

## Course DC107: Repentance and Faith

. . . testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks,  
repentance toward God and faith toward our  
Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:21



**Intro:** Scripture leaves no room for argument or doubt – *no one is able to save himself*. All have sinned, and sin is infinitely opposed to the righteousness and holiness of God. Finite/created creatures could never atone for that which is infinitely opposed by the righteousness of God, nor could a man’s good works ever add up to salvation. Therefore, either God Himself must provide the way of salvation, or there is no hope. Praise God, He has done this in sending Jesus Christ – the Infinite Sacrifice has made the way, for “where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” (Rom. 5:20). Scripture declares that all who repent, turning from their sin towards God, and believe in Jesus Christ, will be forgiven; justified; redeemed; reconciled — saved.

### I.) Salvation Not Possible By Works

#### The Impossibility of Works to Justify/Save a Person: (*The Law Doesn’t Rescue, it Reveals*)

- Rom. 3:19-24 <sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
- Rom. 4:13-15 <sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.
- Rom. 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law.
- Gal 3:10-12 <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.” <sup>11</sup> But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.” <sup>12</sup> Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.”
- James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

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#### Salvation by Grace through Faith:

- Eph. 2:8-10 <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
- Gal. 2:16 . . . 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.

- Rom. 4:5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,
- Rom. 11:5-6 <sup>6</sup> And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.
- Rom. 4:2-4 <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <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.
- Rom. 9:30-33 <sup>30</sup> What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; <sup>31</sup> but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. <sup>32</sup> Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. <sup>33</sup> As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."
- 2 Tim. 1:9 . . . who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

**Through Faith, Children of Promise, Children of Abraham:**

- Rom. 4:11-16 <sup>11</sup> And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, <sup>12</sup> and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised. <sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup> Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all . . .
- Gal. 3:6-9 <sup>6</sup> just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." <sup>7</sup> Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.
- Gal. 3:14 . . . that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- Rom. 4:23-25 <sup>23</sup> Now it was not written for his sake [Abraham's] alone that it was imputed to him, <sup>24</sup> but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

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### **Faith Attaining What the Law Could Not:**

- Acts 13:39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.
- John 6:28-29 <sup>28</sup> Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."
- Acts 15:9 . . . and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.  
Titus 3:3-7 <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- Rom. 3:25-31 <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. <sup>29</sup> Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

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### **II.) Believing on Jesus Brings Salvation**

**Intro:** The entire Christian life is a life of faith. Through faith the Christian life begins (Acts 16:31); the Christian lives/walks by faith (2 Cor. 5:7); through faith the Christian continues to stand in the grace of God (Rom. 5:2,11: 20, 2 Cor. 1:24); by faith Christians overcome and have victory (1 John 5:4); in faith the Christian is to both live and die (Heb. 11:13) – indeed, the Christian life is a life from faith to faith (Rom. 1:7). However, Scripture does not set forth merely a quality of “faith” itself, *but the One in whom our faith is placed*, as in the case of Abraham, who “believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness (Rom. 4:3). The Christian is to always look to the Author and Finisher of our faith, the Lord Jesus (Heb. 12:2), for without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).

### **Faith Precedes Regeneration:**

- Acts 10:43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.
- Acts 16:31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
- 1 Cor. 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
- John 20:31 . . . but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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- Rom. 1:16 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.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- Rom. 10:9-13 <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."
- John 1:12-13 <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.
- Luke 8:12 by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.
- Rom. 3:22 . . . even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.
- 1 Tim. 1:16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.
- Heb. 10:39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.
- Eph. 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise . . .

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Faith is the entrance to the Christian life, but continual faith is also how the Christian remains in Christ. The just shall live by faith (Rom 1:17). The following Scriptures point out that a Christian is one who is believing in Christ, rather than one who at one time believed. In each Scripture given below where the word "believe" is underlined, the word "believe" is given in the Greek as a **present active participle** – which means, the believing is ongoing by the person (i.e., continuing to believe). It is more difficult to recognize the present participle from the Greek in many modern translations, therefore, the texts below have been given from the King James translation. For in some places (though not in every case) the King James translators have used the "eth" ending where "believe" appears in Greek as a present participle – the "eth" indicating continuance.

