

## REPENTANCE

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye and believe the Gospel.” (Mark 1:15).

“The only true foundation on which to begin to build the Christian life and by which to maintain it is that of repentance from everything that hinders us from becoming all that God desires for us to become.”

### I. What does it mean for a person to “Repent” ?

a. The word “repent “ means to change one’s mind, thought, purpose or views regarding a matter. It refers to a change in the [heart], which results in a new direction for the whole life.

b. Charles Finney defined repentance as an “intellectual and a hearty giving up of all controversy with God upon all and every point. It implies a conviction that God is wholly right, and the sinner is wholly wrong, and thoroughly and hearty abandonment of all (sin).

We Believe the Scriptures teaches that Repentance is a sacred duty and also an inseparable grace wrought in the souls by a regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ; we turn to with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy.

We must be Godly sorrowful for the sin that we have committed against God.

We must admit that we need help and that the only help that can correct the situation is help for God Our Savior. We have a sincere remorse for wrongdoing and turn to God with a sincere desire to amend the situation and having a pure love for God that is unexplainable.

### II. Why is Repentance Necessary for Mankind.

a. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve the first man, into sin there is an inborn desire in the mind of man to go his own way and rebel against the right ways of God. [Eph.2:3; Col. 1:21).

“ There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Prov.14:12).

“ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isa.52:6).

b. Because “in our flesh dwelleth no good thing “ (man) - has erred from the right ways of God by virtue of his own decisions in life. (Rom.7:18-25).

“ For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom.3:23).

c. Because (without faith) man does not have the power to live a life that is pleasing to God. (Heb.11:6).

### III. What Are Some of The Wrong Concepts About Repentance?

True Repentance is not:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ . Conviction of sin will always proceed genuine repentance, but not all who are convicted will truly repent. (Acts 23:24,25).
- b.\_\_\_\_\_. Worldly sorrow is simply being sorry for “getting caught,” but not being sorry for the actual crime committed. Given the same set of circumstances this person would probably repeat the same sin (2Cor.7:10).
- c. \_\_\_\_\_-. Reformation in the sense is simply trying to “turn over a new leaf” in the strength of the natural man. This will never be successful without a genuine heart change.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ . The Pharisees in Christ’s day were religious but hypocrites. It is possible to maintain a form of religion but never experience genuine power of repentance. (2 Tim. 3:5).
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ . or only beliefism . Mental faith is merely the mental acceptance and assent to a set creeds or doctrines, but without any real change of heart and life. (James 2:19,20).

### IV. The Fruits Of Genuine Repentance are;

- a. A godly sorrow for sin. (2 Cor.7:9-11)
- b. A confession of sin and a plea for mercy (1John 1:9; Luke 15:21; 18:13,14).
- c. A turning from, or forsaking, of sinful ways (Prov.28:13; Acts 19: 17-20).
- d. A godly hatred for sin ( Ezekiel 36: 31-33).
- e. A turning unto the ways of righteousness (1 Thess.1:9; Col. 3:1-14).
- f. A restitution for wrongs done, wherever possible (Lev.6:1-7; Luke 19:8).

Without these fruits being manifest, there is no genuine Bible repentance.

### V. The Results Of Genuine Repentance

- a. There is great joy in Heaven (Luke 15:7,10).
- b. There is a pardon and remission of sins (Isa. 55:7).
- c. There is a great refreshing from the Lord ( Acts 3:19-21).
- d. There is a clearing of the conscience (2Cor. 7:10-11),