

TRUE REPENTANCE

A sermon outlines

Presented to

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As a Requirement in

2 Corinthians & James

Course #221

By

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TRUE REPENTANCE

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TEXT: 2 Corinthians 7:9-11.

THESIS: To show that true repentance is a condition necessary for forgiveness of sin.

INTRODUCTION

1. What do you think constitutes a true repentance?
2. Some people feel and look sorry for what they have done when confronted, others cry out loud and weep, others try to explain why, and some fight back.
3. One subject that is common among the Old Testament and New Testament writers of the Bible is repentance.
4. In the OT, Ezra received news of how the people of Israel have taken wives from the gentiles, he cried, and wept so much that these Jews who had done that joined him and wept very sore leading to genuine repented (Ezra 10:1, 11, 17, 44).
5. In the New Testament, the church at Corinth was instructed to withdraw fellowship from a man who had taken his father wife (1 Cor. 5:9-11).
6. The man became sorrowful and repented (2 Cor. 7:9-11).
7. I will consider four main points in this lesson.

- I. THE MEANING OF TRUE REPENTANCE.
- II. THERE ARE THINGS THAT MUST PRECEDE TRUE REPENTANCE.
- III. THERE ARE THINGS THAT MUST FOLLOW TRUE REPENTANCE.
- IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUE REPENTANCE.

DISCUSSION

I. THE MEANING OF TRUE REPENTANCE.

A. Repentance is a change of mind.

1. The central message of the gospel is for man to change.
2. God wants man to turn from the power of darkness to light and from Satan to God (Act 26:18).
3. Repentance (Greek: "Metanoeo") meaning to change one's mind and purpose, as the result of after knowledge.
4. It is to change for a better course of life.
5. Repentance is a change of mind which leads to a change of course.

B. Repentance is a decision and a choice.

1. "Repentance is a change of mind thus a decision, a choice, a determination of the heart, and or a deliberate exercise of the will in which one determines to act differently in the future than he has in the past" (Anonymous).

2. It is indeed a decision to turn from Satan to God (Act 26:18).
3. Repentance is a decision to cease sinning and begin serving God instead (2 King 17:13, Zech. 1:3-4).

C. Biblical examples of repentance.

1. Jonah preached and the people of Nineveh turned from their evil ways (Jonah 3:4-10, Matt 12:41).
2. A son who refused to work for his father but later repented (Matt. 21:28-32).

II. THERE ARE THINGS THAT MUST PRECEDE TRUE REPENTANCE.

A. One must hear and believe God's will (Ezra 10:1-3).

1. The princes of Israel heard the call of Ezra (Ezra 10:1-3, 10-11).
2. People of Nineveh heard and believed what Jonah preached concerning the will of Lord (Jonah 3:4-8).
3. Jesus commanded repentance and remission to be preached to all men for men cannot know they need to repent unless they are told to repent (Luke 24:47).

B. One must acknowledge his sin (Ezra 10:12-13).

1. The people in Ezra's time accepted their sins (Ezra 10:12-13).
2. David acknowledged his sins at the rebuke of Nathan (2 Sam. 12:13).
3. When honest people hear the truth preached, they see the application and are convicted of sin.
4. The man who covers his sins will not prosper (Prov. 28:13).
5. When confronted about their sins, some people refuse to admit their guilt.
6. Like the days of Malachi, some ask of what sin do I have to repent? (Mal. 3:7).

C. One Must Be Sorry for His Sins (Ezra 10:1).

1. The people wept for their sins before God (Ezra 10:1).
2. People need to tear their hearts and not their garments (Joel 2:12-13).
3. Godly sorrow leads to repentance (2 Cor. 7:10).
4. Sinners must mourn and weep over their sins (James 4:8-9).

