

# WHAT IS BIBLE REPENTANCE?

By Keith Greer

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." {Acts 3:19-21}

"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." {Luke 13:3}

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent." {Acts 17:30}

Who can read the New Testament without seeing the need for men to "**come to repentance**?" Yet, I'm convinced many of my brethren either do not understand Bible repentance, or have forgotten this "**first principle**" subject. Allow me to explain.

What is repentance? I believe a good place to start, is what repentance **IS NOT!** If we can understand what is not Bible repentance, we will have keener insight to what it is.

**Not just being sorry.** "For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." {2 Corinthians 7:8-10}. If one is "**sorry because they got caught**", this is not true repentance. When I sin, who have I offended? GOD! When men understand what sin does to God, this will lead one to "**godly sorrow**." Man can never truly repent without having "godly sorrow" over their sins.

**It is not just turning to God.** "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." {Acts 26:20}. Let's say I understand the need for God in my life. In turning to Him for answers, have I "repented?" Please consider carefully the "**order**" of Acts 26. The repenting comes **BEFORE** the "turning."

**Repentance is not reformation of life.** "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance." {Matthew 3:7,8} One reforms his life, when he "turns away" from sin! Godly sorrow, turning to God and reformation of life are the fruits which are "befitting of repentance!" All of these are the results of "true repentance."

Repentance is, "**A change of mind or purpose, caused by one's sorrow of sin, which leads to a reformation of one's life before God.**" Where does it begin? It begins in the heart! When I

make the decision to repent it must start here first! Matthew 15:18-20. Please read Revelation 9:20,21. If these had repented, what would they have done? Ceased to worship idols and no longer practice sin!

In many areas of disagreements among brethren, the problem is not in the subject itself, but in the understanding of it. Example – Divorce and Remarriage. If one is guilty of adultery, what must one do to truly repent? **Stop committing adultery!** This is the fruit of "true repentance!" How difficult can this be to understand?

Finally, this just leaves us to ask the most important question for you to consider in your own life. **Did you repent, truly repent?** Only you and God know! \*\*\*