

Lesson 13: Repentance

Lesson Introduction

Repentance may be one of the most misunderstood words commonly used in Christian circles. As we shall see, repentance is occasionally used in salvation contexts. But there are many more times when salvation is the subject that repentance isn't even mentioned.

The main problem with repentance is with how it is defined. A course I took in Bible college may help illustrate the problem. A significant part of this course did a study on the biblical meaning of repentance. In both the Old and New Testaments, the English word repentance translates more than one word in the original languages. So, to get a full biblical meaning of repentance, this course taught that we must combine together all of the various meanings.

This is equivalent to defining the English word "trunk" by combining all of the different meanings of the word. Since trunk can mean an elephant's nose, the storage area of an automobile, and a suitcase among others, combining them means you would get a hodge-podge definition. For example, a trunk is a suitcase for storing clothes that has a long nose, and weighs hundreds of pounds and it is usually found on the back of a car. As you can see, this approach to a definition of this type of a word can lead to many problems and misunderstandings. This is exactly what has happened with the word repentance.

In the case of the word trunk the result of this error is merely comical; in the case of the gospel the result of this error is tragic.

Lesson Outline

Lesson 13: Repentance

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Topic 1: What Repentance is NOT!

When the biblical meaning of repentance is used and its meaning is considered in the context of a passage, we can agree that repentance is necessary for salvation. But many Christian leaders teach that repentance is necessary for salvation meaning that you must turn from your sin and/or have sorrow for your sin in order to be saved. This teaching adds baggage to the gospel and leads to many problems.

The motives of most of these leaders are to secure Christian behavior. Most want their flock to show the fruits of salvation and they feel requiring this in an up-front way, as a requirement FOR salvation will help ensure this. But, they have no right to change the biblical conditions for salvation to fit their own theories. They are not trusting people to the grace of God and they ruin the simplicity of the gospel message.

Topic 1: What Repentance is NOT!

A Turning from Sin

Now we are going to take just the very beginning of the chapter on repentance. Repentance. What is repentance? I remember growing up as a child, and you know in the Methodist church back then we had some good old revival meetings, but I never understood it. And the evangelist would get up there, and I would always try to sit behind a post-, there were posts in the churches in those days. They didn't have this long expanse, there were posts, and I would always try to get a post-, because he would always point and he would go, repent! And his finger would always go right at me. I didn't know what it meant to repent, I knew whatever it was it was bad, and it was hard to do. And you hear that repent. Now do I believe in repentance for salvation? Yes I do. I believe you have to repent to be saved. Now did you hear that? I believe that you have to repent to be saved. I believe that the problem though is this, that people have changed the meaning of what the Bible meaning is. Now you think about this. If the salvation is a gift and you have to turn from all known sin to be saved, now I don't know about you but I haven't turned from all my known sin yet. I am not perfect yet, I won't be perfect until I get to Heaven. It's kind of like, turning is like a jug of milk, the milk turns with the jug. You can turn, but the sin turns with you. You cannot stop all your sinning until you trust Christ, and then you start working on it. But it will never be complete until you get to Heaven. You are to try to be perfect but you never will be perfect. You are to try to be like Christ wants you to but you never will. What does repentance really mean? Now, Adam repented to be saved, it doesn't say that he did but he repented to be saved. John the Baptist preached: repent ye for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Paul preached repentance wherever he went. Acts 17:30, Acts 20:21, and the Lord Jesus himself emphasized the man who refused to repent in Luke 13:3 through 5 would also perish. Jesus said you have to repent, so repentance is necessary for salvation. The question is, what does the Bible mean by repentance, and how should it be presented to the lost? The important thing is not what repentance has come to mean down through the centuries since Christ's time, but what did it mean when it was spoken by Christ and Paul and Peter and others in Biblical times.

QUESTION 1

You have to repent to be saved. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 2

There is not a single Christian who has turned from all his sin. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 3

The important thing is what repentance has come to mean down through the centuries since Christ's time, not what it meant when it was spoken by Christ, Paul, Peter, and others in Biblical times. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 1: What Repentance is NOT!

