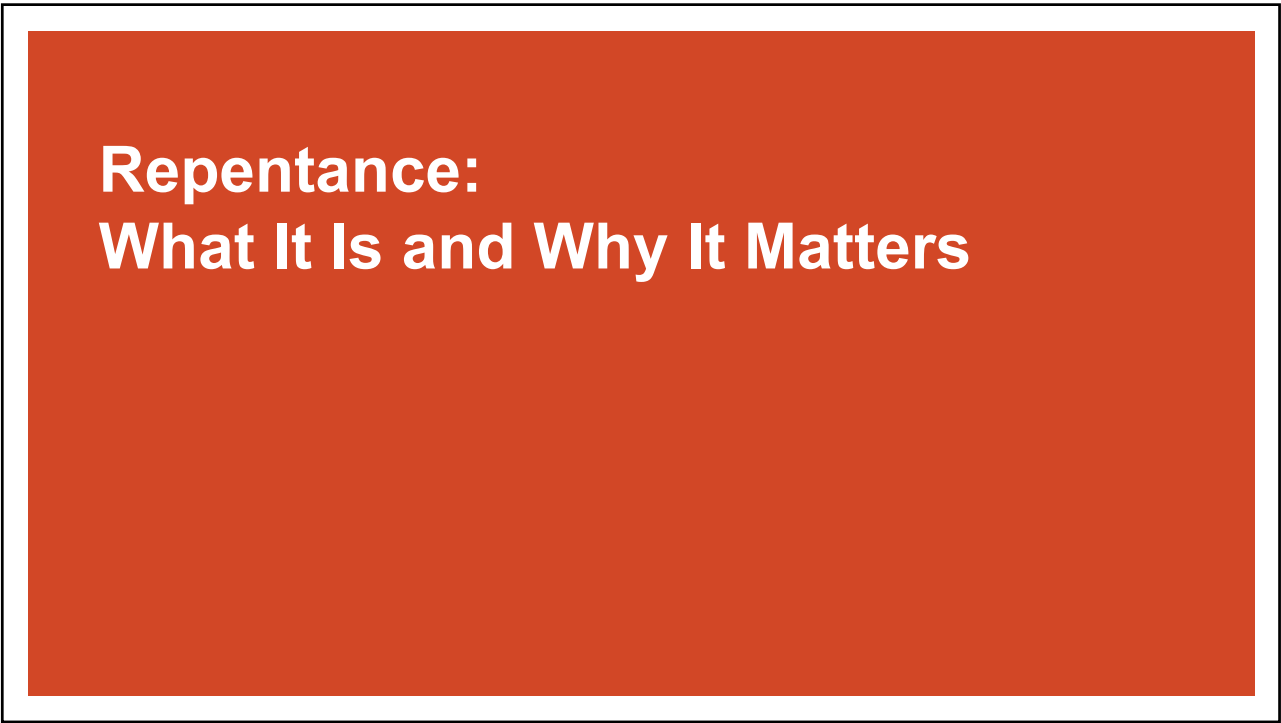




1



3

Repentance: What It Is and Why It Matters

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."

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- a. By **ITSELF**, the verse can be interpreted different ways.*
- b. Some interpretations **CONFLICT** with other passages of Scripture.*
- c. No verse stands **ALONE**. It must align with the rest of Scripture.*
- d. Whatever repent means, it cannot go against the **REST** of Scripture.*

10

2. REPENTANCE: Why Is It Important?

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- b. To understand the term and how it is used to avoid **ERROR**.*
- c. If needed for salvation, then we need to **PREACH** this.*
- d. If not required for salvation, we need to understand **WHY**.*

15

3. REPENTANCE: The Terms – Verb & Noun

16

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a. REPENT (verb)

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(34x in 32 verses)

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(34x in 32 verses)

b. REPENTANCE (noun)

metanoia (μετάνοια)

later knowledge; after-thought; change of mind

(22x in 22 verses)

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4. How Are REPENT & REPENTANCE Used in the NT?

19

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b. These terms are used together with believe or belief only four times, and none require a different meaning apart from belief.

23

4x “Repent” or “Repentance” Is Used with “Believe” or “Belief”

Mk 1:15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Acts 19:4 Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

Acts 20:21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

24

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- c. “Repent” most often is not qualified (no “repent of your sins,” etc.).***

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5. How Are the “Repent” Terms Used in Acts?

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³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**...for the remission of sins...

⁴⁰ And... he...exhorted them, saying, "**Be saved** from this perverse generation."

⁴¹ Then those **who gladly received his word** were baptized...

⁴² And **they** continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship...

