



WCF 15.1 (TPH p928)

I. Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace, (a) the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the Gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ. (b)

(a) Zech. 12:10; Acts 11:18.

(b) Luke 24:47; Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21.

Zechariah 12:7 **"The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. <sup>8</sup> In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. <sup>9</sup> It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.**

<sup>10</sup> **"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. <sup>11</sup> In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. <sup>12</sup> And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; <sup>13</sup> the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; <sup>14</sup> all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.**

Mourning over sin is a gift of grace that comes in/with/from Christ and His redemption!

Acts 11:13 **And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, <sup>14</sup> who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"**

<sup>18</sup> **When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."**

The way repentance unto life comes is by the Spirit, using words. And this is for the nations, not just for Israel.

Luke 24:40 **When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. <sup>41</sup> But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" <sup>42</sup> So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. <sup>43</sup> And He took it and ate in their presence.**

<sup>44</sup> **Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**

<sup>46</sup> **Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things.**

<sup>49</sup> **"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."**

The entire Bible teaches repentance unto life, which all preachers must preach, and which the promised Spirit attends with almighty power. Repentance and remission (forgiveness) is the message of their mission.

Mark 1:14 **Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."**

Jesus's preaching of the gospel of the kingdom is summarized, "repent, and believe."

Acts 20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. <sup>24</sup> But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

<sup>25</sup> "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. <sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Preachers who do not preach repentance are holding back God's saving Word and guilty of the blood of their hearers.

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Our father in heaven how grateful we are that you have delighted to display your character towards us in our redemption. In your mercy and your compassion in your patience and your steadfast love. And that you by your spirit through your word bring us to repentance. And so we probably did as we begin to study that this week that you would give us of that spirit that he would help us by these passages that he would help us to understand them that he would make them bear fruitiness.

We ask him. Jesus name. Amen.

Instead of before that confession even gets to the. What is the substance or what is the content of repentance? Are very have to first establish that repentance is something that is part of the gospel the preaching of repentance that that we need to grieve over and hate our sin and renounce it and turn and turn from our sin in order to turn to God that this is a part of the preaching of the gospel and that that it should be proclaimed in the church.

Joelstein is not the first preacher in the history of what is professed itself to be the church that didn't like to talk about sin and how evil it is and what it deserves and the necessity of turning from it in order to turn to the Lord this has been going on, of course, not just since the apostles but this has been going on since the garden the this is a lot that is a lot of the devil.

And so. The first paragraph which is just the one sentence of this chapter in the confession is repentance unto life and you may already know what verse that comes from and if not you can find it on the page and will get to it by God's help repentance unto life is an even general grace, so what is even jellical mean?

Anyone.

Gospel.

Okay. So when you when you hear people use the word even general call in kind of public speech today, it kind of doesn't mean anything it's supposed to mean the gospel. A lot of people use evangelical you might even remember a couple presidential elections ago, they were referring to a Mormon candidate as an evangelical and there are a lot of people in the church who call themselves even jealous by which they're actually mean not talking about sin or repentance.

So the word has become flimsy and common use but here repentance sent to life is an even gelical grace even gentle meaning having to do with the gospel having to do with the gospel coming from and with and Ian the gospel the reason I asked that is because when I was as small as many of our, our our students here today.

I used to get the word even jellical confused with evangelistic. And very zealous for telling people about Jesus. And the two words are related but even means having to do with the gospel. So repentance unto life is an even jellical grace. The doctrine whereof so the teaching of it is to be preached by every minister of the gospel.

As well as that of faith in Christ so we just studied in chapter 14 saving faith faith in Christ that of course must be preached that you have to believe in Jesus Christ and then this is just saying that repentance of life belongs to you the the gospel that is a grace that we are given in the gospel age and by God in in his gospel and then that it is to be taught and, Preached everywhere by ministers of the gospel by every minister of the gospel.

So the first text they give us and we'll again as is our habit and hopefully we're learning how to read our Bibles and understand verses within where we find them and within the Bible as a whole is just verse 10 Zachariah chapter 12. So who will read for us just verse 10?

Of Zachary 12. It's on your page or you may have a Bible Charlie please.

Only son and read for him.

To put that 12 beginning in verse 7 and going to verse 14 he all hope will save the tents of Judah first so that the glory of the House of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem so I'm not become greater than that of Judah and that day Yahweh will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David The House of David shall be like going out like the angel of Yahweh before them.

And shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem and I will pull on the House of David nor men having to Jerusalem despair of grace and supplication. Then they will look on me. Whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for him as one mourns for his only son and grief for him as one grieves for a firstborn and that day there shall be a great morning in Jerusalem.

