
Repentance From Dead Works

So far in the last lessons, we have learned:

- God is building a house for a dwelling place in the spirit.
 - A Temple
- Everyone transformed is part of that Temple as a living stone.
- Jesus, the Son of God is the cornerstone of the foundation of the house of God.

We learned that we were once in God's presence as His temple, but were deceived into turning from Him.

- Man disobeyed God causing a rebellious heart.
- God was furious at the one who deceived Man, God's adversary
- God promised the adversary would be destroyed by the seed of the woman.
 - This promise is the Good News of restoration.
- Jesus is the "He" God promised us.
- Jesus is promised to bring salvation from the blinders of the deceiver and to bring humanity back to union with God in the garden from which we came from

In this lesson, we will begin to look into the fundamental elements found in Hebrews 6, starting with "Repentance From Dead Works".

What's In Hebrews 6?

- In Hebrews 6 we find the principle elements of our faith. It is a list that is placed for us in the scripture about a foundation.
- It points out elements that are key for laying a solid foundation.
- In Hebrews 5, we see that the writer is addressing people that should be mature but have the need for the elementary principles all over again.
- The people addressed have an understanding of complex Hebraic understanding, yet they are referred to as children.
- The elements in chapter 6, are the oracles of God.
- Do you understand the oracles of God? If not, we haven't made it up to the baseline of what hebrews understood as the principles.

Hebrews 6:1-2

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings (doctrine about baptisms) and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

What Is Repentance?

Repent! Repent!

This is one of the first words that was preached when the Messiah was getting ready to make Himself known.

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” This call is key. Do you hear many sermons, teachings, repentance talks that refer to repentance to a coming Kingdom? We should begin to connect them.

Common Understanding Of Repentance

When you think of repentance, you may think “repent from sin”. This is common, however, repent and sin are two separate elements. One must repent for more than only sin.

- You can repent from buying a simple item from the grocery store.
- Repent is turning from a thing. Whether it is an action, thought, or word.

Matthew 3:1-2

Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

By this point, we have understood the Gospel message and how the message was a look to the coming King who would make all things right again and restore Israel. Now in this message of the coming kingdom, there was a call to repent.

- Repent from what and towards what?
- What does this call to repent have anything to do with the Kingdom that is coming?

While there are many definitions and ways to describe repentance, for example: To feel remorse, being sorry, or regret, there are two main explanations that will explore here. They are to turn and to change your mind. These two will encapsulate the rest of the meanings.

Old Covenant

7725 Shuwb - Phonetic Spelling: (shoob)

to turn back, return to the starting point, recall, recover, drawback, go again, cease.

The Jewish people had the oracles of God from birth, so when they would turn from God, the call of repentance was to “turn around.”

Ezekiel 14:6

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Repent(7725) and turn(7725) away from your idols and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

This passage has two words in it; repent and turn. These are the same Hebrew words and its translated:

- “Turned and be turned...”
- This means to turn and stay turned.

New Covenant

3340 Metaneo

to think differently, to reconsider.

In the new covenant, we now see an outstretched message not only to Jews but now to the Nations. Nations who did not have the oracles from birth. Their oracles were idols, paganism. The call to the nations is to change your mind or reconsider your ways and instead, consider this way.

Acts 26:20

But kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

To Turn

Ezekiel 14:6

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Lord God says: “Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

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.

Isaiah 1:27-28

27 Zion will be redeemed with justice and her repentant ones with righteousness.

28 But wrongdoers and sinners together will be broken, and those who abandon the Lord will come to an end.

Jeremiah 15:6

You who have forsaken Me,” declares the Lord, “You keep going backward. So I will stretch out My hand against you and destroy you; I am tired of relenting! I will winnow them with a winnowing fork At the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy My people; They did not repent of their ways.

What Repentance Looks Like

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Jeremiah 31:17-20

17 There is hope for your future,” declares the Lord, “And your children will return to their own territory. 18 I have certainly heard Ephraim grieving, “You have disciplined me, and I was corrected, Like an untrained calf; Bring me back (turn me) that I may be restored, For You are the Lord my God. 19 For after I turned(7725)(repented) back, I repented(5162)(feel remorse/pity); And after I was instructed, I slapped my thigh; I was ashamed and also humiliated (humbled) because I bore the shame of my youth.’

- Repentance is not emotion alone.
- Repentance may start with emotion because of the regret of an action.
- Repentance must lead to a decision.
- Repentance is ultimately a turning around and emotions alone cannot do that.

In cases of someone feeling remorse for actions taken and becoming emotional about it but not having made an internal choice to not do the thing again, they will do it again.

- This is because the mind hasn't been set to never return.
- To make a turn you have to will to do so. It must be genuine.
- If a turn is not genuine, it will not last.

Going off the eating better analogy, you can believe one thing, have an emotional moment with it, start the process, but you will never finish because your will or mind wasn't fully set to the change.

- In the faith, repentance is radical. The mind should completely turn around, never to return to the previous.
- A complete mind change requires a mind renewal (or a washing of the mind to a new way).
- A mind that isn't fully turned unto a direction is double-minded and a double-minded person is unstable.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

To make straight the path of the Lord is to turn your mind to His ways to not lean to your own understanding. This was the message John was preaching.

Matthew 3:1-2

Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Notice this, Isaiah said John would come preaching these words:

Matthew 3:3

For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’”

Not what John came saying. However, what we can conclude is that both these thoughts are the same.

- One to “repent” and the other to “make ready the way” and “make His paths straight”.
- This would mean that repentance is to make the way of the Lord straight.
- We can conclude that what John said and Proverbs 3:6 are of the same heartbeat.

So imagine John standing on the rock and shouting:

“Turn your mind to the Lord, acknowledge Him in all your ways, Because the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”