

# CHAPTER 2

## REPENTANCE

### 2. REPENTANCE

In Acts 2:38, Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Repentance is found throughout the Bible. But why is there a need to repent? (Mark 1:15, 6:12; Matt. 3:1-8, 4:17).

Rom. 10:10 says, "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

#### WHY BELIEVE WITH YOUR HEART?

Jer. 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

In 2 Kings 8:7-15 Elisha stared at King-to-be Hazael and told him he would murder Israelites, kill children, set fire to homes and do evil things. In v13, Hazael asked how he could do such a thing – he did not see into his own heart - and yet Hazael went on to do all of these terrible things.

Hazael's heart was \_\_\_\_\_ about himself.

We all like to think we are better than we actually are.

We like to give the \_\_\_\_\_ that we are better than we actually are.

#### BELIEVING WITH THE HEART IS THE FIRST STEP TO REPENTANCE

'To repent' comes from *metanoeo*, a Greek word meaning 'to change your mind, thoughts or views.'

Repentance is not \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (Acts 2:37-38). They were cut to the heart, but they had not yet repented. They were just sorry.

Repentance is not \_\_\_\_\_. It is more than emotions.

Repentance is not \_\_\_\_\_. "Sorry, I was found out."

Repentance is not a \_\_\_\_\_ to start again.

Repentance is not a \_\_\_\_\_ to just believe.

Is. 64:6 states that all our righteousness (goodness) is like dirty rags to a pure, holy, perfect God. The literal translation is that our best is like a menstrual cloth.

There are 103 defined sins in the Bible. So with that number, it is not surprising that in the New Testament, repentance is mentioned 60 times. Acts 17:30 commands us to repent.

## REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY

Eph. 2:3 tells us we have an inborn desire to sin (to do wrong).

Rom. 3:23 tells us that, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory (standards) of God."

## MEN OFTEN CHOOSE RELIGION TO EASE THEIR CONSCIENCE

For example, if you ask individuals the question as to whether they are a Christian, sample responses would be:

- A. I am a Catholic, or I attend Church of England (or some other religious group);
- B. I don't go to Church, but I am a good person (or I have not done bad things);
- C. I believe in God;
- D. I pray to God sometimes;
- E. As long as I don't harm anybody, that's good enough.

Let's examine each comment from the Bible.

- A. The Pharisees were religious. There is no denomination or group that makes us Christian. 2 Tim. 3:5 talks about having a \_\_\_\_\_ of godliness, but without the power;
- B. Rom. 3:23 and 3:12 tell us that, "There is no-one \_\_\_\_\_, not even one" (in God's eyes);
- C. James 2:19 tells us, "Even the demons \_\_\_\_\_ and shudder";
- D. Praying is speaking to God. But in Job 1:7, even Satan spoke to God;
- E. In 2 Kings 8:13, Hazeal did not know the \_\_\_\_\_ in his own heart.

None of us is born a Christian, and so at some time in our life, we have to choose whether to repent or not with a 'yes' or a 'no'. 2 Cor. 6:2 says, "Now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation."

## HOW DO WE REPENT?

Rom. 10:10 teaches us that it is, "With your \_\_\_\_\_ that you confess."

You need to:

- A. Acknowledge you cannot do it without Christ;
- B. Ask Jesus to forgive you;
- C. Receive your salvation (Rom. 10:13).

When real repentance has taken place, a genuine change takes place in our lives. There is \_\_\_\_\_ in Heaven (Luke 15:7).

To sum it up: unless true repentance takes place, we will have only a dead religion, or simply have no God in our lives. We cannot always have been a Christian and so there is a day and a time when we need to repent. It is a choice - a decision - that we make with a clear head: it is with the heart that we believe and with the mouth that we confess that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour. Then the rest of our lives will be affected when we have a real, living relationship with Jesus.