

# Repentance

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

## Introduction

**Rom 1:29-31; Gal 5:19-21 (ECNATNEPER!)**

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" (Luk 13:3).**
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;"**

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

Matt 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.**
  - 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.

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

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

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

#### A. John the baptizer came saying:

Matt 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:

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

#### A. Before He 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;....

**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 Pet 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 & 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.****

**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)

**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 Cor 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 & 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".**

Ps 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:**

Exod 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:**

Num 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 Pet 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!**

## 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" (Luk 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!**

