

A. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

Turn to: Acts 20:21

- a. **Note:** Salvation is of the Lord. However, “Repentance and Faith” are human responsibilities.
- Repentance and Faith are major requirements for one’s personal Salvation.
 - Repentance and Faith go hand in hand. You cannot have one without the other.
 - **If you repent, you will believe, and if you believe, you will repent.**

Note: Repentance and faith are like two sides of the same coin.

- “One side of the coin says “Repent” and on the other side of the coin it says “Believe”.



Acts 20:20-21 “*And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, (21) Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

b. Example: Nineveh

- **Jesus said:**

Matthew 12:41 “*The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*”

Jonah 3:5 “*So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*”

- Notice the change of mind the Kings of Nineveh had.

Jonah 3:8-10 “*But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. (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.*”

c. Example: The Jews and Gentiles.

Acts 11:17-18 “Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? (18) When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”

Jews = “Believed on the Lord Jesus Christ”

Gentiles = Granted repentance (true repentance towards God should always leads us to Christ).

Granted = Repentance is a gift from God. It is an extension of God’s goodness. For God to give any person an opportunity to repent is an act of mercy and grace.

- However, the action of repentance must stem from a person’s own will. God gives people room to repent, but they must have a mind/heart to turn from their wicked ways.

1. Repentance towards God.

Note: The word “repent” or “repentance” occurs about 112 times in the Word of God.

a. **The Meaning of repentance from a Biblical perspective.**

- The Greek word literally means to have “**a change of mind**” (Specifically, we are to have a change of mind in our rebellious ways towards God.)
 - Ultimately, a true change of mind leads to a change of behaviour.
 - True repentance leads to faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Repentance is to turn from one thing towards another thing.

b. **Biblical examples:**

1) Israel – *Ezekiel 14:6, 18:30* — “repent and turn.”

Ezekiel 14:6 “Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

Ezekiel 18:30-32 “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.

2) Gentiles – Acts 14:15 – “Turn from these vanities unto the living God”

Acts 14:15 “And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.”

3) False teachers – Revelation 2:20-22 – “repent from fornication”

Revelation 2:20-22 “Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. vs 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. vs 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.”

4) The Church – 2 Corinthians 12:20-21 – “repent of the uncleanness”

2 Corinthians 12:20-21 “For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: vs 21 And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.”

Motivation

God's Goodness
Romans 2:4



Method

Good Preaching
Luke 24:47
Mat 12:41



Means

H/S Conviction
Acts 2:37-38

REPENTANCE



Affirmation

Fruit / Works
Acts 26:20
Ephesians 2:10



Action

Forsake our way
Isaiah 55:7



Attitude

Godly Sorrow
2 Corinthians 7:10

c. **Repentance involves the following:**

- **Recognising that we are sinners**, and we must be willing to turn from our wicked ways.

***Isaiah 55:6-7** “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: vs 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.”*

1) Seek the Lord

***John 6:26-27** “Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. (27) Labour not for the meat which perisheth, **but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life**, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”*

- The “Ethiopian Eunuch” had a change of mind that caused him to seek the Lord.
- Lydia sought the Lord. (One of the first members of the Church at Philippi).

Question: *How can a depraved person, like Lydia, seek the Lord?*

***Acts 16:14** “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.”*

- **Note:** This is the Calvinist’s favourite verse; because they believe a person cannot repent and believe, unless they are converted first. In other words, they must be born again before they repent.

***John MacArthur writes about this verse** “The Lord opened her heart. This is another proof of the sovereignty of God in salvation (see note on Acts 13:48).”*

Question: *How did the Lord open the heart of Lydia before hearing the Gospel?*

- First, Lydia, was a sincere seeker, and a worshiper of God. Lydia – being a Gentile, would have by faith accepted the God of Israel.
- Second, the Lord opened Lydia’s understanding to the words of truth regarding the Gospel. The Lord gave Lydia more light by the Gospel to be saved.

