

Repentance — Our Only Hope, Pt. 2

Steve Berger

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Review

1. What is repentance?
 - a) A change of heart and mind that causes us to confess our sin, turn away from our sin, and turn toward God.
2. Why is repentance needed? 2 things...
 - a) Because sin causes us to be separated from God. **Isaiah 59:2**
 - b) Because sin that is not repented of leads to death. **Romans 6:23**
3. What does repentance produce? 4 things...
 - a, b) Forgiveness of sin and refreshing of our spirit. **Acts 3:19**
 - c) Life! **Acts 11:18**
 - d) Restored relationship — no more separation. **Luke 15:22-24**
4. How does someone repent? 3 things...
 - a) Agree with God that you are sinning. **John 16:8**
 - b) Turn from your sin — turn to God. **2 Corinthians 7:9-10**
 - c) Confess your sins. **1 John 1:9**

Today

Hot topic — Irate about Netflix, “Cuties,” Sundance award, Sterling Van Wagenen, co-founder, convicted child molester. It’s right to be irate!

Warning — Sins of world must not distract us from the sins of the church. Judgement begins with house of God *first*.

1Peter 4:17

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

What kind of things does Jesus tell the church to repent of? For a concentrated list, to help us see repentance is for **sinner and saint alike**, we go to **Revelation 2-3, Jesus’ letters to the 7 churches**.

Smyrna/Philadelphia

Nothing bad to say, no rebuke or repentance.

Ephesus

Active in service, moral in conduct, sound in theology — but wait...

Revelation 2:4-5

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Application — remember, repent, redo first works — in 40 years you lost your passion and zeal — **Acts 19** — openness, Holy Spirit, gifts, evangelism, discipleship, miracles, deliverance, repentance, burning sorcery books, Jesus magnified, word of the Lord prevailed and grew mightily! **Active in service, moral in conduct, sound in theology isn't the end all — where's your passionate love?**

Pergamos

Know your works, where you live — Satan's throne is, many hold fast to My name, didn't deny faith during martyrdom...

Revelation 2:14-16

But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Application — idolatry, sexual immorality to be a, stumbling block, doctrine of Balaam/Nicolaitans. The church at Pergamos taught the same thing that Balaam did; to lead people into idolatry, and licentiousness, **Numbers 25-31**.

The deeds of the Nicolaitans — These were, as is commonly supposed, a sect of the Gnostics, taught the most impure doctrines, and followed the most impure practices. **Derived their origin from Nicolas, one of the seven deacons mentioned Acts 6:5**. They taught women that adultery and fornication didn't matter, that eating meats offered to idols was quite lawful; and mixed several pagan rites with the Christian ceremonies. Augustine, Irenaeus, Clemens Alexandrinus, and Tertullian spoke out against them. (Adam Clarke)¹. **Irenaeus**- "they lead lives of unrestrained indulgence."²

Friends — Jesus hates idolatry, sexual immorality, and those teachings that tempt others to do so.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...

Jesus tells the idolater and immoral to repent!

Thyatira

Know your works, love, service, faith and patience...

Revelation 2:20-23

Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed, I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

¹ Clarke, Adam. *The life and labours of Adam Clarke*. (Oxford University, 1834)

² Grant, Robert M. *Ireanaeus of Lyons* (Taylor & Francis, 2006)

Application — allow false prophetess to teach and seduce people toward sexual immorality, idolatry, to know the depths of Satan.

Allow — Permissive
Old Testament
Jeremiah 5:31

The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so.

New Testament
2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Beloved — *we don't get to allow and be permissive of ungodliness because parts of us are godly! We can't fall victim to our own desires, our itching ears, picking and choosing what we like and don't like, finding someone to tell us what we want to hear. **We need to want to hear what Jesus is saying!***

Sardis

Nothing good to say, not one thing!

Revelation 3:1-3

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Laodicea

Not one good thing, nothing! Like Sardis.

Revelation 3:15-20

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Application — *lukewarm, self-satisfied, clueless — didn't know they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked — spiritually speaking.*

Message to the Churches

Ephesus — right stuff, cold heart, just going through the motions — **Passionless!**

Pergamos — idolatrous, sexually immoral, stumbling blocks, doctrine of Balaam and Nicolaitans — **Licentious!**

Thyatira — allow, sexual immorality, idolatry — **Permissive!**

Sardis — name says they're alive, but dead, misrepresenting — **Hypocritical!**

Laodicea — lukewarm, materialistic, self-satisfied, not knowing they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked — **Spiritually Clueless!**

Message — **“Repent, I’m rebuking you and chastising you because I love you, be zealous, repent, I’m knocking on your door, open up, let’s dine together.”**

Or face judgement —

Ephesus — remove you from My presence

Pergamos — fight against you with the sword of My mouth

Thyatira — cast Jezebel into sickbed and kill her children/followers with death

Sardis — I’ll come upon you as a thief

Laodicea — vomit you out of My mouth!

Close — in letters to all 7 churches

“He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Discussion Questions

1. Do you identify with the church at Ephesus — active in service, moral in conduct, sound in theology — but have left your first love? Repent.
2. Can you identify with the church at Thyatira — works of love, service, faith, and patience — but you ALLOW others to teach and seduce — give your permission or approval? How?
3. Do you know Christians who are “lukewarm” — self-satisfied — spiritually clueless? Why do they need to repent? How can you help them?
4. Is there spiritual fruit in your life? Is your life still “salty”?
5. What do you need to repent of — for forgiveness and refreshing of your spirit?

NOTES