

Acts 2:40–47

God's Reorientation Therapy

click bit.ly/3HmePpb to hear this sermon as preached (or scan QR code→)



Main idea: When God grants repentance to people, He reorients their mindset, and reorders their life priorities, financial priorities, time priorities, and heart priorities.

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Introduction: A church for sinners (96% murderers). From a perverse generation. But sinners to whom repentance was being granted.

1. Reorientation

- a. “Repent!” (v38): the call to reorientation
- b. “for the promise” (v39, 41): the hope of reorientation
- c. “be saved from this perverse generation” (v40): the necessity of reorientation
 - i. Because we are by nature like those who are perishing
 - ii. Because God hates the heart/mind of sin every bit as much as the hand/foot of sin
 - iii. Therefore, in the repentance unto life that He gives, he reorders both! Indeed, He reorders everything.

2. Reordering

- a. Reordering the life, v42. Life priorities revolutionized. Public worship—both mandated and optional—became the thing that they were continually devoted to...the thing that everything else would be bent to accommodate.
- b. Reordering the finances, v43–45. Financial priorities revolutionized. The apostles did signs and wonders, but the believers also showed a wondrous sign: self-sacrificial generosity. Not compelled by government or church (2Cor 9:5–15). Not eliminating the principle of private property but rather presuming it. Sensitive to providential direction (“as anyone had need”).
- c. Reordering the time, v46a. The reordering of time priorities “followed them home.” Hospitality takes finances, but it especially takes time, but it was (almost certainly eagerly) spent.
- d. Reordering the heart, v46b. Heart priorities revolutionized. With “simplicity of heart,” they need nothing but Christ now for gladness. And everything—even just food—now amplifies that gladness.

3. Recognition, v47

- a. “favor with all the people”—a generalization, but one that was possible because people were going to be saved
- b. “the Lord added to the church”—Christ’s response is paramount; people cannot reorient themselves. His blessing upon His means and His ways is what we see here, and what we must seek from Him in our own life and our own church.
- c. “those who were being saved”—ultimately, what Christ has won for us is to be perfectly happy with Him forever. For this, we must be perfectly holy. It will do us no good to be recognized by a perverse generation if the holy assembly would not recognize us but rather expose us as unfit.

Conclusion: your repentance does not make you right with God, or even “ready to believe.” But believing never comes without repentance. When you are given to see the salvation that is in Christ, the turning to Him for it is always a turning from sin—a reorientation that reorders your life, your finances, your time, and your pleasures. And praise be to the Lord Jesus!—He does it by His Spirit, until at last when this life is done, He has fit us for glory with perfect holiness.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Acts chapter 2 verses 40 through 47. These are God's words. And with many other words, he testified and exhorted them saying be saved from this perverse generation, and those who gladly received his word were baptized and that day about 3,000 souls were added to them.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and the breaking of bread. And in prayers, then fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together and had all things in common and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all as anyone had need.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house. They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. Praise in God and having favor with all the people and the Lord added to the church daily. Those who are being saved. Amen. Thus ends this reading of God's inspired and inerrant word.

Please be seated.

The idea of reorientation has become a hot subject in the churches, don't know how many of, you know this, but the Canadian government has outlawed. What is called reorientation therapy? That those who in their fleshliness from Adam are given over to a particular perversion. That is one that God singles out as abominable and gives men over to, as a judgment, to show the hell of his wrath against all ungodliness that whether you are a therapist in a counseling room, or a minister of the Word of God, just preaching that word in a pulpit, You may now be imprisoned and find for saying that God gives people new orientations a little closer to home.

And one of our sister denominations in what's called Napark the North North American Presbyterian and Reformed churches. There is a man who a couple of years ago began a not a man, a ministry, a preacher. The gospel. A couple years ago was the subject of a Christianity today article in which he began the article.

