

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 17:30,31**.
- B. This sermon is 3rd in a series on the plan of salvation.
- C. Five of seven churches in Revelation were told to repent.
- D. Of all the steps to becoming a Xian, 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).
For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- B. Repentance is not... **gloomy despair**.
Judas had great despair, but did not repent of his deeds (Mt. 27:3-5).
Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.
- C. Repentance is not... **just quitting sin**.
One must become convinced that what they were doing was wrong.
(Are you just quitting a bad habit, or sorry you have harmed your body?)
- D. Repentance is not... **covering up sin**.
There is not to be a race between sin and grace (Rom. 6:1).
What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

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).
For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- B. Repentance is... **always towards God**.
Turning to God means truly repenting of the devil and sin (Ac. 20:21).
solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. Repentance is... **a change of life**.
Faith without works is dead, and so repentance without works is dead (Mt. 3:8).
Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

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 X (Lk. 5:32).
I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."
- B. God is long-suffering not wishing any to perish, but all to repent (2Pet. 3:9; Ac. 17:30).
(2Pet 3:9) *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*
(Ac 17:30) *Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,*
- C. We must heed the opportunity to repent:
 - 1. At Ephesus, X said, "remember from where you have fallen and repent" (Rev. 2:5).
 - 2. At Pergamum, X said, "repent or I will come quickly and make war with you" (Rev. 2:16).

3. At Thyatira X said, "I gave her time to repent, but she refused" (Rev. 2:21).
 4. At Sardis X said, "remember what you have received, and heard, and keep it and repent" (Rev. 3:3).
 5. At Laodicea X 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).
Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Jesus taught that heaven's angels rejoice over every sinner that repents (Lk. 15:7,10).
(Lk 15:7) I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
(Lk 15:10) In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
- B. Repentance even makes God run to meet you (Lk. 15:20)!
So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
- 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. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.