**"Founded on the Rock"**

**Lesson Two – Repentance**

**Heb 6:1-3 –** Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.

In building a building, the foundation is extremely important. The same is true of roads and other enterprises as well. The preparation, what is done first, will affect everything else. This is true of the Christian life as well. What is the foundation of the Christian life, and how can we be sure we’ve laid it properly?

I. The foundation is repentance! (Heb. 6:1, 2)

 A. This was the message of the OT prophets.

 1. Jer. 4:1-4

 2. Is. 55:6, 7

 3. Hos. 14:1

 4. 2 Chron. 7:14

 5. Ez. 18:23, 27; 33:11

 B. It was the message of John the Baptist.

 1. Mat. 3:2 (God sent John specifically to preach repentance to prepare the way for Jesus!)

 2. How crucial it is to realize that repentance prepares the way of the Lord!

 C. Repentance was the message of Jesus the Christ as well.

 1. Mat. 4:17; Mar. 1:15

 3. Lu. 13:3, 5 (He told the people unless they repented, they would all perish.)

 D. It was the message Jesus told His first disciples to preach.

 1. Mar. 6:12 – He sent them out to preach repentance.

 2. Lu. 24:47 – Repentance should be preached in His name.

 3. Acts 2:38 – this was the very first message preached by a Christian evangelist.

II. What is repentance anyway?

 A. Metánoia – the Greek word, coming from meta – to change (also “after”), and nous - mind

1. “To change one’s mind or way of thinking, to change the direction or orientation of our life.”

2. This happens then, within the mind, but if it is real, it results in changed outward actions.

3. As an example, suppose you were on a train, and discovered it was the wrong one. What would you

 do?

 B. Repentance then, is not just an emotion, but rather, it is a decision of the will.

 C. It is not just confessing a sin or a need/problem; it is renouncing it and turning from it. (Titus 2:12)

 D. It is actually a work of God’s grace within us, making us see the ugliness and vanity of our sin, and

 causing us to want to turn from that to God. Phil. 2:13, Acts 11:18, 2 Tim. 2:25

III. Biblical Examples of Repentance.

 A. The Prodigal Son, (Luke 15:11-24).

 1. He made the decision to leave home. (A terrible insult to his father.)

 2. His sin brought consequences – living with the pigs in disgrace.

 3. He “came to himself;” there was an awareness of sin, of need, of his true condition. Metánoia!

 4. He made a decision. (A change of mind and attitude.)

 5. Not only that, but he acted upon, or followed through with his decision (vs. 20).

 6. The father, for his part, ran to him, accepted him, and gave him the ring (symbol of the restoration of

 trust and authority), the best robe (symbol of God’s covering of righteousness), and the sandals

 (symbols of a new walk, new purpose, new life.)

 B. Zacchaeus, (Luke 19:1-10).

 1. He was a renowned sinner; a publican, a thief, unpatriotic, a traitor, a greedy man, worse than a

 prostitute because he sold out his own for money!

 2. But, he desired to see Jesus.

 3. Then, Jesus called him by name; a word of knowledge, a dramatic, supernatural demonstration of

 God’s love and care for him.

 4. Jesus actually went home and ate with him. Again, God’s concern, love, acceptance, and care.

 5. 19:8 – Zack was so touched that his life was totally transformed (Ro. 2:4), to such an extent that he

 took action, decided to change his way of life and put into practice what he knew to be right.

 6. And then Jesus said that salvation had come to that house. Without repentance there can be no

 salvation, and when there is genuine repentance, it shows!

 7. This agrees with what Paul said in Acts 26:20, and what John the Baptist said in Mat. 3:8-10.

IV. Of what do we repent?

 A. Of being lords of our own lives.

 1. The first commandment says, “You shall have no other gods before me.”

 2. Satan chose his own way, and that was the beginning of “the mystery of iniquity.” (Is. 14:13, 14 – “I

 will be like the Most High.” He wanted to be God!)

 3. The *lordship* of Jesus is the key issue! (Lu. 14:26, 27, Mar. 8:34)

 4. It’s important that we understand the difference between *sin* and *sins*, between the root and trunk of

 a tree, and its branches and fruit.

 5. The real question is, “Who’s the boss? Who’s Lord?” Once that’s settled, all else falls into place.

 B. We must also repent of *sins*. (Anything that interferes with our relationship with God.)

 1. Gal. 5:19-21, Eph. 5:5, 1 Cor. 6:9, all contain lists of sins, which, if one *practices* habitually, will

 prohibit entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. (True faith would keep you from practicing these.)

 2. The world system is also something we must renounce. 1 Jn. 2:15, Ja. 4:4 The world system, its

 values, the lust of the flesh, of the eyes, and the pride of life.

 3. It’s also crucial to turn from all satanic influence. Acts 19:18-20, Deut. 18. (Astrology, witchcraft,

 occultism, etc.)

 4. All idols. 1 Jn. 5:21. These can be religious, or otherwise. Mar. 4:18, 19 (seed sown among thorns).

 5. Even our careers can become idols. Paul had to repent and leave the Sanhedrin, Moses left

 Pharaoh’s court, my friend Beto, a bar manager in Juarez, Mexico, had to leave his position.

V. Promises for those who repent.

 A. They will find mercy and pardon. (Is. 55:7)

 B. Confess and forsake your sin, and you’ll receive mercy! (Prov. 28:13)

 C. Acknowledge and confess your sin, and you’ll receive forgiveness. (Psalm 32:5)

 D. Remember the ring – authority from God, the robe – God’s very righteousness, and the sandals – a

 whole new purpose and walk.

True repentance lays the foundation for a strong walk with God. Without it, there can never be a real break with the world and a fresh start in life. Repentance must take place in order for us to ever begin to live as true disciples of the Lord. But it must also become a lifestyle as we go on with God, so that we can continually be cleansed, and freed from the entanglements of the world.