The Importance of Repentance

**Level 4 Lesson 13**

**Teens**

* **Text**

 **“What must I do to be saved?”**

*Act 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

*Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

* **Lesson**

The Jews had crucified the Lord. When they heard Peter preach on the day of Pentecost, they were convicted! They found themselves in a very scary position. So, they asked the Apostles for help to find a way out of their dilemma. Think about it! You thought you were helping God out by getting rid of that guy that was constantly claiming to be God. You learned from a child that there is only one God, and He can’t be that man, Jesus! Then you find out that He really was God in the form of a man, who came to redeem mankind from their sins! What a horrible situation!!! They figured that the Apostles were the closest people to Jesus at that time, so they asked for help.

Peter preached the first message after Jesus rose from the grave to these men.

*Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Hopefully, everyone in this class has been through the steps of salvation. If you haven’t, when we get through these next few lessons you will have a full understanding of how to be saved and be able to teach others also!

Everyone needs to know what they must do to be saved!!!

The first step of salvation is **repentance.** We are going to fully study the importance of repentance.

**Webster’s dictionary states that repentance means “to feel sorry or self-reproach for what one has or hasn’t done; to feel so contrite over one’s sins as to change or decide to change one’s ways.”**

*2 Cor 7: 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but that sorrow of the world worketh death.*

The sorrow of the world worketh death; while Godly sorrow worketh repentance, causing us to change our mind and our direction. This type of sorrow or repentance is not to be repented of. We are not to regret or feel sorry about changing our ways.

Often, when you read about death or life in the Bible, it is talking about death as in eternal death, or hell, and life as in eternal life, or heaven.

Feeling sorry for, or regretting things you have done wrong, isn’t “Repentance from Dead Works.” We must have more than a feeling of sorrow so deeply felt that it produces a change of mind, attitude, and direction. Many are deeply sorry when they get caught or exposed. Sometimes they are sorry they can’t give up their sins, so they can go to heaven. This is not repentance, because nothing has changed.**REPENTANCE PRODUCES CHANGE.**

Repentance is turning from, repenting of, and changing our mind about the works, or actions that produce spiritual death, or separation from God in our lives.

*Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*

*Rom 5:19 For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin**abounded, grace did much more abound:**21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

We have all sinned and need repentance. It doesn’t matter how “bad” you are. Obeying the scriptures regarding repentance puts us under grace! Thankfully, grace does abound!!! There is enough grace for all of us to repent! What a great deal!

*James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

Death! That doesn’t mean you are going to keel over dead if you sin! It means that you are headed to eternal death, which is Hell.

*Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Your paycheck for sin is death (Hell). Heaven is your gift for resisting sin.

*Eph 2:1And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

*Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.*

*Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead words to serve the living God?*

*Gal 5: 16 This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.
18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.
19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
21 Envying’s, murders, drunkenness, revelling’s, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

According to the scriptures there are some things a person must do that prove to God and man that one has repented.

*Matt 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance…*

*Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.*

*Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance…*

**RESTITUTION***- restoring of things taken, damages, and damaged relationships.*

This is one way of acting on repentance.

**MEET**- In the verses above meet means *suitable, proper, fitting, appropriate, worthy, and becoming.*

Now let’s look at a few more scriptures about repentance.

*Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
15 And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

*2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

*Rom 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;
6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:
7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:
8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,
9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;*

*Acts 17:30 and the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:*

*2 Tim 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*

*Luke 13:3 I tell you, nay: but expect ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

*Mark 2:17 when Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, they that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

*Luke 24:47and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

*Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

After you are born again there will be times that you will fail God. We deal with that sin just as we did when we came to God-**WE REPENT!**

*1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son clenseth us from all sin.
8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

*Prov 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but who so confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

*Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.*

*Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

*Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;
15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

When we repent of our sins, God truly does forgive us. One thing that you may notice about some people that come to church is that they don’t believe that God would truly forgive them for their sins. We don’t want to be guilty of the sin of “unbelief.” God’s word states very clearly that He will forgive us if we repent, so we must believe that He does! If it is written, it is so!!!!

*Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

* **Activity**

Have the class look up the definitions of all the works of the flesh in Galatians chapter 5:19-21. You could have them write them on 3x5 cards, or in a notebook. It is enlightening to learn what these words mean. Sometimes we think we know, but we will find ourselves face-to-face with our flesh in these verses. It is good to have Bible dictionaries and other good dictionaries on hand for every class.

Whatever you go through in life, if you will get your sins repented as quickly as possible, you will have the assurance of salvation, great peace, and joy unspeakable! Remember, this is just the first step in the plan of salvation. We will talk more in depth about water baptism and the infilling of the Holy Ghost in other lessons.