

“Back to Basics, Pt. 7 - Faith and Repentance”

Mark 1:14-15

February 19, 2023

I. Faith and Repentance in General

A. Both faith and repentance are *necessary* for salvation.

1. In Mark 1:15, Jesus says “repent *and* believe”.
2. Other Biblical writers connect repentance with salvation:

Acts 3:19 - Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. (see also Acts 20:21 and Heb. 6:1)

B. Repentance and faith *include* one another.

1. They are distinct but never separate, 2 sides of the same coin.
2. Thus, the Bible speaks of them interchangeably.

Acts 3:19 - Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Acts 10:43 - To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

C. Faith and repentance are to be ongoing in the life of the believer.

1. “be repenting and be believing in the gospel” – Mark 1:15
2. Repentance and faith should characterize a Christian’s whole life.

II. Faith in Detail

WSC Q. 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?*

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.

- A. Faith both believes *and* trusts in the person and work of Jesus.
- B. A person with faith goes on believing and trusting in Jesus for their whole life – looking to Him for *ongoing* forgiveness and acceptance.
- C. Saving faith is a repentant faith that looks to Jesus for salvation from *sin*.

III. Repentance in Detail

WSC Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

- A. To repent is to change one's mind about sin and agree with God about sin's presence in our lives and the guilt we bear because of it.
- B. To repent is also to sincerely agree with God about the vileness of our sin, inside and out.
- C. To repent is to desire to turn away from the sin that condemns and corrupts us.
- D. Genuine repentance does not always mean one will never do the sin again.

- 1. Sadly, we repeat sins and need to repent again to God and others (when necessary).

Luke 17:3-4 - ³ Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, "I repent," you must forgive him.

- 2. We must strive to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance". (Luke 3:12-14; Eph. 4:28, etc.).

- E. Repentance is to be ongoing in our Christian lives.
- F. Repentance necessarily includes faith in God's willingness to be merciful to us.
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- B. Repentance necessarily includes faith in God's willingness to be merciful to us.