

Repentance

“...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
Luke 13:1-5

The message of Repentance as it pertains to eternal salvation is pointed at the individual. To repent is a decision that cannot be made for someone, but must be planned and thought out carefully (counting the cost) by the individual who has been privileged to consider himself/herself accountable to God for their life on earth.

Repentance - (Webster's 1828) Real penitence; sorrow or deep contrition for sin, as an offense and dishonor to God, a violation of his holy law, and the basest ingratitude towards a Being of infinite benevolence. This is called evangelical repentance, and is accompanied and followed by amendment of life.

Repentance is a change of mind, or a conversion from sin to God.

Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. 2Cor. 7. Matt. 3.

Repentance is the abandonment of any practice, from conviction that it has offended God.

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that *the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

Rom 2:1-4

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Jn 3:1-8

Born Again – ie from above

- Must be born again to “see” the Kingdom of God
Repentance enables us to perceive the kingdom

- Born of “water and of the Spirit” to enter the Kingdom of God
Water and Spirit baptism enables us to enter the kingdom

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Rom 14:17

The Kingdom of God is in the Holy Ghost!

Kingdom – (Thayer) Royal power, kingship, dominion, rule

The beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist, Christ, and the Apostles:

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matt 3:1-2

Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matt 4:17

7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; 12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

Mk 6:7-12

Of course Peter preached the first Apostolic New Testament message in Acts chapter 2 in which he consummated the New Testament with the same message:

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38

The second recorded message that Peter preached in the book of Acts is in chapter 3 where in verse 19 he said that repentance is the first step in the conversion process and is the prerequisite for forgiveness of sins:

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 3:19

Jesus continued to preach repentance as the purpose of His coming into the world:

13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Matt 9:13

Jesus also stressed the necessity of the same in the Gospel of Luke:

1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Lk 13:1-5

No one is better than anyone! The wages of sin is death in the NT, and the soul that sinneth, it shall surely die in the OT. Repentance is necessary for every soul and to be able to find a place to complete it is a blessing. People in our world today are so full of religious pride and lust of the flesh that to preach repentance in any absolute fashion is insulting to their sensibilities.

Regardless, I stand on the Word of God with the Apostle Paul:

3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? 4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;

Rom 3:3-4

Hear the Word of the Lord!

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 17:29-31

No One is exempt from repentance!! God's Word does not change with cultures or the trends of this world.

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the

flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy,
Eph 2:1-4

There is no excuse to continue in behavior that is contrary to the Word of God! God's mercy is toward them that repent.

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
1Jn 2:15-17

Good advice for an untoward generation! Repentance begins when a person starts to love the Word as opposed to the world.

Hear the Apostolic Cry of James:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.
Jms 1:14-16

Nearly all religions make room for the sins of the flesh because of the weakness of humanity. However, there is more to the Gospel of Jesus Christ than remission of sins! There is Power to keep the souls of men and women from the bondage of sin – Acts 1:8.

Three of the parables of Jesus concerning repentance are the Lost Sheep, and the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son or the Prodigal Son. In these parables is shown the heart of God toward them that would turn to Him.

3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying, 4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? 9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Luke 15:3-32

The Bible says that God is ready to forgive (Ps 86:5). The foundation of repentance is attitudinal, yielding to God with a desire to please Him touches His heart and compels the God of eternity to help the weak, poor, wretched, and blind creatures that we are.

4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

Eccl 10:4

31 Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more: 32 That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.

Job 34:31-32

Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. 3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. 4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. 5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Job 42:1-6

Notice the attitude of Job in these two references. John the Baptist said "he must increase and I must decrease". After his trial Job saw God in a greater way, but he also saw himself in a different way and what he saw of himself caused him to say "...I abhor myself...". Repentance requires us to see ourselves as God sees us.

The three areas that will be covered in this study are:

- 1) The Turning
- 2) Brokenness
- 3) Separation

The Turning

3 Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. 4 Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the Lord.

Zech 1:3-4

9 Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? 10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 3:9-10

Notice that the Ninevite people experienced what the prophet Zechariah said as they turned so did God. Salvation is the product of our response to God's correction.

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Pro 1:23

What a promise! Not only to receive the Spirit of the Lord, but to receive revelation into the Word.

