

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

The Grace of God: Repentance

November 13, 2024

Preliminary

Definition: (a) Change of mind; (b) Change of heart against sin.

Romans 12:2 = *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Note 1: Jesus commanded repentance for salvation... Mt 4:17; Mk 1:15.

Note 2: Repentance occurs only when the gospel of God reaches the heart of the person (*effectual calling*).

Acts 2:36-38 = *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.* ³⁷ *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"* ³⁸ *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

➤ Repentance is the response of a sinner who has heard the gospel... Rom 1:16.

➤ The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner, bringing about repentance.

John 16:8 = *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment*

Point: No one can genuinely repent unless the Holy Spirit grants it to sinners.

Texts: Act 5:31; 11:18; 2 Tim 2:25; Rom 2:4.

The Sudden Progress of Repentance:

➤ Encountering the weight of sin... Ps 51:4; 109:21-22.

➤ Beginning to judge oneself... Acts 2:37-38; Isa 6:5; Lk 5:8.

➤ Acceptance that one is a sinner... Lk 5:8; 1 Tim 1:15.

➤ Awareness of good and bad deeds... Rom 7:14-25.

➤ Freedom from enslavement to the old self... Ezek 36:26-27; 2 Cor 5:17.

1. The Importance of Repentance

Note: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God—faith and repentance are necessary... Rom 3:23; Prov 28:13.

Point: Only those with genuine repentance are accepted by God into His kingdom... Mt 7:21-23.

➤ God commands all people everywhere to repent... Acts 17:30; Lk 24:47.

➤ Unless a person repents, they will perish... Lk 13:3, 5.

➤ It is a condition for the forgiveness of sins... Isa 6:5f; Lk 18:13-14.

➤ It honors obedience to God's will and commands... Mal 3:7; Rom 12:1-2.

➤ The gift of repentance restores the broken design of God for mankind...
... cf. Gen 1:26-27; Col 3:1-4; 2 Cor 5:17

Results: Repentance leads the sinner to His Kingdom (Mt 4:17), to eternal life (Acts 11:18), and away from God's judgment (Acts 17:30-31).

2. Characteristics and Motivation of Repentance

(a) False Repentance

i. External ceremony... Mt 15:8-9.

Point: Pretentious faith behind a mask of traditions, good works, and myths.

ii. Continuation in sin... Rom 6:1-6; 7:14f.

Note: Sin remains in a person, but a believer fights against it.

iii. Despair or remorse

Mt 27:3-5; Act 1:17-19 = *"When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 'I have sinned,' he said, 'for I have betrayed innocent blood...' Then he went away and killed himself."*

Point: There is true forgiveness even for the worst sinner...

Cf. 1 Tim 1:15-16; 1 Jn 1:9.

(b) True Repentance

i. Recognition and submission to Jesus as Lord and King... Mt 28:18-20

ii. Sorrow over sin... 2 Cor 7:9; Lk 22:62; Ps 130:1-3

iii. Humility... Job 42:6; James 4:9-10.

iv. A life of holiness... 1 Pt 1:16; 2 Tim 2:19-22.

v. Obedience to the ordinance of baptism (public declaration of faith)... Mk 1:4; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12-13; 8:36-38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:13-15; 16:27-34; cf. Mt 28:19; 1 Pt 3:21.

Romans 6:3-6 = *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

vi. Bearing fruit of good works... Mt 3:8; Lk 13:6f.

vii. Devotion to the Word of God... 2 Tim 3:16-17.

Conclusion:

➤ Repentance involves a genuine change of mind, heart, and actions.

➤ It demonstrates that sin is hated by God.

➤ It emphasizes our submission to His Lordship.

➤ True repentance happens only when it is granted by God!