

Repentance: Coming Home to God

Joel 2:1-17

April 21, 2024

Repentance is how we grow in grace and become more like Christ.

Repentance is difficult, soul-crushing, unpleasant work.

What Spurs Us to True Repentance?

When your life is falling apart. v. 1-10

The trumpet blast is a wake-up call, and God is the trumpeter.

How much darkness and difficulty must I endure before I repent?

Mistaken views of repentance

God Awakens Us to True Repentance. v. 11

God has set the alarm. He sends the warnings. How is He alarming you?

Why must we admit we are wrong, and repent? (Ezekiel 18:30-31)

Return to Me, v. 12 and 13.

What Are the Signs of True Repentance? v. 12-14

Fasting, weeping, mourning - rending your hearts.

In true repentance, you see your sin, and sense your Savior.

Westminster Confession of Faith, 15:2

What are the incentives for true repentance?

Who knows? (Jeremiah 26:3; Jonah 3:9)

You do not come into the presence of Almighty God with presumption.

When you say, "I can sin, God will pay for it." You are really in trouble.

Corporate Aspects of Repentance, v. 15-16

Sin makes you feel incredibly alone.

We are all in the same rebellious boat.

What is the Fruit of True Repentance? v. 17

Restored fellowship with God.

How do the priests pray?

How to win friends and influence people - Pastor Mark version.

It is not about us; it is about Him!!!

Meditation

Repentance: Learning to Hate Sin

Repentance—a strong word. Even many Bible believing pastors hesitate to use the word, thinking it will come across as abrasive and will make people immediately uncomfortable. In a day where people are striving with all energy to gain wide acceptance by the public or avoid condemnation, the word and idea of repentance is far from people's lips and minds. Recently, someone told me to stop talking about repentance. She told me the thought of repentance gives her spiritual post-traumatic stress disorder.

But repentance is essential to the Christian life. The gospel begins with a strong message of repentance: "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 4:17)." That is why Satan, the enemy of God and all of God's people, wants you to believe his lie: "Confessing your sin brings shame upon you and you must hide it at all costs." We're also reluctant to confess and to repent because we understand that sin is a reproach to us, since we bear the image of God.

Yet, the only way to true repentance is confession. Confession is honesty before God and people. Confession of sin is the beginning of repentance, and the beginning of confession is learning to hate sin.

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