

## **Our Starting Place.**

### ***The Importance of Repentance***

Repentance is the first and most important truth in the Gospels.

John preached repentance.

**Mark 1 v 4**

*John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

Jesus preached repentance.

**Mark 1 v 14 - 15**

*Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.*

The disciples preached repentance.

**Mark 6 v 12**

*They went out and preached that men should repent.*

Peter told the crowd to repent.

**Acts 2 v 38**

*Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Paul preached repentance.

**Acts 17 v 30**

*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent.*

Repentance is the first and most vital truth in our Lord's plan of salvation. Repentance brings us into grace and freedom and gives us the power to continue.

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Let's look at the parable of the two sons.

### **Matthew 21 v 28 - 32**

*"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, 'I will, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him.*

One son said, "I will" and did not. The other son said, "I won't"; but did. Which son pleased his father?

Repentance is a step taken by *the respectable and the Harlots alike*. It does not matter what your status is in society, Jesus tells us that **we all** are to repent.

### **Acts 17 v 30**

*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent.*

Repentance is:

- Our stepping stone into kingdom life
- The springboard into the heavenlies and unity
- Not imprisonment, but the key to release

### **Repentance Leads to True Worship.**

### **John 4 v 24**

*"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

Repentance is here to stay!

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Let's go back to the two sons.

### **Matthew 21 v 28**

*'Son, go work today in the vineyard.'* And he answered and said, 'I will, sir'; and he did not go.

How did the son think? First, face to face he agreed, then he thought further about it and decided not to go. Perhaps he thought that it did not matter. Rejection leads to rebellion, disobedience leads to death.

We should mean what we say or don't say it and say what we mean and do it.

### **Six Steps to Repentance: The Foundation - The Doctrine**

#### **Hebrews 6 v 1 - 2**

*Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.*

1. Repent from dead works
2. Have faith towards God
3. Baptism
4. Laying on of hands
5. Resurrection of the dead
6. Eternal judgement

### **Compare the life of a believer with a building**

Paul describes us thus:

#### **1 Corinthians 3 v 9 - 10**

*For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.*

What is this foundation?

#### **1 Corinthians 3 v 11**

*For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

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### **Mathew 7 v 24 - 27**

*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."*

This scripture speaks of two kinds of foundation, one of rock and one of sand.

### **Repentance from Dead Works**

Righteousness is God's way; repentance is a gift from God

**Isaiah 64** sums it up:

1. *Oh, that Thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down.*
2. *To make Thy name known to Thine adversaries.*
3. *Thou didst awesome things which we did not expect.*
4. *They have not heard, nor perceived by ear, neither has the eye seen a God besides Thee.*
5. *Thou dost meet him who rejoices in doing righteousness.*
6. *For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.*
7. *And there is no one who calls on Thy name.*
8. *But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father, We are the clay, and Thou our potter; and all of us are the work of Thy hand.*

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