**Foundations Lesson #12**

**Repentance**

Repentance means simply turning ***from*** sin ***to*** God. It is required of all people everywhere, both saved and unsaved (Acts 17:30). In the heart of God there is a deep desire for all to come to repentance. This can be seen in Ezekiel 18:23, “Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?” and also in II Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

**I. repentance described and explained**

- described by word studies

- naham (O.T.): to feel sorry, to lament, to grieve, to sigh or to groan

- shubh (O.T.): to turn back, to make a radical change in attitude toward sin and God

- metanoia (N.T.): to have another mind; to change one's mind, attitude, and purpose regarding sin; inner turning

- epistrepho (N.T.): to turn back, return (emphasizing the resulting change of position, i.e. form death to life)

- explained in the Scripture

- not a matter of worldly sorrow (only for sin's consequences) – II Corinthians 7:9-11

- not a matter of penance (punishing self) – Matthew 27:3-5 / Colossians 2:23

- not a matter of reformation (dealing only with outward appearances) – Acts 8:18-24

- not a matter of self-condemnation – Romans 8:1

- the difference between condemnation and conviction

**II. results of repentance (see Acts 26:20)**

- the believer produces fruit – Luke 3:7-14

- specific confession of sin to God – Psalm 32:3-5

- restitution to man, where needed – Luke 19:8-9

- personal holiness – Acts 3:19 / II Corinthians 7:1

- God extends forgiveness and pardon – II Chronicles 32:26 / I John 1:9 / Jeremiah 18:7-8

- heaven rejoices – Luke 15:7 / Luke 15:10

**III. hindrances to repentance**

- being too dull or self-centered – Matthew 15:16 / Mark 8:18

- being right, or wise, in our own eyes – Proverbs 26:12 / Isaiah 5:21 / Proverbs 3:7

- loving our sin – Amos 5:15 / Proverbs 8:13, 13:5, 15:27, 28:16 / Hebrews 1:9

- pride – Proverbs 16:18, 16:5, 18:12 / I Peter 5:5-6

- having no fear of God – Psalm 36:1 / Exodus 20:20 / I Peter 2:17

- focusing on the power of the habit instead of God's power – Ephesians 3:20 / Psalm 68:35

- lack of perseverance – James 1:2-4 / Hebrews 10:36 / Luke 11:5-10

**IV. examples of repentance**

- the people of Nineveh – Matthew 12:41 / Jonah 3:4-10

- Job – Job 42:5-6

- David – II Samuel 12:9-14 / see also Psalm 51, David's cry of repentance

- Peter – Luke 22:59-62

**V. repentance in the Scripture**

- is commanded by God – Acts 17:30

- is a gift from God – Acts 11:18 / II Timothy 2:25-26

- God's kindness leading people to repentance – Romans 2:4

- is required of the unsaved

- spiritually dead people can only produce dead works – Ephesians 2:1-2

- repentance being a necessary aspect of salvation – Mark 1:14-15 / Luke 13:3

- is required of the saved (see Revelation chapters 2 and 3: churches being called to repent)

- Ephesus (2:4-5) – from having forsaken their first love

- Pergamum (2:14-16) – from sexual immorality and food sacrificed to idols

- Thyatira (2:20-23) – from sexual immorality and food sacrificed to idols

- Sardis (3:1-3) – from being dead, from not obeying what they had heard

- Laodicea (3:15-19) – from lukewarmness

- is a message preached by:

- John the Baptist – Matthew 3:1-2, 8, 11 / Mark 1:4 / Luke 3:3 / Acts 13:24

- Jesus Christ – Matthew 4:17 / Mark 1:14-15 / Luke 5:32 / Luke 13:1-5

- the Twelve sent out by Jesus Christ – Mark 6:12

- the church – Luke 24:46-47 / Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30, 20:21, 26:20

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