



LET'S GO DEEPER

SERMON NOTES The Blessing of Repentance – Pastor Ezra February 9th 2025

Luke 3:3-9

“And he went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin; 4 as it is written and forever remains written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,
 “THE VOICE OF ONE SHOUTING IN THE WILDERNESS,
 ‘PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
 MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.
 5 ‘EVERY RAVINE SHALL BE FILLED UP,
 AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE LEVELLED.
 AND THE CROOKED [PLACES] SHALL BE MADE STRAIGHT,
 AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH.
 6 AND ALL MANKIND SHALL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.’”
 7 So he began saying to the crowds who were coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath [of God that is] to come? 8 Therefore produce fruit that is worthy of [and consistent with your] repentance [that is, live changed lives, turn from sin and seek God and His righteousness]. And do not even begin to say to yourselves [as a defense], ‘We have Abraham for our father [and so our heritage assures us of salvation]’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children (descendants) for Abraham [for God can replace the unrepentant, regardless of their heritage, with those who are obedient]. 9 Even now the axe [of God’s judgment] is swinging toward the root of the trees; so every tree that does not produce good fruit is being cut down and thrown into the fire.’”

INITIAL REPENTANCE

Mark 1:15, Acts 3:16, Acts 19, Acts 20:21
 We understand that in order to become a Christ follower or an apprentice to Jesus. It requires INITIAL repentance (what we would say as becoming a Christian). Jesus calls us to TURN from our sinful ways and then follow Jesus both inward, in our hearts, and outward, in our lives. I must believe that Jesus died for ME so that I could be in a relationship with him on this earth and in heaven. I must believe Jesus is the son of God, 3 in 1 (Father, Son, Holy Spirit); he died, rose again, ascended to heaven, and will return. I must also confess/profess - I must speak out to someone(s) and call on God to save

QUESTIONS:

1. Am I living with an ongoing repentance?

2. Is my Christian life & journey showing fruit of repentance?



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me from my sin and brokenness. Acknowledge our need for Him, our desire to be like Him, and pleasing to Him. The gospel, the good news, the blood that was shed. This grace is sufficient. There is

NOTHING you can do to save yourself. Being a good person will not save you, your work will not save you. AND this blood is not just an insurance policy - it is not just a ticket to heaven.

The blessing of initial repentance is we are now set up to be in relationship with our creator, which is the BEST decision we can make, quite literally because this is why you exist.

ONGOING REPENTANCE

1 John 1:9, Revelation 2-3, Luke 13:3,5

As seen in the Old Testament Hebrew, repentance can be defined as "to return to the starting point." To start fresh with God. It is a reversal of the self-centred fall of Genesis 3. A shift from self to God. A willingness to be grieved and of changed mind.

In the New Testament Greek, repentance is defined as sorrow, grief, or distress. New thinking, new attitude. "To turn from sin towards God, to THINK differently about sin or RECONSIDER your path."

Repentance is a changed heart, not simply reformed behaviour. Repentance has three parts: Intellectual, Emotional, and Volitional.

First off, we must acknowledge our sin. "Okay, I can see where I have sinned, I need to change something."

Second, we must go through an emotional response. To have heartfelt grief over our sin. When we realize the impact of our sin on us, others, and God. When we see that weight of it, we need to grieve in response to the Holy Spirit.

And third, we implement volitional change of purpose - involving your will and choice to walk in obedience.

Ask the question, what must I do about this? What is God asking me to change? Do I need to put in boundaries?

Our Saviour takes our sin and carries it, he breaks off the shame & shackles and empowers you to live a life of freedom. This is the blessing of ongoing repentance.

CONFESSION & COMMUNITY

3. Who in my life am I mentoring/can be a safe place to confess sin?

4. How is my community involved in repentance and how can I do this better
