

Repentance is No Act But Must Be Active

¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

People go through life with long list of regrets,

But regret is not a commitment to making your relationship with God secure

Repentance does -

Being grieved that God gave us life, liberty, and capacity to Godly love
but each one of us abandons that for the Prince of this World's offering of life, liberty and pursue of personal ambitions

While we all should have the **motivation of ambition**

The goals of ambition are often twisted by the Prince of this World

Ask two acquaintances who knows that you claim to be a Christian, and. ask them what are the two most important values in your life.

Sadly Christian values and virtues will often not be mentioned

²³Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.'

Many believers are playing church and think they are getting by with it

Every believer as time goes on is tempted to ride their faith history instead of writing new area of obedience

But no one here can assure me that I'll see you next Sabbath

So if in this week you could stand before your Creator - what in the World are you doing for Him? I know what He's done for us? But what are we doing that really counts for Him?

Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' ²⁶When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

In this self evaluation we talked about earlier - as we listen to Peter's presentation of the Gospel - has the Word of God been close enough to us that we are turning away from evil? Or are we trying to disguise it with white robes of "being committed to Christ", while living a secret life of sin under it all?

In other words - if you stood before God today, would he say that what you are doing is for Him or for you?

We will never reach the place where we should stand and need to stand until we acknowledge that and COMMIT ALL OUR WAYS TO HIM

"By what power or what name did you do this?"

There is no other name under heaven by which are lives can be changed and transformed from self seeking to selfless serving of others.

⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

So make certain your acts to others done in the name of the Lord are selfless and motivated by desiring God's good for them....

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Otherwise we are little better than the Pharisee who Jesus told about standing on the street corner - beating his chest and saying....I thank God that I'm not like these low lifes.

Abandoning Concern for Righteousness is no better before God than Promoting Wickedness -

If we tolerate it in little places, how can we condemn sin and wickedness at all.

Selfish ambition and Salvation do not co-exist in the Kingdom of God

You are either loving one and despising the other, or you are subserviant to one and rejecting the other

You have the power to be free from sin - you haven't given your heart fully to the Lord...

If you haven't fully given your heart to the Lord...or have taken some back

Are you not in danger of losing your secure position in Christ?

Only one righteousness counts - Walking in Godly Righteousness

If you don't believe me, do a Biblical search and find me scripture that teaches that

Making a "stab" at righteousness or a verbal commitment to righteousness is What God desires.

Remember - unless your righteousness - your commitment, your effort, your mind set, your evaluation of where you are, how you are doing, and what you need to be working on - is all measured by how God sees your current life.---- unless it exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees - who were masters of the appearances of righteousness

You will in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Salvation is not just a commitment to good intentions

It's showing the reality of a commitment that Jesus made and paid for you

It's showing how much after 1970 some years we are grateful for someone releasing

Us for God's just anger at our stubborn failure to walk with Him in all our ways.

"Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

- People make life choices driven by either fear or desire
- Make certain that your's are driven by fear of failing God and desire to be in step with Him

²²For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

Length of the Sin Problem Does Not Prevent Complete Healing from Sin

There are many who limp through life using lame excuses.

This man had had people helping him in his problem, but no one to deliver him FROM his problem.

When you examine yourself or seek to minister to someone else seek full Godly healing and never perpetuate a problem.

Compassion for life situations is only a narrow aspect of love

God has compassion for repentant sinners - but for nothing of this world of sins.

Many more life situations are self inflicted than "beyond anyone's control"

Unable to evaluate what your life values are?

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Look at what your kids prize and are pursuing

What they are largely is what you've taught them to be - in word and deed - You're their prime example

Greater love is found not in enabling sin but in bringing God's full healing to their lives

It's not the physical circumstances of life that oppress us

It's the commitment to this world's values and treasures

Few Christians avoid it completely

**Most have more addiction to what this world calls important **

Few realize the basic truth -

God has given you everything you need to meet His plan for your today

It's a view of life that focuses on personal ease and comfort

Versus God's plan of

Usefulness and contribution to the lives of others.

Which have you chosen - AS GOD KNOWS IT?

Faith of conviction?

Faith of convenience?

When it's easy

When it doesn't crimp what you want to accomplish

Faith of coordination

As you go so goes God's ability to work for you and in you

As you go in Christ, God is able to release the fulness of His plan and provision

As you go on your own, God is no longer able to release the fulness of His plan & provision

When Mother Teresa was passing through a crowd in Detroit a woman remarked, "Her secret is that she is free to be nothing. Therefore God can use her for anything." Christianity Today, Vol. 33, no. 10.

It's not what you make of yourself that counts, it's what you're willing to let God make of you.