

REPENTANCE

Message 4

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INTRO: In the subject of repentance we have been answering the question: How important is repentance? Well, Owen Roberts is right, it is the first word of the Gospel. That is from a man who has preached it all his life. We looked at the importance of repentance in the OT; in the NT, and as given by Owen Roberts. But we want to look at its importance in life. What does it do in life?

The greatest agent of change for the good in the life of sinful man is the Gospel, and repentance is the first word! In the late 1800's psychology came on the scene. Psychology has sought to change people's lives and it is not without some success, but it has never brought anyone to the new birth. The Word of God and the Spirit of God are essential to bringing about biblical change, and the change happens when true repentance and faith takes place.

We discussed in SS, what comes first, repentance or faith? In the last message we read Jonah 3. Listen to Jonah 3:4, here is the message:

4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

That is the message. Before anyone repents in such a way as counts with God, the message must come. Now verse 5:

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let

neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.

In order for repentance to take place, the message must now be believed. But believing the message does not save. Believing the message will produce conviction, and conviction must turn into action and that action is repentance and confession. After repentance, one cannot now go back to the way things were before. Now one must now learn to live by faith. This is saving faith.

So we want to look at why repentance is so important that it is the first word of the Gospel.

D. Its Importance in Life

1. Repentance brings glory to God

Probably the most important thing that true repentance does is it is man's first step in putting God in His rightful place. Man is to glorify God and sin destroys that glory and turns it into shame. To glorify God is the most important thing there is in life! Repentance puts God in His rightful place, and man in his rightful place. When we truly repent, all of a sudden we are giving God His rightful place. We recognize Him as righteous and holy and just and ourselves as a foul, stinking, mess. Until we get to see ourselves as such a mess, we do not truly repent if we have come to any age before we get saved. And we do not get to see ourselves as such a mess until we meet the holiness of God in some way.

Listen to Isaiah 6:1-5:

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 *And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"*

4 *And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.*

5 *So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."*

We never say, "Woe is me, for I am undone. Woe is me because I am a man of unclean lips" until we see God in some aspect of His holiness. Oh for a fresh glimpse of God.

Now, in order for us to bring glory to God, we must first be humbled. Listen to 1 Peter 5:5-7:

5 *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*

6 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*

7 *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

Who is a humble person? One who trusts God with all his or her cares. This puts God in His place and man in his. Who is a proud person? One who can look after him or herself. The glory of God is when we get to know God. There is no possible way to get to know God while we live in pride. It is not possible!

2. Repentance delivers from pride

Why is repentance so very important? Why is it the first word of the Gospel? First it puts God in His rightful place, but second, it puts us in our

rightful place. When we first repent it is the beginning of deliverance from pride. What is man's main problem? It is identical to Satan's main problem. Man's main problem is Satanic. It is pride. There are no big wigs when it comes to repentance. Someone who claims to have repented and comes out smelling like a rose has played the hypocrite.

Turn to Luke 3. John the Baptist has turned 30 years of age. He has spent time in the wilderness. He has learned the ways of God and the Word of God and he is burdened for the nation. In 2-3 years the 70th week of Daniel is to begin, and the nation of Israel is far off the track. So he said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

We begin in verse 1:

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

Think now that for some 400 years there has been no word from God to man. No prophet spoke. So we call it the 400 silent years. And now, a precise date is given as indicated by the people then in positions of authority in Israel. And after this long time of silence, God once more spoke to a man. He was John, the son of the priest, Zacharias and he is in the wilderness.

And after these 400 silent years, what was the word God spoke to John? Verse 3:

3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,

He preached a baptism of repentance. It is not a baptism that produces repentance. It is a baptism based on repentance. If there is no repentance, there should be no baptism! The water symbolizes the washing away of sins that has taken place. It is an outward identification of an inner experience that has already taken place.

Now this repentance, not the baptism, is foretold by Isaiah and we have it in verses 4-6:

4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth;

6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Israel needed to prepare the way of the Lord by repenting of their sins. The Lord was even at this time almost ready to begin His ministry. What would have happened if Israel had responded to John's message? Would the Church ever have happened? We do not know. What we know is Israel did not respond, and therefore, the Church came into existence. Some day Israel will respond, and then the futuristic prophecies related to Israel will take place.

