

REPENTANCE THE FOUNDATION OF SALVATION

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PART I THE HISTORY OF REPENTANCE

Acts 17:29-30 - 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. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Many churches and pastors do not preach repentance today. Some say it is not essential for salvation. But the truth is it was preached by John The Baptist:

Matthew 3:1-2 - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Then the Lord Jesus himself preached repentance:

Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

It was also preached by the Apostle Paul:

Acts 20:21 - Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

And the Lord Jesus made it clear, stating it twice in:

Luke 13:3-5 - I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 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? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

2 Peter 3:9 - *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

PART II WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

It is not reformation. Reformation is man making a change by his own works. We used to have reform schools. These were jails where they tried to reform children to do right. No person is saved because he gives up something or turns from his sin on his own. That's reformation. A person can turn away from their sins, and still not be saved. There is a good example of this in:

Matthew 12:43-45 - When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

This is a classic example of a man turning from his sins and making changes in his life. Who knows maybe he even joins a church and gets baptized. But here's the problem! He made changes on his own, but he never really repented and trusted the Lord Jesus for his salvation. In verse 44 – 45 of Matthew 12. the bible says, the unclean spirit decides to go back to the body he possessed, and he finds it Empty, Swept and Garnished “Empty” No One Home! “Swept and

Garnished". He cleaned up his life and embellished, furnished, and decorated his house. In other words on the outside he looked good. But Matt 12: 45 says:

Matthew 12:45 - Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Reformation; Satan's counterfeit for the Religious, but Lost. Regeneration; God's salvation through Repentance and Faith in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repentance is not contrition. Repentance is not necessarily the agony of the soul for sin. Our jails are filled with people who are sorry. But are they sorry for their crimes? Most are not. They are sorry they got caught. If its real repentance, the sinner will be sorry for sin. Just being sorry for sin is not repentance. However it can lead to repentance.

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Romans 6:23a - For the wages of sin is death;

Revelation 20:14 - And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Repentance is not Penance. Many church's

today teach penance to their congregations. This is an expression of sorrow (by some act) that is done to pay for sin. Some sort of self punishment. It will not work! There is nothing you can do on your own to pay your sin debt.

Titus 3:5a - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,

You can call names over and over, or you could light a thousand little candles penance is another one of Satan's counterfeits of repentance to make people think they can pay their own debt by good works.

PART III WHAT REPENTANCE REALLY IS

“It is a change of mind. The real meaning of repentance is after – thought or reconsideration”. By change of mind we do not mean a change of opinion. A real change of mind, is a transformation of your old mind to a new mind. If we are really saved the bible says:

1 Corinthians 2:16 - For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The change of mind will be new in character. True repentance is a change of mind which will lead to a change of action: but be careful it is possible to have a change of action, without a change of mind. An example of repentance is found in the new testament.

Matthew 21:28-29 - But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

Before anyone can be saved, there must be repentance. There has to be a change of mind about many things. “Sin”, “Self”, “God”, and the death burial and resurrection of Christ for the payment of your sins. “Even Stronger” repentance means not only a change of mind, but it is taking a stand against yourself, and placing yourself on the side of God. In other words, repentance is Self Judgment.

THE MANIFESTATION OF THIS IS:

- 1) A change in the intellect.
- 2) A change of feeling.
- 3) A change of will.
- 4) A change of action.

THE CONDITION:

- 1) Through the goodness of God.

Romans 2:4 - Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

- 2) Through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Acts 2:37-38 - Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 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 2:41 - Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

- 3) Through Scriptural Teaching.

2 Timothy 2:24-25 - And the servant of the Lord must

not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

4) Through the Chastisements of God.

Revelation 2:16 - *Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*

Definition: Repentance is the work of God which results in a change of mind in respect to mans relationship to God. It is neither sorrow nor penance, although penitent sorrow may lead to a change of mind. Repentance is always an element of saving faith.

Jesus said repent ye and believe the gospel. There is only one way to Heaven.

John 14:6 - *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

If your not sure you're going to heaven you need to call on the Lord.

Romans 10:13 - For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

If you want to make sure you go to heaven when you die, You need to take responsibility for your sin nature and confess that to the Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 - *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart*

That God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Trusting in the death burial, and resurrection for the payment of your sins is the only saving gospel.

***1 Corinthians 15:1-4** - Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus for your salvation you need to acknowledge that to Him.

***Romans 10:13** - For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

He asked you to confess with your mouth.

***Romans 10:9-10** - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

You can bow your head and call on Him.

Lord be merciful to me a sinner. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Signed _____ Date _____

Verses of Assurance:

John 3:16-18 - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

John 6:37 - *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

John 5:24 - *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

John 10:27-30 - *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.*

1 John 5:11-13 - And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

If you have trusted the Lord, and you would like some help in knowing what God expects you to do now that you are saved, we have a book titled "God's Plan for Man." You may write us, and we will send you a copy free of charge. Write to:

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