



1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

February 9, 2023

Repentance? Part 2

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Links

Email

Website

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Previous Lessons

Foster Care Teens

Personal Care Items

We are still collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verse

Ephesians 2:8-9

Sunday



Repentance? Part 2

A few weeks ago, we finished up the 2nd part of our lesson about the **misuse of the word "Repent"** and how it can influence our thoughts keeping us from having the abundant life that God promised us.

The word "**Repent**" (meaning a change in belief) has become a "fighting word" for many well-meaning self-righteous Christians partly because our translations cannot properly express the meaning and partly because of their taking God's word out of context. As a result "**Repent**" has become a new Law that must be followed in order to be saved. We must not only change our belief but also must change our actions.

We looked at how when Jesus spoke of repentance, it was a change in belief from not believing who He was to believing who He was. He makes it very clear in **John 3:16** that only our repentance as a change in our belief will bring us the gift of salvation.

Those who preach repentance as a change in belief **AND ALSO** a change in action in order to be saved put the focus on what they do (works) rather than on what Jesus has already done.

These modern day Pharisees love to boast publicly

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Join us this
Sunday at 3:30
for a Superbowl
potluck party!**

**Fun games,
fellowship, game
truck, and lots of
great food.**

**Oh yeah, there's
also a football
game too.**

**[Visit our
website here!](#)**

about their amazing acts of repentance and shame all those who do not.

This becomes a problem when these beliefs influence our own thoughts into believing that we may not be truly saved unless we also do the works to show it. This then causes us to begin to doubt God's word and His promises for an abundantly awesome life.

We looked at several verses including **Ephesians 2:8-9**, **Romans 11:6**, and **1 Timothy 3:15-17**, to see that we are saved only by grace as a gift from God. We are saved not by our good works but to do good works and no amount of works will cause us to be any more forgiven than we already are at this very moment.

We said that of course we should strive to not sin and to do good works and God's grace will help us get there but we will never be saved by works.

We then took a look at a few examples of some of the lies about repentance and salvation we may here that could influence our thoughts and cause us to doubt God and what He has promised us.

1. **God will only forgive you if you repent AND are sorry.** How sorry do you need to be? You can be sorry all day long, even unbelievers can be sorry, but they are not saved. God only forgives by our belief in the blood of Jesus. God forgives us by our believing in what Jesus did for us not by putting on a show for all to see. We should always recognize our mistakes and move forward in confidence that we have already been forgiven, once, forever. **Hebrews 10:14**
2. **You must repent of each sin every time you sin.** Again, this is putting the focus on the sin and on our works just like the old covenant Law. We probably don't even know most of the sins we commit on a daily basis. We are made righteous by what Jesus did for us not by what we do. **2 Corinthians 5:21**
3. **You must do good works to continue to be saved.** How many? How often? Again, throughout the Gospel, we see that we are saved by grace by coming to repentance (change in belief) which then inspires us to do good works with the Holy Spirit in us.
4. **Believers are only forgiven if they don't do that sin again.** This belief totally negates the power of the blood of Jesus and again puts the focus on ourselves and on what **WE** do. Jesus isn't in Heaven getting on and off the cross every time we sin. He died for all our sins, past/present/future once and forever. **Hebrews 10:14**

We discussed a few more similar false statements and what makes them false. We said that unbelief was the

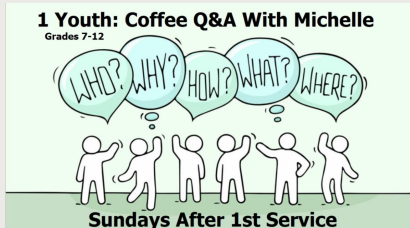
first sin that caused Adam and Eve to doubt God's word about who they already were, made perfectly, in His image, with everything they needed for an abundant life.

So, today, don't worry so much about sin or if you're "good enough". Repenting of unbelief is what makes us forever forgiven children of God. He didn't say, "you're forgiven, now you better stop sinning or I'll take it all back".

Jesus didn't forgive the adulterous woman and then check to make sure she never sinned again. The thief on the cross next to Jesus never even had the opportunity to stop sinning or to do good works. He just believed who Jesus was and Jesus told him that He would see him in paradise.

Should we try to stop sinning, yes, of course, but only to help make our lives better and to be closer to the abundantly awesome lives that God has planned for us. To be saved, we only need to believe. **John 3:16.**

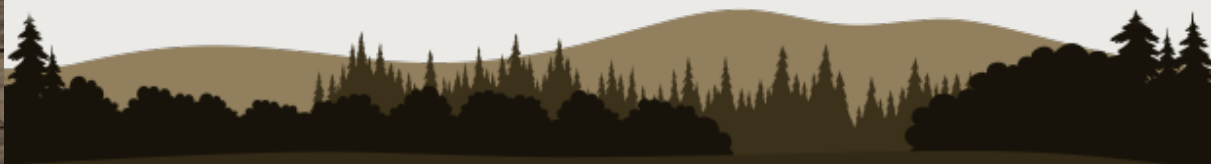
Never let ANYONE try to take that away from you!



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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