

The Necessity of Repentance

- I. Jesus says repentance is an absolute necessity for salvation, Lk 13.3.
 - A. Every man is a sinner and therefore every man must repent, Ecc 7.20; Rom 5.12. Therefore:
 1. God calls all men to repentance, Isa 55.7; Acts 17.30.
 2. Christ called all men to repent in the first word of His first sermon, Mt 3.2, and in the last words of his last sermon, Lk 24.47.
 3. And Paul called all his hearers to repent, Acts 26.20.
 - B. However we think of ourselves or others, we'll be undone sinners if we're not penitent sinners, Lk 13.3.
 1. Repentant sinners shall be saved (Mic 7.19), but impenitent sinners cannot but be lost, Mk 13.31.
- II. Let's see that we're not offended at such a hard saying of Christ's as others once were and perished, Jn 6.60-69.
 - A. If there was another way for sinners to be saved, then God wouldn't call sinners to repentance and Christ wouldn't have unequivocally declared that the impenitent shall perish.
 - B. So let's not grumble at the means like Naaman and be lost, but let's use the means and be saved (cf. 2Kgs 5). And let us use David's path of repentance and be healed of our backslidings.

The Path of Repentance, vv.1-7

- I. The first step in David's repentance is a step toward God.
 - A. As our sin is a departure from God, our repentance must be, in its essence, a return to God, Lk 15.17-18.
 - B. And where else can we go when we've sinned? God alone can forgive us. This is therefore what David does in vv. 1-7.
 1. He calls upon God for grace and healing, for deliverance, and for consolation.
 2. And David makes this step toward God in repentance because God first made a step toward him in discipline, v.1.
 - C. Therefore if you would repent of your sins, you must return to the God from whom you departed by your sins, Isa 59.1-2.
- II. The second step in David's repentance is the vindication of God.
 - A. David makes no effort to excuse, mitigate, or deny his sin. Rather, he acknowledges God's rebuke to be just and His discipline to be warranted (cf. Ps 51.4).
 1. The only thing he asks is that God would discipline him out of love and not destroy him out of hatred. Of course, God wouldn't destroy him; but the severity of David's suffering compels him to pray for fatherly mercy.
 - B. Such vindication of God involves two things:
 1. The confession of our sin before God and the acknowledgment that we deserve to be disciplined, v.1

2. Sorrow and shame for our sin (cf. Ps 51.17), which is often, though not necessarily, shown by external signs, Jer 31.18-19; Lk 18.13; Isa 22.12; Ezra 9.3; Lk 22.62.
 - C. If you would return to God, you too must vindicate His charge against you by confession and godly sorrow.
- III. David's third step involved the plea for grace and mercy.
 - A. David begged for mercy at the hands of God, vv.2-4, desiring above all else that God would forgive him and return to him with His comforts and assurance.
 - B. David supports his request with two arguments:
 1. The covenant faithfulness of God to His people, v.4.
 2. His desire to glorify God in praise among men, v.5.
 - C. If you find yourself under God's discipline and your heart broken for sin, then seek your refuge in God by repentance. Plead with God as David did and make your return as sure as his was!

The Profit of Repentance, vv.8-10

- I. The change in vv.8-10 is unmistakable. Weeping changes to rejoicing and backsliding changes to clinging.
- II. Why? Because the Lord heard and accepted David's prayer, vv.8-9.
 - A. Our enemies are put to shame and confounded by our repentance, v.10.
- III. The Lord will by no means clear the guilty, but He will restore the penitent, Ex 34.6-7. David found it to be so and you will too if you follow in his path, cp. Lk 15.20-24.

Heeding God's Call to Repentance

- I. Be exhorted to heed God's call to repentance today. If you repent, no sin can damn you, no devil can harm you, and no angel will oppose you. You'll enjoy eternal reconciliation with God.
 - A. All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, Rom 3.23, and therefore we all are in need of repentance. Christ says to us all, unless you repent you will perish, Lk 13.3.
- II. Removing the impediments to your repentance:
 - A. Do you think your sins are too many to be forgiven? Isa 1.18; Mk 3.28.
 - B. Do you doubt God will forgive you because you've backslidden so far and so long? Hos 14.4; Jer 3.1, 22.
 - C. Do you fear that you can never be forgiven because you've despised the Lord's mercy? Acts 2.23, 41.
 - D. Have you given up hope of being saved because you've lived so long in impenitence? Lk 23.43.
 - E. Do you feel your case is worse than all the rest and beyond remedy? 2Chr 33.12-13; 1Tim 1.15-16.

Look to the Lord and be saved, for God is on His throne ready to forgive the penitent, Isa 55.6-7.