Repentance

(Selected Scriptures)

9-4-2022

Introduction:

Repentance has become a neglected doctrine in much of professing Christianity today, yet was the message of John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, the Apostle Peter, and the Apostle Paul.

NEGATIVELY, Biblical repentance is <u>not</u>:

- **Reformation** - a resolution to do better, to "turn over a new leaf"
- **Contrition** - feeling sorry for sin and its results
- **Penance** - works assigned (often by a priest or some cleric) in order to help remove the effects or mitigate the temporal punishment of sin

What does the Bible Teach about Repentance?

1. Repentance is <u>Needed by All</u>
Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30

2. Repentance is a <u>Prerequisite to Salvation</u>
Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19

3. Repentance is <u>Desired by God</u>
2 Peter 3:9

4. Repentance is a <u>Work of God</u> (in a sinner's heart)
Acts 11:18; 2Ti 2:25

5. Repentance involves the <u>Total man</u>

a. True Repentance Involves <u>A change of MIND</u>
The intellectual element - *a knowledge of the truth regarding sin*

b. True Repentance Involves <u>A change of ATTITUDE</u>
The emotional element - *a genuine hatred of the sin which the natural man cherishes, as well as a genuine love for the truth which the natural man despises*

c. True Repentance Involves <u>A change of WILL</u>
The volitional element - *a change of purpose, a decision to seek pardon*

6. Repentance involves a <u>TURNING FROM SIN and a TURNING TOWARD GOD</u>
Ezekiel 18:30; Acts 26:20

7. Repentance <u>evidences itself in Fruit</u>
Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:20

8. Repentance is <u>needed by Lukewarm Christians</u>
Rev. 3:19

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Why do some profess faith and have no change of life, no love for Christ, and no long term commitment in service, whereas others profess faith and do demonstrate a newness of life, do love Christ, and endure till the end? Answer: some people repent and come to Christ, and others never really come to Christ, because they never really repent of whatever it was that was keeping them from genuinely coming to Christ.

Repentance has become a neglected doctrine in much of professing Christianity today, yet was the message of John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, the Apostle Peter, and the Apostle Paul.

John the Baptist *- Mt 3:2 Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

The Lord Jesus Christ *- Mt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
Lu 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

The Disciples *- Mr 6:12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.*

The Apostle Peter *- Ac 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
Ac 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
Ac 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

The Apostle Paul *- Ac 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*
Ac 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

The word “repent” “repentance” “repented” etc. occurs 105 Times in the Bible;
45 times in the O.T. and 60 times in the N.T.

Introduction: Repentance (by Doug Bookman, Masters College notes)

REPENTANCE

1b. A **definition** of the Biblical concept of repentance

1c. The Biblical terms
1) The **Hebrew term, *nacham***, means "to repent, regret."
Scripture: Job 42:6

2d. The **Greek terms**
1) ***metamelomai*** - "to regret, be sorry"
Scripture: Matthew 21:29,32; 2 Corinthians 7:8

2) ***metanoeo, metanoia*** - "to change the mind and purpose, to turn from one direction and go another, to turn around"
Scripture: Revelation 2:5,16,21; Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20

2c. NEGATIVELY, Biblical repentance is not:

1d. **Reformation** - a resolution to do better, to "turn over a new leaf"
Ex. Its not: “I’m going to do better this year…”

2d. **Contrition** - feeling sorry for sin and its results

Godly sorrow may lead to repentance, but is not repentance

The common practice of reading into this word the thought of sorrow and heart-anguish is responsible for much confusion in the field of Soteriology. There is no reason why sorrow should not accompany repentance, or lead on to repentance, but the sorrow, whatever it may be, is not repentance.

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2 Cor. 7:9-10
Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

3d. **Penance** - works assigned (often by a priest or some cleric) in order to help remove the effects or mitigate the temporal punishment of sin

3c. POSITIVELY, Biblical repentance is - *that voluntary change in the sinner by which he turns from sin and toward God*

Repentance is a change of mind away from sin and toward God. It is not merely a change of opinion. It is a change of view, feeling, and purpose respecting God, sin, and ourselves.