III. THERE ARE THINGS THAT MUST FOLLOW TRUE REPENTANCE

A. After repentance, one must meet other conditions of forgiveness.

1. After repenting, one who is not a child of God must confess Christ as the Son of God and be baptized.

- a. The Jews on the day of Pentecost asked what they had to do; Peter said, “repent and be baptized” (Acts 2:37-38).
 - b. The Ethiopian Eunuch confessed the Son of God (Acts 2:37-38).
 - c. When a person sees what God's word says but will not do it, that person is not showing true repentance.
 - d. A repented person does not tarry but allows for baptism for his salvation (Act 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21).
- 2. After repenting, a Child of God who has sinned must confess and be prayed for his forgiveness.
 - a. Simon (the former sorcerer) was told to repent and pray (Act 8:22).
 - b. We are to confess and to pray for one another (Jas. 5:16).
- B. After repenting, one must change his conduct and quit practicing sin (Prov. 26:11).
 - 1. Repentance is a decision to change.
 - 2. After receiving forgiveness, one must follow through and make the changes he decided to make.
 - 3. If after receiving the pardon, a person must not go back the sin like a dog goes back to its vomit (2 Pet. 2:22).
- C. After repenting, one must make recompense and bear fruits of repentance (Mat. 3:8)
 - 1. The people of Israel who had taken strangers as wives separated themselves from them (Ezra 10:17, 44).
 - 2. Zacchaeus determined to returned taxes he charged wrongfully (Luke 19:8).
 - 3. Onesimus was asked to return to his master (Philem. 10-19)
 - 4. John the baptized preached that if one truly repents, he bears fruits of repentance (Matt 3:8).

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUE REPENTANCE

- A. Repentance is a fundamental part of God's requirements of man.
 - 1. God wants man to repent of his evil ways and evil doings (Jer. 35:15).
 - a. He wants man to cast away transgressions (Eze.18:30-32).
 - b. God does not have pleasure in the death of a sinner but to repent.
 - c. All prophets have had this mandate of turning the people to God (2 King 17:33).

2. John the Baptist taught repentance; warning people that the kingdom of heaven was at hand (Matt. 3:2).
3. Jesus preached to the people calling them to repentance (Matt. 4:17).
 - a. Jesus said unless one repents, he shall perish (Luke 13:3).
 - b. Jesus said repentance and remission are to be preached in His name (Luke 24:47).
4. God is not willing for men to perish but that all come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9).
5. God has commanded all men everywhere to repent (Act 17:30).

B. Repentance is essential in order to develop proper attitudes.

1. Keep your heart diligently because out of it are the issues of life (Prov. 4:23).
2. One can never please God till he gets his heart right (Ezek. 18:31).
3. We can never please God till we develop a proper state of mind.
4. If the heart of the person has not truly turned toward God, his attitude will be superficial and wrong.

C. Repentance is essential in order to receive God's forgiveness.

1. God forgives a truly repented person.
2. If a person's heart has not turned toward God, the Lord knows, and that person's sin will continue to be his yoke.
3. God forgives anyone who hears His word, repents, and baptizes (Acts 2:38, 41, 47).
4. The alternative to repentance is perishing (Luke 13:3,5).

CONCLUSION

1. The adulterous man at Corinth was sorrowful and repented (2 Cor. 7:9-11).
2. The people in Israel and their princes in Ezra's days cried out and wept for their sins.
3. They followed up and separated themselves from those foreign wives.
4. The Lord is looking for a repented heart to bless, repented mind to glorify.
5. The alternative to repentance is death, make that decision today (Ezek. 33:10-19).
6. The prodigal son story illustrates a true repentance why don't you come home today (Luke 15:17-24).
7. Why not genuinely repent and follow these steps for your salvation?
 - a. Believe the gospel (John 8:24).
 - b. Repent from your sins (Acts 2:38).
 - c. Confess Jesus as The Son of God (Acts 8:37).
 - d. Be Baptized for your salvation (1 Pet. 3:21).
 - e. Live faithfully in the church (Eph 5:17).