

WHY REPENTANCE?

Why Do I Need to Repent?

No matter how good we are, every person who has ever walked the Earth has sinned (**Romans 3:23; Psalm 53:3; I John 1:8; James 4:17**).

Sin separates us from God, and the result of sin is death (**Isaiah 59:2; Romans 6:23**).

Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we now have the opportunity to repent and receive redemption from our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 2:24**).

Where there is sin there must also be death, but through repentance the blood of Jesus is applied to our lives, thus allowing His death to serve as the payment for our sin (**Isaiah 44:22; I John 1:7-10**).

What Does It Mean to Repent?

To repent means to have godly sorrow for the sins and transgressions we have committed against God.

This leads us to ask God for forgiveness (**Psalm 38:18; I John 1:9; II Corinthians 7:9-10**).

Repentance, however, does not end with sorrow and a request for forgiveness. To truly repent, we must earnestly attempt to turn away from our sins and turn ourselves and our affection toward God (**Ezekiel 18:21; 18:30-32; II Chronicles 7:14; Acts 26:20; 3:19**).

Even after we repent, sometimes we will still make mistakes. God is always faithful to forgive us if we come to Him and repent. Through His grace we are taught to turn from our sinful ways (**Matthew 18:21-22; Psalm 51:9-12; Titus 2:11-12**).

Is Repentance Necessary for Salvation?

The Bible clearly states that to be saved we must first repent of our sins (**Luke 13:3; 24:47; Acts 17:30; 3:19; 2:38**).

Throughout Scripture God's people have been called to repentance.

Old Testament: **Ezekiel 18:30--32; Psalm 51:9--12; II Chronicles 7:14**.

New Testament: Preached by John the Baptist (**Matthew 3:2**); preached by Jesus (**Matthew 4:17**); Jesus instructed the disciples to preach it after He left (**Luke 24:47**); preached by Peter (**Acts 2:38**); and preached by Paul (**Acts 26:20**).

No matter what you have done, it is not too late to repent (**II Peter 3:9**)!

While repentance by itself is not salvation, it is a necessary and vital first step that "leads us to salvation" (**II Corinthians 7:10**).