

TRUE REPENTANCE

(A CHANGED PERSPECTIVE LEADING TO LIFE)

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(Ref... Acts 11:18), "So, then, to the Gentiles also God has given the repentance which leads to Life."

The meaning of repentance is to confess one's former course of action (or attitude), and change from that course to another. In the divine life it means to turn from Satan's ways and accept the pathway of life that God intended for us to follow. A changed perspective on life and a cleansed heart after true repentance, will lead to a full surrender of 'self' from one's heart and lead to Eternal Life.

True repentance will bring about spiritual development and greater results than anything else a human being could do. The first valuable result is that it enables us to receive the full pardon and cleansing from sin (which Jesus Christ purchased for us on Calvary's Cross with the shedding of His precious Blood).

Nothing could be more valuable than to start over with a clean heart, as the result of a genuine repentance. That is what lays the foundation for a truly successful Christian life of faith, which is something few professing Christians have, (because they did not start right). Repentance places us in a position to surrender our life fully to God, and be filled with the Holy Spirit to prepare us for Eternal Life. (Acts 11:18), "So, then, to the Gentiles also God has given the repentance which leads to 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). Every human being since the fall of Adam into sin, has been born under the power and control of Satan and self (which God must take from our hearts in our preparation for Eternal Life). All the natural ways of humans, is really the ways of Satan. 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).

Satan controls people by the thoughts he puts in their mind, which seem exactly like their own thoughts, and that is why it is so easy for Satan to control people. He uses man-made things and circumstances to help in his control, along with the thoughts he puts in a person's mind. One of Satan's favorite plans is to get people to accept a false religion (and there are large numbers in the world), and all claim to be of God and according to His will. Anyone who is under the power and control of Satan, and never had a cleansed heart, nor the fullness of God's Spirit, would naturally accept any religion that was from Satan, their master. It is the failure on their part to follow God's divine plan, to believe, repent, and receive the Holy Spirit,... Who would enable them to discern divine truth from error. (1 John 2:26-27) I have thus written to you concerning those who are leading you astray. And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him (the Holy Spirit) remains within you, and there is no need for any one to teach you. But since His anointing gives you instruction in all things--and is true and is no falsehood--you are continuing in union with Him even as it has taught you to do.

A failure on our part to study the Scriptures, also gives Satan an advantage to deceive us, because the Scriptures warn us against false religions and other devices of Satan. (2 Pet. 2:1-

3), But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them,.. and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words;... for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

The Christian Science religion is a delusion from Satan, and which rejects the Blood of Christ and His atonement work on the Cross for us. They teach a false mind over matter religion which gets all the help of the devil through his thoughts to a person's mind). That delusion teaches that the carnal(worldly) mind in a person is actually God in them, and that by manipulating our mind to think that we are good or bad, sick or well (we can accomplish those results by the way we think). Such healing mediums are usually found among spiritualists, and yet many churches accept some of those counterfeit methods of healing, which have all originated from Satan, and they are directly opposite to the Blood cure provided by God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who would accept that false teaching instead of the Atonement work of Jesus Christ, would have to truly repent in order to receive Salvation.

Christian Science teaching that a person can get results by manipulating the thoughts of their own mind, is the same as the lie that Satan told Adam (whose sin wrecked the world),...which was that he could be his own god, know as much, and do as much as God can. Thus, Adam committed a foundation sin which became the root or cause of every other sin that has ever been committed. Teaching that lie (along with their rejecting the Blood and the Atonement work of Jesus Christ (labels Christian Science religion as a delusion directly from Satan).

Could anything be more terrible and 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 terrible false doctrine. (Rom. 5:8-10 clearly states), 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.

They also reject a personal Father, a personal Son of the Father, and a personal Holy Spirit. To believe such a false teaching would instantly destroy all faith, hope, and love, because all of these have their foundation in a personal God, a Christ, and a Holy Spirit.

It is a person's failure to believe, repent, and receive the Holy Spirit, Who would enable them to discern truth from error, that prevents spiritual growth. The divine plan by which God begins to work in a person's life, is to believe what His Word tells us about His Son (and His death and resurrection to Life) (and then to give God an opportunity to do any work of conviction needed in our life). The same Holy Spirit who enables a person to realize that Jesus Christ was the first to be resurrected to Life (so that we might also be resurrected to be with Him), will also enable us to discern divine truth from Satan's error. The Holy Spirit received into a truly surrendered heart, will protect us from being deceived by false teachers, who (in most cases) are not trusting God in any circumstances in their life. Many will follow their destructive

ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words"; (says 2 Pet. 2:2). Anyone who accepts a false teaching which rejects the Blood of Christ and His atonement work on the Cross for us, would be on their way to the Lake of Fire if it is not repented of. The Bible tells us that vast numbers of professing Christians would be in false religions, and that true Christians would be very few in the closing days of the Gospel. In fact, they have always been few in number.

Another false religion goes under the name of Jehovah's Witnesses, and is also a delusion direct from Satan. It is deceiving large numbers of people. It started many years ago under the name of Zion's Watchtower, changed names to Millennial Dawn, then to International Bible Students, and now Jehovah's Witnesses. This change of names makes it look suspicious in itself (the late Pastor said), as it would remind you of a thief who often changed his name to hide his identity.

