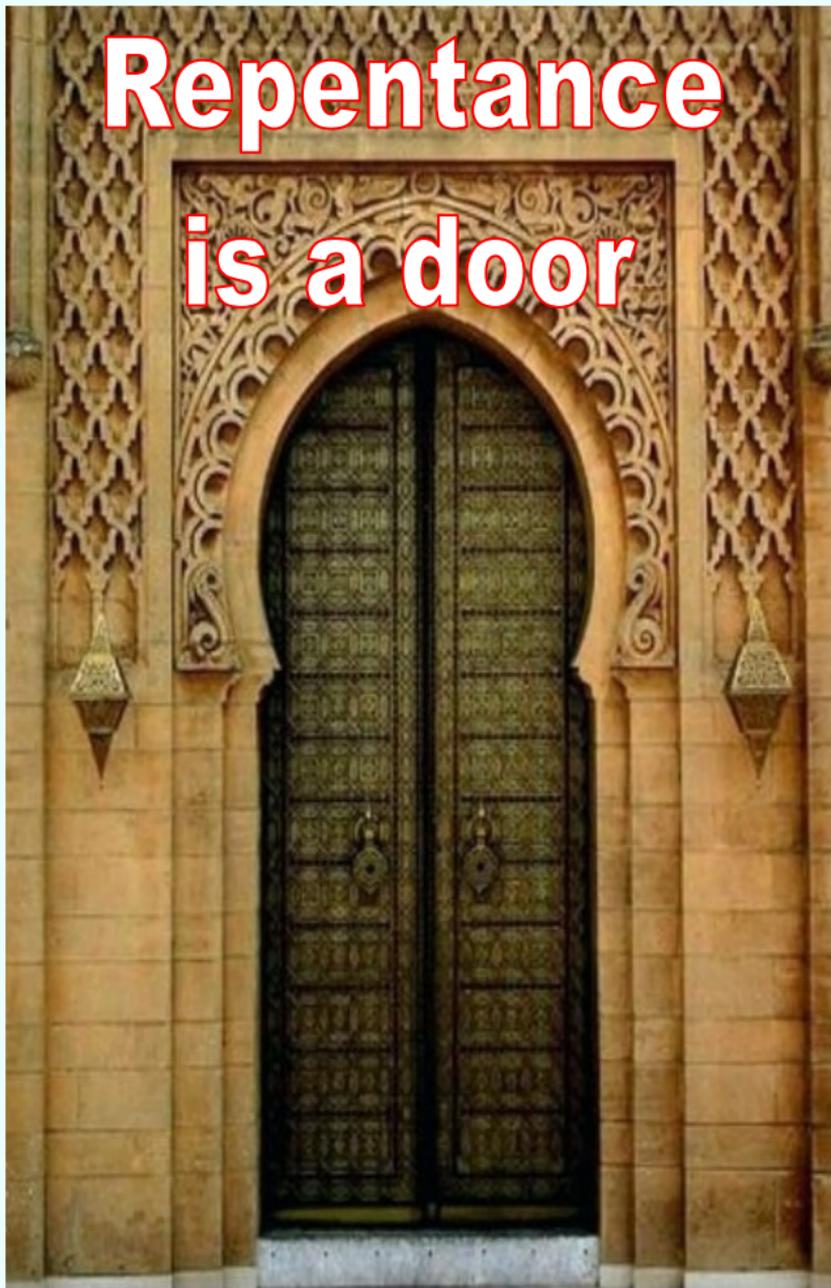


**Repentance
is a door**



Repentance is the door to life

Repentance is the door to heaven and eternal life with God. If there is no repentance, there will be no forgiveness and no life. There is only judgment from God for the unrepentant. The unrepentant will die in their sins. The unrepentant live in the darkness without true personal knowledge of God.

Repentance happens when we take a complete spiritual turnaround from living according to our own understanding in the darkness of the world, to live in and under the light of God. Repentance is a surrendered obedient heart. A surrendered heart brings new life.