But as Israel was to prepare the way for the Lord, so every person is to prepare the way for the Lord to enter his or her life and that is by repentance. So here is what Isaiah pictures. When a king was to travel down a certain road, the road was prepared first. The holes were filled in and the high places cut down. A rough road was no place for a king's carriage.

A life filled with either negative or positive pride is no place for a king to enter. Pride can make a hole. It goes like this, "Oh, I am just such

a bad person. I am not worth anything. Oh, poor me. I am a nobody." That attitude is a huge hole in the road and needs filling in. The other is, "Oh, I am quite somebody. People should take note when I come around. If they only knew who I am. I am quite important" and so on.

Let me illustrate. Owen Roberts, of whom I spoke in a previous message, went to a church to preach just one message. A few people came and they all sat quite apart from one another. He reprimanded them and then gave his message. Later they called him back and here is his story:

That Saturday night when I returned, I was delighted to see about three times as many people present and all of them pressed together in the center section of the church. I was greatly heartened by the change and began the brief series of messages telling them that, like John the Baptist, I hoped to lay the gospel axe to the root of the tree. I urged them very strongly not to say a word to me about any problems in the past. I believed that I understood what had been wrong and urged them not to trouble me with the fruits, as I was aiming at the roots.

That evening and all day Sunday, they paid close attention to the Word of the Lord, and no one violated my request. But after the service Sunday night, a woman said to me, "Mr. Roberts, I feel so bad that nobody else has cared enough to tell you about the problems in our church. Now I need to talk with you. Will you meet with me?" I reminded her that I had seen her there on Saturday evening and that I had made it plain that I did not wish to hear anything about the past troubles. "But I need to meet with you," she insisted, "it is very important." I then informed her that I did not meet privately with women except in very public places and would not do so at all unless she agreed not to speak of troubles in the church. She agreed, and an

appointment was set for the next morning in the large dining room of the hotel where I was staying.

To my consternation, we had hardly been seated before she began to shred the character of the organist and to advise me of all the troubles she had stirred in the church. I tried to stop her, but without success. When she had thoroughly riddled this poor woman's character, she went on to make mincemeat of the man who led the congregational singing. Again I tried to stop her but without success. Finally she slowed down enough for me to say, "You are a marvelous choir director, aren't you?" She was indeed the choir director. She looked at me in amazement and said, "I thought you were a gentleman. I can hardly believe that you would mock me." "If you knew me," I replied, "you would know that I am not mocking you. You are a marvelous choir director.

I was sitting on the front row when you marched the choir in. Even Napoleon had no better command of his troops than you had of that choir. When they sang, I could scarcely believe the excellent quality of the music. You are a very fine choir director." "Well, thank you, Mr. Roberts," she said, "that is very kind of you to say. I know that I am a good choir director." "Yes, indeed you are, but I wonder if you realize that little tiny you, all by yourself, with absolutely no help from anybody else, has all that it takes to completely destroy your church." She gasped, "How can you say such a thing?" "I say it because you serve God with your gifts but without the graces of Jesus Christ. There is never ever a more dangerous person in any church than the immensely gifted person who uses his or her gifts but knows nothing consequential of grace." "Whatever do you mean?" she gasped.

"Giftedness used by a person who walks in the flesh draws attention to himself," I replied. "Giftedness saturated in the graces of Christ draws attention

to Him. It advances His kingdom and glory. God doesn't need your gifts, but He is willing to accept them and use them if they are saturated with His grace. Without His grace, your gifts are a curse to the church. You need to repent of the very roots of sin in your life" (1548-1569) end quote.

If God would step down and visit us, and He could begin to fill in the holes and cut down the bumps in our community, there would be crushed hearts all over our community. It is also the only true hope of our community, our country, and our nation. Repentance puts everyone on the same level, humility. When it comes to repentance, there are no preferred customers, and there are no unwanted customers.

When anyone humbles himself before God, God all of a sudden gains a huge interest in that person. Listen to Isaiah 66:1-2:

1 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?"

