

## **2013 Basic Doctrines (13)** **(A Repentance Parable)**

It is interesting that two of the major NT writers of grace salvation chose to associate the word believe (pisteuo) with salvation rather than repentance (metanoia).

The Apostle John never used the word repentance in his Gospel or Epistles. But he did use repentance in addressing two of the seven churches of Asia Minor in Revelation 2-3.

Paul only mentioned repentance in 3 of 13 of his books (Rom.2:4; 2 Cor.7:10; 12:21; 2 Tim.2:25).

It is noteworthy that the Greek word (metanoia) [changing your mind or to adopt another view] transliterated "repentance" in English is rarely used outside the **synoptic gospels** of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The English word for repentance is rooted in Latin (repenitere) rather than in the Greek. The English dictionary defines repentance as "an exercise of penitence." From this definition, a theology of feeling sorry for sins or penitence became associated with the gospel of salvation rather than the changing mind (metanoia). When Martin Luther understood the true meaning of repentance, it became the first of 96 theses of the Reformation.

**This lesson will introduce four aspects of the doctrine of repentance with the Repentance Parable.**

### **1. The unbeliever cannot exercise penitence to cleanse himself of Adam's Original Sin (AOS).**

This is why Jesus Christ came into the world and suffered for the sins of the entire world (1 John 2:2; Titus 2:11; 2 Pet.3:9; John 1:29; 1 Pet.1:18-19; Heb.2:9).

**Nothing but the blood of Jesus:** "And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

### **2. "Repentance is the correction of mistaken view. The term implies an intellectual value judgment and commonly a momentary realization rather than the entry of a state." (TD of NT. Vol.4, Pg.980)**

Repentance (metanoia) is used in (Lk.15:7) of one lost sheep and in 15:10 of one lost coin and then the word is not used again in the parable. But it is illustrated by the one lost son (Lk.15:13-24, 32).

**Pay Attention:** In (Luke 15:7-10), Jesus used repentance with a lost sheep and coin. But Jesus did **NOT** use repentance with the lost son.

We will examine four aspects of this trilogy parable that will help us understand repentance.

- What was the occasion for this parable? (Lk.15:1-2)
- Now consider that in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> parts of the parable, the mental attitude of the searcher is reflected. But in the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the parable, the mental attitude of the one lost is reflected (Lk.15:7, 10, 24, 32)
- In the one lost son, how was repentance illustrated volitionally (Lk.15:13-16; 2 Cor.7:10)?
- What was associated with the **WE** and what was associated with **THIS BROTHER OF YOURS** in (Lk.15:32)?

**3. Repentance (metanoia) [change of mind] was a key doctrine in the synoptic gospels because of the preaching of John the Baptist and his introduction of Jesus Christ to Israel.**

John Baptist and Jesus both preached the necessity of a **change of mind** (repentance) regarding the offering for the forgiveness of sin to Israel (Mark 1:4, 14-15).

JB's baptism of repentance was a sign of the interruption of the Jewish Age with the incarnation of Jesus Christ (John 1:19-34; Act 13:23-26; 19:4).

With the incarnation of Jesus Christ, repentance was no longer associated with the Law, Shadow Christology, or the Prophetic Gospel (Gal.3:8; Luke 24:46-48); but rather it was associated with the historical gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

**4. Repentance may be necessary when a change of mind is necessary towards either the message of gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4) or the mechanic of grace salvation (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).**

“Repentance is only a condition of salvation and not its meritorious ground.” (ISBE, vol. `4, pg.2559)

“A serious error occurs when it is added to faith as an essential condition of salvation.” (Chafer)

Repentance meaning to feel sorrow for sins or to give up sinning as a prerequisite to believing in order to be saved is **not the biblical theology of the Greek word metanoia.**