

Is Repentance an Event or a Life?

Focus: Why repentance is both a beginning and a lifelong work of God in us.

Key Verse: “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” — Romans 12:2

Text: NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This series has included:

- What repentance is – *contrition and faith!*
- The necessity of being repentant – *it’s a must!*

In **Part 6** of this series, we learned that our repentance had a *beginning*. In other words, repentance **►begins with an event** and **►continues as a life** – *which is the focus in this sermon!*

1. **Repentance Is a Way of Life for Christians:**

a. Daily repentance means:

- i. **Daily** dying to sin – *identifying it and stopping it!*
- ii. **Daily** returning to forgiveness – *looking anew to Jesus for God’s gift of forgiveness!*
- iii. **Daily** rising to new life in Christ – *as we grow in knowing and living God’s word!*

b. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther:

- i. He asked: **What does such baptizing with water indicate?**

- ii. He answered: “It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by **daily contrition and repentance** be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, **and** that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” // *That’s the life of repentance!*

2. Guidance to Live a Life of Repentance:

- a. **Luke 9:23** “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself [*his desires*], take up his cross daily [*accept persecution*], and follow Me [*live for Me (Jesus)*].”
- b. **Romans 12:2** “...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” // Let us fill our minds with God’s word!
- c. **Galatians 2:20** “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.” // Jesus **died** for us; we **live** for Him!
- d. **Philippians 3:12, 14** “Not that I have already [fully obtained the life of Christ] or have already become perfect [*fully living for Christ*], but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus [*so that, by God’s grace, I may share in His suffering and His resurrection*].... ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” // Let us press on *in our lives of repentance!*
- e. **Colossians 3:1, 5-6, 8** “...if you have been raised with Christ, ⁵...treat the parts of your earthly body as dead to sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ *For it*

is because of these things *that* the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience... ⁸ But now you also, **rid yourselves of all of them: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene speech...** // **Dead** to sin, **alive** in Christ, *is living a life of repentance.*

3. **An Example of a Life of Repentance: Manasseh!**

- a. **His evil ways: 2 Kings 21:1-6** “**Manasseh** [the son of Hezekiah] was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-five years in Jerusalem [the longest of all the kings of Judah]... ² **He did evil in the sight of the LORD...** ³ ...he rebuilt the high places which his father Hezekiah had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah [a wooden pole symbolizing the false goddess of fertility]..., and he worshiped all the heavenly lights and served them.... ⁶ And he made his son pass through the fire [in other words, he sacrificed his son] ... **He did great evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger.”**
- b. **The LORD’s anger toward Manasseh and the people of Judah is stated: 2 Kings 21:12-15** “**...this is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: ‘Behold, I am bringing such a disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that whoever hears about it, both of his ears will ring....** ¹⁴ ...I will abandon the remnant of My inheritance and hand them over to their enemies, and they will become as plunder and spoils to all their enemies, ¹⁵ because they have done evil in My sight...”
- c. **The LORD’s anger is carried out: 2 Chron. 33:11** “**...the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the**

king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks... and led him to Babylon.”

- d. Manasseh is led to repentance: 2 Chron. 33:12-13
“When he was in distress, he... humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. ¹³ When he prayed to Him, [the LORD] ... heard his pleading, and brought him back to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD *alone is God.*”
- e. Manasseh’s life of repentance: 2 Chron. 33:15-16
“[Manasseh] ...removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, as well as all the altars which he had built..., and he threw *them* outside the city. ¹⁶ He set up the altar of the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings and thanksgiving offerings on it; and he ordered Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.”

Conclusion:

- God begins repentance with an event; then, by the Holy Spirit, *it continues as a life!*
- When the LORD works repentance inside an older child or an adult, *significant changes – in harmony with the Bible – will begin to show on the outside!*

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, TYSM for beginning repentance in us, and then *keeping us pressing forward in a life of repentance!* For all the fallen, *please bring them back – by Your Spirit through Your word!*

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