

Repentance & the Self-Righteous

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Someone said, “Repentance is to confess and forsake sin!” Wow... If the definition of repentance is to “confess and forsake sin” then this definition would make God a sinner! The first three times the word “repented” shows up it is God that is doing the repentance!

Genesis 6:6, “**And it repented the LORD** that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” So let’s replace the word with the definition: “And it confess and forsake sin the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” That didn’t work very well. Looks like repent just means to TURN in the opposite direction! In this sense in would have turned the Lord or changed his mind because of the grief that the Lord felt by all the wickedness.

Exodus 32:14, “**And the LORD repented** of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.” Try it again: “And the LORD confess and forsake sin of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.” That fits really well now doesn’t it? I don’t think so!

Judges 2:18, “And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for **it repented the LORD** because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.” One last time: Here we will just grab the excerpt where the word shows up: “...for it confess and forsake sin the LORD because of their groanings...” NO, NO, NO! That is NOT what repentance means or you would be able to apply it HERE!

Try it in Amos 7:3 or verse 6; or how about Jonah 3:10. You cannot “obey” enough to be so right that you get saved! Repentance is NOT salvation else your salvation is based on obedience to do right instead of wrong: that would be a work of righteousness. The trouble is we have NOT obeyed the law! If you turned unto the Lord are YOU repenting or is God repenting? Joel 2:13, “**And rend your heart**, and not your garments, and **turn unto the LORD your God**: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and **repenteth him of the evil.**”

John 3:36, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but **the wrath of God abideth on him.**”

The trouble is we ARE disobedient but no amount of obedience to doing any good around here will work will FIX what we have done that is disobedient. So, “being obedient” is NOT the same as “not being disobedient” and is the opposite of “being disobedient.” Isn’t that the same as doing the law or not doing the law? Pray tell what IS the difference?

Romans 3:24-28, “Being **justified freely** by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation **through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness **for the remission of sins** that are past, **through the forbearance of God**; To declare, I say, at this time **his righteousness**: that he might be just, and the **justifier** of him which **believeth in Jesus**. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. **By what law?** of **works?** Nay: but **by the law of faith**. Therefore **we conclude** that a man is **justified by faith without the deeds of the law**.” So there is a law of FAITH where we CAN be obedient too but not by the works of righteousness. The righteousness of God is imputed by faith; by believing: Romans 10:3, “For they being **ignorant of God's righteousness**, and **going about to establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto **the righteousness of God**. For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth**.”

You must get a new birth that is out of your reach because you cannot will to be born again and become a new creature. That is, you cannot produce the new birth by your wit, or your will or your knowledge or your good works. BUT you CAN will to receive the Lord Jesus Christ; and by this act of faith God imputes His righteousness to you. John 1:12-13, “But **as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: **Which were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.” It is NOT earned; it is a free gift. Romans 6:23, “For the **wages of sin** is death; but **the gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” What we earn are the wages of sin: DEATH. All the self-righteousness we do only earns us DEATH. However when we receive the Lord Jesus Christ we become a new creature and the Lord God Almighty gives us eternal life and we can never perish. John 10:28, “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” Then the Lord gives us the ministry of reconciliation. As we have been reconciled so we are given this ministry to bring others to be reconciled to God:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21, “Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are

of **God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.** Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God.** For **he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**” The admonition in this ministry to others is “...be ye reconciled to God...” How? Read it again: “...For he hath made him **to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**”

