

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 5:29-32

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus came to earth to call sinners to repentance.
2. When I talk to people who want to be baptized, one question I always ask is, "What is repentance?" I often get a "deer in the headlights" reaction.
3. Repentance is an elementary principle God expects all of us to thoroughly understand. Hebrews 5:12; 6:1A
4. To make sure we all thoroughly understand repentance, in this morning's lesson let's explore what God says in His word about this vitally important subject.

DISCUSSION:

1. **What is scriptural repentance?** *Repentance that leads to life ...*

A. **Requires sorrow for sin, but is not sorrow for sin.**

- 1) People often think repentance is sorrow for sin. In fact, that's how many English dictionaries define the English word. For example, according to the New Oxford American Dictionary, the English verb "repent" means to "feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin."
- 2) That, however, is not what the Greek word translated repentance means.
- 3) Scriptural repentance is an effect of sorrow for sin, not sorrow for sin itself. 2 Corinthians 7:9A, 10A

B. **Is the whole-hearted turn of the will away from sin to God.** 2 Chronicles 6:36-39; Jeremiah 8:4-6; Ezekiel 18:30B-32; Acts 26:19-20A

C. **Leads to a change of life.** Acts 26:20B

- 1) Scriptural repentance does not immediately perfect us in the art of Christian living. It does not mean we no longer sin. Rather, it means we have resolved to no longer sin. Repentance is a new life resolution.
- 2) To fulfill that resolution, we must not merely make it. We must also learn all there is to know about the nature of sin and how to overcome it and then practice until we do.
- 3) If we are scripturally repentant we do not sin defiantly, but out of ignorance and weakness. Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8. When it comes to overcoming sin, there is always more work than lifetime.
- 4) But if we are scripturally repenting we are sinning less—we are not perfect, but we are perfecting.
- 5) If we are not spiritually growing, we are not scripturally repenting!

D. **Is a grace of God.** Acts 11:18

2. **Who needs to scripturally repent?** *All who ...*

A. **Have sinned.** Acts 17:30

B. **Want to be saved.** *This includes all who have ...*

- 1) Never been saved, Acts 2:37-38
- 2) Been saved but have quit repenting, i.e. they have turned back to sin and away from God. Acts 8:18-23; Revelation 2:4-5

3. **Who needs to remain scripturally repentant?** All who are saved and want to remain saved. 1 John 2:1A; Hebrews 10:26-27

4. **Why do we need to scripturally repent?**

A. **We must repent or perish, turn or burn.** Luke 13:1-5

B. **To have the best of this life as well as the life to come.** Acts 3:19; 1 Peter 3:10-11

- 1) However, scriptural repentance does not necessarily erase all the temporal consequences of our past sins. Hebrews 12:15-17
- 2) Nor is the path of the repentant always easy, but it always leads to the best possible life in time and eternity.

C. **To bring joy to God.** Luke 15:7B, 10B

D. **It is the only sensible thing to do.** 2 Timothy 2:24-26

APPLICATIONS:

1. **God is doing everything possible to get everyone to repent.** Romans 2:4; Revelation 3:19; Psalm 78:34; 2 Peter 3:9. There is no excuse for anyone not to repent! Luke 16:27-31

2. **Repent!** *We must ...*

A. Not be like most people! Jeremiah 5:3B; Romans 2:5

B. Come to ourselves! Job 42:1-6. So often the things that we allow in our arrogance to keep us from repenting are the very things that God in His love is using to lead us to repentance. God is not the problem, we are! Revelation 2:21-22

C. Not delay! Hebrews 6:4-6

3. **If we are repentant let us stay that way and do everything possible to get everyone else to repent and stay that way too!** Luke 17:3; James 5:19-20