



Global College of Ministry

EXPLAIN

The Christian and Salvation (Repentance)

What Is Repentance?

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 101*)

“But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die”
(Ezekiel 18:21).

REPENTANCE is actually the first step with action involved that we take toward salvation. Faith precedes repentance; it is the inward work that makes us want to repent. Repentance is a personal but often public step bringing about positive results in our lives. Because we have a sinful nature, and have committed sinful acts, it is essential that we repent.

1. Repentance is not the same as PENANCE, which is doing certain acts of devotion required by a priest to receive “absolution” for sin. This is not Biblical, but merely religious tradition.

“We are all infected and impure with sin. When we proudly display our righteous deeds, we find they are but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall. And our sins, like the wind, sweep us away.” (Isaiah 64:6)

Repentance is not the same as
PENANCE!

2. Repentance is not merely “feeling sorry” for your sins, although that is part of it. In fact, it is this “godly sorrow” that causes us to repent!

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” (2 Corinthians 7:10)

3. Repentance is biblically defined as a “turning around” or an “about face” – an inward change of attitude leading to an outward change of action. Unless both of these occur, real repentance has not taken place.

“... that they should repent and turn to God, and do works and live lives consistent with and worthy of their repentance.” (Acts 26:20)

“Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God.” (Matthew 3:8)

4. Repentance is absolutely essential for salvation. God wants to save us, but requires us to respond to His love by turning from sin.

“Don’t you realize how kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Or don’t you care? Can’t you see how kind he has been in giving you time to turn from your sin?” (Romans 2:4)

“People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)

“... And you will also perish unless you turn from your evil ways and turn to God.” (Luke 13:3)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

5. When I repent, I am applying the DEATH of Christ to my life, making it effective in me!

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.” (Galatians 5:24)

“Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.” (Romans 6:6-7, NLT)

Study Questions

1. Given the following statements about repentance, write out (with Scripture reference using King James Version of the Bible) at least one verse that supports the statement.

1) When I repent, I am applying the DEATH of Christ to my life. _____

2) Repentance is absolutely ESSENTIAL for salvation. _____

3) Repentance is not the same as PENANCE. _____

4) Repentance is not merely “feeling sorry” for your sins. _____

5) Repentance is biblically defined as an inward change of attitude, leading to an outward change of action. _____

2. Explain the difference between “repentance” and “penance.” _____

Man Must Repent

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”
(Luke 13:3).

“Repeat after me, *‘I accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.’* Now, there you have it, you are saved.” How often have you heard this said? How often have you said it yourself? This thinking expresses, “only believe and you will be saved.” There are several problems with this type of thinking.

First of all, like A. W. Tozer said, it requires that Jesus would “stand hat-in-hand awaiting our verdict on Him, instead of kneeling with troubled hearts awaiting his verdict on us.” The picture here depicts Jesus standing before you, the judge, having looked at all the evidence, and waiting (and hoping) that you will give the verdict, “I believe. I accept.” Man is like that; he always wants to be in control. We have been given the freedom to make our own decisions, but it is God who is in control. Jesus said, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you” (John 15:16). He later said, “I have chosen you out of the world” (John 15:19). It is God who will judge us. Paul said the Lord is the “Righteous Judge” (2 Timothy 4:8). “The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:30-31).

It is common today to hear preachers encourage someone to “accept the Lord as your personal Savior.” Raymond Woodward in his article, *What is Repentance* states, “The Bible never talks about us “accepting” the Lord. (In fact, we ought to be eternally grateful that He ever chose to accept us!)”

The Bible teaches actual conversion cannot take place without repentance. Jesus taught, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

John the Baptist came preaching repentance (Matthew 3:1-2). Jesus Christ also began His ministry with a call to “repentance.”

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

Before going to heaven Jesus reminded His disciples, “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30). That sounds quite inclusive. He said, “all men every where.”

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

God deemed it necessary that repentance be preached in every nation. The need for repentance is universal because sin is universal. Sin has touched every human life.

Repentance takes place when we “confess” our sins. “True confession is when we say the same thing about our sins that God says about them.” (The Simplicity of Salvation)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Woodward defines biblical repentance as “an inward change of ATTITUDE leading to an outward change of ACTION. Unless both of these occur, real repentance has not taken place.”

Repentance is an important step in the plan of salvation. It is the first step that man takes toward God and the forgiveness of sins. Peter said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Eddie Jones in *The Truth About Repentance* writes, “The nature of repentance is not only a turning from, but also a turning to. It will cause a person to stop a wrong action and begin a right one.”

