

MINISTRY OF REPENTANCE

THE WORDS OF GOD THAT CHANGE THE MINDS OF MAN

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth"

~ 2 Timothy 2:25

1. Repent?

- a. The culture (and church) recoils at the thought of preaching "Repent!"
- b. The caricature is of a self-righteous, hypocritical, judgmental, 'turn or burn' preacher.
- c. Dispensationally, since we are under grace, should we now reject repentance?
- d. Biblically, it was taught by John, Jesus, Peter (Matt 3:2, 4:17, Acts 2:38) and yes, Paul.
- e. The apostle of grace taught and expressed repentance throughout his ministry.

2. What's Wrong with Repentance

- a. Christians wrongly use it to mean turn from sin, change of behavior, your actions.
 - i. If then it is made part of a gospel message, salvation is tied to your works.
 - ii. Repentance is tied to the 'faith and works' or 'faith alone' controversy.
- b. **Repentance** ~*def.* A change of mind over your choice/thought now being wrong.
- c. Anything that produces guilt, shines light on sin, identifies wrong is avoided these days.
- d. People speak of changing the way you think, awareness, waking up to an idea, enlightening, "prove me wrong", or "change my mind" ← Repentance.
- e. Culturally, many have repented over being wrong about COVID, people, nutrition, etc.

3. Repentance in the Bible

- a. The first mention is God repenting (he repents because of man not his sin) - Gen 6:6-7
- b. Jonah 3:9-10 often used as an example (but it again only refers to God) - Jonah 3:9-10
 - i. A gracious God is one who repents of the evil (destruction) – Jonah 4:2
- c. Hebrews 6:1 speaks of repentance from dead works (Also, Eze 18:30)
- d. Rev 9:14-21 – Men do not repent of their works even at fear of death.
- e. Repent does not mean "stop sinning", it refers to the mind change about sin being sin.
- f. Luke 17:3-4 - Repentance over past actions not future actions.
- g. Know ye not, the goodness of God leads to repentance? Rom 2:4
- h. Repentance is to know you were wrong after the fact.

4. Paul and Repentance

- a. Multiple times Paul witnesses his ministry to the lost is for them to repent.
- b. Paul preaches to Greeks "God commandeth all men every where to repent" - Acts 17:30
- c. Paul's testimony of his ministry "repentance toward God, and faith..." - Acts 20:21
- d. His explanation before his accusers of what he ministered – Acts 26:20
- e. What God promises and gives will never be repealed as wrong - Rom 11:29
- f. Paul had a ministry of repentance even toward those who were saved - 2 Cor 7:8-10
- g. Paul changes minds with his writing. Rom 1-8 changes your mind before 12:1-3
- h. God gives repentance (through words) that men may acknowledge truth - 2 Tim 2:25
- i. God changes the minds of men through his words, which must be rightly divided.

5. Repentance under Grace

- a. The reason repentance is so confused is that (life faith) it changes dispensationally
- b. Peter says God is longsuffering today is so that all would come to ... 2 Pet 3:9, 15
- c. Without repentance there is no salvation: sin, works, law, Jesus Christ, God, truth.
 - i. (No... it is not semantic, it is descriptive of what happens.)
- d. Grace does the work that men could not – Col 3:10, Rom 8:6, Eph 4:23, 2 Cor 9:7
- e. What may have been right under the law, is now wrong - 1 Tim 4:1-3, Gal 2:21, 6:15
- f. Paul's personal repentance is detailed in 1 Tim 1:13-16 as a pattern.
- g. Whenever God's words reprove, correct, instruct the proper response is a changed mind, belief, and trust.
- h. The good works come after the mind and heart is changed - 2Timothy 3:16
- i. Paul had a ministry of bringing men to repentance resulting from the rightly divided word of God and so should we.