



UPLOOK SUMMER BIBLE PROGRAM

WORD#6: REPENTANCE

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Supply the missing words as you watch the teaching video.

1. Paul preached “_____ toward _____ and _____ toward our _____” (Acts 20:21).
2. One’s mind must be ‘recalibrated’ (re-educated) to _____ the way _____.
3. As I listen, my heart says “_____” to the truth of the Word, then my _____.
4. Some scriptural descriptions of our sin condition: _____, _____, a _____, and _____.
5. God’s only remedy for our condition: _____ and begin over with a whole _____ . Thankfully, God has provided a _____ !
6. A mean God? The people who knew Him _____ in the Old Testament and New Testament describe Him as _____, _____ and _____.
7. Salvation is not of _____. It “is _____” (Jonah 2:9).
8. Repentance is _____ with God about _____ (my sin) and _____ with God about _____ (His Son).
9. You can’t have the _____ and _____ at the same time.

A HELPFUL DEFINITION

Repentance, *metanoia*: Simply, a change of mind. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9). Man naturally does not think rightly about himself, sin, God, or the way of salvation. In order to be saved, he must be re-educated by the Word of truth. This change of thinking should lead to believing God: “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom 10:17). In reality, repentance is agreeing with God concerning the verdict: I deserve to be executed for my sins. Such repentance should evidence itself in “fruits” or “works” suitable for repentance (Mt 3:8; Acts 26:20).



NEEDED:
A change of mind

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DIGGING IN THE WORD

1. The tragic events on 9/11 were not the first time a tower fell, causing multiple deaths. The Lord Jesus used a current event in His day to ask His listeners a searching question: "Those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?" (Lk 13:4). What does His answer to His own question tell us about the human condition?

2. We call the places we house prisoners "penitentiaries" and "reformatories." Unfortunately the success rate of such hopes is poor. Who is the agent that must do the necessary work if true repentance is to result? (See Jn 16:7-8.)

3. In Luke 24:46-47, the Lord Jesus links the ideas of repentance and remission. What is remission of sins? How many are offered the second—remission—if they are willing to do the first—repent?

4. Hebrews 12:17 refers to the story of Esau. It says, "he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears." Is it possible to truly seek repentance but not attain it? Clue: read the story in Genesis 27:30-41. Did Esau want repentance for himself or someone else? Who? Did he show a repentant attitude at the end of the incident (see v 41)?

SOME HELPFUL QUOTES...

"Repentance is not opposed to grace; it is the recognition of the need of grace."

(Ironsides, p 16)

"And everywhere the apostles went they called upon men thus to face their sins—to face the question of their helplessness, yet their responsibility to God—to face Christ as the one, all-sufficient Saviour, and thus by trusting Him to obtain remission of sins and justification from all things.

"So to face these tremendous facts is to change one's mind completely...the man who has been hiding from God seeks to find a hiding place in Him; the Christ-rejecter realizes his need of a Redeemer, and believes unto salvation."

(Ironsides, p 19)

"There are many peculiar ideas about biblical repentance. I have talked with people who tried to tell me that repentance is necessary because



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SOME MORE HELPFUL QUOTES...

'it makes you fit so that God can save you.' The Bible does not teach that, and it never did. No man or woman has changed the character or goodness of God by an act of repentance. All the repentance in the universe cannot make God any more loving, any more gracious, Repentance is not a meritorious act. God is eternally good, and He welcomes us into His love, grace and mercy when we meet His condition of an about-face so that we are aware of His smile.

"Repentance means turning around from our evil ways in order to look to Jesus. The person who will not repent still has his or her back turned on God. Repentance is a condition we meet in order that God, already wanting to be good to us, can be good to us, forgiving and cleansing us. In that sense then, the man who loves his sin and hangs on to it cannot reasonably expect the goodness and the grace of God." (Tozer, p 45)

"Let us think of a Christian believer in whose life the twin wonders of repentance and the new birth have been wrought. He is now living according to the will of God as he understands it from the written Word. Of such a one it may be said that every act of his life is or can be as truly sacred as prayer or baptism or the Lord's Supper. To say this is not to bring all acts down to one dead level; it is rather to lift every act up into a living kingdom and turn the whole of life into a sacrament." (Tozer)

"Repentance is not something God demands of you before He will take you back and which He could let you off if He chose; it is simply a description of what going back is like." (Lewis, p 60)

"Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms. Laying down your arms, surrendering, saying you are sorry, realizing that you have been on the wrong track and getting ready to start life over again from the ground floor—that is the only way out of a 'hole.' This process of surrender—this movement full speed astern—is repentance." (Lewis, p 59)

"When one believes what God has to say regarding salvation, he goes from unbelief to faith in God's revealed truth. When going from unbelief to belief, he has changed his mind and is no longer calling God a liar by not believing His record or testimony about Christ." (Seymour, p 81)

"When the ungodly man is exposed to the Gospel and agrees with it, he is changing his mind and attitude from what he once thought to now believing what God says. He has repented when he has done that. When this man comes to the point of agreement with God regarding himself and the Lord Jesus Christ, he is ready to believe and be saved." (Seymour, p 82)

*"What has the church gained if it is popular but there is no conviction, no repentance, no power?"
— Tozer —*



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AN ILLUSTRATION

A man of fifty is very unwell. He goes to a doctor. After a thorough examination, the doctor tells him that the cause of his illness is excessive smoking. "Yes, I realize that now," says the man, "and I repent of it. Please give me something to help me give it up."

So far, so good. The man has repented of the individual sin of smoking. But the doctor says, "Well, you are wise to give up smoking; but giving up smoking cannot save you. Your lungs are virtually destroyed, and your heart is severely damaged. The only thing that can save you is to allow a surgeon to perform a heart-lung transplant operation on you."

Now the crucial question is: will the man be willing to repent at this more basic level? That is, will he agree with the doctor that his condition is so bad that merely giving up smoking cannot save him; only a new heart and new lungs can save him?

Suppose the man rejects the doctor's verdict: "No, I am not prepared to have this drastic operation. I am not as ill as you say. I am confident that if I give up smoking, I shall be all right." What will happen? He will very shortly die!

On the other hand, if he repents at this basic level, agrees with the doctor's diagnosis, submits to the operation, and so receives the heart and lungs of another person, it will still be important that he repents of the sin of smoking. Indeed the surgeon may well say to him as he leaves hospital: "I insist that you now give up smoking entirely. And if ever you succumb to the temptation to smoke again, come at once and I can give you something to help you overcome the temptation."

So it is with us. God's verdict is that we are so bad that repenting of individual sins, important as that is, cannot save us. We need what we

might call radical repentance. This means agreeing with God's verdict not only regarding our sins, but also ourselves. It is a question not only of what we have done, but of what we are. God's verdict is not only that we have sinned in the past and that in the present we still come short of His standards of holiness (Rom 3:23), but that by our very nature we are "children of wrath" (Eph 2:1-3). Our very nature is sinful and calls forth God's displeasure. This does not mean, of course, that every part of us is as bad as bad could be. It does mean that no part of us is free from the damage that sin has caused. . . .

Radical repentance, then, means giving up our own estimate of ourselves and agreeing with God's verdict that repenting from individual sins cannot save us. We need new spiritual life from a source outside of ourselves. That source is Christ, who died for us, and now lives to be our Savior. **(Gooding/Lennox, pp 69-70)**

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Resources Worth Reading

- Ironside, H.A. (1994). *Unless You Repent* (pp 16-19). Grand Rapids, MI: Gospel Folio Press.
- Seymour, R.A. (2007). *All About Repentance* (pp 81-82). Lagrange, WY: Integrity Press.
- Lewis, C.S. (2012). *The Complete C. S. Lewis Signature Classics* (pp 59-60). HarperCollins U.K.
- Tozer, A.W. (2017). *Men Who Met God* (p 45). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.
- Gooding, D., & Lennox, J. (1997). *Key Bible Concepts* (pp 69-70). Grand Rapids, MI: Gospel Folio Press.

OTHER UPLOOK RESOURCES TO HELP YOU:

- A gospel overview: <http://www.uplook.org/2003/09/when-a-sinner-repents/>
- An excellent article by E.W. Rogers: <http://www.uplook.org/2004/03/hebrews-6/>
- Impossible to renew to repentance: <http://www.uplook.org/2016/01/five-fatal-flaws-warning-passages-hebrews-2/>
- More on God repenting: <http://www.uplook.org/2012/09/when-god-repents-repents/>
- What makes God sorry? <http://www.uplook.org/2012/09/what-makes-god-sorry/>
- God's goodness leads to repentance: <http://www.uplook.org/2009/01/not-to-destroy-mens-lives-but-to-save-them/>



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