Repentance involves turning away from sin, to the Lord. It is a turning point in life. An individual walking one way, the sinful way, makes an “about-face” and starts walking in the opposite direction toward God. Repentance is “to turn away from the way you are going; asking God for forgiveness.”

- ☑ “But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die” (Ezekiel 18:21).
- ☑ “Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once” (Proverbs 28:18).

How to Repent?

The goodness of God leads men to repentance and should not be despised.

“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” (Romans 2:4).

- ☑ The Gospel is presented (Romans 10:14).
- ☑ The sinner is convicted of his sins (Acts 2:37).
- ☑ He accepts he is a sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

- ☑ Realizes that God has provided a Savior (Matthew 1:21; John 4:42).
- ☑ Repents (confesses) his sins. He is not only sorry but has made a decision to forsake sin (Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 55:7) and make a turn-around toward God (Luke 18:13).

What does God do with sins once they are forgiven?

- ☑ He puts them in the bottom of the sea (Micah 7:19).
- ☑ He puts our sin behind his back (Isaiah 38:17).
- ☑ He doesn't remember them anymore (Jeremiah 31:34).
- ☑ He removes them as far as the east is from the west (Psalms 103:12).



HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

The Bible teaches that actual conversion cannot take place without repentance.

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Is this what the Bible teaches?			
Is this what you believe?			
Is this what your church teaches?			

Study Questions

1. Given the following statements, write out the verse (with Scripture reference) that supports the statement.

1) We have been given the freedom to make our own decisions, but God is in control.

2) It is God who will judge us. _____

3) The Bible teaches that conversion cannot take place without repentance. _____

4) Repentance is an important step in the plan of salvation. _____

Repentance

(Adapted from *Path to Righteousness* by Linda Poitras)

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

How Important is Repentance?

The doctrine of repentance is prominent throughout the Bible.

- 📖 John the Baptist began his public ministry (Matthew 3:1-2) as did Jesus Himself (Matthew 4:17) with the call to repentance upon his lips. When rebuked for this, Jesus told His accusers (those self-righteous scribes and Pharisees), *“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”* (Luke 5:32).
- 📖 When Jesus sent forth the twelve to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of heaven, He commanded them to preach repentance. *“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem”* (Luke 24:47).
- 📖 Foremost in the preaching of the apostles was the doctrine of repentance:
 - Peter (Acts 2:38)
 - Paul (Acts 20:21)
- 📖 The burden of the heart of God, and His one commandment to all men everywhere, is that they should repent: *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).

Does this doctrine of repentance find a prominent place in the preaching and teaching of today? Has the need of repentance diminished? Has God lessened or changed the terms of admission into His kingdom? No, never! In fact, failure on the part of man to heed God’s call to repentance means he will perish:

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5).

This was so important that Jesus repeated the exact words in two verses in the same chapter. He was serious about repentance.

How Does Repentance Work in My Life?

True repentance involves three different areas of life, and each one is important:

1. Mind/thoughts:

In Matthew 21:29 we read: *“He answered and said, ‘I will not’: but afterward he repented, and*

went.” The word here used for “repent” means “to change one’s mind, thought, purpose, view, regarding a matter; it is to have another mind about a thing.” So we speak of this as a complete change of attitude and views of sin and righteousness. This change is well illustrated:

- 📖 In the action of the prodigal son (Luke 15)
- 📖 In the well-known story of the Pharisees and the Publican (Luke 18)
- 📖 When Peter (on the Day of Pentecost) called on the Jews to repent (Acts 2:14-40), he told them to change their minds and views regarding Christ. They had considered Him to be a mere man, a blasphemer, an impostor. The events of preceding days had proven He was none other than the righteous God manifested in the flesh. The result of their repentance, or change of mind, would be that they would receive Jesus Christ as their long-promised Messiah.

2. Emotions/feelings:

This is not a change of mind, and a mental belief only, for even the devil believes (James 2:19). People in many churches today would have us believe that anything other than a simple belief is becoming a “work.” If that were so, why did Jesus command us to repent? Repentance is necessary. It must involve a complete change of heart: “...for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness” (Romans 10:10).

📖 *“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death”* (2 Corinthians 7:9-10).

📖 The “sorrow of the world” was not true repentance, but being sorry that the consequences of sin had caught up with them. “Godly sorrow” caused them to:

- Be careful,
- Clear themselves,
- Fear God,
- Have a burning desire,
- Have great zeal,
- Seek revenge against Satan, and
- Be highly indignant against the tricks of the enemy (2 Corinthians 7:11).

📖 In Luke 10:13 and Genesis 6:6 this “godly repentance” means, “to be a care to one afterwards, to cause one great concern.”

📖 The Publican “beat his breast” indicating sorrow of heart (Luke 18:14).

