of what I've said is even remotely true then it can be strongly argued that we have abandoned the idea of sin and that life should be lived according to our wishes. We demand to be in control of our affairs and we have the right to pursue and achieve our goals even to the point of having legal authority to do so.

Our society is going through serious changes. So much of what we have grown up with is being challenged. Our right to express an opinion is no longer respected if it does not conform to the popular view. Freedom of religion is being questioned and serious compromise is definitely on the cards.

Free speech may be lost already. Now the matter of human gender is under attack. In some countries when a woman (person) gives

birth the child must not be referred to as a boy or a girl. The child will decide for itself when it feels like it. Does this seem strange to you? I believe that at least one state in Australia no longer requires the gender of a person to be recorded on a birth certificate. So much of scientific reality is being ignored so that the opinion of those promoting gender diversity will become the norm within our society.

Racial tension continues in Australia and so far we have failed to find a solution to this serious matter. The colour of our skin and our ethnic background often determines how we react to various people within our communities. This is an issue not confined to Australia. Indeed racial issues have very often been the cause of conflicts between nations since the world began. We find it difficult to accept people on face value. We seem always to make a judgement and form an opinion about people we meet in whatever situation. We should remember that we were all created in the image of God.

The world is in a shambled state. We are floundering around trying to sort things out and we are failing miserably. We will never get things right if we can't decide what is right and what is wrong. We need the absolutes and only God can give them to us. As many nations are seeking to do away with the idea of God we are left to our own devices. The shambles will not only continue it will get very much more serious and the present day conflicts will drag more nations into possible war. Humanity simply cannot cope alone!

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

From Romans 3

**We need to turn to God  
To point us in the right direction**

**Christians must stand and proclaim the Good news  
JESUS CHRIST IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE**

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples

of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28 18-20

God the Father has given His Son Jesus all authority. Jesus has commanded us to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples and teach people to observe all that God commands. This is the task that is set before us. The Church needs to speak out both in word and deed. We know that only God can solve our problems and we also know that it is only Christians who will attempt to proclaim this truth.

**If we don't do it nobody else will.**

We will face difficulties. We will be persecuted because we are Christian. We will face opposition from within some churches. We belong to a 'Continuing Anglican Church' because the Canterbury Communion has departed from the Faith in various ways.

Jesus has promised to be with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and the life of our Church. We cannot be in safer hands. We know God will ultimately triumph and bring all things under the rule and authority of Jesus Christ.



Let us go  
forward in  
the strength of  
God  
and show  
and share  
our Faith