

THE BIBLE TRUTH ABOUT REPENTANCE!

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. In the Bible, we read about the word “repentance”.
- B. It is vitally important that we understand what the Bible means when it speaks about “repentance” for two reasons:
 - 1. “Repentance” is a necessary part of the “Plan of Salvation”. (2 Cor. 7:10)
 - 2. “Repentance” is also necessary on the part of a Christian who needs to be “reconciled to God.” (Acts 8:22-25)
- C. And so let us look together at what the Bible says about the subject of “repentance.”

II. THE BIBLE AND TRUE REPENTANCE!

- A. The word “repentance” comes from the Greek word “metanoeo” which literally means to “perceive afterwards.”
 - 1. Its meaning is to “change one’s mind or purpose, and nearly always in the N.T. involving a change for the better.”
 - 2. Except for Luke 17:3-4, it always involves a “repentance from sin.”
- B. By looking at some of the scriptures where this word is found, or its root word “repent”, we can get a good understanding of what “repentance” is.
(Lk. 17:3-4; 2 Cor. 7:10; Mt. 3:8; Acts 8:22)
 - 1. “Repentance” is “essential to salvation.”
(Lk. 13:3; 2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 17:30)
 - 2. A Christian who sins must “repent” of the wickedness that he or she has done and then “pray for forgiveness” while “confessing the sins to God.” (Acts 8:22-25; 1 Jn. 1:7-9)
- C. Some practical examples of “repentance.”
 - 1. A thief who steals something must “return what he has stolen” if he will truly “repent.”
(Lk. 3:8; Eph. 4:28)
 - 2. When people become Christians, they must truly “repent of their sins” and have the determination to “not do those things again.”
(Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:1-6; Acts 26:20)

3. A person who is in an “unlawful relationship of marriage” must “end the relationship with that person they are married to.” (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Ezra 10:1-19,44)
 - a. Sometimes it is argued that if two people are in an “unlawful relationship of marriage” before they become Christians, and then they obey the gospel, that then it is alright for them to “remain married.” (Not so! / Ezra 10:11; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
 - b. What if two men or two women were living together in an “unlawful relationship”, could they “remain together” if they became Christians? (No!)
 - c. Baptism does not change an “unlawful practice” into a “lawful practice.”

III. CONCLUSION:

- A. Because “repentance” is a part of the “Plan of Salvation” for the alien sinner as well as a part of the “Plan of Reconciliation” for the erring child of God, it then is critically important that we properly understand the true nature of “Bible repentance.”
- B. “Bible Repentance” involves the following:
 1. A “change of mind leading to a change in behavior.”
 2. “Godly sorrow.”
 3. “Bringing forth fruits worthy of repentance.”
 4. A “turning from wickedness.”
- C. It is only when you have met these requirements that you can truly say that you have “repented.”
- D. THE INVITATION!