

Repentance is Ongoing in the Christian Life

Repentance is not a one time event in the life of a believer when they get saved. Progress in the Christian life is based upon frequent experiences of repentance.

In *Rev 2,3* John writes letters by the Holy Spirit, from Jesus, to the seven churches. Jesus commands the believers in five of those churches in Asia to repent.

How did the Church at Ephesus need to repent? *Rev 2:4,5* _____

Answer the same question about the Church at Pergamos. *Rev 2:14-16* _____

What was the issue for the Church at Thyatira? *Rev 2:20-22* _____

What was the issue at Sardis? *Rev 3:1-3* _____

Fifthly the Laodicean believers were in need of repentance. What was the problem? *Rev 3:15-19* _____

If God loves us, as we know He does, what will He do to us if we get off the track and need to repent? *Rev 3:20* _____

When God chastens us it hurts a lot sometimes. Is this a blessing or a curse? *Rev 3:19* _____

How can we tell if it is God chastening us or the devil attacking us, or if we have just done some foolish thing which has produced unfortunate results? *1Cor 12:10* _____

No 11

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WITNESS COURSE

Study Eleven: Repentance

Definition

To repent means to turn right around and go the opposite way. It is like walking along in one direction and on discovery that it is the wrong way, turning right around and heading for the opposite direction.

Question: In what ways has your life turned right around since you have become a Christian? _____

Please note that Greek word for “repentance”, *metanonia*, means to have a change of mind about things. By the grace of God working in us, through the truth of God’s Word, we are able to think about things as God sees them, confess our sins, and turn from them, by the strength He gives. The mind is the key. What is it that controls the way we are? *Pro 23:7a* _____

The Command to Repent

Repentance is not an option which we can take or leave. It is a clear command from the Bible. What was the message that John the Baptist preached? *Mat 3:1,2* _____

Why is it necessary to repent, to be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? (or Kingdom of God) _____

When Jesus came preaching, how did His message go beyond John’s message of repentance? *Mk 1:14,15* _____

Notice in *Mk 1:15*, it uses “Kingdom of God”.

When the crowds heard Peter’s preaching in *Ac 2:36*, they were deeply convicted of their sins of rejecting and crucifying God’s Son, our Saviour, *v37*. What did Peter tell them to do? *Ac 2:38* _____

What would they receive from God if they obeyed what Peter said? *Ac 2:38* _____

How many gladly received his word? *Ac 2:41* _____

What is God's command in *Ac 17:30* _____

How many does God command to repent? *Ac 17:30* _____

How many does God desire to be saved? *2Pet 3:9; 1Tim 2:4* _____

Repentance – the Key to Salvation

The Bible teaches that without real heart repentance there is **no salvation!** Repentance is the condition of the heart which realises our sinful condition and imminent doom before a holy God. It makes us humble ourselves, confess our sins to God and ask for His mercy and forgiveness, followed by a deliberate turning away from sin, resulting in our salvation.

What will happen to every person who does not repent before God? *Lk 13:1-5*

Do bad things happening to people, prove that they are worse sinners than others?

Lk 13:2-5 _____

How many of us are sinners? *Rom 3:23; 1Tim 1:15* _____

Why does God command all men and women, boys and girls everywhere to repent?

Ac 17:30,31 _____

What is the guarantee that God will judge everyone by His standard of righteousness?

Ac 17:31 _____

If we truly repent before God and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, where do we stand with God? *Jn 5:24* _____

Repentance – An Act of the Will, not Emotions

Repentance is not just feeling bad about something, but to feel bad enough to do something about it. It is not self-pity or self-condemnation which leads to self destruction, but a conviction by the Holy Spirit about our sinfulness which causes us to turn to God.

The Bible describes two totally different and opposite types of “sorrow” with totally opposite consequences. What is the result of godly sorrow? *2Cor 7:9,10* _____

What is the result of the sorrow of the world? *2Cor 7:10* _____

This truth is clearly illustrated by the lives of Judas Iscariot and Simon Peter. Find out what sins they committed, how each dealt with their guilt and what the opposite consequences were:

When Judas was filled with sorrow over betraying Jesus to death, where did his sorrow lead him? *Mat 27:1-5* _____

When Peter was filled with sorrow over his denial of Jesus, what did he do?

Mat 26:69-75 _____

Where did Peter's sorrow lead him in his relationship with Jesus? *Jn 21:15-17*

Fruit of True Repentance – *Lk 3:8*

True repentance will always produce changes in our lives, e.g. our attitudes, habits, lifestyles, conversations, ambitions, actions, values, desires, associations etc. How did true repentance affect the people mentioned in the following references?

Mat 3:5,6 _____

Mat 21:28,29 _____

Lk 3:11 _____

Lk 3:12,13 _____

Lk 3:14 _____

Lk 15:11-21 _____

Lk 19:1-10 _____

Ac 19:18,19 _____

Rom 6:13,16 _____

Eph 5:8-12 _____

1Thes 1:9 _____

Heb 6:1 _____

Personal Application

There are probably areas in your personal life that you are struggling with, which can possibly be overcome through counselling with your church leadership. Do not let guilt bog you down. Seek counsel and be free from this problem.