

The Experience of Repentance



EVERYONE WANTS a life full of satisfaction, interest, accomplishment and joy. Yet most people are discontented, worried, often fearful, restless, bored, dissatisfied, with a sense of emptiness.

Why?

Lesson 2



Is
This
Real
Repentance?



of God -- the divine nature of God -- the FAITH of God -- the POWER of God -- the CHARACTER of God, all emanating from God, through His Holy Spirit, can come within man, as the gift of God's love to him!

Man is not COMPLETE until he has this SPIRITUAL union with his Maker

The Eternal Creator PROVIDED for the kind of happy and abundant life we all want and seek -- yet only very few ever experience it! What is the reason so few have found the way of life which leads to happiness and success? Everyone COULD know! God has revealed the answer!

God set in motion LIVING LAWS TO PRODUCE HAPPINESS, peace, joy, and abundance. These LAWS are the way to everything that everyone really craves and seeks. Yet nearly everyone rejects THIS WAY and seeks it in the opposite direction!

Man Is Incomplete

God created mankind INCOMPLETE. God formed MAN of the dust of the ground -- of matter. Man is material. But God is SPIRIT. Physical man is not complete until his mind is united with the spiritual mind of God through the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit!

Unlike animals, man was made "in the image of God" -- so that the very Holy Spirit of God Himself can actually enter WITHIN MAN -- thus uniting with man's mind and imparting the spiritual characteristics of God's SPIRITUAL mind.

In the Garden of Eden God freely offered His Holy Spirit to Adam and Eve, which they rejected. And today God offers His Spirit to us through Christ.

Thus the very MIND of God -- the divine LOVE

-- this fellowship -- this father-son relationship. Why, then, do most people not have this priceless gift of the Holy Spirit which God actually yearns to bestow upon every person? Understand!

God knew that man COULD NOT have perfection of character by instantaneous fiat creation alone. It requires time, knowledge, submissiveness, decision, a cooperative will, self-resistance, self-direction on man's part -- actually TEAMING UP WITH GOD ALMIGHTY! Perfection of character can come only through EXPERIENCE -- with man's consent and willingness, GOING the way God's Spirit will LEAD him.

Therefore God created mortal man with human nature which, like the power of gravity, exerts on man a DOWNWARD PULL that is hostile toward God and God's ways. Man must first come to the knowledge of his natural rebellion against God's right ways. He must come to experience genuine REPENTANCE of his hostility -- his resentment of authority -- his own wrong thinking and acting.

True Repentance Brings Happiness

Before God will give His Holy Spirit which leads to happiness, man must meet God's conditions. First, REPENTANCE, which is toward God the Father. Then, FAITH which is toward our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. These reconcile us to God. True repentance -- experiencing a genuine

abhorrence of sinful, rebellious self -- fuming FROM hostility and disobedience, TO a loving Saviour and a loving Father in complete unconditional surrender and spirit of obedience -- plus faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ -- remove the great barrier that has cut us off from God. Thus the very first step on THE WAY toward real and everlasting happiness is a genuine, deep, and complete REPENTANCE. Only then is one ready for baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38.

Head Of Stone



Man is incomplete without the indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit, yet the way to receive the spirit is conditional. Man must genuinely repent. True Repentance must be experienced in order to break the head of stone.

are now ready to "turn around and go the other way" -- ALL the way -- GOD'S way!

Learning this great LESSON of our own helplessness, misery and inadequacy APART from God is the real PURPOSE of life! That is WHY God has permitted "THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD" to continue with all of its trials, tests and frustrations.

Man must learn that he NEEDS God -- that he is INCOMPLETE and FRUSTRATED without a vital, personal fellowship with his Maker.

God, having taught us this GREAT LESSON, can then begin to FINISH His creation by

But REPENTANCE will take REAL ACTION -- self-mortification -- unconditional SURRENDER -- complete GIVING IN -- on your part!

Perhaps you have now come to the point where you realize the great need of having God's Spirit to CHANGE YOU.

This is a time of crisis in your life! Belief and baptism may seem to be easy conditions for you to meet. But NOT SO WITH REPENTANCE! Normally, your own human nature and vanity will rebel against fully repenting. So what does "REPENT" really mean?

What Repentance Really Is!

When we are finally brought to real repentance, we mean business. We are ready -- in EVERY PHASE of our lives -- to say: "YES, Lord ... THY will be done." In REAL repentance, we have become completely SICK AND TIRED of our OWN selfish ways -- AS WELL AS THOSE OF THIS WORLD'S SOCIETY. We are truly SORRY for our mistakes and sins -- and we are MOST WITTING AND READY, through God's Spirit within us, to make a PERMANENT CHANGE. We

placing within us His Holy Spirit -- His very nature and CHARACTER -- which will give us the spiritual POWER to overcome and hold down the selfish downward pulls of human nature. The Holy Spirit will also give us great joy and inward PEACE OF MIND.

Yes, you were born INCOMPLETE -- in great NEED of personal contact with God through His Spirit. You need to face that fact squarely and -- asking God's guidance and help -- take ACTION on it!

