

“People Should Repent”

Roger D. Campbell

While our Lord was living on the earth, there was a brief period of time when He wanted His apostles to preach only to Jews. When they did so, they preached about repentance. The Bible says, “So they went out and preached that people should repent” (Mark 6:12).

John the Baptizer and the Christ preached about repentance, too (Matthew 3:2; 4:17). Jesus calls on His followers to preach repentance in all nations (Luke 24:47).

What does “repent” mean? It is not simply regretting a decision. Repentance is not the same as sorrow; rather, it flows from a heart filled with godly sorrow. Notice the order of three matters: “. . . godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation” (2 Corinthians 7:10). First godly sorrow, then repentance, which leads to the third item, salvation. Yes, repentance is a salvation matter, meaning, without repentance, a person cannot be saved.

“To repent” is from the Greek word “metanoë,” which is defined as “to change one’s mind, i.e. to repent; to change one’s mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins” [Thayer, word no. 334 via e-Sword]. When one repents due to his godly remorse for breaking God’s will, he changes his thinking about committing sin and then changes his conduct.

When Christians teach about the necessity of repentance, we do not do it to prove that we are better than other folks; we do it to prepare others for heaven.

When we proclaim the Bible message about repentance, we do not do so to run people down; we do it to reconcile them to the Savior.

When we declare the need for sinners to repent, we are not trying to offend anyone; instead, we are trying to open their eyes to the ugliness of living in darkness and the beauty of living with the Master.

At some point, there needs to be personal application of what the Bible says. Those who worship idols need to repent of such by leaving them behind and turning to God (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

When people mock the Lord and His holy word, they need to repent of blasphemy (Mark 7:21-23). If public officials intentionally tell falsehoods to citizens, they need to repent of lying (Proverbs 14:5). Those who sleep with someone who is not their spouse need to repent of fornication (Hebrews 13:4).

When a man steals funds from his boss or business partners, he needs to repent of his thievery (Mark 7:21-23).

God’s way of forgiveness is for man to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), not prayer. When religious teachers tell lost people they can be saved by praying to Jesus and confessing their sins, they need to repent of leading people astray.

When people are a part of and endorse man-made religious groups, they need to repent of upholding unauthorized organizations (Matthew 15:13).

When brothers in the Lord attend every service of the church, but go home and treat their wife like dirt, they need to repent of not imitating the love the Christ had for His bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25).

When sisters in the Lord worship with enthusiasm, but in the presence of others constantly belittle their husband’s outward appearance, limited formal education, and lack of ability, they need to repent of failing to show proper respect (Ephesians 5:33).

When parents allow their children to decide for themselves how they will dress, where they will go, etc., they need to repent of not giving good guidance.

When Christians spend many hours each day on social media and watching TV or YouTube videos, but say they are too busy to study their Bible, they need to repent of having misplaced priorities (Matthew 6:33).

When shepherds of God’s flock refuse to lead the church in disciplining rebellious sheep in the way God has prescribed (2 Thessalonians 3:6,14), they need to repent of dereliction of duty and letting others down.

When deacons are preoccupied with earthly matters and fail to fulfill their assignments, doing absolutely nothing for the church, they need to repent.

When preachers never speak about sin in the camp because they are afraid of losing their job, they need to repent for their lack of courage and being more concerned about their salary than they are about souls.

“You cannot force people to repent.” True. We must, though, show them what the Bible says about it and the consequences of not repenting of all sins.

Tip Of The Week:

Changing our lives for the better is what Christ is all about... remember, “If Christ taught it, we can do it” (Phil 4:13). We must choose to become like Christ; this will take real effort on our part but it will change our lives forever. We can do this by seriously studying God’s word on a regular basis and learning to apply those Biblical principles in our thinking. Jesus said in Matt. 12:35, “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and a evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.” This godly principle is as true today as it was two thousand years ago.

Jesus knew that we would become what we think about. Success, peace, joy and eternal salvation can really be ours if that's what we really want! The choice is ours, we must decide which it will be? We should set goals to improve how we think and keep in mind... "we will become what we think about". We can do this if we give ALL our efforts in changing our thinking as directed in God's word. A very wise man once said, “So as he thinks in his heart, so is he...” (Prov. 23:7).

