



Repentance

An Essential Doctrine

Acts 26:20

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The Essential Doctrine of Repentance

- The doctrine and command of repentance is left out of most so-called gospel preaching today
- Without repentance, there is no salvation
- To believe a man can come to Christ and be saved without repentance is to believe another gospel (Gal 1:6-9)
- A failure to understand the need for repentance in salvation begins with a failure to understand regeneration

The Essential Doctrine of Repentance

- Before we allow scripture to define repentance, let's see the clear commands given
- **John the Baptist:**
 - **Luke 3:3** *And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of **repentance** for the forgiveness of sins*
 - **Matt 3:1-2** *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “**Repent** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*
- **Jesus:**
 - **Matt 4:17** *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying “**Repent** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*
 - **Mark 1:14-15** *Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent** and believe in the gospel”*
 - Jesus not only preached repentance, but commanded others to preach repentance
Luke 24:45-47 *Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that **repentance** and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”*

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- **Peter:**
 - **Acts 2:36-38** *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “**Repent** and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins”*
- **Paul:**
 - **Acts 17:30** *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to **repent**, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead”*

Isn't it amazing that as we look to scripture we see repentance is essential to the gospel call, but in modern gospel preaching it is rarely, if ever, proclaimed

A gospel without repentance is unbiblical

The Essential Doctrine of Repentance

Acts 26:19-20

Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, v20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

- 1) Repent
- 2) Turn to God
- 3) Perform deeds in keeping with repentance

“that they should repent”

- Repent μετανοέω *metanoēō*: to change one’s mind
- Why do unsaved people need to change their mind?
 - **John 3:19** *people loved the darkness rather than light*
 - **Gen 6:5** *every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*
 - **Rom 3:11** *no one seeks for God*
- Humanity loves sin and detests God (from conception Ps 51:5, 58:3)
- The gospel call of repentance is calling them to “change” their mind regarding their sin and God
 - “That’s impossible!”
 - “With man yes, but with God all things are possible” (Matt 19:26)

How does someone’s mind change?

- V17-18 *I (God) am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me*
- If someone’s mind (heart) is changed, they will see sin for what it is and turn from it, and see God for who He is and turn to Him
 - When our hearts are changed, our desires change as well

“that they should repent”

Repentance (changing of one’s mind, leading to turning in life) is the result of someone’s eyes being opened (born again)

- Knowing this we can say along with scripture that repentance is a grace given by God
 - **Acts 11:17-18** *If then God gave the same gift to them as He gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way? V18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying “Then to the Gentiles also **God has granted repentance that leads to life”***
 - **2 Tim 2:25-26** *God may grant them repentance leading to a knowing of the truth & they may escape the snare of the devil after being captured by him to do his will.*

True Repentance is NOT merely:

- Feeling bad, feeling guilty, feeling embarrassed or even merely acknowledging sin
- **2 Corinthians 7:10** *For godly grief produces repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death*

Repentance is the changing of one’s mind because they been born again, where one now sees his sin and has godly grief over it, which leads to a turning from their sin

Repentance

The repentant man turns from his sin to what?

– Acts 26:20 *that they should repent and turn to God*

Because of the new birth, the Christian turns from his sin (repentance) to God (faith) (Acts 20:21)

- Jesus said “*repent and believe*” Mark 1:15
- Repentance and faith are not the same thing but they are never separate (Different sides of the same coin)
- The idea that you can come to Christ without repenting is unbiblical. Without turning from sin, there is no true turning to Christ.
- Salvation encompasses the forsaking of sin (repentance) and the embracing of Jesus Christ (faith)

New Hampshire Confession of Faith

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior

Repentance

Acts 26:20 *they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.*

- Genuine repentance is not merely a feeling, or words but produces a life-style (action/obedience)
- The evidence that you genuinely repented at the moment of your salvation is its continuation in your life today
- As we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, we become more aware of our sin, bringing us to repentance (This is the desire of the true believer)
- In on-going repentance, we are not talking about perfection but direction of life (We are tempted by sin, but we hate it and battle it)
- Our repentance (at salvation and on-going) is not begrudgingly done
- **Example Acts 19:18-20** *Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. V19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.*

Repentance

- Essential part of the gospel message
- Repentance is a change of mind, brought about by the new birth, which leads to a turning in life (from sin to God) without regret, leading to salvation through faith Jesus Christ
- Although repentance is accompanied by godly grief over sin, it is not merely feeling/emotion
- One evidence it is genuine is it continues in our lives today
- Have you repented of your sins?
- Are you repenting of your sins?