

Sunday April 11, 2021 Repentance, Recovery, Restoration

Today we will take some time to study on the topic of Repentance. Have titled the sermon: Repentance, Recovery, Restoration

Repentance, our road to recovery, restoration, and redemption

Repentance is a powerful Biblical truth that perhaps has been lost in the contemporary church. While we are recipients of God's amazing grace, and live by grace, we must also understand the place repentance has in our Christian journey.

In this simple yet insightful message we address several questions that may have been in our minds on this topic. In order to present this message concisely and quickly we will not be reading all Scripture references. Scripture references are in the sermon notes available on our church website. Also, we are confining ourselves to the New Testament, in order to stay within our time today. A good look at the Old Testament, on the subject of repentance, will also be a very insightful study, but we will leave that for another time.

JESUS PREACHED 'REPENT'

Jesus preached 'repent and believe in the Gospel' (Mark 1:15). We need to repent in order to believe. Our lack of repentance can keep us from believing - coming into the place of faith where we can receive from God, whether healing, miracles or anything else.

Mark 1:15

and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Jesus also preached 'repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near' (Matthew 4:17). In order to receive, encounter and experience the Kingdom of God - that is God's rule and reign in our lives - we must first repent.

Matthew 4:17

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

It is true that we often think of repentance and the need to repent for those who are still unsaved and need to turn to God for forgiveness. We were all there at some point in time. Jesus did say that He came to call sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13, Mark 2:17)

Mark 2:17



When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Also, through the book of Acts often the proclamation of the Gospel is followed by a call to hearers to repent and believe (Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30).

REPENTANCE BRINGS US TO A PLACE WHERE WE CAN BELIEVE.

REPENTANCE POSITIONS US TO RECEIVE, ENCOUNTER AND EXPERIENCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

REPENT - THINK AND ACT DIFFERENTLY

What does it mean to repent, Biblically?

Repent Greek *metanoeō*

(Strongs) to think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider (morally to feel compunction)

(Thayer) to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins.

(Vincent's Word Studies) means to think differently after

Repent is a verb, an action word, which requires one to think differently leading to acting differently, about a matter.

Repentance in the Bible simply means changing our thinking and our action, as we turn toward God and move toward Him.

Repentance means changing to align our thoughts to God's thoughts and our ways to Hisways.

Isaiah 55:6-9 captures it succinctly for us.

Isaiah 55:6-9

6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

 $\boldsymbol{8}$ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.



An unsaved person changing their thinking about anything they depended on (e.g. dead works, lifeless religion, idolatry, animism, atheism, etc.), embracing the truth about God and turning toward God both in thought and deed, is repentance.

Similarly, a believer, changing their thinking about anything, and aligning their thoughts and actions to God's thoughts and God's ways is also repentance.

FRUITS OF REPENTANCE

We must reiterate that repentance, although it starts with a change in thinking is not just an alteration of thought process.

REPENTANCE EXPRESSES ITSELF IN ACTION.

John the Baptist whose main message was one of repentance announced to his hearers to bear fruits worthy of repentance (Matthew 3:8-9; Luke 3:8-9). Or as The Passion Translation puts it:

Matthew 3:8 (The Passion Translation) You must prove your repentance by a changed life

Even the apostle Paul, recounting his early days of ministry to king Agrippa stated that he went about preaching that people "must repent and turn to God and demonstrate it with a changed life" (Acts 26:20 TPT).

So, consider what Jesus taught us in Matthew 5:29-30

Matthew 5:29-30

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

So it is not enough to say my right eye or right hand is causing me to sin, or to feel sorry that we sinned. Repentance leads us to do what Jesus taught - to get rid of what is causing us to sin. It leads us to a place of recovery - coming out of that place of sin.

REPENTANCE, GRACE, FORGIVENESS



Does the blood of Jesus automatically cover sin? Is forgiveness for sin automatic? Does living in grace imply that a believer is already forgiven or do believers need to repent of sin they commit? Does the goodness of God imply God ignores sin?

When we follow through Romans chapter 5 on through Chapter 12, we see God's pathway for the believer.

In Romans 5 we see the wonderful truth of that we are free, justified, have received God's abundant grace and the gift of righteousness.

But then Romans 6 begins emphatically stating that we cannot continue in sin, just because of abounding grace. Romans 6 teaches us that the power of sin over our lives has been broken on the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Then Romans 8 teaches us that we must walk in the Spirit to put an end to the sinful deeds of the flesh.

And then in Romans 12 we must be transformed in the way we live, by the renewing of our mind.

We are transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2) - a continual change in our thinking that aligns itself with the thoughts of God - so that our actions align to the ways of God.

So, a believer's transformation into Christlikeness means that there is a continual change in thinking – which would include a continual, ongoing repentance.

REPENTANCE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE BELIEVER'S TRANSFORMATION INTO CHRISTLIKENESS.

1 John 1:6-10

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

John is writing his epistle to believers.

Sins are forgiven because of the price Jesus paid on the Cross.



As believers we do not continue in sin, we do not practice unrighteousness, we do not hold hate in our hearts - but if we do sin, we do not say we have not sinned. We do not say 'we have no sin'.

