

# one GOD.one gospel.

there is only one God so there can be only one gospel

## Repentance...

*Jesus said... "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand..."*

**"Repent, and believe in the gospel"** *Mark 1:14-15*

Biblical repentance is a change of mind, prompted by a change of heart, resulting in a change of life. Repentance is both internal and external. Internally we change our way of thinking; externally we change our way of acting.<sup>1</sup>

When someone who has understanding and knowledge of God's way then leaves, or departs from that way, God calls that person to 'return', or repent, to stop sinning. <sup>2</sup>

The Greek word repent ('metanoia') means 'to change one's mind', 'to turn', 'to change direction'. It includes expressing regret for sin. It is a basic change of attitude towards God. It means a change of life direction; a turning away from one thing and a turning to another. A U-turn.

The reason we need to "turn around" is that we have been going the wrong way. We have not been going God's way. Instead, we have been going our own way.<sup>3</sup>

To repent is to hate the way we are going, what we have become or what we are doing and return to the way God has set for us. We then follow His commandments (obey), and trust Him (have faith) that He knows what is best for us. These instructions are given to us in His Word, the Bible. <sup>2</sup>

To repent does not just mean to be sorry for our sins but to 1)change our attitude towards God and 2)change our life's direction. Repentance will always be evident by our actions...actions that demonstrate our obedient hearts.

Repentance means that we stop living for ourselves and we turn around and start living for God. We stop serving ourselves and we turn around and start serving God. Very often we misunderstand repentance. Instead of seeing it as a u-turn we see it as a right turn. We turn to the right. We try to do things better. We think that all we have to do is say we are sorry to God and behave a bit better than we have in the past. We try and live according to **our** list of religious rules. That is not what it means to repent. To repent does not mean to try harder. It doesn't mean to turn more to what is right according to our religious laws. To repent is to do a u-turn not a right turn. When we repent we turn our life completely around from ourself and towards God.<sup>4</sup>

Those who come to God decide to leave sin behind...that is repentance. This doesn't mean that a Christian is perfect, but it does mean that a Christian is trying to do God's will and live righteously according to His word. <sup>5</sup>

***Are you demonstrating biblical repentance?***

Verses to study...

Ezekiel 18:30-32 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "**Repent, and turn** from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore **turn and live!**"

Ezekiel 14:6 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “**Repent, turn** away from your idols, and **turn** your faces away from all your abominations.

Mark 1:14-15 Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent**, and believe in the gospel.”

Luke 5:31-32 Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to **repentance**.”

Acts 3:19 **Repent** therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 7:10 For **godly sorrow** produces **repentance** leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

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**.

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**?

Acts 26:20 That they should **repent**, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to **repent**, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Psalms 51:1-17

### ***A Prayer of Repentance***

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup>Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight— that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup>Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. <sup>9</sup>Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. <sup>14</sup>Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. <sup>16</sup>For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

*If My people who are called by My name will **humble themselves**, and pray and **seek My face**, and **turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* 2 Chronicles 7:14

***Have you humbled yourself and repented before Almighty God?***

***Have you turned from your former ways, submitted your life to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and trusted in Him alone for the forgiveness of your sins? Have you received the Holy Spirit?***

***We pray that you have...for it is only by these things that you may have hope of eternal life.***