

Doctrine 67 [Part 5: Redemption | Doctrine 21]: Repentance

From the 99 Essential Doctrines Book

Repentance is a response to God's gracious call to salvation. It includes a genuine sorrow for one's sin (Luke 5:1-11), a turning away from one's sin toward Christ (Acts 26:15-20), and a life that reflects lasting change and transformation (Ps. 119:57-60). It is the human counterpart to God's work of regeneration; in other words, the human side of our conversion.

From the Bible

Luke 5:1–11 (NKJV)

- 1** So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,
- 2** and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.
- 3** Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.
- 4** When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
- 5** But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."
- 6** And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.
- 7** So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.
- 8** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"
- 9** For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;
- 10** and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."
- 11** So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Acts 26:15–20 (NKJV)

- 15** So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
- 16** But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.
- 17** I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I

now send you,

18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

Psalms 119:57–60 (NKJV)

57 You are my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep Your words.

58 I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.

59 I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies.

60 I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Ezekiel 18:21–23 (NKJV)

21 "But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

22 None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.

23 Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?"

Romans 6:1–2 (NKJV)

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Key Thoughts

If God's call to salvation is the proposal, repentance is the answer

Repentance, in both Hebrew and Greek contexts, is a turning FROM and a turning TO. Relative to salvation, it is a turning FROM sinful self-righteousness and self-reliance and TO reliance upon Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf and the righteousness that bestows upon us.

Repent from "sin" is a bit vague since even believers are seldom aware of how sinful they truly are.

Regarding sorrow for sin...we should be sorry for offending and hurting God, but that is going to look very different for every person.

Additional Thought

TO RETURN

A. Verb.

shub (7725 ,שׁוּב), "to return or go back, bring back

Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In [*Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 203). T. Nelson.

REPENT, REPENTANCE

A. Verbs.

1. *metanoeo* (μετανοέω, 3340), lit., "to perceive afterwards" (*meta*, "after," implying "change," *noeo*, "to perceive"; *nous*, "the mind, the seat of moral reflection"), in contrast to *prono*eo, "to perceive beforehand," hence signifies "to change one's mind or purpose," always, in the NT, involving a change for the better, an amendment, and always, except in Luke 17:3, 4, of "repentance" from sin.

Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In [*Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 525). T. Nelson.

C. Noun.

metanoia (μετάνοια, 3341), "afterthought, change of mind, repentance," corresponds in meaning to A, No. 1, and is used of "repentance" from sin or evil

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