

We Perish for Lack of Knowledge:  
Return to Elementary School, Part 2  
September 2, 2018

I **SLIDE** Knowledge

A) Another Point

- 1) **1 Corinthians 8:1 (CJB)** <sup>1</sup> Now about food sacrificed to idols: we know that, as you say, "We all have knowledge." Yes, that is so, but "knowledge" puffs a person up with pride; whereas love builds up.
  - a) Pharisees vs. Jesus
  - b) Legalism vs. Grace
- 2) **SLIDE 1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- 3) We must never separate our desire for knowledge from our desire for Jesus
- 4) We seek knowledge not to puff up ourselves but to love more and better and to build up others

B) **SLIDE Hebrews 6:1-2 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup> instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

- 1) **SLIDE** None of us can lay this foundation on our own
- 2) Only Jesus Christ can lay a foundation that will stand forever
- 3) We cannot learn these truths through years of study, intellectual pursuits, or human endeavors
- 4) If we have this solid foundation in our lives, it is not because of anything we did
- 5) It is because of what Christ did and is doing

C) **SLIDE** We have but one responsibility: believe Him

- 1) **John 6:28-29 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup> Then [the people] asked [Jesus], "What must we do to do the works God requires?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, **"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."**
- 2) We are not to debate the merits of these elementary truths
- 3) We are to believe them, hide them in our hearts, and not stray from them.

## II **SLIDE** Repentance

A) Repentance from acts that lead to death

- 1) Interesting that Paul lists repentance first
- 2) I believe Paul does so because repentance must come first in our relationship with Jesus
- 3) Without true repentance, we cannot have a proper relationship with Him
- 4) Paul is telling every one of us that repentance must be our first step
- 5) This means that everyone who comes to Jesus **MUST** change
- 6) Why? Because we are not okay without Jesus

B) **SLIDE** Scriptures

- 1) **Romans 3:10-12 ( NIV )** <sup>10</sup> As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."
- 2) **Romans 3:23 ( NIV )** <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

C) **SLIDE** Because of our sinful nature, no one can come to Jesus without repenting

- 1) God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus
- 2) **Matthew 11:10 ( NIV )** <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."
- 3) God sent John to prepare the way, to get things ready for Jesus

4) **SLIDE** And what was John's message: **Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

5) When Jesus began His ministry, what did was His message:

**Matthew 4:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

D) Repentance is more than being sorry

- 1) J. R. Miller wrote the following: "Christ's first call of His ministry, like John the Baptist's was a call to repentance. All men need to repent. We never can reach the gates of heaven unless we repent. The prodigal son had to rise and leave the far country and walk back all the painful way to his father's house, before he could be restored to favor and be at home again. That is what every impenitent man and woman must do. The first step in coming to Christ is repentance.

"We must be sure that we know just what this word means. Some people imagine that if they are sorry for doing wrong they have repented. But sorrow for a wrong way does not take us out of that way. Tears of penitence will not blot out sin; we must turn about and walk in holy paths. Repentance is ceasing to make blots on the record, and beginning to live a fair, clean, white life."

E) **SLIDE** Repentance

- 1) Change of mind
- 2) Change of mind from evil to good **or** from good to better
- 3) Turn from a former attitude
- 4) Turn around and go the opposite direction
- 5) A reversal
- 6) Being sorry usually does not bring change because sorrow comes from us
- 7) Repentance stems from a desire to change, a change that only Jesus can bring

#### F) Drunk Driver

- 1) Thomas was arrested for drunk driving, and he was sorry
- 2) Thomas was arrested a second time for drunk driving; again, he was sorry
- 3) Thomas was arrested a third and fourth time during a five-year period, and he was sorry
- 4) Thomas was also sorry when he was driving drunk again and struck an oncoming vehicle, killing a 16-year-old girl

#### G) **SLIDE** All people need to repent

- 1) Repentance is a complete change of mind that results in a change of attitude
- 2) It is turning from evil to good or from good (man's definition) to better (God's definition)
- 3) It is turning around so that we no longer follow sin or man's idea of righteousness, but, instead, we follow Christ
- 4) Repentance requires our admitting that we have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God
- 5) It is admitting that even our "good" is not good enough
- 6) Acts of repentance have replaced true repentance

### III So, why do we have to return to this elementary truth?

#### A) Some reasons

- 1) We are seeking knowledge without the love of Jesus
- 2) We are replacing God's knowledge with a feel-good knowledge of man
- 3) We have rejected the idea of original sin and, thus, our need for repentance
- 4) We are living in a time when people justify their actions by blaming them on others (i.e. justification)
- 5) Our enlightened culture has shown us that sin is not sin; it is a right, a freedom, a choice
- 6) The word of God is no longer written in stone; instead, it is written in invisible ink

