

# Repentance Toward God

# Repentance: difficult subject

1. Not hard to induce faith...
2. Not hard to induce baptism...
3. Many refuse gospel because they will not repent

“The devil is an artist: he paints sin in very attractive colors.”

## No wonder apostles preach on repentance so often

- Ac.2<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, “Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- Ac.3<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

# No wonder apostles preach on repentance so often

- Ac.8<sup>22</sup> Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.
- Ac.11<sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

“Grant” – give opportunity  
(privilege) to repent

# I. What Is Repentance?

# Repentance: change of mind: Caused by godly sorrow

<sup>9</sup>Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

<sup>10</sup>For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death – 2 Cor.7

# Repentance: change of mind:

## Caused by godly sorrow

<sup>9</sup>Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner [sad as God intended], that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. <sup>10</sup>For godly sorrow produces [works] repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world [irritability because of wounded pride] produces [brings about] death – 2 Cor.7

# Repentance: change of mind:

Sin is against God

- Faith toward God (1 Th.1:8)
- Repentance toward God (Ac.20:21)
  - Directed toward God because He is the One Who is dishonored by sin



# Worldly sorrow: laments personal disappointment

- Cain, Gn.4, concerned over sentence
- Saul, 1 Sm.15, concerned over reputation
- Judas, Mt.27:3, remorseful...

Regrets; wishes it could be  
undone; very sorry...  
No genuine repentance

Mt.21:29, can overlap  
with true repentance

# Godly sorrow: pain because we hurt God

Gn.6:5-6

1. God sorrows over sin.
  2. He does not sit in heaven watching without feeling as we destroy ourselves.
  3. He cares...
- Dictionary: “To feel pain, sorrow, or regret for something one has done or left undone”  
– wrong!

# Godly sorrow sees our guilt, tries to lead us to repentance

- David, Ps.51, contrite spirit, broken heart
- Israel, Is.59, separated from God
- Prodigal, Lk.15
- Peter, Lk.22
- Pentecost, Ac.2:36-37
  - Counselors: “do not beat up on yourself”
  - Lk.18:13: *the* sinner, beat his breast...

# Repentance changes life

- 1 Co.5
  - 2 Co.2
- Repentance steers us from sin
- Counterfeit religions replace repentance with food, fun, frolic
  - Ezk.36:26... → Ac.2:37
    - Gn.34:7, Jacob and sons
    - Lv.10:3, Aaron
- Stupefy; strike dumb; astounded in amazement and fear. Job 1:22
- Ac.2:37, Jews

I. What Is Repentance

II. What Is Sin?

# 1. Rebellion against God

- Israel, Num.14:9
- Barabbas, Mk.15:7
  - Joseph, Gn.39
    - Did not fear [“fury of a woman”]
    - Did not excuse sins [“can repent later”]
    - Did not justify ungodliness

# 1. Rebellion against God

- Ja.2:10
  - “But it’s just one sin!”
    - Thief: \$20,000
    - Drunk: daily

One sin proves guilt;  
worthy of punishment

## 2. Insult to God

- Hb.2:10

“Sin is a clenched fist and its object is the face of God”

- “It’s nobody’s business what I do!”
- “Nobody up there decides it!” (Ps.14:1)
- “I don’t like an authoritarian approach in religion.”
- Hb.6:6 . . . Mt.26:67-68
- Lk.19:...13-14



### 3. Grief to God

“God has feelings?”

- Gn.6:5-6
  - A first: God regrets something He made
  - NOT because God made a mistake, BUT man sinned
    - God **saw, was sorry, and grieved**
  - People chose total depravity (by free will)
    - **every . . . only evil . . . continually**

### 3. Grief to God

- 2 Pt.3:9
  - God waits in hope that sinners will repent
- Mt.23:37
  - A resolve to remain in sin
  - Many think the sinner can add Christ without repentance

# Romans 6:23

“If you don’t read the news, you’re uninformed . . . If you do read the news, you’re misinformed.”