

BIBLICAL REPENTANCE

Origin- G3341 (Metanoia) / H7725 (Shuwb) meaning: “A complete reversal/change of mind & priorities”

*...the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, saying, “The LORD was very angry with your fathers. Therefore say to them, ‘This is what the LORD... says: “**Return to Me...that I may return to you,**” “Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, saying, ... “Return now from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.”’ But they did not listen or pay attention to Me,” declares the LORD. “Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? But did My words and My statutes, which I commanded My servants the prophets, not ^[b]overtake your fathers? **Then they repented...**” Zechariah 1:1-*

“Turn to me and be saved...” Isaiah 45:22

Repentance Defn: A binding, irreversible **decision** to relinquish the throne of your life to God, i.e., committing your priorities, decisions & your future to Him. The “decision” is **repentance**...the “journey” is called **sanctification**.

Repentance is “crossing the Rubicon” (See Footnote #1) on your journey toward God.

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you [**where God is enthroned**], whom you have from God, and that **you are not your own**? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20*

Who is Called To Repentance? ...God is Dialing Everyone’s Number

- Paul to the Gentiles
- *So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that **all people everywhere are to repent**, (Acts 17:30, 26:20)*

How Important Is Repentance To Salvation?... It Is a Foundational Prerequisite To Salvation!

- *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance**. (2 Peter 3:9)*
- **John the Baptist**
*“**repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matt 3:2)*
- **Jesus**
*From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*
- **12 Disciples**
*And they went out and preached that people are to **repent**. (Mark 6:1*

APPENDIX F

Biblical Repentance (cont)

“What About Those Who Will Never Hear the Gospel?”

*...So Peter, upon seeing him [John], said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man [What does the future hold for him]?” Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? **You follow Me!**” (John 21:18-22) [...In other words, some issues are best left to God...]*

*...the issue at hand is **you!**]*

What If I Backslide & Have A Season Of Failure As a Prodigal?

- **If You’re Still Breathing, There Is Hope!**

“Yet even now,[despite impending disaster]” declares the LORD, “Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping, and mourning; and tear your heart and not merely your garments.” Now return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in mercy and relenting of catastrophe.¹⁴ Who knows, He might turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him, (Joel 2:12-14)

But...The Door of Opportunity Will Not Be Open Forever!

*Therefore, **remember from where you have fallen**, and **repent**, and **do the deeds you did at first**; or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—**unless you repent**. (Revelation 2:5)*

What Are The Characteristics Of Repentance?

(How Do I Know It’s the Real Thing?)

- **Repentance does not justify sin but realizes the deplorable nature and enormity of our sin against a Holy God [Mind]**

*... ‘God, be **merciful** to me, the **sinner!**’ Luke 18:13*

***Wretched man that I am!** Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Romans 7:24*

*I now rejoice, not that you were made **sorrowful**, but that you were made sorrowful **to the point of repentance**; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. (2 Cor. 7:9)*

APPENDIX F

Biblical Repentance (cont)

- **Without Repentance, A Person Will Be A Slave To Sin**

“Therefore I will judge you, house of Israel, each according to his conduct,” declares the Lord GOD.

“Repent and turn away from all your offenses, so that wrongdoing does not become a stumbling block to you.” (

- **Genuine Repentance Brings Forth Fruit Consistent w/ a Repentant Heart. (Will)**

“Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance...” Luke 3:8

*“...that they should **repent** and turn to God, **performing deeds appropriate to repentance.**”*
Acts 26:20

- **Repentance (turning 180 deg. from sin) that leads to salvation has no regrets for what must be left behind [Emotions, Habits]**

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death... 2 Cor. 7:10

*No one, after putting his hand to the plow and **looking back**, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*
Luke 9:62

“Remember Lot’s wife...” (Luke 17:32)

What is the Cost of Incomplete Repentance?

If, after responding to God, we put ourselves back on the throne of our lives once again, all acts of service to God done in the flesh will be burned and spiritual potential going forward will be hindered.

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.
(Hebrews 6:4-8)

[Note: “Close to being cursed” is still saved. The issue regarding incomplete repentance is not about salvation but rather, whether we get to heaven with our rewards or with our robes singed.]

