The Need to Repent

by Wayne Goff

Read the article on page 3 on repentance before going further. The New Testament teaches the importance of men repenting before God. Jude wrote: "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.'"

Ponder that statement! God will come with His mighty angels one day to execute judgment upon the ungodly. Who is the "ungodly"? Jude says it is those who have practiced ungodly deeds and have spoken harsh things against God! Much of the language we hear in public these days would qualify as ungodly! Men will answer for it in the judgment day. The word "ungodly" is defined in biblical definition as "lack of reverence toward God, impiety, ungodliness" [Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament]. Simply put, those who have rebelled against God in either word or deed must repent if they do not want to be judged by God in the last day.

The apostle Peter likened the coming judgment day to the world-wide flood in Noah's day. He wrote that God "did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly" (2 Pet. 2:5). The universal flood destroyed all but eight souls because they would not repent. The coming judgment day will destroy the world by fire and those who ignore the warning will die unexpectedly as they did in the age of Noah.

God's invitation to Israel is relevant to us today: "'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the LORD, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). Believe in Jesus as God's Son who died for your sins, repent, and be baptized to wash away all past sins.

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