

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: KEY TERMS OF SCRIPTURE

REPENTANCE

1.) What is the word picture of repentance? What does it all include? How do God's law and gospel work hand in hand in bringing sinners to repentance?

Ezekiel 18:30b-32 "Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!"

Acts 20:21 "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."

Jonah 3:4-10 On the first day, Jonah started into the city [of Nineveh]. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

2.) What does God effect when we are brought to repentance?

Isaiah 30:15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength."

Acts 3:19 "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

Luke 24:47 "Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in [Christ's] name to all nations."

3.) Whom does God want to repent? When? Why?

Luke 13:5 "Unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Acts 17:30 "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent."

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," [Jesus] said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

2 Peter 3:9b [The Lord] is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

4.) “Repent” sounds a note of the seriousness of sin. Why is that an especially important concept in our day?

Jeremiah 8:6 “I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. No one repents of his wickedness, saying, “What have I done?” Each pursues his own course like a horse charging into battle.

5.) If we limit our understanding of repentance to “feeling sorry for our sins,” what soul-endangering errors may result?

2 Samuel 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.”

Mark 14:72 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Matthew 27:3-5 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” ⁵ So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

6.) The Roman Catholic Church commands its members to perform penance (?). If we equate repentance with “doing penance,” what soul-endangering errors may result?

7.) According to the Scriptures, how to repentance and baptism go together? What comfort does that give us in baptizing our children? What conversation should take place before baptizing an adult?

Matthew 3:11a “I baptize you with water for repentance.”

Acts 22:16 “Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”

Acts 2:38-39 “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

8.) What might be appropriate “fruits of repentance” for a penitent... delinquent member? ...a substance abuser? ...an adulterer? ...a thief? Even as repentance demands a change of heart and action, what cautions are in order when making such suggestions?

Matthew 3:8 “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

2 Corinthians 7:13 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.

9.) How do our regular Sunday worship liturgies direct and encourage us to repent?

Closing Prayer: Holy Father in heaven, prompted by your Word, we acknowledge our many transgressions and damnable wickedness. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who paid the full penalty for our many sins. Amen.

Modified from *19-Minute Studies: Grand Themes and Key Words* © 2012 Northwestern Publishing House.