

THE FORGOTTEN DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE

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(Student handout)

Acts 26:19–20 KJV

19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:
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.**

REPENT → TURN TO GOD → PRODUCE FRUIT

◆ INTRODUCTION: (THE CENTRAL TRUTH)

- Repentance is not merely asking God to forgive what I did.
- Repentance is allowing God to change:
- **HOW I THINK → WHERE I STAND → WHAT I PURSUE → HOW I LIVE**
- **THE APOSTOLIC PATTERN**
- **REPENT → TURN TO GOD → PRODUCE FRUIT**

◆ THE WORD OF REPENTANCE

Greek — Metanoia — *meh-TAN-oy-ah*

Meaning: Change of mind, understanding, perception.

Greek Verb — Metanoēō — *meh-tah-no-EH-oh*

Meaning: To repent, change one's mind, reconsider, turn from a former position.

Hebrew — Shuv — *shoov*

Meaning: To turn, return, come back, turn back.

REMEMBER

A changed mind produces a changed direction.

A changed direction produces a changed life.

A changed life produces fruits of repentance.

◆ REPENTANCE IS A CHANGE OF POSITION

Repentance says:

“God, I have been standing in the wrong position, thinking the wrong way, walking the wrong direction—and I am turning toward You.”

Luke 24:45

“Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.”

God opens understanding so we can see truth.

◆ 1. REPENTANCE CHANGES YOUR POSITION

Matthew 3:1–2 KJV

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
2 And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Acts 17:30 KJV

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

Key Thought:

Repentance is a change of mind that produces a change of direction.

SIN: “I will do what I want.”

REPENTANCE: “**Lord, what do You want?**”

◆ 2. REPENTANCE PRODUCES FRUIT

Matthew 3:8 KJV

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Acts 26:20 KJV

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.

Key Thought:

The fruit does not create repentance—the fruit demonstrates repentance.

REPENT → TURN → FRUIT

◆ 3. REPENTANCE REQUIRES LETTING GO

Isaiah 55:6–7 KJV

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Acts 3:19 KJV

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;

Key Thought:

You cannot walk toward God while holding on to what God told you to leave.

◆ GODLY SORROW

2 Corinthians 7:10 KJV

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

GODLY SORROW

Sorrow → Repentance → Salvation

WORLDLY SORROW

Sorrow → No Change → Death

The difference isn't whether you feel sorrow—the difference is what your sorrow produces.

◆ JESUS' WARNING

Luke 13:3 KJV

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

Luke 13:5 KJV

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

Matthew 25:46 KJV

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

◆ THE GREAT DIFFERENCE

CONFESSION: “I did it.”

REMORSE: “I feel terrible about it.”

REPENTANCE: “I am turning from it.”

FRUIT: “My life demonstrates that I turned.”

◆ THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Acts 2:38 KJV

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.

◆ GOD’S DESIRE

2 Peter 3:9 KJV

****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.****

REPENT → TURN TO JESUS → PRODUCE FRUIT

FINAL THOUGHT:

Repentance opens the mind.

Repentance softens the heart.

Repentance turns the will.

Repentance changes direction.

Repentance releases what offends God.

Repentance produces fruit.

REPENT → TURN TO GOD → PRODUCE FRUIT

“...that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”

Acts 26:20