

Repentance

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ().

Introduction

- Review God's plan of salvation:
 - Hear; Believe; Repent; Confess, "Jesus is Lord"; Be Baptized
- Understanding how repentance is essential for salvation clarifies how a faith based view differs from a belief based or ritual based view
- It is important to understand the real meaning of repentance and to choose the repentant lifestyle that pleases God

Repentance is Essential for Salvation..... Acts 2:36-38

- Sins are wiped out. Times of refreshing! This is a great thing Acts 3:19
- Repentance means really turning or changing direction..... Acts 20:20-21
 - We prove our repentance by our deeds..... Acts 26:17-20
 - In Christ, we are new creations..... (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - Our old life is dead..... (Galatians 2:20)
- ***It is not a one time occurrence it is a lifestyle***
 - We must turn from wickedness to follow Christ..... (2 Timothy 2:19)
 - We continue to resist the devil and come near to God.... (James 4:7-10)

Repentance Begins with Godly Sorrow

- The people who heard God's message were "cut to the heart." (Acts 2:38)
 - They felt emotionally sorrowful about their sin
- Godly sorrow leads to repentance that bring salvation 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
- Worldly sorrow brings death. What's the difference between the two?
 - Because godly sorrow and worldly sorrow both involve the sadness, it is hard to tell the difference at first
- ***The main difference is the result that is produced, where the sorrow leads us***
 - Godly sorrow leads to an eagerness and readiness for lifelong change
 - The pain of your sin makes you more determined to change
- God cares about our hearts. He desires a broken spirit..... Psalm 51:16-17
 - God wants us to have a broken spirit about our sin Psalm 51:1-6
 - God cares about how we feel about our sin. Do we have godly sorrow?

Repentance Involves Relationships

- We are commanded to help each other at a heart level Hebrews 3:12-13
 - Sin is a heart issue. Every day, we should connect with spiritual people who know us deeply, at a heart level
 - ***How willing are you to get help from people in order to repent?***

Repentance involves Confession

- God desires truth in our inmost being. Keeping silent hurts us..... Psalm 32:1-5
 - Our spirit should have no deceit
- Lying is not just telling a falsehood. Concealing sin is lying..... Proverbs 28:13
 - We cannot conceal our sin from God
 - The Bible is talking about concealing our sin from people
 - We need to confess to people
- There is a difference between admitting your sin and confessing your sin
 - We admit our sins when someone questions us about our sins
 - Confession is when we ***initiate*** telling the truth
- People confessed their sins before being baptized by John..... Mark 1:4-5
- The Bible directly commands to confess to one another James 5:16
- We walk in the light before people..... 1 John 1:5-10
 - God sees everything, so we cannot hide anything from him. Walking in the light is how we walk before people
- Confession builds fellowship
- When we confess, the blood of Jesus purifies us and unites us to the fellowship.
 - No wonder repentance brings times of refreshing!
- How devoted are you to confessing your sin on a consistent basis in pursuit of repentance?
- If a time comes when confession is difficult for you, how willing are you to be questioned about your sin by others?

For Deeper Understanding

- When we get baptized, it is a pledge of a clear conscience 1 Peter 3:21

Begin a time of Confession to help your friend have a clear conscience:

- Ask your friend to discuss the sin list that should have been written after the Salvation and the Spirit Study. Also, appropriately share your sins to help your friend feel connected and more at ease
- You can also use the following Scriptures as a guide for confession
 - Sins of Commission (Galatians 5:19-21)
 - Sins of Omission (James 4:17)
 - Sins of the Heart (Mark 7:20-23)
- Ask: What are the most difficult sins to confess?
- Ask: What do you think will be most difficult to confess on an ongoing basis?