I'm gay. The present tense minister and good standing. And this past year, he wrote, what is a very popular book. It's horrified to find a rating of 4.9 on Amazon about the failure of reorientation therapy and how the church needs to stop saying that God gives sinners new. Orientations, In fact, his only negative reviews came from those who exalt and rejoice in perversion and criticized him for saying that you couldn't act upon those perverted desires of the heart.

Now we know that God hates sin, even in the heart, God hates sinful desires, the desires themselves are wicked and deserving of hell. And we rejoice in our passage this morning. That when God grants repentance to people, he gives them reorientation and not just from one particular perversion, but from the heart component and the hand component of all of their sins, He reorients them so that they may turn from idols and serve the Living.

God as we'll hear Lord willing next week, the Thessalonians had done in the couple of verses that are coming next. As we read through first Thessalonians, When God, grants repentance to people and this is a wonderful passage in which God was granting repentance to people. They heard a sermon that concluded with, you have murdered him who was not only the Christ as you have had argument about for some three years.

But turns out to be the Lord Yahweh from Joel chapter 2, who had promised that he would pour up his spirit and he has poured out his spirit who had promised that all who call upon his name would be saved. And now all who call upon the name of Jesus would be saved.

And so, in the moment, they find out that they are murderers, They find out that the one whom they have murdered is not only Christ, but God in the flesh and they say, what shall we do? And the apostle says repent and be baptized. He doesn't even give them a chance to say repent.

How can such as we are repent? Because the answer to the question is in the very next verse 4, the promise God is the one who grants repentance. In fact, when Cornelius's household is that ties and the Holy Spirit falls upon them. What do the Jewish believers rejoice over that repentance unto life has been?

Granted granted given as a gift even to the Gentiles. And so in the following verses in verses 43 through 47, which are before us this morning, we find some of what it looks like. When God grants repentance. And what we find is, praise God reorientation. He reorients their mindset, he rear or he and in reorienting their mindset.

He reorders their life. Priorities their financial priorities, their time, priorities and their heart priorities. And then in the last place, we find recognition of this reordering that has taken place by the reorientation. So what does it look like when God grants repentance to people? It looks like a church that is for sinners and interesting conversation recently with someone who had visited Hopewell.

And one of the reasons that they had visited Hopewell was because holiness, was not desired or pursued, and, and sin to some extent therefore was tolerated at the church from which they were coming, but these particular, or this particular individual knew that they were a sinner. And one of the things in God's mercy, to us, that they found is that here is a place where you could love holiness and seek grace from God, to pursue it with all your heart, but where it wasn't surprising that you were a sinner, because the gospel of Jesus Christ, is that God saves sinners.

And Jesus Christ came not to call the righteous but sinners to himself. And of what are we going to continue repenting and be sanctified. If we all have to put on the appearance that we're no longer sinners or sinning, Well the Lord shows that his church is a church for sinners.

In the composition of the first gathered congregation of that church children, who have been paying attention for some of these weeks. How many were there in their little assembly? And we say it's little, but it's a little bit larger. I think than the number of people in this room this morning, How many were there in their little assembly before?

The day of Pentecost, it was a hundred and twenty. Correct. How many souls are added in verse?

I've lost it 41, 3,000. So the membership. Now, I'm gonna need some math. From older children, the membership is gone from 120 to what 3,120 of those 3,120. How many just seven weeks ago, We're complicit in the murder of the Lord. Jesus Christ, 3,000 Many of which at the beginning of the sermon were mocking, the apostles and saying they are drunk with new wine.

So that Peter got his sermon introduction from what they were doing and said these men are not drunk with wine as you suppose and then launches into his exposition of Joel chapter 2, as supplemented by Psalm, 16, and Psalm 110. So here's a church where 96% of the membership were recently murderers and many of them were like how I hope not too many but God helping us.

Let us be honest with ourselves before Him of us, might be because these men started out the morning circumcised members of the church thinking that they were expecting the Messiah In Jerusalem to celebrate, one of the feasts that God had given them in conjunction with his myrrh, with his with his promises about the coming of the Messiah.

