

REPENTANCE IS REQUIRED FOR SALVATION

- We discussed repentance as a necessary fruit from conviction for salvation. When we are convicted of sin, that does not mean we have repented or that we are even born again.
 - “Repentance consists essentially in change of heart and mind and will. The change of heart and mind and will principally respects four things: it is a change of mind respecting God, respecting ourselves, respecting sin, and respecting righteousness.”¹
- We must repent of our sin before the Lord to be saved.
 - After salvation, our life is still characterized by repentance...not for salvation but to keep our relationship and fellowship with the Lord and with others.
- The most common New Testament Greek verb for repentance is *metanoeō* (noun, *metanoia*), which means “to change one’s mind.”²
- There is an acknowledgement of sin and a turning to Christ.
- Jesus said in **Luke 5:32** “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”
- This means that for someone to repent, they must believe that they are sinners. There are no more excuses for their sin and constant kicking against God.
- Repentance is shown by a radical change in both mind and active lifestyle. It is turning from an active lifestyle of sin to a pursuit of holiness.
- **In the New Testament, this was the message of John the Baptist.**
 - **Matthew 3:2** “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - **Matthew 3:7-9** “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? {8} Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; {9} and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.’”
- **Also, it was central to Jesus’ message and ministry.**
 - **Matthew 4:17** “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

¹ John Murray, *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied* (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1955), 114.

² John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 592.

- **Jesus also told others to take the message out to the world.**
 - **Luke 24:46-47** "...and He said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, {47} and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.'"
- **This was also the message of the disciple and Apostles.**
 - **Acts 2:38** "Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
 - The Apostle Paul said in, **Acts 17:30** "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent..."
 - Also, in **Acts 20:21** "...solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - Again, in **Acts 26:20** "...but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."
 - Paul to the Thessalonians in **1 Thessalonians 1:9** "For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God..."
- **Jesus to the churches in Revelation.**
 - The church at Ephesus: **Revelation 2:5** "Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent."
 - The church at Pergamum: **Revelation 2:16** "Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth."
 - The church at Thyatira: **Revelation 2:22** "Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds."

Is Repentance a Work for Salvation?

- There are some well-meaning Christians who do not believe that *repentance* is necessary for salvation.
- They would say that faith or belief in Jesus is what is necessary for salvation. If one adds repentance to that, it would then constitute works.
- They would view repentance, not as a turning to Christ or even away from sin, but a change of mind about sin and Jesus.

- One prominent author of this viewpoint wrote, ““Faith alone (not repentance and faith) is the sole condition for justification and eternal life...Though genuine repentance may precede salvation...it need not do so. And because it is not essential to the saving transaction as such, it is in no sense a condition for that transaction””³
- Here is another example of what is commonly referred to as *free grace*, “The free grace movement contends that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. There is no repentance and/or turning from sin necessary at the moment of salvation. Saving faith in Christ does not necessarily result in a life of good works, obedience, and following Christ. Spiritual growth, obedience to God’s Word, and a transformed life are greatly dependent on discipleship. It is possible for believers to remain in a carnal state for their entire lives.”⁴
- **Contrasting the Free Grace movement, there is the Lordship Salvation teaching.**
- “Lordship salvation contends that while salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, salvation is also a call to turn from a life of embracing sin and rejecting Christ to a life of rejecting sin and embracing Christ. Saving faith will always and inevitably result in a transformed life of good works, obedience, and following Christ. Spiritual growth is greatly dependent on discipleship, but even an un-discipled believer will exhibit some spiritual fruit. It is not possible for believers to remain in a carnal state for their entire lives.”⁵
- “It is difficult to imagine how someone could understand the gospel, what Christ did for us on the cross, and for there to be no amount of repentance about the sin that put Jesus on the cross. A Christian is saved, redeemed, reconciled, regenerated, and justified. It is unfathomable that those could occur and yet not result in a noticeable change in a person’s life.”⁶
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, {10} nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. {11} Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

³ Zane Hodges, *Absolutely Free*, 144, 146.

⁴ <https://www.gotquestions.blog/lordship-salvation-vs-free-grace.html#:~:text=The%20free%20grace%20movement%20contends,sides%20are%20typically%20the%20loudest.>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

- A couple of points...there is a line between the **acts of the unrighteous and righteous to show where they are going to spend eternity.**
- Paul also says, **such were some of you**, meaning they were once acting like the unrighteous but now were acting like the righteous.
- How did this take place? Washed, sanctified, justified in Jesus.
- In other words, they were born again and their lives now reflected that inward change.