A Sorrow for Sin

If you look up to repent or repentance in a modern dictionary you will read things like this: regret, to feel sorry for the sin, to seek forgiveness, to turn from sin. Now based on these definitions preachers have been going about earnestly trying to get people to quit their sinning or at least to work up a genuine sorrow for sin. But this is the divinely appointed task of Christians to get man to change their ways. You know some Christian preachers are so upset by the terribleness of their churches. They don't see people living for it, they are preaching tonight in most churches across the land to a handful of people, to a handful of people, on a Sunday night and on a Wednesday night. And they are genuinely sick of it. And they are saying, listen if you are saved you will change, and you will change. Listen, let me tell you, no matter how sick of it you are, that doesn't give you a right to change the gospel. The gospel was Jesus Christ dying on the cross and shedding his blood and paying for the sin debt. When you hear someone say repentant means to turn from all known sin well listen that is the hardest thing there is. Salvation is free, it easy all you have to do is receive Christ, not turn from all your known sin. Good night, you are asking the impossible. That is like telling a bulldozer, get rid of all your weight and still be a bulldozer. See? You can't do it. If you're a bulldozer you got to have weight to be a bulldozer. If you are a sinner you're going to have sin and you can't get rid of all your sin. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. He didn't say, get rid of your sins and then I will die for you, get rid of your sins and I will save you, he says I will save you, I will pay for your sin. And then as you grow in Christ you will learn to walk more and more closely with him. And you know, this kind of preaching when they talk about saving yourself, it leads to a form of self-righteousness and self-reformation, not to salvation. Oh there is such a difference! Salvation is receiving, salvation is receiving what Jesus did, it is not doing. Does the sinner have to turn from sin or give up sins to be saved? Could he do this? Did you? Have you yet given up all your sinning? Is there a person in this room that has given up all their sinning? You say, not any of us. Listen, you are saved if you believe that Christ paid it all. Who draws the line between who is good enough and who is not good enough? Let me tell you, if you don't believe in Jesus only, you are not going to make it.

QUESTION 4

Which of the following is included in a modern dictionary's definition of repentance? (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. Changing your mind
- B. Feeling sorry for sin
- C. Regret
- D. Turning from sin

QUESTION 5

It is within a pastor's right as the representative head of the church to respond to sinful behavior by changing the terms of the gospel to include a need to change one's life or be sorry for sin. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 6

It is asking the impossible to turn from all known sin. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 2: Jesus did it, not Us!

Requiring sinners, which all people are, saved or not saved, to reform their lives **before** they can be saved is a different message than what the Bible gives. Romans 5:8 tells us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He did the work of salvation; we contribute nothing but faith (Jn 6:29-30). Self-reformation is difficult enough for the already saved who have the enabling of the new nature and the indwelling Holy Spirit. The same is impossible for the unbeliever who has nothing but a sin nature. It is based on "the mercies of God" (Rom 12:1-2).

Topic 2: Jesus did it, not Us!

Jesus' Work

I am glad that it is Jesus only. I am glad it's not how good I am because I'm not going to make it, I'm not good enough to go to heaven. But Jesus washed me in his own blood. My works have nothing to do with it, but they say that over and over and over. You know, in first John 1:8, if we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Isn't that a good verse? First John 1:8 if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Could anybody ever get up and say, pastor I have no sin right now? Now listen, I have only known one man in my whole life, that said he had no sin. And I shared that with you. This was a Methodist preacher, and he said that he had been sanctified, and had no sin, but he believed that you could lose your salvation. I said, if you have no sin, how could you sin and lose it? That's when he got real mad at me if you will remember. I said wait a minute, if you don't have sin, and you can't get mad, how come you're mad at me right now? All of us still have sin you still have a sin nature, you still have an old nature. That's why, you know when anybody tells you if your saved you

will change, you say, what about the Corinthian Christians? The Corinthian Christians were saved, weren't they? Did it ever say they weren't saved? It never said they weren't saved. It is sadly apparent that our modern day misuse of the word repent has done a great deal of harm and has confused multitudes. You will be surprised how many have been confused on this. Many, because of the wrong use of the word repent, men have gotten the idea that Christianity is one who doesn't drink smoke go to dances or movies, or anything that is wrong or immoral. Now listen, I don't like any of those things. I don't like any of those things. But that has nothing to do with our salvation, that has nothing to do with our salvation.

QUESTION 7

It is all about how good you are which determines if you will go to Heaven. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 8

Which of the following is the best example of a church that didn't change even though the people in it were saved? Answer: _____

- A. Colossae
- B. Corinth
- C. Ephesus
- D. Philippi

Topic 2: Jesus did it, not Us!

