

4 November 2018

Repentance Pt 3 The motivation for repentance

In our previous study we established that (1) Israel were commanded to repent (2) God granted repentance to the Gentiles (3) those in the body of Christ are to repent, and (4) therefore God commands all men every where to repent. In this study we establish from the scriptures that the motivation for repentance is initiated by (1) acknowledgement of sin, (2) chastisement from the Lord, (3) the goodness of God, and (4) the fear of the Lord.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Acknowledgement of sin motivates repentance.

"Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness" (1 Kgs 8: 47).

See also – 2 Chr.6: 37 & Jer.8: 6.

2. Chastisement from the Lord prompted Israel to repent.

"I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the Lord my God" (Jer.31: 18).

3. The goodness of God leads a man to repentance.

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Rom.2: 4).

4. Fear of the Lord motivates works meet for repentance.

"The fear of the Lord is to depart from iniquity" (Prov.16: 16).

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

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev 18:4). For this verse to say – "Come of her, my people" is an indication that some of God's people that are snared by the Roman Catholic institution are the Lord's.

Question to think about.

Why would a Christian who is snared by Rome repent not, nor do work meet for repentance by coming out of her?

Answer from the scriptures.

i) Before a Christian can repent of their sin they must first acknowledge what they are doing is sin. If they have either been taught error, or they themselves "mishandle" the word of God, or privately interpret the scriptures then they will not acknowledge their sin.

ii) When a Christian being chastised for their disobedience is inflicted by an illness from the Lord for their unrepentant sin or disobedience (2Chr.21: 14–16) and they do not recognise that their disease is the Lord's chastisement.

iii) They have lost sight of the Lord's goodness which leads them to repentance.

iv) They fear not the Lord and so do not depart from their iniquity, nor do they do work meet for repentance.

Do you bear the burden, the weight of unrepentant sin? Examine yourself before the Lord – do you refuse to accept an interpretation of scripture that would show your sin, do you see hard times or disease as chastisement or something else, and do you fear the Lord by departing from sin?

A humble, godly man will sin, as all have sinned, and when he does he will come before his God and acknowledge his sin, accept his chastisement, recognise the Lord's goodness, fear the Lord, repent from his sin – turn from his iniquity towards God, and do work meet for repentance. Amen!