

Acts # 22

“Changing Our Minds About Repentance”

*Acts 2:38-41*

**Two prophetic approaches declared the coming Church Age; one addressed to the Jews and one to Gentiles:**

The approach to the Gentiles was Jesus Christ’s prophecy of the baptism by the Holy Spirit in *Acts 1:5*. *The approach to the Jews was the announcement of her evangelization in Gentile languages in Isaiah 28*. The Jews as a whole walked by sight rather than by faith, always seeking some type of supernatural sign. In approximately A.D. 33, God would give the Jewish people an unmistakable sign: evangelism in foreign languages, a sign that would continue until A.D. 70 for almost four decades, a sign that would signal the opening of a brand new dispensation, the Church Age.

**Grace always precedes judgement and since the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 was a maximum disaster for Israel, God provided a preview of extensive evangelism.**

All who would accept the gift of salvation during that interim period would escape the curse of the fifth cycle of divine discipline.

*Those who would recognize the sign would know what it represented; therefore, they would flee to safety according to divine instructions.*

**Divine viewpoint changes every bit of the human viewpoint we’ve ever learned.**

All of us repented at the moment of salvation when we expressed faith alone in Jesus Christ alone instead of relying on self, others, things or circumstances.

*Repentance is a decision based on our mentality, not our emotion because repentance must be rational.*

When witnessing, we are called upon only give accurate information on which an unbeliever can make a decision to believe in Jesus Christ; we do not try to get the unbeliever to repent as that’s the function of God the Holy Spirit using the Gospel information we have provided, so the Holy Spirit will encourage them to change their mind about Jesus Christ after we get the correct information to them.

**When people don’t repent, meaning change their focus with regard to salvation as unbelievers or toward biblical truth as believers, their lifestyle is out of control due to evil influencing their lives.**

Salvation repentance is the positive change of mind which follows comprehension of the Gospel.

*It’s really as easy as breathing and the inhale is the principle of common grace in which the Holy Spirit takes the message of the witness and makes it a reality in the mentality of the soul of the unbeliever.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promises, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.”**

That does not mean God wants everyone to do their best to give up sinning; it means He wants all to change their minds about the only One who could pay for their sins!

*Dead works are human good works produced in Satan’s cosmic world system in that they are designed to promote self and not God.*

**Repent is a non-meritorious word which means to change your mind about Jesus Christ.**

Repent and believe are actually two parts of

the same thing; we cannot believe without repenting and we cannot repent without believing.

*But it must be remembered that repent in salvation has nothing to do with sin; we do not repent of sin to be saved; we do not feel sorry for sin to be saved; to repent means to adopt a complete change of mental attitude.*

**Repent and be baptized are entirely separate and one follows the other but they do not go together; in other words, you cannot be baptized until after you have been saved.**

Repent is the salvation word and baptize is a ritual which indicates that you have been saved and now understand your salvation.

*You understand that when you believed in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit entered you into union with Him in His death, so you are no longer under the power of good deeds and you no longer have to produce human good.*

Also, you understand that you are in union with Jesus Christ as He sits at the right hand of the Father, that His life is your life, that His righteousness is your righteousness and therefore, you are now in a position to execute divine good.

**The reason Peter is emphasizing *repent* isn't because repent is something they needed to do to be saved; it's because the Jewish people were steeped in works-oriented religion and they had to change their thinking regarding the work of Christ.**

Which book do most Christian's advise new believers to read?

*The Gospel of John which by the way, never uses the word or concept of repent for salvation; John uses believe only almost one hundred times.*