

Apply The Word

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THE SWEET SORROW OF REPENTANCE

Message Info

Title:

Life Through
Repentance

Speaker:

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Scriptures:

Luke 13:1-9

Theme: Life flourishes at repentance and Jesus is working to see us turn.

Introduction: Repentance can feel like death. When we become aware of our sin and of God's holiness, we can and should be stricken to the core. When we understand that God is fully just to be offended with us, we become aware that ours is a great weight of guilt and condemnation. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-22) is a prime example of just such a process. How can we come out from under such a burden?

We can consider 2 aspects of repentance in order to better understand it and to respond rightly to our holy God:

1. The need for repentance

Humans always attach meanings to events. It's inescapable, and comes to us quite naturally.

The great question is: have we discovered the truth or are we believing lies?

In Luke 13, Jesus highlights 2 news events of recent deaths, one from evil authorities and the other a tragic accident. He identifies the common meaning that people assigned: those who died were wicked and received judgment.

Jesus gives them the true meaning: those who lived were also wicked, and unless they repent, they too will perish. God's judgment is coming.

We should not be shocked by evil or tragedy in our lives; but we should be shocked by God's patience and mercy toward us.

2. The nature of repentance

The English word, repentance, is the translation of the Greek word, *metanoia*.

And that word is compound, coming from *meta*—after and *noia*—mind. So, repentance involves the state of our minds after a certain act or thought.

But repentance is more than thought: it also involves remorse or regret. It involves our shunning of sin and beginning to act righteously.

Jesus also tells a parable of a fig tree, to demonstrate the patience of God and the absolute need for repentance. If the tree does not bear fruit it will be cut down, and so also must we respond to God's mercy toward us in our sins.

Questions:

1. What is repentance, biblically-defined?
2. What is your practice of repentance? How often do you repent?
3. Are there any sins that you are coddling and justifying? How is God showing his patience toward you?