⁴⁴ Now all who **believed** were together, and had all things in common

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2:38 **Repent**, and let every one of you ... (1 of 2 commands)

3:19 "**Repent** therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, (2 of 2)

11:18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles **repentance** to life."

17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to **repent**,

19:4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of **repentance**, saying to the people that they should **believe** on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

20:21 "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance** toward God and **faith** toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (cf. 5:31 | 13:24 | 26:20)

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5:14 And **believers** were increasingly added to the Lord...

13:39 and by Him everyone who **believes** is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

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b. Belief (noun) is used in Acts 15 Times

6:7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the **faith**.

20:21 "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and **faith** toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

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7. How Are the Terms Used in ... All of Scripture?

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Jn 3:18 "He who **believes** in Him is not condemned; but he who does not **believe** is condemned already, because he has not **believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
(3:36; 6:47; 8:24)

39

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2:44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

5:14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

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10:43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." (cp. 2:38; cf. 11:17)

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16:31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

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- d. In **ACTS**, "repent" is used with Paul 4x; believe is used 34x.
- e. The NT uses "believe" & "belief" as the **PRIMARY** terms (not "repent"):

Repent (verb) **34x**; Repentance (noun) **22x** (**56x** total times)

Believe (verb) **241x**; Belief/faith (noun) **243x** (484 total times)

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Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

48

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- 1. Repent means "to change one's MIND."** Though changing one's mind will often lead to a change in behavior or direction, the meaning of the term "repent" itself does not include either of those ideas.

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Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

- 1. Repent means "to change one's MIND."** Though changing one's mind will often lead to a change in behavior or direction, the meaning of the term "repent" itself does not include either of those ideas.
- 2. When "repent" is used, it is used almost always in PLACE of "believe."** Only 4 passages exist where "believe" or "belief (faith)" are used together with "repent" or "repentance." None of these passages requires repentance to be something beyond a changing of one's mind from believing something else to believing in what God has revealed. The more common term used for the Gospel presentation is "believe."

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Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

- 3. Repenting is not a SEPARATE step from believing.** Repenting happens when someone believes. "Repent" emphasizes the change of belief FROM something TO something, new whereas BELIEVE just focuses on what is being believed, and assumes that one changes his mind to do so.

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Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

- 3. Repenting is not a **SEPARATE** step from believing.** Repenting happens when someone believes. "Repent" emphasizes the change of belief FROM something TO something, new whereas BELIEVE just focuses on what is being believed, and assumes that one changes his mind to do so.
- 4. The Acts 2:38 combination of commands occurs **NOWHERE** else in Scripture.** It must, therefore, mean something that the rest of Scripture already teaches. Repent, here, is commanding listeners to change their minds by believing what they are being told. (They do, and they are then called "believers" in 2:44.)

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Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

- 5. Peter uses the term "**BELIEVE**" often in Acts in place of "repent."** If they are not interchangeable synonyms, they are, at least inseparably linked.

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Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

5. Peter uses the term “believe” often in Acts in place of “repent.” If they are not interchangeable synonyms, they are, at least inseparably linked.
6. Whatever “repent” means, it cannot **CONTRADICT** the **overwhelming number of passages** that speak of salvation as coming through believing as the single “step” or requirement for salvation.

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Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

7. Whatever “repent” means, it has to relate and not contradict **very CLEAR passages** that speak of salvation through belief/faith alone. Jesus says in John 3:18 that believe on Him is THE deciding factor, so repentance must have something to do with belief in order to align with such Scripture. Paul’s message to the Philippian jailer contains simply the command to “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” and nothing more, so repentance must fit in that command.

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Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

8. We cannot **EXPAND** the meaning of repentance to mean something beyond what Scripture says or how it is used in Scripture.

56

Summary Statements on Repent & Repentance

8. We cannot **EXPAND** the meaning of repentance to mean something beyond what Scripture says or how it is used in Scripture.
9. We must use the term “repent” **SCRIPTURALLY**. Nowhere, for example, are unbelievers commanded to “repent of their sins” for salvation, a phrase used often in conjunction with evangelism today by many. It is true that our mind must be changed to believe what God says about our sins and sinfulness – we are indeed sinners who have sinned and deserve God’s justice and wrath. Belief in a Savior assumes belief in the need for one.

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Two Questions: Same Meaning

58

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***Have you repented** – changed your mind – about Jesus, the Son of God, who became a Man and died in your place for your sins and rose again?*

59

Two Questions: **Same Meaning**

Have you repented – changed your mind – about Jesus, the Son of God, who became a Man and died in your place for your sins and rose again?

Have you believed on Jesus, the Son of God, who became a Man and died in your place for your sins and rose again?