



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#83)

Good News – Forgiveness – from undefined "faith," or from repentance?

1

WHAT WE MUST DO TO BE SAVED.

(OUR responsibility.)

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

OUR FOCUS IS HERE → ... it will lead us down the path of change. **#2 Change**

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

[A focus on our responsibility does not deny God's role in salvation!]

2

"What must I do to be saved?"

FALSE TEACHERS OFTEN ANSWER THIS BY STARTING WITH A TRUE STATEMENT.

THE APOSTLES WERE ASKED: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

THEY REPLIED: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."
Acts 16:30b, 31b (CSB)

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT! **THE PROBLEM IS WHAT FALSE TEACHERS OMIT!**

THE APOSTLES CONTINUED: And they spoke the word of the Lord to him...
Acts 16:30a (CSB)

- To the apostles, the Good News was more than just "believe."
- False teachers often go no further.

3

FALSE TEACHERS OFTEN TELL PEOPLE TO "BELIEVE" ... AND THEY OMIT THE REST OF WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS.

WHY WOULD THEY OMIT THOSE THINGS? **THERE ARE MANY POSSIBLE REASONS... HERE ARE THREE:**

1) Some false teachers view "salvation" as nothing more than joining an organization (a "church").

- As long as they can get you to "join"... that's all they care about.
- For them, tricks and techniques are more important than knowledge of the truth.
- Some of them don't even consider Scripture to be "the truth"!

... they replace God's commands with their own man-made teachings.
Mark 7:7b (NLT)

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF RELIGIOUS OPINIONS!

AS LONG AS YOU'RE "FAITH-BASED," THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!



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2) Other false teachers are themselves living in sin... and that influences what they preach.

- They don't want to hear about the necessary life-changes (which would condemn what they are doing), so it's not likely they will tell you about those necessary life-changes!

They promise [their listeners] freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.
2 Peter 2:19 (NIV)

They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.
Jude 1:4b (NIV)

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3) Some may be promoting "half-truth" in ignorance.

- If they truly want to follow Jesus, they will be willing to change, when exposed to the truth.

CHANGE – LIKE APOLLOS DID: [Apollus] was speaking and teaching accurately about Jesus, although he knew only John's baptism. After Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God to him more accurately.
Acts 18:25b, 26b (CSB)

CHANGE – LIKE PAUL HOPED THESE PEOPLE WOULD DO: ... instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.
2 Tim. 2:25 (CSB)

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FALSE TEACHERS WHO FOCUS ON "ONLY BELIEVING" OFTEN LEAVE "BELIEVING" UNDEFINED.

THE PREACHER TOLD ME THAT THE ONLY THING I NEEDED TO DO WAS "BELIEVE"!

AS LONG AS I "BELIEVED" SOMETHING, EVERYTHING WOULD BE OK!

- This fits well with the whims of society, which treats "believing" as mere opinion, the opposite of "fact."
- This doesn't fit well with the Bible, which teaches a fact-based faith, and warns us that unsaved people – even demons – can "believe."

UNSAVED PEOPLE: They believe for a while, but ... they fall away.
Luke 8:13b (NIV)

DEMONS: Even the demons believe—and they shudder.
James 2:19b (CSB)

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FALSE TEACHERS ARE OFTEN SILENT ABOUT THE CHANGES CAUSED BY REPENTANCE.

- Even though God says repentance is necessary!

[God] commands all people everywhere to repent.
Acts 17:30b (NIV)
- Even though God desires repentance from all people!

... not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9b (CSB)
- Even though the opposite of "coming to repentance" is "to perish!"

... not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9b (CSB)
- Even though Scripture says that repentance answers the question: "What must I do for the forgiveness of sins?"

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"What must I do for the forgiveness of sins?"

DOES SCRIPTURE COMMAND US TO BELIEVE? OR TO REPENT?

- False teachers may tell you that "believing" is all you need for forgiveness of sins.
- But they don't tell you about the change that Scripture says is necessary!

AREN'T THERE VERSES THAT CONNECT "BELIEVING" AND "FORGIVENESS"?

YES... A SPECIFIC KIND OF "BELIEVING."

