

Repentance



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Lesson 1 in a Series on New Testament Salvation

What is Repentance?

- A choice to change direction and attitude
- It can include feeling godly sorrow, but it is not emotion-based; even if you never *feel* sorrow, you must still repent...therefore,

What is Repentance?

- Repentance is really a conscious act of submission – I repent, not because of how I *feel*, but because I accept the authority of God's Word

What is Repentance?

- Repentance is *not* remorse; remorse is a feeling that can be associated with recognition of sin and of guilt, but repentance is not dependent on remorse – only on obedience

What is Repentance?

- Repentance is *not* reformation; reformation is your own effort to change yourself by your own power – repentance requires you to try to change, but recognizes that the power to do so comes from God

Who Must Repent?

- Everyone!
- “In the past people did not understand God, and he overlooked this. But now he is telling everyone in the world to change and turn to him.” (Acts 17:30, ERV)

Who Must Repent?

- Whether you are religious or godless, pagan or “Christian” – you must repent!
- “...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15)

Who Must Repent?

- God wants ALL people to come to repentance
- “The Lord is not being slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He doesn’t want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change their ways and stop sinning.” (2 Peter 3:9, ERV)

Why Must We Repent?

- Because EVERYONE has sinned
- “All have sinned and are not good enough to share God’s divine greatness.” (Romans 3:23, ERV)

Why Must We Repent?

- There is no one on earth who never does wrong
- “Surely there is no one on earth who always does good and never sins.” (Ecclesiastes 7:20, ERV)

Why Must We Repent?

- We are guilty just because we were born into the fallen human race
- “I was born to do wrong, a sinner before I left my mother’s womb.”
(Psalm 51:5, ERV)

How Do We Repent?

- First, we must open the lines of communication – pray and talk *to* and *with* God

How Do We Repent?

- A prayer of repentance does not make excuses or offer self-justification
- It simply accepts your own guilt because you recognize that the Word of God has authority, and you have not followed it
- “Have mercy on me. I am a sinner!” (Luke 18:9-14, ERV)

How Do We Repent?

- Ask God to help you *change*, instead of just saying you are sorry
- True repentance includes accepting the responsibility to stop doing the things God doesn't like (even if we like them or don't understand why they are wrong!) and to start obeying His law

How Do We Repent?

- True repentance involves *confessing* and *abandoning* your sins
- “Whoever hides their sins will not be successful, but whoever confesses their sins and stops doing wrong will receive mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13, ERV)

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

¹ It is a great blessing
when people are forgiven for
the wrongs they have done,
when their sins are erased.

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

² It is a great blessing
when the Lord says they are
not guilty,
when they don't try to hide
their sins.

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

³ Lord, I prayed to you again and again,

but I did not talk about my sins.

So I only became weaker and more miserable.

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

4 Every day you made life harder for me.

I became like a dry land in the hot summertime. *Selah*

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

⁵ But then I decided to confess my sins to the Lord.

I stopped hiding my guilt and told you about my sins.

And you forgave them all! *Selah*

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

⁶ That is why your loyal followers pray to you while there is still time.

Then when trouble rises like a flood, it will not reach them.

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

⁷ You are a hiding place for me.

You protect me from my troubles.

You surround me and protect me,

so I sing about the way you saved me. *Selah*

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

⁸ The Lord says, “I will teach you
and guide you in the way you
should live.

I will watch over you and be
your guide.

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

⁹ Don't be like a stupid horse or mule that will not come to you unless you put a bit in its mouth and pull it with reins."

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

¹⁰ Many pains will come to the wicked,

but the Lord's faithful love will surround those who trust in him.

Psalm 32:1-11, ERV

11 Good people, rejoice and be very happy in the Lord.

All you who want to do right,
rejoice!