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## Repentance Pt 1 Meaning of the word "repentance"

This is our first study on the topic of repentance. In this teaching we will establish a meaning of the word "repentance" from within the scriptures that includes – (1) to turn, or change direction, (2) to be sorry, and (3) to feel pity or sorrow for another.

According to the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible we establish that the Greek words which are translated "repent", "repentance", "repenteth" carry a wider meaning that includes – Compunction (pricking of conscience; regret) for guilt, reversal of another's decision. To think differently i.e. reconsider, to care afterwards, regret, to change, move away, depart, turn. Hebrew words that are translated "repent", "repentance" carry a meaning that includes – to be sorry, live to regret, to pity, console, and comfort.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Repentance is to turn or change direction —

i) God turns from judgment to show mercy – Jonah 3:9 and Jer.42: 10.

a) If Israel turned from their evil – God reconsidered/repented of the evil He thought to do.

"If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them" (Jer.18: 8). See also Jer.26: 3, Joel 2:13, 14, Jonah 3:10

b) If Israel did evil then God reconsidered/repented of the good He thought to do.

"If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them" (Jer.18: 10).

ii) Man is required to repent/turn from idols/sin, and turn to God.

"Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations" (Ez.14: 6) – c.f. – 1 Thes.1: 9 "For they themselves shew...how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God".

### 2. Repentance is to be sorry –

i) the Lord repented/was sorry that He had made Saul king.

"It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night" (1 Sam.15: 11). See also – 1 Sam.15: 35.

ii) in man – godly sorrow works repentance.

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of" (2Cor.7: 10).

### 3. Repentance is to feel "pity" or "sorrow" as Israel did for the tribe of Benjamin.

"And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day" (Jud.21: 6). See also – Jud.21: 15.

### An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

The Oxford dictionary meaning for "repent" is – (1) "feel regret or penitence about something, (2) Think with contrition of, be regretful about".

Question to think about.

How can we apply a dictionary meaning to every verse that a word appears in the scriptures?

Answer from the scriptures.

We cannot. The word "repentance" is a useful reminder that the meaning of a word in the scriptures is determined, not from the dictionary, nor from the meaning of the Greek or Hebrew words that it is translated from (although they are useful), but rather from within the context of the English text of the 1611 Authorised Bible. In doing so we establish that repentance is (1) to turn or change direction, (2) to be sorry, and (3) to feel pity or sorrow for another.