

To Glorify and Enjoy God

LESSON 20: GLORIFYING GOD IN REPENTANCE

Intro:

“The fallacy here? The subtle movement from seeing forsaking sin as a fruit of grace that is rooted in election, to making the forsaking of sin the necessary precursor for experiencing that grace.” **Sinclair Ferguson**¹⁹¹

BIG IDEA: God is glorified when we delight in His _____ and _____ to Him.

Question 87: What is repentance unto life?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

WLC Q 153: What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us by reason of the transgression of the law?

A: That we may escape the wrath and curse of God due to us by reason of the transgression of the law, he requires of us repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, and the diligent use of the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation.

1. Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace, the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ.

- The Shorter Catechism and Confession call it a _____, or evangelical, grace.
- This means it is something we receive in _____ with Christ along with faith.
- Repentance is not something that the _____ can produce, though it can produce a _____.
- Sinners are required to repent to escape the wrath and _____ of God due to sin.
- As a result, we are to _____ repentance just as we are to preach faith in Christ.

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2**

³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ... **Acts 17**

¹⁹¹ Ferguson, Sinclair. *The Whole Christ*. Wheaton, Crossway. 2015, pp. 43.

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“Faith is the spring and source of repentance so that though the grace of faith and repentance be given together and at once in respect of time, yet, in the order of nature, faith goes before repentance, and the acting of faith goes before the exercise of repentance. And he that would repent, must first believe in Christ that he may repent.” **Thomas Boston**¹⁹²

2. By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature, and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of his mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God, purposing and endeavoring to walk with him in all the ways of his commandments.

- Repentance includes an _____ of the wrath of God for our sins.
- It sees the wickedness, filthiness & therefore _____ of our sin.
- Repentance is not just about fear, but sees the _____ of God to sinners in Christ.
- Repentance is to _____ from our sin, seen here as grieving for & hating them.
- Repentance is also turning to _____ with a desire to walk in God’s commands.
- Unregenerate → fear of _____ → _____ sorrow
- Regenerate → fear of punishment + sense of God’s mercy → repentance

⁴Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? **Romans 2**

¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. **2 Corinthians 7**

⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. **1 Thessalonians 1**

“Repentance is the vomit of the soul.” **Thomas Brooks**

“Genuine repentance, or contrition, comes for a heart that is broken because we have become acutely aware of how awful our sin really is.” **R.C. Sproul**¹⁹³

“Be your sins ever so great, if you repent of them, and turn from them, they will never be your ruin.” **Thomas Boston**¹⁹⁴

“Do not attempt to confess and forsake your old ways apart from the love of God manifested in a crucified Lord.” **Jack Miller**¹⁹⁵

“Now, it is an apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, by faith, that melts the heart into penitential sorrow for sin.” **Robert Shaw**¹⁹⁶

“Because of our Christ God is “a consuming fire,” and an inextinguishable dread of his wrath repels the soul.” **A.A. Hodge**¹⁹⁷

¹⁹² Boston, Thomas. *Repentance: Turning from Sin to God*. Scotland, Christian Focus. 2005, pp. 44.

¹⁹³ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 139.

¹⁹⁴ Boston, pp. 25.

¹⁹⁵ Miller, C. John. *Repentance & 20th Century Man*. Fort Washington, Christian Literature Crusade. 1980, pp. 8.

¹⁹⁶ Shaw, pp. 156.

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3. Although repentance be not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of the pardon thereof, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet it is of such necessity to all sinners, that none may expect pardon without it.

- Repentance is not to be understood as making _____ for our sin.
- Repentance is not the basis of our justification or forgiveness. It has no _____.
- Socinians and the moral-influence (_____) theory of the atonement posit our _____ in repentance.
- It is a freely granted _____ given to us in Christ.
- The non-repentant person has no reasonable _____ of pardon.

³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **Acts 5**

¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life." **Acts 11**

"The stony heart may be broken in a thousand pieces, while yet every piece remains a stone."

Thomas Boston¹⁹⁸

"He that repents believes. He that does not repent does not believe. He that does not believe is not justified." **A.A. Hodge**¹⁹⁹

WSC Q 83: Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A: Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

WSC Q 84: What does every sin deserve?

A: Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

WLC Q 152: What does every sin deserve at the hands of God?

A: Every sin, even the least, being against the sovereignty, goodness, and holiness of God, and against his righteous law, deserves his wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come; and cannot be expiated but by the blood of Christ.

4. As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation; so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.

- The Standards admit to _____ of sin.
- Even the smallest sin, committed against _____, _____ His wrath & curse.
- Sin is _____ against God's good & holy rule over His creation & creatures.
- As sinners we deserve the _____ in this life & the next.

¹⁹⁷ Hodge, pp. 211.

¹⁹⁸ Boston, pp. 33.

¹⁹⁹ Hodge, pp. 215.

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- **Roman Catholicism:** mortal & venial sins. We perform works of _____ for venial sins.
- Antinomians do not require _____ from sin for salvation.
- Some Anabaptists (& others) believe that grievous sins committed after baptism cannot be _____, but _____ grace.

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6

“Calvin said that all sin is mortal in the sense that it deserves death. But no sin is mortal in the sense that it actually destroys the saving grace that Christ has given to his people.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁰⁰

“That there is no sin so great that it can bring condemnation upon those that truly repent is also evident, because true repentance, as we have seen, is the fruit of regeneration, and no man is regenerated who is not also justified.” **A.A. Hodge**²⁰¹

5. Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins, particularly.

- We sin in _____ ways, and we should repent of _____ sins.
- As we grow in self-knowledge & knowledge of Christ our repentance _____.

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. **Psalm 32**

“It is much easier to see other people’s sins and to be angry about them, while we shield our souls from our own transgressions.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁰²

“Confess your sins freely before God and you will have freedom to confess Christ before men.”
Jack Miller²⁰³

6. As every man is bound to make private confession of his sins to God, praying for the pardon thereof; upon which, and the forsaking of them, he shall find mercy; so, he that scandalizes his

²⁰⁰ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 152.

²⁰¹ Hodge, pp. 216.

²⁰² Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 141.

²⁰³ Miller, pp. 125.

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brother, or the church of Christ, ought to be willing, by a private or public confession, and sorrow for his sin, to declare his repentance to those that are offended, who are thereupon to be reconciled to him, and in love to receive him.

- We sin every day in thought, word & deed we need to _____ our sins to God.
- We confess to a _____ but can make _____ confession to God.
- Rome required that sinners confess their sins to priest AND make _____.
- Luther rejected the penance but recognized we need to _____ our souls.
- Confess your particular sinful _____, words & deeds, and ask for His pardon.
- We find mercy as we confess and _____ them (or at least want to).
- _____ sin should be repented of privately AND _____ if it is publicly known.
- True repentance includes the _____ to ask forgiveness of those we sin against.

⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **1 John 1**

How does this doctrine help you glorify and enjoy God?

Conclusion: