

## Notes And Helps to Instructors

Thank you for volunteering to lead a group through the treasures of God's word! You may feel overwhelmed or inadequate, but you can do this! The leader notes are designed to help you grow in knowledge and love for Christ and for you to help pass what you have received to your group. Here are some suggestions to help equip you to grow in your teaching and leading ability.

- These lessons could simply be read, and a group would receive something but that is not how they are designed. The notes are designed to grow you as a leader so you might tailor the lesson for the needs of your group. Some groups may not have much of a knowledge base in the bible, so the concepts must be brought down to their level. Other groups may have a large knowledge base and you may challenge them with more information. The key is to know your group. If you begin leading a group in one way and find that it is not connecting, it is alright to modify and bring down or raise up the level of information.
- The more preparation you do the stronger you will be as a leader. Let the study material be a joy for you! Let it feed you as you prepare! The more you are fed the more you have to give to your group.
- There is no set time on how long a lesson may take. Lessons could be slowed down and take several weeks to finish. Perhaps in leading a group, one question captivates the group and leads to a fruitful conversation. If that happens, that is good! You are in no hurry. If you can finish the material in a week, then great! But if it takes several, that is great as well! The important thing is that they receive deeply from the gospel of Jesus.
- Pray about your lesson! Pray as you prepare! Pray as you teach! Remember we do not teach or exercise our gifts in our own strength. The Holy Spirit is the one who opens the heart and mind. Pray for the Spirit to move in your heart and the heart of the group.

May our merciful Triune God bless your study and your group that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

In Christ,

Prison Discipleship Ministry

## Lessons in Salvation -- Lesson 5 "What Is Repentance? Why Is It Important?"

### Introduction:

The Westminster Shorter Catechism says this about repentance:

**Question 87** What is repentance unto life?

**Answer:** Repentance until life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

**Read these passages at least five times then answer the questions as best you can:**

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mat 4:17 NKJ)

<sup>30</sup> And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>32</sup> "I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Luk 5:30-32 NKJ)

<sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. (2Co 7:10 NKJ)

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1Jo 1:8-9 NKJ)

From reading these passages, define "repent" or "repentance."

Why did Jesus call men to repentance?

What is the required to enter the Kingdom of God?

What kind of people did Jesus spend time with? Why did He do that?

Define false repentance. What does it look like? What are its results?

When a man repents and turns to Christ, does he live a perfect life? Explain.

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From reading these passages, define "repent" or "repentance."

Mark 4:17, tells us that we are to repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Luke 5:30-32, tells us that Jesus came to call sinners to repentance.

2 Cor 7:10, tells us that godly sorrow for our sins produces repentance and that leads to salvation.

1 John 1:9, tells us that if we confess our sins Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us.

So, If we put together what is said here, "Repentance is recognizing that we are sinners and have sinned, knowing that Jesus is faithful and just to forgive our sins when we confess them to him, to confess them with godly sorrow, so that we might enter into the kingdom of God."

See the above question and answer from the Westminster Shorter Catechism 87. Notice how these passages tell us very much the same thing.

Why did Jesus call men to repentance?

First and foremost, it is because Jesus is loving and kind. Rom 2:4 says, "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" His love is so great for his people that he is not

willing to lose any of his people as told us in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." Luke 15:7 tells us Jesus has joy in his people repenting, "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." So Jesus calls us to repentance because he loves us, will not lose his people, and it fills him with joy

Second, he knows it is our sins that have separated the human race from God. Sin must be dealt with and has in the person of Christ. Repentance is a response of faith to Christ. We are saved by faith alone. Repentance is the breath of someone who knows their sins, knows the holiness of God, and has their faith in him as the only one who can save them from their sins.

Third, Martin Luther once said, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." We are sinners and until we die or Christ returns, we will always have areas of sin in our life and heart. Sin separates us from the fullness of fellowship with Jesus. Repentance restores that relationship and fellowship that we might feel his love in greater ways, have more to fuel for our worship and thanksgiving to him, realize more that we do not stand on our own power but by the Spirit, long for heaven and deeper fellowship with him, and many other reasons that perhaps you or your class might think of.

What is the required to enter the Kingdom of God?

Repentance is required to enter the kingdom of God.

What kind of people did Jesus spend time with? Why did He do that?

He spent time with tax collectors and sinners. He spent time with those who know they are sinners because it is they who can hear the good news. The good news of the gospel is not good news unless you know the bad news. The bad news is that you are a sinner and deserve an eternal hell for your sins against an eternal holy God. The good news of the gospel when we come to Christ in repentance and faith our sins are forgiven, and we are welcomed into his kingdom as his people. That is not good news to those who do not know they are sinners. We must realize our sin before Jesus becomes precious.

Define false repentance. What does it look like? What are its results?

2 Cor 7:10 tells us, "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." There is in this text a difference between worldly sorrow and godly repentance. The difference is that worldly repentance has to do with the consequences of our sins and the worldly affect of those sins in our lives. For example, one might have sinned against his wife and is full of regret for the change in situation in that relationship, but all the thoughts he has are about the worldly affects that sin has caused (e.g.,

how can I get her to return to me? How can I have peace in my home again? This home is so uncomfortable now so how do I repair that distance? Etc.) A great example is in the life of Judas. (Matt 27:1-8) Judas betrayed Christ for 30 pieces of silver. But when he saw that Jesus was put on trial, he returned to the Pharisees, and he tried to return the money. He was not repentant for his sins against God but had worldly regret. Jesus is now going on trial, and he is losing his ability to steal money and perhaps if Jesus became King in earthly Judea, a nice position in his kingdom rule. Godly sorrow is concerned about consequences in our worldly existence, not seeing our sins as first and primary sins against a holy God and how our sins hurts our fellowship with Him and apprehension of His love.

In contrast, Godly sorrow deals with the earthly affects sin has caused. But is pointed towards God as the one our sin has ultimately offended. The prime example of this can be seen with King David in Psalm 51. David committed the sin of rape and murder (2 Sam 11). He had thought he got away with it, until Nathan the prophet came to him and told him that his sin was not hidden from God (2 Sam 12). Psalm 51 is his cry of repentance to God. He says that in Psalm 51.

*1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

He asks for mercy according to the love that God has for him. In other words, he apprehended the mercy of God and his kindness led him to repentance

*2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!*

He asks for God to was him as he knows that nothing else could forgive him of his sin. Especially since under the law, there was no forgiveness for his sins. He needed a mercy that came from outside the law. According to the law, he was a dead man, and he knew it.

*3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.*

*4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*

He knows that God sees all things and God knows his sin, even the sin secret in his heart. And he knows that although he sinned greatly against Bathsheba and Uriah, ultimately, his sin was against God.

*5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

He knows that he is a sinner by heart. He knows he does not need behavioral modification; he needs cleansing of his very heart. He knows that it is out of his heart that his sin comes forth (Mark 7:14-23).

*6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.*

*7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.*

*9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.*

*10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*11 Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

He longs for restored fellowship with God. He longs for that restoration more than anything else.

*13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.*

*14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.*

*15 O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.*

He wants to be able to praise God for his goodness. He knows that every time we repent for our sins, we add more fuel—we add one more log to the fire—of our praise to God and our thankfulness to him. Repentance helps us see his love and kindness to us, and we then are able to grow in our love to Him.

*16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.*

*17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

God delights in a broken heart of sin towards him. He delights when we know that He is our only salvation. We cannot enter into his courts without knowing our sin and his holiness. Christ is our final sacrifice; there are no more offerings to give. What we give is our heart broken by sin and rejoicing in the saving work of Christ. When we come to God in repentance, we breath out the truth of the gospel. Jesus saves sinners. So when we remind ourselves and Jesus that we are sinners and repent to him, we remind our hearts that Jesus died for us.

*18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;  
19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

When a man repents and turns to Christ, does he live a perfect life? Explain.

No, we will always have sin in our hearts; and therefore, cannot live a perfect life in this world. We never out-grow our need for grace in this life and so never out-grow our need for repentance. Repentance is a turning away from sin to God with full purpose and endeavor after new obedience. It is a desire to walk away, not never, ever struggling with or falling to that sin again. True repentance is not perfect repentance just like true faith is not perfect faith.

## Appendix on Repentance

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### 84. What doth every sin deserve?

*Answer:* Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.<sup>1</sup>

*See also:* [WLC 152](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [Eph. 5:6](#); [Gal. 3:10](#); [Lam. 3:39](#); [Matt. 25:41](#)

#### 85. What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

*Answer:* To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life,<sup>1</sup> with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.<sup>2</sup>

*See also:* [WLC 153](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [Acts 20:21](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Prov. 2:1-5](#); [Prov. 8:33-36](#); [Isa. 55:3](#)

#### 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

*Answer:* Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,<sup>1</sup> whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.<sup>2</sup>

*See also:* [WCF 14.1](#) | [WLC 72](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [Heb. 10:39](#)

<sup>2</sup> [John 1:12](#); [Isa. 26:3,4](#); [Phil. 3:9](#); [Gal. 2:16](#)

