

LESSON #16 REPENTANCE

TEXTS: Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; 11 Corinthians 7:9-10.

INTRODUCTION:

J. W. McGarvey said that if God were giving special miraculous gifts today, he would not ask for the gift of healing or prophecy or tongues. Rather, he said, he would ask for the power above everything else to cause men to **REPENT!!**

Repentance has been called the hardest command that we have. Christ had difficulty getting people to repent. **Matthew 11:20-24 & John 6:66**

It is not hard to get a man to believe. It is not hard to get man to confess.
It is not really hard to get someone that believes to be baptized.

Repentance is the most difficult command in the Bible because it strikes at the very root of our troubles - **PRIDE**. It is hard for a man to say I have been wrong I've sinned.

The Gospel cannot be preached today without repentance (**Luke 24:46-48**).

The prophets preached repentance (**Ezekiel 14:6**).

John the Baptizer preached repentance (**Matthew 3:2**).

Jesus preached repentance (**Matthew 4:17**).

The twelve preached repentance (**Mark 6:12**).

Repentance was preached at the first Gospel sermon, and in the last book of the Bible John repeatedly exhorted the seven churches of Asia to repent.

Repentance in all its forms appears 106 times in the Bible, so we can see it has been God's constant call to man. The Lord came to call the sinners to repentance (**Luke 5:32**), and we are all sinners (**Romans 3:23**).

REPENTANCE IS NOT

1. Repentance is not just a promise to quit sin, and forget that promise a day later.
2. Repentance is not just the covering up of sin. **Numbers 32.-23; Proverbs 28:13**
3. Repentance is not just being sorrowful. A criminal may be very sorrowful that he got caught not sorrowful for the crime.
4. Repentance is not really confessing that one is a sinner. It is hard to get a man to say "I have sinned" and when it is said it is not repentance.

The Jews on the day of Pentecost knew they had sinned and admitted it. Still Peter tells them to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.

5. Repentance is not just breaking off from sin. The drunkard may stop his drinking and that's good, but what if he continues to curse. If we find holes in our fishing net, what good does it do to repair just one.
6. Repentance is not just going forward at the invitation. We think just because we take a few steps down an aisle all things are good. How disappointing it is to see one respond at the morning service and miss the night service.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Repentance is the making up of one's mind to cease doing evil and to do good, to stop serving Satan and to begin serving God, to do an about face.

1. Marshall Keeble put it this way: A little dog was snapping at his heels, he tapped him on the head with his cane and the dog repented. He went the other way.

We can believe that Christ is the Son of God.

We can confess the name of Christ a 100 times.

We can be baptized for the forgiveness of sin every day for a year,

But Jesus still said,

"I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

Repentance is something we have to do this side of the grave.

God is longsuffering so that we might repent (**2 Peter 3:8. 9**).