

## DISCUSSING REPENTANCE

How important is repentance? Let us take a look at what it means to repent.

Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? Does this verse suggest God has committed a sin that he has to change, or stop doing? Of course not! It is very clear something we do that unless God changes his mind we would PERISH. So "repentance" has to do with changing one's mind about something. Notice nothing is mentioned about going to hell, but we will see the word "perish" is used a lot. It does not mean to "live" in hell fire. Perish means to stop living.

Mt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Jesus now proclaims the kingdom of heaven is being offered by "repenting". There was no new testament written at that time. There was only the old testament gospel available.

Mr 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Here we see one is required to "believe the gospel" to accept the kingdom of God.

Mr 6:12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

The apostles preached the same thing, men have to have a change of attitude (mind) or perish.

Lu 13:5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

The word perish means death, or destroyed, definitely not eternal life in hell, as some teach.

Lu 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. Some use the story parable that Jesus told about the rich man and Lazarus to claim wicked people will burn eternally in an ever burning hell fire. If that is true we would have to question the validity of the word "perish" Jesus used earlier. This parable/story has confused many, thinking it actually happened. If the rich man was actually in hell, being burned himself, do you actually think he would be concerned about his brothers, or if he thought a few drops of water could or would relieve his agony? Jesus was using a parable to illustrate how wrong self centered mankind can reason unaware there is a point of no return. Also, if people would not believe the living they were not going to believe Christ, after his death, either.

Lu 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. If a converted brother is dishonest with you, give him an opportunity to set it right, if he has a change of mind and asks for you to forgive him, do so with open arms.

Lu 17:4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. As often as he shows he is trying to repent we are to forgive him. The person may be repenting, but unable to control his attitude at first because of weakness. We have to practice patience and understanding along with mercy.

Ac 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.

Ac 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;

Ac 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

The above scriptures are in answer to the question of how to be saved. Peter explains there has to be a sincere change of attitude, strong determination to change one's life style, believing God's definition of sin, the gospel, and then be baptized. By so doing one will receive the holy spirit. Peter goes on to explain that one must be "converted" as well as repentant. (Do works meet for repentance.) One must show by their actions that they no longer follow the way of the world.

Ac 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth ALL MEN every where to repent:

Ac 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.

2Co 7:8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.

Paul thought to change his thought at first, but later was glad he had made the right choice (attitude).

Heb 7:21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)  
God will not change His mind.

Re 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and DO THE FIRST WORKS; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Re 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

If these people do not change their attitudes and actions they are headed for great tribulation.

Re 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Re 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Re 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Re 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

There are many verses with similar warning for any who do not REPENT (change attitude and actions).

The next thing to consider is what should one repent of.

Mr.12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt LOVE the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

(God has made it plain all through His word that to love Him is to keep His commandments).

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.