NOT Self-reformation

But a person has got to understand grace before they can start serving Christ. Listen, when I was a Methodist, I got to the point where I couldn't even pray anymore, I was so bad I couldn't even pray anymore. But when I understood that God would never lose me or kick me out I'll tell you my whole life changed. Until you understand grace you will never serve Christ. You can't serve Christ by believing that you've got to do it yourself; it just doesn't work. But isn't it amazing that those people who preach, if you don't live it you don't have it, their churches don't live it? The only way you can live it is when you understand it is all by grace. See Grace is the only way you can live it, its grace when you understand. I tell you, when I understood that God wouldn't lose me, oh man, my life changed. You know, before, I would try to serve Christ without grace, I really have. I remember that time I was in Morehead Kentucky and this evangelist, his name was Ford Philpott, and he was world famous, and on TV, and he was almost next to Billy Graham, he really was, and he preached and I tell you, I came forward and I wasn't any more saved than the man in the Moon. I wasn't saved, and I went home that night and I said I'm going to live for God and I am not going to sin anymore, and I'll tell you, I never fought so hard, I never tried so hard not to sin. And the more I tried not to sin the more I sinned. Boy then I understood it was all by grace, and God took me as I am, and God not only took me as I am but I served him by grace as I am, I tell you, life got so wonderful and I started changing. No, I've got a long way to go, and it's a hard battle, trying to change these old sinful people that we are, but God is doing it. I give him all the credit because I don't take any of it, but that's grace, see? That's why we preach Grace. Once a person has Christ and his power in his life that's through the Holy Spirit, then his behavior often changes but this change is a result of being a child of God and is not the cause. And this is why people change. Being good is not the way to

become a child of God. Remember, Ephesians 2:8 and 9 For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast. Preachers have allowed themselves to propagate this error in the teaching of repentance. All of these churches are full of good self righteous moral people who are certain they are Christians, but when you ask them where they going to go when they die, they say I hope so or may be but they don't know so. They don't know so. How important is it. It is no greater joy, there is no greater thing, there is nothing more important than making the gospel of grace clear. Nothing. Nothing than making it clear.

QUESTION 9

A Christian is someone who does not drink, smoke, curse, go to dances or movies, or do anything wrong or immoral. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 10

How do you finally begin to live the Christian life? (*Select all that apply.*)

Answer: _____

- A. By fighting the tough fight against sin.
- B. By preaching that “If you don’t live it, you don’t have it”.
- C. Once a person has Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- D. When you understand that it is all by grace.

Topic 3: What Repentance Is

So we’ve learned what repentance is NOT; now we will look at what it IS. New Testament repentance means to change your mind. Now we can say repentance is required for salvation because believing the gospel always involves a change of mind. However, repentance is not the clearest term we can use for explaining how someone must receive Jesus Christ. The simplest and clearest term is believe. For every time the Bible uses the word repent in an invitation to salvation, ten times over it simply mentions believe for salvation--with no mention of repentance. So, really, if we want to be biblical and clear, what term should we use to present the necessary response to the gospel message?

Topic 3: What Repentance Is

A Change of Mind

I tell you, this is the one area in churches today that so many of them mess it up, although let me tell you this, there is an awful lot of them that are backing the correct meaning of repentance. And one of the most famous ones, whether you agree or disagree, like, or love, or hate—well you wouldn't hate—but is Curtis Hudson. He’s the editor of Sword of the Lord and he teaches just like we do on repentance. And it’s very important because if salvation's by Grace and if you had to have works for it, it wouldn't be salvation by Grace. So when they use the word “repent,” they use it wrongly. They say it means to turn from sin, to feel sorry for sin. Now before we get to the New Testament word which is metanoia, I want to go just

over the Old Testament word, “repent”. The Old Testament word “repent” is more of a conditional response. It's more of a “uh”—that doesn't make sense, but that's more like what it is. Like, I can't believe this. That's more what the Old Testament word repentance means. God repented that he made man. Now that's my definition, but that's really what it means. Now in the New Testament, the word metanoio and metanoia, is the word to change your mind. Change your mind. But it's metanoio, and the word translated repentance is metanoia. Both of these Greek words have the same basic meaning, and it does. If you look it up in Strong's, it says “to change your mind, to reconsider, to think differently”. In other words, you think differently about what you do to get to Heaven. Now you say, “Well that's a play on words.” When you hear people say, “Well, you better turn from all known sin,” listen, none of us have turned from all sin yet—how are we going to do it before we're saved? You don't have the power, and this is why the gospel of grace is so important.

