

Soteriology 101

Week 9 – Repentance and Faith

Repentance + Faith == **Conversion** (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21)

“To suggest that one might embrace Christ without also decisively purposing to repudiate sin is to suggest that sin is more objectively desirable to the regenerated heart than Christ is. On the contrary, to the newly awakened sinner, Christ is an inestimably valuable treasure, and to gain Him, one delightfully forsakes everything. Thus, the faith that saves is a repentant faith, just as the repentance that saves is a believing repentance.” – MacArthur and Mayhue

“It is impossible to disentangle faith and repentance. Saving faith is permeated with repentance and repentance is permeated with faith. Regeneration becomes vocal in our minds in the exercises of faith and repentance.” – John Murray



Repentance: A genuine **sorrow** for sin, a **renouncing** of it, and a sincere commitment to **forsake** it and walk in obedience to Christ.

Old Testament: Judges 21:15, Job 42:6, Jer. 31:19, Isa. 59:20, Jer. 25:5, Eze. 18:21, Hosea 3:5, Deut. 30:2

New Testament: 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 Thess. 1:9; Acts 3:19, 11:21; Luke 5:32; Acts 8:22; Luke 3:8

“Biblical repentance is not a mere change of thinking, though it does involve an intellectual acknowledgment of sin and a change of attitude toward it. Neither is it merely shame or sorrow for sin, although genuine repentance always involves an element of remorse. True biblical repentance is also a redirection of the human will, a purposeful decision to forsake all unrighteousness and pursue righteousness instead. Thus, genuine repentance involves the mind, the heart, and the will.”

– MacArthur and Mayhue

Repentance is:

1. Intellectual (mind): a **recognition** of one’s sin. (2 Samuel 12:13, Psalm 51:3-4)
2. Emotional (heart): sincere **sorrow**, remorse, and **mourning** of one’s sin. (2 Cor. 7:10, Ps. 51:12,17)
3. Volitional (will): a determined change of **direction** and transformation of the **will**. (Isa. 55:7, Eze. 33:19, Eph. 2:10, Acts 26:20, Luke 3:8, Isa. 1:16-17)

“A person who has genuinely repented will stop doing evil and will begin to live righteously. Where there is no observable difference in conduct, there can be no confidence that repentance has taken place.”

– MacArthur and Mayhue



Faith: The soul's turn to God and **trusting** in the person and work of Christ to provide forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Faith is:

1. Intellectual (mind): **knowledge** of the truth of the gospel. (*notitia*) (Gal. 2:16; Rom. 6:8-9, 10:17)
"We must know who Christ is, what He has done, and what He is able to do. Otherwise faith would be blind conjecture at the best and foolish mockery at the worst. There must be apprehension of the truth respecting Christ." – John Murray
2. Emotional (heart): resolute **conviction** of the claims of the gospel. (*assensus*) (Hebrews 11)
3. Volitional (will): utter **reliance** on Christ for personal salvation. (*fiducia*)
"Faith is knowledge passing into conviction, and it is conviction passing into confidence. Faith cannot stop short of self-commitment to Christ, a transference of reliance upon ourselves and all human resources to reliance upon Christ alone for salvation. It is a receiving and resting upon Him."
 – John Murray

The true believer:

- a) trusts in Christ for **righteousness**. (Philippians 3:4-7)
- b) receives Christ as **treasure**. (Philippians 3:8, Matthew 13:44)
- c) **entrusts** oneself to Christ. (Philippians 2:13)

"One demonstrates his faith that bread satisfies hunger not merely by confessing, 'Bread satisfies!' but by eating the bread. In the same way, one demonstrates his faith in Christ not merely by saying, 'I believe!' but by coming to Christ, receiving all that He is, and entrusting to Him all that the believer is. In summary, faith is leaning wholly on Christ – for redemption, for righteousness, for counsel, for fellowship, for sustenance, for direction, for succor, for his lordship, and for all in life that can truly satisfy." – MacArthur and Mayhue

"It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone." – John Calvin

Repentance and faith are:

1. sovereign **gifts** of God. (Acts 5:29-31, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 1:29)
2. **enduring** in the life of the believer. (Matthew 6:12, 1 John 1:9, Habakkuk 2:4, Galatians 2:20)

"Though justification frees the believer from the penalty of sin, the presence of sin still remains in his unredeemed flesh. Therefore, because he continues to sin against God and others, he must continue to repent. In a believer's life, a spirit of repentance must be as indwelling as his remaining sin."
 – MacArthur and Mayhue



Takeaways

1. Cultivate a heart of true repentance.
2. Deepen your understanding of saving faith.
3. Put your faith into action.
4. Guard against extremes.
5. Encourage one another in the faith.