

Repentance

by Wayne Goff

Repentance is an essential ingredient to being a disciple of the Lord. It was the first requirement of Jesus in presenting the coming kingdom to those who would enter it, Matthew 4:17. It is expected of all men, but can only be done by those who see their own sin-sickness, Matthew 9:3. Even the miracles of Jesus did not induce repentance among the hard-hearted, Matthew 11:20-21. Those who choose to repent must “*bear fruits (deeds) worthy of repentance*” (Luke 3:8). Jesus said everyone who refuses to repent will perish eternally (Luke 13:3, 5). The apostle Paul warned that God “*now commands all men everywhere to repent*” (Acts 17:30). The first church of Christ began in Jerusalem on Pentecost in obedience to the command to “*repent, and be baptized*” (Acts 2:38). Christians and churches from time to time need to “*repent*” and go back to their original state from which they have departed (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; etc.).

So what does the Bible **mean** by “*repent*”? Change. For the better. And why do men and women find this command **so repulsive**? It is a matter of the will. Remember the words to the song, “My stubborn will at last hath yielded....” It takes a lot of humility to yield our will to the Lord’s. Alas, it takes a lot of humility even to **admit** that we might need to change!

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