

# **THE RAPE OF REPENTANCE**

## **THE RAPE OF THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE**

OR

What has happened to the doctrine of repentance?

“Repentance is an inward attitude of the soul”

### **THE DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE AND SALVATION**

“A pulpit free of repentance is a pulpiter who thinks he’s free from repentance”

By Pastor Del Wray

We Bible Believing Baptist pastors ought to be yelling rape! Rape! Rape! Our cohorts or pastors’ are in bed with the spirit of whoredom, Jezebel, sleeping with a whore. They’re busy molesting the greatest doctrine of the Bible, the doctrine of repentance. When it comes to the salvation of the lost soul repentance is one of two of its primary tenants; repentance and faith, without one or the other or without both it is impossible to be saved. That is one of the reasons I contend that more people are going to hell from the church pew. The pulpits are scared to death to preach repentance for many reasons and excuses that were all hatched in hell. The major excuse is the pastor has taken the position that he doesn’t haft to repent anymore, so why preach it? Another is it falls into the works category and they are afraid that it causes their congregants to emphasize works. Brother, works are vital in the Christian life, not to be saved but after one is saved. His service proves his salvation. Any excuse or excuses are only a cover up for continuing to sleep with a whore. When a preacher refuses to preach on repentance he is raping the vital doctrine of a soul’s salvation. Not physical but spiritual rape. Rape! Rape! We who believe must cry out against it. He should be stoned to death. In the Old Testament, a person caught in the act of adultery was stoned to death. It should be the penalty today it would deter a lot of this demon activity. Spiritually, spiritual rape is a far more serious crime and it damns the souls of men, it will bring down the wrath of God.

Soul molestation is a crime against the heart the soul of a man “repentance is the inward attitude of the soul” the seat of the real person. Man’s nature, his soul is corrupt and desperately wicked, deceitful above all things Jer. 17:9. And when a pastor fails to preach on, warning the man about his wicked heart and commanding repentance he is aiding the enemy of his soul. Soul rape and molestation is tantamount to spiritual murder. And it is murdering the eternal souls of lost and dying men. And my God demands eternal retribution to those that would cozy up to the queen of spirits, Jezebel. Less we forget this is a spiritual war we are in and it’s against the fallen angels, demons, spirits of the air. I entered that battle as a private back in 1960 and the war is raging as we come to the end of the age. Jezebel hates our King James Bible and it’s doctrine of repentance. The true preaching of repentance is essential for men to be born again and herein let me share what the Holy Spirit has shown me on this subject. First, let me share a simple overview of repentance out of the Bible and then I will put some meat on the bones and then I believe the Spirit of God will comfort your heart with a true understanding of repentance.

The Bible shows that repentance is necessary for a sinner to be saved. This repentance is “unto life” Acts 11:18. In this context, Peter is rehearsing how the Gentiles were saved, and there is not a word about turning from individual sins to be saved. The repentance here is a change of mind, as found in the first mention of the word *repent* in Gen. 6:6-7. The context defines the word *repent* as a change of mind, as it should be obvious that the Lord is not quitting any sins. He is changing His mind about the creation of mankind. So in order to be saved, a sinner must change his mind and come to an agreement with what the Scriptures say about his condition.

This is the convicting work of the Holy Ghost, as promised by Jesus Christ in John 16:8-10. Notice that the Holy Spirit reproves the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment. The sin is defined as unbelief v9. No sinner is saved by repenting of cursing, smoking, drinking, and so on. What he repents of is his unbelief in the Lord Jesus Christ. He changes his mind and agrees that he is on his way to hell because he is not righteous and only faith in Christ can save him. No one is saved by turning from individual sins. That is work and that is what happens after a person is saved.

There is a common teaching among many Baptist that if you’ve been really saved that you will be living a certain way, the way they do, and if not you haven’t been saved. That too is a misconception and lie. Listen, if I had not known Jesus Christ I would not know sin. Before I was saved sin did not bother me but since there has been a constant struggle even until this very day. The outward practice of those sins may not be as great but the inward struggle with sin is still alive, even when I sleep. Jesus tells us, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” James 4:17. Repentance is the divine work of God.

