

A scenic photograph of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore. The foreground is filled with golden sand, marked with several footprints. In the background, the ocean stretches to the horizon under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. A dark, low-lying island or headland is visible on the horizon. A black rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing text in yellow and blue.

The IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

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ECNATNEPER.

A turn around.

REPENTANCE.



**As ECNATNEPER makes no sense;
neither does REPENTANCE without fruits!**

***“Bring forth therefore fruits
worthy of repentance.” (Luke 3:8;)***

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

OBSERVATION.

The greatest obstacle to the salvation of men and woman is the obstinacy of the human will.

WHO NEEDS REPENTANCE?

Let us see what the word of God say's:-

Romans 3:23; "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23; "For the wage paid by sin is death; the gift freely given by God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

1 John 1:3;

"if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

1 John 3:4;

"Whoever commits sin commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

1 John 5:17;

"all unrighteousness is sin."

James 4:17;

"Everyone who knows what is the right thing to do and does not do it commits a sin."

SO WHAT IS REPENTANCE.

**One of the most neglected subjects
in preaching is repentance.**

**The most difficult command to obey is not
that of baptism, nor those commands
concerning our duties of giving and assembling.**

**The command that seems to cause
more PEOPLE stumble over than any other
is that of "repentance."**

**Jesus said: "unless you repent,
you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3;)**

The Bible plainly teaches baptism.

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38;

**So why do so many refuse to be baptized
for the forgiveness of sins?**

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

I believe that the answer lies in their miss understanding of or **refusal to repent!**

The problem is not that **the gospel** is difficult to understand, but that they do not desire to **repent (change)** and live the life God has commanded.

Those that don't see the importance of repentance in their life as a Christian usually means that it is an indication of a lack of understanding of what repentance really means.

Repentance MUST play a part in the conversion of people to God.

SO WHAT IS REPENTANCE.

Paul speaking to Agrippa said:-

**"that they should repent and turn to God,
and do WORKS worthy of REPENTANCE."**

Acts 26:20;

**The real problem is that true repentance is probably
one of the hardest of the Lords commands to obey.**

**Someone once said:- "That SIN so blinds the eye
that it sees but dimly, and so muffles the ear that
it hears imperfectly, and so paralyses the will,
that like a paralysed arm it seems unable to act."**

SO WHAT IS REPENTANCE.

When ones eyes and ears are opened to see and hear clearly, then we ought to have the will power with God's help to change our direction in life.

True repentance as asked of man by God seems for many to difficult a step to take.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE.

Joseph Thayer:-

**“to change one’s mind for the better,
heartily to amend with abhorrence
of one’s past sins.”**

Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Acts 2:38; 3:19;

Analytical Greek Lexicon:-

**“to undergo a change in frame
of mind and feelings”**

Repentance = “A turn around.”

REPENTANCE.

As the Analytical Greek Lexicon says
"To undergo a change in frame of mind
and feelings, to repent:" "To make
a change of principle and practice, to reform;
a change of mode of thought and feeling, reversal."

According to these Greek scholars
we see that God has commanded of us
"a reformation of life."

Repentance is like the old military term
"about face," which means
to go in the absolute opposite direction.
When we do that we turn from Satan to God,
from that which is sin to righteousness!

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

WITHOUT REPENTANCE THERE IS NO PARDON.
SOME PASSAGES DEALING WITH REPENTANCE
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Matt 3:2; "Repent,
for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Matt 3:6; "and they were baptized of him
in the river Jordan, **CONFESSING** their sins."

Matt 3:8; "Bring forth fruits
worthy of **REPENTANCE.**"

Matt 3:11; "I indeed baptize you
with water unto **REPENTANCE.**"

Matt 4:17; "Repent, for
the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

Luke 13:3 " Not at all! And you will also perish unless **you turn from your evil ways** and **turn to God.**

13:5. But except you **REPENT** you shall all likewise perish."

Luke 24:47; "With my authority, take this **message of repentance** to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem:

'There is forgiveness of sins for all who **turn to me.**'

Acts 2:38; Then Peter said to them, "**Repent,** and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

Acts 3:19; "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Acts 11:21; "And the hand of the Lord was against them, and a great number of them that believed **TURNUED** unto the Lord."

Acts 17:30; "But now He commands men everywhere to **REPENT.**"

Acts 19:18; "Many also of them that had believed came **CONFESSING** and **DECLARING** their deeds."