In case you don't like the word church. Note that Stephen in a couple chapters is going to call Israel. The church in the wilderness, there is such a thing as church members whose hearts are still hard to Jesus Christ and yet God granted them repentance. So, do you think God's church Or do you think Christ's Church is one for sinners, The first congregation began on day one.

96%, recent murderers of Jesus Christ. And here as the apostle, with many other words, Testifies and exhorts them, The tents of the verb here or the participle for saying, is one that indicates continual or repeatedly, says Be saved from this perverse generation. You see? We all start out to part of a perverse generation, the perversity of the generation to which Peter was addressing immediately.

Here was, especially those who were rejecters of Jesus Christ and murderers of Jesus Christ. The apostle would write to the Philippians and Philippians chapter 2 that they should do all things without complaining or arguing in order that they might be blameless. And pure children of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

In fact, as we are going to be finding out in the evening sermons, over the course of several weeks. Now, there is little that is more crooked than a spirit of complaining and grumbling since it is the Lord God himself who orders all things out in our providence in His providence.

And we may complain about to some extent. We may speak against those who are sinning and those who are oppressing and the Bible gives us strong words with which to do so. But if we indulge a grumbling or complaining, spirit, a grumbling or complaining, heart against God, or against our circumstances, or whatever it is in, which you're indulging this mumbling, grumbling spirit, you are ultimately complaining against God.

We'll see a couple of places where it says they complain against Moses and Aaron. And the Lord says, why do you complain against me or Moses? And Aaron will say, why do you complain against the Lord? We too are given to the perversities of our generation, Probably the complaining.

Grumbling spirit applies to all the generations in our own generation. How many parts of the law of God are set aside disregard it? Our family is reading right now, a book on the instruction of children for learning to have a heart and life, that is aimed at pleasing. God especially in the context of where he puts you to start out kids in your mom and dad's home and he puts in his word.

The incentive of what gives grief to a mom and dad and what gives joy to to a mom and dad, especially in the book of Proverbs. And yet this book that we're reading happens to be almost 200 years old. And there are many things about how much kids love their parents and want to, please them and hate to give them a moment's grief that he then is going to apply throughout the book to how we should be towards God.

That I'm afraid wouldn't read very well in most of our generation would it because our generation is full of children. Who doesn't matter to them too much. If they give mom or dad grief, or, or if they did give mom or dad joy, they want mom and dad to love them and to like them and especially to give them whatever they want, but mom laying in bed at night with a broken heart.

Doesn't matter that much to them. This is one of the perversities of our generation the feeling of entitlement goes beyond moms and dads. It goes to government. It even goes to churches when we could spend much more time on that, but we need to race ahead. We saved from a perverse generation.

It is a church for sinners, but is a church for sinners to whom repentance had been granted. The first part of that repentance is reorientation. We find this in the previous verses that we were pulling in now into verses, 40 through 47, in verse 38, then Peter said to them.

Repent. This is the word that you usually is used where you find a the translation, repent in your English versions. It means a change of mind or a change of mindset. It's almost a synonym of reorientation And so God is calling them. And Peter, in particular preaching, by the Holy Spirit, is calling them to this change of mind.

This change of view that the Word of God, now would be unto them as the Word of God was commanded unto Israel in the passage, by which we were called to worship this morning. That it would be in their hearts, and that it would so fill their lives. That not only would it be something that they, teach their children wherever they are.

When they're, when they're in their home, or whether they're out, and whenever they are, whether it's bedtime in their laying down or in the morning and, and they're getting up, but that it would so shape the way mom and dad lived that it would be like a sign on their hands.

Not just that the Word of God would control their hands, but that their children would be able to see that. That's what's happening because they hear the word of God that mom and dad, teach them and then they see the fruit of that. And what mom and dad do and that it would be like a frontlet between their eyes, not just that everything that mom and dad.

Look at the way they see it would be shaped by the Word of God, but that their children could see that the words that they heard from mom and dad all day every day, wherever they were was controlling how mom and dad thought about things too. Now, there are those who actually, you know, will tattoo scripture upon themselves and, you know, they follow the Pharisees who also, you know, made tiny little scrolls and bound them in boxes, but we are to be re-oriented by the Word of God.

