

Sunday evening, November 15, 2020
Repentance unto Life (1)
2 Timothy 2:25; Ephesians 4:30

WCF CHAP. XV. - *Of Repentance unto Life.*

1. Repentance unto life is a gospel grace, the doctrine of which is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, just as is the doctrine of faith in Christ.
 2. By it a sinner—seeing and sensing not only the danger but also the filthiness and hatefulness of his sins, because they are contrary to God's holy nature and His righteous law—turns from all his sins to God in the realization that God promises mercy in Christ to those who repent, and so grieves for and hates his sins that he determines and endeavors to walk with God in all the ways that He commands.
 3. Although repentance is not to be relied on as any payment of the penalty for sin, or any cause of the pardon of sin (which is God's act of free grace in Christ); yet repentance is so necessary for all sinners, that no one may expect pardon without it.
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- I. Necessity of Our Repentance Sect 1 and 3
 - A. Repentance Is *Not* Necessary to *Earn* God's Grace
 1. Repentance Is Not Penance
 2. Repentance Itself Is God's Gift in Undeserved Grace
2 Tim. 2:25; Jn. 15:5; Ac. 11:18; Titus 3:5
 - B. But Repentance *Is* Necessary to *Receive* to God's Grace
Lk 13:3; Ac. 17:30; Lk. 24:47; Ac. 20:21; Ac. 2:38; Ac. 3:19; 14:15; Mk. 1:15
- II. Sect 2. Motivation for Our Repentance, Sect 2
 - A. Repentance Arises from a True Sense of My Sin. Its Guilt, Pollution, and Power— Sin's Danger to Me
Ps. 51:4; Ezek. 18:30, 32; Ps. 51:5, 7, 10; Ezek. 36:31; Isa. 30:22; Ps. 51:11, 109:21, 22
 - B. Repentance Arises from a True Apprehension of God's Mercy— Sin as Grieving God
 1. God's Response of Grief for My Sin Ps. 51:4; 2 Cor. 7:11; Eph. 4:30; Ps. 78:40
 2. God's Response of Mercy to Me Isa. 55:7

Quotes

“When Jesus preached ‘the gospel of God’ in Galilee, He urged His hearers, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; *repent and believe* in the gospel’ (Mk. 1:14–15). Repentance and faith belong together. They denote two aspects in conversion that are equally essential to it. Thus, either term implies the presence of the other. In grammatical terms, then, the words repent and believe both function as a synecdoche—the figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole. Thus, repentance implies faith and faith implies repentance. One cannot exist without the other.”

(Sinclair Ferguson)

“The faith that is unto salvation is a penitent faith and the repentance that is unto life is a believing repentance . . . saving faith is permeated with repentance and repentance is permeated with saving faith.”

(John Murray)

“Faith is not something that merits the favor of God. All the efficiency unto salvation resides in the Savior. As one has aptly and truly stated the case, it is not faith that saves but faith in Jesus Christ; strictly speaking, it is not even faith in Christ that saves, but Christ that saves through faith . . . The specific character of faith is that it looks away from itself and finds its whole interest and object in Christ. He is the absorbing preoccupation of faith.”

(John Murray)

“While the law produces a *legal repentance* (fear of judgment), the gospel engenders an *evangelical repentance* that bears the fruit of real change. . . By itself repentance is merely the experience of damnation—until one looks by faith to Jesus Christ.”

(Michael Horton)

“The evidence of complete repentance is not the stereotypical gritted teeth and grinding resolve, or even groaning and groveling. The reverberations of repentance sound more like singing. Yes, God can lead us through a dark night of the soul to enable us to see and to grieve for sin. And as we wrestle against our pride and rebellion to find rest in the mercy of God, we may know great pain. But when we have understood, trusted, and received the freeing grace of repentance, rejoicing fills our hearts. Without this joy that is our strength, the new obedience that should be the fruit of true repentance is impossible. Like the rich young man we, too, may go away sad and unwilling to follow Jesus. By contrast, biblical repentance renews in us thanksgiving and gratitude for God’s mercy. Knowing his pardon, we delight to serve him with a childlike love and a willing mind. Repentance renews our joy.”

(Bryan Chapell)