

Repent for the Remission of Sins? Who Sins Today? Everyone is Ok: I'm Ok, You're Ok...

There are a lot of people, maybe some of our own friends, who say they love God, believe in Jesus, and are alright the way they are right now. What, however, does the Bible say about such thinking? The Bible is filled with the command to repent. The basic task of the prophets, God's spokesmen in times past, was to get the people to repent. Over and over again in their writings is found the command to "repent." The message of Jesus, while He was on the earth, was one of repentance. "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3, 5—NKJV).

Repentance was part of the fundamental message that after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus was to be sounded out to Jews and Gentiles in every nation.

Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus It was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:44-47).

The apostle Paul, while standing on Mars Hill and preaching to the Athenians, said, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31). The apostle Peter, writing in 2 Peter 3:9, said, "The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

As we have said many times, repentance is "the change of mind of those who have begun to abhor their errors and misdeeds, and have determined to enter upon a better course of life, so that it embraces both a recognition of sin and sorrow for it and hearty amendment, the tokens and effects of which are good deeds" (J. H. Thayer, *Greek- English Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 406). W. E. Vine defines it by stating: "In the New Testament the subject chiefly has reference to repentance from sin, and this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God" (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, p. 963).

Repentance is a turning. Spiritually, it is turning from sin and the pursuit of sin and turning to God and the pursuit of righteousness. It is the change of mind that causes one to forsake living in and for sin and to desire to live for God and in accordance with His will. All people need to realize that the opportunity to repent is a blessing (Acts 11:18). Every person must heed God's call to repent by reading and hearing His Word, allowing it to produce godly sorrow in their heart, and by living their life in obedience to the will of God. If you need to repent, though it may be difficult to do so, do it today.

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BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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(Greater Augusta, GA area)

Grapes of Thorns?

In the process of warning about false prophets, Jesus said, "By their fruits ye shall know them. Do *men* gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" (Mat. 7:15-16). Jesus made a spiritual application of a general, axiomatic principle, effective from the creation: Each form of life reproduces its own kind and only its own kind. Paul stated it succinctly: "for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7), again applying the principle to a spiritual issue. Just as briars do not produce grapes, nor thistles figs, monkeys do not come from snake "seeds," and men do not come from monkey "seeds." God placed the power of life in the seed of each kind and species.

As plant, animal, and human seeds reproduce only after their kind, so do "seeds" in religion. Jesus identified the "seed" of His kingdom, the church, as "the word of God" (Luke 8:11). This seed (variously called in the New Testament: "the faith," "the truth," "the doctrine of Christ," "the law of Christ," et al.) contains the power to reproduce the spiritual life and the characteristics that reside in it—and only those same spiritual traits.

Each religious order and system of men has its own "seed" of doctrine. These seeds contain the distinctive qualities peculiar to their respective systems, which will reproduce only after their own kind. The Law-of-Moses "seed" produces only Judaism, never Islam. The Koran "seed" produces only Muslims, never Buddhists or Jews. Hindu "seeds" cannot produce Confucianists. Surely, the foregoing statements are incontrovertible.

Likewise, it is not possible for one to become a Christian by obeying the Law of Moses. It is part of the Bible and points toward the Christ and Christianity in hundreds of prophecies and types, but its "seed" is distinct from the New Testament. Only the New Testament "seed" produces Christians—and that is all it produces.

The "seed principle" explains the innumerable divisions in "Christendom." Baptist "seed" does not produce Roman Catholics or Episcopalians. Presbyterian "seed" does not produce Nazarenes, Methodists, or Disciples of Christ.

Should we be surprised at the relentless emphasis in the Word of God on keeping the "seed" (i.e., doctrine) pure (e.g., John. 14:15; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Tun. 2:2; 4:1-4; Rev. 22:18-19)?

Dub McClish
Denton, TX 76201

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

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“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

Today, November 11, 2007 is recognized throughout the nation as Veteran's Day. In Canada it is known as Remembrance Day and in the United Kingdom as Remembrance Sunday. This date is recognized because it marks the signing of the Armistice when the hostilities of The Great War (1914-1918), also called the “war to end all wars,” ceased at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Thus the date was chosen to remember those who gave their lives and those who served their country in that great conflict. Sadly, such did not, in reality, become the “war to end all wars” and thus today the Great War is better remembered as the First World War since the world was again plunged into war in 1939, what is referred to as the Second World War. We also know that there have been, and continue to be, wars in which men and women serve their country, some making the ultimate sacrifice. Thus, this day is still one in which those who served are rightly honored for their service to their country. We need to be ever grateful for those who have served and indeed still serve in the defense of their country. In Great Britain each year at the special services of remembrance that are held the phrase is repeated, “at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.” Such we should do, and not just at this time of year. We should take every opportunity to that those that have served and are serving in order that we might continue to live in peace and in freedom.

However, as important as it is for us to remember our veterans, there is something that sets this day aside. It is the first day of the week. This is the day upon which Christians have remembered the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ from the time of the establishment of the church in the first century that enables those who have been obedient to the gospel of Christ to have peace with God and freedom from sin.

In order to remember the sacrifices of those who gave their lives in human conflicts, stone memorials have been set up in cities, towns and villages to enable future generations to remember the sacrifice that was made by the cities of the community. Christians do not have a memorial in stone to enable them to remember the greatest sacrifice of all but we do have a memorial. A memorial established by our Lord himself prior to His death, burial and resurrection. When He was with His disciples the last night of His earthly sojourn, after partaking the Passover feast with them, took two of the items found in that feast and gave them a new and wonderful significance. He took the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine and said to His disciples that they were to partake of these to remember Him and His great sacrifice. The unleavened bread to remember His body that was broken and bruised on the cross of Calvary and the fruit of the vine to remember His blood that was shed for the remission of our sins (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26). May we then partake of the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine each first day of the week, as did the early church (Acts 20:7) to remember our Lord and His great sacrifice for us.

May we never forget the sacrifices of our veterans but more importantly may we never forget the our Lord's great sacrifice that we might have the forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Kathy Treadway's mother and Bronwen Gibson's mother (Lavonne McClish) – who has continued health – related issues and who is undergoing pain management therapy, Linda Chumbley is also undergoing pain management therapy; and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer.

Jennifer and Steven Wilson were sick Wednesday evening and not able to come out.

Because of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, we will have our next pot luck fellowship meal following the morning worship on December 9, 2007. Plan to stay and eat.

**FIND BURIED TREASURE
(READ YOUR BIBLE)**

1. One must study to have light (Psalm 119:130).
2. One must study to have understanding (Psalm 119:130).
3. One must study to acquire knowledge (Proverbs 2:6).
4. One must study to show himself approved unto God (II Timothy 2:15).
5. One must study the Word before he can abide in the Word (John 8:31-32).
6. One must study the Word before the Word can dwell in him (Colossians 3:16).
7. One must study before he can live by every word (Matthew 4:4).
8. One must study the Word before he can receive the Word (James 1:21).
9. One must study to know what sin is (Romans 7:7).
10. One must study to be entire (James 1:3-4).
11. One must study God to love God (John 14:15; 15:14).
12. One must study God to know God (I John 2:3).

Since Bible study is so important, and since so much depends on it, how could a person be so negligent and indifferent toward it? How many minutes per week do you average studying your Bible?

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