

THREE GOSPEL “R’S”

By Keith Greer

Today we want to examine three "gospel R's" from God's word:

Repentance-a mind change that results in a conduct change. "Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." {Acts 20:21}

God requires that all men repent {Acts 17:30}. Since all people have sinned {Romans 3:23}, all people need to repent. Each must first acknowledge that his/her sins were against God and then must express godly sorrow for that conduct {2 Corinthians 7:8-11}. We must take on humility to remove our pride so we can accept responsibility for our own actions.

Regeneration - new life from God. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." {Titus 3:5}

All sinners need to be regenerated. Regeneration occurs when Christ's blood is applied to the sinner's sin-stained soul. No matter how many good works one does, he cannot remove one sin from his record. Ananias told Paul to arise and be baptized, "washing away his sins." {Acts 22:16} We are cleaned by the "washing of water by the word." {Ephesians 5:26} This changes one's spiritual state from lost to saved.

Reconciliation-renewed relationship with God. "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation." {2 Corinthians 5:18,19}

One who is under bondage to sin is God's enemy. Until one ceases to serve sin, he/ she is alienated from Him. Through the process of being "born again," we become new people who enter into a new relationship with God becoming part of His family and having spiritual fellowship with Him and other brethren. This is why the scriptures refer to one as a "new creation," 2 Corinthians 5:17. Dear reader, have you personally taken the opportunity to benefit from these three R's? ***