

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Repentance**

"No evil dooms us hopelessly except the evil we love, and desire to continue in, and make no effort to escape from." – George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda*

"There is no repentance where a man can talk lightly of sin, much less where he can speak tenderly and lovingly of it." – Charles H. Spurgeon

"Remember, this repentance...is simply a description of what going back to Him is like. If you ask God to take you back without it, you are really asking Him to let you go back without going back. It cannot happen." – C.S. Lewis

"Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet." – Thomas Watson

"It is not the absence of sin but the grieving over it which distinguishes the child of God from empty professors." – Arthur W. Pink

It is interesting to note Webster's definition for the word *repent*: "To feel or show that you are sorry for something bad or wrong that you did and that you want to do what is right." Such a definition certainly comes up short to the gravity of the term in Scripture.

Paul, by inspiration, speaks of repentance as "godly sorrow" (2 Cor. 7:10). Far too many equate the idea of repentance with the concept of the world, that one merely is sorry they got caught. A thief might be sorrowful that he got caught and is now incarcerated. But the question is, when he gets out of prison, will he do it again?

"Godly sorrow" is a driving force that not only causes one to be sorrowful for their sin, but it moves them, not just to want to do what is right, but actually change their life and do right!

Do you recall the words of John the Baptist? "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matt. 3:8). And we couple with this the thought that Jesus expressed, "You will know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16,20). If one truly repents of their sins, then there will be fruit or evidence to prove that there indeed has been a change.

Perhaps one of the greatest problems we face in the Lord's church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the lack of repentance. We have been proficient in emphasizing the need for one to be baptized, but have been neglectful in preaching for the need for repentance. As a consequence, we have those who have been baptized who may indeed have been reluctant to make the necessary changes in their life.

Even in the great passage emphasizing baptism, Peter also made it clear that repentance is important! "...Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38).