2 Tim 2:25; "He must be gentle when he corrects people who oppose him, in the hope that God may give them **a change of mind** so that they recognise the truth.

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

**REPENTANCE IS NOT NEW AND PECULIAR
TO THE CHRISTIAN AGE.**

**It has always been prominent with God. It was the subject
of the prophets of God under the Old Testament.**

**Men were required to repent of their sins
BEFORE the law of Moses was given.**

**Job 42:6; says:- “I take back everything I said,
and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.”**

**Conclusion:- The Lord Blesses Job
Repentance was also required BY the law of Moses.**

**2 Chron 7:14; “If my people who are called by my name
will humble themselves and pray and seek my face
and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven
and will forgive their sins and heal their land.**

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

Isa 55:7; “Let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him **return to the LORD.**”

Jer 3:12; "Go and proclaim these words toward
the north, and say: '**Return, backsliding Israel.**'"

Jer 3:22; "My wayward children," says the Lord,
"**come back to me,**
and I will heal your wayward hearts."

ALSO IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

**Let us remind ourselves of some
WHO TAUGHT REPENTANCE?**

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

**Mark 1:4: John the Baptist burst onto the scene-
denouncing SIN- and calling on the people
to repent. Preaching a BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE
for forgiveness of sins.**

Matt 3:2;

“He said "REPENT for the KINGDOM IS AT HAND."

Matt 3:7-8;

**He said "O generation of vipers who warned you
to flee from the wrath to come?**

Bring forth FRUIT WORTHY OF REPENTANCE.

The Importance of REPENTANCE

Repentance was the **first and last subject** of our Lord while on this earth. Matthew 4:17; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:37-38; 20:21; 17:30; Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9;

Jesus began with:-

Matt 4:17; "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Before He ascended back into heaven, He said:

Luke 24:47; "and that **repentance** and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

**Repentance is still neglected today!
Put away the old and become new.**

On Pentecost after our Lord's resurrection from the grave the Jews cried out:-

Acts 2:37-38; "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."

The apostle Paul speaking about his labours at Ephesus preached:-

Acts 20:21; "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

He said to the Athenians:-

Acts 17:30; "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent."

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

Wherever in the world today that you find sin,
you should also find
the message of repentance from that sin.

Jesus commanded repentance
because Sin separates man from God. **Isa 59:1;**
1 John 3-4; 5:17; Men prefer to walk in darkness
rather than light, their sins will continue to separate.

Peter said:-

2 Pet 3:9; “The Lord is not slack concerning
His promise, as some count slackness, but is
longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should
perish but that all should come to repentance.

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

As repentance was an unpopular subject of the first century, and has been all through the ages, so it is today. **WHY?**

Because man does not want to repent!

Few talk about repentance
and fewer do anything about it.

That's what makes the FAITH ONLY
religion so popular today.

One man described it a **“cheap grace”**
They say there is nothing you need do
which means it costs you nothing.

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

An absolute change MUST come over all who would enlist as a soldier in the Lord's kingdom.

The Sadducees were taught that they must lay aside their false doctrines, worldliness, and indifference.

The Pharisees were taught that they must lay aside their formalism, hypocrisy, and self-righteousness.

Those that would come to Christ today must repent.

**Old things must be put away,
all things must become new.**

**Indifference must make way for devotion,
selfishness for sacrifice,
love of the world, for love of God.**

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

Some say **“Repentance is not for our day.”**

Some view repentance as they do

"faith without works."

Repentance is a work performed. Luke 3:8-14; 13:3;

THE BIBLICAL TRUTH IS THAT:-

Repentance is an action as a result of our faith in Jesus. Repentance IS for man today.

**Remember, Jesus said:- Luke 13:3;
"I tell you, no; but unless you repent
you will all likewise perish.**

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

“Repentance is being sorry for sins”

A difference between repentance and sorrow?

2 Cor 7:10;

THE BIBLICAL TRUTH IS THAT

Repentance is not sorrow.

Repentance is the result of “godly sorrow”

Psalms 51:4;

Repentance is not just being aware of our sins.

