

What is Repentance?

One of the more prominent themes in the Bible involves God's call to repentance. It is a concept that has been a part of all three aspects of God's revelation (Patriarchal Law, Mosaic Law and the New Testament). Men of all time and locations have been called to repent. But, what does it mean?

Some see repentance merely as "sorrow." "Godly sorrow" will lead to repentance, but sorrow alone does not necessarily indicate that one has repented. One can be sorry for something and never do anything to set matters straight. As it relates to our relationship with God, we can be sorry or experience regret for any sin that we commit, but unless we act upon that sorrow, we will still be in our sin.

True repentance involves several things. First, it involves that one recognize that they have sinned. We will never attempt to correct that which we perceive as acceptable (or rationalize the same). Secondly, we will ask for forgiveness of that sin and pray that God will do so through the blood that His Son has shed to have these sins forgiven. Then, we will change our actions and attitudes to be in line with God's will. Notice that it is a multiple-step process. An example could be seen in the sin of fornication. To have such a sin forgiven, one must recognize that they have sinned, ask God for forgiveness and then do not commit that sin again. It involves a complete reversal of direction in turning from that sin back to God.

The same is true with any number of sins. We must all be penitent people. We must be aware of God's will and willingly submit our wills to His. We must "walk the walk" as well as "talk the talk." Sins can and will be forgiven, *if we truly repent*.

Outline: Repentance

1. Introduction (Lk. 24:44-47; Acts 2:36-38; 3:19; 17:30-31; 26:19-20; 2 Cor. 7:9-11)
2. What is Repentance?

- A. Improper Understanding (Acts 3:19)

- B. Proper Understanding

3. What produces true repentance?

- A. Godly Sorrow (Psa. 51:4)

- B. How is it produced? (2 Sam. 12:7-12; Rom. 2:5-11)

4. What is the fruit of true repentance? (2 Cor. 9:7-11)

Sunday P.M. – "Malachi"