The law works wrath: Romans 4:15, “Because **the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.**” That is why the wrath of God is upon all that believe NOT (John 3:36) aside from those that have not the law because where no law is, there is no transgression. It is obvious because sin is the transgression of the law: 1 John 3:4, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law.**” How can you disobey something you do not have? How can you be judged by something you did not know? If you COULD know or could have known and didn't that is different. The innocence of the child or anyone in innocence has not the law and if there is no law then sin is not reckoned even though it is there. Without the law sin is there but dead: Romans 7:8-9, “But sin, taking occasion **by the commandment**, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For **without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.**” If sin is dead then when the law comes sin is revived and it kills you: Romans 7:11, “For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, **deceived me, and by it slew me.**” What dies? What is slain in a person by the law? Are you born dead in trespasses and sin? How can you be? You haven't trespassed or sinned? What is the cause of death? Romans 6:23a, “For **the wages of sin is death...**” How do you get death where no sin is accounted? Now then what died in Romans 7:8-9? Whose fault is your death? Was it Adam's sin? Or was it YOUR OWN sin? Romans 5:12, “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...” It passed upon all men, for Adam sinned? NO! YOU DID!

The body dies regardless because it is born in sin; but that death is usually prolonged in time: Ecclesiastes 8:11, “Because **sentence** against an evil work **is not executed speedily**, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” The staying of the sentence of execution is mercy whereby the Lord gives

time for us to turn to Him and the sentence would be remitted. 2 Corinthians 1:9, “**But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves**, but in God which raiseth the dead...” But that death is not the body or the soul. It must be the death of the spirit; a death that separates us from God that we are accountable for. That would make us murderers of our own spirit and adds a desperate wickedness to the depths in which we have found ourselves wherein we came to ourselves by the schoolmaster. The schoolmaster is the law that brings us to Christ by making the consciences see sin for what it is: Galatians 3:24, “**Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**”

Romans 7:13, “Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, **that it might appear sin, working death in me** by that which is good; that **sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**” The schoolmaster shows us that sin IS in fact SIN, working death in me. Not the death of the body but the death in me by the good schoolmaster so that sin might become (appear) exceedingly sinful. This pricking of the conscience makes the lost sinner ripe for receiving the free gift of God because this is the purpose of a lost man becoming guilty having been convicted by their own conscience that the law is good and he or she is not. (John 8:9; Romans 2:15) However this can go in the wrong direction and instead of receiving the Lord Jesus Christ; they reject their only hope and by this their conscience becomes more and more seared (1 Timothy 4:2; Romans 1:18-32) So if the law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ then it is not meant TO be obeyed; it is meant to show us that we can't obey it. Romans 3:20-23, “**Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...**”

The trouble is all have sinned. What do you do about the past sins? You may put on a great show now in self-righteous living; but what takes away your past sinful wretchedness? Exodus 12:13, “**And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.**” And Colossians 1:13-14, “**Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins...**” And Colossians

1:20, “And, **having made peace through the blood of his cross**, by him **to reconcile all things unto himself**; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” And Ephesians 2:13, “But now **in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ**.” And Hebrews 9:14, “**How much more shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience from dead works** to serve the living God?” and 1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**.”

After faith is come there is no need for the schoolmaster: Galatians 3:25, “But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” The Lord took the ordinances of the law and nailed them to the cross: Colossians 2:13-15, “And you, **being dead in your sins** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and **took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross**; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

Now if you are lost you may be wondering: how can I avail myself of this great and wonderful thing to have all my sins washed away? Romans 10:9-10, “That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus**, and shalt **believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved**. For **with the heart man believeth unto righteousness**; and **with the mouth confession is made unto salvation**.” See it is not about doing good works. It is about becoming PERFECT before a HOLY ALMIGHTY GOD. Ephesians 2:8-9, “For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and **that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast**.” It is not by works of righteousness but grace as it says above and mercy: Titus 3:5, “**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us**, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost...” The works that you perform that you think are so right are dead works. Works that bring forth death: Hebrews 6:1, “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from **dead works**, and of faith toward God...”

Repent from your own righteousness of dead works and turn to the righteousness of God: Romans 10:3, “For they being **ignorant of God's righteousness**, and **going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted**

themselves unto the righteousness of God. For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**” Being right with God is as simple as Acts 16:31, “And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,** and **thou shalt be saved,** and thy house.”