Repentance is a divinely wrought action which employs God's Spirit, God's Word, and God's people, as they are implemented in response to known sin. We cannot change hearts; only God can. In this sense, repentance is the work of God. But God has chosen to employ certain means to bring about His ends, and so it is with repentance. God uses His people, like Nathan, to confront people with their sin. He uses His Word and His Spirit to convict sinners of their sin. Today, as in times past, it is easier to talk to others about sin in someone's life, rather than to talk with that person. The Bible gives us very clear instructions about our obligation toward a brother or sister who appears to have fallen into sin Matthew 7:1-5; 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:23-26; Titus 3:9-11; James 5:19-20. No one really wants to be a “Nathan” to a “David,” but this is the normal means God has appointed for dealing with sin or for encouraging the sinner to repent. Nathan was never a better friend to David than when he pointed out his sin, preparing the way for his repentance.

For a pastor or any preacher not to fulfill his duty, notice I said duty, to preach repentance is tantamount to high treason against the very Throne of God and an association in and with the murder of eternal souls. The spirit of Jezebel has sure captured our pulpits. Real repentance can and does bring radical change. We must first turn back to the Word of God, we must begin calling sin by its biblical name, and we must call for people to respond in a biblical way; nothing short of repentance and faith.

#### WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE?

What has happened to the “doctrine of repentance” that was once preached from our pulpits in America? Those, the pastors that do bring it up, every now and then, have their own opinion as to the defining and explaining its meaning. A lot of confusion abounds and most teaching on the subject is false and deceptive. What you get today in most cases is false, misleading and dangerous. Without true repentance, there is no salvation. What is the biblical explanation for repentance? We are living in a day and age where man is taught to think good thoughts, high thoughts, and wonderful thoughts about himself. Within the last fifty years or so there has been a concealed invasion in Christianity in America without a whimper of protest. This invasion can best be described as “Christian” psychology, which is nothing more than watered-down humanism. While there are millions of people searching for answers to their complicated

problems created by their increasingly complex lives, psychology comes along and attempts to answer and solve man's sin problems and its consequences through the building up and restoration of man's self-esteem and self-image. We are told today to get in touch with our inner self and ask the question: "How do you feel about yourself?" The bottom line is, it doesn't amount to a hill of beans what we think or feel about ourselves, but what does the Bible say and teach?

This marriage between psychology and Christianity has created an unholy alliance which is producing some strange children that are permitting, promoting, and preaching deceiving, dangerous, and damnable false doctrines. This diabolical psycho-babble of self-love is sweeping through churches today among self-seeking men in a self-centered society whose greatest problem is a desire to worship at the altar of self. The apostle Paul warned us that one of the characteristics of the last days would be that "men shall be lovers of their own selves" 2 Tim. 3:2.

It is a tragic thing, and nothing less than a phenomenon, that among professed Bible believing preachers, the doctrine of repentance is not being preached, but is actually being dismissed as having no significance or place in the message of the Gospel. As preposterous as this is scripturally, and as out of sync as it is with the Bible, and with the whole history of fundamentalism, in particular where we Baptists are concerned, this is a position to which a number of men have committed themselves, and one which is being embraced by numbers of other men who have come under their influence.

The Bible makes it clear that repentance is inseparable, inextricably linked with forgiveness of sins and with believing unto salvation. Remember, that God not only gave the very Words that are in the Bible, He also directed as to the order in which these Words were to be placed. It is not without significance that John connected repentance as a precedent to the remission of sins in Mark 1:4, and how Jesus associated repentance as a precedent to believe in the gospel of Mark 1:15.

I'm afraid many so-called fundamental and evangelical churches and preachers have fallen into the trap of teaching this mushy self-worth propaganda that seeks to camouflage itself in robes of charity and tolerance. Churches and preachers alike are abandoning their God-called purpose of holding up the mirror of God's Word and graphically revealing to man what he really looks like in the sight of a holy God. The missing message in modern-day preaching is the Biblical doctrine of repentance, where a sinner is convinced and convicted of his exceeding sinfulness and lost condition. We must wrap our heads around that. I know churches and pastors that are damning supposedly new Christians while they spew this junk from their poison lips and their seared brains.

When the very Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, appeared upon the scene in His public ministry, He came preaching the narrow and exclusive doctrines of repentance and faith. If Jesus felt compelled to preach such a message before a lost and dying world, so should we. Galatians 1:6-9 teaches that there is only one gospel, and if any gospel message leaves out the doctrine of repentance or faith or both, you can be assured it is a false gospel.