QUESTION 11

Which of the following definitions does Strong's give for New Testament repentance? (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. To be sorry for your sins
- B. To change your mind
- C. To reconsider
- D. To think differently
- E. To turn from your sin

QUESTION 12

Only the most spiritual Christians have turned from all known sin. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 3: What Repentance Is

What about Sorrow?

Now, if a person understands this, he may become very sorrowful, but see being sorry is not a part of repentance. Some preachers preach that if you don't feel sorry for all your sins then you are not really saved. Repentance is not being sorry for your sins. Now, sorrow for your sins is a great thing and that's an often-time after result. But that is not what saves you. What saves you is when you understand that Jesus Christ did it all. Now, ceasing from certain sins would certainly be the result of repentance, but not repentance itself. We get saved and then we are to grow in Christ, and we are to be more Christlike. Now some of us say, “Boy, Pastor, how long does it take?” Well we just kind of chisel away at it, and try to work at it, and try to be more like Christ. So when God tells an unsaved person to repent, He means to change his mind on how to reach God and God's way of salvation. The person must change his mind from any idea of religion. See, most people really believe that religion gets them to Heaven, by being religiously good, but it doesn't. It doesn't get you to Heaven. And realize that they can do nothing and Christ's payment is all we need.

QUESTION 13

Being sorrowful is part of New Testament repentance. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 14

Ceasing from certain sins would certainly be the result of repentance, but not repentance itself. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 4: Various Passages Teaching Repentance

Looking at specific Bible passages that mention repentance in a salvation context will help us to see both what it does NOT mean and what it DOES mean. Like any word, the meaning of repentance must always be determined by the context. The meaning of all words is determined by the other words used around them as well as what is happening, who is involved and other contextual questions. Few words, if any, always mean the same thing in every context. The word repentance is a great example of this truth.

Topic 4: Various Passages Teaching Repentance

Luke 13: 1-4

Assignment

- Read Luke 13:1-4.

Now if you have your Bibles, you might want to look at a couple of these passages on repentance and we'll explain it. In Luke 13:1 through 5, "They were present at the season some that told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans because they suffered such things? I tell you nay, but except you repent ye shall likewise perish." In other words, what He's saying is, the only way that would make sense, unless you repent, change your mind, metanoio, unless you change your mind, you will perish, too. They were not punished because of what it appeared to you. Change your mind about that or you're going to perish too. He is telling them change your mind. See, that's what it meant to those Jews in that day, it meant change your mind. "Ye shall all likewise perish like the Galileans did, or those 18 upon the tower of Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that you were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you nay, but except you repent [change your mind], you shall likewise perish." I want you to get a picture of this. Jesus was talking to good people who believed the old tradition that people suffered only because of their sins. Now we do know people suffer because of sins, but that's not the only reason people suffer. So they logically concluded that those in Galilee and the tower of Siloam who died such horrible deaths must have been great sinners. You cannot make that judgment, and God said unless you change your mind, that's not the way it was. Christ contradicts what they suppose and what they think and tells those self-righteous people that they need to change their minds and see themselves as sinners, too. See, in other words, they thought, "Man, we're self righteous; we're really great." If you don't change your mind about that, you are going to perish. They need to be able to see that. Christ is not saying turn from your sin, but that they should recognize that they are sinners, or they will perish in their own self-righteousness. You know everyone who doesn't know Greek, it is obvious from the passage itself the meaning of repentance cannot be sorrow for or turning from sin. And I tell you, there's no other way you can look at that passage. These people obviously needed above

all else to think differently. In this case, to think differently about themselves and about others and about God. It's very important.

QUESTION 15

Who in this passage believed that people who sin greatly invariably die horrible deaths?

Answer: _____

- A. Jesus
- B. Jesus' audience
- C. Pilate
- D. The Galilaeans

QUESTION 16

Jesus was warning his audience against suffering a similar fate of tragic physical death if they did not change their mind (repent). *True or False?* Answer: _____

Topic 4: Various Passages Teaching Repentance

Acts 17:29-30 and 20:20-21

Assignment

- Read Acts 17:29-30; 20:20-21.

