

The Everlasting Gospel Bible Study

Introduction

What is the next step in the gospel? For many in the Christian world they were taught that after you come to Jesus, and confess Him as your Lord and Saviour that is it. Now you are saved. This is not the whole truth. After we have made the decision to come to Jesus what should we expect next? This is the subject matter for our discussion today.

Lesson Six: Repentance

1. In Acts the second chapter we find the entire gospel narrative laid out from the first step till the last. Peter has been preaching the gospel. Read: Acts 2:23-24 (Lesson 1&2) He also preaches how in our sinful nature we are “God-killers! (lesson4) verse 36. In verse 21 he extends the call to come and follow (lesson five). Now the listeners come under great conviction and want to know what is the next step. Read Acts 2:37-38 “*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, “_____ 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.”*”
 - a. Repentance is the next step in the gospel narrative.
2. The word for repentance is an old English word that means ‘to stop sinning or to turn away from a sinful life. In Greek it is μετάνοιω. That is a compound word that means, ‘with the mind’ or transformed mind. The idea is to stop sinning, but there must be an understanding in the mind about what we are to repent of!
 - a. For example, read John 8:11. “*She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin ___ more.”*
 - b. Also read John 5:14. “*Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin ___ more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”*

In both cases, these people serve as examples as to how the gospel works. When Jesus saves there must be a corresponding repentance from the sin that He is saving us from. In other words, it is illegitimate to say Jesus forgive me and save me, then turn back into a life of sin. Jesus says if you choose to follow Me you must repent of your sins.

3. Where does repentance come from? Yes, it is a choice to turn away from sin, but where does the awareness that you are even a sinner come from? Where does the desire to stop sinning come from?
 - a. Read John 8:9: “*Then those who heard it, being _____ by their _____, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”*

- b. What speaks to the conscience? John 16:8. *“And when ____ is come, He will reprove the world of ____, and of _____, and of judgment:”*
- i. It is clearly the work of the Holy Spirit to convict our minds as to what sin and righteousness (right doing) is.
 1. Repentance is a gift from God. Read Romans 2:4 *“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the _____ of God leads you to _____?”*
 2. Acts 5:31 *“Him hath God exalted with His right hand [to be] a Prince and a Saviour, for _____ repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”*
 3. 2 Timothy 2:25 *“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will _____ them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*
 4. Repentance is a gift from God. When you say yes and make a choice to follow Jesus there is a promise that God will send you the Holy Spirit to help you to repent. It is the work of the Spirit of God to lead us and help us to turn away from sin. In fact, it is the Holy Spirit that has led you to studying these lessons!
- c. Read and discuss the following quotes:
1. *The office of the Holy Spirit is distinctly specified in the words of Christ: “When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” John 16:8. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin. If the sinner responds to the quickening influence of the Spirit, he will be brought to repentance and aroused to the importance of obeying the Divine requirements. Acts of the Apostles 52.1*
- d. What does it mean if the sinner responds to the quickening influence?
 Read Hebrews 3:15-18 *“while it is said: “Today, __ you will _____ His voice, Do not harden your _____ as in the rebellion.” For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not _____?”*
- e. Ephesians 4:30 *“And do not _____ the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*
 Simply said, the above text states that we have a choice to listen to the Spirit of God when He convicts us, or not. If we receive His work in our life we will be led to repentance. if we reject it we will not, and thus remain in our sin and lost condition before God. But, we can receive power from God to continue to overcome our sin and be forgiven.
4. When God leads you to repentance what does it look like? What happens in your life?
- a. Read: 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 *“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance. For ye were made sorry after a _____ manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For _____ sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold*

this selfsame thing, that ye _____ after a _____ sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

5. Paul is saying that when we respond to the Holy Spirit and we obey His voice, then God will lead us into repentance. A true repentance that produces in us the desire to be forgiven, the desire to do what is right, and above all an appreciation for what Christ has done for us in His life and death!
 - a. read Psalm 51:1-14. In light of this text, read the following quote then discuss:
“A repentance such as this, is beyond the reach of our own power to accomplish; it is obtained only from Christ, who ascended up on high and has given gifts unto men... we can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ” SC 24.3
 - b. What does David say the purpose of repentance is? Psalm 51:16-17. *“For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken _____: a _____ and a _____ heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”*
6. The test of repentance. How can we be sure that our repentance is genuine?
 - a. Read Proverbs 28:13: “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso _____ and _____ them shall have mercy.”
 - b. Real repentance will always be evidenced by a confession of those sins to God. But equally important, and maybe more difficult, is when God reveals our sins against other people.
 - i. Repentance for those sins must also be evidenced by confession to those that we have hurt.

Summary:

The purpose of repentance is to create an open heart towards God. It is difficult to look at the horrors of our heart, nature, mind, and actions, but if we will confess these things and acknowledge then to be true then we are on our way to being led to repentance, and then the heart opens in loving appreciation to God for what he has done for us. Repentance causes the gaze to be fixed on Jesus. Truly repentance is a gift!

Appeal: *Do you want to receive the gift of repentance today?*