

REPENTANCE: SLOP BUCKET REPENTANCE?

Message 2

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INTRO: Our messages are a concentration on the subject of repentance. Repentance is not a negative message. It is one of the most positive messages there is. Without the possibility of repentance, hell is assured to all of mankind. With repentance, salvation is made possible, and it is free. There is no requirement of any payment or of any works for one's sins to be removed. Repentance, in that sense, is a gift. To be able to have one's sins removed without any works of merit makes it a gift.

But though no kind of works or merit is involved in repentance, it is not without cost and it is that cost that keeps millions from repenting. The cost comes in humbling in acknowledgment of the truth and in confession sin. Many choose hell over humbling and over confession. Others exercise slop bucket repentance, and hope for the best. But only true humbling and true confession brings peace and contentment.

Sin causes us to hide. That is first seen in Adam and Eve. They had covered themselves in self-righteous fig leaves, but when God showed up, they hid. That is the nature of sin. David's sin with Bathsheba is a huge demonstration of hiding. He went to a lot of trouble to cover his sin. He even had a man killed to hide his sin. And as long as his sin was hidden, he was content with himself. He lived life as usual. How much conviction he experienced we do not know. But he kept the sin hidden.

And then one day his sin was exposed. Oh how the deceptive wickedness of the human heart, the mind, hates exposure. Yet whatever exposes us is light. And Jesus said men loved darkness rather than light. What would have happened to David if God had not graciously exposed him? It is possible that David would have been another Saul if he had not been exposed. But the difference between David and Saul was that David repented when he was exposed. That is the difference between many people.

So God graciously sent Nathan the prophet with a parable to David and David's sin was exposed. Oh the pain of exposure. But in order for repentance to happen, somewhere sin must be exposed to us and this is what leads to repentance.

So we want to look for a short while at the importance of repentance as given in both Testaments. I hope you can keep from tuning out because I want to read a lot of passages and some without much comment. This message is to show the importance of repentance in the Bible.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

A. Its Importance in the OT

The first occurrence of repentance, though it is not recorded as such, took place in the Garden of Eden. Turn to Genesis 3. Adam and Eve had sinned. They had covered themselves with fig leaves, a precise picture of an effort to seek salvation by works. And then God showed up. We'll begin in verse 1:

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

3 "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and

ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Something happened when they sinned. It says their eyes were opened. That is not their physical eyes. That is their spiritual eyes. I believe this refers to the conscience. The conscience brought conviction because of sin and the conscience was set off for the first time in mankind. From there on they passed on a sin nature and a conscience to their offspring. And as soon as their conscience kicked in, they did the thing that comes natural to all mankind, and that is to seek to squelch the siren of the conscience by doing something they think will cover their sin. And Scripture says that he that covers his sin will not prosper. This is a universal mankind problem. This is the problem of all religion.

Verse 8:

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

There is nothing more dreadful to us when we have sin than the presence of God. There is nothing more natural to the sin nature than to hide from the presence of God. We will do anything to keep away from Him and then try to satisfy Him in our own way. Notice they hid among the trees. They hid behind things. That is the work of the flesh, the sin nature.

Verse 9:

9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

It was not that God did not know where Adam was. Adam did not know where he was. And God is graciously trying to draw him out.

Verse 10:

10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

When we have sin and God comes close we become afraid. That is mankind's experience universally. But in this verse we have the beginning of confession from Adam. 1 I heard Your voice. 2 I was afraid because I was naked. Just a minute, did he not have clothes now? Fig leaf clothes? But religion, works, self-effort does not cover; so he still ran and hid, and he still realized he was naked. 3 I hid myself.

Verse 11:

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

Well, the next thing Adam began to make excuse for his sin. That also is the flesh and the sin nature. He blamed God saying it was the woman God gave him that caused him to sin. The woman blamed the devil. This is mankind. Oh how painful to own up to sin.

Well, God dealt with Satan first, then the woman, and last with Adam. Then in verse 21 we have this brief account of the salvation of Adam and Eve. It says:

21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Here was the first shedding of blood for sin. I have no doubt the skins came from sheep. Here is the first picture of the Lamb of God. And it says He clothed them. In order for God to clothe them, this is what had to happen. They had to take off their fig leaf clothing, and put on the clothing God offered them,

and for that to happen, it required repentance, a change of mind.