Stephen in Acts 7; Made some people aware

of their sins, but instead of repenting

they covered their ears and dragged Him

out of the city and stoned Him. 7:54-58;

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

**It is not feeling sorry about something
In Matt 14:1-11; we see that Herod was sorry
that He made a rash promise
but he still had John the baptiser beheaded;**

**The rich young ruler that Jesus spoke to
about eternal life. **Matt 19:16-22;****

**The passage says, Jesus Loved Him,
yet the rich young man went away sorrowful.
Again it was worldly sorrow and worldly sorrow
is not good enough it only leads to death.**

**There is a lot of difference between
repentance and sorrow! **Only Godly sorrow
is associated with true repentance.****

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

Being sorry It is not GODLY SORROW.

Godly sorrow is to feel remorse, not because you got caught, but because you realize you have offended God by your action or thought.

Most of us at some time or another feel sorrow towards God for some things. For being so unloving, for being so uncaring, or unkind. BUT this in itself is NOT repentance. It LEADS TO REPENTANCE.

So, repentance is not sorrow, repentance is the result of "godly sorrow!"

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

Example:- Two bank robbers are in prison at the same time, and both of them are sorry.

One is grieved that his life has become such a mess and that he has hurt God with his sinful ways.

The other is just sorry he got caught and grieves over the fact that he didn't have a good enough getaway plan and now has to serve time.

One has Godly sorrow that leads to repentance; the other has worldly sorrow.



Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

While travelling down a road called sin, you look ahead and see the end result, it is an eternal destiny separated from God and all that is good.

You are sorry that you have come this way and decide to turn to a different road.

God gives you that opportunity through His forgiveness, made available in and through Jesus Christ.



The road
to destruction

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

It is not the fact that you may lead a new life.

**A new life MAY be the evidence
or fruit of repentance,
but it is not repentance itself.**

**Repentance comes
before a change of life or conduct;**

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

It is not the worldly remorse or regret about something; Some have sorrow because of the inconvenience and imposition that their sins have caused them.

These people weep and feel sorry for their sins because of the consequences.

This is the kind of sorrow that **Judas had after he betrayed Jesus. Matt 27:3-5;.**

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

He was sorry because it was against himself and he was concerned with the consequences of his sin as it related to his punishment.

Judas regretted his action, confessed his sin, but went out and hanged himself.

His sorrow led to Death- not to repentance.

This is "sorrow of the world!"

I'm afraid that many of us are like Judas.

We are sorry that things have turned out bad; but we have no sorrow for the sin which we committed that brought us to our sinful condition.

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

Some people teach:-

“Repentance is merely confessing sin.”

Exodus 9:27; Numbers 22:34; 2 Peter 2:15;

There are many Bible examples of those that have confessed their sins, but never repented (turned away from) of them.

Pharoah:

Exod 9:27; “And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked.”

Yet he continued his defiance of God!

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

In the presence of God's angel Balaam confessed:-

Num 22:34; "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."

Yet Peter tells us that he continued to love "the wages of unrighteousness." (2 Pet 2:15;)

These men confessed their sin, knowing that it will lead to destruction, **but did not repent of their sins against God.** These men died loving their sins, but hating the punishment awaiting them in the flames of hell!

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

The honest, sincere, God fearing student of the Bible can plainly see that merely confessing sin is not repentance. (a turning away from sin.)

Repentance, (turning away from sin),
is brought about by "**godly sorrow.**"

It's a complete reformation of life
and a full determination to fight against sin.

**Motivated by appreciation of God's grace
Of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus.**

The Importance of REPENTANCE

**SOME PEOPLE CONFUSE A CHANGED LIFE
WITH REPENTANCE OR SALVATION.**

**E.G. SOMEONE GIVES UP SMOKING
BECAUSE HE BELIEVES IT OFFENDS GOD!
ANOTHER GIVES UP SMOKING BECAUSE OF HIS HEALTH!**

**BOTH HAVE EVIDENCE OF A CHANGED LIFE
BUT ONLY ONE DOES IT BECAUSE OF SORROW FOR SIN
WHICH LEADS HIM TO REPENTANCE.
GIVING UP SOMETHING TO PLEASE GOD.**

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

Some say:- **“REPENTANCE is A GIFT FROM GOD!”**

But in what sense is it a gift?

**THE ENTIRE GOSPEL IS A GIFT,
THE WHOLE PLAN OF SALVATION IS A GIFT,
originating as it does, in the GRACE of GOD.**

BUT HOW DOES GOD GIVE OR GRANT REPENTANCE.?