The Turning Point

The time of repentance is the CRISIS in your life! It is the TURNING POINT in your entire destiny!

Do not underestimate the importance of this matter. Repentance spells the difference between success and oblivion! It is only when you have become willing to totally SURRENDER your stubborn will to God that He will grant you His Spirit. And ONLY through the power of God's Spirit within you will you ever be able to KEEP your



A church is filled with emotion and excitement, but true repentance involves unconditional surrender. We love to feel good about ourselves, but the experience of repentance can be painful.

mind IN SUBJECTION to His will -- to overcome SELFISHNESS, VANITY and SIN.

Your WILLINGNESS IS the QUESTION! Your WILLINGNESS TO HELP build the kind of CHARACTER that God wants -- through constant surrender now, with the aid of God's Holy Spirit, to Him and His ways -- is the MOST IMPORTANT question in all of life!

God's Supreme Creation

God Almighty is the Supreme Artist. You see His artistry in magnificent sunsets, beautiful landscapes, awe-inspiring mountains, in the star-studded sky. God's work of artistry is CREATION. He is the Supreme Almighty Creator of all.

But now, in man, God has set His hand to produce the crowning pinnacle of His own works of creation. Yes, even higher than the angels. In man He is creating perfect, righteous, holy character! And THAT IS the highest, most lofty achievement that even the Supreme Almighty

Creator can accomplish!

God's PURPOSE in having brought you into this world -- and in permitting you to live and breathe -- is to create in and through you His own supreme masterpiece of creation!

It's true that YOU, AS YOU NOW ARE, certainly are not very important -- certainly are of very little consequence -- so far as your own inherent ability and capacity is concerned. You are full of faults, weaknesses, shortcomings. You have bad habits. You have sins -- "secret sins" -- that you have not yet mastered and overcome, which NO ONE knows anything about except just YOU AND God!

Then can you realize the sobering truth that it is the purpose of the Everlasting God to make out of you -- sinful and unworthy and incapable though you have been -- an immortal, spiritual and holy CHARACTER SO pure, and noble, and righteous that ultimately the eternal God Himself can look upon you with loving pride as the SUPREME product of all His creative power through eternity? Can your mind grasp the awful greatness -- the solemn IMMENSITY of that truth? And it is truth! God HIMSELF will do this creating through His Holy Spirit. HE will do the work. He is the divine Sculptor.

Surrender Into God's Capable Hands

But this character will not be created in YOU UNLESS and UNTIL YOU, yourself, make the decision to repent. If you will REPENT, and come to God through Jesus Christ our Saviour, trusting in His precious shed blood for the remission of every sin you ever committed, trusting the risen, Ever-Living Christ as High Priest to come literally inside you, through His Holy Spirit, and to mold, fashion, shape your character -- then you will see that the Creator is STILL CREATING, in you, the very highest work of all His works of creation! Yes, Christians are being CREATED in Jesus Christ "UNTO GOOD WORKS" (Eph. 2:10) "CREATED in righteousness and true holiness"



God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will mold and shape His Children into vessels to honor. God is the Master Sculptor.

(Eph. 4:24.

For this tremendous PURPOSE, YOU are made of mortal clay -- made subject to pride, vanity, passions and tempers and desires of the flesh. Character is something which cannot be instantly created. It grows, and is developed through EXPERIENCES OF OVERCOMING -- and these require time. It requires a lifetime, during which you must suffer temptations, encounter obstacles, endure tribulations, overcoming self.

But God promises you His POWER to draw on to help you. It isn't REALLY your doing -- it's GOD'S doing! Your part is TO REPENT, surrender fully, wholly, unreservedly into His hands -- seek Him, CRY OUT TO HIM, TRUST Him. And God even grants you the understanding and spiritual capacity to enable you to repent! But you have your part in it, of course -- else no CHARACTER could be built!

Trust God and Do Your Part

The very reason God allows this present evil world to exist is to bring men to the realization

they must repent of their sins and evil natures. It is to make them realize they desperately need God's Spirit to overcome their carnal natures and develop God's character. Watch the little child - its resentments, anger, jealousy, covetousness of another's toys, flares of temper. ITS NATURE IS YOURS -- MADE PLAIN because it hasn't learned how to COVER UP yet!

And so the first beginning toward the fulfillment of your purpose on earth is TO REPENT -- repent of all that is wrong with you, including the wrong customs and practices of "this present EVIL world" which you have followed.

Before You Begin

This lesson is intended to direct you to the BIBLE -- to help you learn the truth of God's Word. Here is the method of study.

Is your Bible in front of you? If not, GET your Bible -- or Bibles, if you have more than one translation -- BEFORE YOU CONTINUE WITH THIS LESSON! Have a good dictionary, a concordance if you own one, and your notepaper all placed in front of you on a desk or table.

Remember -- you are to open your Bible to EVERY passage. Never say to yourself, "Oh, I think I know what the lesson is referring to" -- and then pass over the scripture. You need to "KEEP YOUR NOSE IN THE BIBLE," SO to speak. You must read and reread and think out each passage.

