

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR
LECTURE 6 - REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

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1. What is repentance?

Repentance is a gift from God. It is the ability God gives us to turn from our way of living to His way of living.

Acts 11:18b (NASB) "'Well then, **God has granted** to the Gentiles also the **repentance** that leads to life.' "

2 Tim 2:25 (NASB) "...with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps **God may grant them repentance** leading to the knowledge of the truth."

Rom 2:4 (NASB) "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the **kindness of God leads you to repentance?**"

Repentance is a major theme in the Bible and is found 71 times from **Num 23:19** to **Rev 16:11**.

2. What is "our way of living"?

Our way of living is a sinful way.

We are born with a sinful nature which causes us to sin even from childhood. No one has to teach a child to sin - it comes naturally from his sinful **Adamic nature**.

Psa 51:5 (NASB) "Behold, **I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me.** "

Eph 2:3 (NASB) "Among them we too all **formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by NATURE children of wrath, even as the rest.** "

John 8:44 (NASB) "You are of **your father the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he **speaks from his own NATURE**; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."

3. What is sin?

There are two types of sin:

i) **ORIGINAL SIN** - which is the total corruption of our whole human nature.

Rom 5:12 (NASB) "Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men...** "

Rom 5:17a (NASB) "For if by the transgression of the one (Adam), **death reigned through the one...** "

Rom 5:19a (NASB) "For as through the one man's (Adams) disobedience the many were made sinners..."

ii) **ACTUAL SIN** - which is the sinful act of breaking God's laws.

James 1:15 (NASB) "Then when **lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.** "

This is the act of committing sin by **doing wrong**.

James 4:17 (NASB) "Therefore to one who **knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.** "

This is **failure to do right**, which is also sin.

4. What is the consequence of sin?

The result of all sin is separation from God - which ends in spiritual death.

Isa 59:2 (NASB) "But your **iniquities** (guilt - Hebrew) have made a **separation between you and your God,**

And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear."

Rom 6:23a (NASB) *"For the wages of sin is (spiritual) death..."*

5. What is "His way of living?"

God has given us His standard of living in the Bible. When we obey His Word we are living His way.

Lev 19:2 (NASB) *"Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.'"*

2 Cor 7:1 (NASB) *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

Psa 119:11 (NASB) *"Thy Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee."*

Psa 37:31 (NASB) *"The law (Word) of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip."*

Psa 119:105 (NASB) *"Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."*

Prayer combined with disciplined Bible reading are God's spiritual support pillars to help us overcome temptation.

Mat 26:41 (NASB) *"Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

6. What does turning from our way to His way do for us?

This turning causes us to **receive a new heart with the nature of God**. Our sins are washed in the blood of Jesus and we are **forgiven**. We stand **JUSTIFIED** (just as if we had never sinned) before God. We receive **God's free gift of righteousness** through faith in Jesus Christ.

Ezek 11:19-20 (NASB) *"And I shall give them one heart, and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,*

20 *that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God."*

1 John 1:7b (NASB) *"...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."*

Rom 5:1 (NASB) *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Phil 3:9 (NASB) *"and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from (keeping) the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith."*

Rom 5:17 (NASB) *"For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."*

7. What is the original meaning of the word "repent"?

There are in fact **8 original words for repent**. We will look at **4** of them.

i) **Hebrew - NACHAM**: to sigh, breathe strongly, to be sorry, regret, suffer grief, change one's conduct.

Job 42:6 (NASB) *"Therefore I retract and I repent in dust and ashes."*

ii) **Hebrew - SHUB**: to turn back, return.

Ezek 18:30,32 (NASB) *"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct,*

declares the Lord God. **Repent and turn** away from all your transgressions, so that **iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you.**

32 'For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,' declares the Lord God. 'Therefore, **repent and live.**' "

iii) **Greek - METANOEO:** to change the mind for the better morally; to change the attitude toward sin from loving it to forsaking it.

Luke 13:3 (NASB) "I tell you no, but **unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**"

iv) **Greek - METANOIA:** a real change of mind and attitude toward sin and its cause, not merely the consequences of it.

Mat 3:8 (NASB) "Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with **repentance.**"

8. What is the "nature" of true repentance?

i) The person must be **CONTRITE** in heart.

Contrite - Oxford: Broken in spirit by sense of sin, completely penitent of actions.

Contrite - Webster's: Showing sincere remorse.

Contrite - Hebrew: to crush down to pieces, be broken, crouch.

Psa 51:17 (NASB) "The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.**"

Psa 34:18 (NASB) "The Lord is near to the **brokenhearted, And saves those who are crushed in spirit.**"

ii) **CONFESSION OF SIN.**

Sin can only come out of the life through the mouth.

1 John 1:9 (NASB) "If we **confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**"

Psa 32:5 (NASB) "**I acknowledge my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'; and Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.**"

Unconfessed sin is unforgiven sin.

Prov 28:13 (NASB) "He who conceals His transgressions will not prosper, but **he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.**"

Human wisdom covers up. Godly wisdom uncovers.

Isa 1:18 (NAS) "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool."

