

## Repent For The Kingdom Of God Is At Hand

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### The New Testament Church

*'The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.'* (Acts 2:47)

The Bible teaches that it is important for all those who are truly saved to be added to a New Testament local church and have a home church in which they can grow spiritually, be cared for properly and use their gifts to help others.

This instantly raise questions such as: 'What exactly is a New Testament Church?' and 'How were those early converts *added to the church?*' The Bible provides us with the answers, some of which are addressed in this study.

#### A. What is the Church?

1. The Church is not:
  - a. Material building
  - b. A denomination
  - c. An extension of Judaism
2. The Church is:
  - a. Ecclesia 'The called out company' (Matthew 16:18)
  - b. Ecclesia 'The assembled people of God' (Hebrews 10:25)
  - c. Habitation of God by the Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22)
  - d. The body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

#### B. What did Jesus say about The Church?

Read Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-20

1. It would be a Church He would build
2. It would be a Church against which the Gates of Hell would not prevail
3. It would be a Church that would have the Keys of the Kingdom
4. It would be a Church that would have a binding ministry
5. It would be a Church that would have a loosing ministry
6. It would be a Church that would have a disciplinary ministry
7. It would be a Church the Christ as a risen Head would be 'in the midst'

#### C. What are the two basic concepts of the New Testament Church?

1. In the Gospels:
  - The Church Universal (Matthew 16:15-19)
  - The Church Local (Matthew 18:15-20)
2. In Acts and the Epistles:
  - The Church Universal (Ephesians 1:21-23; Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 1:18)
  - The Church Local  
(Acts 9:31; Romans 16:4, 16; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 19; 2 Corinthians 8:1)

#### D. How were the early converts added to the New Testament Church?

1. They were first added to the Lord (Acts 5:12-14; 11:24)
2. They were then added to the Church (Acts 2:41, 47)

#### E. What were the basic biblical steps involved in becoming and remaining a New Testament Church partner?

1. Repentance from dead works (Acts 2:44; 8:47)
2. Faith towards God (Acts 2:38)
3. Water Baptism (Acts 2:38, 41)
4. Holy Spirit baptism (Acts 2:38-39)
5. Apostles doctrine [teaching] (Acts 2:42)
6. Fellowship (Acts 2:42)
7. Breaking of Bread (Acts 2:42)
8. Prayers (Acts 2:42)

#### F. What is the purpose of the Church's existence?

1. Ministry to the Lord
2. Ministry to the Saints
3. Ministry to the World

## Repentance From Dead Works

### A. What Is The First Word Of The Gospel?

The first word of the Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_

The second word is \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:15)

1. John's first message was repentance (Matthew 3:1-8)
2. Jesus Christ's first message was repentance (Matthew 4:17)
3. The twelve apostles preached repentance (Mark 6:7-13)
4. The first message by Peter on the day of Pentecost was 'repent' (Acts 2:38)
5. Paul's first message was repentance (Acts 20:20-21)

Repentance is the first step in the believer's life; God commands it. If this foundation is not properly laid, the whole structure will be shaky, unable to stand the tests and trials that come. 'And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men everywhere to repent.'

Hebrews speaks of it as the 'foundation of repentance from dead works'. (Hebrews 6:1-2)

### B. What Are Some False Concepts Concerning Repentance?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (Genesis 6:3; Acts 24:24-25)  
Conviction precedes repentance, but not all who are convicted repent (John 16:8)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 7:10)  
Worldly sorrow is simply being sorry 'for getting caught', but not being sorry for the crime committed
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Reformation is 'turning over a new leaf', but not genuine repentance
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5:20; 3:7-12; 23:1-28)  
The Pharisees in Christ's day were extremely religious, yet they were hypocrites. They never experienced repentance.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (James 2:19-20)  
Mental faith is merely a mental acceptance and assent to a set of creeds or doctrines, but without any change in the life. This is dead faith.

### C. What Are 'Dead Works'?

Paul speaks of \_\_\_\_\_ befitting repentance (Acts 26:20)

**Dead works** are the religious works of the unsaved (Hebrews 6:1-2; 9:14). They may even be seen as good works done by non-Christians.

**Dead works** are the works of the flesh that have to be repented of. A person dead in sin can only produce dead works (Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 2:1; 1 Timothy 5:6)

**Dead works** are to be repented of so that we may do **good works** and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16; James 2:18)

### D. What Is The Proper Root Of Repentance?

Matthew 3:8 speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_ of repentance. The root meaning of the word **repentance** is a *change of mind, or a change of heart and attitude*, and this in particular, concerning sin and relationship with God. It means a complete turn; a change of direction.

The Fall brought about in man a mind-set that is in rebellion against God and His law; a mind which desires to go its own way. Isaiah 53:6 reads *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* (See also Ephesians 2:3; Colossians 1:21). **Repentance, brought about by the Holy Spirit, is a change of mind; a facing towards God.** No person can or will repent by himself (1 Timothy 2:25; Romans 2:4), but true repentance is brought about by the conviction of the Holy Spirit; God grants and demands repentance.

Romans 2:4 reads *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?* (Compare Acts 5:31)

Ern Baxter defines repentance as:

Repentance is the informing and changing of the mind; the stirring and directing of the emotions to urge the required change; and the action of the will in turning the whole man away from sin and unto God.

Example: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-14)

### E. What Are Some Of The Fruits Of Genuine Repentance?

The fruits of repentance are evidenced in:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 7:9-11)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 32:1-5; 1 John 1:9)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 28:13)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (Hatred of sin (Ezekiel 36:31-33))
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 6:1-7; Luke 19:8)

Without these fruits being evident in one's life, there is no genuine repentance in the Biblical sense! Repentance is not a once only thing. It needs to continue as part of the life of the Christian; as God exposes and convicts of things in our lives that need to be dealt with, we must confess and put off these things off.