*"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**" Mark 1:14-15*

The words "repent," "repentance," and "repented" are mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. There has been a lot of misunderstanding and confusion over what the word repentance means. When the word "repent" is used in the Word of God in the context of Biblical salvation, it is referring to a truly God-given, Spirit-led change of heart and mind toward God about sin.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out ..." Acts 3:19.

The greatest need for any sinner is to have his sins blotted out, but a man will never have the pardon of sin while he is in love with his sin. There must be a hatred of sin, a loathing of it, and a turning from it. Repentance is a revolution in dealing with our attitude and view towards sin and righteousness. Repentance is not something one does with his hands, but it is an inward attitude of the soul. Sin must become, in the eyes of the sinner, exceedingly sinful.

Everyone knows they are not perfect, but for most sinners that is a consolation, not condemnation. But the Bible declares all sinners are already condemned:

*"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"* John 3:17-18.

The problem is "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" Rom.3:23. Man, in his lost, sinful, condemned state, has failed to glorify God. Until a person becomes personally exceedingly sinful in his own eyes, he will never see his need for repentance. Eph.2:1 says man is spiritually dead; Rom.3:10 and Isa.64:6 tells us no one is righteous before a holy God; Rom.3:19 says all stand guilty and condemned before God; Eph.4:18 declares all sinners are separated from God whose hearts and minds are blinded so that they cannot understand God or the things of God.

Repentance basically involves two facts: the fact of sin and the fact of God's grace. If a person is not a sinner, he would not need to repent, and if God was not the God of all grace, it would do no good to repent. Repentance implies sin, sorrow for it, and a changed attitude towards God about it.

It should also be stressed that repentance itself is not a human act, but comes only from God Rom.2:4 it is a divine gift of God Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25.

*"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure **"will give"** them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;"* 2 Tim. 2:25

In true Biblical repentance, there will be three things to occur as God does a work of grace upon the sinner's heart:

One is CONVICTION, where sin is admitted. Man must see himself as a lost, ruined, guilty, desperately wicked sinner without hope or help, in danger of hell. In repentance, a lost sinner not only sees himself as a sinner, but he recognizes the fact that he has sinned against a righteous and holy God. The message that Paul preached was: "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" Acts 20:21. In repentance, there will be a confession of sin to God Psalms 32:5; 51:1-4.

Second is CONTRITION, where sin is abhorred. When one sees himself as he appears before God, he is brought to a place where there is godly sorrow for his sin and hates it all together.

"For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin" Psalm 38:18. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of ..." 2 Cor. 7:10.

To hate sin is to love God. In true repentance, there is not only the desire to escape the consequences of sin but to be rid of sin itself as a thing displeasing to God.

Third is CONVERSION, where sin is abandoned. Repentance involves the forsaking of sin:

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” Isa. 55:7. “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” Prov. 28:13.

Repentance is not only a heart broken for sin, but also from sin. We must forsake what we would have God forgive.

It should be stressed that it is not enough just to turn away from sin; one must also turn to God for salvation:

“... To turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins ... should repent and turn to God ...” Acts 26:18 and 20.

In true repentance, there is CONVICTION, CONTRITION, and CONVERSION as one turns from his sin to Christ for salvation. Salvation is the deliverance of a person from his sin, not merely from a sinful environment. Jesus Christ is the Saviour from not only the penalty and punishment of sin but also the power of sin.

Jesus came to bring sinners to repentance:

“... I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” Matt. 9:13.

The reason Jesus came to this earth was to CALL SINNERS TO REPENTANCE. Those who did not see themselves as sinners, deserving God's wrath, were not candidates for God's salvation. The sinner must reject his own righteousness because Jesus did not come to call the righteous, not even the self-righteous. The only way a sinner will come to reject his own righteousness is by coming face to face with his own wickedness. You can take it from the lips of Jesus Himself as a settled issue that He will not call the righteous. Only those to whom it is revealed, by God's Spirit, that they are lost, depraved, ungodly sinners will respond to the calling of the Saviour in salvation.

All sinners are commanded to repent and believe the gospel!

Jesus soundly declared the message in His day: “repent ye and believe the gospel.” Repentance and faith are inseparable and occur simultaneously in a sinner's heart; you cannot have one without the other. The order as given in the Bible is repentance and faith Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; 26:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Heb. 6:1.

REPENTANCE is turning from sin, and faith is turning to Christ. Repentance comes about through the convicting power of the Spirit of God using the Word of God to cause a change of attitude, action, and affection.

