

Two Kinds of Repentance & Two Kinds of Forgiveness

for the unbeliever—Repentance & Forgiveness = salvation
for the believer—Repentance & Forgiveness = daily cleansing

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Repentance “R” & Repentance “r”

Repentance “R”: repentance resulting in salvation

for unbelievers: **Repentance “R” = salvation** [by far the most common usage]

- Change my mind about the way to be saved.
- Previously I had been trusting in my good works.
- Now I change my mind and am convinced that Jesus died for my ungodly sin and paid the price “while we were still sinners.”
- Other believers may have the right to expect to **see** good works in my life from now on, but the assurance of my salvation comes from **Bible promises**—not from a display of good works in front of church members.

For the unbeliever: FROM a change of mind from man's ideas of salvation through religion & morality
TO an acceptance of God's way of salvation.

For the first time, the unbeliever sees his own sin as the cause of the death of Jesus. He realizes that he can never earn God's forgiveness. He understands the only fair punishment for sin is death in hell forever. Repentance for the unbeliever brings the joy of salvation.

Context is always salvation

Examples & Scripture, note that none of them specifically say “repent of sin” or anything like it.

Mar 1:15 The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Luke 5.32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinner to repentance.

Luke 24.47 that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 2.38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

*Acts 3.19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 5.31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

*Acts 11.18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Repentance, cont'd

- Act 17:30 The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
- Acts 19:4 *[JB's message]* The baptism of repentance = telling the listeners to change their mind about the faith in good works and to believe in Jesus.
- Act 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Act 26:20 Shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.
- Rom 2:4 Despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
- II Cor 7:9 Made sorrowful to the point of repentance *[KJV = "sorrowed to repentance"]*
- 2 Cor 7:10 Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
Sorrow according to the will of God produces repentance without regret leading to salvation.
- 2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

*APP # C, Many pastors have laid down a mandate for me to turn from at least 20 sins to be saved. see 50 Damnable Habits or see panel #3 on the inside of the enclosed tract Once Saved—Always Saved, does the Bible teach this doctrine? This would be **adding works** to salvation because without these works the say the believer cannot be saved.*

APP # D, The Bible has laid down only one mandate— "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." 211 verses = Salvation by Faith Alone

APP # H, see tract Once Saved, Always Saved: does the Bible teach that doctrine?

Repentance "r": repentance resulting in daily cleansing which restores fellowship

*For believers: **Repentance "r": = cleansing & confession of sin***

- Repentance "r": repentance resulting in daily cleansing from sin
- Change my mind about my sin: acknowledgement, sorrow, confession to God
- Sometimes brings positive consequences after repentance
- Turning away from sin - a condition for those already saved
- Repentance "r": confession of daily sin *[not to be saved]* but change of heart *[mind]*
- Sorrow about displeasing the Savior is expected as we fall before the throne of God
- . . .and I never want to commit that sin again

Repentance for the believer: FROM a single sin, a habit, or a lifestyle
TO a holy life, pleasing God

Webster's definition accurately describes the repentant heart of the child of God. He is sorry for his sin, and his change of mind toward his sin causes him to want to stop sinful behavior. Repentance is a daily cleansing process for the believer, and restores the joy of salvation. Repent *[or its forms]* is rarely used to describe salvation. Biblical writers almost always defer to God's two favorite words, "belief & faith." *[see APP # D, 211 verses = Salvation by Faith Alone]*

Context below is always believers confession of sin, [once, God's statement about changing His mind]
Examples & Scripture

Repentance, cont'd

Gen 6:6 It repented the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.

2Sa 12:13 David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD.

Psa 32:3-5 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 4 Day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. 5 I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Psa 40:12 Innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.

Psa 51:3,4 I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. *David*

Psa 51.17 A broken and contrite spirit

Psa 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant; for I do not forget Thy commandments.

Proverbs 28.13 Whoever confesseth and forsaketh

Isa 6:5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.
n.b. Note that Isaiah says "I am" not "I was" a man of unclean lips.

Matt 3.8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.

Mat 6:14 If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Matt 18:15 If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Matt 26:75 Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly. *Some translate this as "anguish."*

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Luke 17.3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, *[you]* forgive him.

Luke 18.13 *[the publican]* beat his breast, obviously deep emotion accompanied his confession

Rom 7:15 That which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

Heb 12.7-11 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Confession is much stronger than mere acknowledgement. Pharaoh, Achan, and king Saul acknowledged their sin—too late.
- Nor is confession only sorrow or sadness. Biblical confession seems to contain an element of the determination to "sin no more!"

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Repentance and Belief. . . both save

Repentance & Belief, do they both save?

1. See verses on pages #1 & 2 indicating that repentance clearly saves. *Marked with a **
2. Belief saves:
 - Acts 16.31 believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved
 - John 3.16 whosoever believeth. . .hath everlasting life
 - John 6.47 believeth on Me hath everlasting life
 - I John 5.13 you that believe on the name. . .know that ye have eternal life

Does “metaneo” mean “turn from”?