25 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal? 26 When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. 27 Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. 28 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. 29 Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? 30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Eze 18:25-32

26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Acts 3:26

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. 19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: 20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Acts 26:12-20

9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1Thess 1:9-10

6 Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:
7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts:
and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for
he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are
your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
Is 55:6-9

Repentance is a 180-degree life direction turning away from sin. A lifestyle change
from unrighteousness to righteousness. This change is manifested in the lifestyle,
but is conceived in the mind or the thought life. It is what we think about God, His
Word, and His Church that must be reshaped or conformed to the mind of Christ.
Total submission to God's Spirit, God's Word, and God's Ministry is where
repentance brings us.

Brokenness

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall
fall, it will grind him to powder.
Matt 21:44

Broken – (Thayer) to break to pieces, shatter

True brokenness and a willingness to fall upon or totally trust in the goodness of
Christ allows God to shine in the greatest of all ways! Only God can put the shattered
pieces of broken heart back together.

15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16 For thou
desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God,
thou wilt not despise.
Ps 51:15-19

Broken – (Gesenius) Of a broken mind, ie sad, afflicted also contrite with penitence

2 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for
that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. 3 Sorrow is better than
laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.
Eccl 7:1-3

13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the
spirit is broken.

Pro 15:13

Sorrow – (Gesenius) the wounds of the mind

We live in a world today that is in need of spiritual healing. Many souls are tormented by the situations in life that they find themselves in and the memories of abuse and neglect. The Bible says that “fear hath torment” and in our world many are plagued by fear and uncertainty. God is able with one touch to bring the “balm of Gilead” and comfort the most troubled mind.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind
2 Tim 1:7

God gives us power, love, and a sound mind!

9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. 11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
2Cor 7:9-11

sorrow – (Thayer) sorrow acceptable to God
sorrowed to repentance – (Thayer) the improved spiritual state resulting from deep sorrow for sin

13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. 14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. 16 The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. 18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.
Ps 34:13-18 (Ps 147:3)

15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. 16 For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.
Is 57:15-16 (Is 66:1-2)

These mighty promises of God are still real and accessible to any and all who are willing to press their way through to victory.

Separation

The call of God to Abraham is the best example of the need of separation in the life of a believer. The purpose of separation is so that God can be the greatest influence in our lives. God wants to have us all to himself He wants to be the “power that worketh in us” Eph 3:20.

1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Gen 12:1-3

Get out and Go to! Not just get out. God takes us out so He can bring us into His promise. Also, the greatness that God would bring into our lives is expected to be shared with those without that touch of God. The call of God in the life of Abraham was to get away from everything that was familiar to him. God was saying, “I want to be the center of your life, I want to be the pre-eminent influence in your life”. This call of God was so strong and so real that, “Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him”.

Abram was to leave his:

Country

Kindred

Father's House

This was a major and abrupt alteration in the life of Abram because he was the first born of Terah. Abram left his earthly inheritance including prestige, power, and wealth to give God what He desired of him. So it is with repentance. We leave the life that we had in the world because of the call of God. True repentance sets a precedent concerning all future decisions as it relates to prioritizing our walk with God.

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Pet 2:9

Called out of, and into!!! Out of darkness and into God's Marvelous Light! This is a privilege of deliverance from darkness to not just light but God's Light. God calls us away from the worldly influences of sin and the spirit of the world unto a life that is dedicated and separated unto Him. He calls us away from our own purposes and ambitions to fulfill His purpose. He calls us away from earthly ties and relationships and puts us in the Church (His Family) and makes us His children.

14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. 15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; 16 Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, 17 That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.

Job 33:12-17

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Ps 139:23-24

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Cor 6:14-7:1

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers

(Thayer) – to have fellowship with one who is not an equal – The Apostle is forbidding Christians to have close dealings with unbelievers

Paul is talking about:

- Fellowship > sharing
- Communion > to have something in common
 - Concord > to be in one mind
 - Part > To have a portion with
 - Agreement > approval, assent

Be ye separate – ie to limit your fellowship to those willing to obey the Gospel
Touch not the unclean thing – do not attach yourself to anything that is unclean

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the

will of God. 3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: 5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

1Pet 4:1-5

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

Ex 19:5

peculiar treasure – ie Private property!!!

26 And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.

Lev 20:26

Salvation is not just a singular event, but a lifetime of submission to God.

Repentance is the beginning of the molding of our minds, training us to yield to God's will above our own. The Grace of God picks up on our repentance and teaches us to "deny ungodliness and worldly lusts". When we deny ourselves in repentance it opens the door for Grace to reign in our lives.

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 5:21