

The Path - Basic Christian Doctrine

Day 8: Repentance from Dead works Pt 3

We have been studying a passage in the book of Hebrews that gives us a list of the basic and foundational beliefs of Christianity.

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 be 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 the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection: not laying again 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. Today we will explain how to teach “repentance” to a potential believer. We will use scriptures mostly found in the book of Romans for ease of reference. There are five elements of repentance:

1. Recognition of sin. Romans 3:23 states: “All have _____ and come short of the glory of God.”

Explain: A “sin” is something we think, say, or do, that is not pleasing to the Lord. This scripture is saying that everyone has sinned against God. In a crowd of 1,000 people, everyone in the crowd has sinned at some time or another. I know I have said, thought, or done things that are not pleasing to God. Can you think of anything that you have done which might not be pleasing to the Lord?

2. Recognition of our penalty. Romans 6:23 says: “For the wages of sin is _____ but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The first part of verse 23 explains the penalty of sin. Just as a person goes to work and receives wages for his efforts, so there will be wages for sinning. "Death" here means eternal death. Do you understand this?

3. Recognition of our gift. The second part of Romans 6:23 states: "... the _____ of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Even though there are wages for sin, Jesus can forgive those wages and instead offer us a gift. That gift is eternal life. Eternal life here refers to heaven. Do you understand this?

4. Recognition of the provision He made for us. In Romans 5:8 Paul writes: "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ _____ for us."

Explain: Do you know the story of Jesus and how He came to earth to die for our sins? We should have died for our own sins; and received our own wages for sin. However, Jesus took our place: He died in our stead. He died so that we would not have to die. All we have to do is follow the plan He laid out for our lives. Do you understand this?

5. Repentance. Acts 2:38 states: "Then Peter said unto them, _____ 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."

The first thing that God wants us to do is to repent. To repent means to tell the Lord you are sorry for your sins and that you want Him to be the "Lord" in your life from now on. By asking Him to be your "Lord" you are saying that you will do your best to follow Him and to be obedient to Him.



Discussion:

1. What is a sin?
2. Who in this world have sinned?
3. What is the penalty for sin?
4. What is the provision that Jesus made for us on Calvary?