

## **WHAT IS REPENTANCE?**

REPENTANCE is a word that many professing Christians shy away from. Some wrongly teach that repentance is not even necessary for salvation. They hold to a form of what is called “Easy Believism” that claims since we are saved by FAITH ALONE this omits any idea of the necessity of repentance. In reality REPENTANCE is a necessary part of true saving faith. Yes, we are saved by FAITH ALONE, but the very nature of a SAVING FAITH involves the element of repentance.

### **Luke 13:5 (NKJV)**

**5** I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

### **2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)**

**9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

## **DEFINING REPENTANCE:**

- a) The Greek word translated as **repentance** is **METANOIA**. **Meta** means change. **Noia** means mind. Repentance is literally “a change of mind”.
- b) Repentance involves a genuine change of mind that in turn affects the life.
- c) Repentance is essentially a change of mind. It has an intellectual, an emotional, and a volitional aspect.  
**-Henry Clarence Thiessen, LECTURES IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, p. 269**
- d) Repentance is that change of attitude about one's self, one's sin, and God, which involves the whole personality - mind, emotions, and will. In varying degrees, it always accompanies true faith.

### **-RBC. WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT DOCTRINE?**

- e) Repentance involves both a change of mind about sin, and a change of heart attitude toward sin.  
**-THE ZONDERVAN PICTORIAL BIBLE DICTIONARY, p. 711**
- f) Repentance is a change of mind toward the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This change of mind inherently includes and involves a change of mind toward sin. THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN

EMBRACE THE CHRIST FOR WHO HE IS AND HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN!

***REPENTANCE INVOLVES A CHANGE OF MIND TOWARD SIN:***

At the preaching of Jonah, the people of Nineveh “turned from their evil way” (Jonah 3:10) which Jesus called repentance in Matthew 12:41.

John the Baptist came preaching “a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins” meaning that a person on the basis of repentance had remission of sins which was then indicated in being baptized (Mk. 1:4-5). Christ came to call sinners to repentance (Lk. 5:32). There is joy in heaven over the sinner who repents (Lk. 15:7, 10).

After His resurrection, Jesus said that “repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations” (Lk. 24:47). In Acts 3:26 Peter told the Jews that Jesus was sent to bless them “in turning every one of you from your iniquities.”

Jesus told Paul that he was sent to the Gentiles “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.” (Acts 26:18).

Paul in Romans 2:3-4 explains that the goodness of God leads to repentance. The very basic truth of the faith involves “the foundation of repentance” (Heb. 6:1). God is “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).

After the terrible plagues of the sixth trumpet the survivors will still refuse to repent (Rev. 9:20-21). After the fifth bowl judgment the people blasphemed God and still refuse to repent (Rev. 16:11). Throughout the entire Bible we see that God demands repentance which consistently involves a change of mind with regard to sin that is then reflected in the life.

A TRUE saving faith is a “change of mind” kind of faith! It involves a change of mind about sin and a change of mind about Jesus. You can’t have one without the other.

In Acts 20 Paul summarized the nature of his ministry in this way:

**Acts 20:21 (NKJV)**

**21** testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Certainly we are saved by FAITH ALONE, but it must be a change of mind kind of faith.