

Repentance v2

Repentance is absolutely necessary for us to become a Christian and continue faithful to the Lord

Introduction

- We are familiar with what we must do to become a Christian – believe in Jesus, repent of our sins, confess Jesus as the son of God and be baptized, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of our sins
- Of all these actions, the most difficult is to repent
- Why is this true?

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Introduction

- The greatest obstacle to our salvation is our stubborn will rebelling against God's will
- Our greatest challenge is persuading individuals to repent
- Even Jesus found it hard to persuade people to repent

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Even Jesus found it difficult to persuade people to repent

Mat 11:20 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent.

Mat 11:21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

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Even Jesus found it difficult to persuade people to repent

Mat 11:22 "Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in *the* day of judgment than for you.

Mat 11:23 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.

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Even Jesus found it difficult to persuade people to repent

Mat 11:24 "Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in *the* day of judgment, than for you."

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Importance of repentance

- Repentance demanded to become a Christian
- Repentance also demanded to continue faithful to God as a Christian

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Importance of repentance

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

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Repentance is not sorrow for sins

- Repentance is not sorrow but godly sorrow for our sins leads to repentance
- Godly sorrow is grieving over our sins because we have violated His Law and grieved Him
- It differs from worldly sorrow that causes us to feel bad about our sins because of negative consequences we suffer for them

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Only godly sorrow produces repentance

2Co 7:9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

2Co 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

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Repentance is not living a reformed life

- Changing our lives and living differently is not repentance
- However, when we choose to repent, the result will be a reformed life
- Many have reformed their lives in various ways but never repented

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Repentance is not living a reformed life

Luk 3:7 So he *began* saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Luk 3:8 "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

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Repentance is not living a reformed life

Luk 3:9 "Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Luk 3:10 And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what shall we do?"

Luk 3:11 And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."

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Repentance is not living a reformed life

Luk 3:12 And *some* tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

Luk 3:13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to."

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Repentance is not living a reformed life

Luk 3:14 *Some* soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And *what about* us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse *anyone* falsely, and be content with your wages."

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What is repentance?

metanoia (G3341),

"afterthought, change of mind, repentance,"

"In the NT the subject chiefly has reference to "repentance" from sin, and this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God."

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

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What is repentance?

1. A change of mind that leads us to turn from sin and turn to God
2. Produced by godly sorrow
3. Resulting in a changed life

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Example of repentance

Mat 21:28 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.'

Mat 21:29 "And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went.

Mat 21:30 "The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, 'I *will*, sir'; but he did not go.

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Example of repentance

Mat 21:31 "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They *said, "The first." Jesus *said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.

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Example of repentance

Mat 21:32 "For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing *this*, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him.

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How does God persuade people to repent?

1. Warnings of God's judgment
2. Appeals to God's goodness and patience

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Warnings of God's judgment

Jon 3:3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.

Jon 3:4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

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Warnings of God's judgment

Act 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,

Act 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

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Appeals to God's goodness and patience

Rom 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Rom 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

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Appeals to God's goodness and patience

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

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Obey the Word of God today that calls us to repentance

Luk 16:27 "And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house--

Luk 16:28 for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

Luk 16:29 "But Abraham *said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

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Obey the Word of God today that calls us to repentance

Luk 16:30 "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!'

Luk 16:31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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