

The Church of Christian Liberty

Bible Studies



LESSON THREE

REPENTANCE NEEDED

In our first lesson we noted briefly the need for repentance if we are to be saved from our sins. Those who tell sinners that they may be saved, *without forsaking their sins*, without repenting, and without a hatred for sin, are as erroneous and dangerous as others who insist that salvation is by works, and that heaven must be earned by our efforts. When Jesus began His public ministry, His message was, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: Repent ye, and believe the Gospel.” (Mark 1:15) Many heard Christ tell that if they did not repent, they would perish!

THE CAUSE IS SIN

Why is repentance needed? The answer is, sin. Men are sinners. All have transgressed and broken God’s laws. We stand guilty before a sovereign and holy God. There is a crying need today for sin to be viewed in the light of its exceeding sinfulness. Sin is the traitor that thirsted for the blood of Jesus, that sold Him, that mocked Him, that beat Him, that spit in His face, that tore His hands and feet and mangled His body. Our sins did this. Our pride and malice and envy and covetousness and wrong motives and anger and grudges and predominant love of the world have done this horrible deed. Every thorn in Christ’s crown of thorns as He hung on Calvary could represent a hundred different violations of the Ten Commandments.

Yes, we need to understand the dark depths of human depravity. Until we really behold the “pit of sin” in which we find ourselves, we can never properly appreciate the sovereignty of God and Christ’s so-great salvation. Man, far from having ascended from something inferior to an ape, has descended by way of sin from the elevated and honorable position in which God first placed Him. Sin has affected all of man’s faculties, his mind, his will, etc. As a result of this inborn corruption, the unsaved man is totally unable to do anything spiritually good.

1. Please write Psalm 51:5

2. Please write Psalm 58:3

As a result of Adam's fall into sin, men are blind and deaf to spiritual truth. Their minds are darkened by sin; their hearts are corrupt and evil.

3. What does Jeremiah teach concerning the heart of men? (note Jeremiah 17:9)

4. What are some of the things Jesus said that come from the heart? (note Mark 7:21-23)

5. Read John 3:19. Men love _____ rather than light because their _____ are evil.

6. Read Titus 1:15. Those who have not been saved from their sins have _____ and _____ that are corrupted.

7. In John 8:34 Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." What do you think it means to be a slave to sin?

MAN IS POWERLESS

Men left in their dead state are unable of themselves to repent, to believe the gospel, or to come to Christ. They have no power within themselves to change their natures. Their will is corrupted and can accomplish no spiritual good.

8. Please write Job 14:4

9. Read Matthew 7:16-18. Can a bad tree bear _____ fruit?

10. Read John 6:65. A sinner can only come to Christ if

11. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7. Repentance, belief, etc. are all received as gifts. Who gives these gifts? _____ Is there any room for boasting? _____

12. In Acts 16:14 it tells us that the _____ opened Lydia's heart that she might give _____ to what was said by Paul. The Bible reveals that Lydia was granted the gifts of repentance and belief. She listened and believed.

THE APOSTOLIC MESSAGE

13. The Apostles preached the same message of repentance as did Jesus Christ. Those who were closest to Christ and understood His evangelism “went out and _____ that men should _____.” (Mark 6:12)
14. As Peter preached in the temple after the lame man was healed, his Gospel was again, “Repent ye, therefore, and be _____, that your _____ may be blotted out.” (Acts 3:19)
15. What does Luke 24:46-47 teach us should be preached in Christ’s name among all nations?

Repentance, as we have noted in Lesson #1, involves hatred for sin and a forsaking of sin. The minister, Walter J. Chantry, has written: “Today men are properly told to confess their sins and to confess their sins and to ask forgiveness. But evangelists and pastors are forgetting to tell sinners to repent. Consequently this misinformed age imagines that it can continue in its old ways of life while adding Jesus as a personal Hell insurance for the world to come. Treasures on earth and treasures in Heaven. Who could turn down that bargain! Pleasures of sin and joys of eternity. That is a good deal! Sinners are not being saddened, as was the young ruler (Mark 10), to learn that they must turn from sin to have eternal life. *Repentance is necessary to forgiveness.*”

THE WORK OF GOD’S GRACE

16. Those who are born-again (John 3) by God’s grace (unmerited favor) will truly repent. God will give them the gifts of repentance and faith. All such “called” and “justified” ones are “those whom He _____.” (Romans 8:30)

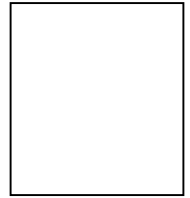
The Puritan, Joseph Alleine, writing several hundred years ago, wrote as follows: “Study the nature of sin, till your heart incline to fear and loathe it; and meditate on the aggravations of your particular sins, how you have sinned against all of God’s warnings, against your own prayers, against your mercies, against corrections, against clearest light, against freest love, against your own resolutions, against promises, vows, and covenants of better obedience. Charge your heart with these things till it blush for shame, and be brought out of all good opinion of itself.”

Have you ever meditated upon the above mentioned things? We pray that you will right now. It is our prayer that God will give you a real spirit of repentance. In repenting and turning from your sins may you be led to turn to Jesus Christ. May He be your all-sufficient and eternal blessedness. May He be your rest and comfort. Trust in Him, love Him, obey Him, and serve Him with all your heart.

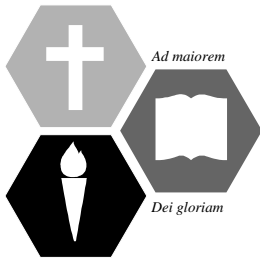
“My Jesus, I love thee
I know thou art mine;
For thee all the follies of sin I resign,
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.”



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