



- A. Repentance leads to life (v. 21-22)
 - 1. Repentance is heartfelt sorrow for sin that turns from disobedience and turns toward obedience by faith (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - 2. Those who repent will not perish (Luke 13:3)
- B. God delights in repentance and takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (v.22-23; Luke 15:7; Acts 3:19-20)
- C. Our life ought to be characterized by ongoing repentance (v. 24; Hebrews 10:11-18)

EZEKIEL 18:5-9

"If a man is righteous and does what is just and right— 6 if he does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor's wife or approach a woman in her time of menstrual impurity, 7 does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, commits no robbery, gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, 8 does not lend at interest or take any profit, withholds his hand from injustice, executes true justice between man and man, 9 walks in my statutes, and keeps my rules by acting faithfully—he is righteous; he shall surely live, declares the Lord God.

EZEKIEL 18:21-24

"But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 22 None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. 23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? 24 But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What is blame-shifting? When was a time you were guilty of blame-shifting? What were your reasons for doing it?
2. How does blame-shifting end up enslaving us? Why doesn't it do what we think it will?
3. What does it mean to do justice and righteousness? What is a life that is just and right evidence of? What leads to life, and what leads to death?
4. What does God prescribe for these who recognize their sin? What does this tell us about who God is?
5. Why should our lives be characterized by ongoing repentance? How does ongoing repentance signify our spiritual growth?