

Foundations Lesson #12

Repentance

Repentance means simply turning **from** sin **to** God. It is required of all people everywhere, both saved and unsaved (Acts 17:30). In the heart of God there is a deep desire for all to come to repentance. This can be seen in Ezekiel 18:23, "Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?" and also in II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

I. repentance described and explained

- described by word studies
 - naham (O.T.): to feel sorry, to lament, to grieve, to sigh or to groan
 - shubh (O.T.): to turn back, to make a radical change in attitude toward sin and God
 - metanoia (N.T.): to have another mind; to change one's mind, attitude, and purpose regarding sin; inner turning
 - epistrepho (N.T.): to turn back, return (emphasizing the resulting change of position, i.e. from death to life)
- explained in the Scripture
 - not a matter of worldly sorrow (only for sin's consequences) – II Corinthians 7:9-11
 - not a matter of penance (punishing self) – Matthew 27:3-5 / Colossians 2:23
 - not a matter of reformation (dealing only with outward appearances) – Acts 8:18-24
 - not a matter of self-condemnation – Romans 8:1
 - the difference between condemnation and conviction

II. results of repentance (see Acts 26:20)

- the believer produces fruit – Luke 3:7-14
 - specific confession of sin to God – Psalm 32:3-5
 - restitution to man, where needed – Luke 19:8-9
 - personal holiness – Acts 3:19 / II Corinthians 7:1
- God extends forgiveness and pardon – II Chronicles 32:26 / I John 1:9 / Jeremiah 18:7-8
- heaven rejoices – Luke 15:7 / Luke 15:10

III. hindrances to repentance

- being too dull or self-centered – Matthew 15:16 / Mark 8:18
- being right, or wise, in our own eyes – Proverbs 26:12 / Isaiah 5:21 / Proverbs 3:7
- loving our sin – Amos 5:15 / Proverbs 8:13, 13:5, 15:27, 28:16 / Hebrews 1:9
- pride – Proverbs 16:18, 16:5, 18:12 / I Peter 5:5-6

- having no fear of God – Psalm 36:1 / Exodus 20:20 / I Peter 2:17
- focusing on the power of the habit instead of God's power – Ephesians 3:20 / Psalm 68:35
- lack of perseverance – James 1:2-4 / Hebrews 10:36 / Luke 11:5-10

IV. examples of repentance

- the people of Nineveh – Matthew 12:41 / Jonah 3:4-10
- Job – Job 42:5-6
- David – II Samuel 12:9-14 / see also Psalm 51, David's cry of repentance
- Peter – Luke 22:59-62

V. repentance in the Scripture

- is commanded by God – Acts 17:30
- is a gift from God – Acts 11:18 / II Timothy 2:25-26
 - God's kindness leading people to repentance – Romans 2:4
- is required of the unsaved
 - spiritually dead people can only produce dead works – Ephesians 2:1-2
 - repentance being a necessary aspect of salvation – Mark 1:14-15 / Luke 13:3
- is required of the saved (see Revelation chapters 2 and 3: churches being called to repent)
 - Ephesus (2:4-5) – from having forsaken their first love
 - Pergamum (2:14-16) – from sexual immorality and food sacrificed to idols
 - Thyatira (2:20-23) – from sexual immorality and food sacrificed to idols
 - Sardis (3:1-3) – from being dead, from not obeying what they had heard
 - Laodicea (3:15-19) – from lukewarmness
- is a message preached by:
 - John the Baptist – Matthew 3:1-2, 8, 11 / Mark 1:4 / Luke 3:3 / Acts 13:24
 - Jesus Christ – Matthew 4:17 / Mark 1:14-15 / Luke 5:32 / Luke 13:1-5
 - the Twelve sent out by Jesus Christ – Mark 6:12
 - the church – Luke 24:46-47 / Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30, 20:21, 26:20