

THE DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE: PART 2

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Luke 24:44-49, Acts 26:12-20

1. Last Sunday night we examined the issue of repentance in the context of the ministry of John the Baptist.
2. Those who were present saw that John's preaching:
 - a. Caused people to come to the realization that they needed to repent.
 - b. Called for people to actually repent.
 - c. Challenged people to bear fruits in keeping with repentance.
3. There are many today who believe that those who stress repentance and the Lordship of Jesus Christ are preaching a salvation of grace plus works instead of pure grace.
4. Some go so far as to say the God is so anxious to save that God's saving grace is so all encompassing that any affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ is sufficient to save.
5. They fail to understand that the grace that saves enables us to both repent and believe.
6. Peter declared to the Jewish leaders: Acts 5:30-32
The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 **Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give (grant as a gift) repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.** 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."
7. Jesus preached repentance and made it clear that a person would perish unless they repented. Luke 13:1-5
There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 **I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.** 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 **I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."**
8. We are going to continue our study of repentance by focusing on the two passages I read earlier.

I. The Command. Luke 24:44-49

- A. Matthew recorded what we refer to as, "The Great Commission." Matt 28:18-20
- B. Luke recorded what I would call "The Great Command."
- C. Jesus pointed out that everything that had been written about Him in the Old Testament had to be fulfilled.
- D. We see this truth illustrated on the cross. John 19:28-30
After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" (See Psalm 22) 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine (Psalm 69:21), He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.
- E. He went on to open up the minds of the apostles to understand the Scriptures.

F. Note again Jesus words in Luke 24:46-47.

Then He said to them, "Thus **it is written, and thus it was necessary** for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and **that repentance and remission of sins (repentance for forgiveness of sins) should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

G. **I have heard numerous sermons on the need to fulfill the Great Commission, but I have never heard a sermon on the need to fulfill the Great Commission by obeying the Great Command.**

H. We cannot make disciples without laying a foundation for repentance.

NOTE: Laying a foundation for repentance involves more than just defining the word and telling people they have to repent.

II. The Call. Acts 26:12-18

A. Jesus concluded, "You are (to be) witnesses of these things ... after you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:48-49

B. In defending himself before King Agrippa Paul shared his testimony.

C. It's clear that Jesus dealt with Paul in much the same way He did the other Apostles.

1. "For this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you."

2. "I am sending you to both the Jews and the Gentiles.

3. "You are to open their eyes so that they may **turn from** darkness to light **and from** the power (dominion) of Satan to (the dominion of) God that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified (set apart) by faith in Me."

Note the faith progression laid out here by our Lord and Savior.

D. As we will see in a moment Paul understood that Jesus was calling him to preach repentance.

III. The Commitment.

A. It is clear that all of the apostles were committed to preaching repentance.

B. Note the following Scriptures:

1. Acts 2:36-40

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." **And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse (crooked) generation."**

2. Acts 3:13-26

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. 14 But you denied the Holy One and the

Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. 16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

17 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. 19 **Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out**, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. 22 **For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'** 24 Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. 25 You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 26 **To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."**

NOTE: Moses clearly declared that those who do not hear the promised Messiah in all things will be destroyed and it is God's servant Jesus who blesses us by turning us from our iniquities (enabling us to repent).

3. Note Paul's words in Acts 17:30-31.

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now commands all men everywhere to repent**, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

4. And again in Acts 20:18-22.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how **I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**

5. Acts 26:19-21 (Back to Paul's testimony) Acts 26:19-20

"Therefore, King Agrippa, **I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance (performing deeds appropriate to repentance)."**

NOTE: We saw that John called on people to "bear fruits in keeping with repentance."

C. We lay the groundwork for repentance as we:

1. Stress man's complicity in the death of Christ.
2. Declare the resurrection, ascension, glorification, and return of Jesus Christ to judge the living and the dead.

NOTE: "Our only escape from the Son of Man, our Judge, is to flee to the Son of Man, our Savior." Dr. Alex Motyer

3. Point out that the wrath of God is stored up against sin and all who reject God's sacrifice for sin, His command to repent, and the redemptive love of God in providing a Savior for all who will genuinely repent towards God and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. I would be remiss if I did not again point out that those who truly repent and turn to God will demonstrate that they did so by performing deeds appropriate to (or in keeping with) repentance.

NOTE: No person can genuinely repent towards God apart from the grace of God.

APPLICATION

1. Many have not obeyed God's command to repent?
2. Subsequently their lives do not manifest deeds appropriate to repentance?
3. The reason that there are so many stillborn, professing Christians is that the church, in many cases, has decided that the way to reach lost people is to downplay issues related to sin and repentance. (No church is a true New Testament church if it deviates from the message and methods set forth in Scripture.)
4. Many will one day answer to God for their failure to obey the Great Command with as much zeal as they did the other aspects of the Gospel.
5. We must proclaim what God commands even as the Apostle Paul did in Athens when he said, "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent."
6. All who fail to repent will be judged accordingly.