

Repentance Part One

In this lesson we will examine the topic of repentance, as presented in the Bible. We will define what the Bible means by repentance. We will explore that God, in fact, requires us to repent of our sins as part of the process of salvation. Because there is so much information to cover on this topic it will be broken down into two parts.

God wants all to repent, He requires it for salvation

Luke 13:1-5 “There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” From the very mouth of Jesus all must repent of their sins or perish eternally. That is as serious as it gets friends, repentance is not optional. Either one repents of their sins or is lost. Remember these are Jesus very words.

Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” Christ suffered and died on the cross so that you and I can have the opportunity to be saved. Repentance is so important God wants it to be preached to all people, of all nations, everywhere on earth. Christ died and rose again to make it possible for us to have salvation, of which repentance is a part. That sounds very important, doesn't it?

Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” God is not suggesting or hoping that we repent of our sins, He commands it! God will judge all mankind on the Day of Judgement. Do you want to stand before God an unrepentant sinner?

2 Peter 3:9-10 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” God has promised that there will be a Judgement Day so we can be sure there will be. It could be any second, or a thousand years from now, we just don't know. He wants us to repent because He does not want anyone to be lost, and has given us time to do so. However if we choose to not repent God will not save us.

Revelation 2:5 “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” The church of Ephesus was being told by Jesus they must repent or be lost.

It is important to note that even when one becomes a Christian one can sin and fall away. However, if we truly repent Jesus will take us back into the fold, but only if we repent.

Revelation 2:16 “Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” Jesus tells the church in Smyrna they must repent or be lost. So we see repenting of sins must be done no matter if one has never become a Christian, or was once a faithful Christian but has fallen away. We must repent of our sins or be lost.

What is repentance?

To repent is to change one’s life, forsaking sinful behavior and following righteousness. It includes regret, and resolution to reform one’s life to be in compliance with God’s will not your own.

Matthew 21:28-31 “But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.” Repentance does involve regret over one’s actions, but it is more than that. To truly repent, is to make a change in your life. For example, to repent of being a person that drinks alcohol would mean to strive very hard to never drink again. That person would strive to make all the changes they needed to, in order to stop that behavior. It would probably be very hard, and they might stumble and fall several times trying to change, but they would keep trying and seek God’s forgiveness when they stumbled. The mind set for the repentant person is, they want to stop whatever sinful behavior they were involved in.

Luke 11:32 “The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.” God sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach repentance. The people of Nineveh had been involved in behavior that was sinful and God, through Jonah, warned them they must repent or face the consequences. The people of Nineveh wisely repented, at least for a time. Today God has warned us we must repent of our sins or be lost eternally.

Luke 17:3-4 “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.” Like God is willing to forgive us when we repent of our sins, we should be willing to forgive others when they repent of wrong doing to us. Repentance is a change of heart, mind, and action to strive to change one’s life. It might be hard and it might take time and effort but one can repent and be forgiven by God of anything, if we are truly repentant.

Acts 26:20 “But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.” True repentance is turning to God and putting Him first, and striving to give up our sinful behaviors.

Why should I repent?

Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” Repentance is connected to salvation. Simply put, no repentance mean no salvation. Think for a moment about what Christ went through for you and me so we can be saved. He is willing to save you, but you have to choose to repent and follow the plan of salvation, or we toss aside an amazing gift that is offered to everyone.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” God loves us all so much salvation is offered to everyone that is obedient to His will. Clearly, the Bible teaches us those that do not obey God will not be saved. The choice is yours and mine, salvation or destruction, there are no other options. Which one will you choose?

Acts 2:37-38 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” No one that repents, is baptized, and remains a faithful Christian will be lost no matter what we might be guilty of in the past. We all have the ability to change our lives and follow God’s Word.

Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” If we do not repent, we are disobeying God’s commandment and will be lost on the Day of Judgment forever. Is that what you want?

Romans 2:1-11 “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God.” There are only two options, eternal life in Heaven, or eternal destruction in Hell. God wants us to choose Heaven, but He will not force us to. He has given us a path to salvation and is patiently giving us time to follow His Word. However on the Day of

Judgement everyone's time to choose will be over. Which path will you choose? My hope is that you choose Heaven.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Unrepented of sin leads to destruction. However, we can turn from our sins and repent. We can repent, be baptized, and live our lives as a faithful Christian and gain eternal life.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 "For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." It is good to regret one's sins, but that is not enough. Turning from our sins, repenting of them, by changing our lives to follow God's Word will lead us to Heaven, but that is the only way.

Due to the length of information on this topic the lesson Repentance Part One will conclude at this point. The next lesson Repentance Part Two will continue and conclude this lesson topic.