

Repent or Perish

(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.
 2. God is not mocked (Acts 17:30-31).
 3. We must repent or perish (Luke 13:3).