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Repentance Pt 4 The heart and soul of repentance

In our previous study we established from the scriptures that the motivation for repentance come from (1) acknowledgement of sin, (2) chastisement from the Lord, (3) the goodness of God, and (4) the fear of the Lord. In this study we establish that (1) repentance takes place in our heart, and soul, and (2) therefore when we repent in a godly manner we bear fruit meet for repentance.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Godly repentance – takes place in our heart and soul.

“Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye [even] to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil” (Joel 2:12 & 13), c.f. – Deut.30 :10 – “If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.”

In our first study on this topic we established that repentance is “to turn or change direction”, in this point we refine that meaning a little and say – repentance is a change of heart, where the nation of Israel were commanded to turn from their evil with all their heart and soul,

2. When we repent in a godly manner we bear fruit or works meet for repentance

“But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judæa, and [then] to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26: 20). See also Matt.3: 8 & Lk.3: 8.

The result of godly sorrow that worketh repentance to salvation is – we do not repent of the same sin (2 Cor.7: 9, 10), but rather we

- * turn away from evil (Ex.14: 6), flee and

- * turn to God with all our heart (Joel 2: 12), do works meet for repentance (Acts 26: 20), and

- * acknowledge the truth (2Tim 2:25).

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

“And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord “ (1Sam 15:24 & 25). Judas also when he saw that he was condemned repented (Matt.27: 3 – 5), and Simon the sorcerer was told to repent, but he asked Peter to pray to the Lord that none of the things Peter warned him of would come upon him (Acts 8:24).

Question to think about.

Some repent but God does not accept their repentance – (i) why and (ii) how do we know who they are?

Answer from the scriptures.

Why? – because they have done so in vain, deceitfully, “And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the Lord” (Jer.3: 10)

How do we know them? – they may say they have repented, that they have turned away, and turned to God, but will not do work meet for their repentance – i.e they will repeat their sin, make excuses for their sin, and therefore not turn from it, and neither will they acknowledge the truth. Whereas repentance that comes from the soul of man is the result of godly sorrow from the heart, which– worketh repentance not to be repented of. Amen!.