

Apply The Word

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THE SWEET SORROW OF REPENTANCE

Message Info

Title:

Gospel Repentance

Speaker:

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Date:

September 20, 2020

Scriptures:

Romans 2:1-11

*But I am a great sinner, say you.
"I will in no wise cast out," says Christ.
But I am an old sinner, say you.
"I will in no wise cast out," says Christ.
But I am a hard-hearted sinner, say you.
"I will in no wise cast out," says Christ.
But I am a back-sliding sinner, say you.
"I will in no wise cast out," says Christ.
But I have served Satan all my days, say you.
"I will in no wise cast out," says Christ.
But I have sinned against light, say you.
"I will in no wise cast out," says Christ.
But I have sinned against mercy, say you.
"I will in no wise cast out," says Christ.
But I have no good thing to bring with me, say you.
"I will in no wise cast out," says Christ.*

—John Bunyan

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Theme: Return to God through Jesus Christ so you can walk secure in his love.

Introduction: The very first messages of many of the main characters in the New Testament show a strong commonality: they all call their hearers to *repent*. We see this in John the Baptist (Matt 3:2), Jesus (4:17), the disciples (Mark 6:12), and Peter (Acts 2:38). It also serves as a summary of Paul's ministry as well (Acts 20:20-21). Repentance is clearly a very important part of our responding to God.

We can consider 2 aspects of repentance in order to better understand what is at stake in our repentance and what it is actually meant to produce in our lives:

1. The *Why* of Repentance

Everyone makes moral judgments. It is part of being in God's image. Justice is our moral judgment toward outward, and conscience is our moral judgment turned inward.

In judging others, we condemn ourselves because we commit the same acts.

Much as we don't like to admit it, we all know that we are guilty of sin.

The standard of sin is God's law, which reflects the perfections of God himself. So our need for repentance must be determined according to God's law.

2. The *Who* of Repentance

God is rich in kindness and forbearance and patience (Rom 2:4). And if we have trusted in Christ, we experienced that at conversion and we are currently experiencing that same richness.

We receive Jesus' intercession (Heb 7:25) as he applies to his people the salvation that he earned for us.

We receive Jesus' advocacy (1 John 2:1; Rom 8:33-34) as he covers over our sins and rescues us from condemnation. We are secure in his love.

So we both can and must repent because we know that we are not turning to a harsh and demanding overlord, but to a loving and gracious Savior whose grace has made every provision for our need and who will in no wise cast us out (John 6:37).

Questions:

1. What is the role of God's law in our repentance?
2. Do you believe that God is rich toward you—even now—in kindness, forbearance, and patience?
3. How does Jesus' present intercession and advocacy for you affect you? What difference do they make for your faith and repentance?