

REPENTANCE 2

(A NEW HEART ATTITUDE LEADS TO LIFE)

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(Ref. 2 Cor. 7:10)... "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, a repentance not to be regretted;"

Repentance means to confess a former attitude (or a course of action), and to change to another. All the natural ways of humans are really the ways of Satan. In the divine life, repentance means to turn from the old ways of Satan, to accept God's pathway to Life, with a cleansed heart, a humble perspective, and a full surrender of the 'self-life'..(which God must take from our heart to prepare us for Eternal Life). Nothing else could be more valuable than to get rid of 'self' from our heart, and to start over on God's pathway with a clean and humble heart (the result of a genuine repentance in God's sight), because it is the only pathway leading to eternal Life.

Repentance means to be willing to give up every unscriptural attitude in our life, and to learn under the teaching of God to become Scriptural in everything, (which will be directly opposite to what we were by nature). True repentance and a new commitment to do God's will in our life, brings about spiritual development of greater results than anything else we could do. It enables one to receive full pardon and cleansing from sin that Jesus Christ purchased for us (which is the first valuable result because it lays the foundation for a truly successful Christian 'life of faith'). Very few professing Christians have that foundation because they did not start right with a true repentance. The most important result is, repentance allows us to be filled with the Holy Spirit who will prepare us for Eternal Life.

Anyone who has never truly repented and received the Holy Spirit, would never think for a moment that Satan was the ruler of their life, and that they were living in his will. However, a true repentance (in its broadest sense), means that God takes possession of us, becomes our personal teacher, and He will guide us out of every unscriptural thing in our life, while teaching and training us to become fully Scriptural in every thing and every circumstance. We need to be led away from every human way and human thing we are trusting in, and be taught by the Holy Spirit to fully trust God alone for all things.

Satan controls people in a way just opposite to that, however, by the thoughts that he puts in their mind, which seem exactly like their own thoughts. That is why it is so easy for him to control people. One of Satan's favorite plans is to get people to accept one of a large number of false religions in the world, and all 'claim' to be of God and according to His will.

(The late Pastor had made note) that the Christian Science religion is a delusion from Satan which rejects the 'Blood' of Christ and His atonement work for us on the Cross. It rejects the supreme Deity of a personal Father, a Son of the Father, and a Holy Spirit. To believe such a false teaching would instantly destroy all faith, hope, and love, because all these blessings have a foundation in a personal God (a Christ, and a Holy Spirit).

Could anything be more wicked than to attempt to destroy mankind's only hope of receiving

God's favor and blessings for eternity (by rejecting the Blood of Christ)? Only a person being used as an instrument of Satan could teach such a dreadful false doctrine. (Rom. 5:8-10 says clearly) "But God gives proof of His love to us in Christ's dying for us while we were still sinners. If therefore we have now been pronounced free from guilt through His blood, much more shall we be delivered from God's anger through Him. For if while we were hostile to God we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, it is still more certain that now that we are reconciled, we shall obtain Salvation through Christ's life."

Jehovah's Witnesses religion is a delusion from Satan whose false doctrine is, that people who die in their sins can come back to this world and have another chance to be saved. They say there is no Lake of Fire, and that Hell is only the grave. This is not found in the Bible, as the New Testament tells us plainly there is a Lake of Fire (prepared for the devil and his angels), and no twisting of words could make it mean 'the grave'.

The Seventh Day Adventist religion is another delusion from Satan, whose teaching rejects the millennial reign of Christ, eternal torment, and the Lake of Fire for those who die in sin (unrepentant). They do not trust God for divine healing, rather, they depend on the kind of food they eat (grains, vegetables, etc.) The object of Satan in that delusion is the same as he deceived the Scribes and Pharisees, to be so concerned about observing the Sabbath and placing stress on outward observances (but having no real faith in God's divine power). There is not one thing in their teaching that would lead them back to trusting God, to deal personally with Him in a 'life of faith', get rid of 'self' from their heart, or receive any benefits of Christ's atonement (for this life and eternity). [The worst thing about all these false religions is, their followers never get back to dealing personally with God for things they need in this life, (as did all sincere Christians in Bible times).]

We hardly need mention other religious groups, such as Spiritualism, Modern Tongues, and the multitude of Once Saved, Always Saved people. Anyone with true spiritual insight or understanding would easily see the cloven foot of Satan's influence, and his full control within all those organizations (and that their members stand in need of true 'repentance'). The object of Satan in all of his plans, is to have people to die in their sins, unrepentant, and unprepared for Heaven (so they will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire along with him).