There are two things to turn from.

Unbelievers turn from idols and faith in good works.

Result = eternal life.

Believers turn from sinful living and decide to live a holy life.

Result = cleansing.

turn
forsake
abhor
eschew
sorrow, contrition

} standard M.O. of a Christian's life

Many teach repentance for salvation incorrectly by including some form of human effort or righteousness, such as or turning from sin or willingness to turn from sin. This is heresy and has confused many people because it adds works to salvation. This is "Galatianism", which is a counterfeit of the Gospel and is completely unscriptural.

It is a tragedy that many Christians live shallow Christian lives. We are dedicated to the task of training Christian men and women in the importance of total dedication and making Jesus the Lord of their lives, not to be saved, but because they are saved. Adding works to salvation cannot cure shallow Christianity. The true child of God is not under the law, but he is under grace. He is saved by grace and disciplined by grace.

Act 13:38,39 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Rom 6:14 Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Galatians 5:1-4 Whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Repentance saves. Faith saves. Believing on Jesus' payment for sin saves. Turning from sin doesn't save. Religious people and unbelievers do it every day.

Repentance, cont'd

The Greek compound word for repent is meta-neo [μετα-νεο], which clearly defines itself, meta = change, neo = mind. Its intention is a change of decisions your head has made, or as one scholar said so simply, "Change your thinking. Stop depending on good works. Depend on Jesus Christ's death for you."

What does it mean to "turn from sin" if it doesn't mean "Stop it entirely! 100% ! Cold turkey !

Just because you can't do it personally, doesn't change the command, yet you are requiring of me to stop all my sinning in order to enter heaven. Sorry, although I desperately want to, I haven't been able to, yet, and I've been working hard at it for a long, long time.

Facetiously, would a person have repented of enough sin who got down from 27 sins a day to, suppose, 11 or 12 sins a day? A 50% drop. Consider a rather "good" person who started his Christian life just committing 7-sins-a-day and only dropped one of them? Would a 10% drop be a clear sign that he had repented?

The issue at hand is not whether men must repent to be saved, they indeed do, but what must they change their minds about.

These comments are taken directly from "Yes, We Are! No, We're Not!"
MATT 3.2 pertaining to "REPENT AND BRING FORTH FRUIT" see also, APP # T, Yes! Lots of Good Works are Expected!

A. The definition of repentance means to change the mind. It may refer to changing an attitude, a decision, or a pattern of life.

B. Pharisees who were great at obeying God's commands but were trusting in their good lives to save them were told to "repent" - trust in Jesus [i.e. *change your mind: don't trust in your good works—do trust in Jesus who came to die for bad people, not good people*].

D. Unsaved men must repent of self-righteousness and pride and turn to Christ.

E. All believers are supposed to "bring forth fruit" in keeping with repentance. Fruit is the expected result of repentance not the means of salvation. John is not only scolding the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, but also instructing the new true believers that they should live holy lives.

F. Only God can accurately judge the fruit. Man can be fooled.

G. Repent does not always refer to cessation of sin. God can repent. [Gen 6.6,7 | 1 Sam 15.11]

H. The Pharisees were not viewed as people who needed to give up immorality, murder, and theft, but who had to change their minds about their self-righteousness and spiritual arrogance and turn to Christ for eternal life.

I. John the B. says Jesus is "the One referred to by Isaiah." [Isa. 40.3,4] "the Glory of the Lord will be revealed." He called the Pharisees to repent about the Kingdom of Heaven. They must recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

L. How does fleeing from the wrath grant someone salvation? Matt 3.2,3,8

Some of my conditional security-ist friends blow smoke at me when they say it is impossible to judge another's sins, but either a minute before or a minute later they state indisputably that a person living in open adultery is lost; yet they can't bring themselves to say that a person who is deep credit card debt is guilty of greed and thereby - lost. Nor will they condemn the people in their own churches who have not brought one person to faith in Christ in their entire lives.

My friends are indeed judging others' sins.

Two Kinds of Forgiveness

for the unbeliever: Forgiveness = salvation
for the believer: Forgiveness = daily cleansing

Forgiveness “F” & “f”

Forgiveness “F”: divine forgiveness resulting in salvation

Isa 43:25 I, even I, am He that **blotteth out thy transgressions** for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God **for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of His grace;

Heb 10:17 Their sins and **iniquities will I remember** no more.

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the **forgiveness of sins**:

Forgiveness “f”: divine forgiveness resulting in daily cleansing from sin . . . *(for the believer—only)*

This second kind of forgiveness can occur between two people, also.

Mat 6:12 **Forgive** us our debts, as we **forgive** our debtors.

Mat 6:14 If ye **forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also **forgive** you:

Mat 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I **forgive** him? till seven times?

Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, **forgive** him.

Jas 5:15 The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be **forgiven** him.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.