

Can Anyone Be Saved Without Repentance?

Focus: Why repentance is necessary and how God calls all people to turn and live.

Key Verse: *“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”* — Luke 13:3

Text: NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends: Will God welcome you into heaven? If you said “Yes,” why? I’ve heard many answers over the years:

- I have done my best to keep the Ten Commandments!
- I work hard and help my neighbors!
- I attend worship and give money!

Those are all good things, but will they get us into heaven?

Today’s key question: Can anyone be saved without repentance? *Let’s find the right answers by digging into God’s holy word!*

1. **Two Tragic Situations:** **Luke 13:1–5**¹ ...on that very occasion there were some present who reported to [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. // What does that mean? Men had sinned, *so they brought animals to be sacrificed by the priests.* While the sacrifices were being done, Pilate sent Roman soldiers to put the men offering their sacrifices to death – *mixing their blood with the blood of the animals.*

- a. Jesus Responded to the News: ² ... “**Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans just because they have suffered this fate** [dying as they did]? ³ **No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**”
 - i. We tend to be like those who brought the report: Since those men suffered a tragic death, *we assume they did something to deserve it!* Is that why Charlie Kirk was assassinated – he did something to deserve it? **No!**
 - ii. **Isaiah prophesied that people would think the same of Jesus:** “...we ourselves assumed that He [Jesus] had been afflicted, Struck down by God, and humiliated [because of His sins]” (**53:4**), yet we know Jesus is our sinless substitute (Heb. 4:15).
- b. Jesus Gave Another Example: ⁴ **Or do you think that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse offenders than all the other people who live in Jerusalem?** ⁵ **No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**” // Twice Jesus made it crystal clear: “**unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**” // So, can anyone be saved without repentance? The answer is “**No!**”

- 2. **Dead Men Walking:** Acts 2:36–40 – It was 50 days after Easter in Jerusalem. When many people – *dead in their sins* – were drawn together by a **loud noise**, *Peter used the OT to teach them about Jesus*. Then he said...

- a. Peter’s Sermon Conclusion: ³⁶ **Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made**

Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” // *The H.S. enabled them to understand.*

- b. Like Dead Men: ³⁷ **Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart** [made contrite, filled with godly sorrow], and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what are we to do?” // 53 days earlier – on Good Friday, *they had rejected Jesus to be the Messiah!* But now, *by the Holy Spirit,* ➔ they knew the horrible truth, ➔ were filled with godly sorrow, and ➔ cried out: “...what are we to do?”
- c. Hope for the Hopeless: ³⁸ **Peter said to them, “Repent [believe in Jesus], and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...”** // When Peter said, “**Repent,**” they were already contrite, so Peter was calling them to *trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins!*

3. **More Calls to Repent:**

- a. The LORD Said: **Ezekiel 33:11** ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure at all in the death of the wicked [in seeing them enter eternal punishment], but rather that the wicked turn from his way [that is, repent] and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! // Even today, the LORD is pleading with everyone: **REPENT, REPENT, REPENT!!!**
- b. The Beginning of Jesus’ Ministry: **Matthew 4:17** ...Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”
- c. Paul’s Great Sermon on Mars Hill: It’s in **Acts 17:22-31** – *I encourage you to read it and think about it!* Paul told them about God’s greatness – *creating and*

sustaining all things! Then he concluded with these words: **“So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent, [WHY?] because He has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed [that is, JESUS], having furnished proof to all people by raising Him from the dead.”**

4. **So, Again, What Is Repentance?** *“...a change of mind leading to a change of behavior...”* (BW, Friberg).
 - a. How does God change our minds and work contrition? By the Holy Spirit working through **God’s word of Law**. Are you open to God’s Law?
 - b. How does God convert us and change our behavior? By the Holy Spirit working through **God’s word of Gospel**. Are you open to God’s Gospel?

Conclusion:

- Those who refuse repentance – *reject God’s word* – harden their hearts and will perish apart from God.
- God’s warnings are acts of mercy, calling even the hardened to turn and live.

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, we have certainly condemned ourselves and are helpless to fix our dreadful situation. Therefore, we are so grateful for ➔Your work through ➔Your word to lead us to repentance!

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