EVEN THEN, "BELIEVING" DOES NOT TELL US WHAT WE MUST DO FOR THAT FORGIVENESS.

THE PREACHER SAID WE DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING!

BUT SCRIPTURE SAYS WE DO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!

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The issue of "KNOWING" and "DOING."

VERSES THAT CONNECT FAITH AND FORGIVENESS:

- These are in the form of FACTS, and tell us what we must KNOW.
[But we must accept the Bible's definition of "faith" – which implies that REPENTANCE has already taken place. (False teachers tend to omit this).]

VERSES THAT CONNECT REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS:

- Some are in the form of FACTS, and tell us what we must KNOW.
- Others are in the form of COMMANDS, and tell us what we must DO.

In Scripture, thinking and actions work together; but each has a distinct role.

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The significance of FACTS vs. COMMANDS.

- **FACTS** are to influence our thinking.
 They tell us what we are to know.
 (They may imply things we are to do.)

EXAMPLE

The person who doesn't love doesn't know God, because God is love.
1 John 4:8 (GW)

- **COMMANDS** are to influence our actions.
 They tell us what we are to do.
 (They may imply things we are to know.)

EXAMPLE

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another."
John 13:34 (CSB)

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"BELIEVING/FAITH" AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN.

Verses that connect these two concepts are in FACT form.

There is no COMMAND that tells us specifically what we must DO in our "believing" to attain forgiveness.

"All the prophets testify about [Jesus] that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
Acts 10:43 (NIV)

(To accurately understand such verses, we must understand the Bible's concept of "saving faith.")

HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY "BELIEVING" IS GOOD ENOUGH?

WHAT SPECIFICALLY AM I TO DO?

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"REPENTANCE" AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN.

Some of the "repent and forgiveness" verses describe **FACTS** we must accept as true.

...that [Jesus] might give **repentance** and **forgiveness** of sins to Israel.
Acts 5:31b (NIV) ; see also 11:18, which focuses on Gentiles .

... **repentance** for **forgiveness** of sins will be proclaimed in [Jesus'] name to all the nations, ...
Luke 24:47a (CSB)

WE LEARN various things about repentance:

- ✓ It has a link to forgiveness.
- ✓ It will be proclaimed to all the nations.
- ✓ It is a gift from God.

WE DON'T LEARN: What we are to do.

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Other "repentance" verses describe **COMMANDS** we must do.

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be **wiped out**, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ...
Acts 3:19 (NIV)

Peter replied, "**Repent** and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness** of your sins, ..."
Acts 2:38a (CSB)

WE LEARN the answer to the question:
"What must I do for the forgiveness of sin?"

The "FACT verses" – already seen – help us to understand how these **COMMANDS** apply to us.

(NOTE: Some passages mention "external" actions that symbolize the "internal" act of repentance. Examples are baptism (Acts 2:38, shown above), and confession of sin (1 John 1:9, where the word "repentance" is not used).)

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What should we conclude?

"SAVING FAITH" INCLUDES THE CHANGES THAT ARE A PART OF "REPENTANCE."

In past studies, we have looked at many Scripture passages that point to changes that must be present when a person becomes saved.

We have also looked at issues related to God's sovereignty - which guarantees that the change he says must occur will occur.

So whether or not we actually use the word "repent," the changes that are a part of "repentance" will be present, when salvation is genuine.
God guarantees it.

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This is further reinforced in Scripture passages where "believing/faith" and "repentance" occur together.

In these passages, we learn:

- Both concepts are part of the Good News message.
- In ALL such statements – whether facts or commands – "believing" is always mentioned **AFTER** "repentance."

I [Paul] testified to both Jews and Greeks about **repentance** toward God and **faith** in our Lord Jesus.
Acts 20:21 (CSB)

A LIFE-CHANGING FACT: "SAVING FAITH" COMES AFTER REPENTANCE!

Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. **Repent** and **believe** the good news!"
Mark 1:14-15 (CSB)

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This week's **MISSION** is based on this fact:

"REPENTANCE" is a life-saving concept – eternally life-saving!



If you aren't familiar with it then get to know it!

If you have suppressed it then learn to express it!

If, by its omission, you have promoted false teaching then include it and promote the Good News that brings salvation!

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Credits

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