

“Repentance and the Son of Man” - Luke 13:1-9

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Luke 13:1-5

Today we are going to talk about one of the most misunderstood words in our Christian vocabulary. It is not by chance that we left off last week with a verse that explains what God is waiting for before His return...

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

That of course leads us to the question what does it mean to “Come to Repentance”?

When we tell the average American that they need to “Repent and Believe in the Gospel” what do you think goes through their mind? Most of them will probably break out their phone and ask Google.

Merriam-Webster:

Repent - Verb

1: to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life

2: a: to feel regret or contrition

b: to change one's mind

transitive verb

1: to cause to feel regret or contrition

2: to feel sorrow, regret, or contrition for

The problem with this is that the Bible was not written in English and we must look at all words in their original language and in their context.

Repent

μετανοέω

metanoeō

From G3326 (meta - To Change) and G3539 (noieō - To think or Use your mind); to think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider (morally to feel compunction): - repent.

Repentance

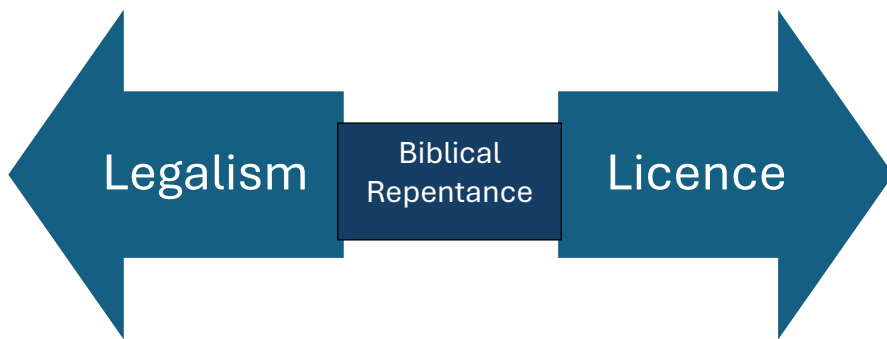
μετάνοια

metanoia

1) a change of mind, as it appears to one who repents, of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done

As we can see the root of the words and the meaning of them has to do with our way of thinking and not on our actions.

What I want to do today is to make clear how we see and use this word with a biblical framework and not a traditional one. There is a problem:



As you can see from this chart that these are the directions that you will go if use misuse this word and its biblical context. We have many that have taken this word and pushed works into the gospel and then there are some that have gone so far as to remove it all together and therefore let anybody and everyone be a Christian. But we are a Bible church and must make sure we are using this word in a way that honors the Bible and the gospel itself.

Let's look at some of the more popular verses that many people use and draw out the original meaning in their context...

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Acts 17:30-31

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Acts 20:20-21

how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

How do we know that it is a change of mind and not of works?

Acts 26:19-20

“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”

Luke 3:8

“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.”

A Couple of verses to show that even our sanctification is not by works either...

Titus 3:3-7

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that

having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Galatians 3:1-4

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

With that let us now look at this story in its proper context...

Repent or Perish

Luke 13:1-5

First of all, we do not have any history outside the Bible to corroborate these events. Not that we need them. We do know from Josephus that Pilate did do some things like this when he first came to power and was warned by Rome to knock it off. This is why he had to do what the Jews asked him to crucify Jesus. It's funny to see people tell Jesus things, like He doesn't know. But Jesus doesn't flaunt His abilities but uses this to teach them something. Remember they were taught and

brought up to believe in a form of Karma. That bad things only happened to bad people. If you were sick or poor, a victim of tragedy or circumstance it is because you have some sin in your life. This is the way of thinking that Jesus is telling them they need to change, or they will perish. If you think that you are God's special person and that because you have been a good boy or girl that God has to receive you are deceived. The point is, the questions that Jesus is asking are rhetorical, they demand a No answer. Stop thinking that people's work is either making them right with God or not. We are all sinners. That is what Jesus is saying. The religious leaders taught a form of exclusivism that made it impossible for anyone outside of their circle to be right before God and that was not the original plan for Israel that is proven by the Parable that he uses next...

The First Use of Fig Tree in a Parable

Luke 13:6-9

The context of this fruit on the fig tree is related back to the questions He just asked on repentance. Jesus has been ministering to the Nation of Israel for three years and He is on His way to Jerusalem to present Himself one last time as their Messiah. What is going to happen? Complete rejection of His Messiahship! They did not and will not change their mind about Him. They have rejected Him when they should have accepted

Him. The Fig Tree in this passage is National Israel. Which leads us to ask is it the same here?

Matthew 24:32-35

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

There is Biblical Hermeneutical rule that must be applied here. It is called Parabolic Consistency. This means that where something means something in one parable it means the same in all the parables. This comes for Jesus himself...

Mark 4:13-14

And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word...

Why is there so much debate amongst our contemporaries? It comes down to confusion on what a generation is. People get hung up on a period of time when it can also mean a nation or

group of people. What has happened in recent history that defied all odds? The rebirth of the Nation of Israel!

Isaiah 66:8

Who has heard such a thing?

Who has seen such things?

Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day?

Or shall a nation be born at once?

For as soon as Zion was in labor,

She gave birth to her children.

The Fig Tree was reborn on May 14, 1948, and will not go anywhere until Daniel's Seventieth Week will finish. We are living in this time, and the Day of The Lord is at Hand!

But who were the ones that Jesus is referring to that would not change their minds? Or what is it that kept them from changing their mind? Pride...

James 4:6

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

That grace is available by all by simply believing in what Jesus has done for you. Repentance is necessary but only to the point that you now agree with God that you are a sinner like

everyone else. You know that in your mind. It now has changed the way you think about yourself, and you know the only hope is Jesus Christ. All that is left is to accept the free gift offered to you.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.