

Doctrine of Repentance

I. Repentance Is Turning from Sin to Follow Christ

Job 42:5-6

The Hebrew verb *nāḥam* means “1. to **regret**: a) to become remorseful... b) to regret something [Job 42:6 is listed here] ... 2. to **be sorry**, come to regret something ...” (*Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* [HALOT] # 6096, BibleWorks).

Isaiah 55:7; Jeremiah 8:6; Ezekiel 33:11; Joel 2:12-13

The Hebrew verb *šûb* (often transliterated *shûv*) here means “to turn around” or “repent” (*HALOT* # 9407, BibleWorks).

Luke 3:8; 2 Corinthians 7:8-10

The Greek noun *metánoia*, which means “repentance, change of heart, turning from one's sins, change of way” (*United Bible Societies Greek Lexicon* #3986, BibleWorks)

Acts 3:19

The Greek verb *metanoéō* means “repent, have a change of heart, turn from one's sins, change one's ways” (*UBS Greek Lexicon* # 3985, BibleWorks).

We can see that Wayne Grudem defines the concept well when he writes that “Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ” (*Systematic Theology*, p. 713).

II. Repentance Is Essential for Salvation

Mark 1:14-15; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 17:29-31; 20:17-21

We must agree with the assessment found in *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Biblical Truth*:

Scripture is unmistakably clear: repentance is not an optional element but is an essential component of the true gospel. Those who insist that it is possible to savingly trust in Christ without repenting of sin – to believe in Jesus as Savior but not submit to Him as Lord – find themselves in direct contradiction to the gospel according to Jesus and the apostles. (John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue, General Editors, pp. 595-596)

III. Repentance Is a Gift from God

Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:24-25

As John MacArthur aptly states, “All true repentance is produced by God's sovereign grace (Eph. 2:7), and without such grace human effort to change is futile (cf. Jer. 13:23) (*MacArthur Bible Commentary*, e-Sword).