

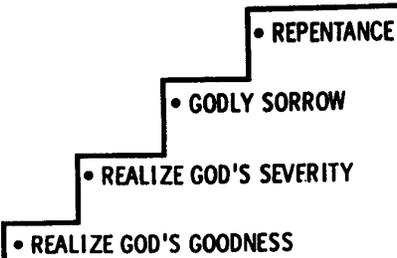
The New Testament also reveals that you need to repent. You ought to repent because of God's attitude toward sin. He hates sin (Proverbs 6:16-19). The Lord hates sin so much He gave His



My friend, **YOU** MUST REPENT!

only begotten Son to destroy it (1 John 3:8). One who walks in "darkness" (sin) has no fellowship with God (1 John 1:6). You should repent because you have sinned (Romans 3:9, 23; 1 John 1:8-10). You need to repent because Jesus came to this earth specifically "to call... sinners... to repentance." (Luke 5:32; 2 Peter 3:9) You must repent because "God ... commands all men everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30) He did so in the Great Commission Jesus gave to His apostles (Luke 24:47) and through the preaching under that commission (Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 11:18; 17:29-31 26:20).

STEPS TO REPENTANCE

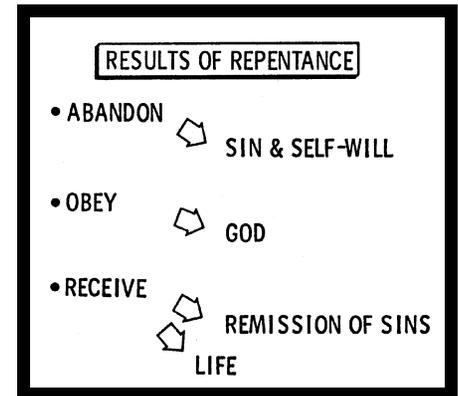


Further, the New Testament tells us how to repent. The first step is to realize how good God has been to you. How can you continue to rebel against one Who has blessed you every day far more than you can realize and Who only seeks your own good? Indeed, "the goodness of God leads you to repentance." (Romans 2:4)

Next, you must realize how severely God will judge and punish those who refuse to repent (Romans 2:5-9). This should lead you to have godly sorrow for your sins (2 Corinthians 7:10). Godly sorrow is neither despair nor just sorrow over being caught, but true regret for wrongs done to a merciful Father. This will in turn lead you to repent, to change your mind from a determination to follow your own

self-will to a determination to do the will of God (Acts 26:20).

Finally, the New Testament teaches us the results of repentance. If you truly repent, you will abandon your old life of sin and rebellion against God (Luke 3:8-14). Furthermore, you will turn and obey the commands of Him Whose will you formerly disobeyed (Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:20; 2:38-42). As the results, the Father will graciously forgive your sins (Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; 3:19) and grant you spiritual life (Acts 11:18).



The story is told of a murderer who was condemned to die. His brother, a man admired and respected by the governor of the state, sought and won the murderer's pardon. This brother entered the cell of his wicked kinsman and posed one question: "What would you do if you were released?" The brutal reply was, "I would kill the judge who sentenced me and the witness who caused me to be convicted." The saddened brother arose, with the pardon still in his pocket, and left his loved one to die unpardoned. Where there is no repentance, there can be no pardon (Acts 17:29-31). "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." (Acts 3:19)

Questions for Review

I. True/False

1. ____ "Repentance" is sorrow for our sins.
2. ____ A changed life is the fruit of repentance.
3. ____ God understands we sin and will not punish us for our sins.

4. ____ All sinners must repent to be saved.
5. ____ We can have fellowship with God while continuing to Practice sin.
6. ____ If we repent of our sins, God will forgive us.
7. ____ Where there is no repentance there can be no pardon.
8. ____ The Lord tolerates sin.
9. ____ While on earth Jesus called sinners to repentance.
10. ____ God commands all people everywhere to repent.
11. ____ If you repent, you may still disobey God.
12. ____ Godly sorrow is despair.

II. Matching

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|----------------------|---|
| 1. ____ Repent | A. true regret for wrongs done to a merciful Father |
| 2. ____ Godly Sorrow | B. sin |
| 3. ____ Fruits | C. to change one's mind |
| 4. ____ Darkness | D. results |

III. Place in the Proper Order

1. ____ A. a changed life
2. ____ B. godly sorrow
3. ____ C. realizing God's goodness
4. ____ D. repentance

Bible Correspondence Course Lesson Seven Repent!

It was the plea of God's prophets who boldly proclaimed the sins of the apostate Israelites. It was spoken by the 'voice of one crying in the wilderness.' It was the message of Jesus from the time he began to preach until he dictated the letters to the churches of Asia to the aged apostle John. It was a part of the news heralded by the first-century ambassadors of Christ. It is still God's command to a modern world of rebels. 'Repent!' The cry of the ages." (Steve Cawthon, "Westvue Messenger")

The truth of these observations should impress vividly upon our minds the extreme importance of repentance. Indeed, the Lord's command toward us is, "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." (Acts 3:19) What then, does the New Testament teach about repentance?

The New Testament teaches us what repentance is. Many people think sorrow over one's sins is repentance. But, since "godly sorrow produces repentance" (2 Corinthians 7:10), it could not be the same as repentance. Others think repentance is a change of life, but a changed life is the fruit (results) of repentance (Luke 3:3,8-14), not repentance itself. The term "repent" means "to change one's mind" (W.F. Arndt and F.W. Gingrich, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 513). Repentance, therefore, is a change of mind, a mental about-face, produced by godly sorrow and leading to a changed life (cf. Matthew 21:28-29; 12:41; Jonah 3:10).