Then, during your leisure time, MEDITATE on the new knowledge you will learn -- especially within the following twenty-four hours, and in your time of prayer -- SO YOU WON'T FORGET IT! Make God's Word a PART of you! Don't forget that this is a BIBLE study course -- not just a study of the lessons we send you.

This lesson, like all others, is extremely important to you. Have you PRAYED to God for understanding? If not, go now to a private place, kneel down, and ask Him for SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING and wisdom. Ask God to HELP YOU

GRASP AND APPLY the knowledge this lesson will reveal to you in the Bible! And now for the lesson itself.

Repentance Always Commanded

1. What was the result of man's sin in the Garden of Eden? READ all of Genesis 3. Did sin and violence rapidly increase after man was ejected from the Garden? Gen. 4:8, 23; 6:5.

2. Were the people who lived prior to the flood corrupting God's way of life the same as mankind has ALWAYS done? Gen. 6:12.

COMMENT: Notice the words "corrupted His way." God has always made available "HIS way" for man to live. It's the way of not giving in to the down-pulls of human nature.

3. Isn't IDOLATRY one of the downward pulls which God placed within the natures of ALL people? Gal. 5:19-20.

And isn't idolatry -- having some other "god" before the True God -- a violation of one of God's commandments? Ex. 20:3-5.

4. WHOSE way are people to TURN FROM

in repentance? Ezek. 33:9 and Prov. 14:12.

COMMENT: Many do not understand what "repentance" really means. But here we see plainly it is turning from our OWN way -- the way of living which by nature seems NATURALLY right to us.

The Old Covenant Israelites could not think straight. They had disobedient CARNAL minds. They did not yet have God's spiritual mind within them. They were "not all there"!

God has been allowing man to learn the hard way by letting him experience the "fruits" of his own ways. Israel's terrible example is a lesson to us who can have the Holy Spirit, and need NOT learn the HARD way.

5. Does Zechariah 1:4 also verify the fact that repentance is a TURNING FROM the natural ways of man?

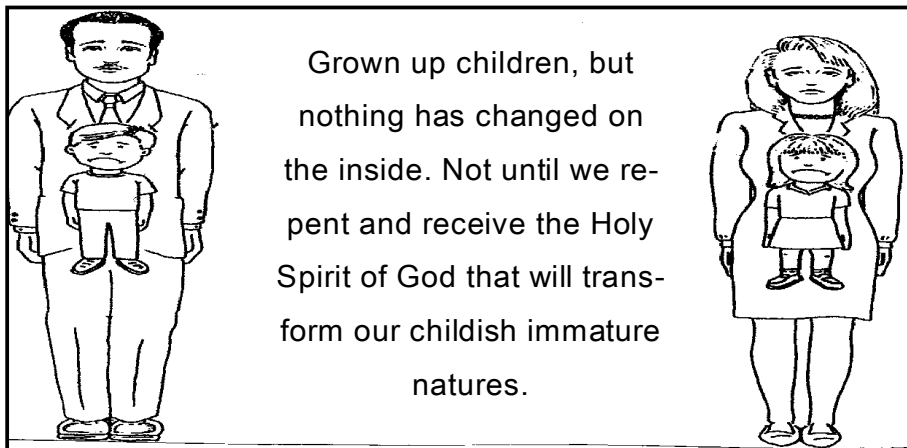
6. Does God want us to forsake even our unrighteous THOUGHTS? Isa. 55:7. Since God commands us to "turn FROM" something, what are we to "turn TO," or KEEP, in place of these sinful ways? Ezek. 18:21.

Repentance Commanded Today.

1. Did Jesus -- knowing that the Holy Spirit of POWER was to be made available to all mankind immediately after His ascension into heaven -- command EVERYONE TO repent? Mat. 4:17.

2. And did the Holy Spirit come on the Day of Pentecost, just as Christ said it would? Acts 2:2,

4. And didn't Peter immediately proclaim how people could receive the POWER of the Holy Spirit with which to overcome their carnal natures? Acts 2:38. Is the condition of repentance again mentioned here?



Notice the word REPENT.

COMMENT: YOU won't find repentance an EASY thing to do.

Repentance is difficult! It goes AGAINST YOUR NATURE. It must and will completely "upset" your life -- until your life has been made RIGHT SIDE UP.

Understand! You began life totally selfish. You were all wrapped up -- in diapers and blankets -- AND IN SELF! Of course, you didn't realize it at

the time. In fact, you didn't realize much of anything. CERTAINLY, you were beautiful in your parents' sight. But if anything made you uncomfortable, you immediately let out a squall. Whether it was a loose pin, a gas pain, wet diaper or hunger, you were ONLY concerned with yourself. And day or night, you wanted the WHOLE WORLD to know YOU were in pain!

Of course you've grown out of that now. Yet -- HAVE YOU?

You're much more subtle now. You don't yell out in the middle of the night. You don't do the things babies do. You have changed your way of acting. But HAVE YOU changed your way of THINKING?