Now I want you to look at Acts 17:30, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at," [that word winked at means overlooked,] "but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at, but commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Now what in the world does this mean? Well, if we look at verse 29 we got the answer, it's very simple. In the verse of right above it, it says, "We ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto silver or stone or graven by art or man's device." Instead, what ought these philosophers of Mars Hill to think? They needed to change their minds. God's not like a graven image. So in the context, we see the true meaning of repentance. You know, I looked this afternoon, I went through all the verses on repentance, and there is never in the Bible where it says, "Repent of all your sins to be saved," meaning "to turn from your sin". The Bible never says, "Turn from all your sins to be saved." Always in the context, it doesn't matter which one we're looking at. Okay, let's look at Acts 20 verse 20 and 21: "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Notice that the Bible states that they are to proclaim repentance toward God. There is nothing here about turning from sin. Paul is giving his last words to these beloved Ephesian elders whom he had led to Christ, and they had formerly been heathen idol worshippers. And it is very important—they'd been very immoral people. However, Paul's preaching to them was that they needed to change their thinking about God.

QUESTION 17

When people have worshipped idols, like the people in this passage, Paul tells them they must repent of all their sins including idolatry to be saved. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 18

Paul did ask them to change their minds about the fact that God is a graven image. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 4: Various Passages Teaching Repentance

Romans 5:8

Assignment

- Please memorize Romans 5:8

Now Romans 5:8—and I tell you, this verse is excellent—Romans 5:8, “But God commendeth his love toward us in while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Boy, I think that's the greatest news to ever understand it. If you had to turn from sin to be saved, how could Romans 5: 8 be in the Bible? “God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” How important that is! How many times do people think that they have to turn from sin before they can be saved? What does the word “gospel” mean? The word “gospel” means “good news”. Well, you think it would have been good news to tell those people—let's change that verse around a little bit, Romans 5:8—“While we were trying to give up our sins, Christ loved us a little bit.” It doesn't say that, does it? “While we were trying to give up our sins, hopefully we might make it.” No, it doesn't say that. Christ saves us. But do you see it? “While we were yet sinners Christ died for past sins. Now if we will stop all are present sins and never commit any sins in the future, God will love us.” It doesn't say that, does it? No, these sinners needed to know that the God of the Universe loved them even as they were. It's so plain and so clear in the Bible. Just give it like the Bible. How do you make it clear? Just give it like it's in the Bible. Don't change it. Whatever is in the Bible, give it like it's in the Bible. But see the devil doesn't like that. The devil doesn't care if you sing about Jesus and praise Jesus, and you blow repentance—he doesn't care. If you get up there and say, “It's all by grace, except you better turn from all sin”—listen, that's not the gospel. I couldn't go to a church that taught that. You know there are some people that go to churches, that sit there and discuss that you've got to turn from all sin, or if you're saved you will not sin any more. Even though the Corinthian Christians still sinned. Anyway, later Scripture makes it clear it certainly did work in their lives to bring about a change, but that's after they were saved.

QUESTION 19

Please write Romans 5:8 from memory.

QUESTION 20

According to Romans 5:8, what state was a believer in at the time Christ died for us?

Answer: _____

- A. A sinner
- B. A former sinner
- C. A sorrowful sinner
- D. A sinner turned from sin

Topic 4: Various Passages Teaching Repentance

Acts 2:38

Assignment

- Please read Acts 2.
- Please memorize Acts 20:20-21.