From there on, all who became true followers of the LORD God had to repent and believe to be saved. And this salvation, from Adam and Eve on, has always been by grace through faith.

We skip a lot of history and go next to 2 Chronicles 6. Solomon has completed the building of the temple he dedicated it to the Lord. And at the dedication he prayed and the prayer is recorded from verses 14-42.

In verse 22 he talks about what he wants God to do if anyone sins. He says:

22 "If anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple,

23 "then hear from heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, bringing retribution on the wicked by bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

24 "Or if Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and return and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this temple,

25 "then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to them and their fathers.

In verse 24 he says that if God's people are defeated in war because of sin, and they return, the word *return* is the word that involves repentance. Solomon does not ask for forgiveness before repentance. It is never that way. Repentance must always take place after sin and only repentance can bring about forgiveness. And note, that in repentance, confession is involved.

Verse 26:

26 *"When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them,*

27 *"then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.*

Again, in verse 26 we have the word *shuob*, repentance; and again it comes after sin. And again, confession is involved.

Verse 34:

34 *"When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, wherever You send them, and when they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name,*

35 *"then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.*

36 *"When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to a land far or near;*

37 *"yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness';*

38 *"and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name:*

39 *"then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.*

Notice in verse 37 that it says, "when they come to themselves." The word translated "to come to themselves" is *shuwb*, to repent, to turn around, to return from the error of their ways. There must come a recognition of sin and a returning.

Now there are thosefc, a good number of them, who say that God never forgives without repentance, but it is not like that for man. Man must forgive immediately, whether there is repentance or not. That is the view of the McClintock and Strong encyclopedia. But Vine's dictionary says that repentance must come before forgiveness with both God and man.

What does the Bible say? Listen to Colossians 3:13 says:

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

We are to forgiven as Christ forgives and He forgives only when repentance has taken place. It is never any other way.

We go now to Jeremiah 26. We begin in verse 1:

Jer. 26:

1 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, saying,

2 "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word.

3 *'Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.'*

Jehoiakim was a son of the good king Josiah. But the nation has again been plunged into darkness and sin. It is most likely that Jeremiah would have preached the Lord's message on one of the feast days when all the men were to appear in Jerusalem. And he was to give all the words the Lord commanded and it is preaching against sin.

And the Lord says that it may be that the people will listen and turn from their evil doings. The word translated *to turn* again is the word *shuwb*. Here is the order of things: 1 Sin has happened; 2 hearing God's message by the ear; 3 listening to God's message with the heart or mind, which is recognition of the truth; 4 turning from sin.

We go next to the book of Nehemiah chapter 1. Israel disobeyed God long enough that He allowed them to go into captivity. What we need to realize when we hear such simple truths is that their whole world was turned upside down. Many, many died. Many were taken captive. Horrors of huge proportions happened.

When the 70 years of their captivity were coming to a close we read these words in Nehemiah 1:1-9:

1 ¶ *The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel,*

2 *that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.*

3 *And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."*

4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

5 And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,

6 "please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.

7 "We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

8 "Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;

9 'but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.'

No matter how far Israel had been dispersed in those 70 years, if in those far-away lands they repented and turned back to God, from there He promised to bring them back to their homeland. Repentance has huge possibilities. The failure to repent has huge consequences.

We go next to Jeremiah 3. This happens before Israel went into captivity. They were called to repentance numerous times and here is one of those that they again failed to heed. We begin in verse 11:

11 Then the LORD said to me, "Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.

12 *"Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: 'Return, backsliding Israel,' says the LORD; 'I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful,' says the LORD; 'I will not remain angry forever.*

In verse 12 we have the word *shuwb* again. If Israel repents God will be merciful. He will not remain angry if there is repentance. I cannot find in Scripture that God is ever merciful to someone who does not humble himself. But the very moment God sees humility, his mercy opens like a flower to the sun.

