

REPENTANCE

Text: 2 Peter 3:9

I. DEFINITION OF REPENTANCE.

The term most frequently used in the N.T. is a word that means “a change of mind.” The repentance commanded in the gospel consists of conviction of sin, sorrow for it, and renunciation of it.

II. REPENTANCE MUST BE FOR THE RIGHT PURPOSE.

- a. There is an external repentance, which is merely the effect of natural circumstances. Many people regret their sin because of certain of its consequences, but they do not really change their minds about committing sin.
- b. There is a hypocritical or half-hearted repentance like of Ephraim in Hosea 7:10.
- c. There is a true repentance, which leads to forgiveness of sins and a right relationship with God. Acts 17:30.

III. THE SOURCE OF TRUE REPENTANCE.

Rom 2:4, Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Acts 5:31, Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince & Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

2 Cor 7:10, For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

IV. THE NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE.

Acts 17:30-31; 2 Peter 3:9; Luke 13:3

V. REPENTANCE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH. THE “CHANGE OF MIND” MUST LEAD TO A “CHANGE OF BEHAVIOR.”

- a. For the alien sinner, Acts 2:38; 26:20
Acts 26:20, I declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance
- b. For the erring Christian, Acts 8:22; Rev. 2:5

CONCLUSION: If you have unforgiven sin in your life, you need to repent. If you have not become a Christian, you need to repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins. If you are a child of God, and have sinned against Him since you were last forgiven, you need to repent and pray God to forgive your sins, and you need to resolve to serve Him faithfully throughout your life so that you may receive the crown of life when this life is over.

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