

The Fruit Of Repentance

2 CORINTHIANS 7:5-12

Brethren Repent

Context of 2 Corinthians Chapter 7

- Following up on the first letter to the church in Corinth.
- Finally receives good news from Titus about their receptiveness of Paul's admonishments and the changes they've manifested.

All have sinned and all need to change ... how receptive and how willing to change are we?

God Demands Repentance

Commanded by **John** – Matthew 3:2, 8

Commanded by **Christ** - Luke 13:3, 5

Commanded by the inspired **apostles** - Acts 2:38; 17:30

Repentance - defined

metanoia –

“**a change of mind**: as it appears to one who repents, of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done” (Thayer).

“... hence signifies ‘to change one’s mind or purpose,’ always, in the NT, involving a change for the better” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

It is the **change of mind** which **produces** the **turning of ones life!**

Matthew 21:28-31a

Earnestness

- Greek word defined as haste, urgency, eagerness.
- English word - “serious in intention, purpose or effort ... seriously important, demanding ... Note 2 Peter 1:5”
- Repentance may not be consummated overnight but it can be started immediately. See Ezra 10:10-13.
- How serious are we about change?
- There will be a time when it will be too late. Hebrews 12:16-17

Vindication

- Greek word *apologia* - a defense, answer or reply. “Clearing” (NKJV)
- What’s our answer to Satan’s accusation of sin?
 - If we stole ... If we lied ... if we haven’t done what we should?
 - Our answer or defense is in our acts of obedience.
- Includes our acceptance of responsibility and accountability.
- In the days of Jeremiah, God spoke through him of those who “**keep going backwards**” and thus “**did not repent of their ways**” (Jeremiah 15:5-7).
- Who should know? Our vindication should be as public as our sin.

Indignation

- Profound displeasure over the unjust or offending ... about what? Mark 10:35-45
- **Applied to self not others** – David & Nathan 2 Samuel 12:5; Luke 13:1-5; Matthew 7:1-5
- **Indignant that we have offended God** – 2 Samuel 12:13; Psalms 51:3-4
- **Indignant over wasted time and missed opportunities** – 1 Peter 4:1-3; Ephesians 5:15-17
- **Indignant over** allowing ourselves to be **deceived** – 2 Corinthians 11:3; Romans 16:17-18; Obadiah 3. Proverbs 30:8

Fear

- Dread or terror arising out of reverence and awe.
- Fear of what?
 - Of the consequences to our relationship with God. 2 Peter 2:20. "Alarm over (our) behavior and its' effects"
 - That we would lose our eternal reward. 2 John 8
 - That we should **"come short"**. Hebrews 4:1
 - Of having to give account for what we have or haven't done. 2 Corinthians 5:9-11; Hebrews 10:31.
 - Of eternal regret – the rich man of Luke 16:19ff

Longing

- Earnest desire. Not out of public embarrassment or peer pressure – because we want to – we have to.
- A longing first to be right with God – then a longing that others might know we are/have made things right.
- A longing to be restored to favor – fellowship.
- Indicative of a strong spiritual appetite – Matthew 5:6; 1 Peter 2:2
- The prodigal son – an earnest desire to go home. Luke 15:16-21

Zeal

- Literally refers to heat – ardor in embracing, pursuing, or defending.
- Diligence and fervor in making things right.
- Anything but indifferent. 2 Kings 13:17-18, King Joash of Israel, displayed no zeal or faith in the promises of God to defeat the Arameans.
- Do we have faith and zeal for the true effects of repentance?
- The Ephesians demonstrated their zeal in repentance. Acts 19:18ff.
- Repentance is one of those "good deeds" we're to be zealous for. Titus 2:14

Avenging Of Wrong

- "Meting out of justice; doing justice to all parties" – full justice or satisfaction. (Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament)
- The willingness to accept punishment and discipline – and still serve the Lord. Acts 25:11; Hebrews 12:7-12
- A legal term that suggests "bringing the guilty person to book and subjecting him to discipline, and thus putting their house in order."
- The brother in Corinth who had committed the sin had borne the punishment that Paul called for and he had made things right. Will we?

Demonstration Of Innocence

Not that we didn't commit the sin, but that we have borne the fruit of true repentance. 1 John 1:8-10

Absolved of blame.

"Walk no longer" – Ephesians 4:17