**Rom 2:4; "The goodness of God LEADS YOU
to repentance" but whether you respond
to that goodness or despise it its something
that YOU must decide.**

**Rev 2:21; shows that repentance
Is AN ACT OF WILL, for God says
"I give her time that she should repent,
BUT she WILLS NOT to repent."**

The Importance of REPENTANCE

Acts 17:30; shows that Repentance is a **COMMAND!**

"For God **COMMANDS**
ALL men everywhere to repent."

Acts 2:38; Peter preached it as a **COMMAND.**

"Repent and be Baptized..".

Acts 26:20; Paul also preached it as a **COMMAND-**

"saying that they should repent and Turn to God
doing works worthy of repentance."

The Importance of REPENTANCE

JONAH AND THE NINEVITES. Jonah preached, and the people believed. Jonah 3:4-5;
Their faith was followed by repentance.

Matt 12:41; By GOODSPEED the Baptist scholar reads:- "When Jonah preached, they repented."

WHAT was the evidence of their repentance?
GOD SAW THEIR WORKS that they had
TURNED from their evil ways. Jonah 3:10;

SO WHAT HAPPENED? - When the people heard and Believed Jonah's preaching, they repented, **TURNED INTO THE KIND OF LIFE** which the preaching required.

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

GOD SAW THEIR WORKS “that they had turned.”
the word **TURNE**D is Synonymous
with the word **REPENTED** in Matt 12:41;

WHICH WAY did they **TURN** - back to their old life –
NO! forward **INTO** a **NEW** life. even here we see
the preposition **Eis** points forward
and is never retrospective.

NOW Every command presumes the ability on
the part of those to whom it is issued, to **OBEY IT.**
Acts 5:31; Grant repentance unto Israel;
Acts 11:18; Granted unto Gentiles
repentance unto life;

The Importance of REPENTANCE

THAYER commenting on **Acts 5:31**; says
The word **Give** in the phrase **give repentance-**
"denotes something to be done by him to whom
it is said to be given" -didomia tini metanoian-
TO CAUSE HIM TO REPENT.

**IF REPENTANCE IS A GIFT OF GOD,
IN THE SENSE THAT IS SUGGESTED
BY THOSE WHO ACCEPT FAITH ALONE:-**

CAN THEY TELL US WHY GOD:-

- 1) COMMANDS IT? 2) EXPECTS IT?**
- 3) AND WHY GOD THREATENS
TO PUNISH THOSE WHO REFUSE TO REPENT?**

Mistaken IDEAS About Repentance.

MATT 11:20; “Jesus began to upbraid the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because THEY DID NOT REPENT!”

According to this doctrine that faith is a gift- they could not repent because God had not given them the gift of repentance.

IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE TO BE PUNISHED FOR WHAT IS REALLY GODS FAULT!

The Importance of REPENTANCE
IS IT GODS FAULT THAT PEOPLE ARE
TO GO TO HELL - or is it MANS FAULT?

IN BECOMING A SINNER
OUR SIN SEPERATES US FROM GOD!

IN OUR SINFUL CONDITION IF GOD BY HIS GRACE
THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS HAS GIVEN US THE
OPPORTUNITY OF THE OFFER OF SALVATION THROUGH
JESUS WHICH IS EXTENDED TO ALL MEN.

IN OUR SINFUL CONDITION IF WE REFUSE GOD'S
OFFER OF SALVATION.
IS IT GOD'S FAULT WE ARE CONDEMNED AND LOST?

The Importance of REPENTANCE.

Godly sorrow is illustrated by David.

After his adultery and murder of Uriah, he sorrowed over his sins because it was "against God".

Ps 51:4; "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight."

The word "**ONLY**" in this passage equates to the meaning of "**chiefly or primarily**" not to the exclusion of others.

Any sin is against God! (Matthew 25:41-45;)

Sorrow is not that which we should regret, but a **RECOGNITION** of the sin which **brings about that sorrow.**

The Importance of REPENTANCE

The Parable of the two sons. Matthew 21:28-29;

This story about a **vine keeper with two sons.**

"But what do you think ? A man had two sons, and he came to the first son and said, 'Son go today and work in my vineyard.' " He answered and said, I will not, but **afterwards he repented** and went."

