

Repentance Pt 2 Israel's preparation for receiving Messiah- repent

This is our second teaching on the topic of repentance. In our first study we covered three points: (I) Israel were to turn to the LORD with all their heart, with fasting, with weeping and mourning, and rend their heart, (ii) the prophets besought Israel to repent, and (iii) the Lord repented when Israel repented, He turned from His fierce wrath and the evil that He thought to do, because He is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness. In this teaching we will cover three points- (I) John the Baptist (JTB) baptized and preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, (ii) Jesus preached saying- the kingdom of God (KOG) is at hand: repent and believe the gospel, and (iii) Jesus' disciples went out and preached to the lost house of the sheep of Israel: that men should repent.

The Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. JTB baptized and preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins

"John did baptize...and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" (Mk 1:4). See Lk.3: 3.

In Acts- Paul refers to JTB, that he:

* preached before Christ, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel

"When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel" (Acts 13: 24).

* preached the kingdom of heaven is at hand: **prepare the way of the LORD** as spoken by Isaiah

[1] In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

[2] And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

[3] For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. (Matt.3: 1-3).

* baptized with the baptism of repentance- saying to the people- **believe on Him** which should come after him- **that is on Christ Jesus**

"Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus" (Acts 19:4)

2. Jesus preached saying- the KOG is at hand: **repent and believe** the gospel

[14]...after...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.

Mark 1:14, 15. See also Matt. 4:17.

Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance

Mk 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.

3. Jesus' disciples went out and preached to the lost house of sheep of Israel: that men should repent

[7] And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

[8] And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

[12] And they went out, and preached that men should repent. (Mk.6:7-8,12)

The rich man in hell asked Abraham if he would send Lazarus from the dead to speak with his five brethren- but Abraham said they have Moses and the prophets, Lazarus said nay, but they will repent if one returns from the dead

[16] And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

[19] There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple...and fared sumptuously every day:

[27] Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

[28] For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
[29] Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
[30] And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
Luke 16:20, 27-30

Isn't that so often the case- we want to set our own rules for God to follow before we turn to Him, but the fact is, we have all been given what we need to repent.

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

A preacher today proclaims the gospel of Christ-crucified- which a lost person chooses to receive as payment for their sin debt: believing, turning from their sin and turning to God; or pay for their own sin in hell. I have heard preachers further encourage the lost to receive, believe and so repent- by including the coming "great tribulation", once believers are raptured, and then the LORD Jesus returns to rule and reign.

[11] And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

[15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

[16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev.19:11,15,16). Hence, today, until we are raptured, we are all forerunners to Christ's return!

Questions to think about.

- i) Why did John the Baptist, Jesus and His disciples exclusively preach repentance to Israel?
- ii) What is the difference & similarities between repentance in the Gospels & early Acts, and today?

Our answers from the scriptures.

i) JTB, Jesus and His disciples preached exclusively to the Jews because they were the children of God, and they were sinful, and it was their Messiah that was coming (for John who was the forerunner), or for His disciples- Messiah was here, so: turn from your sins- bring forth works worthy of repentance, In doing so they would believe Jesus to be Messiah.

ii) Similarities- Repentance is evident to God, by the person changing:

* doing work 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".

* Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance- Lk.3:8- "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (and not bringing forth excuses).

Differences:

Recorded as actions in the early church- when a person repented of wickedness- God forgave them.

[18] And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

[19] Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

[20] But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

[21] Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

[22] Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. (Acts 8: 18-22).

Today: we are forgiven, when we receive and believe the gospel of Christ crucified (that was given to Paul- as detailed in 1 Corinthians 15: 1- 4) Christ's blood washes away our sin, we are redeemed through His blood, we have forgiveness of sins through faith in His blood- Eph.1:7- "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace"

Whereas, repentance takes place when we confess our sin, and turn away from them and do work meet for repentance (which those in Corinthian church did not do- 2 Cor.12: 21).

Let us never, cease to repent from our sin, but confess our sin and bring forth fruit for repentance. Amen!