**The Heart and Action of Repentance**

*2 Corinthians 7:8-11*

**Introduction**

1. Repentance is a facet of salvation.

* God desires it – **2 Peter 3:9** – and therefore requires it.
* Necessary to avoid punishment – **Luke 13:2-5**
* Necessary for remission of sins – **Acts 2:38**

1. Some believe they can, and should, ***“continue in sin that grace may abound,”*** yet Paul says, ***“Certainly not!”*** **(Romans 6:1-2)**.

* In fact, the grace of God which He bestows on those who seek Him teaches us a new way (**cf. Titus 2:11-14**). This suggests a change.

1. We know repentance is necessary, so we must seek to understand the concept more fully.
2. Repentance – *metanoia* – reversal; afterthought; change of mind.

* Repentance is indeed a reversal, an 180 degree turn, and it is likewise indeed a change of mind.
* **However, it is necessary to make application of that using scripture for some do not truly understand the concept.**
* It is one we must understand to be saved, and one we must understand to make our lives right with God when we fall short.

***When considering repentance it is beneficial to first think about that which we are turning from, and how we got there in the first place. It follows the same concept of thought leading to action. So we must change that thought and action.***

1. Conception and Birth of Sin
2. Begins in the Heart

* **Matthew 15:19** – The genesis of sin is found in the thoughts of man.
  + Sin occurs when we fail to think spiritually and instead think carnally.
  + ***“the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:7)***. (For the Law of God is spiritual, not carnal.)
  + ***“God is spirit” (John 4:24). (For this reason carnal mindedness is enmity – opposition – toward God.)***
* **James 1:13-15** – Temptation is the carnal desires pulling us away.
  + As we are in the flesh we will be tempted.
  + **Sin occurs when the desire for carnality grows greater than the desire to please God.**
  + When this occurs it is due to a lack of recognition of God at the time.
    - Godliness – Godward piety; reverence (a godly man is one who lives with God at the forefront of his mind, and acts accordingly)
    - **Sin requires one to forget about God – not necessarily literally – but not acknowledging Him at the time.**
* **Sin is a rebellion against God following an ungodly mindset. Thus explaining the divine definition of sin 🡪**

1. Is a Violation of God’s Law

* **1 John 3:4** – Sin is failing to keep God’s law.
  + God gives us His law so that we know how to live righteously. Therefore, when we fail to keep the law we are acting unrighteous.
  + **(v. 2-3)** – It is a result of failing to recognize God for who He is and therefore acting accordingly.
    - **We are to strive to be holy and pure. Sin defiles. If we truly desire, and set our mind on holiness we won’t sin.**
* **Sin is not an object that latches itself on to helpless individuals, infecting them. It is a conscious decision to disobey God, because at the time you want something more.**

***Since sin is that which we are repenting of we see that we must have a change of heart and action. Repentance is decided upon and then shown.***

1. Heart and Action of Repentance
2. Requires Godly Sorrow

* **The first step to repentance is recognizing what was accomplished in sin and letting it produce in us sorrow.**
* **2 Corinthians 7:8-10** – Paul’s first letter caused them to be filled with sorrow.
  + **Paul did not enjoy making them sorry. He did not enjoy writing the letter, and wished he didn’t have to.**
  + **However, repentance is necessary for salvation and there must first be sorrow, so he doesn’t regret the actual writing of the letter because it was necessary to save their souls**.
* Godly sorrow – godly = Godward piety; reverence. (**Godly sorrow is that which is pointed toward God. You have transgressed His law, and therefore are sorry you have rebelled against Him.**)
  + David expressed godly sorrow – **2 Samuel 12:5-9a, 13**
    - After Nathan had told the parable.
    - David recognized his sin as being before the Lord!
    - **Psalm 51** – Psalm he wrote with a penitent heart after his sin with Bathsheba.
      * **His sorrow was of his failure toward his God.**
      * **He committed the transgression toward God, and wanted to be right with Him once again.**
      * **Godly sorrow is that which turns to God for help and forgiveness. (which is why it produces salvation)**
  + ***Godly sorrow includes a resolve to follow God more faithfully, renouncing the life of sin. (cf. Romans 6:12-13).***
* Sorrow of the world – sorrow that does not have God as the focal point.
  + Any sorrow that is not toward God.
  + It is sorrow for several possible things including:
    - Personal loss – sin has effects physically sometimes.
    - For being caught – never intended to change and wanted to keep continuing.
  + **This sorrow leads to death because it does not reflect the true damage done by sin – being cut off from God.**
* **Godly sorrow leads to salvation because God is the forefront of thought. In order to erase such sorrow one must make things right with God 🡪**

1. Requires Action

* **While repentance is a change of mind from ungodliness to godliness, carnal mindedness to spiritual mindedness, it is manifest in action.**
* ***Just as sin starts with a mindset, and leads to an act of rebellion, so repentance is a change of mind that leads to action.***
* **2 Corinthians 7:11** – the sorrow produced certain actions in the Corinthians.
  + Diligence – effort; hard work! ***(“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God” – 2 Timothy 2:15).***
  + **Clearing of yourselves** – doing whatever is necessary to be right with God again. (as well as with others)
  + **Indignation** – (anger) toward sin and the state of mind in which you committed sin.
  + **Fear** – of God; reverence; godliness
  + **Vehement desire** – a desire to do what is right; it is vehement, or forceful and passionate desire.
  + **Zeal –** heat; energy and passion (on fire for God).
  + **Vindication –** sin must be dealt with! Punishment if needed. Whatever measure to make things right!
* **Repentance is not merely saying sorry. It isn’t walking forward down the aisle, or crying.**
* ***Repentance is being sorry you wronged God, and therefore wanting to live righteously before Him, taking action to make things right, and hating the way of sin.***
  + Paul – **Acts 9:9, 20**
  + Simon the sorcerer – **Acts 8:18-24**

**Conclusion**

1. We must have a proper understanding of repentance!
2. We must all repent of our sins to be found right with God!