

# Repentance

(Psalm 51:1-17)

- Introduction:
1. If we expect to spend eternity in Heaven, we must learn how to repent, and practice repentance (Luke 13:3).
  2. In fact, repentance is probably the most difficult of all the things God calls us to perform.
  3. So difficult is it, that many have attempted to substitute genuine repentance with a poor, but easy imitation.
  4. Let's turn to an example of genuine repentance and see what we can learn about it. Repentance signals...

## I. The End of Fooling Ourselves

- A. (Psalm 51:1-4).
- B. We often use euphemisms to salve our conscience and to make ourselves believe we haven't been all that bad.
- C. Instead of calling our unrighteousness "sin," we call them "mistakes," "weaknesses," and "problems."
- D. David admits his sin no less than six times in these first four verses.

## II. The End of Blaming Others

- A. (Psalm 51:1-4).
- B. Note verse two... "my" iniquity and "my" sin.
- C. There is no attempt to shift blame.

## III. The End of Covering Up

- A. (Psalm 51:6).
- B. The repentant person doesn't live a double life...one for show and one for himself.
- C. God sees and knows all.

## IV. The Beginning of Concern for God's Presence

- A. (Psalm 51:11).
- B. The repentant person isn't absorbed in self, but is thinking of God and how our sins have affected him and our relationship with him.

## V. The Beginning of Concern for Others

- A. (Psalm 51:13).
- B. Many of the staunchest advocates against various causes are former practitioners of the very things they oppose, but who have learned the hard way and don't want others to suffer.

## VI. The Beginning of True Joy

- A. (Psalm 51:14).
- B. When one realizes how good God has been to them and the salvation they have experienced, they cannot help but experience joy.

- Conclusion:
1. Friends, don't play games with repentance; pretending to repent.
  2. God is not mocked (Acts 17:30-31).