

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024Repentance  
Ezra 9-10

When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. <sup>4</sup>Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me because of this unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice.  
– Ezra 9:3-4 (NIV)

Ezra appears genuinely repentant and proceeds to \_\_\_\_\_ . Ez. 9:3-10:5 (Deut. 7:1-4; 20:16-18; 23:3-6)

We're misled if our simple takeaway is to \_\_\_\_\_ . Ez. 10:6-17 (cf. Zech. 7:4-10)

### What *can we* learn about repentance?

- Repentance is not determined by \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Ez. 10:2-9 (cf. Matt. 4:17; 18:1-3)
- Repentance is not determined by \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Ez. 10:10-12 (cf. Luke 5:31-32)
- Repentance is determined by an ongoing \_\_\_\_\_ of who
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is,
  - in \_\_\_\_\_ of who we are,
  - and only what \_\_\_\_\_ .  
1 John 1:8-2:2; Rom. 2:1-13; 3:1-26; 5:1-19

*Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.*

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with? And, in what ways can you see these truths being lived out in your relationships and life this week?

Reread Ezra 10:1-15 or talk generally about what you remember in the story. What details are most striking to you? *Examples might include the lack of concern for the women and children, where blame is placed, the fact that God doesn't seem to have directed the problem or the solution, that the phrase "the hand of God was upon me/us" is absent," etc.*

If Ezra had access to Zechariah's earlier letter addressed to the first wave of exiles (read Zech. 7:4-10), how might that have impacted him and his response to his concerned leaders?

When reading the Bible and studying biblical characters, why is it important to remember that while we can learn from their successes and struggles, our ultimate focus is on Jesus and becoming more like him?

What other ways have you understood or experienced repentance? In what ways are repentance and struggling/overcoming temptation similar and different?

What changes when we also consider repentance as an ongoing acceptance – in other words, an element of our sanctification?

Read 1 John 5:19. What might we miss if we take a view of repentance that does not include an ongoing acceptance of who Christ is? Now, read 1 John 1:8-2:22 and the remainder of 1 John 5:20-21.

How does a fuller view of repentance change how we see Christ, ourselves, and others? What has surprised you most about how your mind has changed regarding Jesus (e.g., as someone exploring, a new believer, or a long-time follower)?

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– Ezra 9:3-4 (NIV)

Ezra appears genuinely repentant and proceeds to **LEAD BOLDLY**. Ez. 9:3-10:5 (Deut. 7:1-4; 20:16-18; 23:3-6)

We're misled if our simple takeaway is to **BE LIKE EZRA**. Ez. 10:6-17 (cf. Zech. 7:4-10)

### What *can we* learn about repentance?

- Repentance is not determined by **SWIFTFNESS** or **INTENSITY**. Ez. 10:2-9 (cf. Matt. 4:17; 18:1-3)
- Repentance is not determined by **REGRET** or **REJECTION**. Ez. 10:10-12 (cf. Luke 5:31-32)
- Repentance is determined by an ongoing **ACCEPTANCE** of who
  - CHRIST is,
  - in **FULL VIEW** of who we are,
  - and only what **HE PROVIDES**.  
1 John 1:8-2:2; Rom. 2:1-13; 3:1-26; 5:1-19

*Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.*

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