Man white-washes. God washes white.

iii) Have **FAITH** in God's grace and forgiveness.

Rom 5:20b (NASB) "...but where sin increased, **grace abounded all the more...**"

James 4:6a (NASB) "But He gives a **greater grace...**"

1 Tim 1:14a (NASB) "...the **grace of our Lord** was more than abundant..."

iv) Make **RESTITUTION** where possible.

Luke 19:8-9 (NASB) "And **Zaccheus** stopped and said to the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.'

9 And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.'
"

ILLUSTRATION: TW calculated the value of stolen disco equipment from the electronics company he used to work for before he got saved, and went to the MD to pay for it.

9. What is the necessity of repentance?

Repentance is demanded by God as a **CONDITION** for receiving forgiveness and His grace.

Acts 3:19 (NASB) "**Repent** therefore and return, **that your sins may be wiped away, IN ORDER** that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 17:30 (NASB) "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that **all everywhere should repent.**"

Luke 24:47 (NASB) "and that **repentance FOR forgiveness of sins** should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations..."

2 Cor 7:10 (NASB) "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God **produces a repentance without regret, LEADING TO salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.**"

Acts 11:18 (NASB) "And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, 'Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the **repentance that LEADS TO life.**' "

10. How is repentance produced?

By the **Spirit** and by the **Word**.

John 16:8 (NASB) "And **He** (the Holy Spirit), when **He** comes, will **convict the WORLD concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment.**"

Heb 4:12 (NASB) "For the **Word of God** is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**"

11. When must we repent?

Repentance should **IMMEDIATELY** follow transgression.

2 Cor 6:2 (NASB) "For He says, 'At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation helped you'; behold, **NOW** is the acceptable time,' behold, **NOW** is the day of salvation.' "

Heb 4:7 (NASB) "He again fixes a certain day, '**Today,**' saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, '**Today** if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.' "

12. What if I am the type of person who struggles to say, "I'm sorry"?

Repentance is an act of the WILL. It is the determination and declaration of a new purpose and direction. It starts off in the **MIND** and then has a positive effect on the heart.

Luke 15:18-20 (NASB) "**I will** get up and go to my father, and **will** say to him, 'father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'

20 And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him (lit., kissed him again and again)."

The sin you won't forgive will **attach itself to** you and eat you like a cancer.

EXAMPLE: The son who won't forgive his **alcoholic** father has a greater chance of oneday becoming an

alcoholic than if he had forgiven.

NB. The alcoholic father who gets saved needs to ask his children for forgiveness to release them from the sin, preventing them from following in his footsteps.

13. How can we identify true repentance?

By looking at what **fruit is growing** from the persons life. Genuine repentance always manifests itself in visible outward change of attitude and behavior.

Luke 3:8b (NASB) "Therefore **bring forth fruits** in keeping with **repentance**..."

Mat 7:20 (NASB) "So then, you will know them by their fruits."

14. What does the Bible mean by the phrase, "Repentance from DEAD WORKS"?

Dead works refers to man-made rites, customs, traditions, beliefs, **good works** done in the belief or with the **motive** that they earn us favor with God.

God wants us to **repent from all self-righteousness** and self effort to earn favor with Him, and have total faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross alone.

Isa 64:6b (NASB) "...all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment..."

Religious people would rather hold onto their **traditions** than obey the Word of God.

Mark 7:6-13 (NASB) "And, He said to them, 'Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.

7 But in vain do thy worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.**

8 Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the TRADITION of men.

9 He was also saying to them, 'You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your **tradition.**

10 For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother'; and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death';

11 but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, given to God),

12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother;

13 thus **invalidating the word of God by your tradition** which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.' "

15. Is there a relationship between "repentance" and "deliverance"?

Yes, all sinners are under demonic influence in some way.

Eph 2:1-2 (NASB) "And **you were (spiritually) dead** (to God) in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of **the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience** (the unsaved). "

Our deliverance is totally related to the depth and sincerity of our repentance. Why do many new converts hardly have a change of life-style? Because of shallow and insincere repentance.

2 Tim 2:25-26 (NASB) "...with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps **God may grant them repentance** leading to the knowledge of the truth,

26 and **they may come to their senses** (ie. they are not in their right mind) **and escape from the snare** (trap or bondage) **of the devil, having been held CAPTIVE by him to do his WILL."**

16. Are there different levels of repentance?

Yes there are three different levels or repentance:

- i) Initial repentance - when a sinner first comes to Christ for forgiveness.
- ii) Repentance when we sin or disobey as a believer.
- iii) Walking in a state of repentance - continually turning from our own way to His ways.

HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 6

1. Memorize ***Psa 51:17*** which is the first scripture in point 8 of this Lecture.
2. In your **S.T.** this week take a paper and pen and write down everything in your life that the Holy Spirit reveals you need to repent of.
3. Follow the 4 points in question 8 in this lecture for each item you have written down.
4. Destroy the paper and rejoice in your forgiveness and resorted fellowship.
5. Doing your homework counts for 10% of your test results.
6. The memory verse counts for 10% towards your test results.
7. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes so that these truths can register on your spirit man as a preparation for a true or false test next week.