Well, wonderful truth for those who had said, his blood be upon us and our children and they are told repent for the promises for you and for your children that he in whom, they hoped to give them repentance. They also hope to give their children repentance because we look at our children.

And we see that their minds often seem to be producing fruit. Their hearts seem to be producing fruit in their lives. That is a whole lot like the orientation that they got. As a consequence of being our children and not like the orientation that we want them to have as a consequence of being children of God.

Well, who will give you a new mind and a new heart children. It's not mom and dad and it's not even so much the exercises in which they lead. You Do you know why they brought you to church this morning? Do you know why they have family worship with you every day is?

Because those are the things that have been given by the God whom they trust to give you reorientation by his spirit, to change your mind and to change your heart. And so we do the things that he says he uses because we trust him to use them to give you the repentance that we look for.

So there's a call to reorientation. There's the hope of re-orientation he has given this sign of his promise and we can hope and be confident. Oh, how confident the Christian should be, as we pursue sanctification, What a strange contradiction that, many believers with whom I have in whom I have found the the most, at least verbal concern and really sincere heart desire to be made.

More holier are often the most discouraged because they see what has not happening, rather than the promise of him who has begun a work and will bring it to completion. And who must be the one who gives the sanctification. We ought to be greatly confident as we pursue our own sanctification and as we pursue our children's faith and repentance and sanctification.

So there's a call to reorientation. There's a hope of orientation. There's the necessity for it. Why do we need to be reoriented? Well, because we begin as part of a perverse generation, We are by nature our former nature. If we are in Christ like those people who are perishing and God hates the heart and mind of sin, every bit as much as the hand and foot of sin, You will not be thrown into prison.

For saying, you fool to your brother or sister because that is not a crime and it's not even a crime in the Bible, but you would be thrown into hell. That's what Jesus says in Matthew chapter 5. Isn't it? You would not be thrown into prison for looking lustfully at a picture on your computer screen or having the lust in your heart for a woman.

When you look at her but you would be thrown into hell because it is adultery before God, He hates the heart and mind of sin and he considers it culpable guilty. Deserving of wrath, and his wrath

burns against it. And if you do not have Jesus Christ upon whom along the wrath of God could ever be consumed.

You'll have the wrath burn on you in health forever and it will never be consumed. Because he who is a divine person is inexhaustible in the atonement that he offers. And so the wrath of God was gone and God became entirely propitious and favorable. And that's why Jesus is called a propitiation. You must have him.

But if you have him you must hate what He hates. And when He calls us to repent, he calls us not just to repent from the actions. But first and foremost to repent from the desire to repent from the orientation to repent from the impulse and he gives he gives that reorientation and that reorientation that we see reorders both.

So God, hates the heart of sin, and hates the hand of sin. And in our passage, we see in this. Now, reordering in the second place that he reorders both in the heart and we said life and heart in the first and fourth sub points under reordering, But also in the very nitty gritty of life, what you do with your money, what you do with your time.

So what does he reorder? Well, he reorders everything. We have four examples here. First, he reorders their life 3,000 souls were added that day. Then verse 42 and they continued steadfastly, or we might translate perhaps a little bit more. Literally. They were continually devoted to the apostles doctrine, their teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread.

And in prayers verse. 42 is describing, what verse 46 is going to pick up again when it says, so continuing daily with one accord in the temple. These four things that are described, here are things that are components of public worship. The apostles doctrine, the apostles teaching. Peter apparently, in verse 40, had given them an earful in which he repeatedly said be saved from this perverse generation But they weren't satisfied with one sermon after, which they were baptized and had joined the church.

They clamored for more of this public preaching. And teaching this gathered proclamation in the temple, by the apostles, We pray to God, that He would bring times of refreshing and times of revival that he would pour out his Holy Spirit. Well, you know, what's one way? We might know that that has happened If the congregations of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So wanted not Ted talks and cleverly put together brief little Diddy's, but the apostolic teaching proclaimed to them, not only on the Lord's Day in, in which it's mandated. But every single day if they had a couple a couple hours of time and saying, can we not have more public worship today?