In Acts 2:38—now we're going to discuss the baptism part later on when we get to baptism. You don't have to be water baptized to go to Heaven. If you had to be water baptized to go to Heaven that would be good works—"Then Peter sent unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ Jesus for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Some people will think that, you know the Bible says that there's a spirit baptism, we're all baptized in one spirit, and of course this says be baptized "in the name of Christ"—we won't get into that right now—"for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Repent, that doesn't mean turn from sin. Again, it means "change your mind". We're going to try to see that as much as we could. One of the first rules to follow in understanding any Bible verse is to consider the context. In the second chapter of Acts, we discovered that these Jewish unbelievers thought the disciples were drunk, and that Jesus was only a man Whom they had crucified. Peter lets them know the disciples were not drunk but in God's will, that Jesus is the Christ sent by God, the Messiah. Now whenever you see the word "Christ" in the New Testament, it's the word "Christos". And it means "Messiah". It's very simple; there's no question about it. Whenever you see the word "Christ" – Christos – it means "Messiah" sent by God, that even though man crucified Him, God raised Him from the dead. These Jewish men, having been set straight on the matters, were "pricked in their heart and said unto to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do? Peter immediately said Repent every one of you for the remission of sins." In the frenzy of the day that Jesus stood before Pilate, the mob cried, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Then they saw Him only as a man, and as a troublemaker. Now Peter tells them they must think differently toward Him, this One, and realize that He is both Lord and Christ, and that salvation comes only through Him, this again is Biblical repentance. It is so important to understand that. Now if you're going to use a word in witnessing, then use it where they understand it, so they understand that it means "think differently". Now there's plenty of people that agree with us on this—Chafer's Systematic Theology, he has it correct. And it's very important that we understand it. As I've already mentioned, Curtis Hudson, and he's made a great issue about people that misuse repentance. And then how about the great giant, William Pettingill? When he put it in his book, Questions and Answers, under "Repentance and Salvation," page 215, he answered the following question: What place has repentance in salvation? Should we tell people to repent of their sins? The Gospel of John is the Holy Spirit's gospel tract written that man might believe that Jesus is the

Christ, the Son of God and believing they may have life through His name, and it does not mention the word repentance.” - William Pettingill. Do you see that?

Topic 4: Various Passages Teaching Repentance

The Gospel of John

Now the Gospel of John—now if you were to ask one person what is the greatest book in the Bible to get saved with, read the Gospel of John. It's the Gospel heaven tract. Now this never has the word repent in it. Now do you have to repent to be saved? Yes, you have to repent to be saved. No one can be saved without repenting, changing your mind. Do you have to turn from all sin to be saved? No, you can't turn from all sin to be saved. You don't have the power to turn from all sin, and even after you're saved, you don't turn from all sin. There's not anybody in the world today that could honestly say they've turned from all sin. There's a lot of dishonest people that say they've turned from all sin, but you can't turn from all sin. Here we are, the Gospel of John never mentions the word “repent”. Isn't that something? It's something to think about, isn't it? It is something to think real seriously about. Now since it's impossible for an unbeliever to become a believer without changing his mind, it is therefore unnecessary to say anything about it if the Gospel of John doesn't. The only thing for a man to do in order to be saved is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and believe on Him is the same thing as receiving Him. It is when a person believes that Jesus Christ is all. Now to do that, you automatically have to think differently. You can't believe Jesus, you can't believe, “Well, I'm working my way to Heaven, and Jesus judges us on our good works.”

QUESTION 24

How many times does the gospel of John uses the word translated “repent”?

Answer: _____

- A. Zero
- B. One
- C. Two
- D. Many

QUESTION 25

The only thing for a man to do in order to be saved is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 5: The Accursed Message (Gal 1:8-9)

As we see in this passage, God carefully guards his gospel message. Paul, as a faithful entrusted minister of the gospel, was especially interested in guarding what had been entrusted to him (Gal 2:7). Therefore, he gave a very stern warning to the Galatian church about those who were troubling them with a different gospel (Gal 1:6-10). These Galatians had deserted the gospel Paul preached for another gospel which is not another, meaning another of the same kind (Gal 1:6-7). It was a different, God-forsaken gospel and under his curse.

Assignment

- Please memorize Galatians 1:8-9.

You know, isn't that stupid when people tell you there's many roads that lead to Heaven, as long as we're going the same place? That's just not true. There's only one road. Any teaching that demands a change of conduct toward either God or man for salvation and to add works or human effort to faith and contradicts all Scripture and is an accursed message. Now, I want you to look at Galatians 1:8 and 9, let's look—I know you know that verse, those verses, Galatians 1:8 and 9, but I want you to see it. Listen God, He loves the gospel of grace. The devil hates the gospel of grace. Galatians 1:8, “But though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” Okay? You see it? Let's look at verse 9, saying it again—“And we said before so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have received, let him be accursed.” Now listen, God's the only One that can make the judgment on who's accursed and who's not. It is not for us to go around making those judgments. All I'm telling you is, if you're not preaching the gospel, God says they're going to be set aside and be accursed. There's only one gospel, there's not two gospels, and the gospel means good news and it means that Jesus Christ paid it all on the cross of Calvary, and if He paid all, then we don't have to. Oh yes, the gospel brings persecution, but it also brings manifold blessings that is beyond anything else. I love that gospel. I love that gospel. Remember, the closer the counterfeit comes to the truth, the more people it will fool. Don't be fooled. The closer it is, the closer it is to the truth, and you know, if they can get the gospel almost to where it's almost all of Jesus and then take it away. A Christian should make every effort to discipline his life to lay aside every weight and sin which so easily besets him, but this has to do with service, which can come only after salvation. Salvation is always a gift. It is nothing to do with ourselves. Let's make salvation as clear as we possibly can. If something might possibly confuse someone, let's find out before. “Beware lest any man spoil you,” in Colossians 2:8, “through philosophy [and] vain deceit after [the] tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Then in Second Corinthians 11:3, “But I fear lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through the subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

