

Repentance
Lesson #20

1. JESUS stated that REPENTANCE was a NECESSITY for salvation. Luke 13:3&5
2. Repentance is not only a heart broken FOR SIN, but FROM SIN. Matthew 21:29; 1 Thess. 1:9
3. Repentance in the Biblical sense means TO TURN, change ONE'S LIFE, change ONE'S DIRECTION. Luke 15:18-20
4. Repentance is three-fold:
 - A. We must UNDERSTAND that we are sinners. Romans 3:23
 - B. We must feel GUILT and CONVICTION because of our sin. Romans 7:24
 - C. We must CHANGE OUR MIND about our sin. 2 Peter 3:9
5. In the Old Testament it speaks of God REPENTING or CHANGING HIS MIND. Jonah 3:2, 9, & 10 This is not the same as man's repentance talked about in the New Testament.
6. In the Old Testament God makes CONDITIONAL and UNCONDITIONAL covenants. See Deuteronomy 30:15-18 for a conditional covenant. Note the words if and then. For an unconditional covenant see 2 Samuel 7:12-16.
7. God may change His mind on a conditional COVENANT but never on an unconditional COVENANT.
8. THREE Greek words are used for REPENTANCE in the New Testament.
 - A. Metamelomai which means REGRET for the RESULTS of sin. Matthew 27:3 - Judas was sorry for the fact that he was condemned but he had no change of mind for what he did.
 - B. The second Greek word is metanoeo which means to CHANGE ONE'S MIND. This is the usual verb used.
 - C. The third Greek word is the noun form metanoia which means a change of mind with RESPECT TO SIN.
9. The meaning of repentance is a change, AN ACT OF THE WILL with respect to sin that leads to a change IN CONDUCT.
10. It may also be stated changing one's DIRECTION TOWARD GOD.
11. John The Baptist PREACHED REPENTANCE. John 1:19-23; Matthew 3:2, 8 & 11

12. JESUS preached repentance. Matthew 4:17; Matthew 9:13 (KJV); Matthew 12:41
13. Repentance was preached by the APOSTLES. Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 8:22; Acts 17:30; Acts 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:9 & 10.
14. It takes REPENTANCE and FAITH to be saved. Acts 20:21 Our repentance is TOWARD GOD. Our faith is TOWARD CHRIST.
15. The PRODIGAL SON is a perfect illustration of TRUE repentance.
 - A. He had a CHANGE OF MIND. Luke 15:17
 - B. He had a change OF HEART. Luke 15:18 B
 - C. He had a change OF WILL. Luke 15:18 A
16. Repentance has EVIDENCE. Luke 15:17 & 18; John 20:24-29; Acts 9:5-8; Acts 16:32-34
17. People need to repent to avoid the CONSEQUENCES of sin. Romans 6:23; Luke 13:3
18. People need to repent because of the GOODNESS of God. Romans 2:4
19. The goodness of God is revealed in:
 - A. DAILY BLESSINGS Romans 2:4
 - B. His MERCY and LONGSUFFERING 2 Peter 3:9
 - C. The DEATH OF CHRIST on our behalf John 3:16
20. The cross of Christ alone should BREAK THE HEARTS of men and cause them to REPENT.

Conclusion

To be converted is to be “turned around.” When a person is converted, he turns from something, and he turns to something. One turns from sin and then turns to Christ. The turning from sin is called repentance; the turning to Christ is called faith. So, these are the two steps in conversion: repentance and faith. Paul states so clearly this fact in Acts 20:21, “repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

*So, to be saved is to be converted.
Conversion requires repentance and faith.
This is man’s part in his own conversion.*

Once man, of his own free will, confesses his sin and turns to God through faith in Jesus Christ, he has done man's part (Romans 10:9-10). Then God does the saving, the regenerating. He gives the new life in Christ.

To become a Christian does not require a knowledge of the Bible -- that comes after one is saved.

To win a person to Christ does not require a great knowledge of the Bible -- only a few verses of Scripture and where to find them, the following is one simple plan:

Romans 3:23 -- "All have sinned."

Romans 6:23 -- "The wages of sin."

2 Thessalonians 1:9 -- "Destruction from presence of Lord" (what spiritual death is for unsaved).

John 3:16 -- "God so loved . . ." (the gospel in one verse).

John 1:12 -- "As many as received Him . . ." (the power, strength to live the Christian life).