As a baby grows, one of the first things he or she learns is that its little world revolves around IT. Mother and Daddy literally RUN to serve it. The whole family adjusts its schedule to suit the demands of the little one. And so, success in gaining attention confirm it in its selfish ways. As the baby grows it becomes more and more habit-bound to obey its carnal nature.

Now, narrow it down to you. As you grew up, you continued to be wrapped up in self. As a teen-ager, you were still greedy, selfish, subject to every whim that sprang from the desires of your physical flesh.

But now an interesting thing has happened! You learned it was frowned upon. Though still totally selfish and carnal -- still with your human nature -- you have learned to COVER UP. You no longer screamed out at hunger pangs or SHOWED every emotion.

But you were still -- now more than ever -- all wrapped up in self.

EVERYONE Commanded to Repent!

1. Does the Bible continue to show there are no exceptions -- that ALL have plenty to repent of? I John 1:8, 10.

2. Have all sinned and come short of God's

righteousness and glory because of disobedience to His LAW? I John 3:4.

3. Are ALL people filthy by God's standard? Ps. 14:2-3. Is there a single one that is REALLY good of himself? Verse 3.

COMMENT: Many feel they are poor GOOD humble folk who have not done anything really WRONG in their lives and so have little, if anything, to repent of. But your Bible says ALL have CARNAL MINDS and that ALL have SINNED!

Christ commanded, "Be" -- BECOME -- "Ye therefore PERFECT even as your Father which is in heaven is PERFECT" (Mat. 5:48.

We must all REPENT SO we CAN receive God's Holy Spirit and BECOME perfect. It's a PROCESS IMPOSSIBLE without God's Spirit! For your Bible says, "they that are in the FLESH [carnally minded] cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the SPIRIT [spiritually minded], IF SO be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have NOT the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:8-9) . See also verses 4-7.

You need to EXAMINE YOURSELF! Are you SURE YOU are converted? Remember it is the FEW who have found the REAL WAY to salvation at this time!

4. Did Christ say REPENTANCE would be preached among ALL nations? Luke 24:47. And does God specifically command ALL people to repent? Acts 17:30.

COMMENT: God commands every person in this world to repent-- to turn from their present evil ways!

5. What, specifically, are the repentant to turn from? Acts 2:38 and I Pet. 2:11. COMMENT: The "fleshly lusts" spoken of here are the DOWNWARD PULLS of human nature (Gal. 5:19-21. We must resist them and REPENT of all sins and ask God to help us keep His commandments through the POWER of His Holy Spirit. Peter here commands that we ABSTAIN from giving in to downward pulls. We now know this is impossible except we first REPENT!

6. If anyone REMAINS unrepentant -- impenitent -- what does he lay up for himself? Rom. 2:5. And what will be his ultimate fate? Ezek. 18:20.

COMMENT: EVERYONE must ULTIMATELY repent to be saved! There is no other way. If a person sets his will not to repent, he will be destroyed forever in the holocaust of fire which will consume the entire surface of this present earth, destroying everything except those who are transformed into spirit beings (II Pet. 3:10; Rev. 20:15) .

Is God Fair?

Is God fair in commanding us to repent of sin? Honest persons are admitting that this present world is on the road to destruction. The reason? SIN -- unrestrained human nature in ACTION!

Now, what is sin? Is it fun? Is it everything that is good and pleasurable and enjoyable? Is that what sin is? Or is it the breaking of GOD'S LAWS which results in wretchedness, poverty, misery, sickness and death?

There are two definitions of sin -- the world's definition, and God's definition. The world's definition is that sin is the way to act and live that gives those who dare to do so increased pleasure, fun, good times, enjoyment. It's the "forbidden fruit" that is sweeter, more desirable.

THIS concept, though unrealized, is that God is unjust and UNFAIR, forbidding US to really enjoy life. Consequently, sin is the desirable way which is forbidden, or at least frowned on, by respectable society under religious influence. If sin is to be "enjoyed," it must

therefore be in secret unless one is to defy society or be branded with disgrace -- or so it used to be, though society today is becoming "broadminded," more tolerant of sin, permitting more and more what previous generations forbade.

This concept was aptly illustrated by the deathbed confession of an atheist. His daughter came to his bedside and asked: "Father, now that you know that you are going to die, which do you now think is best -- your atheism or Mother's Christianity?"

"Well, daughter," the dying man replied, "I still believe my way is the best to live by, but I'll have to confess at last that your mother's religion is the best to die in."

