

# REPENTANCE'S SURE GROUND

*"And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil." Joel 2:13*

"...rend your heart and not your garments,"

*By Pastor Del Wray*

Repentance's sure ground is only found at Calvary, beneath the bleeding feet of Jesus Christ having been drawn by God the Father as the Holy Spirit does His surgical work using the scalpel of the Word of God that the human heart be rend. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do!" It is in the Word of God that we are commanded to rend our hearts, with a two-edge Sword, "*That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word*" Eph. 5:26. But the heart, the human spirit is naturally as hard as a rock of marble! How then, can this be done? We must go to Calvary! A dying Savior's voice rent the rocks once and it is just as powerful today. O blessed Spirit, let us effectually hear the death-cries of Jesus and our hearts shall be rent! O blessed Lord may we never leave Calvary where our hearts are torn and broken!

The man that will not hear the death-cries of Calvary, failing to repent, not having his heart rend will never hear the convicting wooing of God's Holy Spirit is surely fixing the destiny of his soul to the flames of darkness described in the eternal Words of our Holy God. So it is with those who choose the broad way, decorating the exterior while neglecting the mending of the heart.

Fabric-rending and other external signs of religious emotion, are easily manifested, and are frequently hypocritical. True repentance is far more difficult, and consequently far less common. Unsaved men will attend to the most multiplied and minute religious ceremonies and regulations, for such things are pleasing to their flesh. But true godliness is too humbling, too heart-searching, and too spiritual for the tastes of sinful men! They prefer something more pretentious, flimsy, and worldly.

External religious rituals are temporarily comfortable; eye and ear are pleased; self-conceit is fed, and self-righteousness is puffed up. But they are ultimately deceiving, for at the Day of Judgment, the soul needs something more substantial than religious ceremonies and rituals to lean upon. Apart from vital godliness, all religion is utterly vain! When offered without a sincere heart, every form of religious worship is a grave imitation and an impertinent mockery of the majesty of God!

Every Sunday, in churches all across America, lost sinners are invited to "accept Jesus"; "make a decision for Christ"; "give your heart to Jesus"; "pray through"; "ask for forgiveness"; "walk the aisle" or "get right with God". While all of these can be used as synonyms for salvation they do not properly address the full scope of issues involved in "coming to Jesus Christ."

The word "repent" occurs 105 times or in "105 verses" in the King James Bible. Many people wrongfully define "repenting" as "turning from your sins" or "being willing to turn from your sins." However, the person who repents more than anyone else in the Bible is God! God never sins! It is impossible for God to sin. And the man that would accuse God of sin may be guilty of committing the unpardonable sin. This proves that you can repent of something other than sin. Below are a number of verses showing that repentance is not turning from sin:

Gen 6:6, *“And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”*  
Heb 12:17, *“For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”*

Judges 2:18, Judges 21:6, and Judges 21:15, 1Sam. 15:11, 1Sam. 15:29, 1Sam. 15:35, 2Sam. 24:16, 1Chron. 21:15, Psalms 90:13, Ps. 106:45, Ps. 110:4, Jer. 15:6, Jer. 18:10, Jer. 26:3, Jer. 26:13, Jer. 26:19, Jer. 42:10, Ezek. 24:14, Hos. 11:8, Hos. 13:14, Joel 2:13, Joel 2:14, Amos 7:3, Amos 7:6, Jonah 3:9, Jonah 3:10, Jonah 4:2, Zech. 8:14, Matt. 9:13, Matt. 21:29, Matt. 27:3, Mark 2:17, Rom. 11:29, 2Cor. 7:8 and Heb. 7:21

Thus by the above verses we can see at no time in the Bible was God ever repenting of sin of any kind, He cannot sin! Further, proving that nowhere in the Bible can you find the teaching that turning from sin saves anybody. The person repenting of sin, it is not in Scripture. It is a false assumption and lie to believe giving up sin can save anyone. Jesus is the only one that can save! This has been taught since the establishment of the first Baptist church there in Jerusalem by Jesus Christ Himself. It is never what one does but what Christ did!

The Church that Jesus built is alive and well. It has never failed and never will fail Matthew 16:18. We have an eternal promise from our Lord that the perpetuity of this divine Church would continue. It did not start on the day of Pentecost. Jesus built the first one during His own personal ministry in Jerusalem. On the day of Pentecost, an existing assembly of one hundred twenty, 120 members were empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:15, *“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, the numbers of names together were. about an hundred and twenty.”*

Acts 2:1-4, *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Yet, today we are seeing Baptist churches and pastors teaching the doctrines while leaving off Repentance. It is time to resist the apostate trend of our day which will eventually lead to a one world visible church.

Repentance has been rejected by our Baptist associates in an affect helping to bring on the Apostasy we are experience today. Many of our Baptist pulpits have heard the hiss of Satan and are spewing this poison supporting the falling away spoken of by Paul in his letter to the church at Thessalonica. Repentance is being blindly swept under the carpet and replaced with this “easy believism.” While the Word of God, has been trampled under the feet by the modern day Christian crowd.

Luke 24:47: *“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”*

There are some very unusual things being said by Baptist preachers these days on the subject of repentance and faith. The trumpet is giving an uncertain sound in many Baptist pulpits on the matter of salvation. Many have abandoned the doctrine of repentance. One well known Baptist preacher called the

preaching of repentance heresy. John the Baptist did not think it was heresy. Our Lord preached repentance, as did all of the early apostles.

Yet, we have some today who say repentance is not necessary. But according to Acts 3:19, it is. 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 teaches Godly sorrow and repentance. The doctrines of grace are a thing of the past in some Baptist churches. Now we are being inundated with an easy believism that is filling churches with unregenerate members, who know nothing of the Grace of God. The inner witness of the Spirit of God in the heart is an unknown factor in many Baptist churches these days. These must then prove to themselves that they are really saved by their religious efforts. According to 1 John 5:9-13, the truly saved know it. Repentance and faith produce a knowledgeable faith. Repentance is not a work. It is the gift of God, brought about by the Spirit of God. Without it no man will be saved. Baptist apostasy on the doctrine of repentance and faith is deepening and Baptists must not fall away from this very important doctrine.

**THE SURE GROUND OF REPENTANCE CAN ONLY BE FOUND AT CALVARY**

**“CHOICE WORDS MAY REND OUR MIND  
BUT ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN REND THE HEART”**