

# Repentance — Our Only Hope, Pt. 3

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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

### Three Dangers of Delaying Repentance

“There is a time and a place for repentance, and you will be forever sorry if you miss it. It is grossly unwise to suppose that you can come to repentance whenever and wherever you please. Delaying repentance for any reason whatsoever is the most dangerous thing you can possibly do. Many are now suffering the torments of eternal damnation who fully intended to repent at a more convenient time or season, but that season never came.”<sup>1</sup>

~ Richard Owen Roberts

### Danger 1 of delaying your repentance — Hardening of Your Heart

**Every time you come under conviction for sin, and don't repent,  
you tell God, “NO,” your heart gets harder, less concerned, less able to repent!  
This is true for Believer and Unbeliever alike.**

### God and Pharaoh

Exodus 4-14 — Pharaoh hardened, God hardened back and forth

### Exodus 8:15

But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

<sup>1</sup> Roberts, Richard Owens. *Repentance: The First Word of the Gospel* (Crossway, 2002)

## **Exodus 9:12**

But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

**Interesting and sobering** — clearly possible to harden your heart toward God so often and so defiantly, that God then hardens your heart!

**Jewish people** were constantly called out for their hardness of heart, or stiffness of neck, throughout the entire Old Testament, from Moses onward...

## **Jeremiah 7:25-26**

Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

**Result of unrepentant hardened heart?** Various forms of calamity, judgment and destruction, serious stuff!

So serious Paul warns **BELIEVERS** about hardening their hearts (**Psalm 95**).

## **Hebrews 3:7-13**

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS IN THE REBELLION, IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, WHERE YOUR FATHERS TESTED ME, TRIED ME, AND SAW MY WORKS FORTY YEARS. THEREFORE, I WAS ANGRY WITH THAT GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN MY WAYS.' SO I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'" Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

**Application** — you can clearly see that Believers, who harden their hearts toward God, who refuse to repent, face various levels of discipline and judgment. Why would we ever want to risk any of that? **PRIDE.**

**In America today** — increased level of rebellion, hardening toward God over sin, “Going to hell and proud,” “F you, me and my two gay boyfriends are happy and proud to go to hell,” “Shout your abortion,” “F your Jesus.”

## **Romans 1:18, 21, 24, 26-28**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness... because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened... Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves... For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

**Listen** — **hardened hearts can go to darkened hearts where God gives them up to a debased, reprobate mind!**

## **Proverbs 29:1**

He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

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## Danger 2 of delaying your repentance — Missing Your Timeframe

### Revelation 2:20-22

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.

**Jesus gave her time to repent, she didn't, final invitation before judgment.  
Again, let's not assume we can repent whenever we want,  
hardness may prevent it, timeframe may prevent it.**

### Psalm 32:6

For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found...

### Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

### Luke 19:41-44

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

**Application** — *Jesus was heartbroken over God's people missing their day and time to repent and turn to Him! He held them accountable to know their time.*

**Bottom line** — don't miss your timeframe to repent, it might not always be there!

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## Danger 3 of delaying your repentance — Tomorrow Isn't Promised

**Not only can we miss our opportunity to repent while we live, we have no idea how long we will live! Not scare tactics, truth!**

### Proverbs 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

### James 4:13-14

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

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## So — when does scripture tell us the best time to repent?

**TODAY, NOW!**

*Don't give hardness of heart, missed timeframe,  
or an unguaranteed tomorrow  
a chance to steal your opportunity to repent!*

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### Discussion Questions

1. Explain the progression of the hardening of the heart toward God.
2. What is the result of an unrepentant, hardened heart?
3. Is there a point where God gives the darkened hearts over to their debased minds?
4. What is the danger of delaying repentance? Have you ever known anyone who has done this with devastating results?
5. When is the best time to repent? Why?

# NOTES