

180°

A Study of Biblical Repentance

Conversion

- To turn around
- From Sin → repentance
- To God → faith
- A single act

What Repentance is Not

- A work that earns salvation
 - Ps. 80:3 (cf. 80:7, 19) – O God, restore us And cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved. “Restore” is the normal OT for repentance.
 - Acts 5:31 – “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
 - Acts 11:18 – When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”
 - Rom. 2:4 – Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?
 - 2 Tim. 2:25 – with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth

What Repentance is Not

- A work that earns salvation
- An external ritual or act
 - Joel 2:13 -- rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

What Repentance is Not

- Mere regret, remorse, or sorrow for sin
 - Esau: Heb. 12:47 - For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.
 - The rich young ruler: Luke 18:23 – But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.
 - Judas: Matt. 27:3 – Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders

What Repentance Is

- The Biblical Words
 - OT:
 - 1) *Shub* = “to turn, to return”; often used literally; e.g., the return to the land from Babylonian captivity.
 - 2) *Naham* = “to repent”
 - NT: *Metanoia* = “to repent”

What Repentance Is

- The Elements
 - 1) an intellectual change
 - 2 Tim. 2:25 - with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth
 - 2) an emotional change
 - 2 Cor. 7:10 - For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading to* salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
 - 3) a volitional change
 - Acts 8:22 - "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

What Repentance Is

- The Process
 - Conviction of sin
 - Job 42:1-5
 - Acts 2:37 - Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"
 - Godly sorrow
 - 2 Cor. 7:8 - For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it-- *for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while--*
 - Hope in the mercy of God.
 - Joel 2:12-13 - "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.
 - True repentance.
 - Cf. 2 Cor. 7:10 - For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading to* salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

What Repentance Is

- The Process
 - The fruit of repentance
 - Luke 3:7-8 - So he *began* saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance.
 - Acts 26:20 - but *kept* declaring ... that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.
 - 2 Cor. 7:11ff = signs of true repentance

What Repentance Is

- Definitions
 - Grudem: "Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ."
 - Westminster Shorter Catechism: (Q. 87) What is repentance unto life? Repentance unto life is a saving grace,(Acts 11:18) whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, (Acts 2:37,38) and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, (Joel 2:12; Jer. 3:22) doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God,(Jer. 31:18,19) with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience. (Ezek. 36:31)

What Repentance Looks Like

- Nineveh (Jonah 3)
- John the Baptist's preaching (Luke 3:10-14)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:17-20)
- Zacheus (Luke 19:1-9)
- The Ephesian converts (Acts 19:18-20)

What the Lessons Are for Us

- Repentance is an essential part of the gospel message.
 - Matt. 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - Mark 1:15 - and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel"
 - Mark 6:12 - They went out and preached that *men* should repent
 - Luke 5:32 - "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."; how Jesus summarized his entire earthly ministry.
 - Luke 15:7, 10 - "I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance..." "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

What the Lessons Are for Us

- Repentance is an essential part of the gospel message.
 - Luke 24:46-47 - He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations.
 - Acts 2:37-38 – Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
 - Acts 5:31 – "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
 - Acts 14:15 - "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God.
 - Acts 17:30 – "Having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,
 - Acts 20:21 – solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

What the Lessons Are for Us

- Our lives should manifest a life-long pattern of repentance.
 - Ps. 32
 - Ps. 51
 - Matt. 6:12
 - 1 John 1:9
 - Rev. 2:5
 - Rev. 3:19

What the Lessons Are for Us

- We should find comfort and hope in the fact that God always graciously responds to repentance with forgiveness.
 - Nineveh (Jonah 3:1-10)
 - Is. 55:6-7