

The Biblical Concept of Repentance

Introduction

- A. A definition of repentance would be a "turning away from" or a "turning around". Literally it means "turning from sin to God."
- B. This important Biblical doctrine reminds us of the seriousness of sin. It is a most serious matter indeed when we fail to do what is right (a sin of omission) or to do what is wrong (a sin of commission). When we disobey God in these ways we must repent and turn away from such activity.
- C. In this lesson we want to answer the questions that are often asked concerning repentance. What is meant by the term? Is it necessary to repent? How is repentance related to faith? Are there evidences of repentance? Are believers supposed to repent?

I. What Is The Meaning of Repentance?

- A. Repentance is closely related to the understanding of spiritual need, Job 42:5,6.

I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes*

- B. Repentance and water baptism are closely connected in significance, Matt. 3:11.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear, He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

- C. Repentance finds its origin in the grace of God, Acts 5:13; 11:18.

Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. When they heard these things, they held their peace and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

- D. Repentance is related to acknowledging the truth, II Timothy 2:25,26.

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Observation: Now we understand that repentance is a spiritual activity, based on the mercy of God, whereby one acknowledges his need of help and turns from his fault and error to God.

II. Is Repentance Necessary?

- A. Without repentance man will perish, Luke 13:3,5.

I tell you, Nay, but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish

- B. Repentance was uppermost in the mind of the Rich Man in Hell, Luke 16:30.

And he said, Nay, Father Abraham, but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

C. Repentance is described as a necessity to receive spiritual life, Acts 11:18.

When they heard these things, they held their peace and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

D. Repentance is explained as a necessity for receiving salvation, II Cor. 7:9,10.

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.

Observation: Without repentance there is no hope of salvation.

III. How is Repentance Related to Faith?

A. Repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin, Mark 1:15.

And saying, The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent ye, and believe the gospel.

B. Repentance and conversion are related as cause and effect, Acts 3:19.

Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Observation: Genuine repentance is inseparably related to faith and salvation.

IV. Are Their Evidences of Repentance?

A. True repentance is explained as producing fruit, Luke 3:8.

Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father, for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

B. True repentance will lead one to turn to God and change his life style, Acts 26:20.

But shewed first unto them of Damascus and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do works meet for repentance.

Observation: Repentance, like faith, if without works - is dead. (James 2:17)

V. Are Believers Supposed to Repent?

A. The Christians at Ephesus were to be led to repentance, n Timothy 2:25,26.

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

B. The Christians at Laodicea were exhorted to repent, Rev. 3:19.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore, and repent.

Observation: Refusing to repent only compounds our sin.