

Studies in Christianity Christian Lifestyle #7

S#1.

Continual Repentance

S#2.

Text : **Psalm 51: 1-17**

A. As we have studied the Christian lifestyle, we have seen :

S#3.

1. It makes one different enough that it often fosters **social pressure**.
2. It is different because the Christian lives striving for **personal holiness**.
3. The Christian sincerely seeks to **lift up the poor**. (*not just handouts*)
4. Our **hearts are compassionate** toward all who need compassion. (*unborn*)
5. In everything we do or say we seek to **glorify God**. (*Ambassadors for holy God*)
6. The Christian life is different b/c we must **be self-disciplined**. (*morals, health, finances*)

B. Today we will observe that Christians live a life of continual repentance.

S#4.

1. Repentance is a central theme of N.T. preaching.
2. What does it mean "to repent?"
3. Repentance is essential to establishing a relationship with God.
4. Repentance is essential for Christians maintain their relationship with God.
5. Even consecrated Christians will always struggle to overcome sin.

I. Repentance is one of the central themes of N.T. Preaching.

S#5.

A. John the Baptizer preached repentance.

S#6.

Matt. 3: 1 – Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

B. Jesus preached repentance.

S#7.

Matt. 4: 12 – From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

C. The preaching of repentance was prophesied.

S#8

Luke 24: 46 – Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

D. The Apostle Peter preached repentance.**S#9.**

Acts 2: 38 – Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, " Brethren, what shall we do?"
38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

E. The Apostle Paul preached repentance.**S#10.**

1. Paul told the Ephesian elders that he preached repentance to the Greek the Jews.

Acts 20: 21— how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,
21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Paul preached repentance wherever he went.

S#11.

Acts 26: 19 – So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, **20** but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

*** If Jesus and all his disciples preached repentance everywhere, what should we be telling people ?**

S#12.**II. What does it mean to “repent?”****S#13.****A. The English word “repent” has largely gone out of fashion.****S#14.**

1. As a verb it is defined as: “feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin”
2. As a noun repentance denotes: “the action of repenting; sincere regret or remorse

B. In the N.T. “Repent” translates the word : μετανοέω (metanoeó)**S#15.**

1. The common definition is : A change of mind resulted in a change of actions
2. Strong's lexicon defines it as : to change one's mind or purpose
3. Common usage : I repent, change my mind, change the inner man

C. This is the same understanding that God has of repentance.**S#16.**

II King 7:14 – and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

S#17.

D. In 1668 the famous Puritan, Thomas Watson, wrote this about repentance:

Repentance is a grace of God's Spirit, whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and outwardly reformed.

Repentance is a spiritual medicine made up of six special ingredient.

1. Sight for sin (*recognize it, aware of it*)
2. Sorrow for sin (*sincere regret*)
3. Confession of sin (*self accusing, not excuses or blaming*)
4. Shame for sin (*blushing over the guilt of sin*)
5. Hatred for sin (*the result of sin is Hell*)
6. Turning from sin

** If any ingredient is left out, it loses its virtue.*

E. Repentance is one of the foundation principles of Christianity,

S#18.

Heb. 6: 1 – Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **2** of instruction about ...

III. Repentance is essential in establishing a relationship with God.

S#19.

A. God will save anyone FROM sin, but no one IN sin.

S#20.

1. Without repentance there is no forgiveness from sin.

Acts 3: 19 – Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

2. God requires everyone to repent in order to avoid adverse judgment.

S#21.

Acts 17:30 – Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, ...

B. Repentance alone does not save, but it is essential to salvation.

S#22.

1. Remember **II Kings 7:14** ... Repentance motivates people to seek God.

Acts 11: 18 – When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

2. We are instructed to teach repentance to sinners so they will seek God. S#23.

II Tim. 2: 24 – The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, **25** with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

- C. People will only seek a cure for a disease they are convinced they have. S#24.

S#25.

IV. Repentance is essential for Christians to maintain their relationship with God.

- A. Some come into the church via baptism, but have never really repents.

1. One will not truly repent until he is made to feel sincerely guilty and sorrowful.

II Cor. 7: 8 – For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; S#26. though I did regret it — for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while — **9** I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. **10** For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2. Some who were assembling with the Corinthian Christians had never repented.

II Cor. 12: 21 – I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me S#27. before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.

- B. After tasting the sweetness of fellowship with God, one does not want to lose it.

Ezek. 36: 31 – I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, S#28. so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. **31** Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.

- C. When Christians sin, their conscience drives them to repentance.

1. The Apostle Paul was always aware of his sins ... both past and present.

I Tim 1: 15 – It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, S#29. that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

2. When David sinned, he clearly acknowledged his transgression.

a. **II Sam. 24: 10** – Now David's heart troubled him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O Lord, please take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have acted very foolishly." **S#30.**

b. **Psa. #51: 2** – Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. **4** Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge. **S#31.**

D. God instructed us to confess our sins in the same way David confessed his.

1. **I John 5: 13** – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. **S#32.**

2. **I John 1: 8** – If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

V. Even consecrated Christians will always struggle to overcome sin. **S#33.**

A. When we are born again, we remain in the same fleshly body. **S#34.**

1. Jesus acknowledged that the weakness of the flesh is sometimes a problem.

Matt. 26: 41 – Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

2. The Christian's flesh is in a constant battle with his spirit.

Gal. 5: 16 – But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. **S#35.**

3. *Why do you still want to sin,,, you still live in this fleshly body.*

B. Even the Lord's Apostle struggled to battle the flesh.

1. **Rom. 7: 14** – For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. **15** For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. **16** But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. **17** So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. **18** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. **19** For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. **20** But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. **S#36.**

2. *You and I have the very same struggle that the Apostle wrestled with.* **S#37.**

CONCLUSION :

- A. All sin is rebellion against God, the sovereign ruler of all creation.** S#38.
1. All sin is a violation against the sovereign's law.
 - a. **I John 3: 4** – Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.
 - b. An occasional sin by a Christian can be forgiven if confessed and repented.
 - c. A sinful lifestyle is rebellion and cannot be forgiven.
 2. There is no one except Jesus who can save one from God's just wrath.
Acts 4:12 – And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.
 3. Those OUTSIDE of Christ have no means of forgiveness and no hope.
Eph. 2: 12 – remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. S#39.
- B. Those in Christ fight the same battles and lose some, but we have forgiveness in, thru and because of Jesus.** S#40.
1. We must deny self on a daily basis, *the flesh will never surrender.*
I Cor. 15: 31 – I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
 2. This concept is constantly affirmed in scripture in various ways.
 - a. **Mark 8: 34** ... Deny self ... take up his cross and follow Me
 - b. **Gal. 2: 20** ... I am crucified with Christ
 3. We have no platform from which to look down on others.
"We are all mere beggars telling other beggars where we found bread." S#41.
 - Martin Luther
- C. We don't agree with much of Luther's doctrine, but I would like to close by quoting the first of the 95 thesis that Luther nailed on the door.**
1. *When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said "Repent," He intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.* S#42.
 2. Indeed, the Christian life is characterized by ongoing repentance.

INVITATION : **Have you repented of your past sins and put on Christ ?** S#43.

S#44. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :

Psalm 51: 1-17

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.

4 Against You, You only, I have sinned
And done what is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak
And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.

6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness,
Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins
And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners will be converted to You.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation;

Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips,
That my mouth may declare Your praise.

16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.