Verse 13:

13 *Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the LORD your God, And have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,' says the LORD.*

Here again we have confession. Confession comes with true repentance. No confession, no true repentance! And what they needed to confess was their sins of following after other gods. It is amazing how powerful a willing confession is. It will break what might otherwise would be very hard hearts.

Verse 14:

14 *"Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; "for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.*

The words "return" is once more our word *shuwb*. It is a call to repentance. And if they return to Him He will return them to their rightful inheritance. Such is the grace and mercy of God. No repentance, no forgiveness. That is the teaching of the whole word of God.

We go to one more passage and it is a most amazing passage. It is found in the book of Jonah. Turn to it.

Everybody knows about Jonah. God told him to go preach to that huge pagan city of Nineveh. Oh what a godless city it was. I think the city had come to the point where God would have to destroy it because of its sinfulness. And to cause them to reconsider, God wanted to send Jonah to preach to them.

Jonah did not want to go. He knew that if Nineveh repented God would be merciful to them and they were such wicked people, Jonah did not want them to experience God's mercy. He wanted God to destroy them. Well, you know the story. In the belly of the whale Jonah first repented and then went to Nineveh.

We go to chapter 3 and begin in verse 1:

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent.

4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

The people of Nineveh believed that the message was true. You see, before one repents of sin one must believe the message is true. But believing the message is true does not save. One must now act on that message in repentance and turn to the Lord in faith.

Verse 6:

6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

7 *And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.*

8 *But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.*

9 *Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?*

Now notice in verse 9 that it says, "Who can tell if God will turn?" This is also the word *shuwb*. Does God ever repent? Yes! But not about personal sin! God had planned to destroy this city. But when the city repented, God too changed His mind! But the king is saying, "If we repent, God might spare us. If we don't, we die. So our only chance is to repent and see if God will change His mind and give up His plans to destroy us."

Verse 10:

10 *Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.*

So we conclude on the OT. Step number 1. Sin has taken place. Step number 2. One must hear a message from the Lord. Step number 3. One must believe that message. Step number 4. One must repent. And when one has repented, God will keep His word! How important is repentance? It is the only hope of salvation. It is the very first thing that must happen before one can be saved. And how important is that? It is important above all other things!

B. Its Importance According to the NT

How important is repentance? Well, we have looked at a little of the OT. We want to now look at it in the NT. I think it was Spurgeon who was asked if he defended the Scriptures. And he said, "Yes, like a lion. I just let it out." Well, in this message we will release the Scriptures on repentance by giving NT verses on repentance in the NT. I won't give all the passages because of time. I'll skip John the Baptist message because we have seen that in the first message.

So we go to Matthew 4:17:

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus' entire preaching can be summarized by the word repentance. How important is it then?

Matthew 9:13:

13 "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

What was the purpose of Christ's coming? To heal people? To make people rich? To build a Church? No, it was to call sinners to repentance! How important is repentance then?

Matthew 11:20-21:

20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

The greatest punishment that will be borne in hell will be by those who have committed the greatest sins and those who had the most opportunity to hear the Gospel.

Matthew 12:41:

41 *"The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.*

Mark 1:4:

4 *John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*

In Mark 1:15 Jesus said:

15 *..."The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Mark 2:17:

17 *When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

Mark 6:12:

12 *So they went out and preached that people should repent.*

Luke 2:2:

3 *And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,*

Luke 3:8:

8 *"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.*

Luke 5:32:

32 *"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

Luke 10:13:

13 *"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.*

Luke 11:32:

32 *"The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.*

Luke 13:3, 5:

3 *"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*

5 *"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."*

Luke 15:7:

7 *"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*

How important is repentance then?

Luke 15:10:

10 *"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

Now let me ask you. If a person went to hell and he could give a message to those who are still alive, what would he say? Well, we have just such a revelation in Luke 16. Turn to it. It is the story of the rich man and Lazarus. And after they both died, the rich man said to Abraham:

Luke 16:27-30:

27 *"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,*

28 *'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'*

The rich man, as selfish as he had been in life was not selfish enough to wish his brothers to come into the place where he was. He had one great burning desire; warn my brothers.

Verse 29:

29 *"Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'*

All we have on this side of death is what we are told in the Bible. It is the Bible we must stake our faith in. Nothing else.