Note that the Biblical concept of repentance includes both negative and positive elements - a turning from sin (Rev 9:21) and a turning toward God (Ac 20:21).

What does the Bible Teach about Repentance?

1. Repentance is Needed by All

See: Luke 13:1-5

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

Acts 17:30
And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

2. Repentance is a Prerequisite to Salvation

Acts 2:38
Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

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

See: I Th. 1:9 – Must be a turning from whatever it is that is keeping you from genuinely turning to Jesus Christ.
1 Thes. 1:9
For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

3. Repentance is Desired by God

See II Peter 3:1-9; 15 – Repentance is the Will of God

2 Peter 3:9
The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

There is a difference between the Decreed will of God (which is God's determination based on both His foreknowledge and foreordaination of all things) and His Desired will (which is God's wish; what God would want to happen, though He may or may not necessarily decree it to happen).

4. Repentance is a Work of God (in a sinner's heart)

The origin of repentance

- Repentance is properly the act of the sinner; it is for this reason that God commands men to repent, and holds them responsible for obeying or disobeying that command.

  Scripture: Acts 17:31; Luke 13:3

- And yet, in an ultimate sense, it is God who makes possible that repentance. Man repents because God invites him to do so, and because God graciously teaches that man the horror of his sin and provides a way of repentance.

  Scripture: Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:24,25

Acts 11:18
When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

See: 2 Tim. 2:24-26

2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth

5. Repentance involves the Total man

The components of repentance

Note: Repentance involves the entire man, just as does Biblical faith. Thus, it is spoken of as partaking of three distinguishable elements.

a. True Repentance Involves A change of MIND
The intellectual element - *a knowledge of the truth regarding sin*

Meta – change noia = mind

That is, repentance is based upon a recognition and apprehension of what sin really is and what it means.

Scripture: Psalm 51:3; Revelation 9:21 (See: Rev. 9:20-21)

b. True Repentance Involves A change of ATTITUDE
The emotional element - *a genuine hatred of the sin which the natural man cherishes, as well as a genuine love for the truth which the natural man despises*

Repentance involves a total change of emotional attachment: that which was once cherished is now feared and despised, and that which was once regarded with contempt is now embraced as of the highest value.

A hatred for the enslaving sin; An utter sick & tired attitude toward sin

Scripture: See: 2 Corinthians 7:9,10;

Note: Remember that sorrow does not necessarily indicate true repentance (cf. Lk 18:23). The individual may be sorry for the effects of his sin, rather than for the guilt of the sin (cf 1 Sam 15). However, whatever the external, emotional manifestation may be, repentance will always involve a change of mind with reference to the focus of the individual's love, to that which he regards as precious and that which he regards as contemptible.

(examples: The Rich man who would not sell his goods to follow Christ; Judas Iscariot who was sorry that his plan didn't work out; King Saul who was sorry that Samuel was so upset with him)

Hebrews 12:17
For ye know how that afterward, when he (Esau) would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

c. True Repentance Involves A change of WILL
The volitional element - *a change of purpose, a decision to seek pardon*

Strong refers to this as an inward turning from sin, a disposition to seek pardon and cleansing. This inward resolve or change of purpose is more than reformation; it is a decision to allow the Spirit to accomplish God's purposes in me. This volitional aspect makes itself known in "fruits worthy of repentance" (Lk 3:8).

Scripture: Psalm 51:10-13; Acts 2:38; 26:20

6. Repentance involves a TURNING FROM SIN and a TURNING TOWARD GOD

Ezekiel 18:30

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

Acts 26:20
But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

So basically, Repentance is a willingness to Turn from anything that is keeping you from Christ, either for salvation (for the unbeliever) or for fellowship (for the believer).