God's Word to us in 2nd. letter of John, warns that we are not to accept anybody into our home with a false teaching, and neither should we bid them God-speed when they leave. If we do, we are partakers in their evil deeds. We are to have no Christian fellowship with anyone in any delusion. (2 John 1:9-10), "Whoever transgresses (wanders from the teaching of Christ), and does not abide in the 'doctrine of Christ' ("trusting on the One whom God has sent"),...does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him" (wish him farewell);... "for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds."

Any religion that does not teach faith and trust on God's 'promises' (relying on the power of Christ's Atonement Blood to bring these results),... is a 'false religion'. It will rob its followers of their great inheritance through Christ,..of perfect happiness in this life,..and every hope of Eternal Life in the next. Their members stand in need of true 'repentance', so we should pray for them to give God the opportunity to deal with them in His mercy.

Because professed Christians (and many others) have rejected God's great Salvation Plan, they have been sent strong delusions. "So Satan works", (2 Thess. 2:10-12), "and by every kind of wicked

deception for those who are on the way to perdition because they did not welcome into their hearts the love of the truth, so that they might be saved. And for this reason, God sends them a misleading influence (strong delusion), that they may believe the lie; in order that all may come under judgement who have refused to believe the truth and have taken pleasure in unrighteousness." However, the Christian life begins with a true repentance, and God will grant that repentance to everyone who is willing to turn back to Him and His Word, and to doing His will by trusting on the One whom He has sent. When we are willing to surrender to do His will, the Holy Spirit is always present to convict us of any unscriptural thing in our life, to give us a true spirit of 'repentance' and a believing, contrite heart to receive from Him.

In the 13th chapter of Luke, Jesus told us why terrible things happened to the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. It was not because they were the worst sinners in Jerusalem, but simply because they had not 'repented'. He also said, "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish".

Evidence of Satan's control over unrepentant people, is that they shut God out of their life by trying in their own efforts to obtain what they want. Satan's favorite plan is to have them do so under the covering of religion. This can easily be seen by the vast number of people and religions who totally neglect trusting God for things and circumstances in their life, and who depend wholly on their own plans and efforts.

The facts are, however, that God is still the same Deliverer as He was in Bible times, and Jesus came to deliver us out of all sins, sorrows, diseases and poverty in this life,.. and to give us every need and Scriptural desire to make us happy in Him. Even more importantly, receiving these provisions according to God's Word and by His power, is the only possible way for us to grow spiritually and to be prepared for Eternal Life.

There could be no greater sin than that being committed everyday by the majority of professing Christians, who profess to belong to God, and yet they are doing Satan's will by trusting in human efforts in everything. They are not 'trusting in the One whom God has sent', but totally ignore God and have no personal dealings with Him about anything. Trusting in everybody and everything but God is real sin, which is deep-rooted, inspired and controlled by Satan. To belong to any one of those church organizations, to support them, listen to their teaching, or to have any fellowship with them... would make us a partaker in their evil deeds (under an outward cloak of religion).

There is nothing on earth that could be worse or more dangerous spiritually speaking, and the devil knows that. He will hide behind any outward actions of the self-life that he can devise (under the covering of religion or otherwise), and which will make a person feel more righteous of themselves before God. Satan will use that to deceive a person, instead of them receiving real spiritual light from the Holy Spirit.

When we would allow the devil to deceive us by listening to various opinions of God's Truth, instead of turning to God's Word and depending on the presence of the Holy Spirit to teach and lead us to trust on God,... we would then be placing ourselves on the devil's territory to be deceived by him.

Trusting on God's promises, is 'believing' "on the One whom He has sent" (John 6:29) (which is the one requirement that God puts on His plan for our Salvation). (John 12:44-46) 'Jesus cried aloud', "He who believes in me, believes not so much in me, as in Him who sent me; and he who sees me sees Him who sent me. I have come like Light into the world, in order that no one who believes in me may remain in the dark." (If a person is trusting on God for things in their life, they will receive spiritual

'Light').

There are valuable examples in the Bible which show us the results of real repentance. Repentance is not real unless the decision is final to turn from evil and unscriptural things in our life, and make our sincere decision to accept God's Word and to do His will. Every bad thing that has ever happened to anyone has been caused by an unscriptural attitude toward God and His Word. But, when anyone in any trouble was willing to confess and 'forsake' (their wrong actions or attitudes, and to accept God's will),... they were delivered by Him out of their troubles.

