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THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

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Most Australians call themselves Christians. It is interesting to ask what are the main teachings of the Christian faith? Of course huge books have been written on this but it can be summed up quite quickly in three points. First, God's complete control and sovereignty over everything that takes place in the universe or in our lives. This is underlined in every page of the Bible. God is in control, that is why if we trust Him we need not fear what events may bring, for as Jesus said 'even the hairs of your head are all numbered'. God knows everything in the world He has created, controls everything and is Lord and Sovereign. He is the complete boss. The second point follows from this, that God will establish His rule openly and publicly at the coming of Jesus at the end of the world. God is absolutely upright and just and will bring everything that He has created into judgement and assessment. You and I will give an account of the way we use the gift of life. Christians look forward to this day of Christ's manifestation because it will be not only a day of judgement, but a day of their salvation and of the fulness of fellowship with their Heavenly Father. What joy that will be and it will be for ever.

And this brings me to the third great central theme, that God has provided salvation from the wrath of the judgement day, because He loved the world, and sent the Lord Jesus Christ to be the Saviour of the world that all who believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. In Jesus, God has come among us, because Jesus is divine. The Son of God has taken our nature,

become man, lived the perfect life and undergone the consequences of living perfectly in a world dominated by types like us. The envy, hatred and jealousy of our natures crucified Him; but God raised Him from the dead, victorious over sin because of His perfect goodness in it all. He is the one whom Christians come to know as their Lord here and now through His word and through His Spirit, and they look forward to His coming when all will see Him clearly as the sovereign victorious Lord. That will be a time of very great happiness for Christians who have come to love the Saviour and to trust and obey Him and to experience the forgiveness of their sins through His love, though it will be a time of dread for those who have lived the life God has given them for themselves without any thought for Him.

These three points sum up the whole Christian religion. God is sovereign and boss. Nothing happens apart from Him. He has appointed the judgement day and Jesus, God himself, has suffered to save us from that wrath to come, and to restore us to the heavenly fellowship, if we pray to Him to save us. Do you believe and live by this, if you are a Christian?

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH  
is broadcast every Sunday at  
7.15 p.m. over Radio 2CH

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12/2/78

7/78