

God from us. We must do a thorough work of Repentance. A hasty, or half-hearted, Repentance makes a shallow and unstable foundation for spiritual life. The joy and freedom of forgiveness is well worth the cost of Repentance and restitution. *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the Faith...”* Colossians 2:6-7

THOSE WHO WILL BE CONDEMNED

The Word of God warns us: *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderous, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the Second Death.”* Revelation 21:8

REPENT

The Lord Jesus Christ began His public ministry with these words: ***“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”***
Matthew 4:17

This was the message of the early Church:
“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19

FULL REPENTANCE

The Bible emphasises three aspects of **Repentance**:

Conviction : A change of mind.

Contrition : A change of heart and

Conversion : A change of life.

HEAD, HEART AND HANDS

Repentance involves a change of mind, a change of attitude and a change of conduct. Head, heart and hands. Repentance is more than a change of mind and a change of heart, it involves a change of habits and behaviour. ***“God... now commands all men everywhere to Repent.”*** Acts 17:30

THE TRAPS OF PEER PRESSURE

We need to recognise sin and temptation for the poison and deadly dangers they represent. We need to reject the world's ways, social pressure, public opinion and peer

pressure. *“A man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet,”* Proverbs 29:5

TWO WAYS

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the Law of the Lord and in His Law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in season, its leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the Judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” Psalm 1:1-6

A CALL TO CONFESSION

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declared to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His Word is not in us.”

1 John 1:5-10



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BACKWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

As a critique on the shameful plight of all too many Christians and churches today, one believer wrote this scathing adaptation of the famous Christian Hymn, Onward Christian Soldiers:

*“Backward Christian soldiers, fleeing from the fight,
With the Cross of Jesus, nearly out of sight.
Christ, our rightful Master, stands against the foe,
Others have been battling - must we also go?”*

*“Like a mighty tortoise, moves this church of God;
Brothers we are treading where we’ve often trod.
We are much divided, many bodies we,
Having different doctrines, not much charity.”*

*“Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus neutral does remain.
Gates of hell should never against that Church prevail,
We have Christ’s own promise, but think that it will fail.”*

*“Sit here, then, ye people, join our useless throng,
Lend with ours your voices, in a feeble song.
Blessings, ease and comfort, ask from Christ the King,
With our modern thinking, we won’t do a thing!”*

*“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot,
I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you
are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you
out of My mouth. Because you say ‘I am rich, have become
wealthy, and have need of nothing’ - and do not know that
you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked... as
many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous
and repent.” Revelation 3:15-19*

BIBLICAL REPENTANCE

Repentance deals with the root of all of our problems, dryness and failure – because Repentance deals with sin. We are not helpless victims. We are guilty sinners. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. Sin is death. (Romans 6:23) **Sin separates us from God.**

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

*“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear. **But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.** For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity.” Isaiah 59:1-3*

DISGRACEFUL

It is this disgusting habit of tolerating and excusing our sins that keeps us in this half dead, disgraceful condition. Our sin needs to be rejected, confessed and forsaken.

ENSNARING

*“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance the race that is set out before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith...**”*

Hebrews 12:1-2

FRUSTRATION

We have been made in the image of God. We were created for fellowship with and union with, our Creator. Therefore, unless we are enjoying constant contact and communication with God, we are inwardly restless, frustrated and unfulfilled.

POISON

Now it is our personal guilt that has caused this rift and which constitutes the root of the problem. It is because of our sin that our fellowship with God has been disrupted, our Christian walk hindered, our moral judgment corrupted and our principles corroded. Our prayer life has been wrecked and worship made ineffective. Our witness has become impotent and our spiritual lives polluted. We need to recognise the irreconcilable and destructive nature of this poison of sin.

WHAT HAS SIN DONE?

Sin has made man a transgressor. *“And you He made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Ephesians 2:1*

Sin has made satan the master of unrepentant sinners.

“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8

Sin made punishment a necessity. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

Sin made hell a reality. *“Then death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:14-15*

WE REAP WHAT WE SOW

Just as sugar in a petrol tank interferes with the running of a vehicle engine, so too sin in our lives adversely affects us, spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically. The inevitable results of sin include an uneasy conscience, unsettled emotions, emotional and physical exhaustion from seeking to suppress guilt, fear, anger, despair and depression.

THE NEED FOR THOROUGH REPENTANCE

Repentance can be compared with the demolition work on a condemned building and the excavations that follow in preparation for the laying of a new and firm foundation for a new building. *“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. **For no other foundation can anyone lay than which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.** Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire and **the fire will test each one’s work**, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss... Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:10-16*

SEPARATION

Repentance is separating ourselves from what separates