

What Is Repentance?

Focus: What repentance truly is – sorrow over sin and faith in Christ's forgiveness.

Key Verse: *"Repent and believe in the gospel."* — Mark 1:15

Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: As we live physically, we are all together on earth – *but our entrance into eternity is only a heartbeat away!* We all hope for heaven, *but many have a false hope:* **Proverbs 14:12** *"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."*

What are the requirements for heaven?

- Many people ask:
 - Am I good enough?
 - Have I helped enough needy people?
 - Have I been faithful enough in ♦reading my Bible, ♦praying, ♦attending church, ♦attending Bible class, ♦serving, and ♦giving money?
- What did Jesus say? **Mark 1:15** *"...the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* // What does that mean? Keep listening to learn and benefit...

1. Distinguishing Between Repentance and Repent:

- a. **Repentance** is a noun: A word that **names an action**. For example, Peter wrote: **2 Peter 3:9** *"The Lord is... not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."* // *To be in a state of repentance.*

- b. **Repent** is a verb: A word that **calls for an action**. For example, Philip preached in Samaria: **Acts 8:22** “...repent of this wickedness of yours...” // *Turn from the wickedness that is in your heart!*

2. **Two Usages of the Word, Repent:** The word “repent” is sometimes used in a **narrow sense** – *meaning only to repent*. Other times it is used in a **wide sense** – *meaning both to repent and believe*. Here is an example of each:
- a. **Narrow:** **Mark 1:15** “...repent and believe in the gospel.” // Since “believe” is written separately, we know the usage of “repent” is narrow.
- b. **Wide:** **Ezekiel 18:32** “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies... Therefore, repent and live.” // Since “repent” is by itself *and leads to life*, we know the usage is wide – *repent AND believe!*
3. **What Repentance Is Not:** Repentance is **not**:
- a. Self-improvement – *I stopped getting drunk!*
- b. Making up for sin – *I gave back what I stole!*
- c. Earning God’s favor – *I did good to overcome my bad!*
- d. A one-time emotional experience – *I was overwhelmed by my sins and cried, so now I’m good!*
4. **What Repentance Is:** It takes place in the heart.
- a. **It is a change of mind and direction** – *a turning ➡ away from sin and ➡ toward God.*
- b. **It includes both contrition and faith:**

- i. **Contrition** – **godly sorrow over our sins**: The Holy Spirit works through **God's word of Law** to expose ♦our sin and ♦our need for forgiveness.
 - 1. When Peter's hearers were pierced to the heart, they cried out: **Acts 2:37** ... "Brethren, **what shall we do?**" // At that moment, the HS had worked godly sorrow in their hearts.
 - 2. Good News: **Psalms 51:17** "...A broken and a contrite heart, [O] God, You will not despise." // Think about your own sins... Has the Holy Spirit worked godly sorrow in your heart?
- ii. **Faith** – **trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins**: The Holy Spirit works through **God's word of Gospel** to give us faith to trust in Jesus for forgiveness. Peter proclaimed this good news: **Acts 10:43** "...everyone who believes in [Jesus Christ] receives forgiveness of sins."

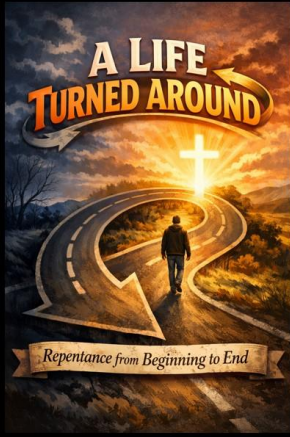
5. **Contrition and Faith:** Are they both necessary? Yes!

- a. **Without contrition (godly sorrow), repentance is false.** For example: **Exodus 9:27** "...Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'I have sinned this time; the LORD is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones.'" // He SAID IT to escape the plagues, *but his actions did not change.*
- b. **Without faith, repentance becomes despair.** For example: **Matthew 27:3, 5** "...Judas... felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver... **and** he went away and hanged himself." // Judas had no faith in Jesus *for the forgiveness of his sins.*

Conclusion: I encourage you to go over this sermon again and thoroughly apply it to your life!

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. When we gather for worship at **11** and **7**, I will address the second question in this series: **Can Anyone Be Saved Without Repentance?**

Saturdays 4, Sundays 9
Wednesdays 11 & 7



1. What Is Repentance?
2. Can Anyone Be Saved Without Repentance?
3. Who Turns the Heart - Us or God?
4. How Does God Break a Hard Heart?
5. How Does God Heal a Broken Heart?
6. When Did God Begin Repentance in Us?
7. Is Repentance an Event or a Life?
8. Why Is Daily Repentance Extremely Important?
9. How Is a Sin Infection Like a Physical Infection?
10. Will Repentance Radically Change Our Thinking and Living?
11. What Causes Us to Die and Rise Each Day?
12. What Are the Great Blessings of Confession and Absolution?

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, for all who are repentant – *grant them peace in Jesus*; for all who are deceived – *move them to consistently hear and eternally benefit from your life-changing word!*

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