The satanic origin of their teaching is plain in the light of the Scriptures. The object of Satan in all of his plans is to have people die in their sins, unrepentant, and unprepared for Heaven (so that they would spend eternity in the Lake of Fire with him). Anyone who accepts that delusion will, of course, go to the Lake of Fire if they do not repent of it.

One of their false ideas and doctrines is that people who die in their sins, can come back to this world and have another chance to be saved. This is not found in the Bible.

They say that there is no Lake of Fire, and that Hell is only the grave. The New Testament tells us plainly that there is a Lake of Fire prepared for the devil and his angels, (and no twisting of words can make it mean the grave).

They also teach that God is not the same today,... that we cannot receive healing in this Age, nor any other benefits of the Gospel of Christ in this life. They teach falsely that all these things will be received after one dies and enters the Millennial Kingdom.

God's Word to us in 2nd. letter of John, tells us we are not to receive anybody into our home with a false teaching. 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 and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ (trust ing 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 upon leaving); for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

(2 Cor.6:)also admonishes/instructs us (15) Where can harmony between Christ and Belial be found? Or what participation has a believer with an unbeliever? (17) Therefore, "Come out from among them and separate yourselves," says the Lord, `and touch nothing impure; and I will receive you, and will be a Father to you,.

The Seventh Day Adventist religion (started by Ellen White) is another delusion directly from Satan, which grew out of another delusion whose leader predicted that the coming of Jesus Christ was to take place in 1843 (and making several more false predictions). His followers even put aside their businesses for that day to gather at a certain place, in order to be translated to meet the Lord in the clouds.

Jesus said, however, neither He nor the angels in Heaven knew the day or hour, but only God, Himself. However, Jesus did give us signs to look for when the time would be near, that is,

peace being taken from the earth, with one nation rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, etc. (Matt.24:11-12) Many false prophets will rise up and lead multitudes astray; and because of the prevalent disregard of God's law the love of the great majority will grow cold; but those who stand firm to the End shall be saved. (24) For there will rise up false Christs and false prophets, displaying wonderful signs and prodigies, so as to deceive, were it possible, even God's own People.

The founder of Seventh Day Adventist religion was a woman (Ellen White) who did not found her religion on Scriptures, but, on visions, trances, and raptures, which have every indication of demon worship or spiritualism. The object in most of their teaching is to convince people that Saturday should be observed as the Sabbath instead of Sunday. In their meetings they talk a lot about prophecies, falling stars, and other irrelevant things, but always emphasize Saturday as the Sabbath?

This has no Scriptural foundation whatever, as Saturday is not even mentioned in the Bible. Keeping a Sabbath 'day of rest' went by numbers, not names. All that the Bible taught on that subject is that we are work six days and rest on the seventh. Anyone who does this has followed Scripture on that issue. Also, it is just common sense (as well as Scriptural) to keep the day that most everyone else keeps.

Seventh Day Adventist teaching on prophecy is unscriptural because they reject the millennial reign of Christ, eternal torment, and the Lake of Fire for those who die in sin (and were unrepentant).

Regarding divine healing, they do not trust God for their bodies; their dependence is put in the kind of food they eat (cereals, vegetables, etc.) The object of Satan in this delusion should be very plain to anyone with spiritual light or even common sense. Just as Satan deceived the Scribes and Pharisees who were so concerned about observing the Sabbath, so he has gotten these deluded people today to place great stress on mere outward observances. 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 of the benefits of Christ's atonement for this life and eternity. [The greatest evil of all these false religions, is, that their followers never get back to dealing personally with God for things they need or desire to have in this life, (as sincere Christians did in Bible times).]

We hardly need mention other denominational churches, such as Spiritualism, Modern Tongues, and the multitude of Once Saved, Always Saved people. Anyone with true spiritual insight or understanding, would easily and readily see the cloven foot of Satan his influence and full control in all those organizations (and that their members stand in need of true 'repentance'.

Many people wonder why an all-powerful God would permit Satan to deceive so many professed Christians, as well as to many others. One reason is, because they have either neglected or rejected God's great Salvation Plan; (2 Thess.2:9-12) The appearing of the Lawless one will be attended by various miracles and tokens and delusive marvels--for so Satan works--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 that they may believe the lie; in order that all may come under judgment who have refused to believe the truth(they had

a choice) and have taken pleasure in unrighteousness.

The true Christian life begins with a true repentance, which God will grant to everyone who is willing to give their serious attention to Him and His will. The Holy Spirit is always present to convict us of any unscriptural thing in our life, and to give us a true spirit of repentance, a whole hearted surrender to do His will, and a believing and contrite heart, when we are willing and open to receive them.

One of the first results of a true repentance on our part, is that God takes possession of us, becomes our personal teacher and guide, and He will guide us out of every unscriptural thing in our life, while teaching and training us to become fully Scriptural in every part of our life. 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 in all things.

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 disturbs our peace, because His Blood covers everything in the 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 receive and 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.

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,...and it will rob us of our great inheritance through Christ, rob us of perfect happiness in this life, and hope of Eternal Life in the next.

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