

Repentance

Introduction

Scripture Reading: **Romans 1:21-32**

ECNATNEPER!

Romans 1:29-31

Galatians 5:19-21

- **If we don't turn to God, then we will continue to be ECNATNEPER!**

Repentance

1. **One of the most neglected subjects in preaching is repentance.**
2. **The most difficult command to obey is not that of baptism, nor those commands concerning our duties of giving and assembling.**
 - A. **The command that seems to cause more folks to balk than does any other is that of "repentance".**
 - B. **Jesus said: "unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).**
3. **A few quotes:**

"Many people use mighty thin thread when mending their ways."

(Daily Walk)

"If we put off repentance another day, we have a day more to repent of, and a day less to repent in."

(Source Unknown)

3. The Bible plainly teaches:**Mark 16:16****Acts 2:38**

- A. So why do so many refuse to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins?**
 - B. I believe that the answer lies in their refusal to repent!**
 - 1) The problem is not that the gospel is difficult to understand, but that they do not desire to repent (change) and live the life God has commanded.**
- 4. Those that are deficient of repentance in their life as a Christian is an indication of a **lack of understanding of what repentance really means.****
- A. Many baptisms today are missing the link of repentance that must be attached to the conversion.**

What Is Repentance?

1. **Joseph Thayer says that repentance is "To change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins;"**

Matthew 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Matthew 4:17 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,"

2. **The Analytical Greek Lexicon says "To undergo a change in frame of mind and feelings, to repent:"**

- A. **"To make a change of principle and practice, to reform; a change of mode of thought and feeling, reversal."**

3. **According to these Greek scholars we see that God has commanded of us "a reformation of life."**

- A. **Repentance is like the old military term "about face," which means the absolute opposite direction.**

- 1) **Repentance = "A Turn Around."**

- B. **When we do that we turn from Satan to God, from that which is sin to righteousness!**

The Importance of Repentance

1. It has always been prominent with God. It was the subject of the prophets of God under the Old Testament.

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him **return to the LORD**,.....

Jeremiah 3:12 "Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: '**Return, backsliding Israel**,.....

Jeremiah 3:22 "**Return, you backsliding children**, and I will heal your backslidings...."

A. John the baptizer came saying:

Matthew 3:2-3 "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!....

B. John's message was unpopular and much hated among the religious crowds. He died preaching repentance.

2. Repentance was the first and last subject of our Lord while on this earth. He began with:

Matthew 4:17 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

A. Before Jesus ascended back into heaven, He said:

Luke 24:47 "and that **repentance and remission of sins** should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

B. On Pentecost after our Lord's resurrection from the grave the Jews cried out:

Acts 2:37-38 ... "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

C. The apostle Paul recounting his labors at Ephesus said:

Acts 20:21 ".....repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

1) He said to the Athenians:

Acts 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **commands all men everywhere to repent,**"

D. Jesus said:

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no; but **unless you repent** you will all likewise perish.

E. Peter said:

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that **all should come to repentance.**

3. As repentance was an unpopular subject of the first century, and has been all through the ages, so it is today. WHY?

A. Because man does not want to repent! Few talk about repentance and fewer do anything about it.

That's what makes the FAITH ONLY religion so popular today.

- B. An absolute change MUST come over all who would enlist as a soldier in the Lord's kingdom.**
- 1) The Sadducees were taught that they must lay aside their false doctrines, worldliness, and indifference.**
 - 2) The Pharisees were taught that they must lay aside their formalism, hypocrisy, and self-righteousness.**
 - 3) Those that would come to Christ today must repent.**
- 4. Old things must be put away - all things must become new. Indifference must make way for devotion, selfishness for sacrifice, love of the world for love of God.**

Mistaken Notions about Repentance

- 1. "Repentance is not for our day."**
 - A. Some view repentance as they do "faith without works."**
 - B. Repentance, like faith, is a work, a duty performed.**
 - "bear fruits worthy of repentance..."
Luke 3:8-14
 - C. Repentance is an action as a result of our faith in Jesus.**
 - 1) Repentance is for man today. Remember, Jesus said:**

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

2. "Repentance is being sorry for sins."

A. There is a lot of difference between repentance and sorrow!

B. Only Godly sorrow is associated with repentance.

1) Paul said:

2 Corinthians 7:10 For **godly sorrow produces repentance** leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

C. So, repentance is not sorrow, but repentance is the result of "godly sorrow!"

1) Just as baptism is not faith, and faith is not baptism, but baptism is an act of faith - a saving faith!

D. Some have sorrow because of the inconvenience and imposition that their sins have caused them. These people weep and feel sorry for their sins because of its consequence.

1) Some are sorry only because they got caught!

2) We may say that they only regret that they have sinned because they fear the punishment brought upon them for their offenses.

a) This is the kind of sorrow that Judas had after he betrayed Jesus.

- b) He was sorry because it was against himself and he was concerned with the consequences of his sin as it related to his punishment.**

--- This is **"sorrow of the world!"**

- c) I'm afraid that many are like Judas. They are sorry that things have turned out bad; but they have no sorrow for the sin which they committed and brought them to their sinful condition.**

- E. Godly sorrow is illustrated by David. After his adultery and murder of Uriah, he sorrowed over his sins because it was "against God."**

Psalms 51:4 **Against You, You only, have I sinned**, and done this evil in Your sight....."

- 1) The word "only" in this passage equates to the meaning of "chiefly or primarily" not to the exclusion of others.**
- 2) Any sin is against God! (Matthew 25:41-45)**
 - a. Sorrow is not that which we should regret, but the sin which brings about that sorrow.**

3. **"Repentance is merely confessing sins."**

A. There are many Bible examples of those that have confessed their sins, but never repented (turned from) of them.

1) Pharaoh:

Exodus 9:27 And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked.

a) Yet he continued his defiance of God!

2) In the presence of God's angel Balaam confessed:

Numbers 22:34 ".....I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."

a) Yet Peter tells us that he continued to love the wages of unrighteousness (2 Peter 2:15).

B. These men confessed their sin, knowing that it will lead to destruction, but did not repent of their sins against God.

1) These men died loving their sins, but hating the punishment awaiting them in the flames of hell!

a. They would continue in sin if they knew they would not get caught!

Conclusion

1. **The honest, sincere, God fearing student of the Bible can plainly see that merely confessing sin is not repentance (a turning from sin)**
2. **Repentance, (turning from sin), is brought about by “godly sorrow.”**
 - A. **It’s a **complete reformation** of life and a full determination to fight against sin.**
 - B **Repentance is a **coming out of sin** and turning to serve God.**
3. **The Bible never teaches that a man can repent of a sin and yet not change his life.**
4. **We need to make certain that we have repented of our sins; which means:**
 - A. **We have changed our attitude and heart, and resolved not to continue in sin or commit the same sin.**
5. **If we do not genuinely repent, we will not be forgiven**
 - A. **If we are not forgiven, we will be lost!**
6. **Let us ensure that when we do repent we “Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance” (Luke 3:8)**
 - A. **Which means that we will strive to practice righteousness and be pleasing to God!**
7. ****Have you truly repented?** God really knows!**

