

Studies in Christianity Barriers to the Gates

S#1.

Active Rejection of Sin

S#2.

Text : Psalm #51

A. Have you ever been in a circumstance where you could not turn back?

1. Have you ever passed your exit on an interstate highway ?
2. I remember being in that kind of situation multiple times.
 - a. One time I was right by the exit looking at the map – next exit 20 miles.
 - b. The exit I had missed was 20 feet back.
 - c. Could I have backed up the length of my car, I could've gotten to the on-ramp?

B. Thankfully, God always allows one to change his mind and turn around his life around.

S#3.

1. This process of redirecting one's life is called repentance.
2. Definition : Repent, verb, (metanoéo)
 - a. Strong's : to change my mind, change the inner man, to reconsider
 - b. Thayer's : to change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins:
 - c. Repentance is the noun form (metanoia) Feminine noun

C. The need for repentance is shared by all men, even the Christian.

1. **Rom. 6: 23** ... All sin, even Christians, so all need to repent. (**I John 1: 6f**)
2. Therefore, it seem appropriate to examine the concept more closely

D. Our lesson plan includes :

S#4.

1. God has always called for repentance.
2. God's plan of salvation includes repentance.
3. The consequences of refusing to repent
4. Why is this relevant to us ?

I. God's call to man has always included the need for them to repent.**S#5.****A. In the Psalms David identifies God's desire for man's repentance.**

1. **Psa. 7: 11** – God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day. **12** If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.
2. In **Psalms #51** in our text David demonstrated repentance in His own life.

S#6.**B. When dealing with Israel, God often called on them to repent.**

1. Israel did not want to repent, they did not want God to reign over them.
 - a. **I Sam. 8: 7** – Samuel prayed to the Lord. **7** The Lord said to Samuel, listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.
 - b. **Isa. 30: 15** – For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved. In quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing.
2. God brought many warning judgments on them, but they refused to repent.

Jer. 5: 3 – O Lord, do not Your eyes look for truth? You have smitten them, But they did not weaken; You have consumed them, But they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to repent.
3. The call to repentance was a constant refrain for the prophets.

Ezek. 18: 32 – "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live."

S#7.**S#8.****S#9.****S#10.****C. Like those of old, the N.T. prophets called for all men to repent.**

1. Both Jesus and John the Baptizer preached repentance.

Matt. 3: 2 – Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matt. 4: 17 – Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
2. When the disciples were sent out on the limited commission.

Mark 6: 12 – They went out and preached that men should repent.
3. The Apostle Paul preached a strong message of repentance.

Acts 17: 30 – Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent.

S#11.**S#12.****D. Men still have the same attitude that vexed ancient Israel.**

- I Sam. 8: 7** –The Lord said to Samuel, ..., for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

II. Repentance continues to be part of God's plan of salvation.**S#13.****A. Repentance is one of the founding principles of Christianity.**

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,

S#14.**B. When Peter told people how to respond to the 1st gospel sermon, he said :****S#15.**

Acts 2: 38 – “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.

C. Peter and John told the Jews they must repent before being forgiven.

1. **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; **20** and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,
2. Notice the progression of events :
 - a. “**So that**” the removal of sins is contingent upon repentance and turning.
(change of mind accompanied by a change in direction / in action)
 - b. So .. one repents and then receives forgiveness followed by restored relationship.

S#16.**D. Repentance is essential to the restoration of relationship with God.**

1. Repentance is one of the steps in the journey toward salvation.
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. Sincere repentance will lead one toward salvation.
II Cor. 7: 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.

S#17.**S#18.**

* 3. **God will save one FROM sin, but not IN sin.**

III. Ignoring God's command to repent bears eternal consequences.**S#19.****A. Paul preached God's motivation for repentance.**

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, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

S#20.

B. The consequences for not repenting are clearly spelled out.

1. **Rom. 2: 4** – Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? **5** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, **6** who will render to each person according to his deeds: S#21.
2. Notice, for the unrepentant :
 - a. Judgment is the dispensing of wrath.
 - b. Judgment is by the system of works ... if you sin you die.

C. Those who refuse to repent are a cause for mourning.

1. **II Cor. 12: 21** – I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me 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. S#22.
2. The Apostle mourned because they were lost and because he would have to confront their sin.

D. Repentance is something that is clearly observable.

1. Jesus taught one must bear fruits consistent with their repentance.
Luke 3:8 – Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ' We have Abraham for our father, ' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. S#23.
2. Jesus instructed the Apostle to teach the same thing.
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. S#24.
3. THUS ... repentance has not occurred unless one's lifestyle has changed.

IV. Why is this lesson relevant to those of us who are Christians ? S#25.**A. We have already completed the traditional steps to Heaven.** S#26.

1. We heard the Gospel and believed it so as to have developed faith.
2. We went forward and someone interviewed us ... we confess and said we repent.
3. We were then baptized and had all our sins washed away.
4. There was then a prayer and we were encouraged to live faithful to Jesus the Christ.

B. All those steps were right and proper, but what came next?

1. We were excited for a few days, life was soon back to normal.
2. As time passed we thought less and less about what we had done.
3. Soon we began praying for general forgiveness, “Forgive us our unforgiven sins.”

C. Before long we accept our sin as being normal and assume forgiveness.

1. This kind of a heart is like the couple who has given up on marriage. They just live parallel lives.
2. Even dedicated Christians sin, **but** what is our attitude toward that sin?

D. Do we hate the sin in our lives ?

1. Are we willing to “go along to get along” or do we walk a God-centered path.
Rom. 12: 2 – And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed **S#27.**
 by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
2. OR .. Are you repulsed by evil ?
Rom. 12: 9 – Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

D. The Christians must develop the heart of David ... hate sin in our life

1. **II Cor. 7: 9** – yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but **S#28.**
 because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. **10** For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. **11** For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! (ESV)
2. **Acts 2: 37** ... Godly grief pierced their hearts and produced repentance.
3. In our text David exemplifies the repentant heart a Christian must have.
Psa. 51: 2 – Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my **S#29.**
 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.
4. **Psa. 51: 10** – Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit **S#30.**
 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.

*** Is your greatest treasure your relationship with God ? How do you guard it ?**

Lesson Text :**Psalms # 51**

1 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.

18 By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. **19** *Then* You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.