

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddie Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Al Corkren

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Bradley Box
Charles Berryhill
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Billy Box

Preparing the Lord's Supper Donna York

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

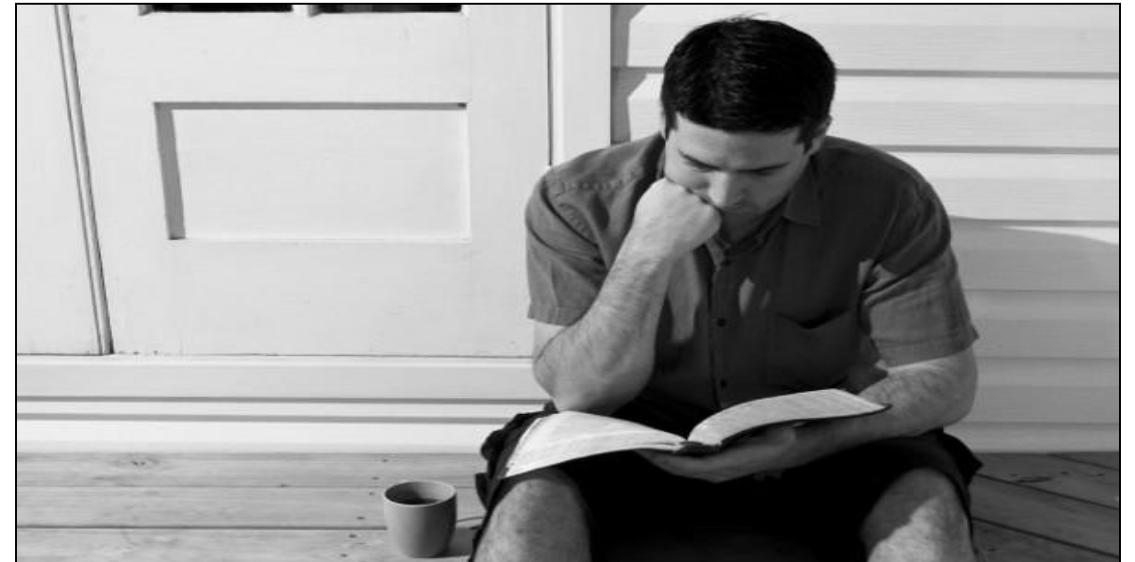
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The Hardest Command



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



What Is the Fruit of Repentance?

By Wayne Jackson

“When John the Baptist told the Jews that they must bring forth ‘fruit’ worthy of repentance, what did he mean by ‘fruit’ (Matthew 3:8)?”

There are three things to be taken into consideration in answering this question.

Exactly what is “repentance”?

What is the significance of the expression, “worthy of”?

What is implied by the phrase, “bring forth fruit”?

We will examine each of these items.

What Is Repentance?

The Greek verb that is translated “repent” is metanoeo. Literally, it means “after thought.” It suggests the idea of thinking about a deed after the commission of it. In the case of a sinful action, the idea would be a retrospection of the act and a subsequent feeling of sorrow for having committed the sin.

That repentance involves more than mere “sorrow” for the wrong act, however, is beyond dispute. It likewise entails a resolve to cease the wrongful conduct, replacing it with godly living.

J. H. Thayer commented upon the term in the following fashion. He declared that repentance is:

“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 tokens and effects of which are good deeds”

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Josh Berryhill: dealing with back trouble, please pray that with proper medical treatment that he will improve

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please pray that she will improve

Ruth Addison: recovering from recent illness, please pray that she will regain her strength

Nelle Fraizer (Lellie’s Sister); she has some ongoing health problems

Celia Grace Hamlett (3 year old): diagnosed with a very rare genetic disease, let us pray that doctors will be able to help her

Vernalen Avery: she recently received a pacemaker, please pray that this will help her

Carolyn Caudle: recovering from recent fall, please pray that she has no problems as she recovers

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Upcoming Events

July 19th Fellowship Meal

July 19th 3rd Sunday Night Singing

Clearly repentance entails more than mere remorse for one’s past conduct. On the day of Pentecost, Peter charged the Jews in his audience to “repent” (Acts 2:38). By his earlier message, however, already they had been “pricked in their heart” (Acts 2:37). Obviously, repentance demanded more than mere regret. It required a change of life.