2 For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.

Nothing humbles like true repentance. Nothing levels the road like humility. In true humility I come to recognize how little it is with me, and unless I have divine approval, I am nothing in and of myself.

I was reading Augustus Strong, a pure Calvinist, to see how Calvinism views repentance as a gift and I came across this which I underlined some years ago: "We are required to confess one to another, and specially to those whom we have wronged (Jms. 5:16) This puts the hardest stress on our natural pride. There are a hundred who will confess to a priest or

to God, where there is one who will make frank and full confession to the aggrieved party" (834).

3. Repentance delivers from the penalty of sin

Yet another reason why repentance is so very important is that through it we are delivered from the penalty of sin. Only when we repent and put our trust in Christ can our sins be removed and Christ's righteousness applied to us. It is the only way to deal with past sins. There is no other way. When we repent and believe in Christ, we are justified; we are declared righteous before God!

But let us look at it now as verified from hell. We go to Luke 16. Let me ask you what you think would be the very first thing one who goes to hell would wish he had done differently? I propose the very first thing he will wish is that he had repented! And if a person went to hell and he could give a message to those who are still alive, what would be the first thing he would say? Well, we have an account given to us by Jesus Himself in Luke 16. Turn to it. It is the story of the rich man and a poor man.

We begin in verse 19:

19 *"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.*

20 *"But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,*

21 *"desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*

Now it has been debated through the years whether this is a parable or a real account of something that happened. Let me just say a word about parables. The word "parable" which in the Greek is *parabolee*, is something cast alongside. So it is

usually explained as an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. So the heavenly meaning is cast alongside an earthly story so that one can understand the divine truth the earthly story tells.

One can make a parable of a real account or one that is made up. I believe what we have here in this account is an account of events that happened. If so, that creates some considerable difficulties but it also opens a huge window into the other side of death. I am only seeking to bring one truth out of this account.

We go to verse 22:

22 *"So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.*

23 *"And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

24 *"Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'*

25 *"But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.*

26 *'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'*

The rich man, as had ever been his case in real life, sought to look after his own concerns. But when he realized there would be no more comfort to him, a new concern dawned on him.

Verse 27:

27 *"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,*

28 *'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'*

The rich man, as selfish as he had been in life was not selfish enough to wish his brothers to come into the place where he was. He had one great burning desire; warn my brothers. And if Abraham would send Lazarus to warn the rich man's brothers that would mean Lazarus would have to be resurrected. No doubt the rich man's brothers knew this Lazarus. If a beggar was raised and spoke to the rich man's brothers, would they now believe?

Verse 29:

29 *"Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'*

All we have on this side of death is what we are told in the Bible. It is the Bible we must stake our faith in. Nothing else. It seems to me that miracles can cause people to believe certain things, but can they produce repentance? A person who begins to believe Jesus is real must yet be brought to see what a miserable wretch they are with all their sin. Such a person must still be brought to repentance.

Now note what this rich man thought. Verse 30:

30 *"And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'*

Now consider this: What did the rich man know was required in order that a person would not go to hell at death? He did not say, "Tell them to believe in this or that." He knew that to stay out of hell they would need to repent. He knew he was

in hell because of sin. He knew the only way to avoid coming into this place was to repent and he knew that only repentance would take care of sin.

The rich man thought that if someone was raised from the dead then his brothers would repent.

But look at Jesus answer in verse 31:

31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Question: Do miracles cause people to repent?

Answer? No! It seems to me they may be instrumental in causing one to believe the Gospel is true, but they do not cause repentance. What causes one to repent is the Word of God. To repent one must hear the Word of God. One must be convicted of sin.

Now look at the word *persuaded*. Persuaded to what? Persuaded to deal with sin! The word to persuade is *peitho*. It is to be caused to believe the message. To be caused to believe that which brings about repentance, one must know the truth about oneself from the Word of God. To be caused to repent I must know I am a sinner and I will go to hell if I do not change my mind about my sin. But to know that much is only the beginning. Knowing those truths does not save. The very first thing that must happen in order for salvation to take place is repentance. I must acknowledge my sins and confess them where confession is due. And then I must put my trust in Christ

4. Repentance delivers from the power of sin

How important is repentance? Who can describe that forcefully enough? Repentance brings glory to God. Repentance deals with pride in our lives.

