



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#82)

Good News – Changes that are a part of salvation:
Repentance defined

1

CHANGES THAT LEAD TO SALVATION.

(OUR responsibility.)

Once we accept what the Bible says as true... **#1 Conviction**

... it will lead us down the path of change. **#2 Change**

Only then will we experience the results we call "salvation." **#3 Consequences**

2

OUR FOCUS TODAY:

The "first step" of change, **REPENTANCE**.

Chronologically (Time-wise), -----> **But Logically,**

We might not see a step-by-step series of changes. (They may seem to all occur at the same time.)

Repentance has to go between: (A) accepting the Bible as true, and (B) putting our faith/trust in Jesus.

Repentance is the "turn-around" point that makes **faith** possible. When both concepts are found in the same passage, repentance always comes first.

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REPENTANCE – WHAT IS IT?

- A complete turn-around in thinking (values) and actions.
- It involves turning **away** from sin and **to** God – a turning that affects every aspect of life.

>> **How familiar are YOU with this concept?** <<

- Even though...
 - ✓ It's the necessary first step toward salvation, and,
 - ✓ Scripture places severe curses on anyone who distorts the Good News...

Many churches have downplayed, redefined, or even totally suppressed, the concept of "repentance."
The result? Many who claim to be "saved" don't even know what it means to "repent"!

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THE "SUPPRESSION OF REPENTANCE."

From the Bible's perspective, doing this is unthinkable!

- Without repentance, people cannot be saved.
- So why would people want to omit it when they talk about salvation? **There are so many warnings against doing so!**

But even if we (or an angel from heaven) should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be condemned to hell!

As we have said before, and now I say again, if any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let him be condemned to hell!

Galatians 1:8-9 (NET)

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Today, many religious leaders (and their followers) are just like the religious people of Jesus' day.

- By removing "repentance" from the Good News, they keep people out of God's kingdom.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you don't go in, and you don't allow those entering to go in."
Matthew 23:13 (CSB)

- The people they "convert" end up being worse-off than if they hadn't been converted.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to make one convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a child of hell as you are!"
Matthew 23:15 (CSB)

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Since so many people no longer understand the concept of "repentance," some Bible translations replace the word "repent" with its definition.

THE WORD

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
Matthew 3:2b (NIV)

[God] commands all people everywhere to repent.
Acts 17:30b (NIV)

THE DEFINITION

"Turn from your sins and turn to God, because the Kingdom of Heaven is near."
Matthew 3:2 (NLT)

[God] commands everyone everywhere to turn away from idols and turn to him.
Acts 17:30b (NLT)

"Turn to God and change the way you think and act, because the kingdom of heaven is near."
Matthew 3:2 (GW)

[God] commands everyone everywhere to turn to him and change the way they think and act.
Acts 17:30b (GW)

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"REPENTANCE" COMPARED TO VARIOUS OTHER CONCEPTS.

1. "REPENTANCE" IS NOT JUST SADNESS, SORROW, GRIEF.

Sadness can have value... or not. Either way, it does not save.

EXAMPLE: THE RICH YOUNG RULER was quite sad to learn that the cost of following Jesus was greater than he was willing to pay.

- He met all the qualifications for salvation... except for one.

"One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess, and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he had heard these things, he became very sad; for he was extremely rich.

Luke 18:22b-23 (NASB)

NO LASTING VALUE!

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EXAMPLE: THE CORINTHIANS became quite sad when Paul had to reprimand them. But their sadness led to change.

LASTING VALUE!

... I am happy, not because you were made **sorry**, but because your **sorrow** led you to repentance. For you became **sorrowful** as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.

2 Cor. 7:9b (NIV)

What these examples show us: Sorrow does not save us. But a proper response to sorrow can ultimately lead to salvation.

Godly **sorrow** brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but **worldly** sorrow brings death.

2 Cor. 7:10 (NIV)

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2. "REPENTANCE" IS NOT JUST REMORSE OR REGRET.

A person can regret doing something... but that, by itself, won't result in salvation. Remorse can result in despondency without any saving change.

JUDAS ISCARIOT became quite remorseful about betraying Jesus. But that remorse did not lead him to salvation!

