

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

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The Pharisees then and the self-righteous modern day Pharisees who call themselves Christians focus on their great works in Jesus' name but they have no relationship with Him. They are focused on **repentant behavior** and not on **repentant faith**. They never knew Jesus, they just knew what they did in His name.

We said that these people misuse the word 'repent' and end up turning it into a Law for Christians to follow. From self-centered religious fanatics to angry street preachers to even some Christians you may know, the word '**REPENT**' has been used to influence the thoughts of countless Christians into believing that they are **NOT** truly saved and do **NOT** deserve the abundant life that God promised us.

They shout things like "you never truly repented, you're not saved". This mentality has driven people away from God and is exactly what the Pharisees were doing.

Repent is found in the Bible and Jesus even tells us to repent but the confusion comes from the translations and different meanings for the word, along with taking the use of the word in scripture out of context.

The truth is that the majority of scriptural references to the word repent mean to have a "**Change of belief**" (change of mind, change of thoughts). By repenting in faith (belief) from not believing you have been forgiven in Jesus to believing that you have been forgiven in Jesus you have been saved. Believing in Jesus is a change in belief or repentance.

We mentioned that there are some Churches that teach that you are not truly forgiven unless you stop sinning. There are even other Churches that teach that if you continue to sin after being saved, God will turn His back on you and you will **lose your salvation**.

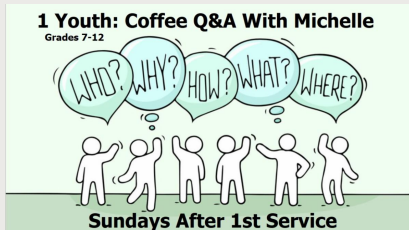
Just like **modern day Pharisees**, they are focused on our external actions rather than our internal belief in our heart. They have confused our saving forgiveness with "**how to be forgiven**" even though Jesus makes the how very clear in **John 3:16... Believe!**

We said that it's important to learn about how people can misuse the word 'repent' because they can influence our thoughts and cause us to doubt that God has really forgiven us and to doubt that God has already given us everything we need to have an abundantly awesome life and to actually doubt who we are as children of God.

We said that (with help from the Holy Spirit) we

absolutely do still need to try to repent as an action to do our best to stop sinning because sin is never a good thing and it can keep us from having the good life God has planned for us. But, we are already saved by the grace of God the moment we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior and believe He died for our sins and that can never, ever, be taken away.

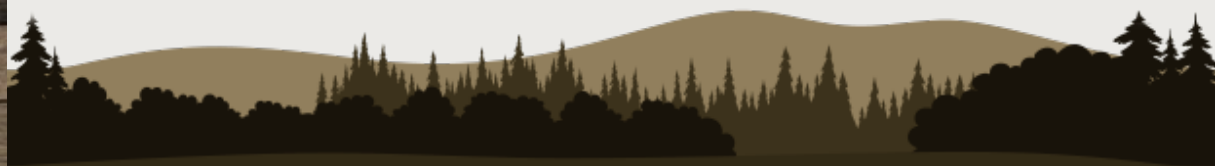
Next time, we'll be looking at how these self-righteous modern day Pharisees can misuse the word repent using specific examples of scripture taken out of context and how we can defend ourselves from them.



NEW!!!

Coffee Q&A with Michelle has moved to **Sundays!**

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, after 1st service, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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