



Repentance - 4

(1) WHAT IS THE FIRST SIN MENTIONED IN THIS VERSE WHICH IS ESPECIALLY OFFENSIVE TO GOD?

Proverbs 8:13

Related Texts: Proverbs 16:5, 18, 19; 6:16-17; 21:4; 25:27; 29:23; 11:2; Psalm 101:5; 1 Samuel 2:3; Jeremiah 9:23, 24; Obadiah 1:4; Matthew 23:12; Mark 9:35

God does not see all sin as being equal. There are different levels of guilt in His eyes. Most of us realize this also but, because of our sinful natures, our judgment is imperfect and not always fair. God recognizes all things as they really are. It is also important to realize

that no matter how little a wrong act may seem in the eyes of men, no sin is small in the sight of God [Revelation 20:12]. In human misjudgment the alcoholic is treated badly and is told that his sin will keep him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and greed are often overlooked in others. These are sins that are especially insulting to God because they go against the kindness of His character and His unselfish love—the unselfish love which is the atmosphere of the un-fallen universe. When we fall into some of the greater sins we may feel a sense of shame and distress and feel a need of the grace of Jesus, but pride feels no need and keeps the heart closed to Christ.

(2) LIKE THE REPENTANT PUBLICAN WHEN HE WAS CONVICTED OF SIN, WHAT SHOULD BE OUR SINCERE PRAYER?

Luke 18:13

Related Texts: Luke 5:8; 15:18-21; Psalm 51:1-12; 40:12, 13; 1 John 1:8-10; 2:1, 2

The poor Publican who prayed this prayer recognized his own sinful nature, and others looked at him the same way. The difference between him and the Pharisee was that he felt a need for forgiveness. With his load of guilt and shame he came before God asking for His mercy. His heart was open for the Spirit of God to do its gracious work and set him free from the power of sin. The prayer of the self-righteous Pharisee showed that he felt no need for forgiveness. This reveals that his heart was not willing to listen to the Holy Spirit. Because he was so far from God he couldn't see to compare how sinful he was with the perfection and divine holiness of God. Unlike the Publican, he felt no need to change so he received nothing.

(3) FOLLOWING CONVICTION OF SIN, WHY ARE WE UNABLE TO BEAR THE FRUIT OF HOLINESS IN OUR LIVES BY OUR OWN EFFORTS?

John 15:5

Related Texts: John 15:1-8; 2 Peter 1:2-4; Romans 6:22; James 1:17; Philippians 1:11; 1:6; 2:13

When we see our sinfulness, we should not wait thinking we need to make ourselves better. There are many who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. They think they should first become better

through their own efforts. The truth is we have no hope of overcoming sin on our own. Jeremiah 13:23. We must not wait for a better opportunity or until we are more convinced, nor let our feelings keep us from coming to Him. We must come to Jesus just as we are and claim God's power to help us change.

(4) WHAT EFFECT DOES SIN HAVE ON A RIGHTEOUS MAN WHO FINDS RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH REPENTANCE BUT LATER TURNS FROM GOD?

Ezekiel 18:24

Related Texts: Ezekiel 3:20; 33:12, 13, 18; Hebrews 10:38, 39; 2 Peter 2:18-22

Some make a choice for salvation and then later, after walking in righteousness, make a choice to go back to the world. These individuals should not fool themselves into thinking that God, in His great love and mercy, will still save those who turn away from His grace. The terrible wickedness of sin can only be realized when it is compared to what Jesus did for us on the cross. When people say that God is too good to reject the sinner, let them look to Calvary. There was no other way in which we could be saved. Without this sacrifice there was no way for us to get away from the destroying power of sin. It was because of this that Jesus took upon Himself the guilt for our sins and suffered in our place. The love, suffering and death of the Son of God all show how terrible the results of sin are. These show that there is no getting away from sin's power to destroy without the grace of Jesus. It shows that our only hope for a better life is by abiding in Him.

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(5) WHOSE EXAMPLE ARE WE INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW?

