

BIBLE REPENTANCE

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In the same proportion that scriptural holiness is departed from the Church, in that same proportion there will be lack in the teaching concerning repentance.

Genuine repentance is the basis of all true piety. Repentance is not a mere sentiment about doing better, or a mere expression against wickedness, or a denunciation of public sins; but it is an inward trend of the soul of the consequences of sin, and an inward desire to get rid of sin, and a feeling of the wrath of God that must punish all sin. It is not a mere verbal confession of wrong doing, but a thorough breaking of the heart with its past record, and a turning to God for deliverance from it. King Saul confessed his sins and said he had played the fool, but he never repented, and there is no sign that he ever turned away with his whole heart from wrong doing and disobedience. Judas Iscariot confessed he had sinned, and threw down the money in the Temple of the Lord; but he never repented, nor showed any single sign of heart sorrow for his sin or turning from it, and there was no turning to God for pardon. The rich man who lifted up his eyes in Hades, being in torment, showed no evidence of repentance. There are great multitudes who, in a general way, confess they have sinned and call themselves sinners in general terms, but with no true repentance.

Again, repentance is not a mere effort at reformation, but an intense longing for a new life, or breaking with the old life, and the incoming of a new power that will deliver from committing the same sins again. Reformation is based on the idea that there is some goodness in the soul which only needs to be developed and enlarged, but this very thought does away with the need of a Divine Savior. The very word "reformation" means to take any substance and change its form without changing its nature. We can take a piece of clay and make it in the form of a serpent, or of an orange, or of a man, but the form does not change the clay. So when people undertake to reform themselves, they simply change the shape of the old sinful nature from one form to another form without any new life, without any real holiness of heart, without any transformation into the likeness of Christ. Repentance starts in with the great truth of transformation instead of reformation.

Again, it is repentance that opens the way for saving faith. Man's moral nature is so constituted that it is impossible for the soul to believe God until it repents. There are spiritual laws in our moral nature which we can no more work against than we can work against the laws of gravity or breathing. A great many preachers present the subject of religion in such a way that people are taught to just believe God and believe the promises, regardless of any repentance or of getting into a proper condition for saving faith. It is true that faith in Christ is the condition of salvation, but that faith can never be exercised till preceded by repentance and a yielding of the will to God's Word. It is said that Jesus began to preach by saying, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel," and He was careful to put repentance first and faith next. When we find penitents who cannot trust in Jesus, there is something wrong with their repentance, and when we find believers who cannot rest in Christ for their sanctification,

it is because there is a lack in their consecration.

Another point is that repentance does not stop with pardon. This may be the common thought among people, that repentance comes to an end with justification. In a certain sense this is true, because repentance must be complete up to our conviction and our light, in order to have saving faith but what I mean is the spirit of repentance, the disposition of repentance, belongs to our Christian lives and is to go with us through our religious journey, and grow with our growth in grace. As a rule, Christians repent a great deal more over the evils of their hearts after being converted than they did over the sins of their lives before their justification. It is this spirit of repentance for the hidden evils of the heart that draws us to hunger and thirst for that holiness without which no man can see the Lord. And then it is the spirit of repentance that we need all the time to soften our hearts and to give us compassion and charity for all God's people, and for the frailties and shortcomings of our acquaintances. Did you ever know of any true penitent to criticize other people while repenting of their own sins? Such a thing is practically impossible. The searching for the defects of others will destroy all repentance, and it will harden the heart, and darken the mind and pervert the judgment, so that it stops all growth in grace and gets the soul in a bad state of self-righteousness. Softness of heart is one of the great necessities in the true spiritual life, and it is something that is the most easily lost of any of the graces. A believer will retain his theology and the light of truth in his mind long after the compassion and the love has leaked out of his heart.

Another thing about Bible repentance is that it is the best cure for heresy, for believing false doctrines. If all the people in the world that deny the Bible doctrine of the wrath of God, and everlasting punishment, would get into a state of scriptural repentance for their sins, they would at once reject their heresy and believe the truth of the Bible on these points. There is not a person in the world that teaches annihilation and denies future punishment that ever preaches on scriptural repentance. You never heard a Unitarian or a Swedenborgian or a Mormon or a Christian Scientist, or any such teachers, preach on repentance for sin.—Selected.

WORSHIP THE KING

O worship the King, all glorious above!
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, and sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds
form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the
storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the
plain,
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender! how firm to the
end!

Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.
—Sir Robert Grant

WISE WORDS ABOUT CHRIST

All history is incomprehensible without Christ.—Renan.

I believe Plato and Socrates, I believe in Jesus Christ.—Coleridge.

The name of Christ—the one great word—well worth all languages in earth or heaven.—Bailey.

Jesus Christ the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity.—Phillips Brooks.

As the print of the seal on the wax is the express image of the seal itself, so Christ is the express image—the perfect representation of God.—Ambrose.

The nature of Christ's existence is mysterious, I admit; but His mystery meets the wants of men. Reject it, and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it, and the history of our race is satisfactorily explained.—Napoleon.

Now there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man—if it be lawful to call Him a man—for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to Him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principle men amongst us, had condemned Him to the cross, those that loved Him at the first did not forsake Him, for He appeared to them again on the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning Him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from Him, are not extinct at this day.—Josephus.

THE LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS
IN NEW ENGLAND

Felicia Hemans

The breaking waves dashed high
On a stern and rock-bound coast,
And the woods against a stormy sky
Their giants branches tossed;

And the heavy night hung dark,
The hills and waters o'er,
When a band of exiles moored their bark
On the wild New England shore.

There were men with hoary hair
Amidst that pilgrim-band:
Why had they come to winter there,
Away from their childhood's land?

There was woman's fearless eye,
Lit by her deep love's truth;
There was manhood's brow serenely high,
And the fiery heart of youth.

What sought they thus afar?
Bright jewels of the mine?
The wealth of the seas, the spoils of war?
They sought a faith's pure shrine!

Aye, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod;
They have left unstained what there they
found—
Freedom to worship God.

About 100,000 persons are rejected by the insurance companies every year in this country on account of alcoholic indulgence.