Jesus said, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" (John 3:3) We must be born again by the Spirit of God so we no longer walk in darkness but have the light of life. Jesus said, "*I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.*"

John 8:12

Why do we need to repent? Failing to repent means we will face God's judgment. Many people think they are basically good with nothing that would cause God to reject them. But the Bible says there are many ways we deserve God's judgment.

Sins against God need repentance

In the first place breaking the Ten Commandments is serious sin and requires repentance. Idolatry is the sin of worship and devotion of images and other gods; or things, like a job and other people. Disregard for God's law and His written word is sin. Stubbornness in obeying God amounts to rebellion, and goes along with disobedience. Unfaithfulness to God is spiritual adultery and compromises our faith. Covetousness is selfishness and materialism, and considers material possessions and physical comfort more important than spiritual values. Bearing a false witness against others is sin. Gluttony for an excess of food is sinful. Sexual lust

with fornication and homosexuality betray our God given purpose for the ongoing process of creation. Adultery and divorce is a betrayal of the marriage covenant to remain faithful. Pornography and other sexual perversions degrade mankind. Arrogance and pride challenge God's sovereign authority. Breaking God's Covenant destroys fellowship. The shedding of innocent blood is murder. Deceitful lies and cheating are the devils handiwork. All drug abuse and drunkenness destroy the soul. Slander and gossip shows contempt for others. Anger, hatred, bitterness and unforgiveness are unloving and stand in the place of God's reckoning. Witchcraft, the new age and the occult open us up to the dark things of Satan. Racism and discrimination deny the dignity of all humanity under God.

A lack of love, devotion, and passionate service to God and others reveals a hard heart and blindness to the only true God. Being good enough is not good enough. Sin is failing to love GOD for who HE is, and

failing to love our neighbours as we would want God to love us. So where do we look for an example of how to live? Jesus as the Son of Man, was the ideal man, and came to show us how we need to live before God. Therefore anything that falls short of His life is sin and worthy of God's righteous judgment.

Repentance opens the way for forgiveness

Repentance is only effective when there is a real commitment to turning away from living in opposition to God's purposes. Without forgiveness we will die in our sin. Repentance is putting our free will into God's hands.

Repentance is the key to being forgiven. Jesus said, *"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."* (Luke 5:32) *"In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* Luke 15:10

Our repentance and God's forgiveness means we are saved from our sin, and Jesus is the saviour. When his mother Mary was visited

by an angel, she was told, "*She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*"

Matt 1:21

Christ's death on the cross was not a symbol of God's love for 'good people', but for all those who lived in the world! "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*"

(John 3:16) Christ came for all the sinners who lived in the world. And since there are no good people in the world, Christ died for everyone. "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"

Rom 3:23

"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him."

1 John 4:9

Unless we come to Jesus in repentance we will die in our sin. John the Baptist testified to the saving power of Jesus. "*Behold, the Lamb*

of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
(John 1:29) Jesus Himself said. *"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."* John 8:24

It doesn't matter what we've done, if we turn to God and confess our sins, He will forgive us of anything we've done if we are willing to bring all before Him! *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
1 John 1:9

There is no sin too great for God to forgive if we come. *"Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."* (Titus 2:14) "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, *"Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool."*
Isaiah 1:18

The only sin God can't forgive, is the one we won't take to Him!! If we resist the Spirit bringing us to repentance, there is no forgiveness. The unrepentant can only look forward to eternity in hell and damnation.

Repentance is possible by the grace of God

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." Eph 1:7

It is only the goodness of God that draws us to Him and leads us to repent and turn to Him. *"Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"* (Rom 2:4) *"The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness."* Jer 31:3

"Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of

justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him."

Isaiah 30:18

We are set free from the sin nature by being forgiven by God, we are not set free from ever sinning again, we are set free from living in sin, and we are set free from the power of sin to control our lives.

