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BASIC CHRISTIANITY 101 Lesson 2 of 4

REPENTANCE

What role does repentance play in the life of a Christian?

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation” 2 Cor 7:10

*“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made **the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified**, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. ⁴⁰ And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*
Acts 2:36-41

“... let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.” (Hebrews 6:1)

The word *repent* in the original manuscript of the Greek Bible is the Greek word pronounced meta-no-yah. It means *to change one's mind*.

When Jerome translated the Bible into Latin in 350BC and he came to the word *metanoia* and translated it *penitence* for the Catholic Church in the Latin Bible.

The definition of *penitence* is the action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong. (Note it's not to change one's mind as in metanoia)

penitence was translated to the word *repent* in English which shares the definition of *penitence* meaning 'the action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret' – again not the biblical meaning of the Greek word metanoia meaning '**to change one's mind.**'

So in Acts 2:37-41, when the people were pricked in their hearts feeling sorry for having killed Jesus, they were already in penitence/repentance before Peter and asked him what should they do. He did not tell them, “Well you are repenting in penitence already so that's enough. NO! He told them to *metanoia* which meant to 'change their mind'”.

The repentance was toward Jesus. They had to change their mind about Jesus!

What were they to change their mind about? Answer: They were to change their mind about Jesus whom they killed for His confession of being the son of God. See next page.



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“Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, **Art thou the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the Blessed?** ⁶² **And Jesus said, I am:** and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. ⁶³ Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? ⁶⁴ **Ye have heard the blasphemy:** what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. ⁶⁵ And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him....²⁴ **And when they had crucified him,** they parted his garments....” (Mark 14:61-65,15:24)

When Peter informed them that they killed their Messiah the Prince of Life they were in the act of *penitence/repentant* which means ‘*the action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret*’. **YET THEY WERE NOT SAVED! SO THEY ASKED** “Men and brethren what shall we do?” Peter gave them the Greek word *metanoia* as the answer meaning to ‘change your mind.’ They had to ‘change their mind’ that Jesus was no blasphemer but that He was the Son of the Blessed. They had to change their mind from unbelief in Jesus to belief in His death, burial, and resurrection to be saved according to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

As Jesus said, “I came not to call the righteous, but **sinner to repentance (meaning to change their mind, not to feel sorry about their sins but to have them erased)**.”

These Jews crucifying Jesus “godly sorrow worketh **repentance.**” (2 Cor. 7:9) Should be translated their “godly sorrow worked ‘**a change of mind**’ to salvation.” (2 Cor. 7:10)

As Jesus said, “... if you do not believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins.” (John 8:24)

- Jews *believed* Jesus was a blasphemer. (John 10:33)
- Jews *believed* Jesus was a law breaker. (John 19:7)
- Jews *believed* Jesus had a devil. (John 7:20)
- Jews *believed* Jesus was a Samaritan. (John 8:48)
- Jews *believed* Jesus was a deceiver. (Matt. 27:63)
- Jews *believed* Jesus was a Prophet but not the Son of God. (Mark 8:28)

THERE IS NO SALVATION IN BELIEVING ANY OF THE ABOVE, THE JEWS HAD TO METANOIA ‘CHANGE THEIR MIND’ ABOUT WHO JESUS WAS.

The Jews in Acts 2:37-41 had to change their mind (metanoia) to believe that:

- Jesus died for their sins and rose again according to the Scriptures. (1 Cor. 15:3-5)
- The name of Jesus is the only name under heaven that saves mankind. (Acts 4:12)
- Jesus was sent as the Father’s son into the world to be believed on. (John 3:16)
- Jews had to believe that Jesus was their Messiah\Christ to be saved.(John 4:25-42)
- Jews had to change their mind from not believing in Jesus to believing in Jesus.



