

Repentance Pt 3 Godly repentance bears works worthy of repentance

This is our third and final teaching on the topic of repentance. In our previous study we covered three points: (i) John the Baptist (JTB) baptized and preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, (ii) Jesus preached the kingdom of God 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.. In this teaching we will cover three points- (i) the goodness of God leads us to repentance (turn from sin), (ii) a teacher is to be gentle, meek, instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth, and (iii) pastors bewail those who have not humbled themselves and repented.

The Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The goodness of God leads us to repentance (turn away from our sin)

[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; (Rom.2.4, 5)

The LORD is merciful, and abundant in goodness and truth

[6] And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

[7] Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. (Ex.34:6, 7)

The goodness of God endures continually

[“Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually (Ps.52:1).

The LORD leads His people to Himself a glorious name!

“As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name. (Is.63: 14).

2. A teacher is to be gentle, meek, instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth

[24] And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

[25] In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

[26] And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. (2 Tim.2: 24-26)

The acknowledging of the truth is after godliness

“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; (Tit 1:1)

We communicate our faith effectually by the acknowledging of every good thing which in Christ

“That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus” (Philemon 1:6)

3. The overseers bewail those who have not humbled themselves and repented

“And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed” (2 Cor 12: 21).

God resists the proud (those who refuse to repent and humble themselves)

[5] Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

[6] Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God...(1Pet.5: 5,6).

We are to put on bowels of mercies, kindness, meekness and humbleness of mind- Col.3:12- "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies...humbleness of mind, meekness..."

Illustration

Many on the street that profess to be saved that pass by are discouraged and burdened by sin, struggling to deal with their flesh or the enemy. They get so tired of repenting that they have almost given up saying the words. Their heart and souls are bearing the effects of repentance that is not godly, but shallow words, that have gradually become more and more faint as the years pass. But nevertheless, for those that are truly saved, born again by the Spirit of God, and therefore new creatures in Christ, there is hope according to the scriptures. God is always ready to help them turn from their sin, when they have a heart to purge the dross. For those who stop, listen to the encouragement from the scriptures, and my own personal testimony of struggles and victories, they leave with a renewed willingness to continue on with a glimmer of hope.

Questions to think about.

i) How does the goodness of God lead us to repentance? ii) Why would a Christian not repent from their sin? iii) What is the outcome of godly repentance? iv) Why would we repent- sin again, repent, sin again and repent. And continue this cycle?

Our answers from the scriptures.

i) The goodness of God leads both the lost man and the saved man to repentance-
- The lost person is led to repent (to turn from his sin) because God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son- "that the world through him might be saved" (Jn.3:16)

- The saved person is led to repent because:

* The Lord does not impute his sin- Rom.4: 8- "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin".

* They are imputed with the righteousness of God

[22] And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

[24] But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; (Rom.4:22, 24).

If God does not impute our sin to us, and we are imputed with His righteousness- how can we not repent and turn from sin??

ii) A Christian would not repent- if the god of this world has blinded their minds, they handle the word of God deceitfully, or by their sin they quench the Holy Spirit and so are not convicted. Outward signs of such a stubborn unwillingness to repent would be: they have no peace and would be in the bowels of chastisement.

iii) Godly repentance, is where

a) Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation- not to be repented of - 2Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

b) Turn to God and do works meet for repentance

"But shewed first unto them...at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judæa, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" (Acts 26: 20). See also -Rev 2:5

c) Turn from error and acknowledge truth - 2 Tim.2: 25- "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth".

iv) The cycle of repetitive repentance for the same sin is an outward sign that the words "I repent" are not with all of our heart, our repentance therefore is NOT godly sorrow which works repentance. Eventually you either slacken off on the repentance, or give up altogether from turning from your sin, OR, you will dig deep and never give up, seeking God with every breath for help: for He will help you to repent. For me it was the realisation that God does not impute my sin to me, and I have received His righteousness.

The LORD said to the woman caught in adultery- "Go and sin no more"- do work meet for repentance- regardless of the age, or generation we live in- repentance is about turning away from sin- which is motivated by the heart. And when we are snared it can only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, repent and do works meet for your repentance, and your life will change- to the glory of God!