

Assurance of Salvation Part 35

Repentance (#5)

The BAD news...

You NEED to repent, but CAN'T.



- You have no power to do so.
- Repentance is contrary to human nature.
- Yet you cannot be saved without repentance.

The GOOD news...

God makes repentance possible.



- If you have repented, it is because of God's power, not yours.
- Our goal is to know if our repentance is GENUINE.
– Because we cannot be saved without repentance.

The NEED to repent

Our sinfulness – Why we NEED to repent
(Last week)

Our hope – Why we CAN repent
(Beginning today)

* We cannot begin to fathom the *
greatness of God's salvation,
UNTIL we comprehend the seriousness of
our sinful condition.



How WE tend to see it.
"Not that bad!"



How GOD sees it .
"Absolute evil!"

GOD is... PURE

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrong.
(Habakkuk 1:13 NIV)

- God may put up with sin for a while ...
 - which is why we aren't struck dead immediately
 - and also why the book of Habakkuk came into existence*... but such a delay of judgment cannot last forever.*
- Without repentance, deserved judgment WILL come.

If we want to live in God's presence,
we need to stop sinning.

- But since sin permeates all that we are, we need **MORE** than this!
- We need:

THE GREAT EXCHANGE!!

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Fairly knight (CC-BY-SA 3.0)

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

We need a complete "**everything** transplant"!

(Well, maybe not "**everything**!")

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

More precisely:

- All the **evil** that defines **us** had to be taken by **Jesus**...
- ... so that **Jesus'** **righteousness** could be taken by **us**.

Cross reacting Jesus Christ - Artist: Youbot (www.youbot.com) ref.: CC-BY-SA 3.0

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

- This is why Jesus had to "**be sin**" for us!
 - **He** was sinless, but on the cross **our** sin was transferred to him. *It saturated his very being.*

God made him who had no sin to **be sin** for us, so that in him we might **become** the **righteousness** of God.
(2 Cor. 5:21 NIV)

THE GREAT EXCHANGE: ITS EFFECTS ON US

#1 – We can have **a confident hope** of a glorious future!

"... **Christ in you**, the **hope** of glory."
(Col. 1:27b NIV)

- The Christian's "hope" is not like the world's "hope."
 - **WORLD**: It's wishful thinking: "I hope so."
 - **CHRISTIAN**: It's confidence based on God's promises. "I can confidently look forward to it."

THE GREAT EXCHANGE: ITS EFFECTS ON US

#2 – We won't take CREDIT for any aspect of our salvation (including our repentance).

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God—
not by works, so that no one can boast.

(Ephesians. 2:8-9 NIV)

– Even our **FAITH** is a gift!

THE GREAT EXCHANGE: ITS EFFECTS ON US

#3 – We won't want to keep on sinning.
How could we love something that killed our Savior?

We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Romans 6:2b (NIV)

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1 Thes. 4:7 (NIV)

THE GREAT EXCHANGE: ITS EFFECTS ON US

#4 – We will want to do good works (= expressions of love).

He saves us for this purpose!

For we are God's workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

(Ephesians 2:10 NIV)

Will we boast or take credit for these good works?

Will we consider them a means of "earning heaven"?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!

BECAUSE OF THE GREAT EXCHANGE...

- Our only appropriate response would be a humble admission of our weakness and God's strength.
- After all, it's **JESUS IN US** that makes it all possible. He is our "power source."



Still want to boast?

Then boast about the one who made the exchange and did the saving!

Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

(1 Cor. 1:31 NIV)

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

(Galatians 6:14 NIV)

Because of this exchange, there are **TWO** types of people.

1 Those who have taken part in the great exchange.

= They DO KNOW GOD.

2 Those who haven't.
= They may know "about" God, but they DON'T KNOW GOD.

1 People who DO know God ... 1

- They know their weakness.

- They make no excuses for their sin.
- They are weak and they struggle with temptation.
- They know the BEST of their goodness is tainted by sin, and influenced by sinful motives.
- They are guilty, worthy of blame, and do not deserve salvation.

1 People who DO know God ... 1

- They know God's strength.

I can do everything* through him who gives me strength.

(Philippians 4:13 NIV)

* ("Everything" – that is, all that honors God.)

1 People who DO know God ... 1

- They have this attitude about themselves and their sins:

"Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Job 42:6 (NIV)

1 People who DO know God ... 1

- They are willing:

- To repent and forsake their sinful ways.
- To trust God:
 - for salvation,
 - for the power to obey him, and
 - for victory over sin and temptation.

1 People who DO know God ... 1

God knows* them!

But the man who loves God is known by God.

1 Cor. 8:3 (NIV)

* (An intimate fellowship and personal relationship that is unknown to the unsaved.)

2 People who DON'T know God... 2

- They're characterized by the word "don't":

- They don't have a reverent fear of God.
- They don't hate their sins, nor themselves as the willful perpetrators of sin.
- They don't despise themselves in "dust and ashes" (not even figuratively speaking).

2 People who DON'T know God... **2**

- They may think they are saved
(perhaps even "entitled" to salvation).
- But they're in for a horrible surprise.

2 People who DON'T know God... **2**

God does not know them.

Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'
Matthew 7:23 (NIV)

YOUR MISSION:

- **MAKE EVERY EFFORT**
to be in "Group 1"
(i.e., people who DO know God)

HOW?

↓

YOUR MISSION:

- **TRUST Jesus**
(the one who made
the "Great Exchange" possible)
and
- **RESPOND appropriately**
(otherwise the "Great Exchange"
has not occurred)

Credits (1)

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