



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#85)

Good News – Repentance – a "turn around" based on a truth foundation.

1

**OUR FOCUS IS HERE**

Accepting the truth will lead us down the path of change.

**#2 Change**

**REPENTANCE is a part of that change!**  
 [Without it, there is no saving faith.]

⇒ If we want to be the Bible's type of "believer,"  
 ↳ Then we need to be the Bible's type of "repenter"!

2

**The "turn-around" of repentance:  
 It is part of the Good News.**

>> Turning FROM something and turning TO something. <<

We have come to bring you the **Good News** that **you should turn from** these worthless things **to** the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.  
 Acts 14:15b (NLT)

- ↳ This is a **COMMAND** – not just an option.
- ↳ It **demand**s a **RESPONSE** – we must submit to it or reject it.
- ↳ It **OPPOSES** all the religions and non-religions in the world.

3

**Repentance, being an integral part of the Good News, must and will be proclaimed to all peoples!**

And the **Good News** must first be preached to every nation.  
 Mark 13:10 (NLT)

... and **repentance** and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.  
 Luke 24:47 (NIV)

**This is an "impossible" task...**  
 Many will refuse to accept it;  
 false teachers will refuse to proclaim it.

**... but God is involved. And this guarantees that some people will repent!**

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**GOD IS INVOLVED, SO THERE'S HOPE!**

- Some people will repent... and will be forgiven. And they will receive the Holy Spirit.
- This is because God has promised it to "ALL whom God will call" – which is equivalent to saying, "ALL who will obey God."

"Repent ... [for] **forgiveness** ... [and] the **Holy Spirit**. The promise is ... for all whom the Lord our God will **call**."  
 Acts 2:38-39 (NIV)

"God exalted [Jesus], to give **repentance** ... and **forgiveness** of sins. ... the **Holy Spirit** whom God has given to those who **obey** him."  
 Acts 5:31, 32b (NET)

**The first passage has a greater focus on God's involvement; the second on our obedience.**

Both contain elements of human responsibility (repentance) and God's sovereignty, working together in harmony.

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**\* WHAT IS THE ISSUE? WHY THE NEEDED CHANGE? ⇔ Our sin!**

**FALSE TEACHERS may refuse to mention it...**

**DON'T BE SO "NEGATIVE"! YOU NEED TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF!**

**The modern-day "fake good news":**

- It would rather promote "love and happiness," and ignore "judgment and repentance."
- It doesn't want to create "discomfort" by challenging the false foundation on which people's lives are built.



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**\* But the issue is real! \***

We have sinned against our Creator.

⇒ **Repentance** deals with this foundational issue; and without it, we cannot be saved.

**THE ALTERNATIVE TO REPENTANCE IS JUDGMENT.**

- As long as we remain unrepentant rebels, we are headed for a horrifying – yet deserved – judgment.
- God's kindness (which is intended for leading us to repentance – Romans 2:4) is only temporary. For those who refuse to repent, it will one day give way to a wrathful judgment.

But because of your stubbornness and your **unrepentant** heart, you are storing up wrath for yourselves in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed!  
Romans 2:5 (NET)

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**Why can't we just "believe"?**

⇒ We have already seen that the "believing" that results in salvation presupposes the change of repentance.

**BESIDES...** ⇒ "Believing" focuses on a different issue!

I have declared ... that they must **turn to God in repentance** and have **faith in our Lord Jesus**.  
Acts 20:21 (NIV)

- Our REPENTANCE** is directed toward God our Creator. It deals with our attitude of sin and rebellion, and results in changed thinking and actions.
- Our FAITH** is directed toward Jesus our Savior. It deals with the removal of God's wrath, and our forgiveness, salvation and loyalty.

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I THOUGHT YOU SAID PREVIOUSLY THAT **REPENTANCE WAS NEEDED** FOR FORGIVENESS.

NOW YOU JUST CONNECTED IT WITH **FAITH!**

- It is **JESUS our SAVIOR** who makes forgiveness possible. He offers to pay the penalty we deserve for our sins, if we are willing to **TRUST** him to do so.
- But it is our sin against **GOD our CREATOR**, that needs forgiven. And unless we are willing to **REPENT** of that sin, forgiveness is impossible.
- (Jesus' offer is available only for those who repent.)

