

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION: THE THREE REQUIREMENTS OF BIBLICAL REPENTANCE

In our previous segment, we defined the meaning of repentance and how it relates to saving faith. It involves a change of mind which enables you to turn to Jesus Christ, and come to Him in faith, in order to experience God's plan of salvation. In other words, if you want to have a "come to Jesus" moment, you must first experience a "metanoia moment." But repentance itself, this necessary change of mind, which God requires of all of us, is three-fold in its content.

Repentant Change of Mind #1

The initial change of mind which an individual must undergo is simply this. You must see yourself in harmony with how God sees you. To be sure, God is love and He loves you, but God is not in need of a reality check when it comes to seeing you for who you are: **A sinner in need of a Savior.** The vast majority of individuals who fail to experience God's plan of salvation, never come to this realization. They think they are good enough to earn their salvation or self-sufficient enough to not need a Savior. This was the great failing of the Jewish nation in their rejection of Jesus Christ. Paul describes their failure in Romans 10:3-4 -- **"For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."**

Repentant Change of Mind #2

In order to experience God's plan of salvation, you must arrive at the place where you have an acute awareness of the greatest need of your life: **To be forgiven of your sin.** Right now, you may think that the greatest need of your life is a better job, a better car, a bigger house or a spouse you can spend the rest of your life with. These are all legitimate needs, but they are not your greatest need. When Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples on the road to Emmaus, His admonition to them is found in Luke 24:46-47 -- **". . . Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead on the third day, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem."**

Repentant Change of Mind #3

You must have a change of mind in regard to who Jesus Christ is and what He accomplished on your behalf when He died on the Cross to pay the penalty of your sin and rose from the dead so that you can share in His eternal resurrection life. Jesus Christ is God incarnate. We are told in Colossians 2:9 -- **For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."** His death on the Cross has paid the penalty of our sin. In Colossians 2:14 we read -- **". . . having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."** His resurrection from the dead both vindicates His personhood as God the Son, and validates His death on the Cross, as a substitutionary sacrifice for having paid the penalty of our sin. Paul put it this way in 1 Corinthians 15:17 -- **". . . "and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."**

With these three repentant changes of mind in place, you are ready to turn to Christ, to come to your Savior by faith alone, putting your trust in Him, and Him alone. Pray right now, to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord by faith; asking Him to forgive you of your sin and allowing Him to begin making you into the kind of person He wants you to be.