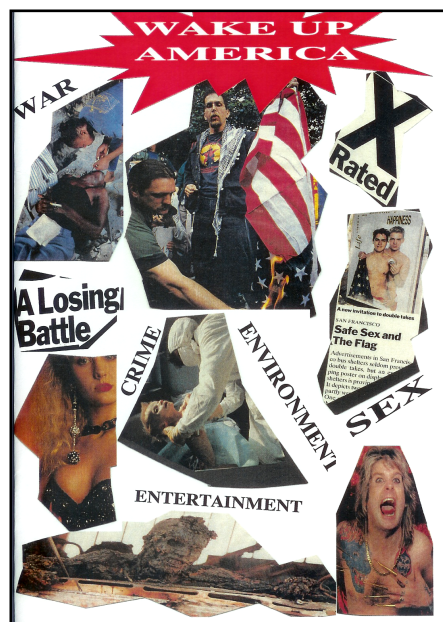
That's the common conception. People unthinkingly have a picture of a god who is unfair -- who expects people to give up the worthwhile things of life, deny one's self enjoying life, and live a life of unhappiness in order to be "saved." And according to this view the way to cheat God is to live in sin and enjoy life, and then squeeze through at the last minute by a deathbed confession!

This concept is Satan's masterpiece of delusion, fastened on an unthinking world! It pictures the god of Herbert Spencer's distorted imagination -- a monster, who "saves" people through fear of penalties unless they forsake "more desirable ways" for his "narrow and unhappy way." It hides God's love, turns God's Law of Love into an evil, cheats human beings of happiness, peace, success and joy that could

be theirs through a discernment of the true values.

That is the world's definition of sin.

But what does the Textbook for really joyous living -- the Bible -- whose All-wise Author is the



A sin ridden culture that desperately needs to repent of the transgression of God's Laws. A society that will not repent will eventually self destruct.

Eternal God, define as sin?

Why We Need to Repent

"Sin," defines the Bible, "is the transgression of the Law" (1 John 3:4.

God says "the law is spiritual" (Rom. 7:14) . And "the law is HOLY, JUST, and GOOD" (Rom. 7:12) . And "love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10) . Is there anything wrong with that? Of course not!

And what is righteousness? "All thy COMMANDMENTS are RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Ps. 119:172) . Righteousness is obedience to the living laws God has set IN MOTION. These Laws are ALIVE. They are eternal, immutable, inexorable! (Ps. 111:7-8.

When we transgress them, there is a PENALTY. There is no escape from the penalty, unless we accept Christ's sacrifice as payment of that penalty in OUR STEAD.

The Law has been set in motion, and it is the most powerful, irresistible thing in all the universe! Relentlessly, it moves on, always aiming its penalty without fail!

That Law is SO STRONG -- SO IRRESISTIBLE -- so IMMUTABLE -- that it took even the life of God-in-the-flesh, Jesus Christ, the very Son of God! It was stronger than HE! It claimed His life, when He voluntarily took your sins and mine upon Himself! When He came under the penalty in OUR stead, not even the life of Jesus Christ was strong enough to PREVENT that inexorable Law from claiming its last, final penalty -- DEATH!

Jesus did not do away with the Law. The Law did away with HIM -- with His physical, earthly life! Christ would have remained dead FOREVER, unless resurrected. It is only because God raised Him from the dead by a resurrection that He now lives! He didn't end the LAW -- no, the LAW ended His life! And it will end YOURS also, unless your sins are all on Jesus and covered by HIS shed blood!

But death is not the ONLY penalty of breaking God's Law. Not by any means! The penalty of broken law, HERE and NOW, is broken, frustrated lives, shattered hopes and hopeless dreams, unending misery, wretchedness, unhappiness and want!

Yes, the Law of God is GOOD! It is love! It is the way to peace, to happiness, to joy! Keep it, and you will be HAPPY. Break it, and you will suffer! THE LAW IS GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO MANKIND -- given to make man happy, to lead him into the full abundant life, to PROTECT his happiness and lead him into eternal life!

1. Is God's Law the Law of LIBERTY? James 1:25. Does keeping the Law result in blessings? Same verse.

2. Does obedience to God's Law result in genuine freedom -- freedom from fears, from misery, from penalties of every kind, and freedom from the bondage of the Devil and his demons? Rom. 6:14,16, 18.

3. Does God's Law also free us from slavery to the foolish and hurtful customs of society? Col. 2:20-22.

Repentance Is Positive!

Repentance is NOT a matter of "giving up" everything good! Repentance is POSITIVE! Not only do you escape the penalties of sin, but it is the way to uncountable positive benefits. Let's consider this for a moment.

The blood of Jesus pays the penalty of our sins -- takes away our past sins, reconciles us to God. Then God gives us His free HOLY SPIRIT -- the Spirit of LOVE -- "THE love of God" -- God's kind of love -- "shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5) . And this spiritual love, in us, ALONE can fulfill, or keep God's Law!

It is ONLY those thus keeping the Law who know real peace, happiness and joy!

And only those having the Holy Spirit within them can inherit eternal life!

The commands, precepts and other teachings of the BIBLE pull the glossy, attractive coloring off of sin and reveal it for what it is! Remember THAT! Don't forget it! They stand for THE WAY which will bring true happiness! And they point out to us that living any other way than by God's Laws is a snare and delusion!

