

THE NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE

Text: Acts 17:30-31:

³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

³¹ Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.

Not I, but God commands you to repent. God will have all men to be ready for the appointment we must keep with Him. He does not entreat nor beg, neither asks, but commands it. Men and women everywhere in church, bank, saloon, jail, theater . . . ***must repent.***



The first thing John the Baptist preached was repentance. The first thing Jesus preached was repentance. Peter preached that every one must first repent, and then be baptized. Paul preached repentance, also. There are many who now preach that all you need do is believe in Jesus, then, you are saved. But that is leaving out the first half of the instruction.

REPENT!

'Ye would not repent afterward that ye might believe' (**Matthew 21:32**), cried John the Baptist.

Matthew 21:32: For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

I guess many preachers are afraid to preach repentance because they have people in their churches who need to repent, and some haven't. Perhaps they don't do it for the reason that it always throws such a cold spirit over the meeting.



No one ever preached on repentance without stirring up the devil. The preacher will not last very long in the church that is living after the flesh. When he turns the light on to reveal what the Bible says about

holiness, it will reveal sin and how deadly it is to the cause of Christ — to reconcile man to God.

No photographer would stay in business long without touching up the pictures. The



elephant will not drink water out of a pool, for when he sees the reflection of his ugly face, he goes into a rage and — in fury — beats and churns the waters up. There must be some similarity between us and the elephants.

John the Baptist, along with Jesus, Peter, and Paul, stirred up a hornets' nest when they showed the Mirror of the Word of God to those church members and sinners.

The preacher who does not believe in the devil — you can rest assured — just does not preach repentance, or he would have heard him roar. **The devil likes preachers to tell you people that all you have to do is think good thoughts, live as well as you are able, go to church, and support it, and you will make it into the Kingdom of God.**



That is a lie. All of us will go straight to Hell unless we repent, and forsake our sins.

Jesus will save us when we are sick and tired of eating out of the devil's slop-trough of sinning religion.

The old time preacher — John the Baptist — told Herod that it was not right for him to live with his brother's wife (**Mark 6:18**); and that he was incurring the wrath of God each minute he let this go on:

Mark 6:18: For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

I tell you, the man who takes another man's property, or steals his reputation by running him down, or ruins his own wife and family by living in booze dives, is a low-down thief and is good for nowhere other than Hell.



I don't care a snap for the new fancy language used by people which covers up the ugliness of sin. It is still sin, even if it is masquerading. God clearly stated, as recorded in:

Revelation 21:8: But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

This is no sugar-coated pill. I have always admired men with guts enough to stand for the truth, even if they had to confess they were not living it. **But to go around calling black white to make light of sin, to trifle with it and dabble around in it, to say there is no harm in it — that is outright insanity.**

Sin is an offense against God. It will drive you to a devil's Hell. It will blind your mind to its treachery and will harden your heart to its consequences. It will drive you to eternal destruction!

Satan is using new methods to smooth over and belittle sin. He has a dictionary of his own. If you accept his definitions, you will find that everything God warns will damn your soul. Satan's pictures are clever and attractive.



He calls lying an *evasion of trouble*. Drunkenness is *jollification*. Not paying one's debts is just *escaping pecuniary obligations*. Robbery is *profiteering*. Adultery is just *infidelity*. A glutton just *likes good eats – he is a gourmet*.

Reveling all night is only *fast living*. You may call poison by any name you like, but it still kills!

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Satan is just aiding you to slide down the greasy plank into Hell a little faster by soothing your conscience and searing it with a hot iron.

Friends, once you die, there will be no second chance to get right with God thru the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the only place to get sins forgiven and to receive a clean heart.

I know I am rubbing the fur the wrong way for some of you, but just turn around half way and strike out in the opposite direction from which you are going, and you will wind up in Heaven.

Perhaps Herod felt somewhat better when he knew the preacher was locked behind prison bars. He little knew that he could no more run away from truth than he could run away from himself. **And you have to live with yourself every day, so you might as well live with someone respectable and go to Heaven, rather than despise yourself forever in Hell.**

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached to the multitude of nearly 2,000. They cried, ***“Men and brethren, what must we do?”***

Acts 2:37-39:

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the Promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.



Peter did not tell them to turn over a new leaf, join the church, or just believe in Jesus. He cried out, “Repent!”

What is repentance? It is not fear. Some folks think you have to be almost scared to death to repent in a way to please God. Do you want the Lord Jesus to haul you over to the brink of Hell and let you smell the fumes, and scare you skinny before you repent? If you do get right, merely through fear of Hell, most of you will be miserable professors of *religion*.

REPENT!