1 Peter 2:21

Related Texts: Psalm 85:13; John 13:15; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:2; Philippians 2:5; 1 John 2:6; Luke 9:23

Those who reject the Lord sometimes make excuses for themselves by saying this about those who call themselves Christians: "I am as good as they are. They are no more self-denying, they don't show self-control, and they are not careful in their actions any more than I am. They love pleasure and self-indulgence as much as I do." In this way they make the faults of others an excuse for not doing what they should. But the sins and faults of others does not pardon anyone. The Lord did not give us a wrong human pattern to follow. The spotless life of the Son of God has been given for our example, and the ones who complain of the wrong choices made by those who claim to be Christians are the ones who should live better lives and set good examples. If they have such a strong belief in what a Christian should be, isn't their own sin so much greater? They know what is right, and yet refuse to do it.

(6) WHAT IS THE DANGEROUS RESULT OF NEGLECTING THE PLEADING VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PUTTING OFF THE FORSAKING OF SIN?

Proverbs 11:3, 5

Related Texts: Proverbs 6:27, 28; 16:25; 1:18; Galatians 6:7, 8

Beware of putting things off. Do not put off the task of giving up your sins. With the help of Jesus, seek a clean heart. Here is where thousands and thousands have made the mistake which has led to their eternal loss. When we hold back from the pleading of God's Holy Spirit, it is sin. No matter how small a sin may seem it can be enjoyed only at the expense of tragic loss. The sins we do not overcome will overcome us and cause us to be destroyed.

Adam and Eve convinced themselves that in doing such a small thing as eating the fruit that God told them not to eat, there could not be such a terrible outcome as God had told them. But in doing this small thing they were breaking God's unchanging and holy law, and it separated all of us from God. It opened the floodgates of death and suffering upon our world. Ever since that time there has gone up from our earth a constant cry of grief, and all of creation groans and struggles together in pain as a result of disobedience. Heaven itself has felt the effects of man's turning against God. What happened at Calvary is a memorial of the amazing sacrifice that it took to atone for the breaking of the holy law. We should never think of sin as a small thing.

(7) WHAT IS THE RESULT OF CHOOSING TO CHERISH KNOWN SIN IN OUR LIVES?

Proverbs 5:22

Related Texts: Psalm 7:15, 16; 9:15; Jeremiah 2:19; Ecclesiastes 10:8; Proverbs 1:31

Every time we sin, every time we don't accept the grace of Christ and turn away, it is affecting us. It is making our hearts hard, weakening our will power, and keeping us from understanding. It is making us less likely and less able to give into the tender pleading of God's Holy Spirit.

Many are quieting a troubled conscience with the thought that they can change a sinful habit whenever they choose. They think they can play with the invitations of mercy, and still be impressed by the Holy Spirit again and again. They think that after turning away from the Spirit of grace and giving Satan control, in a moment of terrible need they can change their ways. They don't realize that this is not so easily done. The experiences they have had, as well as their education over their lifetime has molded their characters so well that few of them will even want to be changed into Christ's image.

Even one wrong feature in our character or one sinful desire, if cherished, will eventually do away with all the power of the gospel in our hearts. Every sinful pleasure strengthens our spirit of rebellion against God. The man who shows a boldness in not believing or a lack of interest in divine truth will reap the reward of his choices. In all the Bible there is not a more fearful warning against playing with evil than the words of the wise man that the sinner "shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

(8) WHEN SHOULD WE RESPOND TO CHRIST'S INVITATION OF SALVATION?

2 Corinthians 6:2

Related Texts: Hebrews 3:7-15; 4:7; Isaiah 55:6; 48:9; Genesis 6:3

Christ is ever ready to set us free from sin, but He does not force us. If by

sinning over and over our will is set on doing evil, if we do not want to be set free, if we do not accept His grace, what more can He do? We have caused our own destruction by choosing to reject His love. His invitation asks for an immediate response. Hebrews 3:7, 8.

(9) WHAT IS THE ONLY SAFE PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THE MOTIVES, INTENTS, AND PURPOSES OF A DECEITFUL HEART?