**Living by Faith (i.e., believing):**

- John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
- John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?
- John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

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- Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever **believeth** in him shall receive remission of sins.
- Acts 13:39 And by him all that **believe** (Young’s Lit. Tran. “*believing*”) are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.
- Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that **believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- Rom. 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but **believeth** on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.
- Rom. 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever **believeth** on him shall not be ashamed.
- 1 Cor. 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that **believe**.
- 1 Thess. 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that **believe**.
- 1 Pet. 1:8-9 <sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet **believing**, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: <sup>9</sup> Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.
- 1 Pet. 2:6-7 <sup>6</sup> Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that **believeth** on him shall not be confounded. <sup>7</sup> Unto you therefore which **believe** *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,
- 1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that **believe** (Young’s Lit. Tran. “*believing*”) on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

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### III.) The Necessity of Repentance

**Intro:** Saving faith is more than mental ascent to facts, for though one says that he “believes” in God, his “believing” may fall far short of saving faith. This is illustrated by the fact that “*Even the demons believe—and tremble!*” (James 2:19). Genuine faith that brings one into the covenant of salvation is always accompanied by repentance. Repentance is more than merely remorse for sins, it is a turning towards God with a desire to offend no more; being as much a pledge for a reformed future-conduct as it is a remorse for past conduct. Repentance results when one submits to conviction, confessing his wrong (i.e., being in agreement with God concerning one’s guilt), and changes his course so that he will obey God in whatever He reveals. Salvation comes when there is “*repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Acts 20:21).

#### Repentance Required:

- Acts 20:21 . . . testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, *repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Luke 13:3-5 <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.*

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

- Acts 26:20 . . . but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.
- Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,
- Acts 2:38 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."
- Luke 5:31-32 <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."

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<sup>7</sup> I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. . . . <sup>10</sup> Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Luke 15:7 & 10

- Luke 24:47 . . . and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- Acts 17:30-31 <sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.
- Heb. 6:1-2 <sup>1</sup> Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

**Confessing and Forsaking Sin:**

- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Prov. 28:13-14 <sup>13</sup> He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. <sup>14</sup> Happy is the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.
- Isa. 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.
- Psalms 32:2-5 <sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit. <sup>3</sup> When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- Ps. 51:2-4 <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge.
- 2 Cor. 7:9-11<sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. <sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. <sup>11</sup> For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

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## IV.) Genuine Faith is More than Mental Ascent to Truth

**Intro:** Scripture is clear, no one can boast, we are not saved by works but by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). However, saving faith is not without works. Certainly there is no amount of good works that could ever add up to saving faith. But, just as assuredly, works reveal whether or not there is truly saving faith. When works (as faulty and unable as they are to save any one) are absent from one's living, it reveals that saving faith is also absent.

### Genuine Faith is Accompanied by Works:

- James 2:14-26 <sup>14</sup> What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! <sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? <sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
- Psa. 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.
- Matt. 3:8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance . . .
- Rom. 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

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**Conclusion:** Praise God for the cross! Praise God for the Blood! Praise God for reconciliation! Praise God for Jesus Christ! Romans 5:6-11 <sup>6</sup> For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.



. . . Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith . . . Rom. 3:24-25 / . . . having now been justified by His blood . . . Rom. 5:9 / In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace . . . Eph. 1:7 / But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:13 / . . . <sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Col. 2:14 / . . . how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Heb. 9:14 / Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, Heb. 10:19 / Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Heb. 13:12 / But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7 / . . . and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Rev. 1:5 / You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain. And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Rev. 5:9 / And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Rev. 12:11