QUESTION 26

Please write Galatians 1:8-9 from memory.

QUESTION 27

It is important for us to tell those who add to the gospel that they are accursed. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 28

At what point in his life should a person make every effort to discipline his life and lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily besets us? Answer: _____

- A. In order to receive salvation.
- B. At the moment of salvation.
- C. From the point of salvation on.
- D. Never because it is a work

Lesson 13 Answers to Questions

QUESTION 1: True [The problem is that people have changed the meaning from what the biblical meaning is.]

QUESTION 2: True [You cannot stop all your sinning until you trust Christ and start working on it. Even then you won't succeed (1 Jn 1:8).]

QUESTION 3: False [You are to try to live like Christ but you'll never be able to this side of heaven.]

QUESTION 4

- B. Feeling sorry for sin
- C. Regret
- D. Turning from sin

[In contrast, the New Testament uses it to mean a change of mind.]

QUESTION 5: False [No matter how sick of it you are, it does not give you a right to change the Gospel. This kind of preaching, when they talk about saving yourself, leads to self-righteousness and a type of self-reformation.]

QUESTION 6: True [While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; not get rid of your sin and I'll save you.]

QUESTION 7: False [Jesus washed us in His own blood. Our works have NO power to cleanse us from our sins. It is sadly apparent that our modern day misuse of the word "repent" has done a great deal of harm, and has confused multitudes.]

QUESTION 8

- B. Corinth [Paul calls them brothers and sisters yet says they are influenced by the flesh and behaving like unregenerate people (1 Cor 3:1-3).]

QUESTION 9: False [The wrong use of the word repent can lead to that incorrect conclusion. This aspect of Christianity has nothing to do with our salvation.]

QUESTION 10

- C. Once a person has Christ and the Holy Spirit.
 - D. When you understand that it is all by grace.
- [This change is the result of being a child of God, not the cause.]

QUESTION 11

- B. To change your mind
- C. To reconsider
- D. To think differently

[When you change your mind, you think differently about what you do to get to Heaven.]

QUESTION 12: False [The unsaved Christian does not have the power to turn from their sin]

QUESTION 13: False [If a person understands he can't turn from all his sins, he may become sorrowful but that is not a part of repentance for salvation which is just a change of mind.]

QUESTION 14: True [When God tells an unsaved person to repent, He means to change his mind on how to reach God and God's way of salvation.]

QUESTION 15

- B. Jesus' audience [The people whom Pilate killed and the tower fell on were not any greater sinners than those in Jesus' audience who were still alive.]

QUESTION 16: False [Instead he was using this incident of tragic physical death to warn against a fate of spiritual death.]

QUESTION 17: False [There is nothing here about turning from sin.]

QUESTION 18: True [Up until now God had overlooked their idolatry but now he is asking men everywhere to have repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus Christ.]

QUESTION 19: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us".

QUESTION 20

- A. A sinner [These sinners needed to know that the God of the universe loved them as they were.]

QUESTION 21: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

QUESTION 22: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

They had executed him by nailing him to a cross.

QUESTION 23: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

They needed to understand that God had made this Jesus whom they crucified both Lord and Christ and that salvation was in his name (Acts 2:21, 36).

QUESTION 24

- A. Zero [Since it is impossible for an unbeliever to become a believer without changing his mind, it is therefore unnecessary to say anything about repentance.]

QUESTION 25: True [To do that, you automatically have to think differently.]

QUESTION 26: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

QUESTION 27: False [God is the only One who can make the judgment of who is accursed and who is not. It is not for us to go around making those judgments.]

QUESTION 28

- C. From the point of salvation on. [This has to do with service, which can come only after salvation.]