



**Luke 13:1-5**

Matthew 3:1-12; Acts 26:12-20

**ABC's of Being A Christian** (Hebrews 5:12-14)

### Do You Know the God of the Bible?

- ▶ (John 17:2-3) Eternal life is knowing God. Eternal life is being in a genuine, real, intimate relationship with God.

### Do You Know Your Enemy? (1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 5:19; Matt 24:4,5,11,24)

- ★ Do you believe Jesus Christ when He warned that **many** would be deceived?
- ★ Do you believe that the only thing that a person needs to do to be saved is to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved"? (Acts 16:31)

### Do You Know YOURSELF?

- Are you certain that when you die you will go immediately to heaven?
- Are you certain that you are a child of God/disciple of Jesus Christ?
- What is your evidence?
  - Is your evidence your personal testimony? (Matthew 7:21a)
  - Is your evidence the works that are evident to others? (James 2:14-26; Romans 2:5-10; John 5:28-29)
  - What is the definition of "works"? "Works" are those things that your "boss" (Lord) commands you to do. (James 2:14-26; John 14:15)
  - Are you zealous for good works? (Titus 2:14)
- MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION ONE MUST ANSWER BIBLICALLY - HAVE I TRULY BEEN BORN-AGAIN?

### Man Created by God (Genesis 1:26-31)

- God created man and woman in His own image.
- **The chief end of man is to glorify and enjoy their Creator.**

## Adam, the First Man - the First Representative

### Adam Sinned (Genesis 3)

- When the first man, our representative, sinned we all sinned because we were **in** Adam. (Romans 5:12)
- The results:
  - ✗ Our minds were DARKENED.
  - ✗ Our affections/emotions were TWISTED.
  - ✗ Our will became in BONDAGE to sin, the world, and Satan.
  - ✗ We DIED spiritual to God.
  - ✗ We became UNABLE to do anything to save ourselves.

### The Second Man, Jesus Christ

- God sent a SECOND MAN to be the Representative, Head of HIS people - that man was Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15:45-47; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5)
- Christ came to save HIS people from their sins. (John 10:27-29; 6:35-40; 17:6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 24; Acts 4:12)

### What Does A Born-Again Man Look Like? (From previous two sermons)

- (2 Corinthians 5:17) ALL those who are IN CHRIST are NEW CREATURES! **By God's GRACE and by His GRACE alone!** (Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 15:9)
- (2 Peter 1:3-4) At REBIRTH man becomes a "partaker of the divine nature."
- Romans 6:15-22) One dies to sin and becomes a SLAVE of righteousness and GOD.
- (1 John 2:29-3:10) One now lives a life of RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- (1 Peter 1:13-19) One pursues HOLINESS. (Hebrews 12:14)
- (1 John 3:3) One continually PURIFIES themselves just as Christ is pure. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

### All Men Are Still Sinners (1 John 1:8)

- Important words in 1 John: IF (21x); KNOW (26x)
  - "IF" sets up a conditional clause. IF . . . THEN; IF NOT . . . THEN.
- (1 John 1:6-7) IF we walk (live) in the light as He is in the light we know we have fellowship with Christ and His blood cleanses us from all sin.
- **BUT . . .**
- (1 John 1:8, 10) If we say we are without sin we are LIARS.
- **BUT . . .**
- (1 John 1:9) IF we **confess** (PRESENT; ACTIVE) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. The keyword is "IF".

- Is confession enough? See Proverbs 28:13. Mercy is bestowed on those who confess **and** forsake their sins. (See Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 5:10; 7:9; 1 Kings 8:23; Neh 1:5; Daniel 9:4; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
- Confession is NOT enough. Many confess and maybe even are sorrowful but do not forsake! (Pharaoh: Exodus 9:27; Balaam: Numb 22:34; Achan: Joshua 7:20; Saul: 1 Sam 15:24; Rich young ruler: Luke 18:23; Judas: Matt. 27:4)

