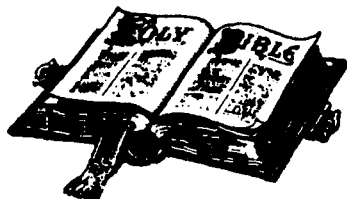


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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CHRISTIANS ARE SERVANTS

Christians (i.e., true disciples of Christ) are **servants**! It is shown in the Scriptures that Paul (Romans 1:1), Timothy (Phil. 1:1), James (1:1), Peter (2 Peter 1:1), Jude (verse 1), were **servants** and that **all** Christians are **servants**! (Cf. Romans 6:16-18). A **servant is one who serves another person or thing!**

Basically, a person can serve either **sin** or **righteousness**! One can serve either **God** or **Satan**! In serving **sin**, one is serving **Satan**. In serving **righteousness** one is serving **God**!

Christians must NOT serve **sin**! (See Romans 6:15-23; 6:1), Jesus declared that **"...whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."** (See John 8:34). Christians must NOT serve **mammon**! Jesus declared unto his disciples: **"...Ye cannot serve God and mammon."** (Matthew 6:24). NOTE: **Mammon** means **money, riches or material things**! Christians must NOT **"serve the tabernacle"** as taught in Hebrews 13:10! Christians must NOT serve **"their own belly"** nor **"divers lusts and pleasures"**! (See Romans 16:17-18 & Titus 3:3). Neither should

Christians serve **"the creature more than the Creator..."** (See Romans 1:25). One must NOT serve sin because **"the wages of sin is death."** (See Romans 6:23).

Christians **MUST serve righteousness**! (See Romans 6:15-23). Christians **MUST serve Christ**! (See John 12:26; Romans 14:18 & 16:17-18). Christians **MUST serve one another**! (See Gal. 5:13; 6:20). Christians **MUST serve God**! (See Mt. 4:10; 6:24; 1 Thess. 1:9; Heb. 9:14; Rom. 1:9).

We should **serve God** because: (1) He created us! (Cf. Gen. 1:16-17). (2) He owns us! (Cf. 1 Cor. 6:19-20). (3) He supplies our needs! (Cf. James 1:17; Acts 17:25, 28). (4) We must in order to be accepted of Him! (Cf. Rom. 14:16-18).

Our service to God must be characterized by:

1. **A willing mind**! (Cf. 2 Cor. 8:12).
2. **Humility**! (Cf. Acts 20:19; 1 Peter 5:5-6).
3. **Sacrifice**! (Cf. Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23).
4. **Reverence**! (Cf. Hebrews 12:28-29).
5. **Godly fear**! (Cf. Hebrews 12:28-29).

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Editorial ...

REPENTANCE

In Old Testament times Ezekiel preached **repentance** to the house of Israel because of their idolatry. (See Ezekiel 14:6 & 18:30).

John the Baptist preached **repentance**! His message was: "**Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" (Mt. 3:2). Mark 1:4 says that "**John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.**"

Jesus preached **repentance**! Matthew 4:17 says: "**From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" He said to some: "**I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**" (Luke 13:3).

Before the death of Christ on the cross, the twelve apostles preached **repentance**! Mark 6:12 says: "**And they went out, and preached that men should repent.**" After His death but before His ascension, Jesus gave the great commission which also requires **repentance** to be preached! (See Luke 24:46-47).

On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 the apostle Peter preached **repentance**! (See Acts 2:38). He also preached **repentance**

in Acts 3:19 and in Acts 10 and 11! Later Paul also preached **repentance**! (See Acts 17:30-31; 20:21 and Acts 26:20). Without question, we must conclude that **repentance should be preached!**

WHO SHOULD REPENT? Jesus said: "**I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repent.**" (Luke 5:32) Sinners should repent! We learn from the Scriptures that "**...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**" (Rom. 3:23). Paul declared: "**...for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;...**" (Rom. 3:9-10). Also see Gal. 3:22; 1 John 1:8-10 & 5:19).

All sinners (both aliens and erring children of God) should **repent**! (See Acts 2:38; 3:19 & 8:22). God is no respecter of persons! He requires **all** in sin to **repent**! (Cf. Acts 10:34-35).

WHAT IS REPENTANCE! Let us consider this question both negatively and positively!

REPENTANCE IS NOT:

1. **The denying of sin or the covering up of sin!** Our sins will find us out! (Cf. Num 32:23) Solomon said: "**He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.**" (Prov. 28:13). Sins are truly covereth **only** when they are forgiven! (Cf. Ps. 32:1-2). Sins are blotted out (or forgiven) **only** when there is **repentance**! (Cf. Acts 3:19; 2:38).

2. **Just (or only) being sorrowful!** A criminal may be sorrowful because he's arrested, or that his scheme failed or he is frowned upon by society, etc., but this is **not repentance**!

Judas Iscariot was sorrowful, but no **true** repentance was involved (Cf. Mt. 27:3-5; Acts 1:24).