Like the morning every family by itself the family of the house of David by itself their wives by themselves the family of the house of Nathan by itself their lives by themselves the family of the house of Levi by itself. Their lives by themselves the family of itself their lives by themselves all the families that remain every family by itself their lives by themselves.

And so is important to get the lead up. Into it because if we were to go earlier he's talking about judgment on the nations, he's talking about the Lord breaking the nations and delivering his people he's gonna. He's gonna use his people even to smash and cut up those who oppose them and he's especially talking about Judah and Jerusalem in the first six verses of the chapter, especially talking about the Lord Jesus himself and the house of David coming to its climax in the kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ and so it's a day of God restoring his people a day of God giving his people victory a day of God's saving his people and, diving them and then he says and I will pull on the house of David and only inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplication.

And what is the first response that the Holy Spirit produces in this day of salvation for his people as a result of Christ the King who shatters who shatters the nations with a rod of iron according to Psalm 2, what is the first result that the Holy Spirit produces when when Christ comes it's repentance it's this morning over him him they pierced and this grieving and all of this all of these by.

Itself everyone's grieving at once but the intensity of the repentance is is very personal and you get this the by itself or by themselves and so forth there's a there's a great forsakeness. You know, some of you have have had this at times in your spiritual walk where you just needed to grieve before the Lord and to be comforted by the gospel of Christ and 10 people coming and trying to you know, there there it's okay.

The the spirit had produced the grief and the repentance unto life and you needed the the God of comfort himself to be the one who comforted you from the good news of his son so there is there is as we're going to hear actually in the sermon a great corporateness to the repentance because when we turn to God we turn to him as part of his holy assembly, but every single one of us ought to have felt that that intensity.

But the reason for using this this text or one of the reasons for using this text is to show that it is an evangelical grace that repentance is something that would come with Christ and his kingdom and the polling out of his spirit and that age that they were looking forward to of the redemption of Israel that would that would come in the coming of Messiah and the gathering of the nation's in under him.

So this learning to be sad about our sin and learning to be sad about our sin because of who that sin was against that it was against this God who is determined to save us that is part of what Jesus brings when he when he gives you his spirit and so if you've never grieved over if you've never been very sad about having sinned against Jesus having sin against God your creator and the one who presents himself to you to be your redeemer then.

You can pray Lord you have sent your son. Jesus into the world. And you have poured out your spirit and the in your Bibles after I says that when that happens you give people that you are saving sadness about their sin to hate it and to grieve over it.

I've never had that sadness give me that sadness lord. Give me your spirit make me turn from my sin to your son so morning ever sin is a gift of grace that comes in with and from Christ in his redemption we could even say by his spirit which we'll see in several of these texts moving on to acts chapter 11.

Peter is answering for why he's baptized gentiles. That that has happened in the previous chapter and now they're. They're back in Jerusalem and he's giving a report.

And the the giving of repentance being something that they were hoping for for Jews and maybe from Zechariah or other passages thinking that when God did that for the Jews that would be the time that everyone from all those other nations all got smashed. There are certainly was some zeal for that idea.

You all have no better coming out of Genesis right because Genesis presents the start of Israel as the story of that family in whom how many of the nations would be blessed. How many of them all the nations would be blessed? Yes, so many different descendants descendants of so many different nations even represented in this room.

But some of their misunderstanding as the church was just getting started and God hadn't caused the the salvation of Jesus to be proclaimed and received in the wider world yet remember Jesus told them it would be Jude Jerusalem Judea Samaria and to the ends of the earth. And so as, it was following the pattern that Jesus told them they were maybe not paying good enough attention to his sailing into Sumerian to the ends of the earth.

So Peter's back in Jerusalem is giving an answer for why he's gone and baptized those dirty gentiles and this is and this section is part of what he says but someone read for us verse 18, it's just the last verse. That's the one that's being used as a proof text.

Asa.

Oh, very good and.

Yes sometimes you know, they're just these verses that turn Armenians into reformed theologians. Yeah, it's very hard to hold on to you have to take the first step kind of idea, isn't it? Reading something like what a suggests read for us. You want to pick one thing up from from the leading context?

So I'm going to go back to verse 13 Peter is talking now about what happened in Cornelius's house. He gets there and he says and he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house who said to him send men to Joplin Paul for Simon whose surname is Peter who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.