Repentance as a Gift

- Since repentance is not a work of man for salvation, and man still must repent, it must be a gift from God to man.
- **Acts 11:18** “When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, ‘Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.’”
- *God has granted...repentance that leads to life.*
 - Just like we’ll see in our next verse, God is the subject and He was acting upon the Gentiles.
 - God granted, the word for grant is δίδωμι (*didōmi*), this means to give.
 - Unlike the verse in 2 Timothy, this was **a completed action**...in 2 Timothy it is an action that has potential or possibility.
 - God granted this repentance with an expected end...*that leads to life*. God’s gift shows itself in the fact that these Gentiles now **displayed life**.
 - In other words, they were born again.
- **2 Timothy 2:24-26** “The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, {25} with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, {26} and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”
- *God may grant them repentance...*
 - The subject, God, is doing the work, *granting repentance*. It is interesting that it is in the subjunctive mood...meaning that it is *a possibility, desire, or potential*. It has no focus on the timing of the event but the event as a whole.
 - Just like above, the word for grant is δίδωμι (*didōmi*), this means to give. This verse can easily be rendered, *if perhaps God may give them repentance*.
- This given repentance from God **has a result in mind**.

- It leads **to the knowledge of the truth**...in other words, they are born again and not longer captive to the devil to do his will.
- As we will see in the upcoming look at **Romans 10:9-10**, there is a theological order that comes into view.
 - God grants repentance (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim 2:25)
 - The person believes in their hearts (Rom 10:9)
 - The person then confesses with their mouth (Rom 10:9)

ROMANS 10:9-10 AND OUR CONFESSION TO SALVATION

- Regarding our salvation, belief, repentance and confession are never separated. There is one life-changing event that brings a person from death to life.
 - As we just saw, from our regeneration we are then enabled to believe. How do we know that we have true and saving faith? We then repent and confess.
 - An easy way to put this...we know what has happened *in us* by what *comes out of us*.
- **It's important to take Romans 10:9-10 in the full context of Romans chapters 9-10.**
- As MacArthur explains, “And in chapter 9, you'll remember, he began to explain that. And he explained it from God's viewpoint, that is, God had planned it that way. God had sovereignly designed it that way. God was not surprised by the unbelief of Israel, it was in the plan. It was anticipated. But now in chapter 10 he deals with it from the side of Israel. Chapter 9 said God knew about it, it was in the plan, it didn't surprise God. That was God's part. Now in chapter 10 we find out that Israel was judged because of her own unbelief. So on the one hand you have the plan of God, on the other hand you have the will of man.”⁷
- As we are going to talk about our faith and confession, Romans 10:9-10 gives us the human side of what it looks like to be saved.
- **Romans 10:9-10** “...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; {10} for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”
- “How is the righteousness of faith received? How is it appropriated? How do I make it my own?”⁸

⁷ <https://www.gty.org/sermons/45-79/israels-failure-part-5>

⁸ Ibid.

- “To believe with one’s heart means to commit oneself at the deepest level to the truth as revealed and experienced. Confession is giving expression in words to that conviction.”⁹
- There are two areas that Paul says need to be present in us so that we are born again:
- **Believe with our hearts that Jesus was resurrected...**
 - There are many people who have knowledge of Jesus, knowledge of salvation, but they are not saved.
 - “Those who come to Christ must believe in their hearts that Jesus was raised from the dead by God the Father. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very center of the Christian faith. Apart from the resurrection Christianity would be little more than a well-intentioned ethical system. It is a fact that within history God did something that defies all the laws of nature as we know them.”¹⁰
- **Confess with our mouths Jesus as Lord...**
 - What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord? True saving faith will confess, will agree with Jesus being Lord over your life.
 - This is not a point that we want to get wrong in our walk with the Lord.
 - The Rich Young Ruler in **Matthew 19:16-22**. After *confessing* that he believed all the right stuff *about* salvation, Jesus pressed in on him and said:
 - **Matthew 19:21** “If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”
 - The young man (in **verse 22**) went away grieving because he was rich.
 - This young man would not have been saved if he would have given his money as a good work. Jesus was drawing out what was already in his heart...a lack of saving faith and a desire to submit to Jesus as Lord.
- “Those who come to Christ by faith are acknowledging that they have placed themselves entirely and without reserve under his authority to carry out without hesitation whatever he may choose for them to do. There is no such thing as salvation apart from lordship.”¹¹
- This means that the continuing fruit of our salvation is an active and practical dependence upon the Lord Jesus for our salvation and our daily living (sanctification).

⁹ Robert H. Mounce, *Romans*, vol. 27, NAC (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995), 210.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 209–210.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 209