

Assurance of Salvation Part 31

Repentance (#1)

We have just finished looking at
love for God
as a proof of salvation.

Such a love will,
by the very nature of things,
result in a *hatred for sin...*

... not just the sins of *others*, but
even more so, *our own sin*.

People who recognize
and love the beauty of
God's glory ...



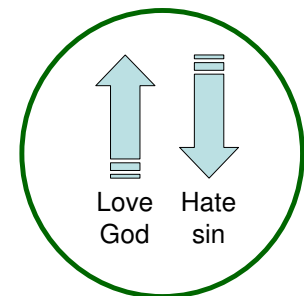
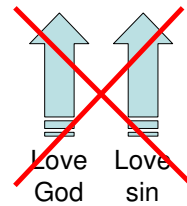
GOD – infinitely
more GLORIOUS
than this



SIN – infinitely
more UGLY
than this

... will recognize and despise
the ugliness and treachery
of their own sin.

NEVER vs. **ALWAYS**



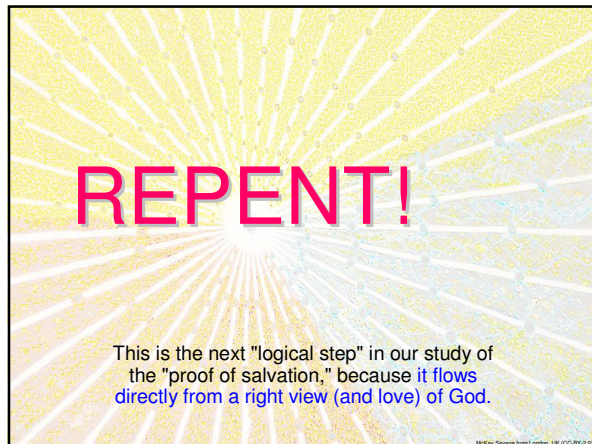
So... If we *love and rejoice* in GOD:

- The *love of SIN* will be IMPOSSIBLE for us.
–We will *hate* and *despise* it.
- The *practice of SIN* will become utterly *repulsive* to us.
(We will *also* hate the "pull" that our sinful nature exerts, trying to drag us into sin.)

The results of our hatred for sin:

- We will change the way we *think* about sin.
- We will change our willingness to *participate* in sin.
- We will *desire* to *do* the will of the God we love.

In other words, we will...




What is "repentance"?

- **Most people:**
 - They rarely use this word.
 - Some have no idea what it even means, except perhaps in a distorted way.
- **What about us?**

(= we who have been studying what "Assurance of Salvation" is all about)

 - By now, we should know!

People may talk about "repentance" in a variety of situations.



- Some good; some not-so-good; some confusing.

It could be the message of an odd-looking "street preacher";



or of someone protesting against the sins of the nation.

(= Out of the ordinary, but not necessarily wrong.)

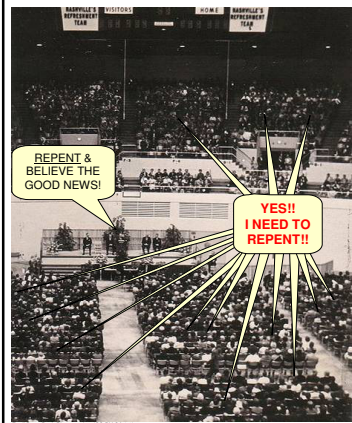




You may hear it from someone who claims the "end of the world" is here.

(As usual, the warning proves to be **FALSE**.)

(= Gives the concept of "repentance" a bad reputation.)



It may be something preached to the **unsaved** at a "revival meeting."

(= A more common situation.)

But how often is it preached to people who are *already saved*?



- Does repentance apply only to the unsaved?



Repentance applies to *ALL* people who are not *SINLESS*.

- Of course, this includes *all unsaved people*.

- It also includes *all saved people* who are still alive and living in this world.

– Are you still alive?
Then it includes *YOU*.



– Only if you have died and entered the presence of Jesus, do you no longer need to repent.

