

Repentance unto Life

Acts 11:18

September 30, 2007

I. Duty

The Lord Jesus described repentance as a vital part of His Gospel message. (Mar.1:14,15; Luk.13:3,5)

The preaching of repentance had a vital part in the Gospel preached by the Apostles Peter and Paul. (Act.2:38; 2Pe.3:9; Act.17:30; 20:21)

Our Church's confession of faith says, "We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties..."

These brethren understood that without repentance there was no eternal life. (Act.11:18)

II. Definition

The word repentance as used in the New Testament speaks of "a change of mind", a radical change which evidences a change in our nature.

III. Description

Repentance is a turning from self-centeredness unto God-centeredness. (Mat.22:36-38; Rom.1:20-21; Isa.53:6; Psa.53:2-3; 58:3; Luk.14:26)

Repentance is forsaking our idols as our gods to God as our God. (Gal.4:8; 1Co.12:2; 1Th.1:9; 2Ti.3:4-5)

One of the idols can so easily be a person – one that we adore and serve more than God. (Luk.14:25-26)

Repentance is a turning from our sins: uncovering them, owning up to them for what they are, and forsaking them. (Rom.1:18; Pro.28:13; 1Jo.1:9)

Repentance is a turning from trusting in our own works of righteousness to trust only the Lord Jesus and what He has done. (Phi.3:8-9)

IV. Deception

There is something that looks like repentance that is not unto life, but rather unto death, eternal death. It is sorrow because things didn't go my way, that I got caught, or for the consequences. (2Co.7:10-11)

V. Derivation

You won't come to God in repentance if God doesn't do something first. (Joh.6:44; Eph.2:1; Joh.3:3; 5:40; Act.11:18)

GOD GRANTS THE REPENTANCE. He is the source of it! Angels in Heaven will acknowledge, "He granted us repentance." (Act.11:18; Luk.15:6-7)

It is my duty to turn from self, sin, and idols in genuine repentance toward God and to trust in His Son as my only Lord and Savior.

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.