***Luke 24:45-47** “Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, (46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: (47) And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among **all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**”*

- We are to pray for ALL men that they might come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men... vs 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13 “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (12) That they all might be damned **who believed not the truth,** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

- **Note:** A person is converted or saved after they REPENT, and not before.

Acts 3:19 “**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;”

- **Clarke comments on Acts 3:19:**

Repent ye therefore - Now that ye are convinced that this was the Messiah, let your minds be changed, and your hearts become contrite for the sins you have committed.

And be converted - Turn to God through this Christ, deeply deploring your transgressions, and believing on his name; that your sins may be blotted out, which are not only recorded against you, but for which you are condemned by the justice of God; and the punishment due to them must be executed upon you, unless prevented by your repentance, and turning to him whom ye have pierced.”

2 Timothy 2:24-25 “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, (25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the **acknowledging of the truth;**”

William McDonald “At first, this might seem to suggest that there is some question as to God's willingness to grant repentance to these people. That, however, is not the case. The fact of the matter is that God is waiting to forgive them if only they will come to Him in confession and repentance. God does not withhold repentance from anyone, but men are so often unwilling to admit that they are wrong.”

2) Call on the Lord

Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

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

- ❖ The “Thief on the Cross” had a change of mind that caused Him to call on the Lord.

Luke 23:42-43 “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. (43) And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

3) Forsaking our wicked ways.

Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: vs 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts...”

- ❖ Zacchaeus had a change of mind by forsaking his ways.

Luke 19:8-9 “And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. (9) And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.”

Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: vs 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts...”

- ❖ Notice what Peter said to Simon who wanted to buy the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:22 “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.”

- Our of the heart are the issues of life.

4) Returning to the Lord.

Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: vs 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.

- ❖ The Prodigal son had a change of mind that caused him to return to the Lord/Father.

Luke 15:17-19 “And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my fathers have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! (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.”

d. **Repentance is NOT:**

1) Changing my lifestyle.

- Many people think they have to fix themselves up and then trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour. The truth is we cannot fix anything up, hence the reason we need a Saviour.

❖ On the 22nd May I received a comment on one of the sermons that I preached regarding John the Baptist’s ministry by “Samantha Haarsma”

- She says the following...

“Turning from sin unfortunately isn’t the gospel not of works lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8), stopping our sin won’t save us.”

- My Reply was “you’re right, no one can get to Heaven, or be saved by trying to stop sinning. (that’s why we need a Saviour). However, repentance and faith are both required.”

Question: Who won’t inherit the Kingdom of God?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 “*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*”

- After we are saved and made righteous because of Christ, does God wants us to “STOP SINNING?” _____

Question: The wrath of God cometh upon whom?

Ephesians 5:5-8 “*For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (6) Let no man deceive you with vain words: for **because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.** (7) Be not ye therefore partakers with them. (8) For ye were sometimes darkness, **but now** are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

Note: As blood-bought Christians, we are to “mortify” and “put off” sin in our lives.

Colossians 3:5-8 “**Mortify** therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: (6) For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: (7) In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. (8) **But now** ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”

Note: We are saved from sin, to sin no more. (We are not to continue to live a life of sin.)

Romans 6:1-3 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

- This indicates to us that we, as saved people, still have the ability to sin, but we should not live in sin anymore.
- We are to die to self and to our sinful lifestyle, because we are dead in Christ.

Question: What was Jesus trying to convey to the women caught in adultery?

John 8:11 “She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”

Question: What was Jesus trying to convey to the impotent man after Jesus healed him?

John 5:14 “Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”

2) Repentance is not Just “Being Remorseful”.

- It is not enough just to admit your faults, and be sorry for your sin, and have some certain regrets.
- ❖ King Saul acknowledged his sin, but he was not truly repentant.
 - King Saul’s attitude depicted his lack of true repentance. He wanted honour for his sinful actions.

