

Repentance Equals Change!

by Wayne Goff

How hard it is for us to make real change! The older we get, the more set in our ways we become. We like the old ways because they are as comfortable as a worn pair of shoes. Yet some of us have habits that should be changed! There are times when we **need** to change for the better! I am not advocating change for the sake of change. That is meaningless.

Every preacher and teacher of the Gospel knows how hard it is to get brethren to change. Try encouraging an auditorium Bible class to sit closer to the front, if you doubt my word! Try asking everyone to move to a different auditorium seat for six months, and then to change again at that time.

It is not an accident that when John the Baptist and Jesus came on the scene to introduce the Gospel and the final dispensation of time, that they began with the words ***“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”*** (Matt. 3:2; 4:17; Mk. 1:15). When God prophesied this time through the prophet Malachi, He spoke of change: ***“And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse”*** (Mal. 4:6).

“Repent” is found in one of its various forms 54 times in the New Testament. Synonymous with this word is *“turn,” “convert,”* and *“change.”* Christians and churches **do need** to change, to improve, to sometimes repent. Dear reader, what needs changing in your life so that you can be a more faithful servant of God? Before you answer that question, remember that one is not wise when he compares himself by himself, or even by one another (2 Cor. 10:12). We must examine ourselves in the light of God’s Word if we want to see ourselves as we truly should (2 Cor. 13:5; James 1:25). God’s Word is a “mirror” to the soul, and it shows us what we could never see by ourselves.

I know that there must first be a *“willing mind”* before true change is initiated. Just remember, dear brethren, that we should **never** stop growing, or stop trying to improve and do better. God is never satisfied with apathy and indifference.

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