## Is Repentance Necessary? (Luke 13:1-5)

- Must one repent of their sins to have the assurance of their salvation?
- (Luke 13:1-5) Christ said, “Unless you REPENT (PRESENT; ACTIVE) you shall all like perish.”
- (Matthew 3:1-12) John the Baptist preached (*kerusso*), “Repent (PRESENT, ACTIVE, IMPERATIVE), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”
  - ★ (v. 7) “Flee the wrath to come.”
  - ★ (v. 8) “Therefore bear fruit worthy of repentance.” Repentance must be seen as a tree’s fruit bears witness of the kind of the tree it is.
- (Mark 1:14-15) Jesus preached (*kerusso*) at the beginning of His ministry, “REPENT (PRESENT; ACTIVE; IMPERATIVE)” and BELIEVE (PRESENT, ACTIVE, IMPERATIVE) in the gospel.”
- (Luke 24:46-47) Jesus instructed His disciples to preach (*kerusso*), “. . . REPENTANCE **and** REMISSION of sins in His name to all nations . . .”
- (Acts 2:38) In the very first sermon preached after the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Peter commanded his hearers, “REPENT, and let everyone of be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ because of the remission of sins . . .” He did the same in Acts 3:19.
- (Acts 26:17-18) God’s commissioned Paul to . . .
  - “**to open eyes**” – this infers that the world’s eyes (understanding) are closed and people are blind. (2 Cor. 4:4, 6; Ephesians 1:18)
  - “**to turn them from darkness to light**” – see 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 5:8-11; Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8; **1 John 1:6-7**
  - “**from Satan to God**” – everyone born into the world is born under the power of Satan – Eph. 2:1-3; 1 John 5:18, 19; Titus 3:3.
  - “**that they may receive forgiveness**” – the “they” is important!
  - “**that they may receive an inheritance**” “sanctified” means “to set apart”
- (Acts 26:19-20) Paul was obedient and preached **repentance**, that people needed to **turn to God**, and do **works** of repentance.
- From these passages one can easily see that without repentance one cannot say that their sins have been forgiven.
- **UNLESS ONE REPENTS** (continuously) **THEY WILL PERISH - WHICH MEANS THEY ARE NOT SAVED.**

## What Is Repentance?

- FIRST, repentance is a gift (grace) of God bestowed on those whom God saves. (Acts 11:18; 5:31; 2 Timothy 2:25-26)
- God’s grace (power) gives works or fruits of repentance as evidence that one is truly saved. A personal testimony is not evidence. (Matt 7:21)
- Repentance comes by the means of God giving His people new hearts (Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6); writing His Law on His people’s hearts (Hebrews 8:10; 10:6); and giving them His Holy Spirit to **cause** them to do His commandments (Ezekiel 36:27).
- Repentance comes as a result of God’s seed being in all His people. (1 John 3:9)
- What is repentance?
  - ★ In the first century it was understood that repentance involved a sinner forsaking his sins, putting them out of his mind, and **fully** resolved never to do it again!
  - ★ Repentance, by definition, involves a **changed life** from living according to one’s own ways to a life that continually practices God’s righteousness. (1 John 2:29-3:10)
  - ★ Repentance requires a turning **from** something **to** something different.
  - ★ The “to” something is a **new standard** by which one now lives his life.
    - ✗ Partial obedience is still sin.
  - ★ According to God, repentance is turning from living life one’s own way to living their lives **strictly** according to God’s **written** Word.
  - ★ God’s standard is His Word. Man will be judged in accordance to God’s Word.
  - ★ (Luke 4:4; Matthew 4:4) Christ taught, “Man lives on **every** Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

## How to Live A Life of Repentance

- ① **Examine** ourselves by the word of God. (James 1:21-24; Psalm 139:23-24; 26:2; 2 Corinthians 13:5)
- ② **Confess** ALL our sins. “To confess” means “to agree”. True confession is agreeing with God what He says sin is. (1 John 1:9; Psalm 51:2-5; Proverbs 28:13; Daniel 9:4-20; Acts 19:18-19)
- ③ **Godly sorrow** leads to **real** repentance. (**Read carefully:** 2 Cor 7:10-11)
- ④ **Forsake** our sins. (Proverbs 28:13; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 1:9)
- ⑤ **Pursue** holiness, godliness, love, patience, gentleness, righteousness. (1 Timothy 6:11; Hebrews 12:14; 2 Timothy 2:22) “Flee youthful lusts . . .”
- ⑥ **Exhort** and **be exhorted daily** by your brothers and sisters. Be genuinely concerned and a part of your brothers and sisters’ growth in holiness. (Hebrews 3:12-13)
- ⑦ **Exercise** ourselves in godliness. (1 Timothy 4:7-8)