Examples:

²King Saul 1 Samuel 13:11-12....15:13,15,20,21,24-26

(See Footnote #2)

APPENDIX F

Biblical Repentance (cont)

FOOTNOTE # 1

JULIUS CAESAR AND “CROSSING THE RUBICON”

- In the 1st century BC, the Roman Empire was a “democratic” senatorial republic, conquering the known world.
- Among the many ambitious politicians in the republic was a man named Julius Caesar.
- After gaining an alarming amount of political victories in Rome, He was given 4 legions of soldiers and sent off to govern the upper provinces north of Rome
- Julius’s success in conquering territory alarmed the Roman senate and he was ordered to disband his troops & return to Rome.
- He knew his political enemies would destroy his ambitions if he complied...
- So Julius headed south toward Rome with his troops intact until he got to the Rubicon river.
- The Rubicon river was the northern border of Italy proper
- Crossing into Italy proper with unauthorized troops under his command would be seen as a crime punishable by death.
- On Jan 10, 49BC, History records that Julius crossed that river, a decision that he realized would have irreversible consequences.
- To this day, the phrase “crossing the Rubicon” is a metaphor synonymous with making any decision having irreversible consequences.

**Repentance is likewise intended to be a decision
to “Cross the Rubicon” in submission & obedience
to God.**

APPENDIX F

Biblical Repentance (cont)

FOOTNOTE #2

Example of the Consequences of Incomplete Repentance (King Saul)

- In 11th century BC lived a man in Israel named Saul of the tribe of Benjamin
- Saul was called by God to be king of Israel...
... and God gave him a new heart. (1 Samuel 10:6, 9b)
- Saul showed evidence that God's spirit was with him...
...he prophesied (1 Samuel 10:10b)
- Then Saul soon willfully and repeatedly sinned against the clear will of God. (1 Samuel 13:9-12)
- Rather than repent before God, Saul justified & defended his actions & refused to admit wrongdoing (1 Samuel 13:12b)
- From that point on, Saul's ministry & his life went downhill. (1 Sam 13:14a)
- Because pride perverted his judgments,
he made terrible decisions (wisdom failed him.) (1 Samuel 14:24-26)
- Then God became silent when he prayed (1 Samuel 14:37)
- Out of desperation, Saul openly confessed his sin...but with no repentance (1 Samuel 15:24-31)
- Then Saul's family began to disintegrate...
...he destroyed his relationship with his favorite son Jonathon
...his daughter Michal died - bitter, childless
...3 sons were killed in battle including Jonathon
- **Delaying repentance led to more bad decisions and demonic attacks** (1 Samuel 15:12-21)
- ...Then emotional instability / paranoia (1 Sam 18:8,9)
...he murdered the prophets of God (1 Sam 22:18)
- ...Then he collaborated with the occult, and ultimately committed suicide (1 Samuel 31:4)
- His enemies cut off his head... and fastened it to the wall for public display (1 Samuel 31:9,10)

**Saul paid a High Price for Refusing to Repent
...How Much Are You Willing to Pay?**

After meditating on these things, if you wish to affirm them & offer to the Lord a truly repentant heart that holds nothing back from Him, then consider praying aloud to the Lord the following prayer:

Repentance Prayer

I, [your full name], do publicly declare my confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God . He is the God that became flesh and dwelled among His people. He never wronged anyone but people rejected Him and treated Him as evil. They stripped Him naked, beat Him with a whip, shamed Him, tormented Him, and nailed Him to a tree.

I publicly reaffirm that Jesus became all of my evil and sin, so that I would have an opportunity and a choice to become His goodness.

Lord, those sins put you in the ground- but praise God! You were raised from the grave and accomplished every requirement to be my Savior. You have won the victory over the grave, death, and all the sin that was done to me or by me.

So, Lord Jesus, I , [Your full name], do cry out to You, asking You to give me the power to fully realize how much I have sinned against my Holy God.

I ask you to give me the power to fully understand that without repentance I will continue to live out my life as a slave to sin. Deliver me fully, Lord, from all that I have been.

I ask you to give me the power to have a life full of good fruit that is consistent with a repentant heart.

I ask you to give me the power to reject and remove all things from my life that must be left behind, to reject those things that cause me to stumble and fall. Lord, please give me the power to never look back and to never again desire those things that have kept me in bondage.

Lord, I ask that you give me the faith to believe that You can and will do all of these things in my life. And I thank you, Lord Jesus, for all of these things. Amen