University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

May 4, 2008

Repentence

Matthew 4: 17 *"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*
What does it mean to "repent"? The definition of the Greek word means, "to change ones mind".

Repent BDB/Thayers # 3340
3340 metanoeo {met-an-o-eh'-o}
from 3326 and 3539; TDNT - 4:975,636; v
AV - repent 34; 34
1) **to change one's mind**, i.e. to repent
2) to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence
of one's past sins

In the word of God both Old and New Testaments special emphasis is placed on changing one's mind about **behavior that is contrary to God's will**. In seeking the forgiveness of God it is the responsibility of the sinner to identify sin and stop doing it. Ignorance of God's will is not a path to salvation. Knowledge of God's will is the path to salvation. (**Romans 1:15,16**) God requires repentance of all sinners who wish to be saved by the blood of Jesus.

Acts 8: 22 "***Repent*** *therefore of this **your wickedness**, and pray God, if perhaps **the thought of your heart** may be forgiven you. 23 For I perceive that you are in the gall of bitterness, and [in] the bond of iniquity."*

Acts 17: 30 *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but **now commands all men every where to repent**: 31 Because he has appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by [that] man whom he has ordained; [whereof] he has given assurance to all [men], in that he has raised him from the dead."*

Acts 26: 20 *"But showed first to them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and [then] to the Gentiles, that **they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance**."*

Revelation 3: 19 *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent**."*

Revelation 2: 21 *"And I gave her **space to repent of her fornication**; and **she repented not**. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except **they repent of their deeds**."*

In repenting of sin the primary need is to identify one's sins. Only God may properly define sin. Only God may say what is or is not sin. To successfully deal with sin a sinner must know God's word well enough to positively identify what God defines each sin to be. If before becoming a Christian a person is a liar they must repent of lying because lying is a sin. (**Ephesians 4:25**) What is involved in repenting of lying is first understanding that not telling the truth is lying and that lying is against the will of God, and second, ceasing to lie. If the person has been lying steadily for fifty years they certainly could not remember every lie they ever told but they do not need to do that. What they need to do is understand what lying is and that lying is a sin and stop lying because if they do not stop lying they have not repented of lying and if they do not repent of lying they will not be forgiven of lying. The same thing is true of stealing, fornication, drunkenness and every other sin. If we wish for God to forgive our sins we must stop doing those sins.

One of the reasons that godly people diligently study the word of God day and night is in order to find out exactly what God defines as righteous or sinful behavior. God has not promised salvation to people because they do not know the truth. God has promised salvation to people because they know and obey the truth. If sinners who are ignorant of the truth are, because of their ignorance, not held responsible before God for their sins, then the worst thing one could do to an ignorant sinner is teach them the truth. Because once the sinner learns the truth they may refuse to obey the truth and be lost: better to leave them ignorant and saved. That is nonsense. Sinners are lost because they are sinners. Sinners are not lost because they do not know the truth. Sinners are lost because they do not obey God's revealed will. Learning the truth is the sinner's only hope of salvation from their sins. (**John 8:32**) Learning the truth is what will allow the sinner the opportunity to identify their sins and turn away from them and stop doing them and start obeying God's revealed will in order to be saved from their sins. If ignorance saves souls then Jesus Christ did not need to come preaching and teaching. If ignorance saves souls then **Romans 1:16** should read "for I am not ashamed of ignorance for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that is ignorant, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile."

Ephesians 5:8 *"For you were sometimes darkness, but now [are you] light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving **what is acceptable to the Lord**. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [them]."*

Ephesians 5: 15 *"**See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise**, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore **be you not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord [is]**."*

1Timothy 2: 4 *"Who will have all men to be saved, and **to come to the knowledge of the truth**."*

1Timothy 4: 16 *"Take heed to yourself, and **to the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this you shall both save yourself, and those that hear you**."*

2Timothy 2: 15 *"Study to show yourself **approved to God, a workman** that needs not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**."*

TO BE SAVED WE MUST LEARN, WE MUST UNDERSTAND, WE MUST BELIEVE AND WE MUST OBEY.