And as I begin to speak the Holy Spirit fall upon them. As upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord how he said John indeed baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If therefore God gave them the same gift as he gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ who was I that I could withstand God when they heard these things they became silent and they glorified God saying then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life and that.

Our Gentiles, of course means nations and they use it especially to mean all of the all of the other nations. So you remember back from Zechariah 12 and I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplication and they will look on me in the pierced yes, they will mourn etc.

Now they hear that. Peter was to tell them words by which Cornelius and his household would be saved and he says and as I began to speak the Holy Spirit fell upon them and so that's that pouring out of the Spirit that they were expecting from Zechariah 12:10 and and other passages.

And now they they maybe you know, they didn't actually have Bibles like we do or personal Bibles and weren't scribbling notes in the margin. It's just an illustration but a scribble a note in their margin and Zacca Zechariah 12:10 with an arrow back to on the House of David and only an evidence of Jerusalem and maybe in the margin says and on the Gentiles 2 exclamation mark and yeah if they're a little girl, maybe a smiley face too because, They glorified God saying this.

They're not disappointed. To find out that this gift that God had given them and if you hadn't given it to them, they would be like most of the rest of Jerusalem at that time. Not having turned from their sin not having turned to Christ. Not having had the spirit poured out upon them in the baptism that Jesus gives from heaven not having had the water well, whatever Jesus did with the spirit from heaven out on them, that's for the.

Benefit of those struggling with mode not they would still be like the rest of Jerusalem and so as those who have received repentance as a gift. And this is one of the reasons why it's so important for you to know that you received repentance as a gift. Maybe in the moment that you are appending you didn't recognize that because it was just all happening and God was laying hold of you by his word and changing you and moving you.

But you need to come to the conclusion from the Bible later at very least. I received this repentance as a gift. I don't deserve it. And I would love to see and I will rejoice overseeing God giving that gift to whomever he will. Yeah, this is you know, you talked you know, we hear a lot of talk about how racial reconciliation happens.

One of the ways that racial reconciliation happens is through the doctrines of sovereign grace. Through realizing that you received it as a gift. So that you will rejoice over others receiving it as a gift even those who and those are great ethnic divide between Jews and Gentiles up until this point.

But the fact that God gave the same gift of the same repentance from sin to the same savior to both of them is how they were brought to from examining this apostle as to why he got some gentiles wet to glorifying God. That repentance and to life that God also has granted unto the nations unto the Gentiles repentance unto life.

And so remember what the angel told Cornelius that he will bring you words by which you will be saved. So God uses his words to produce that repentance as spirit blesses the word and that's how repentance comes. That's how repentance comes not just for Israel, but for all the nations.

All right. Doing pretty good Luke 24.:47 is the next one. This is Jesus having appeared back in Jerusalem, you know, the the road to America's guys when Jesus disappears and they say oh shouldn't know him didn't our hearts burn within us and then they heard back to Jerusalem.

And there they're just in the middle of telling the church in Jerusalem where the the disciples in Jerusalem how they had seen. Jesus on the road and then Jesus appears. And we pick up we'll pick up in the middle of that in verse 40, but first if we should if we could get just the proof text in verse 47 who were.

Justin please.

Very good. So you have to you have to remember that although the apostles had had Jesus after his resurrection and they'd had 40 days with Jesus and this this actually in Luke it goes immediately into the Ascension from from this passage. They still had a lot of remembering and growing in what Jesus said to do

Peter was there for this but he still had to have you know, the sheet with the with the animals and stuff just to get him to go to Cornelius's house.

To tell them. All right. So beginning in verse 40 when he had said this he showed them his hands and his feet but while they still did not believe for joy and marveled he said to them, have you any food here? So there are amazed and they're having a hard time assimilating the reality of the fact that he's resurrected.

Have you any food here, so they gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, these are the words of I spoke to you while I was still with you that are all things must be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms concerning me.

So he's summarized now the entire Old Testament and he opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures. So he's taught them this his entire time with them for for the three years and then he that he says, this is what I told you the whole time and now he gives light to their.

Light to their minds and verse 45 then he said to them thus it is written thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his in his name to all nations.

Beginning at Jerusalem. So you hear Jesus now summarizing the gospel in very brief compass in a very short amount of words the few amount of words. And he says is necessary for the Christ to suffer to rise again from the dead and the third day and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations repentance is turning from your sin with grief and hatred turning to the Lord a remission what is remission of sins?

