



# Repentance

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Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

What does it mean to repent?

Why is repentance important?

Does God repent per Numbers 23:19?

Numbers 23:19 - God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

How do you reconcile the fact that God does not repent with passages that says he does such as Genesis 6:6? (Note the Hebrew word translated "sorry" in Genesis 6:6 is the same word translated "repent" in Numbers 23:19)

Genesis 6:6 - And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Does God change His mind without warning?

What is the principle about repentance that God gives us in Jeremiah 18:7-10?

Jeremiah 18:7-10 - The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.

How does Jonah 3:10 demonstrate the principle of national repentance described in Jeremiah 18?

Jonah 3:10 - Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

What are the circumstances where God will not change His mind?

What kind of a covenant (conditional or unconditional) covenant did God make with Abram in Genesis 12:1-3?

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Has God fulfilled His promise to Abram?

What kind of repentance is represented by Matthew 27:3?

Matthew 27:3 - Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

How do you distinguish between remorsefulness and true repentance?

What kind of repentance did John the Baptist preach?

Matthew 3:1-2 - In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

If Israel had repented of their sins as John the Baptist called for, what would have been different?

What was the purpose of the baptism that people did in response to the message of John the Baptist?

Matthew 3:11 - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance

How did Jesus begin His public ministry?

Matt 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

What did Jesus mean by saying the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand?

What do we learn about repentance from what Jesus had to say in Matthew 9:13?

Matthew 9:13 - "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

How does Matthew 12:41 make clear how we should respond to God's call for repentance?

Matthew 12:41 - The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

What is the application of Matthew 12:41 to us today?

What did the Apostle Peter preach about repentance?

Acts 2:38 - Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

What did Paul preach about repentance in Acts 17:30?

Acts 17:30 - Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

What did Paul preach about repentance in Acts 20:21?

Acts 20:21 - testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

What may we learn about repentance in 2 Cor 7:9-10?

2 Cor 7:9-10 - Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

How does repentance lead to salvation?

How does godly sorrow differ from the sorrow of the world?

The parable of the prodigal son is a perfect illustration of repentance... where in this parable do you see a change of mind, heart, and will?

Luke 15:11-20

11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.

12 "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.

13 "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

14 "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

15 "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

What incentives do the following verses give us to repent?

Luke 13:3 - unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Romans 2:4 - Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.