

078 - Repentance and Faith

Call to Worship: Mark 1:15

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 18:26-32

Sermon: "Repentance and Faith" Acts 20:20-21

Benediction: Romans 1:16

We have studied together how the apostle Paul identified himself as a servant, a slave, of the Lord Jesus Christ, and his ministry among the Ephesians was one of humble service, or humble slave labor as a servant of Christ.

Today we would like to see how he conducted that service. What is it he did.

Acts 20:20-21 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, (21) testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us consider this in two points: Paul's method and Paul's message. Let these be our method and our message, then, also.

I. Paul's Method: to serve the Lord fully rather than partially
OR to minister the Word of God to people in all its fullness

- A. Paul proclaimed all that was helpful
 - A. not keeping back anything helpful
 - B. but making it known to you
- B. Paul taught in all settings
 - A. publicly
 - B. also in private homes
- C. Paul testified to everyone
 - A. to Jews
 - B. to Greeks

II. Paul's Message: Repentance and Faith

- A. Repentance toward God - see Acts 26:15-20
 - 1. opening of the eyes (18)
in what sense? we see in the next verse that it is an opening of the eyes to the truth of the situation
 - a. you are in the darkness of sin
 - b. you are under the power of Satan
 - c. Jesus Christ is the Savior of those who trust in Him
 - 2. turning
 - a. from darkness to light (18)
 - b. from the power of Satan to God (18)

3. so that you may receive things from the Lord
 - a. forgiveness (18)
 - b. an inheritance (18)
4. FIRST CAUTIONARY NOTE: this is inseparably linked with faith in Jesus Christ; repentance and faith in Christ are two sides of the same coin (18b)
5. SECOND CAUTIONARY NOTE: good works are NOT repentance, but necessarily follow true repentance (20b)

B. Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ

(for our standing with God, our justification)

NOTE: NOT the making of a sincere prayer.

NOTE: NOT any act done with the body, even in a church setting.

1. being persuaded, being convinced, that the Lord Jesus can save us
- 2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

2. ceasing to trust in what we trusted in before, and trusting instead in Jesus Christ to save us

Galatians 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

3. receiving---as in embracing Christ as the One who saves us

-Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

-John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

Faith

1689: accepting, receiving, and resting upon him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life,

Repentance unto life

1689: saving repentance is an evangelical grace, whereby a person, being by the Holy Spirit made sensible of the manifold evils of his sin, doth, by faith in Christ, humble himself for it with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-abhorrency, praying for pardon and strength of grace, with a purpose and endeavour, by supplies of the Spirit, to walk before God unto all well-pleasing in all things.

Greek:

anangello declare, rehearse, report, show, speak, tell, announce, bring back tidings

didasko teach

dimarturomai to attest earnestly, testify to, witness, solemnly affirm

KJV:

shewed (used to have definition "to make known")

taught

testifying

NIV:

preach

taught

declared

ESV:

declaring

teaching

testifying

NKJV:

proclaimed

taught

testifying

Calvin:

the gospel consisteth upon [of] these two points only. Whence we do also gather wherein the true edifying of the Church doth properly consist, the care and burden

whereof doth lie upon the pastor's shoulders, and whereunto we must apply all our study,
Poole:

Upon these two depends the whole gospel, and our salvation by it.

Gill:

these two, repentance and faith, were the two parts of Christ's ministry, Mar_1:15 and are what, he would have published and insisted on, in the preaching of the word, Luk_24:47 so that the ministry of the apostle was very conformable to the mind and will of Christ.

Henry:

the two great gospel graces

JRY: I have kept back many things that I know, that I could have said, but that I did not say because they are not helpful, not profitable.

JRY: He means that repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ are what was helpful!

20 proclaimed it to you
20 taught you
21 testifying repentance and faith
24 testify to the gospel
25 preaching the kingdom of God
27 declare to you the whole counsel of God
31 warn everyone

21 repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ
24 the gospel of the grace of God
27 the whole counsel of God

Baptist Catechism: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace (Heb. 10:39), whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel (Jn. 1:12; Is. 26:3, 4; Ph. 3:9; Gal. 2:16).

John 1:11-12 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Philippians 3:9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the

law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Galatians 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Baptist Catechism: Repentance unto life is a saving grace (Acts 11:28), whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin (Acts 2:37, 38), and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ (Joel 2:12; Jer 3:22), doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God (Jer 31:18, 19; Ez. 36:3 1), with full purpose of and endeavour after new obedience (2 Cor. 7: 1 1; Is. 1: 16, 17).