

Repentance and How to Motivate It

- I. Introduction:
 - a. (**Acts 17:30-31**) “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
 - b. The greatest obstacle to the salvation of men is the stubbornness of the human will
 - i. Harder to motivate repentance than:
 - 1. Hear
 - 2. Faith
 - 3. Confession
 - 4. Baptism
 - c. The difficulty in inducing repentance
 - i. Modern preachers ought not be discouraged – Jesus ran into the same problem
 - 1. Leaving the cities of Galilee, Jesus rebuked them
 - a. (**Matt 11:20**) “Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein **most of his mighty works were done**, because they **repented not**.”
- II. What is repentance
 - a. Godly Sorrow?
 - i. Not exactly – no repentance without godly sorrow.
 - 1. Not the exact thing that in the Bible is called repentance
 - ii. (**2 Cor 7:8-10**) “For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye **sorrowed to repentance**: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For **godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation** not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”
 - 1. Paul awakens a godly sorrow by the letter – This sorrow brought them to repentance
 - 2. Repentance is a result of godly sorrow
 - b. Reformation of Life?
 - i. Another mistake at the meaning
 - 1. Of course everyone that does sincerely repents reforms his life – Not repentance
 - ii. Fruit of repentance
 - 1. (**Luke 3:7-8**) “Then said he to the multitude that **came forth** to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore **fruits worthy of repentance**, and begin not

to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”

- a. **(Mark 1:4)** “John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”
 - b. Fruits – Actions corresponding to your repentance (came forth to be baptized) = Reformation
 2. “What shall we do?”
 - a. **(Luke 3:10)** “What shall we do then?”
 - b. **(Luke 3:11)** “He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.”
 - i. Be Giving and Kind
 - c. Publicans – What shall we do?
 - i. **(Luke 3:13)** “Exact no more than that which is appointed you.”
 - d. Soldiers – What shall we do?
 - i. **(Luke 3:14)** “Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.”
 - iii. Fruits corresponding to your repentance meant better conduct – a change, a reformation
 1. This reformation is a result of repentance, but not repentance
 - c. Repentance – Something that stands in between godly sorrow over sins and the change of the life in which sins are done away with.
 - i. What is it?
 1. Simply – A change of our stubborn will
 - a. Repent – “μετανοεω” (met-an-o-eh'-o); to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction).”
 - i. “meta” – “after”
 - i. “noew” – “exercise the mind” – Translated in KJV as “consider, perceived, think, understand”
 - b. Vine’s “to change one's mind or purpose”
 - ii. Repentance is then “I will not do my will, I will here on out do God’s will”
 1. Brought about from godly sorrow – Followed by fruits worthy of repentance.
- III. How is this change of will to be brought about?
 - a. Many believe that it is a product of direct operation from God upon a believer
 - b. Repentance as a gift from God

- i. (**Acts 5:30-31**) “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to **give repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”
- ii. (**Acts 11:18**) “Then hath God also to the Gentiles **granted** repentance unto life.”
- iii. True that repentance is a gift from God.
 - 1. Yet we have the duty to repent!
 - 2. John, Jesus, and all the Apostles cry “Repent”
 - a. (**Matt 3:1-2**) “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - b. (**Mark 1:15**) “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”
 - c. (**Acts 2:38**) “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
 - 3. It is something we must do – Yet a gift – How?
- c. How is that stubborn will broken down, so that a man who was once in rebellion against his God, is ready and willing to say, ‘Oh Lord, not my will, but Thine be done?’
- d. Judgment of God
 - i. (**Matt 11:20-24**) “Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”
 - ii. He appealed to the terrors of the judgment to induce repentance
 - iii. Jonah
 - 1. (**Jonah 3:4-6**) “And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

- iv. Paul
 - 1. (**Acts 17:30-31**) “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: **Because** he hath **appointed a day**, in the which he will **judge the world in righteousness** by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
 - a. If judged in righteousness – What’s going to happen to the unrighteous?
 - v. One way to motive people to repentance is warning them about judgment to come
 - 1. (**Acts 24:25**) “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”
 - 2. Not popular in modern times – I submit that it never is popular!
 - vi. There are consequences for continuing in Sin!
 - e. Goodness of God
 - i. (**Rom 2:4**) “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the **goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?**”
 - ii. Another motivation for repentance = Goodness of God
 - 1. Hear of God’s love to us
 - a. (**1 John 4:10**) “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
 - f. The Motivations used – Judgment and Goodness of God
 - g. Repentance – A gift from God
 - i. How did you and I find out the awful consequences of sin?
 - ii. How did we learn about the goodness of God?
 - iii. We learned of these facts from the Gospel of God
 - 1. The gift given by God is knowledge – that we can come to repentance
 - iv. Same as he gives us food by sending the sunshine and the rain – Still must plant and harvest!
- IV. Repentance comes through His word
- a. (**Luke 16:19-31**) “There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send

Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

- i. God gives repentance through His word – “let them hear them”
- ii. If a man does not repent under the power that God exerts on him through the word – no power in heaven, earth, or hell can bring him to repentance!

b. God’s word is sufficient to motivate us to repentance

V. Conclusion

- a. Repentance – Change of mind – rejecting our will and submitting to God’s
- b. Motivated by warnings of Judgment and by the realization of God’s goodness