



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God!

Focus Verses: Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lesson Text: Romans 3:21-26; 6:20-23

Truth About God: God is faithful to offer forgiveness.

Truth For My Life: I will acknowledge my need for salvation.

Many people are unaware a spiritual emergency is rapidly developing. This world is marching to the cadence of prophetic fulfillment. All around us the signs of the time declare the day is short, the hour is at hand, and the coming of the Lord is near. Men and women from every walk of life are in grave danger of being lost for eternity. As followers of Jesus, we must recognize the desperate situation and passionately preach the gospel to the lost without reservation. It would be tragic if, out of a desire for self-preservation, we who are blessed to know the truth allow our voices to be silenced in this critical hour.

One cause of sin is the rejection of God's ways. This rejection may be intentional or unintentional, but the result is the same. Paul said having knowledge of God but refusing to act on it causes humanity to fall into the darkness of sin. Another cause of sin is closely related to the first: deception. We must know what the Word of God says, not just what the media, society, or even our own friends or family tells us is true. Righteousness is the good fruit of a continual life of faith, while sin is the rotten fruit of continual unbelief. This may manifest in ignoring God's Word, rejecting God's will, or exalting oneself above God.

None of us would say we hate God or His ways, but our actions may say it for us. One chief earmark of sin is self-righteousness. Ultimately, the sinner exalts self over all authority, including God. This lawlessness began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were deceived into believing their disobedience to God would put them on equal footing with God. Submitting our will to God is the only way to break the yoke of lawlessness. Romans 6:23 contrasts the wages of sin, which end in death, to the gift of God, which promises eternal life. Yet grace is a gift. Instead of getting what we deserve, God gives us something we could never earn: the gift of eternal life. Jesus Christ suffered for our sins to reconcile us as sinners to God (1 Peter 3:18).

The mercy of God is never a license to sin, but it is a safety net to catch us before we fall into condemnation and never recover. According to James, the temptation to sin always arises from within; it is profoundly personal. No one is exempt (James 1:14). When people yield to temptation, the result is sin and death. Every person who sins believes he or she has the capacity to control sin. But James showed how futile those efforts are. Romans 6:16 tells us, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" When we become a servant of sin, we relinquish control, and sin becomes the master.

Sin ultimately ends in death, but not before it leads a person through a life of heartache, heartbreak, bondage, and seemingly unbearable pain. Another poisoned fruit of sin is shame. Shame tries to push us away from God, but conviction draws us closer to Him. The sinful nature is the fatal spiritual disease that has afflicted humanity since the Garden. In Romans 8:1-4, Paul explained sin relies on the weakness of our human nature (the flesh). Unless the root of the sin problem is addressed, sinners will always continue in sin. Although our sinful nature resulted from Adam's disobedience in the Garden, our hope for salvation arose from Jesus' obedience and submission to the will of God.

The glorious truth is God is not only angry at sin; He is also merciful toward us. If He were only angry, conviction would end in shame and condemnation. We would never live up to God's perfect standard of holiness. But thank God He is merciful. And conviction is not the end of our story because conviction for sin leads us to repentance from sin, and repentance promises forgiveness.

Repentance leads us to baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and baptism leads us to walk in new life as we are filled with the gift of God's Holy Spirit. Sinners in the hands of a loving God is our story. Let us live it out, and let us share it with others who have not heard it or who have walked away. God is merciful, compassionate, and ready to save all who come to him in faith.