

WITHOUT REPENTANCE IT MEANS NOTHING

This is article #3 about God's plan of salvation.

Repentance.

People don't believe in it anymore, because in order to repent they have to see themselves as someone who has sinned. When a former president of the United States said that an immoral relationship with an intern was not a sin, then fuel was added to this thinking.

John the baptizer said people needed to repent. In Jesus' first sermons he told people they needed to repent. On the day of Pentecost, after the first gospel sermon was preached, the people asked what they should do, and Peter said they needed to repent. Repentance is a vital step in the plan of salvation. It may be accompanied by tears, and it may not, but there needs to be a sincere sorrow over our past failure to not follow Jesus Christ. To leave repentance out makes the rest of the plan of salvation meaningless.

Scripture points out that every single one of us has sinned. It makes no difference if you are 17 years old or 71 years old. You have sinned. It makes no difference if you are a man or a woman, what side of town you live on, what color of skin you have, what your political party preference is, etc. You have sinned at least once in your life, and that is all it takes to need repentance.

We like to compare ourselves to other people. "Why compared to Hitler, I'm a marvelous and good person." "Have you seen my neighbor? My, what a heathen. It is too bad that he is not like me." Friend, you are like him until you repent of your sins.

Salvation is a gift from God. Any step of reconciliation in the plan of salvation is a gift as well. The ability to repent is a gift. It has been permitted for us to be able to do so. It is God's gift to us that we can approach Him this way. Don't take it for granted. Don't say, "He is God. He has to forgive me."

I remember a preacher from Las Vegas who showed a video of some of the 600 people they baptized into Christ in one year. The congregation was not quiet. They were clapping and whistling. The preacher said, "In Las Vegas we know what sin really is." Do you? If so, then repent!

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