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Remember in Prayer:

Jim Johnson is in Methodist Hospital on Union in Memphis. He is to have a stem cell transplant and must be in strict isolation for 2-3 weeks in the hospital.

Nicole Nelson is recovering at home after her recent hospital stay.

Darlene Felts was carried to the emergency room last Sunday due to very low sugar.

Bella Hill, granddaughter of James and Judy McQuay, is dealing with eye issues and may have to have surgery.

Layne Smith, sister of Callie Tindall, has been hospitalized. Micah and Callie are quarantined as they care for their niece.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists. Please update us if needed. Also please pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

In Other News:

Ladies’ Night Out will be a soup supper next Tuesday night, November 10th, at 6:30 in the basement.

We begin this week to highlight tracts from our tract racks available for us to study and pass out to others, as well as church library books available for us to check out and study.

Featured Tract: My Preacher Says ... “Although preachers might help me understand the Bible, I reserve the right for a final decision. God will judge me by what He has said, not by what my preacher says He has said” (John 12:48). **(Allen Webster, author of tract)**

Featured Library Book: The Bible Only Makes Christians Only and the Only Christians...

“The blood-bought church of Christ – and the unity which is in harmony with the eternal purpose of God – studied in the light of the prayer of Jesus” (John 17:20, 21) **(Thomas B. Warren, author of book)**

Those Privileged To Serve

November 8, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Logan Snyder
Closing Prayer: Jeff Presley
Bible Reading: Mitch Mosley
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Stan Honeycutt
J.L. May James Johnson
Reginald Read Scottie Blanchard
Gerald George Jack Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jody Pickens

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: Randy Oden
Closing Prayer: Mitch Mosley
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

November 11, 2020
Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker
Closing Prayer: David Loggins

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

November 11, 2020
Jason Garland

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

November 1, 2020

Sunday Bible Study 92
Sunday AM Worship 114
Sunday PM Worship 93
Wednesday Bible Study
Contribution \$5,909

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
John 12:48

The Friend of Truth



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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

Vol. XXVIII, No. 45

November 8, 2020

KeeNotes

“THE PRICE OF LIBERTY”

Rod Rutherford

“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty” is an axiom that is oft quoted in political and patriotic speeches. We know that this statement is true regarding our government. Tyranny has little hope of gaining control of a nation whose citizens are alert, informed, and jealous of their liberties. This statement is also true regarding spiritual matters.

We in the churches of Christ are recipients of a rich spiritual heritage. Great and good men of the past have given their lives to discover, preach, and practice pure New Testament Christianity. But this precious heritage will not long be ours unless we maintain constant vigilance.

The Son of God warns us to “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15). The Apostle Paul foretold that “grievous wolves” would enter into the fold (Acts 20:29). He pleads “Therefore watch” (Acts 20:30)!

False teachers have come to lead the disciples astray since the beginning of the church and will continue to do so as long as the world stands. We should not think that our present age is any exception.

Many today, sadly, have fallen asleep at their posts. A desire for peace with the Lord and unity with the purveyors of false doctrines prevail. Many simply refuse to believe that there is, or could be, any threat to the faith once delivered to the saints. Like the proverbial ostrich, they are hiding their heads in the sand.

Faithful men who warn us of dangers and threats are ridiculed as “witch hunters” rather than respected as watchmen. Those who stand steadfastly in the old paths are now being branded as “right wing radicals” and such like. We are being told that divisions exist between among us only because of opinions and personalities, not doctrine. Publications which warn of departures from the purity of the gospel are dubbed “hate sheets.” Once faithful elders and preachers are climbing onto the popular bandwagon pleading for “unity in diversity” and peace at any price.

Brethren, the hour is late! Let us wake up, get our heads out of the sand, and once again take our places as watchmen on the walls. Eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty!

Visit Our Website: greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com

SHEPHERDS

*Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens*

DEACONS

*Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten*

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

*Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA*

SERVICES

SUNDAY

*Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
John 8:24
Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3
Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10
Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38
Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10*

*“Where there is no vision,
the people perish...”
Proverbs 29:18*

*God Give Us 2020 Vision
in 2020*