B) I once walked into a garden with a lady to gather some flowers. There was one large bush whose branches were bending under the weight of the most beautiful roses. We both gazed upon it with admiration. There was one flower on it which seemed to shine above all the rest in beauty. This lady pressed forward into the thick bush and reached far over to pluck it. As she did this, a black snake, which was hidden in the bush, wrapped itself around her arm. She was alarmed beyond all description, and ran from the garden, screaming, and almost in convulsions. During all that day she suffered very much with fear; her whole body trembled, and it was a long time before she could be quieted. That lady is still alive. Such is her hatred now of the whole serpent race that she has never since been able to look at a snake, even though it were dead. No one could ever persuade her to venture again into a cluster of bushes, even to pluck a beautiful rose. Now this is the way the sinner acts who truly repents of his sins. He thinks of sin as the serpent that once coiled itself round him. He hates it. He dreads it. He flies from it. He fears the places it inhabits. He does not willingly go into the haunts. He will no more play with sin than this lady would afterwards have fondled snakes.—Bishop Meade. One Thousand Evangelistic Illustrations.

## STOP

### I Acts that lead to death or useless rituals

#### A) Works

- 1) Labor, business, employment
- 2) Deed, act, an action
- 3) Any product whatever, any thing accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind

#### B) Dead

- 1) Lifeless
- 2) Inanimate

- 3) Useless act or ritual
- 4) Spiritually dead
- 5) Inactive in respect to doing right
- C) Paul tells us that we need to turn from all acts, business, hobbies, or thoughts that result in making us spiritually dead
  - 1) These acts or thoughts render us useless to doing good
  - 2) They take the life out of us
  - 3) These dead works fall into two categories: sin and false or legalistic religion
- D) Sin
  - 1) One would think the church could agree on what constitutes sin
  - 2) All sin results in death and separation from God
  - 3) So, what constitutes sin? Anything that is outside Jesus Christ
  - 4) Sin means "missing the mark"
  - 5) Sin is anything that causes us to miss the heart of Jesus
  - 6) Sin is anything that goes against Jesus' nature, His Word, or His ministry
- E) False or legalistic religion
  - 1) Pharisees
  - 2) Legalistic religion that consists of man's "rules" will not give us life; it will render us lifeless
  - 3) Religion based upon good works instead of faith in Jesus
  - 4) It is religion that emphasizes tradition and rituals instead of a living Christ
  - 5) It is a dependence upon ourselves or people instead of upon Jesus
- F) Therefore, we need to repent of our sins and of our "good" deeds that do not have the life of Jesus in them
- G) These "useless rituals" lead to death because they negate the need for repentance
- H) Notice that Paul does not mention Jesus or the blood of Jesus in these foundational truths

- 1) However, if we look more closely at repentance, we will see that we cannot have true repentance without Jesus
  - 2) Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE
  - 3) Repentance involves turning from works that lead to death to works that lead to life
  - 4) So, because Jesus is the LIFE, then repentance means turning to Jesus
  - 5) We can only turn to Jesus if we seek His forgiveness
  - 6) Forgiveness requires the shedding of blood
  - 7) Only Jesus shed His blood for us
  - 8) Only Jesus gave His life for us
- I) Therefore, true repentance and forgiveness can only be found in and through Jesus
- 1) When Paul was talking about repentance from acts that lead to death, he was talking about the blood of Jesus
  - 2) How often do we need to repent?
  - 3) As often as we need to!
- J) Imagine.....
- God decides to bring everything out into the open. He asks us about our sin
- Jim: I don't always tell the truth. JIM: LIAR
- Bob: I complain about my boss and job all the time  
BOB: COMPLAINER
- Shelly: I talk about others. SHELLY: GOSSIP
- Bill: I sure do covet my neighbor's new corvette. BILL: COVETER
- Laura: All I think about is making more money. LAURA: GREED
- Sam. Adultery. SAM: ADULTERER

June: I repeated a story over the phone. JUNE: GOSSIP

All stand condemned; every one of us deserves a tag. But, then Jesus comes along and says, "Give me your tags."

One by one, He takes them and pins them on Himself, leaving the others without sin. This is repentance. Repentance is not hiding the tag but admitting that the tag is ours. It is coming to Christ, asking Him to take it from us. Do you want to give your tag to Jesus or keep it for yourself?