1 Samuel 15:30 “Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.”

- **Note:** People can be sorrowful for the “cause and effect” of sin, but not acknowledge their true sinful state.
- **Over the years,** I have witnessed people cry out to the Lord to save them from the circumstances in which their sin was caused.
- ❖ Judas recognised his sin, but failed to turn to God in true repentance. (Repentance toward God)

Matthew 27:3-5 “Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, (4) Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. (5) And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

3) Repentance is not just “Repenting from unbelief”.

- Many people believe, based on John 3:18, that when a person comes to Christ, they are repenting from unbelief.
- However, if this is entirely true, what does the person repent of, who has heard the Gospel for the first time?
- **Note:** Unbelief is a result of rejecting Christ and the Gospel.

Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

- **The question has to be asked, WHY WON'T THEY BELIEVE?** The answer is found in verse 19

John 3:18-19 “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. (19) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

- As God sees a heart that is diligently seeking Him by faith, God is pleased, and rewards them with grace, and gives them the power to change by His Spirit.

e. The Fruit of true Repentance

Acts 26:20 “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.”

- They to have a genuine repentant heart.
- A person can claim that they have turned to God, but their lives do not prove their profession. (This will be addressed more in the next session.)

Titus 1:15-16 “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. (16) They profess that they know God; but in works

they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

1) A TRUE CONFESSION

1 John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

❖ The Church of Corinth

2 Corinthians 7:10 *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. Vs 11 “For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort...”*

- i. *What carefulness it wrought in you,* = they were not slack. It is being earnest and eager to deal with the sin problem.
 - ii. *Yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea,* = To take the right steps of restoration. To be blameless. It does not have an “I don’t care attitude.”
 - iii. *what indignation,* = A holy hatred for sin. To have a righteous anger toward my sin.
 - iv. *yea, what fear,* = This is a healthy fear of God that keeps us from evil. Fear of being a stumbling block for God’s glory.
 - v. *yea, what vehement desire,* = A strong desire to fix things. A strong desire to make the wrong right.
 - vi. *yea, what zeal,* = A strong passion to get right.
 - vii. *yea, what revenge!* = Want to pay back the evil that I have done by making it right, and by starting to live right for God’s glory. It is more than saying “I’m sorry”.
- The Result *“In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”*

2) A TRUE CONTRITE HEART

Psalms 51:17 *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”*

❖ King David

***Psalms 51:1-17** “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

- i. Desires restoration and forgiveness – *“Have Mercy upon me...”*
“Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.”
- ii. Demonstrates a true recognition of sin – *“For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.”*
“Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight...”
- iii. Does not want any hypocrisy – *“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts...”*
- iv. Desires to be holy – *“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*
“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”
- v. Desires fellowship with God – *“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”*
- vi. Desires the joy of the Lord – *“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”*
- vii. Desires to be a testimony to others – *“Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”*
- viii. Desire to worship God in peace – *“Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.”*
“Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.”

3) A TRUE CONVERSATION

***1 Peter 1:14-15** “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:*

(15) But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;"

1 Peter 2:11-12 "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; (12) Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

Matthew 3:8 "bring forth fruits meet for repentance."

❖ Notice the words of a person who begins to demonstrate "true repentance"

Luke 3:12-14 "Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? (13) And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. (14) And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."

- How should we start to live?

i. **Publican** = "Exact no more than that which is appointed you."

- Be Honest, and do not steal.

Ephesians 4:28 "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

ii. **Soldiers** = "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."

f. The destruction of unrepentant sinners.

1) Jesus said...

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

2) The rich man knew that he was in hell because he failed to REPENT.

Luke 16:30 "And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent."

3) The future judgment and destruction upon unrepentant sinners did not even move others to repentance, but made them all the more stubborn.

Revelation 9:20-21 "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and

of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: vs 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”

Jude 1:5, 7 “I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not... vs 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, **are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

2 Peter 2:4-6 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; (5) And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6) And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, **making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;**”