**BUT THE NATURE
OF THE REPENTANCE
IS DIFFERENT
FOR EACH GROUP.**

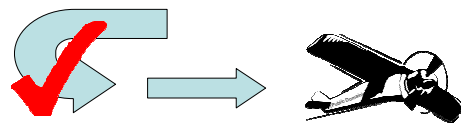
How the *UNSAVED* need to repent

- This is the *initial step* that people must take, to follow Jesus. They must recognize their sinful ways and reject them.
- It involves a complete turn around.



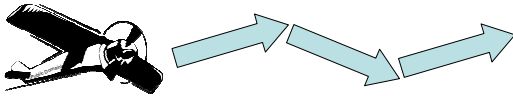
How the *SAVED* need to repent (1)

- This is the *ongoing process* that is needed, in order to become more like Christ.
- They have already made the initial turn-around.



How the **SAVED** need to repent (2)

- They still have sins and imperfections to deal with.
- Their repentance involves adjustments and corrections, to keep on the "straight and narrow."



Repentance is received as a **GIFT from God.**



God exalted [Jesus] ... that he might **give** repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.
(Acts 5:31 NIV)

[They] praised God, saying, "So then, God has **granted** even the Gentiles repentance unto life."
(Acts 11:18b NIV)

Yet it is also **an act of human responsibility.**

- So **DO IT**, rather than waiting until you "feel" that God is giving you the gift!
- But **MAKE SURE** that your repentance is **genuine!**

WHY?

(We're glad you asked!)



YES, YOU!!



As with all of God's gracious gifts, there is a counterfeit:

Remorse without change.

- **Remorse** – **sorrow** about what has happened, but no actual change in values and conduct.
- **Repentance** – includes **sorrow**, but also a **change** in the way we think and act.

Judas – a good example of remorse

Judas ... was filled with remorse.
(Matthew 27:3a NLT)

- But instead of repentance, he went out and hanged himself.

Then Judas ... went out and hanged himself.
(Matthew 27:5 NLT)



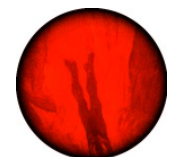
Did hanging himself solve the problem?

• **NO!!!**

Things only got worse.

Where did he go?
HINT:

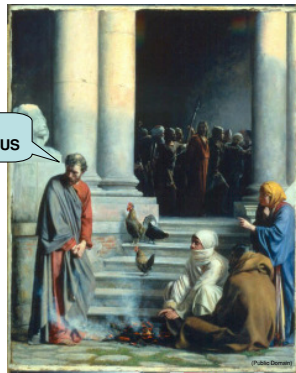
"... Judas the traitor ... has deserted us and **gone where he belongs.**"
(Acts 1:25 NLT)



Peter – a good example of repentance

- Though he denied Jesus three times ...

I DON'T KNOW JESUS



He repented!

- He "turned around" and things changed.
- He became one of Jesus' greatest followers, and an important leader in the church.

I FOLLOW JESUS; I LOVE JESUS

THE BIG DIFFERENCE:

Judas "hung around";
Peter "turned around."

FOLLOW
PETER'S EXAMPLE!



LESSONS WE LEARN

- Judas: Remorse** (sorrow without change):
 - "When you reach the end of your rope, things will only get worse."
- Peter: Repentance** (sorrow with change):
 - "With the humility of repentance, God will graciously lifted you from the 'pit' of sin you have fallen into."

(More about Peter)

- Jesus accepted Peter back.**

[Jesus] said to [Simon Peter], "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter ... said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. (John 21:17 NIV)

Paul describes it this way:

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret,

= Like **PETER**



but **worldly sorrow** brings death. [= **ETERNAL DEATH**]

(2 Corinthians 7:10 NIV)

= Like **JUDAS**



... and then things got worse.

YOUR MISSION (if you have died)

- If you are **dead** and have entered eternity:

YOU NO LONGER HAVE NEED TO REPENT

It's too late if you haven't already done so.

(Besides, if you're DEAD, why are you reading this?)

YOUR MISSION (if you are still alive)

- If you are still alive and in this present world:

YOU NEED TO MAKE REPENTANCE A WAY OF LIFE

(Do it while you can!)

YOUR MISSION (the final realization)

- If your repentance is GENUINE:

– It will be a way of life – specifically, YOUR way of life.

– It will be evidence that your salvation is genuine.

[NEXT: We begin looking at the three aspects of what repentance is all about.]

Credits (1)

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