📖 How much emotion is necessary for true repentance? No one can say. The Psalmist declared, *“For I will declare mine iniquity, I will be sorry for my sin”* (Psalm 38:18).

3. Will/disposition:

One of the Hebrew words for repent means “to turn.” The prodigal said, *“I will arise”* (Luke

15:18-20). He:

- Thought about his ways,
- Felt sorry because of them,
- Turned his steps in the direction of home.

Repentance is a crisis with a changed experience in view. Repentance is not only a heart broken for sin, but from sin also. We must forsake what we would have God remit.

Paul wrote about repentance as more of an experience than a single act (Romans 2:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

God's Word speaks much about "turning" from our old ways when we truly repent.

- 📖 John the Baptist spoke of it when the Pharisees and Sadducees came to him for baptism: *"Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance (Matthew 3:8). Again he says in Luke 3:8: "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance."*
- 📖 The Apostle Paul spoke of it before Agrippa, *"But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" (Acts 26:20).*

How Do I Repent?

- 📖 In confession of sin to God (Luke 18:13; 15:21).
- 📖 In confession to man if I have wronged him by my sin (Matthew 5:23-24; James 5:16).
- 📖 In the forsaking of sin: *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord" (Isaiah 55:7). "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).*

The story is told of a couple who lived with their five-year-old child named "Kofi" in a certain village. This man and wife were not Christians. His nursery teacher faithfully carried Kofi to the Sunday school of the only Pentecostal church in his village.

One day, all the children were given memory verses in their Sunday school class and Kofi had Exodus 20:15: *"Thou shalt not steal."* Kofi's teacher explained to him that if one steals and is not caught, God in heaven still sees him. Kofi kept this verse in his heart, and always recited it to his friends in nursery school.

One bright Saturday morning, Kofi's father asked Kofi to accompany him to the nearby farm to visit his traps. On their way, they came across a big orange tree full of ripe fruit. Kofi's father stopped and pulled out a sack. He then asked Kofi to watch while he plucked the oranges into the sack. Kofi knew the oranges did not belong to his father, so he told him, "Papa, Papa, Thou shalt not steal."

Kofi's father replied, "Keep watching and inform me if someone is coming." Kofi replied, "Papa, Papa, God in heaven would see you if nobody else did."

The father was so shocked by Kofi's words that he came down from the tree and led the boy home.

- 📖 Little Kofi taught his father an important lesson that day. We must confess and forsake our sins, for God sees and knows all things, even our heart. But confession and forsaking of the sin is not complete repentance. We must then turn in the direction God is moving.
- 📖 In turning to God, it is not enough to turn away from sin; we must turn unto God: *"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me"* (Acts 26:18).

How Do I Know My Repentance is Acceptable to God?

A beautiful example of godly repentance is shown in Luke 7:36-50. The woman washes the Lord's feet with her tears, wipes them with her hair, and then kisses and anoints his feet. Afterward, the Lord says: *"Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much; but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, 'Thy sins are forgiven.' And he said to the woman, 'Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace'"* (Luke 7:47-48, 50).

Godly repentance is a loving sorrow for having sinned against Him who first loved us (John 4:19).

- 📖 Job said, *"I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes"* (Job 42:6).
- 📖 Like David, the person who repents will feel his guilt, have a deep hatred of sin, and long to be free. *"Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight"* (Psalm 51:4).
- 📖 Godly sorrow is a sorrow for sinning against God who bore our sins in His body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24).
- 📖 Only godly repentance is acceptable to God. It will produce faith to believe God when He says, *"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7).

What is the Result of My True Repentance?

The first result is what happens in heaven: *"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth"* (Luke 15:7,10). All heaven rejoices that the will of God has been accomplished on earth – a sinner has repented.

True repentance makes God happy. He is faithful to forgive us: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9).

Peter told us the last thing that will be a result of our true repentance. He spoke to the people who were gathered around after the healing of the lame man at the Gate Beautiful. After telling them how they had abused and killed the very Messiah they had been waiting for, he then said, *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19). Peter knew what those times of refreshing were; he had seen them take place on the Day of Pentecost. But refreshing cannot come until forgiveness and cleansing takes place. We must first. . .



Study Questions

1. List four (4) proofs that the doctrine of repentance is prominent throughout the Bible. (Support with Scripture reference.)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

2. Give the Scripture references where Jesus repeated the exact words about repentance in two verses in the same chapter. _____

3. List and briefly explain (with Scripture reference) the three (3) different areas of life involved in TRUE repentance.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4. List (with Scripture reference) three (3) ways we repent.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

5. Define godly repentance. Support your answer with Scripture. _____

6. List (with Scripture reference to support) three (3) results of true repentance.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Additional Notes

Repentance, Life's Turning Point

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent”
(Acts 17:30).