Repentance delivers us from the penalty of sin. But there is yet another reason why repentance is so very important. And now we want to see that repentance delivers us from the power of sin.

To quote Owen Roberts again, he writes:

Both repentance and faith must be continual. I love the hook of Hebrews because it makes plain the fact that the faith that saves is not in the past tense but in the present tense. Two very sharp statements in the second warning passage of Hebrews speak to this issue: "Now Moses was faithful in all his house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end" (3:5-6). People do not belong to Christ's family because they make a good first-time profession of repentance and faith. What is required of all in the family of God is that they persevere-that they go right on making that same open, bold, ongoing proclamation that Jesus Christ is Lord both in words and in life-"firm until the end." Again, "For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end" (Hebrews 3:14). The Christian life is not a good beginning but a glorious conclusion. It doesn't matter how well you started, it is how you finish that counts (1311-1318).

How does repentance deliver from the power of sin? We would like something that would miraculously make us so we would not sin anymore. We would like instant Christianity. But there is no such miracle. I have heard this a number of times in my lifetime: "When you become a Christian you can live as you want, because you want to live right." There is just enough truth in that to make it very dangerous. I have never known anyone who truly always wanted to live right.

Here is where sanctification takes place. It takes place in the midst of wanting to do wrong. Sanctification gives me the ability to overcome wrong even though I may desperately desire to do

wrong. Let me illustrate. Let us say I am given to lying. That is true of multitudes of people. Now I tell a lie and I am convicted about it. That conviction shows me that God is not a liar and He hates lying. Now let us say I put it off until it goes away. Beyond all doubt I will lie again.

But let us say, on the other hand, I go to the one I lied to and say, "I need to confess a lie to you. The other day I said... and then I confess what I said." And then I say, "That was a lie. I need to straighten that out with you." That is confession which must follow true repentance.

Now the very next time I am tempted to lie, I forget, and there I go again. Oh the shame of going back a second time, but I do. The third time I remember and catch myself. All of a sudden I have a taste of victory. And so after repenting enough times, it will bring me to victory. Repentance delivers from the power of sin.

5. Repentance delivers from the judgment of sin

Last, repentance delivers from the judgment of sin. Those who never become Christians will have their sin before them all the rest of eternity. Think of that. How many times do we do things that we regret? I suppose for all of us, it is quite a few times. But think now of the day a lost sinner closes his or her eyes in death. And then, on the other side of death, this person meets eternal hell fire! How long would one regret sins that come back to memory?

The story of the rich man in hell tells us that there is memory of the past. And now think of regretting hour after hour, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, decade after decade, centennial after centennial, millennial after millennial, and it has only begun. Regret, regret, regret! Now think of being reminded that if one had repented there would not be this

endless regret! This is the judgement of sin. Then think of being resurrected for a brief while. And there one stands before God and the books are opened and everything one has ever done wrong is demonstrated. And then one is cast into hell for eternity. It is indescribable. Now think of this, by the simple act of a true repentance, one's sins can be taken care of. Then when sin happens, if one humbles him or herself, that sin is wiped out! How huge is repentance?

I want to draw another picture for us. This time the one who dies is a Christian. Turn to Revelation 6. You will remember this because I preached from this passage on the subject of your first day in heaven. The verses we will read take place during the tribulation time. But I propose that where these Christians entered heaven is where everyone from Adam and Eve on enters heaven.

We begin in verse 9:

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

These people have just been martyred for their faith and the very first thing we are told is where they entered heaven. It is by the altar. When it says they are under the altar, we are not talking about where the fire is. When Israel had the tabernacle, this altar was the very first thing one met after entering in by the one door through the

fence that surrounded the tabernacle. This altar would not have been very big. But in the permanent temple in Solomon's day it was 16 feet high and 32 feet square on top. In Herod's temple, which stood in the day of Christ, it was 16 feet high and 52 feet square on top. Now picture the altar which is in heaven. It may be even much larger.

