

Banner

"You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of truth." Psalm 60:4



*"Pleasing God,
Making Disciples
of
Jesus Christ"*

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF QUIDNESSETT BAPTIST CHURCH

Repentance. What comes to your mind with the word? Remorse? Sorrow? Maybe similar terms relating to sin or making mistakes in life, but does that cover the breadth of the term? Someone has said, "A good case could be made out for believing that repentance is one of the least used words in the Christian church today." That statement is worthy of pondering. How much do

we know about this essential element of the Gospel message? When I think of the word "repentance" it does bring up thoughts of being sorry. Paul tells the Corinthians that this element is present when true repentance is granted by God to the penitent person (2 CORINTHIANS 7:10). Yet,

my understanding of repentance must go deeper to match the Biblical truth of the word.

One of the most comprehensive definitions I have come across was penned by A.W. Pink in his book, GENUINE SALVATION. Pink writes, "True repentance issues from a realization in the heart, wrought therein by the Holy Spirit,

"True repentance is complete and thorough. It includes the heart, the mind, and will."

of the sinfulness of sin, of the awfulness of ignoring the claims of God and defying His authority. It is therefore a holy horror and hatred of sin, a deep sorrow for it, an acknowledging of it before God, and a complete heart-forsaking of it." That is very thorough!

So, in this issue of THE BANNER, we will look at repentance and particularly its necessary work in the whole of our being.

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GOSPEL GLIMPSES

REPENTANCE: THE HEART

I wonder if the lawyer was prepared for the answer Jesus gave him. Gathered in one of the first ever small group ministry, a bold but unwise question rose from this seemingly bright individual. I say, "seemingly" because check out his motive - "And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question to test Him" (MATT. 22:35). A human testing the Creator? And a sinful human at that? Not bright at all.

Jesus responded, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind" (MATT. 22:36).

Paul tells us godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death (COR. 7:10).

What is the distinct difference? Here it is. A worldly repentance is based exclusively on self and how the consequences of not repenting impact self. Ask anyone if they want to go to hell. No sane person will reply, "Of course." A false repentance will include a terror of hell and the personal consequences of sin, but the focus is entirely on getting out of the eternal "jam" sin places us. Don't misinterpret. We do come to Jesus to escape the wrath to come (I THESS. 1:10). However, salvation is not about fire insurance. It is about reconciliation.

When we are confronted with Jesus' response to the lawyer with the greatest command, the sensitive soul lowers itself and humbly, with grief, and great remorse, confesses, "I have not done that. My life has not been characterized by loving my

God, with every ounce of my being." What becomes so vivid in the heart of the one being granted true repentance is the awareness of how short we fall in our total depravity and ability to keep this supreme command. A.W. Pink writes, "He (God) is infinitely entitled to be loved with all our hearts, worshipped with fullest adoration, and served with joyous, perfect, and unremitting obedience."

As God shows us our failure in this area - both unbeliever and believer - the humility found in true repentance causes us to grieve over sin for God's sake, not ours. And quickly we seek grace and cleansing in the Blood of the Lord Jesus.

The heart then becomes pliable experiencing God's love spread about (ROM. 5:8) and reciprocating back to Him in loving obedience.

THE PASTOR'S PEN

REPENTANCE: THE MIND

I've been struggling with the whole idea of Biblical love. Oh, I know all the "right" words. I got a handle on Biblical concepts of love like "sacrifice, giving, helping, affection, and dying to self." But having a "handle" on the "right" words doesn't mean I have a "handle" on consistently living the right words. I want to, but there is still too much of me getting in the way.

The area of challenge I am facing is when Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind" (MATT. 22:36). I think I know a little about "heart" love for God. It points to "felt affection." And I might be able to acknowledge with some confidence loving the Lord my God with "all my soul." It makes me realize I am

bought with a price, all of me, because of Divine Love (1 COR. 7:23) and to love God back with all of me is proper and desirable. But the third part of Jesus' statement appears a little odd. I don't equate love with having an intellectual component. However, Jesus makes it clear that if I am to love God correctly, it involves my thinking and this component is indispensable also to true repentance.

The essential sense of the word "repent" in the New Testament is "to change." It is composed of two parts. The first part means "to change" and the second means "mind." Combined we get the familiar, fundamental definition of repent as "to change one's mind" and that toward sin.

When true repentance is granted by God, our mind has a completely different view of sin than before. J. Edwin Orr in his book, MY ALL, HIS ALL wrote this concerning the

definition of repent, "a revolution of thought."

