

Title: WSC Question 87: What is Repentance Unto Life?

- I. The doctrine stated:
  - A. WSC Answer 87: Repentance Unto Life is a Saving Grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.
  - B. WLC Answer 76: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and word of God, whereby, out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, and upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, he so grieves for and hates his sins, as that he turns from them all to God, purposing and endeavouring constantly to walk with him in all the ways of new obedience.
- II. The doctrine proved and explained.
  - A. AC 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.
    - 1. Repentance is a gift granted by God and thus it is called a grace.
    - 2. Repentance is necessary for and leads to salvation and thus it is called a saving grace.
  - B. JOEL 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: [13] And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.
    - 1. In repentance one turns to God out of a true sense of his sin with a heart broken by the realization of both the sinfulness of his sin and the penalty due for it.
    - 2. In repentance one turns to God with an apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ.
  - C. ISA 55:6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. [7] Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.
    - 1. In repentance one turns from both his wicked ways and thoughts.
    - 2. In repentance one turns to God with the hope of finding mercy.
  - D. 2 CO 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. [11] For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea,

what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

1. In repentance one turns to God with grief and hatred of his sin not just with remorse for being caught in his sin.
2. In repentance one zealously endeavors after a new obedience to God.

E. Summary:

1. The motives of repentance: a true sense of sin and the mercy of God in Christ.
2. The aspects of repentance: turning from sin unto God.
3. The proof of repentance: new obedience.

III. The doctrine applied.

- A. If you would escape the wrath and curse of God due for your sin ask the Lord for this grace of repentance.
- B. If you would escape the wrath and curse of God due for your sin repent.
  1. See the wickedness of your sin.
  2. See the judgment due for your sin.
  3. Mourn for your sin.
  4. See the mercy of God in Christ.
  5. Turn to the Lord from your sin and experience His mercy in Christ.
- C. Prove that your repentance is true by turning from your sin with a true hatred of it with a purpose and endeavor to obey the Lord more fully.
- D. Live a life of repentance that leads to life not of remorse that results in death.

Conclusion: Repentance Unto Life is a Saving Grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience. May each of you be granted this saving grace by God and truly repent lest you die.