Humans seek "fun," pleasure, enjoyment. Sin usually gives a TEMPORARY sensation of pleasure, or exhilaration. But there's always a KICK-BACK! Sometimes it's the headache of the "morning after." It exacts an EXORBITANT PRICE always collected later -- but it's a RELENTLESS COLLECTOR! And its final price is death! It's a mighty poor bargain! God help us to discern the true values from the false!

Bible Our GUIDE to Repentance

God tells us that His Word is to be our GUIDE to daily living. The BIBLE shows exactly what we must TURN FROM and TURN TO! Let's understand.

1. Can we trust our own understanding? Can we rely on our own minds to tell us what to do and what not to do? Pro. 3:5.

COMMENT: How can we possibly trust our own minds since we were born with minds that are only "half there"! None of us has the Holy Spirit of God unless and until we repent of our past sins, are baptized and begin obeying God. We CAN'T think straight, as far as spiritual matters of salvation are concerned, without God's Spirit. For the downward pulls of our evil nature DISTORT our thinking towards disobedience to God.

2. When one who does not have the Holy

Spirit within him depends upon his unconverted mind to tell him what is RIGHT and what is wrong, where will he END UP? Pro. 14:12. Does God repeat this again, for EMPHASIS, in Proverbs 16:25?

3. When people follow their own vain reasoning's, do they miss out on the whole purpose of why God put them here on the earth -- that He intends them to learn to do the righteousness of God? Rom. 10:3.

4. Then isn't it the Law of God which must point out to us what wrongdoing -- SIN -- really is? I John 3:4.

COMMENT: It is the Law of God, and NOT OUR CONSCIENCE, that explains what sin is!

5. Since God's laws and precepts which lead to SALVATION are not found within OUR OWN MINDS, then just where ARE they to be found? II Tim. 3:15.

6. Does obedience to God's commandments contained in His Word result in blessings? I John 3:22.


7. Is the Bible profitable for reproofing and correcting and instructing us in God's way of life? II Tim. 3:16-17.

8. Are the reproofs and instructions of God a way of life? Pro. 6:23.

COMMENT: We need to quit following MEN who have appointed themselves as "authorities" on the Bible. Let's follow CHRIST'S command in Matthew 4:4 to "live by every word of GOD." Let's get back to the TRUE teachings of the Bible!

9. What happens when people do not obey the scriptures implicitly? Mat. 15:14.

COMMENT: People fall into error when they follow the teachings of misguided men, instead of God's Word -- the Bible.



Most people want a quick fix to deal with the consequences of their sins, but real repentance means a change in behavior. Few people desire the life changing behavior that only God can bring through real repentance.

10. By what standard will all people be judged by God? John 12:48-50.

11. Is it just enough to praise God in thought and word, or are we commanded to put God's instructions into actual USE in our daily lives? Mat. 7:21. This is important to remember!

12. When something new comes up in our daily lives and we are undecided just what God would want us to DO about it, what does God command? I Thes. 5:21.

COMMENT: God commands us to prove all things by His Word. We are to STUDY all the scriptures relating to any proposed course of action before making a final decision. The only infallible guide is God's BIBLE! And God's Word commands us to repent of disobeying His laws and begin OBEYING them NOW. This is the ONLY WAY TO all the tremendous blessings God offers you and me and all mankind!

TEST

This multiple choice test is designed to help you review the preceding lesson. It's an enjoyable way of putting to use some of the vital knowledge and understanding you have gained through this lesson.

Select one of the four choices given under each question or incomplete statement. The other three are incorrect--unless stated or indicated otherwise.

Take sufficient time to understand each question or statement, as well as the choices. Try to do as many as you can without referring to the lesson. If you have difficulty deciding on the correct answer, then review the part of the lesson in question.

1. Why are so many people discontented, worried, and unhappy today?

- A. This condition does not have a cause.
- B. Because people do not want to be happy.
- C. Because people are being forced to obey God's Laws.
- D. Because nearly everyone rejects God's living Laws which are the ONLY WAY TO everything the world really craves and seeks.

2. Which ONE of these four statements is TRUE?

- A. Man is born perfect -- physically, mentally, morally.
- B. God will create His righteous, holy character within us INSTANTANEOUSLY, if we will only repent of our sins.
- C. God knows that it requires time for His character to be perfected within man.
- D. Man's carnal character is acceptable to God as it is.

3. The FIRST STEP on the way toward real and everlasting happiness

- A. is genuine, deep, and complete repentance.
- B. is baptism.
- C. is just acknowledging one has done a few "bad" things in the past.
- D. is just being "sorry" for one's past sins.

4. Which ONE of these four statements is FALSE?

- A. True repentance is the experience of UTTER ABHORRENCE of the sinful, rebellious self.
- B. Repentance means that we are just sorry we did a few "bad" things in the past.
- C. True repentance is being thoroughly broken up about our past sinful lives.
- D. True repentance involves turning completely around from our old sinful ways and going in the OPPOSITE DIRECTION -- GOD'S WAY -- in obedience to God's Laws.