#### 87. What is repentance unto life?

*Answer:* Repentance unto life is a saving grace,<sup>1</sup> whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin,<sup>2</sup> and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ,<sup>3</sup> doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God,<sup>4</sup> with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.<sup>5</sup>

*See also:* [WCF 15.2](#) | [WLC 76](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [Acts 11:18](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Acts 2:37,38](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Joel 2:12](#); [Jer. 3:22](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Jer. 31:18,19](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Ezek. 36:31](#)

#### 88. What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?

*Answer:* The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.<sup>1</sup>

*See also:* [WLC 154](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [Matt. 28:19,20](#); [Acts 2:42,46,47](#)

#### 89. How is the word made effectual to salvation?



*Answer:* The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.<sup>1</sup>

*See also:* WLC 155

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<sup>1</sup> Neh. 8:8; 1 Cor. 14:24,25; Acts 26:18; Ps. 19:8; Acts 20:32; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Rom. 10:-17; Rom. 1:16

**90. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?**

*Answer:* That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence,<sup>1</sup> preparation,<sup>2</sup> and prayer;<sup>3</sup> receive it with faith and love,<sup>4</sup> lay it up in our hearts,<sup>5</sup> and practice it in our lives.<sup>6</sup>

*See also:* WLC 157

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<sup>1</sup> Prov. 8:34

<sup>2</sup> 1 Pet. 2:1,2

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 119:18

<sup>4</sup> Heb. 4:2; 2 Thess. 2:10

<sup>5</sup> Ps. 119:11

<sup>6</sup> Luke 8:15; James 1:25

#### 84. What doth every sin deserve?

*Answer:* Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Eph. 5:6](#); [Gal. 3:10](#); [Lam. 3:39](#); [Matt. 25:41](#)

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Eph. 5:6 NKJ)

<sup>10</sup> For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." (Gal. 3:10 NKJ)

<sup>39</sup> Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? (Lam. 3:39 NKJ)

<sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, `Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matt. 25:41 NKJ)

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*See also:* [WLC 153](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [Acts 20:21](#)

<sup>21</sup> "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21 NKJ)

<sup>2</sup> [Prov. 2:1-5](#); [Prov. 8:33-36](#); [Isa. 55:3](#)

NKJ **Proverbs 2:1** My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

<sup>2</sup> So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding;

<sup>3</sup> Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding,

<sup>4</sup> If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures;

<sup>5</sup> Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. (Prov. 2:1-5 NKJ)

<sup>33</sup> Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain *it*.

<sup>34</sup> Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.

<sup>35</sup> For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD;

<sup>36</sup> But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death." (Prov. 8:33-36 NKJ)

NKJ **Isaiah 55:1** "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen

carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you-- The sure mercies of David. (Isa. 55:1-3 NKJ)

### **86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?**

*Answer:* Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,<sup>1</sup> whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.<sup>2</sup>

*See also:* [WCF 14.1](#) | [WLC 72](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [Heb. 10:39](#)

<sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. (Heb. 10:38-39 NKJ)

<sup>2</sup> [John 1:12](#); [Isa. 26:3,4](#); [Phil. 3:9](#); [Gal. 2:16](#)

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

<sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (Jn. 1:10-13 NKJ)

<sup>3</sup> You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You. (Isa. 26:3 NKJ)

<sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; (Phil. 3:9 NKJ)

<sup>16</sup> "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. (Gal. 2:16 NKJ)

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<sup>1</sup> [Acts 11:18](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Acts 2:37,38](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Joel 2:12](#); [Jer. 3:22](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Jer. 31:18,19](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Ezek. 36:31](#)

<sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." (Acts 11:18 NKJ)

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:37-38 NKJ)

<sup>12</sup> "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." <sup>13</sup> So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. (Joel 2:12-13 NKJ)

<sup>22</sup> "Return, you backsliding children, *And* I will heal your backslidings." "Indeed we do come to You, For You are the LORD our God. (Jer. 3:22 NKJ)

<sup>18</sup> "I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself: `You have chastised me, and I was chastised, Like an untrained bull; Restore me, and I will return, For You *are* the LORD my God.

<sup>19</sup> Surely, after my turning, I repented; And after I was instructed, I struck myself on the thigh; I was ashamed, yes, even humiliated, Because I bore the reproach of my youth.' (Jer. 31:18-19 NKJ)

<sup>31</sup> "Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. (Ezek. 36:31 NKJ)

### **88. What are the outward means whereby Christ communiceth to us the benefits of redemption?**

*Answer:* The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communiceth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Matt. 28:19,20](#); [Acts 2:42,46,47](#)

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen. (Matt. 28:18-20 NKJ)

<sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. <sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47 NKJ)

### **89. How is the word made effectual to salvation?**

*Answer:* The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.<sup>1</sup>

*See also:* WLC 155

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<sup>1</sup> Neh. 8:8; 1 Cor. 14:24,25; Acts 26:18; Ps. 19:8; Acts 20:32; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Rom. 10:10-17; Rom. 1:16

<sup>8</sup> So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading. (Neh. 8:8 NKJ)

<sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.

