

25 November 2018

Repentance Pt 6 & Final – repentance and the gospel

In our previous study we established from the scriptures that (1) the outcome of repentance is (a) for Israel – to receive God's forgiveness and (b) for Christians – to acknowledge the truth and recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, and (c) between brethren – to receive forgiveness. In this study we establish that (1) the gospel of the kingdom required the Jew to repent and believe the message and (2) the gospel that the risen Lord gave to Paul requires the lost to receive, believe, and call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The gospel of the kingdom required the Jew to repent and believe.

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mk.1: 14 & 15).

The gospel of the kingdom that Jesus preached specifically called a man to repent and believe. John the Baptist preached the kingdom gospel (Lk.16: 16), and included "the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" (Lk.3: 3). For a meaning of "remission of sins" see Rom.3: 25. Peter preached – "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2: 38). It is reasonable to read the "repent" or "repentance" in these verses as repentance from sin.

2. The gospel that the risen Lord gave Paul requires the lost to receive, believe in their heart, and confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus – to be saved

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you...which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Cor.15: 1, 3 & 4), c.f. – Rom. 10: 9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

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

Roman Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses and many main stream church denominations today preach the kingdom gospel because the Lord Jesus Christ preached **that** good news message. Hence they include repentance from sin as essential for conversion.

Question to think about.

Is repentance – where a person confesses their sin, and repents before God of it, and does work meat for repentance – necessary for salvation today?

Answer from the scriptures.

Paul taught – God "commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17: 30), and "the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Rom.2: 4), and "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of" (2Cor.7: 10), and "if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of truth" (2Tim.2: 25).

However, the gospel whereby a man is saved today that the risen Lord Jesus gave to Paul (Gal.1: 12) does not say – repent, believe, receive and call on the name of the Lord and thou shalt be saved. But rather it says – receive, believe and call on the name of the Lord.

Therefore repentance in the form of – confessing our sins to God, repenting from them – turning from them towards God, and doing work meat for repentance is not part of the gospel, which when a person believes they are placed in the body of Christ today. However, as part of receiving, believing and calling – a person turns "to God from idols to serve the living and true God" (1Thes. 1: 9). and therefore repentance takes place. That is not to say that a lost person cannot repent from their sins at the moment, or before they believe and receive the gospel of Christ crucified.

Repentance where the lost turn from the god of this world to the living God is necessary for salvation, but repentance from sins can take place before, during or after conversion.