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Repentance Pt 5 Outcome of repentance

In our previous study we established from the scriptures 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. In this study we establish that (1) the outcome of repentance is (a) for Israel was to receive God's forgiveness and (b) for Christians is to acknowledge the truth and recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, and (c) between brethren is to receive forgiveness.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

i) The outcome of repentance is –

a) For Israel – to receive God's forgiveness

"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" (1Kg.8: 47).

See also Jud.3: 9 and 10 and other examples where God raised up a deliverer after Israel repented.

The cycle of sin, repentance and forgiveness was repeated for Israel and God gradually intensified their consequences.

b) For Christians – to acknowledge the truth and recover themselves out of the snare of the devil.

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2Tim 2:25 & 26).

They will acknowledge the truth, and God will recover them out of the snare of the devil.

c) Between brethren – to receive forgiveness.

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Lk.17: 3 & 4).

Whether the cycle of sin and repentance repeats itself or not we are to forgive our brethren.

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

When we sin and abuse the liberty that we have in Christ Jesus – His grace, then there will always be consequences. I know for myself that when I was snared by the enemy, even though I had repented, the heart's lusts meant that my sin continued, and my repentance was repeated and so the reality was – I did not do work meet for repentance. And when I did there was consequences.

Question to think about.

What is the difference between the consequences from a man repenting to his brother, Israel repenting before God, and the believer in the church age repenting before the Lord?

Answer from the scriptures.

God forgives Israel when they repented – even repeatedly.

Our brother forgives us when we repent – even repeatedly.

Whereas today, a Christian is forgiven of all their sins through the blood of Christ – Eph 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace". And when they sin then repent, and repeat the same sin followed by repentance – then God chastises them and perhaps He takes longer to recover them out of the snare of the devil – because they have been disobedient to His commandment to repent and do work meet for repentance. So the outcome of our repentance, the result of our turning from sin will be determined by whether we turn from our sin with our whole heart and soul and therefore how often we repent for the same thing. Be encouraged to repent to the acknowledging of the truth.