Rom 6:14

Repentance opens the way to born again

Jesus came to save us from our sins. The word "sins" in Matt 1:21 is a noun, it names us as sinners who have a sin nature. *'For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.'* (Rom 5:19) Because we are born with a sinful human nature following Adam's sin, we sin because we have a sinful nature as a result of Adam's sin. We are sinners because we have Adam's nature. Through one man's disobedience we are born into sin with a sin nature. In order to be made righteous we need to have a new nature only God can give. To

have a new nature we ‘*You must be born again.*’ (John 3:7) To be born again we need to die to the old nature we inherited from Adam. (Rom 6:4) We can't live as before and claim to be in Christ at the same time.

Jesus came to deal with the cause of our sin, our sin nature. Nothing can free us from sin apart from a new beginning; we need a death to sin and a new life. We have to be set from the sin nature if we are to be released from the power of sin in our lives. If the sin nature is finished we will not go on living as sinners.

Being born again is to be born of the nature of God as His children. '*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*' (Gal 3:26) Jesus came to save us from our sins by giving us a new life freed from the power of sin.

Rom 6:7; 8:2

Romans 6:1 says the repentant have died to sin, that is to the sin nature. As were baptised into Christ we have been baptised into His death, therefore our sin nature has gone to the

grave with Christ. (Rom 6:2) The cause of sin has been put to death in our death with Christ. Paul goes on to say that as Christ was raised, we too are raised into a new life; we walk in newness of life.

Rom 6:4

Repentance opens the way for a life lived under the dominion of the Spirit of God

The new life is submissive to the Spirit of Christ in God. Those who are led by the Spirit are children of God, and obey Him.

'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh, for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.'

Rom 8:11-14

We are told those who repent have the Christ life living in them by the Spirit. God gives us a new life that we may grow up to be like Christ. *'For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren, and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.'*

Rom 8:29-30

'It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.' (Gal 2:20) The Christ life means following His example. To be born of the life of Christ is not only possible for those who follow His example; it is also the very work of the Spirit of God now working in the one who is repentant. *'For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'* (Phil 2:13) To follow His example means we deny ourselves and take up our cross daily to follow Him. Luke 9:23

Following Christ means complete and absolute obedience to God our Father. As Jesus Himself declared, "*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me,*" (John 4:34) and again, "*For I came down from Heaven not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*"

John 6:38

We are a new creation in Christ, '*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*' (2 Cor 5:17) Now we produce the fruit of righteousness, called the fruit of the Spirit. '*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*' (Gal 5:22-23) These fruit of the Spirit are not to be taken as an exhaustive catalogue; they are indicators of the life of the Spirit of Christ working through those who are born again. If we want a more complete idea of the fruit of the Spirit we must look to the life of Christ and how He

lived as our example. If we don't see the Spirit working, He is not resident in us and we die.

We are to offer ourselves to Him in love as He offered Himself to the Father and "*became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.*" (Phil. 2:8) *'Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.'* (Rom 12:1) *'Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.'*

Eph 5:1-2

Who then is the Christian?

What makes us a Christian? Coming to church? The doing good things? Knowing all the scriptures? Learning the catechism? No; the only thing that makes us Christians is Christ in us. The life of Jesus in us by the Spirit of God is what makes us Christians.

What makes us a sinner? The sin nature we have from Adam so we are like the children of Satan. The sin nature makes us a slave to sin and a child of the devil living under his dominion and deception.

The sinful nature is of the devil. *'You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.'* (John8:44) The sin nature produces the fruit of sinfulness.

Repentance is the door to a new life with God with continuous change as the power of God works in us to make us like Christ. But if there is no loathing of the way we lived in darkness and our self centeredness, (Ezek 36:31) we will not want the door of repentance that leads to life, we may even deny we need forgiveness, and we will not see the need to turn around, so we will remain in the dark and die in our sin.

Only those who see themselves as sinners see the need for repentance. The Christian life is only possible when we go through the door

that leads to life, and that door is Christ. (John 10:7) We can only enter that door when we die to self to live for Christ. Christ is then our life. (Col 3:4) Then we live in repentance daily as we see in us what is not belonging to the Christ life.