There is no such thing as 'holy sin'. When a believer sins, it is sin. All sin is lawlessness.

1 John 3:4

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

The word 'commits' is 'poiōn' in Greek.

(Robertson's Word Pictures) The present active participle (*poiōn*) means the habit of doing sin.

But as we see in the text above and in additional examples, the New Testament teaches us as believers to acknowledge, confess and forsake sin.

REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY TO STAY IN CONTINUED FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

THE BELIEVER AND REPENTANCE

Does repentance have a place in the believers life?

Biblical examples where the New Testament believer or church is instructed to repent of sin.

Simon the former sorcerer

Simon, the former sorcerer in the city of Samaria heard the Gospel of the Kingdom, saw the mighty works, received what Philip preached, believed and was baptized (Acts 8:12-13), was later rebuked by Peter and told to repent, when Simon wrongly offered money for the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:22

Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

The Corinthian Church

Perhaps one of the important examples of calling a church to acknowledge sin and to repentance in the apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthian church. We read about this in 1 Corinthians 5, and in 2 Corinthians chapters 1, 7 and 12:20-21. The apostle Paul rebukes the apparent apathy in the church towards sin.

1 Corinthians 5:11-13



11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?

13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "PUT AWAY FROM YOURSELVES THE EVIL PERSON."

It is clear here that a believer who is continuing in sin, should be sternly addressed, and where there is a lack of repentance, should be disciplined.

The Correcting of Church Leaders Living In Continual Sin

Church discipline in the case of continued sinning not only applies to believers, but also to those in Christian leadership. Paul gives us clear instructions in 1 Timothy 5:19-22 on how to deal with leaders who do not repent but continue in sin. Christian leaders who continue in sin should be rebuked publicly and must not be given any form of preferential or partial treatment.

1 Timothy 5:19-22

19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

The Lord's Message To the Seven Churches

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we see Jesus address sin in the churches in Asia Minor, that existed during John's time. To 5 of the 7 churches, Jesus calls them to repent.

Church in Ephesus (forgotten their first love and first works)

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.

Church in Pergamos (false doctrine leading to immorality)

Revelation 2:15-16

15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.



16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Church in Thyatira (false doctrine leading to immorality)

Revelation 2:21-22

21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

Church in Sardis (imperfect works)

Revelation 3:2-3

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Church at Laodicea (self deception)

Revelation 3:17-19

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

ALL SINS GREAT AND SMALL

Does God differentiate between sins or all these equally detestable in God's eyes leading to the same destination?

(A)lust or adultery,

(B)hate or murder,

(C)pride or sexual immorality,

(D)sowing disunity or idolatry,

(E)telling lies or killing the innocent?

see Proverbs 6:16-19; Matthew 5:21-28; 1 John 3:15; Revelation 21:8

We must treat all sin with equal disdain. Whether these are sins of the inner person like lust, hate, pride, etc., or sins we may consider 'small' like sowing disunity or telling lies, or sins that we may consider as 'big' like adultery, murder, sexual immorality, idolatry or



killing the innocent. ALL sin is detested by God, and ALL sins lead to the same place of destruction, hell.

As believers we are instructed to cleanse ourselves of ALL filthiness of flesh and spirit.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

WHAT LEADS A PERSON TO REPENTANCE?

(A) God's goodness leads to repentance

Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

(B) The works and miracles of God often lead us to repentance

Matthew 11:20

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

In Luke 5:1-11 After Peter experienced first-hand the miracle, he cried out "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

(C) Godly sorrow leads to repentance

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

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.

A strong rebuke, the instruction of God's Word, etc. can cause one to recognize where things have gone wrong. Sorrow in itself is not repentance. But godly sorrow may lead one to repentance.

(D) God grants repentance



2 Timothy 2:24-26

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

There are two important insights that we must bring our attention to in 2 Timothy 2:

First it states "..God..will grant them repentance..."

TPT "...God's gracious gift of repentance.."

Next it states "...that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil.."

This Scripture applies to both the believer, which is the actual context, and to those unsaved.

REPENTANCE IS OUR FIRST STEP TO RECOVERY AND RESTORATION.

Think about the Prodigal son in Luke 15. Jesus narrated the story and said:

Luke 15:17 "But when he came to himself, he said,..."

There was a moment when he changed his thinking. He then acted. He made the long journey back home. There was recovery. There was restoration.

THE PROCESS OF REPENTANCE

What does the process of repentance look like?

2 Corinthians 7:8-12

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! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.



12 Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

We learn from this passage that godly sorrow that leads to repentances results in the following:

- 1, Diligence (makes you earnest, very serious, careful)
- 2, Clearing of yourselves (eagerness to do what is right)
- 3, Indignation (displeasure, wrath against sin)
- 4, Fear (alarm, shock)
- 5, Vehement desire (holy longing, serious purpose)
- 6, Zeal (passion for God, devotion)
- 7, Vindication (ready to bring justice, ready to punish wrongdoing)
- 8, Proved yourselves to be clear (you are free of blame, desire to be without blame)

THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

We also understand why repentance is necessary? What happens if a believer does not repent? What are the positive outcomes when we repent?