Later on, Paul would write that “godly sorrow leads to repentance” (2 Cor. 7:10). The repentance of this text, therefore, must be reformation, not mere grief over the act.

What Does It Mean to Be Worthy of Repentance?

The expression “worthy of” (axios) originally had to do with objects that were of equal weight, i.e., one item “corresponded to” another in weight.

The metaphorical use in the New Testament may be employed of things both good or bad. The one who spends his time and energies in proclaiming the gospel is worthy of support (Mt. 10:10; 1 Tim. 5:17-18), i.e., a support that is commensurate with his labor. The person who commits a capital crime (e.g., murder) is worthy of death (Acts 23:29; 25:11).

With reference to the issue at hand, the change of life that is characteristic of repentance must correspond to the gravity and nature of the offense. Otherwise, there simply is no repentance.

What Is the Fruit of Repentance?

Finally, what is the actual “fruit” required in genuine repentance? Several factors must be taken into consideration.

First, if the sin has been against another person individually, amendment must be addressed to that person.

When David committed adultery with Bathsheba, it is absurd to conclude that his confession to Nathan, “I have sinned against Jehovah” (2 Sam. 12:13), would have exhausted the scope of his repentance. Had he no responsibility to acknowledge the wrong to Bathsheba, his partner in adultery?

Far too many people labor under the illusion that they can make a generic confession at a church service, without ever making things right personally with the victims of their sin.

Much less, even, is it the case that one may secretly repent of a sin, and subsequently, deny that the transgression ever was committed! Strange indeed is the meaning of repentance in such a person’s spiritual lexicon.

Second, whenever such is possible, an attempt at restitution should be made. There are a number of Old Testament passages that make clear this point (see Ex. 22:1ff; cf. Lk. 19:8b). Though we are not bound by the specifics of Mosaic legislation, the principle is important nonetheless.

In the case of a murder, the destroyed life can never be restored, but the murderer might be able, to the best of his ability, help support the widow and children of his victim. If one has stolen money, it should be repaid to the extent of his ability. If a banker has embezzled a million dollars from the financial institution for which he has worked, he might never be able to repay that entire sum, but he should attempt to do what he can. If a person declares bankruptcy, he is morally obligated to repay his creditors (as much as is feasible).

One is not permitted to enjoy the fruit of his crime. Of course it is always possible that the victim of the abuse might “forgive” the debt (Mt. 18:27), but the sinner must never take that for granted. One must never reason, “Because I cannot repair all my sins, I will make no attempt to remedy any of them.”

The conscientious Bible student is forced to conclude that any repentance without the full compliment of elements that define that term is no repentance at all.

Obtained at: www.christiancourier.com

God Entrusted You and Me

By Gary C. Hampton

God entrusted us with many things. Jesus’ powerful point in the Parable of the Talents is that the Almighty has given us things that belong to Him, and they are to be used in a way that furthers His interest (Matthew 25:14-30). Every individual needs to ensure that he or she uses those things in a way that will glorify our Father.

God gave us life. Paul declared, “for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring ’” (Acts 17:28). We are a part of His creation, exist by His power and should live to give Him glory (Colossians 1:16; Romans 11:36). He has given us today as a part of our lives, and we should seek Him while we can (Isaiah 55:6; Hebrews 3:12-13).

Our loving Father gave us material things to sustain us in life. All Christians should purpose to lay something into the treasury of the church on the first day of the week based upon the way God prospers us (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:7). God gave us ability that should be used in His service (Matthew 25:14-30). This includes working to provide for the needs of our families and others (1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 4:28).

We serve the God of all comfort. He blesses us with comfort so that we will, in turn, be prepared to bless others in their times of struggle. The greatest comfort comes from the realization that He will bring everyone forth from the tomb (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 9-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The Gospel is the greatest thing God has given us in trust. We were in a wretched state, enslaved to sin. God gave His Son to give us a means of escape (Romans 7:24-25a; 1 Timothy 1:15). For that reason, Paul said he was a debtor to all men. That debt drove him to preach the Gospel, and all faithful men will do likewise (Romans 1:14-16; Timothy 2:2).

You and I need to live daily in a way worthy of God’s trust.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com