

REPENTANCE STUDY

Last time we looked at SIN. We saw that all have sinned (Rom 3:23). Sin is the wall between us and God. Now we will look at the first step of dealing with the sin problem.

1) WHO NEEDS REPENTANCE?

A. Luke 13:1-5

- a) Everyone must repent
- b) All have the same problem of sin even if life is going well. (superstitious)
- c) The choice: Repent OR Perish

2) WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

A. Acts 26:20-21 (*definition*)

- a) Repentance means a change of heart/mind. It is a decision.
- b) Literally means “to turn around”. To go in a different direction.
- c) Repentance is a POSITIVE command—change and become what we were created to be—like Jesus.
- d) Repentance is an ON-GOING command—on-going attitude.
- e) Repentance is followed by deeds—your life reflects the change.
- f) Can be done in an instant, though its effects can last a lifetime.
- g) The Biblical message of repentance leads to opposition. (Some do not want to change. Many do not appreciate being told the truth about their lives.)

B. 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 (*godly sorrow*)

- a) Worldly and godly sorrow. EXAMPLES
 - 1) Speeding: The officer pulls you over. Worldly sorrow—you’re sorry you got caught. Good chance you will do it again. Godly sorrow—you’re sorry you have broken the law, endangered lives, etc. In both cases you are sorry, but repentance (change in lifestyle) comes and remains only with godly sorrow.
 - 2) Pregnancy: You or your girlfriend gets pregnant. Worldly sorrow—sorry about the consequences. Start to use contraceptives. May have an abortion. Godly sorrow—will never be immoral again.
- b) Godly sorrow produces visible change in one’s character and lifestyle. You can tell if someone has really repented. Leaves on regret!

C. 1 Peter 2:22-25 (*understands and appreciates the sacrifice—the substitution*)

- a) Godly sorrow—understands that our sin hurts God (put Jesus on cross).
- b) If in love with God—will not want to hurt him—will not want to sin.
- c) Dog Story: dog killing child (sin killed the object of our love)
- d) RE-TURNing to let God direct our lives—that’s repentance.

D. Mark 9:42-48 (*radical*)

- a) Radical attitude toward sin...cancer analogy.
- b) World’s attitude: sin is okay in moderation.
- c) God’s attitude: sin is always horrible—deal with it radically.

E. Acts 3:19-20 (*refreshing*)

- a) Once we repent, there will be times of refreshing (can feel good!).
- b) Must repent to have sins forgiven.

3) WHAT IS YOUR CONCLUSION?

- A) How many people in the world do you think have repented like this?
- B) Have you ever repented like this?
- C) Do you want to repent like this?
- D) What do you need to repent of?
 - a) Now: can discuss.
 - b) Later: Can make a list of sins with steps of repentance to help get in touch with the gravity and magnitude of a person’s sin and the radical actions it will take to change.
- E) Next, we will study BAPTISM...the second step to deal with sin (break down wall between God and man—to be forgiven). Set a specific time and date.