Remember to Pray For

Christie Ellis the niece of Marc Nations
Janie Smith
Shirley Lewis
Brady Gibbons
Carla Ward
Gail Hunter
Larry Flannery
Donnie Joseph
Lewis Harrod
Dan Moody
Alexa Anne Harper
Cheryl Spear
Lanny Hiller
Roselyn Agyare
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby
Helen Stephens
Brayden Grushon
The mother of Lori Dailey
Chris Handshoe
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Ruel Baker
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Sybil Jamison
Blanch Thompson
Karen Handshoe continues to be very, very ill.
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey
James Stauffer
John Scholtz who preaches in Africa. This church gave him some financial support at the end of 2006. Current civil unrest and violence is seriously limiting his work. Pray for peace and stability there, and for his safety.

WHEN THE WILLING ARE NOT YET ABLE GOD PILES ON LESSONS UNTIL THE WILLING ARE ABLE

Matthew 7: 7 *"**Ask, and it shall be given you**; **seek, and you shall find**; **knock, and it shall be opened to you**: 8 For **every one that asks receives**; and **he that seeks finds**; and **to him that knocks it shall be opened**. 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?**"*

BECOMING TOLERANT OF SINFUL THINGS DOES NOT MAKE THOSE SINFUL THINGS LESS SINFUL

Thoughts

While being interviewed on a late night talk show on Public TV, a world-renowned astrophysicist was asked his views on religion. His answer suggested that what he saw in the laws of the natural world left no room for miracles. His statement demonstrated that in spite of the academic level to which he has risen he is as unfamiliar with the contents of the Holy Bible as I am with the contents of the Peking, China telephone directory.

His answer is an illustration of what Solomon said in **Proverbs 18: 13** *"He that answers a matter before he hears [it], it [is] folly and shame to him."* The content of the Holy Bible proves the case for God and miracles in the prophecies with which the Holy Bible is filled and in the singleness of its message throughout. Because of the solid written evidence the Bible contains, the religion of the Bible cannot be grouped with the superstitions of this world.

The statement of the astrophysicist regarding miracles proves that he has not examined and considered the prophecies contained in the Holy Bible. If he had examined and honestly considered those prophecies and their undeniable fulfillment he would know that he could not reasonably claim that the miracle of prophecy does not exist in the Bible prophecies.

Because of the existence of the endless chain of obvious prophecy contained in the Holy Bible it is as Solomon said, "shameful folly" for any to question the reality of the miracle of prophecy in the Bible text. The reality of prophecies having to do with **the family of Abraham**, **the rise and fall of nations**, **the redeeming work of Jesus Christ** and **the success of the teachings of Jesus upon this earth** cannot be denied.

In considering the evidence furnished in the Holy Bible it should be always remembered that the proofs given in the Holy Bible are only proofs of the truth of the religion of the Holy Bible. The proofs given in the Holy Bible only prove that the Holy Bible is the word of the all-powerful God who is described in the Holy Bible. The proof of miracles contained in the Holy Bible does not give support to anything other than what is contained in the Holy Bible. The Holy Bible offers no support to any teaching that is not preserved in the Holy Bible. The Holy Bible claims to be the unique, exclusive and final word of the only true and living God regarding the salvation of sinners. It is the "once delivered faith". **Jude 3** *"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write to you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write to you, and exhort [you] that you should **earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints**."*

The religion presented in the Holy Bible must never be confused with the superstitions of this world that are the products human minds not of the inspired word of God preserved in the Holy Bible.

Notes

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING
TODAY, MAY 4, 4:00PM

IF I AM
MORE TOLERANT
THAN GOD IS
I AM TOO TOLERANT
TO PLEASE GOD

IT IS NOT A VIRTUE TO TOLERATE
WHAT GOD WILL NOT TOLERATE

Ephesians 5: 11 *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [them]. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."*

Romans 13: 12 *"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."*

Romans 13: 10 *"Love works no ill to his neighbor: therefore love [is] the fulfilling of the law."*

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning
Bible Classes 9:45am
Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening
Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening
Bible Studies for all ages
7:30pm

Monthly Song Service
First Friday 7:30pm

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COME STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP WITH US