Herod "**...was exceeding sorry...**" that the daughter of Herodias requested the head of John the Baptist, but there

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was no true repentance. (See Mark 6:14-29).

We learn from 2 Cor. 7:10 that **"...Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation"** but **"the sorrow of the world worketh death."** It takes "godly sorrow" to work or bring about repentance!

3. **Just a promise to quit sinning!** The fruits of repentance demand that we **quit** sinning and not just promise to do so! (See Mt. 3:8-9).

4. **Merely admitting or confessing that one is a sinner!** Admitting sin may be a step in the right direction, but that is **not** repentance! The fact that a person admits that he is a drunkard, an adulterer, liar, etc. does **not** mean that person has **repented!**

5. **Just being fearful or afraid!** Fear is important! We should **not** fear man, but God! **"There is no fear of God"** before the eyes of many! (See Mt. 10:28; Rom. 3:18). Even **"the devils"** believe and **"tremble."** (Cf. James 2:19).

6. **Just reformation!** A drunkard may stop drinking because of sclerosis of the liver, but that is **not** repentance! A man may stop smoking tobacco because of emphysema, but that is **not** repentance! A thief may stop stealing because of fear of being caught, but that is **not** repentance! A person may stop committing fornication because of fear of venereal disease, but that is **not** repentance! A business man may stop cheating in order to improve his "image" in the business community, etc., but this is **not** repentance!

7. **Just going forward when an "invitation" song is sung!** Confession of sin in the assembly of the saints is in order at times, but the confession is **not** repentance!

8. **Prayer!** Peter told Simon to **"Rep-**

ent,... and pray God,..." (Acts 8:22). NOTE: Peter was **not** telling Simon to **"repent and repent"**! Neither was he telling him to **"pray and pray"**! He told him to **"repent and pray"**! Two distinct actions!

9. **Baptism!** In Acts 2:38 Peter commanded the Jews to **Repent, and be baptized...** "He did **not** command **"Repent, and repent"**! Neither did he command **"Be baptized, and be baptized"**! He said: **"Repent, and be baptized..."**! Two distinct actions!

REPENTANCE IS:

1. **A change of heart (mind) that is wrought by godly sorrow that results in a change of life!** When a person **repents** he changes his mind for the better! He abhors his past sins! He desires and intends to do right from that point on!

Repentance is in heart (mind) turning from evil to good! We learn from Mt. 12:41 that **"The men of Nineveh... repented at the preaching of Jonas;..."** and Jonah 3:10 says: **"And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way;..."** Heb. 6:1 mentions **"repentance from dead works."**

A careful consideration of Mt. 21:28-30 should indicate to us that when a person repents, a change of action follows a change of mind.

2. **A privilege granted from the Lord after one believes!** Please consider Acts 5:30-31; 11:18; 2 Peter 3:9 & Rev. 2:21.

WHAT PRODUCES OR LEADS TO REPENTANCE!

1. **Godly sorrow!** (See 2 Cor. 7:10). Not just sorrow, but **godly** sorrow! It is a sorrow **"after a godly manner"**. It is a sorrow with **God** in it! Also cf. Ps. 38:18 & 51:17.

2. **The goodness of God!** Paul said: **"Or despiseth thou the riches of his**

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REPENTANCE

goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

3. **A contemplation of the judgment!** The fear of the destruction of Nineveh motivated the Ninevites to repentance. (Cf. Jonah 3:4-10). A contemplation of the judgment day should cause all sinners to repent! (Cf. Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:9-11; Mt. 25:31-46 & Rev. 21:8).

WHEN SHOULD ONE REPENT? The evidence points to **now!** When in sin you cannot repent **too** soon; To delay even one day may mean it is **too late!** One may go beyond the point of repentance! (Cf. Heb. 6: 4-6).

"...Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts,..." Heb. 3:15).

(CRS)

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CHRISTIANS ARE SERVANTS

As we worship and serve God we **MUST** do so **"in spirit and in truth"** as taught by Jesus in John 4:24! The apostle Paul mentioned the fact that he served God with his spirit in Romans 1:9. As we **serve God** we **MUST** serve Him in view of the fact that we **MUST "give account"** of ourselves **"to God!"** (Cf. Rom 14:12).

Yes, Christians are servants! In the last day if we hear the Lord say: **"Well done, good and faithful servant"**, we will indeed be blessed! Those words will be welcomed words!

(CRS)

"ROOT OF ALL EVIL"

Not **money**, but the **love** of money is the root of all sorts of evil! Paul said: **"For the love of money is the root of all evil:..."** (1 Tim. 6:10).

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

Satan will use 99 per cent truth (if he needs to) to float **one** lie!

* * * * *

The person who expects to go to heaven should take time to learn (from God's "road map") what route will get him there!

* * * * *

Don't be discouraged by failure, or satisfied with success!

* * * * *

The best preparation for tomorrow is to make proper use of today!

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