

God's Gospel Plan Of Salvation

Repentance

(Ac 17:30)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "God's Gospel Plan Of Salvation."
 - a. We have already examined the importance of...
 - i. "Hearing" God's Word.
 1. **Ro 10:17** "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."¹
 - ii. "Faith" in Jesus.
 1. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJV)
 2. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 - b. Today we are going to examine the next logical step which is repentance.
 - i. When one studies with an open heart and sees the facts and evidence concerning Jesus they will recognize Him as the Messiah.
 - ii. They will see the need to listen to Him as He is the bread of life and living spring that all come to the Father through.
 - iii. This realization will allow that open hearted studier to see how feeble and sinful we as men are.
 1. Naturally we will be...
 - a. Sorrowful.
 2. If sorrowful that should lead us to...
 - a. A change of mind.
 3. That change of mind will lead us to...
 - a. A change in behavior and thus repentance and its fruit.
3. With that in mind let us examine what we must help those that are not Christians understand concerning the scriptures and repentance.

I. Sorrow

- A. Sin should upset us
 1. **Ps 38:17** "For I am ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me." (NKJV)
 2. **Ps 116:3** "The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish."
 3. **Pr 22:8** "He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, And the rod of his anger will fail." (NKJV)
- B. Being upset should make us reflect
 1. **Pr 15:13** "A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. **Ec 7:3** "Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad."
- C. Reflecting should lead to godly sorrow
 1. **II Co 7:9-10** "As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. 10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."
 2. Godly sorrow is grief with a focus.

II. Change Of Mind

- A. In other words stop thinking sinfully
 1. **Mt 12:43-45** "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. 44 Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."
- B. Start thinking righteously
 1. **Co 3:2** "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."
 2. **Ph 4:8** "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."
 3. **Ps 91:14** "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name."
 4. **Ro 8:5-6** "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."
 5. **Ps 119:128** "Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way."

III. Change In Behavior

- A. This simply means to stop acting sinfully
 1. **Je 36:3** "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."
 2. **Ac 17:30** "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent"
- B. Start acting righteously
 1. **Pr 11:23** "The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath."

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2. **Ac 26:20** "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."
3. **Mt 3:8** "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance."

CONCLUSION

1. In the same way studying and having faith in Jesus is necessary for salvation so also it repentance as we have seen.
 - a. How great it is that we have a God that loves us so much that He is patiently waiting even for everyone to repent that is willing to before He sends His Son back for the righteous.
 - i. **II Pt 3:9** "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."
2. This is not the totality of what it takes to become a Christian as there are two more steps confession and baptism which we will get to over the next few weeks.
 - a. Let us strive to let all know the need to be obedient to God's Plan for their salvation.
3. Question: Do you know now what to teach those that need know about repentance and are you sure you repented?
4. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**