When a man discovers he is on the wrong train, he doesn't have to become afraid of having a wreck to make him leave and get on the right one.

I thank the Lord that a good case of conviction caused me to see the awful consequences of my sin, and to smell the rottenness of my own soul and sickening life of shame. Then He gave me a heavenly desire to live right and respectable, not only for my soul's sake, but for the sake of my friends and — most of all — for the

sake of the Lord Jesus Who loved me so much that while I was yet a sinner and living against Him, He did not cast me off to my rightful judgment.

God knows when fear brings sorrow for sin. The sorrow will last only as long as the fear lasts. When fear is gone, the religion is gone, also. **The only time most sinners act sorry is when they are caught. When fear of punishment is taken away, they are as mean as ever.**



God has given us a warning signal in His Word. If you willfully plow thru all God's barricades which are there to stop you from going to Hell, there is none to blame but yourself. There is no excuse you can give on Judgment Day.

Jesus did not say a word to the Samaritan woman about being damned to try to scare her. He did not say anything about fire and brimstone to Zacchaeus, or to the man at the Pool of Bethesda. Yet, no man can say they were not saved.

When the Prodigal Son came to himself in the hog pen and saw what a fool he had made out of himself, and that it was insane to live in sin, he said, '*I will arise and go to my father and tell him I am unworthy and sorry*'. He was on the wrong track and wanted to get on the right one. He despised himself for the wasted life he had lived, the women he had ruined, the lies he had told, and the lives he had helped wreck. The son confessed the following, as recorded in **Luke 15:21**:



Luke 15:21: And the son said unto him, father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Notice God's Word:

Acts 17:30: [God] commandeth all men every where, to repent.

There are no favorites with God. If you are a millionaire, you must repent. If you are a doctor or a lawyer, you must repent. If you are a good church

member, you must repent. If you have sold your virtue and have lived in the foul pleasures of sin, you must repent.

This repentance business makes us straighten out the wrongs we have done to others, pay back debts, and ask those you have cussed out to forgive you. Furthermore, if you are in an illegitimate business or one in which God does not want you, you will get out and get into something respectable.

We must come to God on His terms in order to be set free from our sins and be delivered from the wrath to come. When you unconditionally surrender your life to Christ, He will give you unconditional pardon. Hallelujah!

We need some old-time, sin-killing, devil-driving, heaven-sent, God-given, soul-saving revival of the old-time religion! Truly, the devil is the one who is causing the present day troubles in the home, in national life, and worldwide. **The only way to get the victory over him is thru our Lord and Saviour.**

Won't you give your heart to Jesus, now? Seek the Lord with all your heart while He may be found. Let Him become real to you and save you from your sins. He will do it, if you will yield to Him.



Jesus calls the Church to repentance, also.

Why are there so many shallow Christians? A short-cut is being taken. **There are many saying “only believe”, and there is no call to repentance.**

Jonah went to Nineveh and preached repentance. They had a revival there in three days. Everybody was on their face before God. It all came about when Jonah's heart began to repent down in the bottom of the sea.



2 Chronicles 7:14: If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

We will not see real repentance of sinners

until the Church repents. Spiritual children take after their spiritual fathers and mothers.

You cannot repent too soon, because you know not how soon it may be too late.

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Church, repent of worldliness which is a blood-sucker to your soul. It is satan's octopus that squeezes the very Presence of God from your countenance and your soul. Too many of you have become dry-eyed, cold, and hard, critical to the preaching of holy living. Your silly grin and snickers are but a condemnation of your own soul, and show that you do not love the Lord.

When God sent me to preach, He called me to smash images and idols. And, God helping me, I will not pet and soft soap your little ole sweet self and make you feel comfortable in robes of self-righteousness. God will not let me varnish the Gospel and sugar-coat holiness. Your religion will be a mockery if you do not live it, just like Lot.

Repentance is not penance. Suppose I go to Lake Erie and stand in the water all night to my neck. Is that repentance? We must be glad to quit the sin business; and, by faith in Jesus, He will give you the power to do it.

Repentance is not penance.

When you are sick of sin, tired of sin, and ready to confess and make restitution, then God will come to your rescue and will furnish His Grace. He will make a new creature out of you in Christ Jesus. Old things will pass away. All things will become new. The drinking habit, the tobacco habit — Jesus will break their fetters.

Proverbs 28:13: He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Isaiah 55:6-7:

⁶ Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near:

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Both sinners and backsliders are called to repentance, back to Christ:

Ezekiel 21:2: Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem, and drop thy word toward the Holy Places, and prophesy against the land of Israel,



Mark 1:14-15:

14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God,

15 And saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel.”

“REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.” Repentance always comes first.

REPENT!

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