To drive the mind component of repentance deeper in our lives, two things must be in our thinking. First the awareness of sin, personal sin, is based on knowledge. I may feel bad about sin but feelings deceive. The standard for knowing sin is objective. It is the law of God found in the ten commandments and the great command (ROM. 7:7). It is an objective standard not subject to wavering subjectivity. The second thing that must be in our minds about sin and repentance is the target is exclusively God. He has been offended. He has been spurned. His Person slighted.

When these truths permeate the mind, the work of Jesus becomes more precious. So, repentance must include my thinking just like my love for God. May He help us to have repenting and loving minds!



Repentance

Richard Owen Roberts
Crossway Books
Paperback, 346 pages

Do you know what the very first words from our Lord in His first sermon? Repent. Mark 1:15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel."

In the book under review, Richard Owen Roberts breaks down the myths of what much of contemporary evangelicalism claims are marks of true repentance and gives us a thorough and Biblically understanding of this eternally significant truth.

J. I. Packer writes on REPENTANCE, "Roberts writes to remind us that the real measure of our faith is our repentance - something that we too often forget."

For the believer seeking a greater understanding of the subject, few books cover it with such depth. It will bless you with a sound, readable, and Biblically knowledge of repentance.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"The Christian life is one of daily repentance."

MARTIN LUTHER

OUR DAILY WALK

REPENTANCE: THE WILL

Adam and Eve did a number on us. When they disobeyed God, we suffered both separation from God and the total inability to fix the problem. Paul tells us the world is "captured by Satan to do his will" (2 TIM. 2:26). He further describes our problem as being "dead in trespasses and sins" (EPH. 2:1). Dead means dead. Go to a cemetery and watch all the activity. Outside of the Lord Jesus, we lack any power to deal with sin or desire to do so. That is why repentance is a gift not a choice (2 TIMOTHY 2:25. However, when true repentance is experienced and continues in the life of the Christian, an exercise of the will against sin occurs.

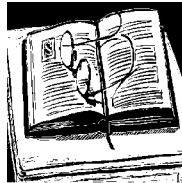
Salvation in the Lord Jesus dealt a complete death blow to sin.

We are free from its penalty. Christ's death paid it all (1 JOHN 2:2). We are free from its presence (2 PETER 3:13). Not now, but for sure in the future and we are free from its power (ROM. 6).

However, ROMANS 6 does not just get "zapped" into our daily Christian living. It requires a resolute exercise of the will. Constantly. It is after salvation we have the ability to choose. In the life of repentance, the will forcibly fights against sin. The will wages a war of hatred against all sin.

If we are not growing more bitterly opposed to remaining sin in our lives, we fail to understand God's plan of sanctification. And the life of sanctification includes daily repentance turning from all sin by our wills exercised under the power of God's Spirit.

DID YOU KNOW?



David Livingstone was a failed missionary, lost explorer, and one of the monumental figures of the 1800's.

- Though Livingstone is remembered as a missionary, only one-third of his 30 years in Africa were spent in the service of a mission board. Even during that time, he went his own way, often ignoring the advice of colleagues and superiors.
- Livingstone closely connected mission work with social and economic progress. The only way to fight the slave trade in Africa, he said, was through "Christianity, Commerce, and Civilization."
- He was determined to become a missionary to China but was prevented from doing so by the outbreak of the Opium War.
- From his earliest years in Africa, Livingstone was often critical of fellow missionaries. Soon after he arrived in Cape Colony, he wrote, "The missionaries in the interior are, I am grieved to say, a sorry set . . . I shall be glad when I get away into the region beyond - away from their envy and backbiting." He added that there was no more affection between them and himself than there was between his "riding ox and grandmother."
- At age 10, Livingstone worked 14-hour days in a cotton factory, followed by two hours of night school.

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Teach me
your way,
O LORD,
& I will
walk in
your truth...
Psalm 86:11

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QBC HAPPENINGS

AUGUST 2008

- Day Camp will be held August 4th through 8th from 8:45 a.m. to noon.
- Second Saturday of service will be held August 5th, meeting in the library at 8:45 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 2008

- Young at Heart annual picnic will be held Tuesday, September 9th at 12:00p.m.
- Second Saturday of service will be held September 13th, meeting in the library at 8:45 a.m.
- QBC family picnic will be held September 13th at the home of Cheryl Johnson.

THE QUIDNESSETT

Banner

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