

Getting the Gospel Straight – Part IV

I. The fourth indispensable teaching of the Gospel is teaching about what we must _____ to be saved.

A. We have not evangelized until we have called people to _____.

B. If we don't get this teaching right, then there is great danger of _____ assurance.

II. _____!

A. Scriptures

1. Acts 2:37-38 – “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”
2. Acts 5:30-31 – [Jesus] is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant **repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
3. Acts 17:30 – God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should **repent**.
4. 2 Peter 3:9 – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to **repentance**.

B. We are *not* _____ by repentance.

1. And yet apart from repentance, there can be no _____.
2. Luke 13:3 – I tell you, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

C. Repentance is not the same thing as _____.

1. Acts 2:37 – Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”
2. Acts 5:33 – But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.
3. Acts 24:25 – But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, “Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you.”

D. Repentance is a _____ away from sin and toward God.

1. Scriptures

- a. Acts 3:19 – Therefore **repent and return**, so that your sins may be wiped away.
- b. Acts 3:26 – God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by **turning every one of you from your wicked ways**.”
- c. Acts 26:15-20 – And the Lord said, “For this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness... rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may **turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins... So, I kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God**.

2. Repentance is exchanging the mastery of sin for the _____ of Christ.

- a. Matthew 6:24 – No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth [or God and sin].
- b. In our evangelism, we must not be afraid to stress the _____ of following Christ.

- c. Luke 9:23-26 – “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.
 - d. Luke 14:26 – If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.
3. Repentance is not just a feeling of _____.
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 7:10 – For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
4. Westminster Confession – “By [repentance] a sinner, out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature and righteous law of God, *and upon the apprehension of His mercy in Christ to such as are penitent*, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God, purposing and endeavoring to walk with Him in all the ways of His commandments.”

E. Repentance and sovereign grace.

III. _____!

A. Scriptures

- 1. Acts 10:43 – Of [Jesus] all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who **believes** in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”
- 2. Acts 13:38-39 – Through [Jesus] forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him **everyone who believes** is freed from all things.
- 3. Acts 16:30-31 – “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They said, “**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”
- 4. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
- 5. John 20:31 – These have been written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** you may have life in His name.

B. Some people may sincerely believe with all their hearts that the Gospel is _____, but not be _____.

- ✓ James 2:19 – You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

C. Biblical believing is _____.

- 1. “Believing” (as we think of it) requires only the _____.
- 2. Trusting requires the _____.
- 3. The Bible says that we are *justified* by faith.
 - a. Galatians 2:16 – Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but **through faith in Christ Jesus**, even we have **believed in Christ Jesus**, so that we may be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the Law.
 - b. Galatians 3:24 – The Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be **justified by faith**.
 - c. Romans 3:28 – For we maintain that a man is **justified by faith** apart from works of the Law.
 - d. Romans 5:1 – Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. How are we justified by believing?
 - a. It is by faith that we *receive* Christ and are then granted the *forgiveness of sins* _____.
 - i. Ephesians 4:32 – ...forgiving each other, just as God *in Christ* also has forgiven you.
 - ii. Colossians 1:14 – *In [Christ]* we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
 - b. It is by faith that we *receive* Christ and are then counted *righteous* _____.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 1:30 – But by His doing you are *in Christ Jesus*, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 5:21 – He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God *in Him*.
 - iii. Philippians 3:9 – ...and may be found *in Him*, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.
 - c. John 1:12 – But as many as *received Him*, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.
5. To believe is to “abandon all confidence in self and trust wholly in Christ and the power of His redeeming blood to give acceptance with God.” (J. I. Packer)
6. Scriptures
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 – But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”
 - b. Galatians 6:14 – But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
 - c. Philippians 3:3-11

D. Faith and sovereign grace (cf. 2 Thess. 2:8-12)

IV. Repent _____ Believe!

- A. Acts 11:17-18 – “Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after *believing* in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the *repentance* that leads to life.”
- B. Acts 20:20-21 – I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of *repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ*.
- C. Mark 1:15 – The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; *repent and believe in the gospel*.

Conclusion

- A. Modern substitutes for “Repent and Believe!”

- B. Using the Bible to call people to repent and believe.
1. Repent! (**Acts 17:30**)
 2. Believe! (**John 3:16**)
 3. Repent and Believe! (**Mark 1:15**)
 4. Repentance
 - a. Not just sorrow and regret (2 Cor. 7:10)...
 - b. Not just conviction of sin (Acts 2:37; 5:33; 24:25)...
 - c. But exchanging the mastery of sin for the Lordship of Christ (**Matt. 6:24; Luke 9:23-26; Psalm 51:1-17**).
 5. Believing
 - a. Not just believing in your heart that the Gospel is true (James 2:19)...
 - b. Not just a hopeful feeling...
 - c. But a casting of oneself completely upon Christ and trusting fully in Him for salvation (**1 Cor. 1:30-31; Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:3-11**).
- C. We *must* show people that repentance and belief are *wholly* _____ because of the forgiveness, and love, and mercy, and kindness, and compassion that Christ stands ready to offer to sinners.
1. Revelation 22:17 – The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.
 2. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whoever* believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Teaching our Children

- Q.** When we tell the Gospel to our friend/neighbor, what are the first three things that we need to teach him about?
- A.** We need to teach him about **God** and then about **sin** and then about **Jesus Christ** (Review and discuss these teachings.)
- Q.** What is the fourth teaching of the Gospel?
- A.** The fourth teaching of the Gospel is teaching about what we must *do* to be saved.
- Q.** What must our friend/neighbor do to be saved?
- A.** Repent and believe. (And so must we!)
- Q.** If repentance is not just feeling sorry for our sins, what is it?
- A.** Repentance is *turning* away from sin and following after Jesus as our Lord (Master) and King. (**Reflect with your children on Matthew 6:24, Luke 9:23-26, and Psalm 51:1-17**)
- Q.** If *true* belief is not just believing in our hearts that Jesus died in our place so that our sins could be forgiven (if true belief is not just believing that the Gospel is true), then what does it mean to believe?
- A.** To believe is to stop thinking that we can do anything at all to *earn* our salvation and instead to **trust** *completely* and *totally* and *only* in Jesus for our salvation.
To believe is to *cast ourselves completely upon Jesus*, knowing that He is our *only* hope for salvation. (**Reflect with your children on 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, Galatians 6:14, and Philippians 3:3-11**)
- Q.** When we tell our neighbor/friend that he must repent and believe in order to be saved, how should we picture Jesus so that our neighbor/friend might *want* to repent and believe?
- A.** We should picture Jesus as full of love, and compassion, and mercy, just *waiting* to give him the forgiveness of his sins and everlasting life (Reflect on John 3:16 and Revelation 22:17).