SAVING FAITH is trust in and reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ as one's personal Lord and Saviour. Saving faith “is, believing” with your heart; it is coming to Christ, receiving Christ, looking to Christ, and calling upon Christ to save your soul.

Yes, Jesus said you must repent and believe the gospel because the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believes Rom. 1:16. The gospel, the good news for every sinner, is that Christ died on the cross for our sins, as our Substitute, and shed His precious blood to wash away our sins, and arose from the dead on the third day in order that we might have the forgiveness of sins and have eternal life through Him. The Salvation of one's soul is the most important thing in this whole world.

But repentance without faith is nothing more than remorse or regret. And faith without repentance makes Christ nothing more than a fire escape. There must be a work of repentance and faith upon the sinner's heart before salvation can become a reality. Repentance is caused by the working of the Holy Spirit who takes the Sword of the Spirit and slays the sinner's self-righteousness, self-goodness, self-decency, self-esteem, and causes him to cry out: "God be merciful to me a sinner" Luke 18:13 and "what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30

Now a serious question we should ask is the preaching of repentance important?

Jesus thought so enough that He preached it. John the Baptist preached it, Matt. 3:1-2. The apostles were commanded to preach it: "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" Luke 24:47.

Who is commanded to repent?

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30.

The good, the bad, the rich, the poor, the old, the young, the educated, and the uneducated, every man is commanded every man must repent because we are all sinners. Notice it is God's command that we are to be obeyed.

What happens if you don't repent?

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" Luke 13:3 and 5.

The worst thing in the world for any person is to perish in their sins without Christ as their Saviour and spend an eternity in the lake of fire, to be tormented and suffer forever and ever.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved" John 3:16-17.

Turn from yourself and sin and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ to save your soul, that is the sinner's only hope.

"Churches and preachers alike are abandoning their God-called purpose of holding up the mirror of God's Word and graphically revealing to man what he really looks like in the sight of a holy God. The missing message again in modern-day preaching is the biblical doctrine of repentance, where a sinner is convinced and convicted of his exceeding sinfulness and lost condition. Without which there can be no salvation.

"We do not repent in order to be saved, but we repent because we are saved. We do not loathe sin and, therefore, hope to be saved, but, because we are saved, we, therefore, loathe sin and turn from it."

*C. H. Spurgeon*

Many Baptists are irate today, and they should be, over the obvious reinterpreting and rewriting of American history by those committed to a self-serving social agenda. But where is the concern over those who are reinterpreting and in some cases trying to rewrite the very doctrine of salvation? This is nothing less than heresy, a modern day heresy that is unprecedented relative to its proclamations and relative to its promotion by preachers who claim to be fundamentalists and Baptists.

A new gospel has arisen today, another gospel, which denies the need for sinners to be called, or to come, to repentance in order to be saved. It is a false message. It is wicked and deadly.

Baptists in the pulpits and in the pews who love truth and long to see the lost come to know Christ in truth, must denounce this heresy, recognize and re-embrace Baptist doctrinal distinctives as never before, and “earnestly contend for the faith which was delivered unto the saints” Jude 3.

The world is full of men who want to be right when actually the secret of a man's strength and his pathway to true honor is his ability to admit fault when he has failed. God wants to fill the church with men who can say they are wrong when they are wrong. A man who is willing to humble himself before God and his family and say: “I was wrong.” will find that his family has all the confidence in the world in him and will much more readily follow him. If he stubbornly refuses to repent or admit he was wrong, their confidence in him and in his leadership erodes.

“The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion center it is a confession center, a repentance center, reconciliation, forgiveness, and sanctification center where sinful people place their faith in Jesus Christ. We gather there to know and love Him better, and learn to love others as he does and as we should and as designed.”

So often, we have the tendency to say, someone else is the problem. No, someone else is not the problem. Our heart is the problem. The Spirit is just there to show us what is in our hearts. The Spirit doesn't put those things in our hearts. He doesn't put the wrath, the bitterness in our hearts. Those things are already there. The Spirit is the means God uses to show us from the Bible what is in our heart so that we may be aware of how black our hearts really are. *C. H. Spurgeon* said,

“A sinner can no more repent and believe without the Holy Spirit's work than he can create the world.”

**REPENTANCE IS A SCHOOL FROM WHICH WE SHOULD NEVER GRADUATE**