Then Judas, who had betrayed Jesus, **regretted** what had happened when he saw that Jesus was condemned. He brought the 30 silver coins back to the chief priests and leaders. He said, "I've sinned by betraying an innocent man." They replied, "What do we care? That's your problem."

So he threw the money into the temple, went away, and hanged himself.

Matthew 27:3-5 (GW)

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3. "REPENTANCE" IS NOT ONLY "TURNING FROM" SOMETHING BAD; IT IS NOT ONLY "TURNING TO" SOMETHING GOOD.

Repentance includes both of these actions; each of these, by itself, is only part of what repentance is.

- Each of these, by itself, can be a good concept.

"God [sent Jesus] to bless you by **turning** every one of you **from** your evil ways."

Acts 3:26b (GW)

... they **turned to** the Lord.

Acts 9:35b (NASB)

- They are sometimes used with the word "repentance," perhaps for emphasis.

... they should **repent** and **turn** to God, ...

Acts 26:20b (NASB)

Repent, then, and **turn** to God...

Acts 3:19a (NIV)

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DIFFERENT TYPES OF "REPENTANCE."

1. "REPENTANCE" THAT LEADS TO SALVATION.

(This is the focus of the Good News – and our main focus here.)

- By this repentance, unsaved people become saved. (Other aspects of "being saved" – such as faith – will also be present.)
- This change is associated with:
 1. **What WE do...** Having a "renewed mind" – Romans 12:2.
 2. **What GOD does...** God's laws embedded in our minds and hearts – Hebrews 8:10.

This repentance unto salvation is an ongoing attitude, resulting in actions consistent with that attitude.

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2. THE DAY-TO-DAY "REPENTANCE" OF A SAVED PERSON.

[This is NOT our main focus here.]

- A person who has experienced the saving change of repentance will want to maintain that change, *and will want to change further*, as spiritual maturity increases.
- Since: (a) none of us is sinless, and (b) following Jesus is a growing process...

There will be times when we discover sin in our lives... and we will want to repent of that sin.

WE SHOULD TREAT PEOPLE THE WAY WE WANT GOD TO TREAT US!

"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Luke 17:3b-4 (NIV)

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3. THE TEMPORARY "REPENTANCE" OF A PERSON WHO MAY "REFORM" HIS LIFE FOR A WHILE.

[This is NOT our main focus here.]

- Just as people can have temporary "faith" (Luke 8:13b), people can have temporary "repentance."
 - ⇒ People can be exposed to the truth and can respond in a shallow way. But since it is not the expression of a changed heart, it eventually fades away.

We need to pursue genuine repentance!

Any other type leaves us in a precarious situation!

If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, **they are worse off at the end** than they were at the beginning.

2 Peter 2:20 (NIV)

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The danger of temporary repentance.

- People who abandon repentance are rejecting what Scripture says about their sin and God's righteousness.
 - ⇒ Most likely, such people don't even know what genuine repentance is all about.
 - ⇒ They are also in danger of losing the ability to repent.

For it is impossible to restore to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come—and who then turn away from God.

Hebrews 6:4-6a (NLT)

THIS IS NOT THE FRUIT OF GENUINE REPENTANCE.

A person with a renewed heart and mind wouldn't want to do this. God's power is at work in their change!

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4. SOME OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPTS OF "REPENTANCE"

[These are NOT our main focus here.]

The Old Testament includes examples of change that don't focus on salvation.

- ✓ If a nation changes its conduct ("repents"), its sin may be restrained. In this case, God may withhold judgment and bring blessing to the nation.
- ✓ There are times when God changes his response to a nation or person, when they change their conduct. (In this situation, "repent" is not the best word choice. Most translations use words such as "relent" or "change.")

AFTER JONAH WARNED THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH ABOUT JUDGMENT...

When God saw that they had put a stop to their evil ways, he had mercy on them and didn't carry out the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 3:10 (NLT)

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Your **MISSION!**

Do you recognize genuine SAVING repentance?

Have you had it?

➔ This is YOUR NECESSARY FIRST STEP toward YOUR salvation.

👉 Make sure that it characterizes YOUR life!

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Credits

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