

Repentance

Matthew 4:16 *The people which sat in darkness (having no revelation of who they are) saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death (separated from God by the knowledge of their sins) light is sprung up.*

There is only one name under heaven and earth. . . Jesus is the only one that can remove the sin barrier that keeps us from realizing our inheritance. Jesus delivers us from sin consciousness. Others use law and guilt to control people.

17 *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Why would Jesus deliver us from darkness and then put the focus on the very thing that he delivers us from?

Luke 1:68 *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,*

Luke 1:74 *That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, (fear of being punished for not measuring up to the standards of the law) 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. 76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; 77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins. 78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Let's think about this. As Christians we will all agree that:

Jesus died for our sins. He exchanged His life for ours. All of our sins have been forgiven; present, past, future.

It is the foundational truth that our faith is built on.
We don't have the ability to save ourselves. We have to put all of our confidence in Jesus. Jesus did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

The things that pertain to the law and the old covenant have been done away with.

Romans 7:6 *But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*

Jesus perfected us forever by 1 sacrifice- everyone agrees with this principle. **Hebrews 10:14-17**
God is no longer holding our sins against us, and He is not sin conscious.
And yet, sin still seems to be the focus of everything.

Repentance is not new. People have always been sorry for their sins

Psa 40:12 *For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me. Psa 40:13* *Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me.*

But up until Jesus came, there was no remission or deliverance from sins.

In Isaiah God promised to send a Savior who would bring deliverance.

Isaiah 40:1 *Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.*

Luke 24:47 *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

Remission (**freedom, deliverance, pardon**) of sins is what is new

But as Christians we are more aware of sin than we are of forgiveness.

We have an opposing principle at work in our lives!

Repentance/confession-opposite of forgiveness

***1John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

I am sorry I am sorry....

We come to Jesus putting all of our confidence in His grace; in his forgiveness; without Him I can do nothing! Once we come in, a subtle thing begins to happen.

Repentance- according to the Bible dictionary means: *compunction for guilt including reformation (regret with a promise to change)-a change in direction* I am sorry. I will change my actions. I won't do it again!

True repentance should produce a change in action and when we don't see a change we begin to engage the will and we find ourselves right back in the Romans 7:18 syndrome:

***Rom 7:18** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

I want to but I can't and we feel condemned because we can't. Thus, according to 1 John 1:9, the I am sorries that never have an end begin because it is impossible to perfect the flesh.

(The original Greek word, **metanoia** means to gather one's thoughts; in this context it means to realize God's thoughts. Sadly the Latin word, penance (repentance) became the popular English translation of metanoia. The Penance-voluntary self punishment to make up for something done wrong

2Corinthians 7:10 *For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*

2 Cor 7:10 MIRROR To **1 anchor one's thoughts in God's thoughts** when faced with difficult or painful experiences brings escape from sorrow and leaves one with no **regrets (metamelētos)**; but oh, what a dreadful contrast is the world system (of the law of karma and works) which adds regret upon sorrow! Whereas the one brings such immediate relief, the other seems to be an inescapable deathtrap!

It is the revelation of the goodness of God that leads us to repentance; it is not our "repentance" that leads God to goodness!

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

That applies even more so now that we have become a Christian

According to the standards of the law we are still sinners and he loves still us.

V 5 God is light and in him is no darkness

V 7 If we walk in the light as he is in light (we have fellowship with one another-there us no wall between us and God) the blood of Jesus has cleansed us from all sin

Hebrews 9:13-14

Walking in the light means We acknowledge the success of the cross. Walking in the dark means we are still sin conscious and depending on the performance of the flesh rather than the blood of Jesus.

V 8 If you say you have no sin you lie (if you say you have no need for a savior-before or after you became a Christian you are a liar-you always need a savior)

V 9 If you confess your sin-(if you say what he says about sin He is faithful to cleanse you from all sin.

I realize that I need you at this moment. I have some issues and I am looking to you-to your inspiration, your power and your ability to help me get past this issue.

V 10 if you ever lose sight of the fact that you need the savior, if you ever lose sight of your need for your union with Him, you have walked away from his truth. It is not about us confessing every sin, it is about continually keeping our union with Him and being united with his strength

In other words walking in the light is acknowledging the success of the cross in spite of the fact that according to the standards of the law you aren't perfect.

Hebrews 10:14 by one sacrifice we have been perfected forever (**perfected-complete, accomplish, fulfill**) when I look at me, I still have issues, but I am fulfilled in my union with you because you are the source of my strength and my ability.

Isn't it dangerous to tell people that God loves them unconditionally; that God is not holding their sins against them? The Pharisees thought so!

We think that if sin is no longer an issue with God, what will keep people straight? We feel like we need to remind people of their sins and use threats and scare tactics to keep them straight.

Realizing we are loved unconditionally does not promote more sin-it promotes loyalty and love:

We bring the love of God to the forefront, not people's weaknesses. We are ministers of the Spirit, not the letter. Love changes people. Holding their sins against them with threats of abandonment does not.

Biblical example **Luke 7:36-50**

A Pharisee invited Jesus for dinner. A Pharisee is one who does not mix with sinners. He is one who sees everything through the law; always pointing out people's errors according to the law.

Pharisee- a religious separatist, Hebrew- to scatter, to sting or wound
A Pharisee has an us and them mentality- obsessed with the law- loves the message of condemnation more than they love people

A sinner came into the house where Jesus was invited to dinner and began to wash his feet with her tears. She dried his feet with her hair and anointed his feet with costly oil.

The Pharisee responded to the woman's act this way:

Luke 7:39 This man if he were a prophet would have known what this woman that is touching him is a sinner.

Jesus then told him this story:

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. **42** And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? **43** Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. **44** And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. **45** Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. **46** My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. **47** Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. **48** And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

It caused the others to respond saying,

Luk 7:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

Jesus had a different message than the religious leaders in his day did, but it caused others to take notice. Jesus had one mission in mind. He did not come to condemn the world. He did not come to examine people and point out their faults. He came to deliver people from the things that were holding them captive. Deliverance was his agenda!

Jesus said, as I have come into the world so do you also. We are the ones who can set people free. We have the power to release people from the hold that the enemy has over them.

John 20:21-23 we have also been told to forgive (remit) men their sins- we have the power to hold sins against people and we have the power to set them free.

We have the power to do the same thing that Jesus did. We are the light of the world. Is it shining, or is it hidden?

Jesus saw sinners as people in need of light, as people in need of deliverance. He did not separate himself from them. He just let his light shine.

What about the scripture that says come out from among them and be ye separate? Aren't we supposed to separate ourselves from sinners?

2Corinthians 6:14 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

2Co 6:15 And what concord (personal agreement) hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

We need to come out from those who are preaching according to the law. We need to cast out the mixture, the bondwoman? We need to separate ourselves and teach people to become more conscious of the power of God that is within them than they are of their weaknesses. We need to

remind them where their strength comes from and remind them that they have a savior who has delivered them from the things of this world

2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The whole earth is waiting for the sons of God to manifest themselves because that is the only way that they can be delivered from the bondage of corruption.

Rom 8:21 *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

Threatening words don't initiate love, love initiates love! We love him because he first loved us! Ministers of the Spirit never use threats and scare tactics. They never minister condemnation or the letter of the word because that does not change people. Love initiates love, not threats.

Jesus never compromised his message. He never took his eyes off of his Father. He always maintained his position: Of myself I can do nothing, and neither can the people that I came to minister to.

