

# The Path - Basic Christian Doctrine

## Day 7: Repentance from Dead works Pt 2

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As we explained, the book of Hebrews gives us a list of the basic Christian beliefs.

Hebrews 5:12-14; 6:1-2 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers ye have need that one teach you again which bee the \_\_\_\_\_ of the oracles of God: and are such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore, leaving the \_\_\_\_\_ of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement. And this we will do if God permit.”

The first doctrine listed is: repentance from dead works. In the previous lesson we quoted from the words of Jesus who emphatically declared that everyone must repent. Today we will examine the teaching of His disciples on this vital subject.

Why are the teaching of the Apostles so vital to understand? In John 17:20 Jesus prayed for those which would believe on him “through their \_\_\_\_\_.” He gave the apostles His teaching to give to the entire world!

As we explained, dead works are useless and worthless actions and results. Repentance includes our will, our emotions, and our actions. Everything we have done not pleasing to Jesus Christ is useless effort, will have worthless results, and must be repented of.

Jesus instructed his disciples to preach the message of repentance first at Jerusalem and then to the entire world. He said in Luke 24:46-47:

“Thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among \_\_\_\_\_ beginning at Jerusalem.”

Jesus instructed His disciples to preach the message of repentance “among all nations.” Why? Because everyone must repent of their sins to be saved.

The apostles did exactly as Jesus taught; preaching repentance and remission of sins first in Jerusalem. In Acts 2:38 we read what Peter preached in Jerusalem,

“\_\_\_\_\_ and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

After the healing of the lame man (again in Jerusalem) Peter preached in Acts 3:19:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”

On Mars hill in Athens, Greece, the apostle Paul preached repentance (Acts 17:30):

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men \_\_\_\_\_ to repent.”

To King Herod Agrippa, apostle Paul explained (Acts 26:20) that he had preached first at Damascus, then at Jerusalem, next throughout all the coasts of Judea, and finally to the gentiles “that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for \_\_\_\_\_.” Notice that Apostle Paul preached repentance wherever he went. Notice also, that he preached that people must do works “meet (fit) for repentance.” Repentance is more than a change of mind; it will affect a change in our works, and our actions.

John the Baptist had explained that in his preaching in Matthew 3:8, he proclaimed that people should bring forth \_\_\_\_\_ meet for repentance.” The fruit of a tree is the result and the proof that a tree is of a certain type. An apple tree bears apples, etc. If we really repented, our fruit (actions) will show it.

In fact, Apostle Paul explained that there are seven elements of complete repentance in 2 Corinthians 7:11:

“For behold this self same thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea what zeal, yea what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourself clean in this matter.”

Notice the seven elements of complete repentance:

1. A carefulness that the sin is not repeated
2. A clearing of ourselves in the eyes of God and others
3. An anger directed toward the evil forces which encouraged us to sin
4. A fear lest the sin be repeated
5. A vehement desire (Greek: longing for):, a longing for complete restoration with the Lord
6. A zeal, an eagerness and ardent interest in the pursuit of God’s ways
7. A revenge, a desire to compensate for the wrong that we have done.

Repentance from dead works is the first listed doctrine. A person must repent before he/she can continue their path to God. In the next lesson, we will explain how repentance can be explained to a potential believer.

Discussion:

1. Why must we believe the teachings of the Apostles?
2. What are dead works? Can you think of some “dead works” in your own life?
3. Why do you think that Apostle Paul lists all seven elements of repentance? What do you think the danger is of repentance being incomplete?
4. Does everyone have to repent to be saved? If so, why?
5. Does repentance include our will, our emotions, our actions, or all three of these and why?