

# The Reflector

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT

1480 NORTH MAIN

VIDOR, TEXAS

Volume 40

April 2004

Number 4

## Understanding Bible Repentance!

What is "true repentance" all about? Is it just being sorry for your sins? Or is it more than this? Let's see what the Bible says about repentance.

Matthew 21:28-32 is a story told by Jesus that defines what true repentance really is.

***"But what think ye? A Certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said I will not: but afterward he repented, and went..."***

Finish reading this story told by Jesus to get the whole picture. From verse 29 however we are given a clear picture of Bible repentance. It is a **"change of mind that leads to a change in action."** It is not simply being sorry for some sin committed although sorrow is involved. Paul said in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:10 that ***"...godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of this world worketh death."***

Bible repentance then involves being **"sorry for your sins to such an extent that you turn away from sin and towards living a righteous life."** And make no mistake about it; repentance is necessary for salvation! Jesus said in Luke 13:3 the following: ***"I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish."*** Repentance is not only a part of a person's initial obedience to the plan of salvation (Acts 2:38), but also necessary when a child of God sins after having obeyed the gospel (Acts 8:12-25).

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Both Job (Job 3) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:14-18) wished that they had never been because of the problems that they encountered in life.

The book of Philemon tells the story of a runaway slave by the name of Onesimus. He is converted by Paul and then sent back to Philemon.

## QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What Old Testament king disguised himself as he prepared to go to war against Egypt? (What happened to this king and where was this war fought?)

What two apostles were arrested by Herod the king? (What happened to each of these apostles and what later happened to Herod?)

### "Upon This Rock..."

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said ***"And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..."*** He made this statement in response to Peter's statement that ***"Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God."*** Thus the foundation of the only church that you can read about in the Bible is the fact that ***"Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God!"*** It is not the apostle Peter as the first pope of Rome! Paul put it this way in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:11: ***"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*** Not only is Jesus the foundation of His church, He alone is the ***"head of His church"*** as well! Ephesians 1:22-23 says that ***"...Jesus was given to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body..."*** He does not share this authority with any pope, president, counsel or anyone else! This is why the ***"...church is subject only to Christ!"*** (Ephesians 5:22-24/Colossians 3:17) Does the church you are a member of fit this description? If not, then why not?

## WHAT GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER!

We live in a world that has a divorce rate of over forty- percent. People get divorced for all sorts of reasons. And yet the Bible clearly teaches that **"God hates divorce."** (Malachi 2:16) The reason being that every time a divorce takes place sin is involved. There is only one acceptable reason given by Jesus for divorce and that is on the grounds of fornication (sexual immorality-NASV/Matthew 19:3-9). Jesus said that **"From the beginning God had made them male and female, that a man should leave his father and his mother and be joined unto his wife, and that WHAT GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER."**

It is obvious that many people today pay little attention to what the word of God says about marriage, divorce, and remarriage. As a result, a lot of people sometimes find themselves in marital situations that are out of harmony with the teaching of the scriptures. This isn't surprising because many religious leaders teach all sorts of things about this subject, only adding to the confusion. When people divorce and remarry without scriptural authority, they become guilty of adultery. Jesus said in Matthew 19:9 **"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."** Furthermore, the Bible makes it clear in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-11 as well as Galatians 5:19-21 that individuals that practice this sin, or any sin for that matter **"shall not inherit the kingdom of God."**

From the beginning God wanted a man and a woman who loved each other to be joined together in marriage and to remain in that relationship throughout their lives. Society has corrupted what God intended to be a beautiful and fulfilling relationship between a man and a woman. But God instituted this relationship and He alone has the right to make the rules regarding marriage. If people do not abide by God's rules on this or any other subject, they will suffer the consequences of those decisions! (John 12:48/2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:10)