5. Is it easy to truly repent?

- A. It is no trouble at all for people who are "good folk" at heart.
- B. It's just as easy as believing in Christ and being baptized.
- C. No! Our human nature, with its vanity, will strongly rebel against fully repenting.
- D. The many thousands of people who have accepted "altar calls" at religious revivals prove beyond a doubt that true repentance is simple and very easy!

6. Which ONE of these four statements is TRUE?

- A. God's purpose for man is to create perfect, righteous, holy character in him.
- B. God's only purpose for us is that we go through a sentimental experience which this world's churches call "being saved."
- C. When people say "I accept Christ," they have then and there qualified to live forever.
- D. There are only a few people in this world who really need to repent.

7. Do we have any personal part in God's creation of His perfect character in us?

- A. No, God does it all.
- B. Yes, but only those who have been extremely rebellious have a part.
- C. Yes. Our part is to just patiently go on suffering the results of sinning -- until God Himself changes our ways.
- D. Yes! We must fervently desire to have God's character built in us, repent bitterly of sin which robbed us of so much joy we could have had, and exert our utmost effort to put sin down and hold it under, trusting in God to supply the spiritual power to help us do so!

8. Which ONE of these four statements is TRUE?

- A. The world was perfectly righteous in the days of old.
- B. This world has always been evil, even from the very beginning.
- C. The downward pulls of human nature are becoming weaker as time goes on.
- D. Only in modern times has the true evil nature of man manifested itself.

9. Why did God create evil pulls within us?

- A. Because God wants to see us suffer.
- B. Because God is unjust.
- C. Because God made a mistake.
- D. So we can build righteous character by learning to choose rightly with the guidance and help of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit.

10. Which ONE of these four statements is FALSE?

- A. Repentance is turning from our own ways which by nature seem naturally right to us.
- B. "Repent" has always been God's command to man down through the ages.
- C. Repentance does not include turning from evil THOUGHTS.
- D. God desires all mankind to turn to His statutes and commandments and keep them so that all may receive and enjoy BLESSINGS, instead of the curses which result from their own evil ways.

11. Why is it absolutely essential to receive the Holy Spirit?

- A. To strengthen our spiritual vanity.
- B. So we can immediately be "born again."
- C. So we won't be able to sin again in this mortal life.
- D. In order to have the power to resist our carnal nature and please God through obedience, thus insuring our being born of God at the resurrection.

12. Which ONE of these four statements is FALSE?

- A. When we transgress God's spiritual laws, we bring the penalty of eternal death upon ourselves.
- B. God the Father gave His only Son to die IN OUR STEAD -- to pay the death penalty FOR US -- if we accept and obey Him.
- C. The law is so powerful and immutable that it took the life of the very Son of God -- Jesus Christ -- when He voluntarily took the penalty of our sins upon Himself!
- D. Violating God's spiritual Laws cannot incur the penalty of eternal death.

13. Which ONE of these four statements is FALSE?

- A. Once we repent, the shed blood of Jesus Christ covers -- BLOTS OUT -- all of our past transgressions of God's Law.
- B. The death of Christ reconciles us to God the Father by paying the total wages -- DEATH -- of our transgressions which have separated us from the Father.
- C. We can fulfill -- obey -- God's Law without the love of His Holy Spirit abiding in us.
- D. Once the penalty of our sins has been forgiven -- paid by Christ's supreme sacrifice -- God promises to give us His Holy Spirit of love and power.

14. Which ONE of these four statements is TRUE?

- A. Sin gives lasting pleasure.
- B. If you are clever and careful, you can get around the penalty of sin.
- C. Sin may give a TEMPORARY sensation of pleasure, but in the end, it always exacts its final price -- DEATH!
- D. God allows occasional compromise with sin as long as we obey Him most of the time.

15. What does trusting our own understanding lead to?

- A. To the happiness and prosperity we all desire.
- B. To true LIBERTY and freedom.
- C. To eternal life.
- D. To ETERNAL DEATH -- unless we REPENT and turn to God's Word, the Bible, for true understanding of God's Laws and will.

16. What is God's whole purpose in putting us here on this earth?

- A. To make of us automatons who will obey Him unquestioningly.
- B. To learn right from wrong by letting our conscience guide us, just like instinct guides an animal.
- C. To learn to submit ourselves to the righteousness of God -- His Law -- and to ultimately be born into the God Family!
- D. God just wanted to see what man would do if left to his own reasoning.

17. What is the Bible good for?

- A. It is profitable for reproving, correcting and instructing one along God's way to eternal life.
- B. Not much since it only contains a confusion of unrelated and meaningless books and stories.
- C. For giving one an "INSPIRATIONAL lift" only.
- D. It is certainly not for the common layman to read and study -- only the church "hierarchy" can use and understand the Bible.

