

GOD DEMANDS REPENTANCE

2 Peter 3:9

God Demands Repentance

*"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.** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness ..."*

(2 Peter 3:9-11)

God Demands Repentance

◦ Repentance commanded by **John**:

*"Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, '**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said,*

*'THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS,
'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"*

(Matthew 3:1-3)

God Demands Repentance

◦ Fruit of repentance commanded by **John**:

*"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore **bear fruit in keeping with repentance**; and do not suppose that you can 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. The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'"*

(Matthew 3:7-10)

God Demands Repentance

◦ Commanded by **Christ**:

*"Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent** and believe in the gospel.'" **(Mark 1:13-15)***

*"I tell you, no, but unless you **repent**, you will all likewise perish." **(Luke 13:3, 5)***

God Demands Repentance

◦ Commanded by the inspired **apostles**:

*"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.'" **(Acts 2:38)***

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

(Acts 17:30-31)

Repentance – Defined

- From the Greek word **metanoia** –
- “**a change of mind**: as it appears to one who repents, of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done” (Thayer).
- “... hence signifies '**to change one's mind or purpose**,' always, in the NT, involving a change for the better” (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
- Repentance is the **change of mind** which **produces** the **turning of one's life!**

Repentance – Illustrated

“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.’ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, ‘I will, sir’; but he did not go. 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. 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.’”
(Matthew 21:28-32)

Examples of Repentance

- Luke 15**
- The lost sheep **Luke 15:1-7**
- Repentance brings joy in heaven.
- The lost coin **Luke 15:8-10**
- Repentance brings joy in heaven.
- The prodigal son **Luke 15:11-24**
- “But when he came to his senses ...” (NASB)
- “But when he came to himself ...”(ASV, NKJV, ESV)
- A **change of mind** resulting in a **change of life**.

Examples of Repentance

- The church in Corinth:
- “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. **Such were some of you**; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; **the old things passed away**; behold, new things have come.” **(2 Corinthians 5:17)**

Instructions in Repentance

- Simon the sorcerer:
- “Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, ‘This man is what is called the Great Power of God.’ And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. Even Simon himself **believed**; and after being **baptized**, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.” **(Acts 8:9-13)**

Instructions in Repentance

- Simon the sorcerer (continued):
- “Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’” **(Acts 8:14-19)**

Instructions in Repentance

◦Simon the sorcerer (continued):

"But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore **repent** of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.' But Simon answered and said, 'Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.'" **(Acts 8:20-24)**

Instructions in Repentance

◦To the churches of Galatia:

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that **you may not do the things that you please**. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."
(Galatians 5:15-21)

Instructions in Repentance

◦To the churches of Galatia (continued):

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now **those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."
(Galatians 5:22-25)

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
(Galatians 2:20)

Instructions in Repentance

◦To the church in Ephesus:

"So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."
(Ephesians 4:17-24)

Instructions in Repentance

◦To the church in Ephesus (continued):

"Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and yet **do not sin**; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and **do not give the devil an opportunity**. He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."
(Ephesians 4:25-32)

Instructions in Repentance

◦To the saints in Rome:

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that **our old self was crucified with Him**, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin."
(Romans 6:1-7)

Instructions in Repentance

◦To the church in Colossae:

*"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them."*

(Colossians 3:1-7)

Instructions in Repentance

◦To the church in Colossae (continues):

*"But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have **put on the new self** who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him ..."* **(Colossians 3:8-10)**

*"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things **put on love**, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."*

(Colossians 3:12-15)

Instructions in Repentance

◦To Titus:

*"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to **deny ungodliness** and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, **zealous for good deeds.**"* **(Titus 2:11-14)**

Deeds appropriate to Repentance

*"So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.**"* **(Acts 26:19-20)**

Deeds appropriate to Repentance

Repentance demands a change of mind, a yielding of our will to God's will, resulting a change of behavior.

*"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, **come out from their midst and be separate,**' says the Lord. 'And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,' Says the Lord Almighty."*

(2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

Repentance without Regret

*"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. 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. For behold what **earnestness** this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what **vindication** of yourselves, what **indignation**, what **fear**, what **longing**, what **zeal**, what **avenging of wrong!** In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter."* **(2 Corinthians 7:9-11)**

True Repentance

“Innocent in the matter,” not that we didn't commit the sin, but that we have borne the fruit of true repentance, resulting in forgiveness. We must continue to walk in the Light!

“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.” (1 John 1:5-10)

Repentance demands Faithfulness

God's word warns about falling away.

“For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.” (Hebrews 6:4-6)

Repentance demands Faithfulness

God's word warns about continuing in sin.

“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:26-31)

Repentance is required by God

The word “repent” is found 12 times in the book of Revelation. To the church in Laodicea, the Lord said:

*“Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and **repent**. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Revelation 3:19-22)*

HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL

Hear the word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized (Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Remain Obedient (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)