

Theology Simply Explained — WSC87 “The Nature of Repentance Unto Life”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 87—especially explaining that repentance is a gift of grace in which God turns the whole man from hateful sin to His merciful Self.

Q87. What is repentance unto life? **Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.**

(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 via hopewellarp.org)

Catechism question this week is, what is repentance unto life? The answer has many components in it. It says, many good things and a short amount of Short. Compass. Small amount of words. Repentance unto life is a saving grace and that's a wonderful truth so far. That repentance into life is something that god gives to us.

This is actually a phrase that comes from Uh, when the church in jerusalem, heard about peter's experience. At cornelius's household. And they stop arguing. And they just rejoice and they say, then god has granted unto the gentiles. Repentance unto life. And, Another uh, passages you read about The hope that god would grant someone repentance and so forth.

So repentance on the life is a saving grace, which means If you've been trying to repentant, you can't Like that Armenian who visited? Uh, reverend dr. Benjamin morgan palmer was very upset with him because he'd been preaching a conference. It was called a revival at the time, but it just meant to conference.

Uh, on doctrines of grace. And is very upset and he told dr. Palmer. Yeah, i don't like your calvinism. I can repent whenever i want. I could believe whenever i want blah blah. And, The dr. Palmer didn't even look up from what he was doing in his desk. And he said, oh well then Very, very glad for you that you can do that in my advice, as you better go do it at once.

And the man said that's just it. I've been trying and i can't And dr. Palmer said, oh well, that is a very different case than And he put down when he was doing. You looked up at the man. Any reminders them in. And he prayed for the man that god would give him.

Faith in jesus christ and repentance unto life. And the man attended the preaching that evening. And he was converted. And he was delighted to tell. Pastor Palmer that he had been converted. So great start for this catechism. Answer repentance unto life is a saving grace. If you find it hard to repent from your sin, that's because god is the only one powerful enough to give it to you?

And he is good and he loves to give it to you. So you ask him to give you repentance. Repentance into life is a saving grace whereby a sinner now that's important. Holy angels, don't have to repent. Unholy angels demons. Don't get any grace they cannot repent. But a sinful man is the only one.

Who both needs and can have repentance. Since we're by a center. Therefore, when we are repenting, let us not think highly of ourselves for doing it. The fact that we are repenting. Just demonstrates that we belong to that class of people who are eligible to repent, sinners. Repentance into life is a saving grace whereby a sinner.

Out of a true sense of his sin. And this means not. He feels bad about the way his sin makes him feel. Our feelings are not a true sense of our. So, there are people who feel bad about the way they're sin, makes them feel Yeah, it's God's mercy to them that they're sin makes them feel bad.

But a true sense of sin. Is like that, which david describes in psalm 51 against you. And you only have, i sinned That our sin is so infinitely offense, offensive against the glory of god. That even if we have sinned greatly against many others, It cannot be thought to compare.

To how we have sent against god. A true sense of our sin will see it as justly to serving god's, holy wrath. And that which if god was going to love and adopt sinners. Would necessitate that the the second person of the trinity. The eternally, begotten eternally, beloved son, Would be made, man.

In order to die. And in order to suffer under the wrath of that sin deserves, that's a true sense of your sin. But there are two things that are apparent to you that that drive repentance. When we see our true sense of our sin, we might shrink back from it with horror.

But we wouldn't have anywhere to turn. There's another wonderful thing that we notice. However, Out of a true sense of his sin. And Apprehension of the mercy of god. In christ. That there is someone to whom sinners. Can turn sin is something from which sinners must turn. But there are someone to whom sinners can turn.

That god as we heard him announced his name on Mount Sinai. Your way, your way. God merciful. Gracious. Long-suffering Exceeding full of steadfast, love and faithfulness pardoning. Pardoning and forgiving sin. And iniquity. And transgression. And so, He is a god who loves to pardon. And he loves to pardon because he does it in christ.

And thereby the father who has elected and the son who redeems in the spirit, who applies that redemption are much glorified, In in sinners turning to them. So that's all of heaven. Rejoices the angels who take all of their cues from their throne from the throne of evan. There is much rejoicing in heaven, over one sinner.

Who repents? This is the sort of god to whom we may turn to whom we must turn. Uh, when we are turning from our sin and that is the great thing that convinces us to turn to him. If the horror of sin, Um, Convinces us to turn away from it much more.

Does the goodness and mercy of god in christ. Convince us to turn to him and much more to turn away from sin. Because when we see the greatness of his goodness, If we have, had that true sense of our sin, It makes the sin itself even more. Uh, revolting repulsive to us.

That it could be against such a god. Who has shown us? Such mercy. So, that brings us to Repentance unto life is a saving grace whereby a sinner. Out of a true sense of his sin and apprehension of the mercy of god in christ, doth. There's three things that happen here.

First. Our affections. With grief and hatred of his sin. Second, our actions turn. From it unto God. And third. Our diligence. And endurance. With full purpose of

And endeavor, after New obedience. And so, there is The emotion and the action. And then there is The behavior that follows the turning, we Uh, we make purpose of and endeavor after.

So we don't just kind of turn toward god attitudinally But even with our action, with our thoughts, with our plans, with our efforts, So repentance requires new obedience, not just rejection of the sin. So that's the whole answer. Repentance unto life is a saving. Grace whereby a sinner Out of a true sense of his sin and apprehension of the mercy of god in christ.

Death with grief and hatred of his sin. Turn from it unto God. With full purpose of and endeavor after New obedience.