You make a folly out of the Bible when you privately interpret a word like “repent” or “repentance” or any form of that word and make that something ridiculous like “confess and forsake sin and obey God” If this is your brand of salvation then you have a works salvation. When you admit that you are a SINNER you admit that the problem is **what you ARE** and NOT **what you have done!** When the Bible says **repent** it only means “**turn**” it means “go in the opposite direction” it means “turn from” or “turn around in a 180°” so you are going in the opposite direction that you were going in. It means to change your mind from doing something to the opposite. It is a general term that basically means “turn” and has NO other meaning anywhere in the Bible.

IF you want to make this devilish interpretation of the word repent to mean “turn from your sins”; then you are making God a sinner and you are making yourself out as a righteous egotistical elitist: Exodus 32:14, “And **the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.**” And Romans 10:3, “For **they being ignorant of God's righteousness,** and **going about to establish their own righteousness,** **have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**” They have become their own god: And Galatians 5:4, “**Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.**” The law does not justify you unless you have kept the whole law from birth perfectly! Sinners cannot repent of sin! Sinners are sinners because they sin; and they sin making them sinners! It is a catch 22 - between a rock and a hard place! The trouble is that you cannot fix your past sins by doing good works right now! Personal righteousness does not fix personal wickedness in the past. There is no place anywhere in the Bible where God weighs your good from your bad to see if you have more good than bad! You are weighed by God’s standard which is perfect holy righteousness! God requires you to be HOLY: Leviticus 11:44-45, “For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and **ye shall be holy; for I am holy:** neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: **ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.**” And in 1 Peter 1:15-16, “But as **he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy** in all manner of conversation; Because **it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**”

Human nature wants to be right and the conscience wants to be right; no one likes to think of themselves as wicked! However Isaiah 64:6, “But **we are all as an unclean thing**, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and **we all do fade as a leaf**; and **our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away**.” How can our any of our own righteousness help us? This is what we are to repent from.

To repent means to “turn” from “this” to “that”; and this satisfies the definition every time the word shows up. It is a change of mind or a change of heart or a change of action all in the opposite direction so “turn” is appropriate.

Matthew 9:13, “But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but **sinner to repentance**.”

Mark 2:17, “When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but **sinner to repentance**.”

Luke 5:32, “I came not to call the righteous, but **sinner to repentance**.”

Self-righteous people have a hard time admitting that they are wicked sinners; because their own self-righteousness blinds them to the fact that they are in fact wicked sinners. You MUST admit to God that you are a sinner!

2 Corinthians 7:10, “For **godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of**: but **the sorrow of the world worketh death**.”

Romans 10:3-4, “For they being **ignorant** of God's righteousness, and **going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God**. For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth**.” So FAITH is the needed thing to believe; and the Lord Jesus Christ is the END of the LAW! If you are trusting in your own righteousness you are IGNORANT of God's righteousness that is offered freely to the sinner.

- A. Admit you are a wicked sinner before a Holy God Almighty
- B. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation from hell fire and damnation.
- C. Confess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

These are the steps in repentance because once you admit that you are a sinner then self-righteousness goes out the door; and when you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ trusting HIM to save you repentance is finished because the Lord Jesus Christ IS God's righteousness.

Romans 5:6-10, “For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly**. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be **saved from wrath** through him. For if, **when we were enemies**, we were **reconciled** to God by the death of his Son, much more, being **reconciled**, we shall be saved by his life.”

John 1:12-13, “But as many as **received him**, to them gave he power **to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: **Which were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.”

John 3:5-7, “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**. Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again**.”

Romans 10:9-10, “That **if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved**. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

John 8:24, “I said therefore unto you, that **ye shall die in your sins**: for **if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins**.”

1 John 5:10-13, “He that **believeth on the Son of God** hath the witness in himself: **he that believeth not God hath made him a liar**; because he believeth not **the record that God gave of his Son**. And **this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son**. **He that hath the Son hath life**; and **he that hath not the Son of God hath not life**. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

John 10:28, “And **I give unto them eternal life**; and **they shall never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

The End