Psalm 139:23, 24

Related Texts: Psalm 51:10; 26:2; Deuteronomy 8:2; Job 31:6; Proverbs 17:3; Zechariah 13:9; 1 Peter 1:7

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart"—the human heart, with its conflicting emotions of joy and sorrow; the wandering, wayward heart, which is the abode of so much impurity and deceit. 1 Samuel 16:7. God knows every motive of the human heart. He knows the heart's conflicting feelings of joy, sorrow, restlessness and carelessness. He knows the heart which is the home of so much impurity and deceit. 1 Samuel 16:7. He knows its aim, its very meaning and purposes. Go to Him with your soul all stained as it is. Like David, the psalmist, open your heart to the eye of God who sees all [Psalm 139:23, 24].

Many people accept religion in their mind, but it is only a form of godliness when the heart is not cleansed. It should be our prayer, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit

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within me.” Psalm 51:10. Be truthful with your own heart. Be eager and put out as much effort as you would if your mortal life depended on it. This is a matter to be decided between God and your own heart and settled for eternity. To believe that you will be saved without doing this will result in your loss.

(10) WHAT ARE FIVE SPECIFIC BENEFITS PROVIDED BY PRAYERFUL STUDY OF GOD’S WORD THAT WILL LEAD US TO REPENTANCE?

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Related Texts: John 17:17; Psalm 119:9, 24, 41, 105, 130, 160, 165; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Proverbs 4:20-22

Study God’s Word in a prayerful manner. His Word shows us the very important way to be holy. These great principles are shown in the law of God and the life of Christ and without these, “no man shall see the Lord” Hebrews 12:14. It convicts us of sin and it clearly shows us the way to be saved. Listen and obey the voice of God speaking to your soul.

(11) WHAT IS GOD DOING FOR US THROUGH CHRIST BY THE GIFT OF REPENTANCE?

2 Corinthians 5:19

Related Texts: John 17:23; 1 Timothy 3:16; Romans 5:10, 11; 3:24-26; 1 John 2:1, 2; 4:10; Isaiah 43:25; Psalm 103:10-12; Ephesians 2:14-16

As you see how bad sin is and as you see yourself as you really are, do not give up in discouragement. It was sinners that Christ came to save. We do not have to win God over to us, but because of His wonderful love, God in Jesus is “reconciling the world unto Himself.” He is pleading by His tender love, with the hearts of His children who have strayed away. No parent on this earth could be as patient with the faults and mistakes of their children as God is with all of us whom He is trying to save. No one could plead more tenderly with the one who has chosen to do wrong. No human lips have ever poured out a more tender offer to someone who is lost than He does. All His promises and His warnings are showing us His indescribable love.

(12) WHOM DID JESUS COME TO SAVE?

1 Timothy 1:15

Related Texts: Romans 5:8-11; Matthew 9:13; 18:11; Luke 19:10; 1 John 3:5; 4:10

When Satan comes to tell you that you are a great sinner, look up to the One who has redeemed you and talk about His excellence. The thing that will help you is to look to His light. Admit your sin, but tell the enemy that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” and that you may be saved by His matchless love.

Steps to Christ Bible Study Guide

(13) WHO IS THE ONE WHO WILL LOVE THE LORD THE MOST?

Luke 7:43, 47

Related Texts: Romans 5:20; John 21:15-17; 1 John 3:18; Isaiah 55:7; Matthew 18:33; 10:8; Proverbs 10:12

Jesus asked Simon a question about two people who owed money. One owed his master a small amount, and the other owed him a very large amount,

but he forgave them both. Christ asked Simon which one would love his master most. Simon answered, "He to whom he forgave most." We have been great sinners, but Christ died that we can be forgiven. The ones He has forgiven the most will love Him the most. They will stand nearest to His throne to praise Him for His great love and sacrifice that cannot be measured. The more we come to know the love of God the more we come to realize the wretchedness of sin. When we see how long the chain was that was let down for us, we start to understand about the great sacrifice that Christ has made for us, and our heart will be melted with tenderness and shame.

As I draw nearer to my Saviour I see His righteousness. I realize that my life and character are impure and unholy. It is my sincere desire to be more like Him.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I understand that repentance is true sorrow for sin not

just fear of the punishment it might bring.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I thank Jesus for the gift of repentance He has put within my heart, and I have made the choice to act upon it.

Circle: Yes Undecided

Study Notes - Prayer Requests - Answered Prayers: _____