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**3 STEPS to the REPENTANCE that brings SALVATION:**

*The foundation of CONVICTION must first be built, before the CHANGE of repentance can occur.*

- An awareness and acceptance** of the facts – the Foundational Facts and Good News facts.  
[ > This makes repentance possible.]
- Then the 2 parts of REPENTANCE can occur.*
- "Turning away"** from sin and darkness.  
[ > Repentance begins here.]
- "Turning to"** God and the light.  
[ > Repentance culminates in faith here.]

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**1 Awareness and acceptance of the facts.**

Repentance cannot occur without the FOUNDATION of CONVICTION.

A person must know some basic facts about God, people and sin, before he can even become aware of his need to repent.

Sin blinds people to these things.  
**Their eyes need OPENED to the truth!**

I [Jesus] am sending you [Paul] to them to **open their eyes ...**  
I [Paul] preached that they should **repent...**  
Acts 26:17b-18a, 20b (NIV)

RESPONDING to this conviction is the first step of CHANGE.

- ↳ This response involves **repentance**,
- ↳ followed closely by **faith/believing/trust**.

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**FOR REPENTANCE TO OCCUR...**

The **FACTS** need communicated, then accepted as true.

A person cannot repent unless he knows and accepts ...

- The foundational facts** – the "basics" about God, people, sin, etc.
- The Good News facts** – about Jesus and what he accomplished.

[We looked at these issues in the past.]

> **SKIPPING** these facts >> or <<

> **REPLACING** them with tricks and techniques

} CAN ONLY HINDER

They hinder repentance... which hinders salvation.

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## [RESPONDING to the FACTS...]

**2** TURNING **FROM** SIN AND DARKNESS.

A person must turn **FROM**: sin and wickedness, from darkness [= ignorance and falsehood], and all similar things.

"Repent, ... [turning] from your wicked ways."  
Acts 3:19a, 26b (NIV)

"Repent of this wickedness ... you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."  
Acts 8:22a, 23b (NIV)

I [Jesus] am sending you to ... **turn** them from darkness ... and from the power of Satan...  
I [Paul] preached that they should **repent**...  
Acts 26:17b-18a, 20b (NIV)

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**3** TURNING **TO** GOD AND THE LIGHT

A person must turn **TO**: God, the light [= truth], and all similar things.

Therefore **repent** and **turn** back [to God]...  
Acts 3:19a (CSB)

I testified ... about **repentance** toward God...  
Acts 20:21a (CSB)

I [Jesus] am sending you to ... **turn** them ... to light, and ... to God...  
I [Paul] preached that they should **repent** and turn to God ...  
Acts 26:17b-18a, 20b (NIV)

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**GOD DEFINES "SIN" AND "WICKEDNESS"**

God's standard is his holy nature. Anything that deviates from this standard is "sin" and "wickedness."

Because of this, sin and wickedness includes:  
not only: 1) the bad we do,  
but also: 2) the good we fail to do,  
and: 3) the good we do with the wrong motives.

**THE CHANGE OF REPENTANCE**

It replaces those sinful characteristics with godly ones.

THE CHANGE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE AN "OFF-ON" SWITCH.  
REPENTANCE CAN GROW AS ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRUTH GROWS.

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**IF REPENTANCE IS GENUINE, WHAT WILL COME NEXT?****1. SAVING FAITH (= THE OTHER INTERNAL EXPRESSION OF CHANGE).****2. EXTERNAL EXPRESSIONS OF THE INTERNAL CHANGES.**

- Including: ✓ Baptism.  
✓ The initial expressions of obedience.  
✓ Confessing (openly admitting) that Jesus is Lord (Master) of one's life.

**3. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SALVATION.**

- Forgiveness; the ongoing obedience that characterizes the life of one who follows Jesus; also one's eternal destiny, etc.

**KEY ISSUE:** If repentance is genuine, there will be observable expressions of that change.

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**THIS WEEK'S MISSION!**

Before we consider the results of repentance...

**WE NEED TO CONSIDER OUR RESPONSE TO REPENTANCE!**

I [Jesus] am sending you to them to **open their eyes** and **turn** them **from darkness to light**, and **from the power of Satan to God** ...

I [Paul] preached that they should **repent** ...

Acts 26:17b-18a, 20b (NIV)

All three issues are found in this passage.

1. An awareness and acceptance of the facts.
2. Turning away from sin and darkness.
3. Turning to God and the light.

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