



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#86)
Repentance – what are the results?

1

ONCE A PERSON REPENTS, WHAT HAPPENS?

#1 Conviction → Aware of the truth, accepting it.

#2 Change → Repentance.

#3 Consequences → ???

Now WHAT???

Many things occur after repentance; some cannot occur without it.

2

IF REPENTANCE IS GENUINE, WHAT WILL COME NEXT?

1. THE SECOND INTERNAL EXPRESSION OF CHANGE.
 - Saving faith.
2. EXTERNAL EXPRESSIONS OF THE INTERNAL CHANGES.
 - Including: ✓ Baptism.
✓ The initial expressions of obedience and prayer.
3. LONG-TERM AND ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.
 - Forgiveness.
 - Many blessings related to salvation and following Jesus.
 - The ongoing obedience that characterizes the life of one who follows Jesus.

3

1. THE SECOND INTERNAL CHANGE: SAVING FAITH.

* Repentance leads to "saving faith." *

- When the two concepts are mentioned together, REPENTANCE is always mentioned first.

"Repent and believe the good news!"
Mark 1:15b (CSB)

... repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.
Acts 20:21b (CSB)

Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe ... in Jesus."
Acts 19:4 (CSB)

... the elementary teachings about Christ ... the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ...
Hebrews 6:1 (NIV)

4

- A related concept, "TURNING to the Lord" focuses on the second half of repentance. It is mentioned as occurring after faith.
- Though Scripture places REPENTANCE first, it seems that FAITH begins before the process of repentance is completed.

... a large number who **believed turned** to the Lord.
Acts 11:21b (CSB)

- Here, "TURNING from... and to..." is mentioned as a parallel concept to faith (no "before" or "after" implied).

I [Jesus] am sending you to them to ... **turn them from** darkness **to** light, and **from** the power of Satan **to** God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by **faith** in me.
Acts 26:17b-18 (NIV)

All these verses show a link between repentance (and turning to God) and saving faith. People who omit repentance prevent saving faith from occurring.

5

2. EXTERNAL EXPRESSIONS OF THE INTERNAL CHANGES.

Both repentance and faith will result in visible external changes. Here are some changes mentioned in the context of repentance.

A. BAPTISM.

- Baptism is always mentioned after repentance, except for when baptism represents the repentance that is occurring.

WHEN MENTIONED AS TWO EVENTS, REPENTANCE COMES FIRST.

Peter replied, "**Repent** and be **baptized**, ..."
Acts 2:38a (CSB)

ALSO, BAPTISM CAN REPRESENT THE REPENTANCE.

Paul said, "John baptized with a **baptism of repentance**, ..."
Acts 19:4a (CSB)

(Though not our focus here, faith is also connected to baptism.)

6

Some changes are *both*:

- 1) an external response to the internal changes of repentance and faith, and 2) an ongoing expression of the consequences of salvation.

Here are two examples:

B. PRAYER.

- Here, repentance comes first, followed by prayer. (Sadly, the person who was told to do this didn't do either.)

Repent ... and pray to the Lord.
Acts 8:22a (ESV)

C. OBEDIENCE.

- Here, obedience parallels repentance. (The two go together.) Forgiveness and the Holy Spirit are *consequences* (see next section).

"... that [God] might give repentance and forgiveness... the Holy Spirit [is] given to those who obey him."
Acts 5:31b, 32b (NIV)

[⇒ BOTH of these will also continue throughout the Christian's life.]

3. LONG-TERM AND ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES OF REPENTANCE.

A. FORGIVENESS IS THE CONSEQUENCE MOST COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH REPENTANCE.

- Repentance is the action we must take, if we want forgiven by God.

Repent and be baptized ... for the forgiveness of your sins...
Acts 2:38a (CSB)

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, ...
Acts 3:19 (NIV)

God exalted [Jesus], to give repentance ... and forgiveness of sins.
Acts 5:31 (CSB)

Repent ... Perhaps [the Lord] will forgive you...
Acts 8:22a (NIV)

I [Jesus] am sending you ... so that they may receive forgiveness of sins ...
I [Paul] preached that they should repent...
Acts 26:17b, 18b, 20b (NIV)

A WARNING AGAINST HYPOCRISY!

If we want God to forgive US when we repent of our sin against him...

