

REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM IN WATER KINGDOM COME SERIES

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TEXT: Acts 2:36-38

Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” **Acts 2:37** Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” **Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, **“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

PURPOSE: To call people to true repentance and to encourage all those who have not received water baptism to do so.

INTRODUCTION: Before we look at our text, I want to go to a very important passage of Scripture. **Hebrews 6:1-3** **Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits.** When we bought our house in Altadena we saw it being built from ground level up. It was exciting to go every week to pray over our house and see them lay the cement for the foundation. We buried Grace’s children’s Bible in the ground before they laid the foundation. Each major juncture, they had to wait for the city inspector to come out to inspect if they had laid the foundation right then others would come to inspect the plumbing, electrical work, etc. They would then sign off by giving a permit to move on. The writer of Hebrews is saying the same thing. If you do not have the foundation proper, God will not move you on. Some of you are stuck in your growth in Jesus because you never laid the proper foundation. Today I want to talk about two major foundations truths, repentance and water baptism. I will talk about the Baptism with the Holy Spirit next week.



I. TRUE REPENTANCE Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

A. WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

1. It is not feeling sorry for your sins. The young rich ruler walked away from Jesus sorry but we don't see him repenting and following Jesus.
2. It is not confessing your sins. People confess to priests and counselors every day but they don't change.

B. WHAT REPENTANCE IS

1. In salvation, repentance and faith go together. Two sides of the same coin. You believe or have faith that Jesus died for your sins and rose again from the dead. You believe that if you repent and believe, you too will have eternal life.
2. Repentance begins with the sincere and thorough changing of the mind and disposition in regards to sin.
3. **Billy Graham says, “The most devastating fact in the universe is sin. The cause of all troubles, the root of all sorrow, the dread of every man lies in this one small word sin. All mental disorders, all sicknesses, all destruction, all wars find their root in sin. Sin is madness in brain, poison in the heart. It is tornado on the loose, a volcano gone wild. It is a deadly cancer eating its way into the souls of men. It is a raging torrent that sweeps everything before it.”**
4. If you don't understand the doctrine of sin, you will not understand the Old Testament. The soul that sins must die. The world is under the death sentence of sin. Noah's Ark is not a story of God's judgment but the story of God's mercy.
5. **The revelation of God's love for you, demonstrated by Jesus dying for your sins, is the foundation of repentance.**

6. **Repentance is the grace from God where there is a genuine conviction of one's sins, hatred of that sin, and a quality forsaking of that sin.**

C. FRUIT OF REPENTANCE

1. Both John the Baptist and Jesus taught about the fruit of repentance. **Matthew 3:8** “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance...”
2. **Acts 2:38** “Repent...for the remission of sins.”
3. **Luke 24:46-47** “Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”



4. The word remission does not mean to just have your sins forgiven. But it means total deliverance from that sin.

5. In the context of the Old Testament, the remission of sin was being delivered from the slavery of sin.

6. **Matthew 3:10** “**And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees.**”

7. God deals with the root issue of your sins by making you born again. You become a new creation in Christ.

8. **2 Corinthians 5:17** “**Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**”

9. The real you is new. You have a new spirit that has no sin. But we have our old body and old mind. That is why we must offer our bodies on a daily basis and renew our mind daily to walk in holiness and total victory over sin.

II. THE MANDATE OF WATER BAPTISM

A. THE FACTS CONCERNING WATER BAPTISM

1. It is a command from Jesus, Acts 2:38,

2. **Matthew 28:18-20** “**And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*’ Amen.**”

3. It is for those who repent and convert, Acts 2:38, 41.

4. It is to be done right after conversion, e.g., the Samaritans, Acts 8:12, the Philippians’ jailer and his family, Acts 16:30-34.

5. It is so closely associated with salvation, that Peter says repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. However, it is not a matter of salvation through water baptism. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith. The thief on the cross got saved and wasn’t baptized in water.

6. Any believer can perform it, e.g., Philip, Acts 8:36-38. The Great Commission applies to every believer, Matthew 28:19-20.

7. It is done through immersion, Acts 8:38. The Greek word for baptism is *baptizo*, which means to immerse, plunge or overwhelm. It refers to a sunken ship totally immersed in water.

B. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER BAPTISM



1. Water Baptism and Communion are the two Protestant Sacraments. (The Roman Catholic Church has seven Sacraments) A Sacrament originally was an oath of obedience taken by a newly enlisted soldier.
2. Water Baptism is also called an ordinance. An ordinance can be defined as “the outward sign of an inward work.”
3. Water baptism is a visual and symbolic affirmation and a celebration of your conversion experience.
4. **We believe that water baptism in the name of The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit is a blessed outward sign of an inward work, a beautiful emblem reminding us that even as our Lord Jesus died on the cross, so we reckon ourselves now dead indeed unto sin, and the old sin nature nailed to the cross with Him; we are buried with Him by baptism into His death; and as Christ was raised up from the dead even so we should walk in the newness of life.**
5. Water baptism reaffirms your death in Christ.
6. **Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”**
7. **Romans 6:1-14 (NIV), “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and**



offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”

8. When you come to Christ, you die to your self (what you want, what you think, what you feel, your sins, your rights, your future, your talents, etc). But you get His life.
9. God wants us to die daily. Not to crucify what Paul calls “the old man” or the sin nature. That is already dead. But to offer our bodies and our mind to the Lord daily. That is what it means to take up the cross daily. Luke 9:23, “Then he said to them all: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’” This is what I call the “practice of dying daily.” We must die daily to our flesh. For example, God told me to die to life, ministry and marriage.
10. Water baptism powerfully affirms inward truths concerning salvation and thus it helps you to walk in victory over sin, self, Satan, and the world.
11. The truth is: the power of Christian living is that we live by dying.
12. When you are already dead, you don’t mind doing whatever the Lord asks you to do. E.g. The Moravians sold themselves into slavery in order to evangelize the slaves in America.

CONCLUSION: A call for people to repent and give their hearts to Christ. Invitation to be water baptized.