Verse 30:

30 *"And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'*

Now consider this: What did the rich man know was required to stay out of hell? He did not say, "Tell them to believe in this or that." He knew they needed to repent. He knew he was in hell because of sin. He knew the only way to avoid coming into this place was to repent and he knew that only repentance would take care of sin.

Verse 31:

31 *"But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"*

Question: Do miracles cause people to repent? Answer? No! They may be instrumental in causing one to believe the Gospel is true, but they do not cause repentance. But what causes one to repent is the Word of God. To repent one must hear the Word of God. One must be convicted of sin.

Now look at the word *persuaded*. Persuaded to what? Persuaded to repent. The word to persuade is *peitho*. It is to be caused to believe the message. To be caused to believe that which brings about repentance, one must know the truth about oneself from the Word of God. To be caused to repent I must know I am a sinner and I will go to hell if I do not change my mind about my sin. But to know that much is only the beginning. Knowing those truths does not save. It is the first thing necessary to be caused to repent. When I believe these things are true, now I must truly repent of my sins. I must acknowledge my sins and confess them where confession is due. And then I must put my trust in Christ for the rest of my life, not just for a while.

Warren Smith warns about a false revival coming. Healing meetings may bring about followers, but healing meetings do not bring about repentance. They may cause someone to give credibility to the message of Christ. And if they there begin to believe that Jesus is the true Saviour, then somewhere they must yet be brought to repentance. No matter what brings one to believe Jesus is the Christ, repentance must follow once one recognizes the facts. Miracles may bring about followers, but unless they bring repentance, they too only create followers. Any religious movement of any kind, unless it brings about conviction of sin and true repentance is not a true Christian revival. If you should hear about great revivals happening somewhere, unless you hear about repentance, and changed lives with regard to sin afterward, you know it is not a true Gospel revival.

To come to the repentance that leads to salvation one must hear the Word of God with one's ears. And then one must hear them with the heart. Verse 31, if they are not persuaded by the Word of God, neither will miracles bring true repentance. It may lead people to be persuaded about the truth of the Gospel, but believing this truth will not save unless it leads to repentance from sin. The rich man recognized that his

brothers needed to repent. Notice he did not say, "If one goes to them from the dead then they will believe. He said they would then repent. He knew now that not simply believing is sufficient, repentance is crucial.

In hell he recognized it was that which caused people to repent that was most important. He thought that if people saw miracles they would repent. If people see miracles it may cause them to give credibility to the Gospel, but unless they repent on the basis of the Word of God, they are still lost. It is not being persuaded that Jesus Christ truly existed or even that He is the Christ that brings about salvation. It is that belief that is followed up with repentance that saves.

We go on to Luke 17:3-4:

3 *"Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.*

4 *"And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."*

Luke 24:47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Here is a message that is to go to all nations. How important is repentance then?

Acts 2:38:

38 *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 3:19

19 *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

Acts 5:31

31 *"Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*

Acts 8:22:

22 *"Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.*

Acts 11:18

18 *When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."*

Acts 13:24:

24 *"after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.*

Acts 17:30:

30 *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,*

Acts 20:21

21 *"testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Acts 26:20

20 *"but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.*

Romans 2:4

4 *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

2 Corinthians 7:9-10:

9 *Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.*

10 *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

2 Corinthians 12:21

21 *lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.*

2 Timothy 2:25:

25 *in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,*

Hebrews 6:1:

1 *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,*

2 Peter 3:9

9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Revelation 2:5

5 *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*

Revelation 2:16

16 *'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*

Revelation 2:21

21 *"And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.*

Revelation 2:22

22 *"Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.*

Revelation 3:3

3 *"Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*

Revelation 3:19:

19 *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*

We come then to the last four references that deal with repentance and they the saddest verses that speak about repentance in the Bible.

Revelation 9:20:

20 *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.*

Revelation 9:21:

21 *And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

Revelation 16:9:

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

Revelation 16:11

11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

CONCL: How important is repentance? The whole purpose of this message was to show that it is extremely important. No repentance, no salvation. And repentance is not the second or third step, it is step number 1!!