

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Unless You Repent”



By Billy Norris

Repentance is a subject found throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. From the number of references to repentance it must be a subject of great importance. Malachi wrote the last book of the Old Testament. When God spoke again, after four hundred years of silence, His subject was repentance. *“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’”* (Matthew 3:1,2) When God sent His Son from heaven, His first subject was repentance. *“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”* (Matthew 4:17).

The Process Of Repentance

It begins with *recognition* of the goodness of God. *“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”* (Romans 2:4). The goodness of his father led the prodigal son to come *“to his senses”* (Luke 15:17, NASB) and turn back to his father and the blessings of his father’s home. (Luke 15:17-19). The goodness of God is described as *“abounding”* (Exodus 34:6), as *“great”* (Psalm 31:19), as *“enduring continually”* (Psalm 52:1), as available to all (Psalm 145:9). It leads to godly sorrow, to the broken heart. *“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”* (2 Corinthians 7:10). When one reflects on goodness of the holy God Who hates sin, and then looks into his own life full of sin— if his conscience is not seared as with a hot iron— he will be overwhelmed with godly sorrow. Christ told of the publican who experienced such a sorrow. *“But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ ‘I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”* (Luke 18:13,14).

It is a change of mind. Christ has given a classic example of repentance. *“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in the vineyard.’ ‘And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he regretted it and went. ‘The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, ‘I will, sir’; but he did not go. ‘Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They *said, ‘The first.’”* (Matthew 21:28-31). It results in the changed life. God sent Jonah to the wicked city of Nineveh. *“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”* (Jonah 1:2). After trying to escape the responsibility of the mission, Jonah went to this wicked city and cried out, *“Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown! So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them....Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.”* (Jonah 3:4,5,10). Christ said, *“They repented at the preaching of Jonah.”* (Matt. 12:41).

The Pain of Repentance

Before one reaches the joy of being in Christ, repentance may involve him in the excruciating spiritual pain of a broken heart. In confessing his sin with Bathsheba David recognized the kind of heart that shows repentance, that pleases God. *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.”* (Psalm 51:17). The penitent may experience the pain of breaking cherished relationships. In obeying the gospel of Christ, Paul without hesitation gave up all hindering relationships. *“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted for loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”* (Philippians 3:7,8).

People Who Must Repent Or Perish

The alien sinner—one who has never obeyed the gospel of Christ. He must believe in Christ or die in his sins (John 8:24). He must repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. *“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 2:38).

The erring child of God—one who has at one time obeyed the gospel, but who at some point rebelled against his Father’s will. Peter said to one in this condition: *“Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.”* (Acts 8:22).

Among the last words Jesus spoke before returning to heaven was *“that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”* (Luke 24:47). Without repentance, there can be no remission of sins.



The image contains a logo for a 'GOSPEL MEETING'. The word 'GOSPEL' is in large, blue, 3D-style letters, and 'MEETING' is in large, black, bold letters below it. To the right of the logo is a blue rectangular box with white text that reads: 'KEVIN KAY', 'APRIL 22ND—27TH', and '7:00 PM NIGHTLY'.

Putting On Christ

By Jim Walsh

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:26-27 NKJB)

This passage which deals with baptism as a means of becoming part of the body of Christ and how we *put on Christ*.

- (1) First, it teaches us that obeying the word of God is acting by faith. It is our obedience to God which saves us. Thus, no matter what God’s word teaches, we will do it. And, if baptism plays a part in God’s plan, we will obey it to please God.
- (2) Secondly, it teaches us the part which baptism plays in becoming children of God. When one is baptized, in obeying the gospel plan of salvation, they are embraced as God as His children. The Apostle Paul had been talking about the promises made to Abraham by God (verses 6-18), and how we now can be partakers of those promises. When one is baptized into Christ, they share in Abraham’s inheritance. As Abraham obeyed God and God called him His friend, we obey and God calls us His children.
- (3) Finally, we read that baptism places us *in Christ*. The Holy Spirit is very specific in what is being revealed about baptism and the end result of those who obey God’s will by being baptized: it places us into Jesus’ number of the saved body of believers (2 Corinthians 5:17; Acts 2:41; Ephesians 2:13). Baptism is culmination of all we do to obey the gospel (belief, repentance, confession....). It is little wonder why the Holy Spirit focuses attention on the last step one takes to put one in Christ. Unless one completes the obedience to the gospel that starts with faith (Mark 16:16), and leading to repentance (Acts 17:30), and when one makes a confession of their belief in Christ— they still do not have the forgiveness of sins until they put on Christ. That’s why Paul reminds the Romans to not *“continue in sin that grace may abound.”* (Romans 6:1) Notice that Paul takes them back to where they first began to *“walk in newness of life.”* (Romans 6:4) That began after they were, *“baptized into Christ Jesus,”* and *“into His death.”* (Romans 6:3) And when one is in Christ, they receive all the promised blessings of God, including becoming His children! (See Ephesians 1:3-5)

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab), Charlene Newborn (had a fall), Mackenzie Whittemore, Sandi Poole (recovering from flu), Russell & Blake Briggs (recovering from flu), CarliBeth Meade (flu & strep), Lee Busby (had bronchitis), Karen and Jerry Kennemur (recovering from sickness), Nathan Meade (recovering from strep), and the family of Cheryl Ridgeway (who passed away).

Local Meetings:

Southside Church of Christ is having a 3 day meeting with their new preacher, Brother Joseph Lachausse (pronounced La-shu-say)— **February 15th, 16th, & 17th** 7:30 PM Nightly.

Our Gospel Meeting is coming up **April 22-27**, with Kevin Kay from East Cloumbus. 7:00 PM Nightly.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Tim Harris Jr.

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon:

“What Satan Wants For Your Life”

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Jerry Kennemur

The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)

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Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Russell Briggs

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Fred Johnson

Song Leader:

Paul Busby

Lord’s Table:

Jerry Kennemur

Assisting:

Russell Briggs & Adam Harris

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon:

“What God Wants For Your Life”

Closing Prayer:

Dan Cottrell

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

February 14th:

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Busby

1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)

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Invitation:

Russell Briggs

Song Leader:

Brian Meade

Closing Prayer:

Tim Harris Jr.