

Salvation I: Repentance

This study defines repentance
and how it's essential for the forgiveness of sin.

Ephesians 2:1-10

- Review sin: What does it do to our relationship with God?
 - Verses 1-2: We are dead spiritually; lost & separated from God.
 - Verse 3: Objects of God's wrath
- What saves us from eternal death in hell?
 - Verses 4-9: God's mercy and grace provide a way for forgiveness.
 - This does NOT mean His grace automatically forgives everyone's sins. (Must respond to his grace.)

Acts 2:36-39

- Verse 36: Our sin results in the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Verse 38: What two commands must we obey to receive forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit? (Repent & be baptized.)

This study will focus on repentance. What is repentance?

- The Greek word is "METANOIA".
 - Mindset change; revolutionized thinking; to be transformed; looking ahead with fresh eyes & a fresh view
 - This mindset change (metanoia) will produce a changed life. (Refer: Acts 26:20; Romans 12:1-2)

How do we repent of sins?

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

- What is the difference between *Godly sorrow* or *worldly sorrow*?
 - Godly sorrow **LEADS TO REPENTANCE THAT LEADS TO SALVATION.**
- How do we know there is Godly sorrow? True repentance and a mindset change?
 - earnestness: sincerity, honesty, no faking it
 - eagerness to clear yourselves: apologies, righting past wrongs
 - indignation: righteous anger at your own sin
 - alarm: warning of impending danger without change – i.e. fire alarm
 - longing: desire to be close to God, to be reconciled
 - concern: concern about your sin & other's sin
 - readiness to see justice done: ready to repent – no matter the cost
- Which of these elements do you still lack?

Acts 26:20 & Acts 3:19

- The same message was preached to many people. What was it? *Repent and prove your repentance by actions.*
- Acts 3:19 – Why is repentance important? It helps wipe away our sins on God's terms.
- Repentance is refreshing.

James 5:16

- Initiate confession of specific sins (model this by sharing from your own life)
- **Question: What sins do you need to repent of?**
 - If needed to help facilitate discussion:
 - Focus on character sins & anything specific to help clear conscience.
 - Lists of sins in Scripture include: Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Mark 7:20-22
 - More scriptures on openness if needed: John 3:19-21; Acts 19:17-20; Proverbs 28:13

1 John 1:5-10

- How do we walk in the light with God?
- We must always remain open regarding our sin, since repentance of sin is a lifetime commitment.

Additional Study: Luke 7:36-50 – The Sinful Woman is a model of true repentance.

Questions:

- How is your definition of repentance different than what it was at the beginning of this study?
- What comes first for true repentance: a changed mindset or changed actions? (actions are the fruits of a mind change)
- Do you feel Godly sorrow about your sin? Who do you owe an apology to or what deeds need to be corrected?
- Are you committed to repenting of your sin the rest of your life?