



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#87)
For those who oppose repentance.

A "MISSION MOMENT" for those who themselves are unwilling to repent.

And for those who: Despise
Reject
Ignore
Suppress
Oppose
Are silent about
Refuse to proclaim
Or in any other way **downplay the importance and significance of...**

 & 

"No thanks!" and "No way!"

REPENTANCE.

If Repentance is not part of your "good news," what do you think you're accomplishing?

You may be able to coerce, trick, or manipulate people into making religious "decisions"...

but have you ever considered what GOD says about your actions... and what will happen to those you have tricked?

Not only does God **COMMAND** repentance... (Acts 17:30)
And he **makes it possible** for people to do it... (Acts 5:31; 11:18)
And he **patiently waits** for people to do it... (2 Peter 3:9)

Not only does repentance result in many wonderful **blessings** ...

The direct result, or related to: saving faith, baptism, the initial expressions of obedience and prayer, forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, eternal life, salvation, no regret, fellowship with God, holiness, knowledge of the truth, others rejoicing, God being glorified, "times of refreshing" and Jesus' return (in the future), and a life characterized by obedience.

[as we saw last time]

 But God warns us that **horrible consequences** await those who don't repent.

JESUS AND THE APOSTLES – NONE of them ever had kind words to say about people who refused to repent, or who downplayed the need for repentance in salvation!

So **WHY** would YOU want to put yourself into this category?

Then Jesus began to denounce the cities ... because they did **not** repent. "**Woe to you, ... !**"
Matthew 11:20-21a (NIV)

As we have said before, and now I say again, if any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received [from the apostles], **let him be condemned to hell!**
Galatians 1:9 (NET)

But unless you **repent, you too will all perish.**
Luke 13:3b (NIV); also v. 5

BE AWARE THAT "NOT REPENTING" ISN'T YOUR ONLY SIN.
The very fact that you need to repent is because of other sins in your life.

- In addition to your "everyday" sins, your unrepentant heart indicates a stubborn attitude toward God and what he says in his Word.

Or do you despise the riches of [God's] kindness, ... [which] is intended to lead you to **repentance**? Because of your hardened and **unrepentant** heart you are storing up wrath for yourself ...
Romans 2:4-5 (CSB)
- Be aware that if you refuse to repent based on what Scripture tells you... then even miracles won't change your mind.

"But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will **repent.**"
"But he told him, 'If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets, **they will not be persuaded** if someone rises from the dead.'"
Luke 16:30b-31 (CSB)

DO YOU CLAIM TO BE A "CHRISTIAN," BUT PURSUE A WAY OF LIFE THAT MAKES GOD YOUR ENEMY?

- Many churches are filled with such people. (Ultimately, whether or not they repent demonstrates whether or not their "salvation" is genuine.)

THESE VERSES WERE WRITTEN TO CHURCHES. THE PEOPLE CLAIMED TO BE SAVED. BUT JESUS SAID...

"IF YOU DON'T REPENT..."

... I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place...

... I will come to you quickly and wage war against them with the sword of my mouth.

... I am going to strike her with illness. [The others] will also suffer greatly...

... I will come like a thief, and you won't know the time when I will come to you.

From Rev. 2:5, 16, 22; 3:3 (ISV)

Rev 2:5 (ISV) Therefore, remember how far you have fallen, repent and go back to what you were doing at first, and I will set your lamp stand from its place—unless you repent.
Rev 2:16 (ISV) So repent. If you don't, I will come and remove your lamp stand from its place, and you and the others with you will be thrown into the sea of sulfur. I will punish those who hate me, who do not repent, and who do not know the time when I will come to you.
Rev 2:21-22 (ISV) I gave her time to repent, but she did not repent of her immorality. Look! I am going to send her into the sea, where the water is like sulfur, and she will be completely destroyed, and many of the churches will suffer greatly, unless they repent from acting like this.
Rev 3:3 (ISV) So remember what you received and heard, and keep it, and repent. If you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you won't know the time when I will come to you.

In the modern church, sexual sin seems to be exceedingly popular.

- ❖ Many church-goers love sexual sin so much, that they would never want to "trade" it for repentance.

... many who ... have **not repented** of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.
2 Cor. 12:21b (NIV)

- ❖ The people Paul wrote to claimed to be saved. That's why he warned them that people who do these things **cannot** inherit the kingdom of God... *even if the world claims it is NOT sin.*

PEOPLE WHO INDULGE IN OTHER SINS WON'T INHERIT IT, EITHER.

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
1 Cor. 6:9-10 (NIV)

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DO YOU SPEAK EVIL OF THOSE WHO WARN YOU OF YOUR NEED TO REPENT? You might not recognize it, but your response to them reflects **your** spiritual condition.

