

Repent

The Third Step In God's Plan Of Salvation

(texts taken from ASV)

The Steps of the Plan of Salvation

- Hear - listening with the intent to heed
- Believe - conviction that alters the life-view and motivates a life-change
- Repent - reversal of moral purpose moved by godly sorrow
- Confess - the announcement of faith and repentance by means of publicly acknowledging the name of Jesus Christ
- Baptism - the washing away of sins that confers adoption into the family of God

Repent

- Luke 24:45-47 – “Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; 46 and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ”
- Acts 17:30-31 – “The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: 31 inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; wherof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
- Acts 26:19-20 – “Wherefore, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: 20 but declared both to them of Damascus first and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judaea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance.”

Defining Repentance

- Misconceptions

- “Repentance is merely sorrow”

- 2Cor. 7:9-10 - Repentance is the outcome of godly sorrow

- “Repentance is only a changed life”

- Acts 3:19 - repentance and conversion are two separate things

Defining Repentance

- Repentance is metanoeo
 - meta = change
 - noeo = thought or mind
 - W. E. Vine: “A change of mind; signifies to change one’s mind or purpose this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God”
 - Thayer - “A reversal of moral purpose.”

Examples Of Repentance

- Acts 2:36-38 – “Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified. 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do? 38 And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Examples Of Repentance

- The power of God's word in the heart
 - Rom. 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
- Even though convicted, not all people will respond in the same manner
 - Acts 7:54 – “Now when they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.”

Examples Of Repentance

- Acts 3:17, 19 – “And now, brethren, I know that in ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers... 19 Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”

Signs Of Repentance

- 2Cor. 7:11 – “For behold, this selfsame thing, that ye were made sorry after a godly sort, what earnest care it wrought in you, yea what clearing of yourselves, yea what indignation, yea what fear, yea what longing, yea what zeal, yea what avenging! In everything ye approved yourselves to be pure in the matter.”

Signs Of Repentance

- Diligence - Being quick to do what is right
- Clearing of yourselves - To clear one's self of blame by immediately ceasing to sin and quickly seeking forgiveness
- Indignation - Hatred toward the sin that required the repentance
- Fear - Lest the sin be repeated

Signs Of Repentance

- Vehement desire - A fervent wish to be right in God's eyes
- Zeal - Eagerness and ardent interest in pursuit of a restoration to God's favor
- Vindication - Readiness to see justice done

Signs Of Repentance

- The signs of true repentance:
 - Not apathy or half-hearted service
 - Not spin control or confession with reservations
 - Acts 26:20 – “...declared both to them of Damascus first and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judaea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, *doing works worthy of repentance.*”

Results Of Repentance

- Godly sorrow produces repentance
 - 2Cor. 7:9-10 – “I now rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye were made sorry unto repentance; for ye were made sorry after a godly sort, that ye might suffer loss by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance which bringeth no regret: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

Results Of Repentance

- The difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow
 - Worldly sorrow is a selfish sorrow
 - One is sorry because he got caught
 - One is sorry because what he did made himself look bad

Results Of Repentance

- The difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow
 - Godly sorrow is sorrow directed toward GOD
 - One is sorry because his actions are sins against God
 - One is sorry because of the price God paid to remove his sins
 - One is sorry for the loss of relationship with God

Generating Repentance

- Make an appeal to God's love
 - 2Sam. 12:7-8 – “And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; 8 and I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added unto thee such and such things.”

Generating Repentance

- Reveal the sin
 - 2Sam. 12:9 – “Wherefore hast thou despised the word of Jehovah, to do that which is evil in his sight? thou hast smitten Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.”

Generating Repentance

- Warn of the consequences
 - 2Sam. 12:10-12 – “Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thy house, because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. 11 Thus saith Jehovah, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house; and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.”

Generating Repentance

- The gospel of Christ produces godly sorrow and repentance in the same way
 - Appeals to God’s love
 - Rom. 2:4 – “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”
 - Reveals our sin
 - Rom. 3:23 – “for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God”

Generating Repentance

- The gospel of Christ produces godly sorrow in the same way
 - Warns of the consequences
 - Rom. 2:5-6, 8-9 – “but after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up for thyself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 who will render to every man according to his works... 8 but unto them that are factious, and obey not the truth, but obey unrighteousness, shall be wrath and indignation, 9 tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that worketh evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Greek”

- You will repent eventually; it is best to do it while you have time to change the outcome of Judgment Day.
- Acts 17:30-31 – “The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: 31 inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; wherof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”