

# Repentance

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by Wayne Goff

“**Repentance**” is truly a biblical word and concept, but the idea is couched in many secular words as well. For example, the resolution to lose weight is actually the same as saying “I’m going to *repent* of eating too much, exercising too little, and letting myself go.” So people often think of “**repenting**” in a secular way without ever realizing that they are doing it.

Secular repentance is good — turning away from bad habits and replacing them with good ones — weight loss, more education, social benevolence, etc., etc. are admirable goals and I encourage everyone to set some of these goals and then strive to do them. Make this world a better place before you leave it. Give back more than you take.

## Priorities

Do not be guilty of making this earthly life your chief goal. Do not let secular goals take precedence over your spiritual ones. I need only to quote Jesus’ words in Matthew 16 to prove my point:

*“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (v. 26).

If you *truly believe* Jesus, then you will make your eternal soul your number one priority! Take care of it **FIRST**, and all the secular things will be added to you (Matthew 6:33). I would dare say that all of us give lip service to this concept, but how many of us truly practice it?

The **problem** with most people, and even some Christians, is that they cannot *visualize* their eternal goal. It takes time and mental effort to imagine standing before God in judgment, along with the billions who have lived on this earth. It takes great effort to think of the reality and beauty of heaven and the true horrors of hell. It is hard to imagine the spiritual battle going on right now on this earth between good and evil, right and wrong, good and bad. It’s so much easier to just go with the flow and do what everyone else is doing — not realizing that the mass of humanity today is headed toward certain damnation. But you have one chance in life, dear reader! One opportunity to make your calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10). If you neglect your responsibilities, then you will have eternity to regret it! Eternity is a long, long time.

So what am I saying? **Repent.** *Repent* of putting material things first, for they will pass away. *Repent* of neglecting your spiritual growth, and start anew right now. *Repent* of ignoring God’s instructions for making your calling and election sure, and begin again to strengthen your faith and add to it such things as virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love.

By the way, a good place to begin is with the above list. Memorize the list, learn what those spiritual qualities are, and then begin putting them into practice! You can do it. You just need the desire, the will power to do it. I will be praying for you.

**Repentance** — *a change of mind, especially the change of mind of those who have begun to abhor their errors and misdeeds, and have determined to enter upon a better course of life, so that it embraces both a recognition of sin and sorrow for it and hearty amendment, the effects of which are good deeds put into practice.*

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