Can we not have more preaching and teaching of the Bible of this apostolic doctrine that you have in the New Testament, which is full of almost entirely, exposition of and proclamation of things from the Old Testament. Now, understood more fully and accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ. If the elders had to come to me at a session meeting and say you know, the congregation's been saying, we just not getting enough preaching and teaching, you know, all day on the Lord's day is is okay.

We've gone to a true and full evening service. And now some go home and rest in between, but some of them are, are there from, you know, 10 in the morning until seven at night, but they they just want more. Could we have, could we have a service of common prayer every morning?

6am So get up an hour earlier so that we can have just some preaching and some singing and some praying and then they'll go off to their their jobs. Would you be willing to do that? Now, They're very careful of my time and I would probably be have have to be the one who says.

Well, here's an idea and it's okay. God will spare me?

But they were continually devoted to the public worship and the public breaking of bread. The breaking of bread. Here, in verse 42 is, is different than the breaking of bread from house to house That was their receiving their food. We read in that verse But this is the breaking of bread that comes from a fellowship.

In the teaching of the apostles, you you can't tell yourself that everything that Christians do together is fellowship. No Christian fellowship. Is first and more foremost fellowship in the doctrine of the apostles. We right now in this room are having the greatest fellowship event that Hopewell ARP ever has.

There are other things that we do together and in which we share and enjoy even one another. But enjoying God together and enjoying one another enjoying God together, which is what the Corinthians weren't doing at the table. Remember. And and the apostle said, it's obvious. You're not enjoying either one.

This is the fellowship of verse 42. It's a temple courts. Fellowship. It's a in-between. Literally in the text, the preaching, and the sacrament fellowship and they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers, their life was

reordered. To prioritize public worship an application to you Whenever you can have public worship, it should be the reason you're missing anything else.

If you have things in your life, There aren't works of necessity for maintaining. Your or others' lives or works of mercy. In maintaining others' lives and enabling them to attend upon the public worship. If you have anything in your life that you miss church for that, then you need some reordering of your life because this should be the highest priority of anything on earth because it most anticipates, what redeemed people will do in heaven.

Not only are their lives reordered, but their finances are reordered. Verse 43. Then fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together and had all things in common and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all as anyone had need, What were these signs and wonders at the Apostles had done.

Well, We don't know probably including miraculous gifts of healing and the casting out of demons. The you know the book of Hebrews says that it was God testifying to the truth of what they were preaching about Jesus. But we do see another one of them because although it was the apostles who were doing wonders and signs, all who believed showed evidence of the truth and reality, that Jesus is the Christ, that Jesus is the Lord, that Jesus ascended into heaven, that Jesus has poured out his spirit and that those who call upon the name of Jesus are now being saved.

You know how they did. It not communism.

All who believed were together and had all things in common and all the iceage eats in the world, say communism. But verse 45 and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all. As anyone had neat, he's not compelled by the government. It's not even compelled by the church or a fundraising campaign.

It was a work of God and them to turn those who were thieves into those who worked hard with their hands. Why? Just so they wouldn't have to steal Was the Apostle saying in that passage. So that they would have something to share with others in their time of need.

This is the cheerful giving that comes out of a reoriented mind and a reordered priority of what my finances exist for and they exist for the glory of God and the enjoyment of God. Of course, you have to have private property, If you are going to choose what to do with it.

And if you're going to make such spirit, transformed choices of what to do with it. In fact later when they were taking up a collection in Macedonia and in Achaea Corinth and other places, there was a strong emphasis on the cheerfulness and the willingness and the determination of each how much they would give.

This does not eliminate principle of private property. It presumes it. So that the greatness of the redemption of Christ can be shown in the generosity that is demonstrated. Now you should be able to hear in that how this is something that is impossible to legislate. If you could legislate, it would not be the greatness of the redemption that Christ has produced it.