The writer of Hebrews instructs us that we should go on to perfection and not lay again the foundation of repentance from dead works and turning to faith in God (Hebrews 6:1). This is repentance from dead works. But what about repentance from sin, which a believer does commit along the way. In the same chapter, the writer speaks of believers who have fallen away, needing to be renewed again in repentance from sin (Hebrews 6:5-6), which reaches a stage where it is impossible to renew them again to repentance. How did a believer even end up in such a state? We can infer that it was a slow process, that ignored continued repentance from sin and staying in continued fellowship with God.

Hebrews 6:1-6

- 1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
- 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
- 3 And this we will do if God permits.
- 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,
- 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
- 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.



WHEN WE ARE UNREPENTANT, IT WILL LEAD US INTO SELF-DECEPTION.

When we are self-deceived, we can end up anywhere-a hard heart toward God, a heart of pride, etc.

However, if we remain quick to repent, we enjoy these positive outcomes:

- ✓ Repentance brings us into a place where we can believe.
- ✓ Repentance positions us to receive, encounter and experience the Kingdom of God.
- ✓ Repentance is part of our ongoing transformation into Christlikeness.
- ✓ Repentance is important to stay in continual fellowship with God.
- ✓ Repentance brings recovery leading to restoration.

COLLECTIVE REPENTANCE IN THE CHURCH

What were some sins the Early Church had to repent of, which are prevalent in the contemporary church? Would the state of the church be different if there was repentance?

There were several problems that the apostle Paul addressed in the Corinthian Church, which seem prevalent in the contemporary church:

- ✓ Divisions, strife, competition (1 Corinthians 1:10)
- ✓ Taking sides with man (1 Corinthians 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
- ✓ Being puffed up on behalf of one man over another (1 Corinthians 4:6)
- ✓ Church in Ephesus (forgotten their first love and first works)
- ✓ Church in Pergamos and the Church in Thyatira (false doctrine leading to immorality)
- ✓ Church in Sardis (imperfect works)
- ✓ Church at Laodicea (self-deception)

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Luke 13:1-5

- 1 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.
- 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things?
- 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.
- 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?
- 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."



There were two instances of disaster, once cause by a cruel leader and another we would call a 'natural disaster' where people lost their lives. Jesus points out that those who escaped were not better people than those who lost their lives. Instead of explaining 'why' these happened, Jesus calls their attention to 'what' does this mean to me or 'what' our response should be. He said 'unless you repent you will all likewise perish'. The fact that you are alive now, means you still have the opportunity to repent and turn to God.

The Bible states clearly, that God "now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

Are there things we need to repent of in our live?

SUMMARY

Repent is a verb, an action word, which requires one to think differently leading to acting differently, about a matter.

Repentance in the Bible simply means changing our thinking and our action, as we turn toward God and move toward Him.

Repentance means changing to align our thoughts to God's thoughts and our ways to His ways.

REPENTANCE BRINGS US INTO A PLACE WHERE WE CAN BELIEVE.
REPENTANCE POSITIONS US TO RECEIVE, ENCOUNTER AND EXPERIENCE THE KINGDOM
OF GOD.

REPENTANCE IS PART OF OUR ONGOING TRANSFORMATION INTO CHRISTLIKENESS. REPENTANCE IS IMPORTANT TO STAY IN CONTINUAL FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. REPENTANCE BRINGS RECOVERY LEADING TO RESTORATION.

Jesus preached 'repent'
Repent - think and act differently
Fruits of repentance
Repentance, grace, forgiveness
The believer and repentance
All sins great and small
What leads a person to repentance?
The process of repentance
The importance of repentance
Collective repentance in the church
Call to repentance



PRAYER

And there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7,10).

Let us join our hearts in repentance, and experience more of His Kingdom unleashed in us.

EXPECT to experience more of God.

EXPECT to receive a powerful work of His Holy Spirit - the fire of His presence to cleanse, the power of His presence to heal, deliver and work miracles.

EXPECT to step into new things in the Kingdom! Something good is about to happen to YOU!

SALVATION CALL

The GOSPEL (Good News) in brief.

Here is how we RECEIVE the Good News for our personal lives.

We make it a simple A,B,C,D. We must:

ACKNOWLEDGE: our sin, the consequences of our sin, and our need for a Savior BELIEVE: in Jesus Christ, in who He is and what He has done on the Cross, personally

CONFESS: Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives

DECIDE: to follow Jesus Christ as His disciple for the rest of our lives





Sunday April 11, 2021 Repentance, Recovery, Restoration

The following is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: Isaiah 55:6-9; 2 Corinthians 7:8-12

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

- A) Discuss what is Biblical repentance?
- B) Do believers need to repent of sin, even though they are recipients of God's abundant grace?
- C) What are the positive effects of repentance?
- D) Discuss the process of repentance based on 2 Corinthians 7:11



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey.

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another.

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened.
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.





Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30).

Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance. **YOUTUBE**: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore

WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: https://apcwo.org

FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons

FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional

JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools

COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org

MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app

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WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org