The Christian can be merciful to those who walk in darkness because we have been where they are, and we are aware they don't really know they are servants of the price of darkness. We are no longer to get angry (Col 3:8) because anger is also from the darkness. We now serve Christ and we walk by the Spirit because we are born of God to be like His Son. If we *'walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.'*

Gal 5:16

The Christian has received a part in the divine nature of God. *'His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the full knowledge of the One who called us by His own glory and excellence. Through these He has given us His*

precious and wonderful promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, seeing that you have escaped the corruption that is in the world caused by evil desires.'

2 Pet 1:3-4

Can we have two natures?

If we sin after we are born again, do we go back to having a sinful nature? Can we have the nature of Christ and a sinful nature at the same time? To say we are sinners because we sin is to say we have not been freed from the power of sin, the sin nature, and that we have two natures with Satan and Christ living in us. This is to say two forces dominate us. This actually denies the truth that Christ can set us free, and that we can put off old habits and walk in newness of life with Him as Lord.

If we sin after we are born again we are not living according to who we now are in Christ as children of God born of His Spirit. In Christ we may slip up but we cannot go on sinning, we always remain with Christ.

Satan may tempt but he has no power since Christ now reigns in us. The Spirit of Christ now rules the temple of our bodies, unless of course we are double minded. Repentance is decisive, out with the old power, and in with the new, with the truth of God's powerful presence in us. So if there is no remorse, it probably means there has been no real repentance. If spiritual change in His likeness isn't happening, our believing may be worthless, and our decision for God may have been half hearted.

'For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.'

Rom 6:5-7

What makes us righteous before God? Christ in us, Jesus living in us. (Gal 2:20) If we are

born again and we sin we are not living according to His nature of righteousness. We are degrading ourselves.

'But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.'

Rom 6 17-18

However if we say we don't sin we are a liar, (1 John 1:8) but we haven't taken on two natures, we are in Christ, but we are not living as Christ would want us to live, we are falling down on our commitment to do all things as unto God. (Col 3:23) *'No one who has been born from God practices sin, because God's seed abides in him. Indeed, he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born from God.'*

1 John 3:9

This means we cannot be in Christ and go on living in the devil at the same time. But if we go on sinning and feel no need of repentance,

we have been deceived into thinking we are forgiven; we have never really repented and we were never really saved. *'Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.'*

1Cor 15:1-2

If we sin after we are born again we are being unfaithful and disrespectful to the new life we have in God. But *'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'*

1 John 1:9

We go to heaven because we are born again. No one can enter heaven if they haven't died to sin and being born again in Christ with His nature. *'Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.'*

1 Cor 15:50

Our reactions to what is happening around us, is the fruit of our lives and show where we are in our hearts. (Matt 7:16) If we behave according to the world which is in darkness, we have failed to live the Christ life. If we don't loath sin in us, we walk in the dark. If we say we have no sin we lie, but if the life of Christ has been born in us we will not want to go on sinning, we will want to repent quickly and be cleansed of all unrighteousness.

The church all around the world is full of people who have never really repented because they think they are nice people who try to be good. They are mistaken in thinking they are good enough, and saved by their own efforts. They think it is enough to go to Church. But God tells us, *'For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.'* (Eph 2:8) With the wrong attitude of goodness some have never seen their darkness as God sees it, they have not loathed their behaviour, and don't realise all darkness is from the sinful nature

controlled by the prince of darkness. All who remain in sin will face the Judgment of God.

Unfortunately there are many who have never repented, who have never been forgiven and have never been born again by God because they have never left the world behind by going through the door of repentance. They live according to their nature in Adam and cannot possibly produce the fruit of the Spirit's life because He is not resident in them.

Rom 8:9

If you have never really repented of your sinful nature and your deeds of darkness, hear the Lord. "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION." 2 Cor 6:2

If you have repented, live according to the life Christ has placed in you.

'And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince

of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.'

Eph 2:1-10

Thank God for His grace in calling us to repentance.

Living Water Resources



Come to the River

Compiled by

Robert C May

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cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au