In fact, every attempt socialism and communism has failed. Why? Well, in part because God has decided to make such charitable giving such self-sacrificial for the good of the one, who has need giving a mark of the true repentance of Christ's church. That's why this can't be legislated. It has to be produced by the Spirit of God.

How do you view your finances When things get tighter? The worry that you might not be able to give as much to the church, You might not be able to be generous with this other family that you have been helping out. Or this one over here that you know, is in more straight and circumstances than your own that you might have to decrease what you're given to the deaking deacons fund third week of every month.

What do you worry about about your finances And when you have more, what's the first thing you want to do with it? I'm not saying don't save and don't attend to your family. We've been talking about how your household is the basic unit of the church, and even if it wasn't, he who doesn't take care of his own own houses denied, the faith.

And as worse than an unbeliever, don't listen to the sermon and go and empty your bank account and and give it even to the church. If you have a wife and children to take care of because the deacons and the elders are going to come and say, you've denied the faith and you're worse than an unbeliever.

But what is the first thing you want to do with your money? Is it to take care of the church in your house? And then to take care of the church in your congregation and then to do good to all, but especially those of the household of faith. You see when God grants repentance.

He reorders, not just the life priority, so that worship and especially public worship is in the first place. But also the finances and, and also, the time, We've also already hit a little bit.

The, the word daily in verse 46. But then when they were done in the temple, and probably not all of them could gather every day in the temple, at least.

Not after that. The first feast was concluded. What were they were they tired of all this time together? Where did they go? They broke bread together in one another's homes, you know hospitality requires finances, but also requires time, There have been times in our family was invited someone else's house and just didn't feel like we could give that up.

Even more inviting, somebody else to your house. And if we've bought into contemporary psychological profiles, which by the way, the reason reorientation therapy doesn't work. Is God, has his own rear and orientation therapy. You can't expect to change a man with behavioral techniques in in a therapy room. But if you bought into the idea of extroversion and introversion, hospitality, or receiving, it might require those who call who are called introverts to social a little bit more.

It's an expenditure with house full of introverts except for a couple weirdos in our family.

But God reorients, he reorients the priority of life, he re-orientes how you look at your finances. He reorients how you use your time, He reorients how you expend yourself which is what costs us so much. When we've just had enough social this week breaking bread, one another, He also reorders.

Sorry, I've been mixing up the reorienting and reordering. It's both and not either, or he reorders the heart, They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart praising God. You see if you have discovered that the Lord Himself is more to you than anything else. If you if he has reordered, your idea of pleasure not just that you say whom have I in heaven, but you there's nothing else as I desire besides you but a little bit further on in Psalm 73 for me it is good to be near the Lord.

I define goodness by being with God. That's what goodness is In his presence. Is fullness of Joya. His right hand are pleasures. Forevermore God. Plus, nothing else. Is more than everything else. Then you have contentment, whatever comes and whatever good comes. Amplifies your gladness in Him. So all day long, they have the Lord Jesus in the teaching and the fellowship in the teaching and the breaking of bread and the prayers and then they go home and they have food and they're glad with the food.

Some of you children need to learn gladness with whatever food you get because you already have Jesus. And if he is enough and if in him is joy and he gave you that mom who picked that food for you, and he says, don't call evil what he calls. Good.

Then you need to be glad and eat with simplicity of hearts. That means your heart's not that complicated. One thing I love about Iowa farmers, we planted a church in Iowa. Once they, you know, they're good with meat and potatoes and a place to sit down and maybe fall asleep.

In your living room, even at your house because they're tired old day and you filled their belly. And that's all they want. His work and food and a place to sit Well here. The simplicity of heart is simpler. The Lord is enough and when your heart is simple that way, then it's easy to have gladness because everything comes to you in the providence of him who gave himself to you and you say, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all.

How will he not? Also together with him? Give us all things. Jesus gave me this and this whatever it is, however, hard it is. Even it's, if what I get to do for his sake today isn't go to temple in the morning and come home and break bread with our best friends at night.

