

100 BIBLE LESSONS

These lessons were originally given at Manila, Philippines, in 1958 and 1959 by former missionary to China, Alban Douglas. Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 5 – REPENTANCE

INTRODUCTION

Under the Old Testament order of law and sacrifices the people confessed their sin, offered a sacrifice and then often returned to repeat the sin.

Gospel repentance is turning from sin and turning unto God. Acts 20:21, *Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

It is called "repentance unto life," because the new mind is not merely to depart from evil, but to obtain the life that is found in Christ. Acts 11:18, *Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*

It is also called repentance unto salvation as that is its object. 2 Cor. 7:10, *For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.* As it is not to be repented of again it means that one is not to return again to that sin; it infers a changed attitude toward sin; not going back to iniquity.

I. DEFINITION OF REPENTANCE

1. Negative – Repentance is not merely sorrow for sin; there are many who weep over sin but without repentance immediately return to the same sin.

Doing penance is not repentance, for it gives the sinner some merit to earn in order to gain salvation and often hinders true repentance.

Judas Iscariot and Esau showed sorrow for sin but they did not repent. Heb. 12:17, *He (Esau) found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.* Remorse and tears often accompany repentance, but they are not repentance in themselves.

2. Positive – It is a change of mind that leads to a change of conduct. Mt. 21:28-32, the boy at first refused to work in the vineyard but later repented, changed his mind and then went and actually worked in the vineyard.

II. NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE

1. All need to repent because all are guilty in God's sight. Jesus first sermon after the baptism and testing in the wilderness was on repentance. Mt. 4:17, *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* Lk. 13:3, Jesus preaching said, *Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*
2. Repentance comes before believing. Mk. 1:15, *...repent ye, and believe the Gospel.*
3. Repentance comes before forgiveness, Lk. 24:47, *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations.*
4. Repentance comes before conversion. Acts 3:19, *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.*
5. God commands repentance. Acts 17:30, *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.*

III. IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

Repentance is a very prominent subject in the Scriptures, being mentioned over one hundred times in the Bible.

Repentance was the theme of John the Baptist. Mt. 3:1-2, *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

When Jesus sent forth His disciples to preach, He commanded them to preach repentance. Mk. 6:12, *And they went out, and preached that men should repent.*

After Pentecost the disciples preached repentance. 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.*

This was the message of the Apostle Paul, too. Acts 20:21-22, *And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shown you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The burden of the heart of God is that all should repent. 2 Pet. 3:9, *The Lord is not ... willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Failure to obey God here will lead to eternal damnation. Lk. 13:3, *Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

IV. THE NATURE OF REPENTANCE

1. As touching the intellect. Mt. 21:29, *He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.* The lad changed his mind, thoughts and views.

Repentance is a revolution touching our attitude and views toward sin and righteousness.

Repentance teaches us to hate sin and learn to love holiness and purity. The prodigal son repented; he changed his mind about living in a far country and decided to return to his father's household as a servant.

When Peter at Pentecost asked the Jews to repent, he meant for them to change their minds about the Person of Christ. From considering Jesus a mere man, a blasphemer or an impostor, to recognizing Him as the Son of God, the Messiah, the Redeemer of the world.

2. As touching the emotions. 2 Cor. 7:9, *Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance.* Very often feelings play a great part in repentance; repentance is a hard battle.

Lk. 10:13, *They (Tyre and Sidon) had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.*

Lk. 7:44, *...but she hath washed my feet with tears...(demonstrating repentance).*

The publican in Luke 18:13, smote upon his breast indicating sorrow of heart.

The Greek word for repentance means to cause one great concern.

The Hebrew word for repentance means to pant, sigh, or moan (expressing grief). Ps. 38:18, *For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.*

3. As touching the will. The Hebrew word for repent also means to "turn." Lk. 15:18, 20, the prodigal said, *I will arise...and he arose.*

Repentance is a crisis with a changed experience in view.

Repentance is a twofold act: (1) Turning from sin and (2) turning unto God. Turning from sin without turning to God is reformation without regeneration.

1 Th. 1:9, *...how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*

Acts 26:18, *...to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.*

V. HOW IS REPENTANCE PRODUCED?

Basically it is a gift of God. Acts 11:18, ...*saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.* 2 Tim. 2:25, *If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.* Repentance is a privilege granted to us by God the Father.

As people hear the message of the Gospel the Holy Spirit convicts them of their sin and a great desire to repent comes over the individual as a result. Jonah preached repentance to Nineveh; they believed the message and turned to God. Rom. 2:4, ... *not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

God often uses chastisements or rebukes to cause us to repent of our sins. Rev. 3:19, *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

VI. THE RESULTS OF REPENTANCE

1. All heaven is made glad.

Lk. 15:7, 10, *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

2. It brings pardon and forgiveness of sins. Isa. 55:7, *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

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.* Repentance does not cause one to merit forgiveness; repentance is merely a condition. Repentance prepares a man for pardon but it does not entitle him to it. (After repentance we are still unworthy of the Lord's love and forgiveness).

3. The Holy Spirit is poured out unto the penitent. Acts 2:38, *Repent...an ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

CONCLUSION

All the blessings of God follow the believer's initial repentance. A redeemed sinner should never cease to be penitent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between Old and New Testament repentance?
2. What is the object of repentance according to 2 Cor. 7:10?
3. Define repentance.

4. What are the two aspects of repentance according to 1 Thess. 1:9 and Acts 26:18?
5. Give five points proving the necessity of repentance.
6. How does repentance affect the intellect?
7. How does repentance affect the emotions?
8. How does repentance affect the will?
9. How is repentance produced?
10. What are the results of repentance?