I propose that when anyone enters heaven they enter by this altar. And when it says they are underneath, that is they stand around the outside, but under this altar. And I propose that here the believer's life's works are tested.

Go now to 1 Corinthians 3. Paul speaks about believers being Christ's building and Christ is the foundation. And the believer's works are what he builds on this foundation. So we begin in verse 11:

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

I propose that this is what the NT refers to when it speaks of the judgment seat of Christ. Every believer must come before this judgment. I propose that the day a believer enters glory, he enters at this altar, and here his life's works are tested by fire. And why did I mention all this? Because I believe here, every godly and good work of the

Christian's life will be rewarded. Every work that was not good, I am not talking about sin, but every work that was done for the wrong purpose and through the flesh will deplete one's rewards. Everything that was not in order, various things one let go in life and should have dealt with, will be judged here. Everything repented of in life will never come up here. It is clean. It is removed as far as the east is from the west. It has been cast into the deepest part of the sea. But if that has not happened, here the believer will be judged.

Oh, how we will wish the Lord would not find one unclean thing! How many a preacher, having lived a godly life, and then in the end fell, may lose almost everything right here? Oh, what a trying time this will be.

And what is the good news? If I sincerely repent here, confess my sin and deal with it, it is forever gone! Repentance, the first word of the Gospel, and a positive word!

When the believer has been prepared, verse 11 then says:

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

I always say one must see these verses, not as a snapshot, but a movie. They come in, are judged, are given white clothing and then enter the city foursquare!

CONCL: We have looked at the importance of repentance both in the Old and the New Testaments. We saw its importance from the preaching of a man who has dealt with this subject for many years, one who is now 90 some years old.

This morning we looked at the importance of repentance in life. First, it is the first step in bringing glory to God. When we

repent and turn to Christ, for the first time we begin to bring glory to God. It is sin that cuts us short of His glory. This is the beginning of a life of learning humility. When we glorify God we put Him in His rightful place and when we humble ourselves we find our rightful place. These are issues that pertain to every single person who ever comes into existence and lives any amount of time!

Then repentance and faith in Christ delivers the sinner from the penalty of sin. The Lord has opened a little window into hell for us in Luke 16 and nobody in hell would ever refuse to repent if they got a second chance, but there is no second chance.

Then repentance delivers us from the power of sin. Oh, the almost almighty power of sin! Think with me for a moment of Ravi Zacharias. Here is a man who was delivered from suicide and then, as far as we can tell, truly got saved. He had a tremendous ministry. Do you remember I told you a while ago of Dr. Harold Willmington, who in a certain class in a correspondence course said that many of the people in the Bible fell on their strong points. That is what appears to have happened to Ravi.

In 2017 he defended a certain accusation. The ministry believed his defence. In May 19, 2020 he died from a rare cancer on the spine. Highly influential leaders posted the influence he had had on their lives. Let me just say, truth is truth, and he taught many wonderful things. But in December of 2020 Ravi Zacharias Ministries reported that there is convincing and credible evidence that he engaged in physical misconduct over the course of many years

(<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/december/rzim-evidence-confirms-ravi-zacharias-sexual-misconduct.html>).

His ministry brought in a team to investigate and what they uncovered is so shocking that I find it almost unbelievable that one can live in such sins and still preach. It is hard to believe. Now with the subject of repentance before us, I ask you, where did Ravi go after he died? I think without exception, all who live in such secret sins are liars.

Listen now to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10:

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Now listen to Galatians 5:19-21:

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

And last, Revelation 21:8:

8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

I ask you a most sobering question: Where is Ravi today? Think of this: When he was on his death bed he did not repent! Think of this: If he had repented, even on his deathbed, he might have lost all his rewards but been saved so as 1 Corinthians 3:15 says, "yet so as by fire." I ask you, how must he have fought conviction!? Now think of how horrifying man finds repentance!

I want you to think of one more thing: What place does the doctrine of once saved always saved play in such cases?

Repentance delivers from the penalty, the power, and the judgment of sin! Things not repented of must be met again!