

RE-Sermon Series

Repent – Think About It – Times of Refreshing

September 27, 2020

Dr. Rev. Tony Soldano

What is The Sermon About?

You will live out what you THINK to be true. Any true progress in our faith journey with God begins with repentance. In fact, repentance is the starting line of our salvation.

Main Passage

Acts 3:19-20

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before” (NKJV).

1Timothy 4:15

Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

In Acts 3:19-20 the Apostle Peter declared on the day of Pentecost:

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before” (NKJV).

Peter indicates that three key outcomes are directly connected to repentance:

1. Our sins will be blotted out
2. The Lord will grant times of refreshing from His presence
3. He will send Christ to His people.

The word “repent” literally means to “re-think our ways”.

Repent - Definition

To think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider (morally to feel compunction) - repent.

Thayer Definition:

- 1) To change one’s mind (i.e. to repent)
- 2) To change one’s mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins

Part of Speech: verb

CONVERTED – definition

Thayer Definition:

1) Transitively:

- a) To turn to
- b) To the worship of the true God
- c) To cause to return, to bring back
- d) To the love and obedience of God
- e) To the love for the children
- f) To love wisdom and righteousness.

2) Intransitively:

- a) To turn to one's self
- b) To turn one's self about, turn back
- c) To return, turn back, come back.

Part of Speech: verb

Biblical repentance is trifold and in its full manifestation impacts our spirit, soul, and body.

Effective repentance requires three key elements:

1. Godly sorrow – produced by the Spirit
2. Regenerated thinking – the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5), (1 Corinthians 2:16)
3. Fruit – Holy Spirit produced (Galatians 5:22)

Every New Beginning Starts With Repentance

In order for us to experience all that God has for us, we must let go of our old ways. When we repent, it places us on a new pathway that leads to life.

John the Baptist came on the scene declaring the message, “*Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand!*” (Matthew 4:17).

Jesus and Peter all started a new movement by directing people to repent because the Kingdom of God was at hand.

Mark 1:14-15

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Revelation 2:5

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Mathew 4:17

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

Mathew 11:20

Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.

Effective Repentance Requires Godly Sorrow (The Spirit Man)

The world's version of being sorry is usually nothing more than a superficial regret. It is normally temporal and very rarely leads to any long-lasting changes.

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

⁸ For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. ⁹ Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰ **For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation**, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹ For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! (NKJV)

- Godly sorrow always produces the life of the Holy Spirit and the nature of Christ
- The world produces death – the Spirit produces life
- Godly sorrow, on the other hand, has the ability to transform a life and provide permanent results.

Effective Repentance Requires “Regenerated” Thinking

Godly sorrow must be followed up by spiritual intelligence (SQ). Many times, God's people merely stop at the altar of repentance without going to the next step. Effective repentance requires that we **re-think** our old ways and devise a plan that will propel us forward.

Ephesian 4:21-24

²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, **let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes**. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. (New Living Translation)

Romans 12:1-2

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.** 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* (NASU)

1. Develop a practical action plan – what is your strategy?

Illustration: The prodigal son came to his “senses” and devised a plan.

Luke 15:17-19

¹⁷ "When he finally **came to his senses**, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant." (New Living Translation)

- When the prodigal son repented:
 1. It caused him to return to his father's house
 2. It gave him a reality check
 3. It humbled him
 4. It gave a clear picture of where he ranked in life and status.

Effective Repentance Demands Fruit

“Fruit(s)” means the evidence that a change of heart, mind and direction has taken place.

Since we have already been renewed in our minds, there should be a tangible evidence or change in behavior that is evident to all. In other words, Christians are different from those in the world.

Repentance requires practical wisdom that will assist us in living the life that God has called us to - the Apostle Paul indicates that it is a worship-filled life.

The Apostle communicates that this impartation of God causes a transformation to the Gospel message and the image of Christ, rather than a conformation or molding to world ways.

John the Baptist

Luke 3:7-8

⁷ Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear **fruits worthy of repentance**, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

- Do not make excuses but rather confront yourself
- Do not use religious jargon to justify your position.

Act 26:19 -20

¹⁹ "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, **and do works befitting repentance.**

Fruit – requires **addition and subtraction:**

- 1) REMOVE - “PUT OFF” the things from your life that cause you to serve the old way of life - get things out of your sight
- 2) ADD - “PUT ON” the things in your life that lead to Godly living.

Illustration: The prodigal son demonstrates this very well in relationships with his father and family versus those that he partied with.

Wisdom Keys

- 1) Repentance should be a regular part of your prayer life
- 2) Ask Holy Spirit to reveal what you need to repent of
- 3) Create an action plan – What will you add? What will you remove?

Worldly Philosophies and Thought Process

The world and the Kingdom are very different. Consider some of the thoughts and philosophies of the world:

- Survival of the fittest - dominate the weak - the weak should serve the strong
 - Eliminate those that are a burden on society – the elderly, the sick the incapacitated
- Money equals power - usually leading to exploitation
- No amount of wealth is ever enough
- Contentment is found in the things we possess
- Possessions equal success
- The end justifies the means
- It is only wrong if you get caught
- Murder is ok if it is labeled under the title of abortion
- The majority of the world's women and children are still marginalized
- Give to get back
- Perversion is acceptable as long as you label it under human rights.

Statistics

1. **We are not changing culture – we are blending it – you cannot tell the difference between Christians and others at times:**
 - a. America is closing 7000 churches a year
 - b. America is opening 4000 churches a year
 - c. 80% of churches are stagnant or in plateau
 - d. 17% is transferred growth
 - e. 3% is new converts
 - f. 70% of US citizens identify as being Christian
 - g. 20% go to church on a regular basis
 - h. Of the 20%:
 - i. Most rarely, or never read their Bible
 - ii. 37% do not believe that prayers are essential
 - iii. Attendance – if you go to church 19 times a year you are considered a regular
 - iv. Less than 10% give to the local church.

Group Questions

- 1) Define the term, “repent” in your own words. What does it look like in real life?
- 2) Define the term “convert” in your own words. What does it look like in real life?
- 3) What do the terms, “putt off” and “put on” mean?
- 4) Describe how the world and Kingdom differ in their thought process?
- 5) How does the Holy Spirit renew our minds?
- 6) How did the prodigal son come to his senses?
- 7) Describe the fruit that Holy Spirit produces in our lives?