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## Repentance

According to Webster's, repent is a verb (it is something we do). It has two components. One is to feel sorrow or regret. The other is "to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life." If a person does not exercise both of these, then they have not repented.

### Jesus Preached Repentance

**Matthew 4:17** – From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**Matthew 9:12-13** – <sup>12</sup> But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. <sup>13</sup> But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to **repentance**. (See also Mark 2:17)

**Matthew 11:20-24** – <sup>20</sup> Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they **repented** not: <sup>21</sup> Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have **repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. <sup>23</sup> And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

**Matthew 12:38-41** – <sup>38</sup> Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. <sup>39</sup> But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: <sup>40</sup> For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they **repented** at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

**Luke 13:1-5** – <sup>1</sup> There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.

**Luke 15:4-7** – <sup>4</sup> What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? <sup>5</sup> And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. <sup>7</sup> I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that **repenteth**, more than over

ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

**Luke 24:36 and 46-49** – <sup>36</sup> And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.... <sup>46</sup> And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: <sup>47</sup> And that **repentance** and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> And ye are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

## The Apostles Preached Repentance

**Mathew 6:7-13** – <sup>7</sup> And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; <sup>8</sup> And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: <sup>9</sup> But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. <sup>10</sup> And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. <sup>11</sup> And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. <sup>12</sup> And they went out, and preached that men should **repent**. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

**Acts 2:38** – 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.

**Acts 3:18-19** – <sup>18</sup> But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> **Repent** ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

**Acts 17:29-31** – <sup>29</sup> Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. <sup>30</sup> And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to **repent**: <sup>31</sup> 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.

**Acts 19:4-6** – <sup>4</sup> Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of **repentance**, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

**Acts 20:20-21** – <sup>20</sup> And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance** toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Acts 26:19-21** – <sup>19</sup> Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: <sup>20</sup> But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should **repent** and turn to God, and do works meet for **repentance**. <sup>21</sup> For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

**2 Corinthians 12:20-21** – <sup>20</sup> For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: <sup>21</sup> And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not **repented** of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

**2 Timothy 2:22-26** – <sup>2</sup> Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. <sup>24</sup> And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them **repentance** to the acknowledging of the truth; <sup>26</sup> And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

**2 Peter 3:9-10** – <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to **repentance**. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

## The Book of Revelation Warns Us To Repent

**Revelation 2:12-17** – <sup>12</sup> And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; <sup>13</sup> I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. <sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. <sup>15</sup> So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> **Repent**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

**Revelation 2:18-23** – <sup>18</sup> And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; <sup>19</sup> I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. <sup>20</sup> Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. <sup>21</sup> And I gave her space to **repent** of her fornication; and she **repented** not. <sup>22</sup> Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they **repent** of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

**Revelation 3:1-3** – <sup>1</sup> And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest,

and art dead. <sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and **repent**. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

**Revelation 3:19-22** – <sup>19</sup> As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent**. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. <sup>22</sup> He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

## The Source of Repentance

**Acts 5:31** – Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

**Romans 2:4** – Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

## False Repentance

**2 Corinthians 7:10** – For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

## Summary

Jesus and his disciples clearly instructed that a person can not be saved without repentance. There are two elements of repentance. One is to feel true sorrow or regret. The other requires us “to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life.” If a person does not exercise both of these, then they have not repented and cannot be saved.

By repenting, one does not save themselves. Through repentance you cannot atone for your sins. Repentance shows that you trust God, that you believe his law is good and that you desire to be obedient to his law.

God is going to put an end to sin. But he has given us freewill. Therefore, God can only save those who love the law and hate sin. If God saved those who have not repented, sin would never end!