

REPENTANCE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Five of seven churches in Revelation were told to repent.
- B. Of all the steps to becoming a Christian, repentance is the hardest..

I. WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT.

- A. Repentance is not...**sorrow**.
Feeling sorry is not a change of mind and life (2Cor. 7:10).
- B. Repentance is not...**gloomy despair**.
Judas had great despair (remorse), but did not repent of his deeds (Mt. 27:3-5).
- C. Repentance is not...**just quitting sin**.
One must become convinced that what they were doing was wrong.
- D. Repentance is not...**covering up sin**.
There is not to be a race between sin and grace (Rom. 6:1).

II. WHAT REPENTANCE IS.

- A. Repentance is...**a change of mind**.
One now regards an action as sinful and abhors the thought of it (2Cor. 7:10)
- B. Repentance is...**always towards God**.
Turning to God means truly repenting of the devil and sin (Ac. 20:21).
- C. Repentance is...**a change of life**.
Faith without works is dead, and so repentance without works is dead (Mt. 3:8).

III. REPENT WHILE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY.

- A. Jesus came into the world to call sinners to repentance. We must change our ways to be acceptable to Christ (Lk. 5:32).
- B. God is long-suffering not wishing any to perish, but all to repent (2Pet. 3:9; Ac. 17:30).
- C. We must heed the opportunity to repent:
 - 1. At Ephesus, Jesus said, "remember from where you have fallen and repent" (Rev. 2:5).
 - 2. At Pergamum, Jesus said, "repent or I will come quickly and make war with you" (Rev. 2:16).
 - 3. At Thyatira Jesus said, "I gave her time to repent, but she refused" (Rev. 2:21).
 - 4. At Sardis Jesus said, "remember what you have received, and heard, and keep it and repent" (Rev. 3:3).
 - 5. At Laodecia Jesus said, "those I love I reprove and discipline, be zealous and repent" (Rev. 3:19).
- D. The kindness and mercy of God leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Jesus taught that heaven's angels rejoice over every sinner that repents (Lk. 15:7,10).
- B. Repentance even makes God run (to meet you!), see Lk. 15:20.
- C. Are you willing to believe, confess, and be baptized? Yes, that's the easy parts!
But are you willing to change your life?
- D. Are you willing to repent?