18. What results when people do not follow the Scriptures implicitly?

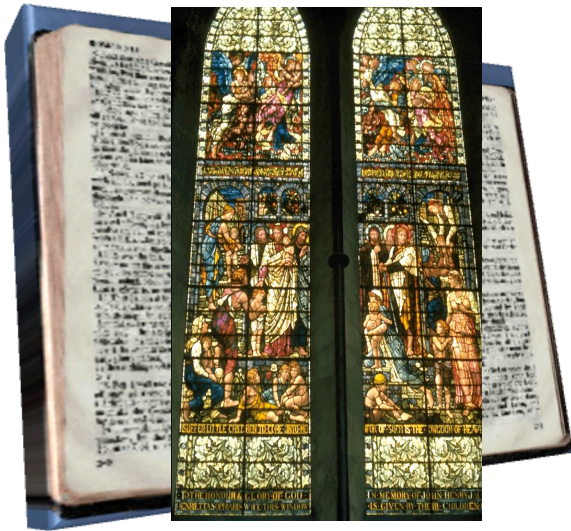
A. Happy and abundant lives.

B. A life full of "good works."

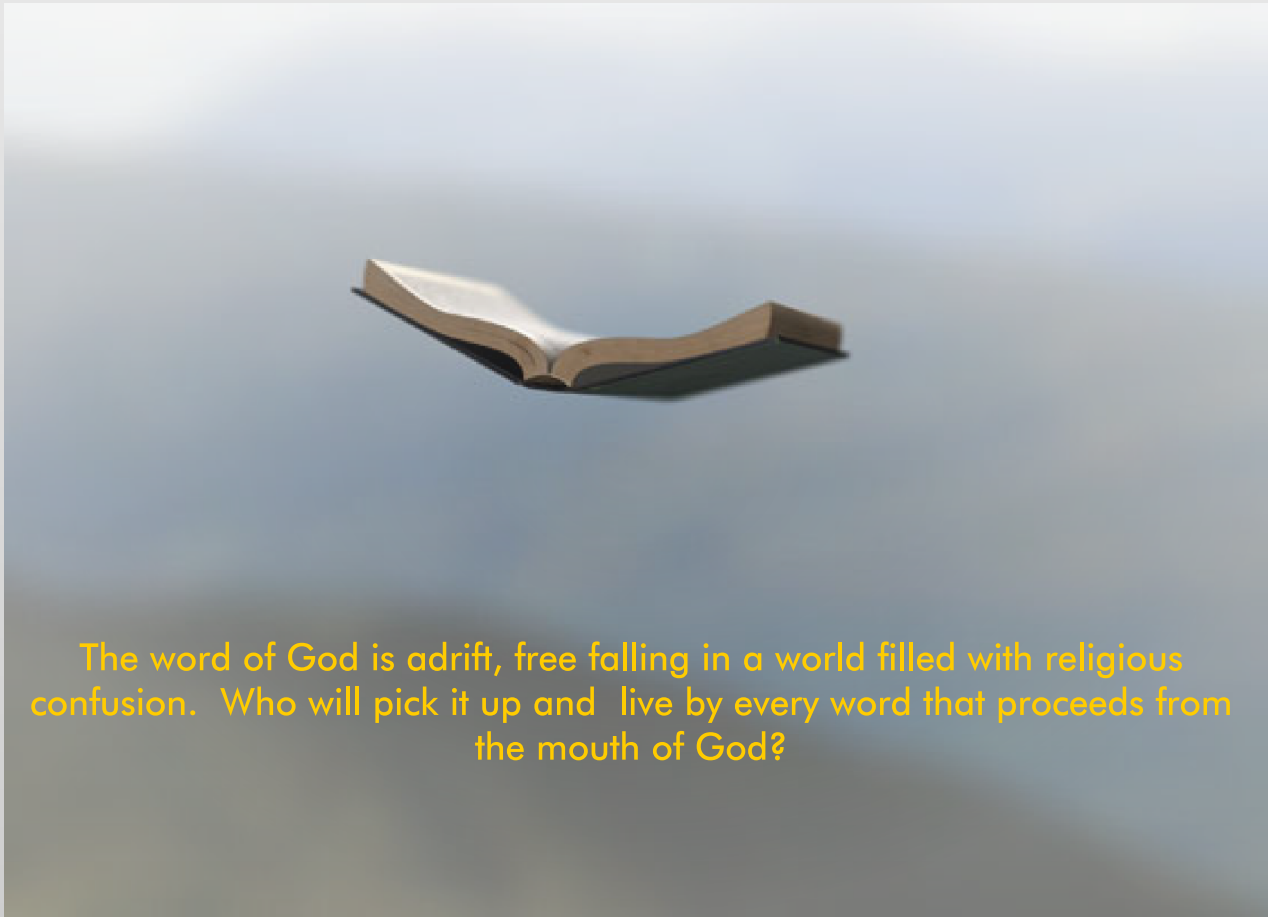
C. People fall into gross error, spiritual blindness, and ENSLAVEMENT to foolish superstitions.

D. There are no special results since following the Scriptures does not produce anything special either.

Next Lesson-Your Religion Is Not Enough!



Millions have been deceived into falsely believing they HAVE a "salvation which they do NOT yet have at all! Will it be too late when you find out, Your Religion Is Not Enough?



The word of God is adrift, free falling in a world filled with religious confusion. Who will pick it up and live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God?

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