What did his **repentance involve? ONE IDEA:-**

When he first refused to go could he not have been sorry for his disobedience;

He became conscious of the fact that he had done wrong. That he had sinned against his father.

The Importance of REPENTANCE

As we know “sin is lawlessness.”

Could we truthfully say that he acknowledged this wrong to himself and determined to obey his father's word? For he did go to the vineyard.

JESUS CALLED THIS REPENTANCE.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE is found in:-

The story of the Prodigal Son. Luke 15:11-32;

The son received a part of his fathers wealth and spent it all on RIOTOUS living. When he found himself in filthy clothes and eating the very husks that were fed to the swine.

HE GOT SO LOW DOWN, THE BIBLE SAYS THAT "HE CAME TO HIMSELF."

The Importance of REPENTANCE

**He determined to mend his sinful rebellious ways
and go back to his father.**

**To go back to his father to repent of
his sinful ways and ask for forgiveness.**

Repentance is our turning point.

**We need to recognise the futility of the direction
we are going in, the attitudes and actions we have
at the moment are wrong and will ultimately
lead away from God and to our self destruction.**

**We recognise we need to change our will,
our attitude in thought, in deeds, and way of life.**

The Importance of REPENTANCE

This is putting it in a shallow way but we will understand that with Repentance comes as part of our salvation.

In understanding we need having been living against God and now want to turn to live towards God because we recognise we need Gods help in our lives to give us the strength to make the difference.

We can understand that repentance is an act of faith, an action of faith, in that we believe God can accept us and that God can help us in our struggles.

As we strive to be motivated by what God wants us to be rather than doing what we want to achieve, what we want to be.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE THEN!

Repentance is a turning away from, a coming out of sin and turning to serve God. It comes from the Greek word METANEOE which means:- "to think differently-to reconsider."

It involves a CHANGE OF MIND and WILL;.

This leads to LIFE not DEATH!

Heb 12:16-17; "He found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."

There was NO CHANGE OF MIND.

Ex 13:17;. "lest the people repent when they see war and turn back." It means lest the people "change their minds."

Luke 15:17-21; it says "the prodigal son changed His mind and went back Home."

WHAT IS REPENTANCE THEN!

Matt 21:28-32;. The first son said that he would not go to work in his fathers vineyard, "but after repented and went."

The change of mind led in a new direction of life;

The Bible never teaches that a man can repent of a sin and yet not change his life.

We need to make certain that we have repented of our sins; which means:-

We have changed our attitude and heart, and resolved not to continue in sin or commit the same sin. If we do not genuinely repent, we will not be forgiven. It is true we will all struggle with sin until we die yet that ought not be used as an excuse.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE THEN!

So repentance is the change of mind or will which takes place when a person recognises he has failed God His father.

**We humble ourselves and recognise our total dependence on God
Which leads us to a new direction in life.**

The repentant person is one who comes to God with the following attitude:-

**Luke 18:13; “God be merciful to me a sinner.”
see also Psa 40:11-12; Luke 15:18-21;**

WHAT IS REPENTANCE THEN!

**None of us deserve our eternal relationship with God
because we have all sinned and fallen far short
of what we ought to be .**

**If we are not forgiven, we will be lost!
Let us ensure that when we do repent we
"Bring forth fruits worthy
of repentance." (Luke 3:8;)**

**Which means that we will strive to practice
righteousness and be pleasing to God!
NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE TO
BUT BECAUSE WE WANT TO.**

WHAT IS REPENTANCE THEN!

NOW is the TIME NOW while there is still HOPE!

NOW is the opportunity for true repentance!

**If you are interested
in where you will spend eternity?**

If you believe in God?

If you want to be right with God?

**Then one of the most important things you need
to do is repent of your past sins and way of life.**

WHAT IS REPENTANCE THEN!

**Turn back to Gods way!
Allow Him to cleanse you
by the blood of Christ by
being buried with Christ in baptism.**

**To rise to walk in newness of Life
With the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit!**

**Bringing forth fruit worthy of repentance,
by LIVING as CHRIST WANTS YOU TO LIVE.**

WHAT IS REPENTANCE THEN!



**Complete Reformation.
Coming Out of Sin.
Changed Attitude and Heart.
Brings Forth Fruits “Worthy.”**

**Have You Truly Repented?
Only God Really Knows!**

The IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE.

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**Next in the series:-
Understanding Confession.**