Then we must be willing to forgive OTHER PEOPLE, when they repent of their sin against us!

"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and comes back to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."
Luke 17:3b-4 (CSB)

Don't expect God to forgive YOU, if YOU refuse to forgive others!

"For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive you your sins."
Matthew 6:14-15 (CSB)

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- Here we see that the Holy Spirit comes *after* repentance.

"Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:38 (CSB)

- This passage describes the Holy Spirit as coming *after* the obedience that parallels repentance (which we mentioned in the previous section).

"... repentance ... and forgiveness of sins.
... the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."
Acts 5:31b, 32b (CSB)

C. ETERNAL LIFE, SALVATION, NO REGRET.

God has given repentance resulting in life...
Acts 11:18b (CSB)

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.
2 Cor. 7:10 (NIV)

D. FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD (DESCRIBED IN TERMS OF A MEAL).

- These people claimed to be Christians; but Jesus wasn't even in their midst... he was outside, asking to be let in!

So be earnest and repent! Listen! I am standing at the door and knocking! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into his home and share a meal with him, and he with me.
Rev. 3:19b-20 (NET)

E. HOLINESS – A PLACE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE "SANCTIFIED" (WHICH MEANS "MADE HOLY").

- Holiness was the *goal* – given by Jesus.
- Repentance was the *message* – the means used by Paul to accomplish this goal.

I [Jesus] am sending you ... so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.
I [Paul] preached that they should repent...
Acts 26:17b, 18b, 20b (NIV)

F. KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.

...repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.
2 Timothy 2:25b (CSB)

Not all consequences focus on us!

G. OTHERS REJOICE!

"... there is **joy** in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who **repents**."

Luke 15:10 (CSB)

... I am **happy**, ... because your sorrow led you to **repentance**.

2 Cor. 7:9a (NIV)

H. GOD IS GLORIFIED!

- Implied in this passage (even though the people mentioned here refused to do so).

They did not **repent** and **give him glory**.

Rev. 16:9b (ESV)

13

I. "TIMES OF REFRESHING" AND JESUS' RETURN! (= **FUTURE CONSEQUENCES**.)

- The nation of Israel was offered the fulfillment of various prophetic blessings ... but repentance had to come **first**.

Therefore **repent** and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord, and so **that he may send the Messiah** appointed for you—that is, Jesus.

Acts 3:19-20 (NET)

- They **didn't** repent (as a nation); so any fulfillment of these promises is now delayed. (In the end, the nation will turn to God – see Romans 11 – and it will result in blessings for the whole world.)

14

There are some consequences that focus on something we must **do – our** responsibility. (Other passages guarantee that we will be willing to do these things, because God is at work in the lives of those who are saved.)

J. A LIFE CHARACTERIZED BY OBEDIENCE.

... I preached that they should **repent** and turn to God and **prove their repentance** by their deeds.

Acts 26:20b (NIV)

- This obedience is the way we **know** that someone has repented.
- It's not some religious ritual, but a life based on the values of a renewed mind (Romans 12:2) – the result of following Jesus.
- Examples of such deeds would include anything that is an expression or "fruit" of salvation. But Scripture does give us some specific examples, from which we can learn principles (even if we find ourselves living in a different context).

15

[People must] **prove their repentance** by their deeds.

Acts 26:20b (NIV)

Produce fruit that is consistent with **repentance**!

Matthew 3:8; also Luke 3:8a (ISV)

A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE FRUIT OF REPENTANCE:

[To the crowds] "The person who has two coats must share with the one who doesn't have any, and the person who has food must do the same."

[To the tax collectors] "Stop collecting more money than the amount you are told to collect."

[To the soldiers] "Never extort money from anyone by threats or blackmail, and be satisfied with your pay."

Luke 3:11b, 13b, 14b (ISV)

[To those who were getting lax in their expression of godly love] ... go back to what you were doing at first.

Rev. 2:5b (ISV)

16

WHAT should we conclude?

We have a **MISSION!**

ALL these blessings – and more – belong to the person who repents!

Let US be "people of repentance"

– both in our lives and in the Good News we communicate!

It's hard to imagine why false teachers – or **anyone** – would want to keep people from experiencing these blessings, by omitting repentance from the Good News message!
(No wonder God **curses** those who do so! Galatians 1:8-9.)

17

Credits

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18