

“EXCEPT YOU REPENT...” (2)

By Keith Greer

Anyone who is truly honest and sincere in repenting will bring forth fruit worthy of repentance. We are known by what we do, whether it is good or whether it is bad.

After Jesus was bound and delivered to Pilate, we read that, "Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself." (Matthew 27:3-5) Judas, no doubt, felt guilt for what he had done. The New American Standard Version uses the word "remorse" in verse 3 instead of "repent", but did he have godly sorrow? There is no evidence that he turned to God. Rather, he went out and "hanged himself".

In the parable of the prodigal son, the younger son left and spent his inheritance on riotous living. When he "**came to himself**" and returned to his father, he said to him, "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" (Luke 15:21) In fact, when he returned, he wanted nothing more than for his father to make him as one of his "hired servants".

Instead, his father had compassion on him, and brought out the best he had "for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry." (Luke 15:24)

Our Father in heaven has compassion on us when we repent. "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

Is anything on earth worth losing our home in heaven? Man needs to understand and practice **TRUE REPENTANCE**. Unless men. are willing to make a "change of conduct," they have not shown "fruits meet for repentance". To be "sorry" is not enough. Let us keep in memory the principle taught in Ephesians 4:28, "Let him that stole, steal no more..." To put it in the most simple terms- **STOP THE SINNING!** Have you really repented?

"Christ the dear Lord, glorious Lord speaks to us gently, by His great word that is our light each day: Tells us the way, glorious way we may reach heaven, if we believe, if we repent, if we obey."

Yes he has said, truly has said, how we should live now, what to partake, what to avoid while here; do unto those that are about a kindly service, tell them of Christ, teach them He is always near.

Did you repent, fully repent of your past sins, friend, when you confessed His name on high? Did you believe, fully believe on His great name then, or was a doubt, treacherous doubt lingering nigh?

Did you obey all of the way what He commanded, things in His word we're told to do?
Did you confess, fully confess Jesus the Savior, Did you repent, did you believe all the way through?"
DID YOU REPENT, FULLY REPENT, from hymn by Robert S. Arnold.

While you're reading the words of this beautiful song, think about the day you confessed the name of Christ and you were added to His church. Did you repent, truly repent? Each of us as children of God, have you wandered back into the world, you need to come home. Yet, before you repent, make sure you are fully repenting with godly sorrow for transgressing God's laws. Only true repentance can cleanse our souls! Remember, God knows the difference! ***