

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## Lesson 7: WHAT WE BELIEVE ... ABOUT REPENTANCE AND FAITH

*“...Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’”*

***Mark 1:14-15***

### Introduction

- What is the difference between repentance and faith?
- Repentance is our relationship to \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:38)
- Faith is our relationship to \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 16:30-31)

### I. Repentance and Faith are both gifts and commands

- “Repentance and faith” are both a work of God and a voluntary act of the will
- Faith  
*Acts 16:31, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.*

*Eph 2:8, For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

- Repentance:

*Acts 2:38, Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.*

*2 Tim 2:25, God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.*

## II. Repentance: Turn from sin

- Doctrinal Statement: Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person being, by the Holy Spirit, made aware of the manifold evil of their sin, humbles themselves for it, with godly sorrow, hatred of it, and self-aborrence, with a purpose and endeavor to walk before God so as to please Him in all things. (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; 11:18; 2 Cor. 7:10-11)
- Understanding the distinction between repentance that leads to life (Acts 11:18) and sorrow that leads to death (2 Cor 7:10).
- *2 Cor 7:10, For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

### (1) An Intellectual Element

- Doctrinal statement: ... made aware of the manifold evil of their sin
- *Ps 51:3-4, For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight ..."*
- *Ps 51:11, Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

### (2) An Emotional Element

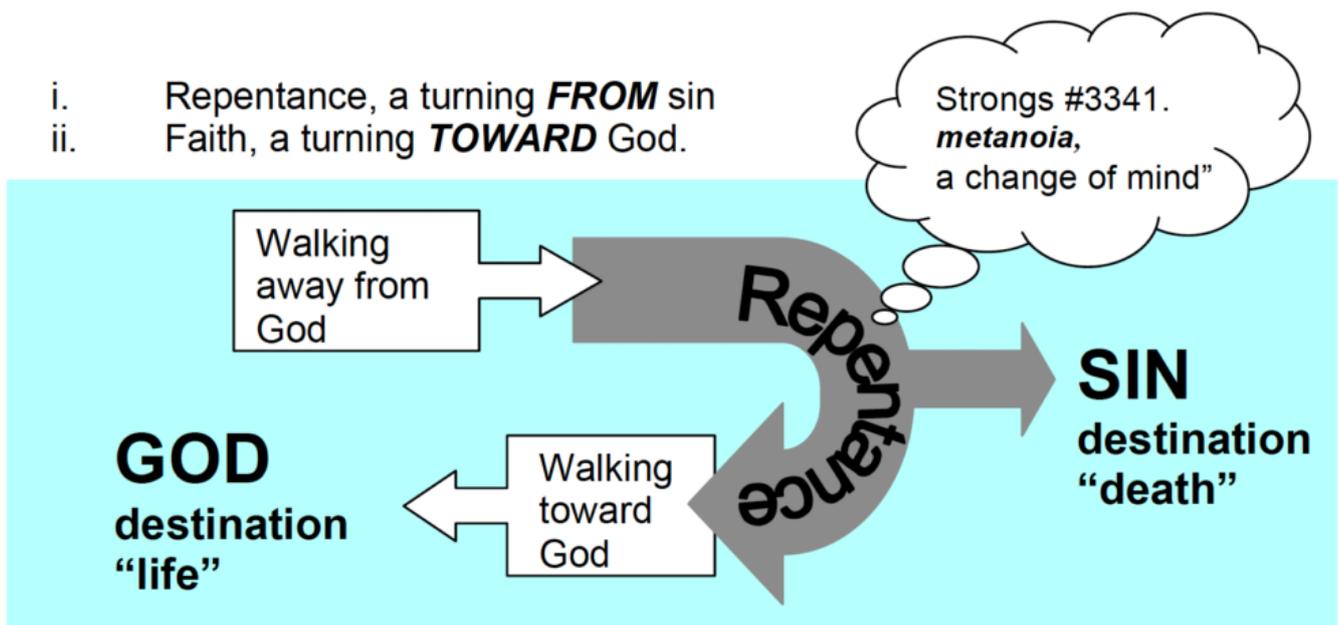
- Doctrinal statement: ... humbles themselves for it, with godly sorrow, hatred of it, and self-aborrence

- *Zech 12:10, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him*
- *Ps 51:17, The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise*

### (3) A Voluntary Element

- Doctrinal statement: ... with a purpose and endeavor to walk before God so as to please Him in all things.
- C. G. Kromminga, “*Metanoia* [Repent] is used to mean that inward change of mind, affections, convictions, and commitment rooted in the fear of God and sorrow for offenses committed against Christ, resulting from an outward turning from sin to God and his service in all of life.”

- i. Repentance, a turning **FROM** sin
- ii. Faith, a turning **TOWARD** God.



- *Jer 25:5, Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds*
- *Ezek 14:6, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.*
- *Isaiah 55:7, let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

### III. Saving Faith: Turn to Christ

- Doctrinal Statement: Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness. (Rom. 3:27-28; 4:1-5; 4:17-25; 10:14, 17; Phil. 1:29; Eph. 2:8; Jas. 2:14-26)

#### (1) An Intellectual Element

- Doctrinal statement: Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ.
- *Rom 1:32, Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*
- *James 2:19, You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*

#### (2) An Emotional Element

- Doctrinal statement: ... accepting [the truth] ...
- When on trial Paul said, *“King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.”* (Acts 26:27). Yet Agrippa did not have saving faith for he said, *“In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”* (Acts 26:28).

#### (3) A Voluntary Element

- Doctrinal Statement: resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life.
- *John 1:11-12, He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

#### (4) An Evidential element

- Doctrinal Statement: It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness.
- *Matt 3:8, Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. (New Living Translation)*