<sup>25</sup> And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on *his* face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. (1 Cor. 14:24-25 NKJ)

<sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. (Acts 26:18 NKJ)

<sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; (Ps. 19:8 NKJ)

<sup>32</sup> "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32 NKJ)

<sup>4</sup> For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Rom. 15:4 NKJ)

<sup>15</sup> and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:15-4:1 NKJ)

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart " (that is, the word of faith which we preach):<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.<sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.<sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

<sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.<sup>13</sup> For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."<sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?<sup>15</sup> And how shall they

preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

<sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

<sup>17</sup> So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:8-17 NKJ)

<sup>15</sup> So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." (Rom. 1:15-17 NKJ)

### **90. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?**

*Answer:* That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence,<sup>1</sup> preparation,<sup>2</sup> and prayer;<sup>3</sup> receive it with faith and love,<sup>4</sup> lay it up in our hearts,<sup>5</sup> and practice it in our lives.<sup>6</sup>

*See also:* WLC 157

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<sup>1</sup> Prov. 8:34

<sup>2</sup> 1 Pet. 2:1,2

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 119:18

<sup>4</sup> Heb. 4:2; 2 Thess. 2:10

<sup>5</sup> Ps. 119:11

<sup>6</sup> Luke 8:15; James 1:25

<sup>34</sup> Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. (Prov. 8:34 NKJ)

<sup>NKJ</sup> **1 Peter 2:1** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

<sup>2</sup> as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, (1 Pet. 2:1-2 NKJ)

<sup>18</sup> Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. (Ps. 119:18 NKJ)

<sup>2</sup> For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. (Heb. 4:2 NKJ)

<sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (2 Thess. 2:10 NKJ)

<sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! (Ps. 119:11 NKJ)

<sup>15</sup> "But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience. (Lk. 8:15 NKJ)

<sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (Jas. 1:23-25 NKJ)

## Appendix on Repentance 2

### “What Is Repentance? Why Is It Important?”

#### Additional Material

#### God grants repentance

##### Acts 11:18

<sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." (Acts 11:18 NKJ)

##### 2 Timothy 2:25

<sup>24</sup> And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, <sup>26</sup> and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will. (2 Tim. 2:24-26 NKJ)

#### Justification by Faith Alone

##### Romans 4:3-5

<sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

<sup>4</sup> Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

<sup>5</sup> But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, (Rom. 4:3-5 NKJ)

##### Galatians 2:16

<sup>16</sup> "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. (Gal. 2:16 NKJ)

#### Faith/repentance (two sides of the same coin – they occur simultaneously)

##### Acts 20:21

<sup>21</sup> "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21 NKJ)

##### Acts 16:31

<sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." (Acts 16:30-31 NKJ)

#### Necessity of Repentance

##### Luke 13:1-5

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Luke 13:1** There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things? <sup>3</sup> "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Lk. 13:1-5 NKJ)

## **Ordo Salutis (Order of Salvation –Romans 8:29ff)**

– Logical order not temporal order

### **Romans 8:29-31**

<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? (Rom. 8:29-31 NKJ)

Regeneration

(Faith/repentance)

Justification

Sanctification

**Responsibility of all men to repent**

### **Rev. 9:20, 21**

<sup>20</sup> But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

<sup>21</sup> And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (Rev. 9:20-21 NKJ)

### **16:9, 11**

<sup>8</sup> Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. <sup>9</sup> And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

<sup>10</sup> Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. <sup>11</sup> They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (Rev. 16:8-11 NKJ)

## **Calls to the churches to repent (5 of 7)**

### **Rev 2:5 (Ephesus)**

<sup>5</sup> "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent. (Rev. 2:5 NKJ)

### **Rev. 2:16 (Pergamos)**

<sup>16</sup> "Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (Rev. 2:16 NKJ)

### **Rev. 2:21,22 (Thyatira)**

<sup>21</sup> "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. <sup>22</sup> "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. (Rev. 2:21-22 NKJ)

### **Rev. 3:3 (Sardis)**



<sup>3</sup> "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. (Rev. 3:3 NKJ)

**Rev. 3:19 (Laodicea)**

<sup>19</sup> "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Rev. 3:19 NKJ)