Very few people (if any), have ever been in the kind of trouble that Job was. Job had a false outward religion of self-effort and self-righteousness. He had never repented right nor had a real change of heart, and thus, he never received God's righteousness (as Abraham had received).

God never said that Job was a spiritual man; He meant that Job was honest, sincere, and whole-hearted in his desire to serve and please God... That does not make a person spiritual.

Many people have the same sincere attitude as Job did, but with the same old evil nature still in them, and all that they do, they do in their own outward efforts of the self-life still within their heart (just as the Scribes and Pharisees).

Acts chapter 10 tells the story of Cornelius (a counterpart of Job), who feared God, prayed to God always, and gave alms to the people. Honesty, sincerity, and doing our best from a human standpoint apart from the power of God, is not true spirituality. Job and Cornelius were on their way to the Lake of Fire if they had not repented. The only difference between them was, that Job was stubborn and determined to hold on to his own ways of doing things (and unwilling to repent). Cornelius was open-minded and willing to change from his ways to accept God's. Therefore, God told Cornelius that if He would send for the Apostle Peter, he would hear 'words' by which he and his household could be saved (if they would use their power of choice to accept God's Word).

God had a much more difficult time to convince Job to repent. Terrible things had to happen to him. The loss of his children, property and friends, and the loss of his health. He had to come to the end of everything he had (or was depending on), and he had to sit on an ash-heap with sores all over his body.

Job convinced his three friends that he was all right, and that God was wrong. Then Elihu was inspired to speak to Job, and to prepare the way for God to deal with him. (Job 36:7-12) "He does not take his eyes off the righteous; he enthrones them with kings and exalts them forever. But if men are bound in chains, held fast by cords of affliction, he tells them what they have done--that they have sinned arrogantly. He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil. If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment. But if they do not listen (our free-will choice to listen, or not listen, and),... "they will perish by the sword and die without knowledge." (a true knowledge of God).

Job remained silent as he couldn't argue with God's Word through Elihu. Then God dealt with Job personally (as He will do for anyone of us), and He quickly convinced Job that he had a 'false religion' (and was depending on his own righteousness as being merit in God's sight),... which meant he had been deceived and robbed by Satan, of being open-minded and willing to receive true religion from God...(all because of Job's own stubbornness). Job was willing to confess and forsake his way(which he did, Job 42:6), "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." Then God could turn his captivity around and deliver him from the bondage of a Satan inspired false religion of self-righteousness.

The vast majority of professing Christians would see Job's trouble as he himself did, when he was filled with self and Satan. They have a false understanding that there is no spiritual cause for trouble in this life.

False religion is the cause of all the trouble there is in the world, and all wars in the world are the result of false religions, (Roman Catholic, many Protestant, and a host of other religions in the countries that were conquered). None of them know anything about living according to God's Word or trusting in Him alone for anything in life. They are all just the opposite of the Bible standard of Christian living, and they are doing it all under a covering of religion, which makes it the most wicked, demoniacal, and worst form of hypocrisy that there could possibly be (because it leads multitudes to the 'Lake of Fire'). False religions reject the work of Atonement by Jesus Christ, and all that it has accomplished and provided for anyone to 'believe' and accept as their 'inheritance in Christ'.

True 'repentance' (followed by our commitment to trust on the power of the Atonement Blood of Christ), will also mean that we are to be delivered from every evil thing; (all sin, sorrow, sickness, poverty, family trouble, and everything else that could disturb our peace,... (because Jesus' Blood covers everything in a true Christian life). We are to be protected from every evil thing or person, and every disease or accident.

In other words, we are to have the same blessings and deliverance, the same spiritual guidance, the same health and protection of our bodies, the same answers to prayer and manifestations of God's presence, mercy, and power in everything, as true believers in Bible times had.

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THE FIRST CENTURY GOSPEL CHURCH/ PHILADELPHIA

MAIN POINTS:

1. The Christian life must begin with a 'right start', that is, a sincere repentance and final surrender of 'self-will'. It is to confess and forsake all wrong actions and decisions in our life.
2. Satan's object is for people to die in sin, unrepentant, and unprepared for Heaven, and he uses false religions to deceive people to think that they are spiritually righteous of themselves
3. Any religion that does not teach faith and trust on God's promises is a 'false religion'. Most all 'false religions' reject the power in the Atonement sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and they do not teach anyone to get back to dealing personally with God,... Who will convict and bring every 'willing soul' to repentance.
4. Nothing could be more wicked than to destroy mankind's only hope of receiving Gods favor, because of rejecting the Blood of Christ.

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