It is common today to hear preachers encourage someone to “accept the Lord as your personal Savior.” Raymond Woodward in his article, “What is Repentance,” states, “The Bible never talks about us ‘accepting’ the Lord. (In fact, we ought to be eternally grateful that He ever chose to accept us!)”

The Bible teaches that actual conversion cannot take place without repentance. Jesus taught, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

John the Baptist came preaching repentance. In fact, both John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus Christ began their ministries with a call to “repentance.”

“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:1-2).

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

Prior to returning to heaven Jesus reminded His disciples, “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30). That sounds quite inclusive. He said, “all men every where.”

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Jesus felt it necessary for repentance to be preached in every nation. The need for repentance is universal because sin is universal. Sin has touched every human life. It entered the world through the fall of Adam.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10).

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Repentance comes about when we “confess” our sins. “True confession is when we say the same thing about our sins that God says about them.” (*The Simplicity of Salvation*)

Brother Woodward defines biblical repentance as “an inward change of ATTITUDE leading to an outward change of ACTION. Unless both of these occur, real repentance has not taken place.”

Repentance is an important step in the plan of salvation. It is the next step (immediately following believing) that man takes toward God and the forgiveness of sins. Peter said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Eddie Jones in his tract “The Truth About Repentance” writes, “The nature of repentance is not only a turning from, but also a turning to. It will cause a person to stop a wrong action and begin a right one.”

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

Paul later claimed, “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:20-21).

Paul was saying that we must turn to God in repentance.

When a person is sorry for sin, he will want to confess it, “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34).

Repentance involves turning from sin to the Lord. It is a turning point in life. An individual walking one way, the sinful way, makes an “about-face” and starts walking in the opposite direction toward God.

Repentance is not complete without baptism. Repentance is a type of death. Death always comes before burial. Baptism is a type of burial. The Bible teaches that we should repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38, Luke 24:47, Mark 16:16). Repentance and baptism go hand-in-hand. They should not be separated or divided. “They are experienced together, accomplishing God’s full work of forgiveness in the heart of the believer” (Woodward, “What Happens at Repentance.”)

After repentance and baptism in Jesus' name, we still need the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit gives us power to overcome sin. Without it, we will continue to sin.

An important principle mentioned in another lesson is:

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

"What men are taught determines what they believe.

What they believe determines what they do.

What they do determines their destiny."

(*Take Root*, Carlton L. Coon, Sr.)


"But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die" (Ezekiel 18:21).

"Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once" (Proverbs 28:18).


After you are born again, there will likely be times of failure and sin. As Christians, we endeavor to live above sin, but occasionally we fail. At such moments we should repent.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2).

What Does God Do with Our Sins Once They Are Forgiven?

 He puts them in the bottom of the sea.

"He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19).

 He puts ours sin behind His back.

"Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back" (Isaiah 38:17).

 He does not remember them anymore.

"And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34).

📖 He removes them as far as the east is from the west. The distance from north to south can be measured, but the distance from east to west cannot.

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Psalms 103:12).

How Do I Repent?

📖 Confess my sins to God (Luke 18:13).

📖 Confess to man if I have wronged him (James 5:16; Matthew 5:23-24).

📖 Forsake sin (Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 55:7).

Repentance is “to turn away from the way you are going; asking God for forgiveness.”

Steps to Repentance

The goodness of God leads men to repentance and should not be despised.

“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” (Romans 2:4).

📖 The gospel (death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ) is presented (Romans 10:14).

📖 The sinner is convicted of his sins (Acts 2:37).

📖 He accepts that he is a sinner (Romans 3:23, 6:23).

📖 He realizes that God has provided a Savior (Matthew 1:21; John 4:42).

📖 He repents (confesses) his sins. He is not only sorry for his sins but makes a decision to forsake sin and make a turn-around toward God.

Party Time in Heaven

Heaven rejoices when a sinner repents.

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (Psalms 32:1).

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:10).

Time for Repentance Is Limited

The time to repent is limited to the extent of earthly life. There is no repentance after death. There is no need to put repentance and living for God off until tomorrow.

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

Study Questions

1. Many talk of “accepting the Lord as personal Savior.” Is this scriptural? Explain. _____

2. How did Jesus and John the Baptist begin their ministries? _____

3. Why is the need of repentance a universal need? _____

4. What is meant by “repentance”? _____

5. Provide two verses that teach, “all have sinned.” _____

6. What does God do with our sins that are forgiven? _____

7. How does one go about repenting? _____

8. What are steps leading to repentance? _____