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- Repent & believe the gospel is to change one's mind about Jesus to believe in Him
- Salvation is not you turning from sin, all religion teach that everyone should turn from sin but that is not the answer. Salvation is changing your mind that it is not about sin it is about believing that the Lord Jesus can wash away your sins when you change your mind to believe in Him as **Romans 10:9-10 states:**
 - “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
 - “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” (Acts 16:31)
 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”
- What is being repented of above or what mind change is taking place above?
 - People to be saved must change their mind about Jesus and believe that He is savior and Lord to become saved. It is not just turning from sin because human nature is the nature of sin that cannot be turned from only **denied**.
 - This is why Jesus said, “If any man will be my disciple, he must **deny** himself, take up his cross daily and follow me.”

Understand that *repentance* of unbelief does not change your morals, ethics, or core values as false teachers teach. It just means you have accepted the gospel that “Jesus Christ was sent into the world to save sinners.” (1 Tim. 1:15)

Salvation is based on **the foundation of repentance of dead works** spoken of in (Hebrews 6:1) Jews believed that their good works of keeping the commandments is going to save them without having to believe in Jesus.

Hence, Peter told them in Acts 2:36-41 that they have to repent of their unbelief in Jesus whom they had killed. It was not about personal sins that everyone saved or unsaved that they had to repent of. To be saved the gospel of Christ must be believed for your salvation when you **repent of your sin of UNBELIEF, THE ONLY SIN SENDING SOULS TO HELL**. False teachers teach that you repent of your character sins to become saved, **BUT WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**



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The only unforgiveable sin is not to repent (or have a mind change) by believing in Jesus to save you from your sins because “your faith is counted for righteousness not your behavior measured by keeping the law of Moses’s Ten Commandments.

The Bible says:

- Romans 4:5 your faith is counted for righteousness without works.
- Acts 13:39 “And by him all that *believe* are justified from *all things*, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.
- Regarding our behavior “the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. (Galatians 3:24)

After a believer is saved he is to turn away from sin due to having **a change of mind** about sin. The repentance of believers after salvation is the turning away from sinful habits due to having their mind renewed in alignment with Christ’s value system.

Paul warns believers NOT to lay **again the foundation of repentance** from dead works which are works that are unacceptable to God. (Hebrews 6:1) Unfortunately, false teachings has the church constantly laying the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, when this was done at salvation when the heart was changed to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, who died for our offenses against God, to make us holy, perfect, and righteous in God sight inside Christ Jesus.

When Christians sin the grace of God, and no longer the law of God **teaches** us as it is written in Titus 2:11-13:

“The grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared to all men **teaching us to deny ungodiness (not repent meaning in English to feel sorry) but to deny ungodliness and worldly lust and how to live**

- **Soberly**
- **Righteously**
- **& Godly**

in this present world looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;¹⁴ **Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people,**



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zealous of good works.¹⁵ These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.” (Titus 2:11-13)

Having a mind change to believe in Jesus does not change your morals or manners from bad to good. That change will be due to you **denying** yourself to become a disciple not to become saved. Salvation is based on **faith not the works of obedience**. Discipleship is based on **obedience**. Again all disciples are saved but not all saved people are obedient disciples after receiving the free gift of eternal salvation. (Rom.6:23) “For by the righteousness of ONE the free gift came.” (Romans 5:18)

- Even the righteousness of God **which is by faith of Jesus Christ** unto **all** and **upon all** them **that believe**. (Rom. 3:22)
- For if by one man's **offence** death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance **of** grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)
- For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)

The changing of sinners' minds to believe the above means their salvation, that is not accomplished by repenting of sins as all religions teach. The change of mind metanoia that is translated repentance means to change one's mind regarding what the death, blood, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ means.

- Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:6)
- We are justified by His blood. (Romans 5:9)
- We are saved by His life (Romans 5:10)
- For if Christ be not raise we are yet in our sins. (1 Cor. 15:17)

Hence the only unforgivable sins is to die in unbelief without changing your mind about the Lord Jesus.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved....¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (Romans 10:9-10)