7. Repentance evidences itself in Fruit

Matthew 3:8
Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Acts 26:20
But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

8. Repentance is needed by Lukewarm Christians

Rev. 3:19
As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Often must be repeated
Luke 17:3-4
Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. [4] And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Under the old law the blood of the sacrifice was a reminder to Israel of the awful nature of sin. When man saw it, he said, "I am worthy of death, but the loving, merciful God accepts the slain beast in my stead."

A young man went away from home to start in business. He was wild and reckless and had repeatedly called upon his father to bail him out of trouble. After several years of depravity, he returned home, to find his aged parents in the most desperate circumstances. The old farm had been sold to pay the debts he had contracted, and by hard labor his father was eking out a scanty living. Then there were on the faces of both father and mother deep lines, which told a tale of what they had suffered. The sight opened the young man's eyes and brought him to repentance. "I never realized the enormity of my sin till I saw something of what it had cost," he said. Thus has the blood of Christ spoken to the world of the awfulness of sin. Men, looking upon it, see the cost of their disobedience and are brought to repentance.

A young man said, "Mother died when we children were small, and after awhile father brought home a new wife. We never took the trouble to find out what she was like; we had made up our minds that we hated her. We treated her badly. Once in awhile father found it out, then he punished us, and so severely that we were sorry for what we had done and resolved to behave ourselves. But we never knew what repentance meant till we saw her real, noble self and learned to love her. That was repentance that cut to the quick." It is so with repentance toward God. We see his great love and his true attitude towards us, and our sins grow black as night beside them. We are ready to fall at the feet of Jesus and cry, "What must I do to be saved?"

Christopher D. Green writes:
"You could say that it was part of the environment surrounding our house. It was an unwritten code held sacred to all in the family. From the time I can remember being able to remember things, I grew up understanding what it meant to say, 'I'm sorry.' From childhood, I recall my parents instilling in me and my sister that if we were truly sorry for something we had done, we could always ask for forgiveness and we would be forgiven. It was a mutual obligation both parties (the inflicter and the inflicted) had to accept. Through the realization we had wronged another member of the family, unity could be restored with those simple words, 'I'm sorry.'
"I remember a time when this worked amazingly well, until I abused the system. I still remember breaking my sister's baton over my knee when I was about eight years old. It was then I learned about the power of repentance. As I forced the midpoint of that lightweight baton over my knee, I remember thinking, 'Saying "I'm sorry" will fix this!' Repeated 'I'm sorry's' were declared in my defense, but Mom saw through the veil of charade. I had abused the right to say 'I'm sorry'! Finally, after a long discussion, I was forgiven. Not for breaking the baton as much as I was forgiven of abusing the ability to repent and say I was sorry.
"There are times now when I think of how I have abused the repentance God has provided through Christ. Have I taken advantage of our relationship?"

An American physician stated that he had known a hundred or more instances, in his practice, of people who, in prospect of death, had been hopefully converted, but had afterwards recovered. Of all these he only knew of three who devoted themselves to the service of Christ when they got well. An English doctor once told that he had known three hundred sick people profess repentance and faith when they thought they were dying, but who afterwards recovered. Only ten of these gave evidence of reality by a change of life.

A minister found some young people reading the Douay Version of the New Testament. On noticing a passage in the chapter which was translated "do penance," where the English Version rendered the same word as "repent," he asked them if they knew the difference between penance and repentance. A short silence followed; then a girl asked, "Is this right?

Judas did penance, and went and hanged himself; Peter repented and wept bitterly." The girl had it right. "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

A man continually rededicated his life and always prayed the same prayer, "Lord, take the cobwebs out of my life." His pastor had heard this prayer more times than he cared to remember. Finally, when the man uttered that prayer into his pastor's ear at the altar, the pastor responded with a prayer of his own, "Lord, kill the spider!" Repentance requires change in both our attitudes and our behavior.

- Our Daily Bread, March 19, 1992