- When God's people warn you about coming judgment, it's because they don't want you to experience it.
- Your unrepentant spirit grieves God's people – like it grieved Paul:

I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have **not repented** ...
2 Cor. 12:21a (NIV)

- When they warn you, they're just doing what **God** told them to do!

My brothers and sisters, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone **turns** him back, let that person know that whoever **turns** a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.
James 5:19-20 (CSB)

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DO YOU RESPOND TO WARNINGS BY ACCUSING US OF SIN?

"YOU JUDGMENTAL HYPOCRITE!" We're sinning **only** if we don't warn you the way God tells us to.

- God gives **us** warnings – instructions and examples related to **how** we should warn you – and we must pay attention to them.

But don't forget the fact that such verses DO involve warning you!

GOD TELLS US TO:

- ... DEAL WITH OUR OWN SINS **FIRST**.
Hypocrite! **First** get rid of the log [= sin] from your own eye; **then** perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck [= sin] in your friend's eye.
Matthew 7:5 (NLT)
- ... WATCH OUR ATTITUDE.
Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.
Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

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REPEATED WARNINGS, IF NEEDED

I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
Galatians 5:21 (CSB)

OUR GOAL MUST BE YOUR SALVATION

... I have already pronounced judgment ... hand that one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.
1 Corinthians 5:3b, 5 (CSB);
in 2 Corinthians, we learn that the person **did** repent!

- You should be **glad** for the warnings. They show that we haven't given-up on you!

EVEN IF WE MUST AVOID YOU...

... WE CAN MAINTAIN THE HOPE THAT YOUR RESPONSE WILL PROVE YOU TO BE SAVED.

If anyone does not obey [Paul's] instruction ... Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but **warn him as a brother**.
2 Thes. 3:14-15 (NIV)

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DO YOU CHAFE WHEN CONFRONTED ABOUT THE SIN YOU REFUSE TO REPENT OF? You might not recognize it, but your response reflects **your** spiritual condition.

If the church **doesn't** confront you, they are either (1) sinning against God, who instructed them to do it, or ...

"If a believer does something wrong, go, confront him when the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have won back that believer. But if he does not listen, take one or two others with you so that every accusation may be verified by two or three witnesses. If he ignores these witnesses, tell it to the community of believers. If he also ignores the community, deal with him as you would a heathen or a tax collector."
Matthew 18:15-17 (GW)

... (2) giving-up on you.

For what business is it of mine to judge **outsiders**? Don't you judge **those who are inside**? God judges **outsiders**.
1 Corinthians 5:12-13a (CSB)

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HOW DO YOU REACT TO GOD'S DISCIPLINE? You might not recognize it, but your response to it reflects **your** spiritual condition.

- ❖ You should be happy if he **does** discipline you! (It's when he **doesn't**, that you should worry.)

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and **repent**.
Rev. 3:19 (NIV)

If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children after all.
Hebrews 12:8 (NLT)

- ❖ Some people would rather accuse **God** of wrongdoing, than repent! [= An end-times example.]

... they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did **not repent** and give him glory.
[They] cursed the God of heaven ... They did **not repent** of their deeds.
Revelation 16:9b, 11 (ESV)

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WHAT ABOUT "UNREPENTING"? The devil may tempt us to abandon the life of repentance; God warns us about the dangers.

- Those who yield to such a temptation are in danger of hardening themselves to the point that they cannot go back to repentance.

For it is impossible to restore to **repentance** those who were once enlightened... and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people to **repentance** again because they are nailing the Son of God to the cross again by rejecting him, holding him up to public shame.
Hebrews 6:4a, 6a (NLT)

Those who do that were never actually saved. A later verse shows us that saved people won't choose this option!

Dear friends, even though we are talking like this, we really don't believe that it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation.
Hebrews 6:9 (NLT)

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The conclusion FOR THOSE WHO DESPISE OR DOWNPLAY REPENTANCE.

READ THIS CAREFULLY

Or do you despise the riches of his kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to **repentance**? Because of your hardened and **unrepentant** heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed. He will repay each one according to his works: eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness. There will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For there is no favoritism with God.
Romans 2:4-11 (CSB)

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The mission FOR THOSE OF US WHO VALUE REPENTANCE.

❖ Consider the central role of **repentance** in the process of salvation... and its connection with **FAITH** – the next concept we plan to look at.

"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, 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** and **turn** to God and **prove their repentance** by their deeds.
Acts 26:17b-18, 20b (NIV)

| ① Conviction | ② Change | ③ Consequences |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Open eyes ⇨ | Turn (from/to) ⇨ | Forgiveness of sins |
| ⇨ | FAITH results in ⇨ | Becoming holy ("sanctified") |
| Preach/communicate ⇨ | Repent ⇨ | Godly living ("proof") |

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Credits (1)

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