But if for his sake, I'm slaughtered all day long. Even that didn't separate me from the love of God, that was in Jesus. There are reformed churches in the Ukraine and that, you know, one of their pastors wrote yesterday. The mindset of the churches because he keeps being asked varies, It depends on whether we're reading the news or reading the Bible, horrible things in their circumstances.

But then they turn to the gospel of their God and they realize what those circumstances can't take away and it's everything Simplicity of heart. So reorientation. And then the reordering of the life, and the finances, and the time, and the heart, and then recognition, They're having favor with all the people, you put all with an asterisk, if you want.

It's a generalized. All, you know, all of every kind not all without exception. You know Gamaliel, who seems to have been favorable towards them. Praise God, had a student to really was not. His name was Saul of Tarsus and and the all is not all. If you understand the Bible can be as robust and its use of language as you are.

And so don't come and say, well, the Bible's got mistakes in it and hold it to a linguistic standard. That doesn't take into account how we talk. Because God speaks without any error whatsoever. But he speaks using language and still the general principle is wonderful because the Lord was adding daily to those who are being saved.

And so there were people who when they saw the fruit of repentance, the Lord was using that to get them to find out. Where did that repentance come from? That's not the Lord. Still saving people today and is not this, something he might use, Scripture, says woe to you in all men.

Think well of you, so do not aim at all. Men thinking, well of you and yet, you may ask God to produce in your life, the fruit of repentance so that those whom he is saving, We'll see with an appetite given to them, by the Spirit of God, What they want to become like and what God will grant them to become, like, through faith in Jesus Christ.

In other words, don't try the attractational method of church growth, but do pursue the attractiveness of holiness method of church. Growth. And that would mean more preaching and teaching and fellowship in it and celebrating the Lord's Supper and prayers. And asking God to produce the fruit in you, that fear would come upon every soul and so forth.

But it wasn't. Of course, the recognition of the people that mattered, it was the recognition of the Lord, because verse 47. It was the Lord who added to the church daily. Those who are being saved, you know, what would be a tragedy is? If we figured out a way to fill this room with those who may or not be being saved and we became this mixed multitude in which there wasn't this generally speaking appetite for the Lord appetite for his worship reordering of finances, reordering of time, reordering of heart pleasures.

The people that we want Nursery, the one whom we want to respond to us is the Lord Himself and so we aim at what pleases him we aim at those things that he has commanded and to which He is attached the promise of His power working by them. Now one of those things is God making Christ beautiful in the copy of him that is seen in you but he's very different than what the church has been trying to say he is because they're afraid that the world won't liken.

The Bible already told you the world doesn't like him and if you are like Him, they will not like you. But there are those because He is saving and he's good, and he's merciful whom he is bringing to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. And to be saved from the crooked and perverse generation.

And as you become more Christ like by the power of the Spirit, Those are the ones. Especially with whom you'll have favor and that is a right and biblical way with demonstrating repentance and seeking for the church to grow. Your repentance does not make you right with God repentance.

Can't make you ready to believe But believing never comes without this repentance. Those whose minds. God reorients. There's my his minds. God changes, all those who believe are those whose minds God reorients and changes. And when you are given to see that salvation is Christ, the salvation that is in Christ.

Turning to him, always is also a turning from sin, a reorientation that will reorder your life, your finances, your time, and your pleasures and praise. Be to the Lord Jesus that which you did. He is still doing today and he doesn't by his spirit, His sincerity to his promises.

Not your sincerity in your profession which is always weaker than you thought it was. He doesn't. Oh man. Let's pray.

Oh Lord grant unto the to us whom you have brought to yourself through faith in Christ. Jesus to continue in this life of repentance sanctify us by your truth. Your word is truth and to all O Lord who are still oriented towards their sin and towards themselves. Instead of you grant to them repentance and to life that they would be reoriented and that everything in their life would be reordered.

We ask by the powerful working of your spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.