Forgiveness you probably hear the word remission often in terms of debt right the the debt is remitted as the canceling out of the guilt and that these things should be preached so the the preaching of repentance the preaching of forgiveness are central to the gospel. The preaching of repentance and remission is not just what happens when the gospel preached part of the good news of the gospel is that Jesus himself sent that preacher to announce the repentance and the forgiveness to you.

And so when a man stands in front of you and he reads the words of Jesus and he preaches and Jesus the scripture tells us even preaches through the preaching of the word that itself the fact that the the crucified and written. Ended savior has sent a messenger with this message is part of his gospel.

It's something that Jesus does. Now Jesus has accomplished all that is necessary. He's accomplished our our justification in our forgiveness entirely outside of us but it is part of the good news that the guy who is proclaiming to you isn't doing it on his own initiative. That he is there as an ambassador of the risen king who has sent him for that purpose.

And so it is necessary that repentance be preached. It's something that Jesus here says the whole Bible teaches. That it is necessary to preach repentance. So if you sit under gospel preaching for any length of time, if you sit under my preaching for any length of time and you do not hear repentance from your sin as part of what is being preached and you say a pastor doesn't Jesus want you to preach repentance from our sin?

And he say and leave 24 that that was. One of the whole points of the Bible and of his coming and and dying for us and rising again. So the entire Bible teaches that repentance unto life isn't evangelical grace and that preachers must preach it. And then he says, And you are witnesses of these things behold.

I send the promise of my father upon you that is the spirit but Terry in the city of Jerusalem until you are indeed with power from on high and so again the spirit using the preached word to produce the repentance and repentance being part of the word that is preached.

Mark one. It's just verse 15, but someone read both verses for us versus 14 and 15 for this one. Mark 1 verses 14 and 15.

Now, I did not have been prison. Jesus came together reaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and saying the time is and the kingdom of God is attending repent and believe in the gospel. Very good. So the one sentence summary of Jesus preaching the gospel of the kingdom is the time is fulfilled the kingdom of God is at hand repent and believe in the gospel.

Okay, so repentance as part of Jesus' own preaching of the gospel. And then.

Verse 21, is it I believe. Yeah. Someone could read Acts 20 verse 21.

Gabrielle, please.

Thank you. And here if we if we took the time to read the entire context, you would see that this is the Apostle this is the Apostle telling the elders and Ephesus reminding them of his example because they're never going to see him again and commending them charging them with the spiritual care of of that congregation and one of the things he says is didn't hold back anything profitable anything helpful from you then he says that before he said, What Gabrielle just said testifying to Jews and also to Greeks.

So you see the doctrine building and how these passages all relate to one another and you really could you could have a you know, list of proof Texas long as your arm for every one of these sentences but you see how in each one of them the verse that they've given is given is set within a context that helps us understand the fullness of the meaning and the teaching of the doctrine that is being footnoted.

In the confession and how all of the passages taken together inform one another. Very important that we learn to read our Bibles well so that we will see and be convinced of these doctrines and not and not be

easily shaken but he says not only in verse 20, I kept back nothing that was helpful but now he says also that's why I included back to 26 all the way to 26 and 27.

I am innocent of the blood of all. For I've not shun to declare to you the whole counsel of God. So preachers are required to preach repentance and to preach repentance to everybody and if they don't then they are guilty of blood and not just like physical flesh and blood but of eternal souls.

There are guilty concerning the murder of eternal souls if they do not preach repentance and faith. And that's why he said to Jews and also to Greeks up there in verse 21. Let's pray. Our Father how we thank you that you have given your son first and foremost to be not only our great priest who has offered himself a sacrifice and our great king who has subdued our hearts brought our hearts under himself.

But also our great profit and we thank you and praise you Lord Jesus that you have held back nothing that was profitable but that you have given us your word by your spirit through these men whom your spirit carried along and that every word is breathed out by you who are God and that it is useful so that we would be thoroughly equipped thoroughly furnished for every good work.

So that we we have not only an inspired and authoritative but a sufficient word from you so we pray that since all of these words of yours are what we need that you would help us to believe them all and that you would be with husbands and fathers and their homes as they teach as they lead their families that they would hold back nothing profitable but teach their families the whole counsel of God help those whom you are raising up as elders.

In the future generations of your churches and future generations of this church we pray that they would be convinced of and then in their ministries by your spirit, but they would teach and preach the whole counsel of God and we pray that you would get help those whom you have given us as our elders now in this generation help me oh God that we would hold back nothing that is profitable that would be innocent to the blood of all that we would proclaim repentance and faith and that we would teach the whole counsel of God granted we pray for we ask it through Jesus.

Amen.