

## The Importance of Turning Away from Sin

### Matthew 4:17

<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

### Mark 1:14-15

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

1. What is repentance?
2. Why should we repent?
3. What should we repent of?
4. How do we turn away from sin and walk as Jesus did?

### 1. What is repentance?

Repent = *metanoia* (Greek) = change of mind or habits; involves a turning with contrition from sin to God; to amend (or change for the better) of one's past sins

Repentance is not just confessing sin or feeling remorse for it, it involves a turning away from sin; changing

### 1 Peter 2:24

<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

### 1 Peter 1:3-5

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he

has given us **new birth** into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time

### **1 Peter 1:16, 22-23**

<sup>16</sup> for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have **purified** yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.<sup>23</sup> For you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

How do we “purify” ourselves? = “by obeying the truth” – What truth?

Christ said in **John 17:17** <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

### **1 John 1:7-10 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

### **1 John 2:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> My dear children, I write this to you **so that you will not sin**. But **if** anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

<sup>3</sup> We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. <sup>4</sup> The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth

is not in him.<sup>5</sup> But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him:<sup>6</sup> Whoever claims to live in him **must** walk as Jesus did.

## **Hebrews 2:18**

<sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

## **Revelation 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:  
These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands <sup>2</sup> I know your <sup>1</sup>deeds, your <sup>2</sup>hard work and your <sup>3</sup>perseverance. I know that you <sup>4</sup>cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have <sup>5</sup>tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup>  
You have persevered and have <sup>6</sup>endured hardships for my name, and have <sup>7</sup>not grown weary.

<sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember the height from which you have fallen! **Repent** and do the things you did at first. If you do not **repent**, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: <sup>8</sup>You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

## **2. Why Should We Repent?**

## **Matthew 5:20**

<sup>20</sup> For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

## **Luke 13:1-5**

1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! **But unless you repent, you too will all perish.** 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! **But unless you repent, you too will all perish.**”

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

8 “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

## **Hebrews 10:26**

<sup>26</sup> If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,

## **Genesis 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

## **Romans 6:15-18**

<sup>15</sup> *What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!* <sup>16</sup> *Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?* <sup>17</sup> *But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.* <sup>18</sup> *You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

### **3. What should we repent of?**

#### **1 Peter 2:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore, rid yourselves of **all** malice and **all** deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander (katalalia = backbiting; evil speaking; defamation) of **every** kind.* <sup>2</sup> *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,* <sup>3</sup> *now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

#### **Galatians 5:19-26;**

#### **Ephesians 5:3-5;**

#### **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

- *Sexual immorality*
- *Any kind of impurity,*
- *Idolatry*
- *Adultery*
- *Male prostitution*
- *Homosexuality*
- *Thieving*
- *being greedy*
- *being a drunkard*
- *Slandering*
- *Swindling*
- *Debauchery*
- *Witchcraft;*

- *Hatred,*
- *Discord*
- *Jealousy*
- *Fits of rage*
- *Selfish ambition*
- *Dissensions*
- *Factions*
- *Envy*
- *Orgies*
- And the like...

### **John 5:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.* <sup>14</sup> *Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. **Stop sinning** or something worse may happen to you."*

### **John 8:10-12 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> *Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?"* <sup>11</sup> *She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either Go **From now on sin no more.**"*

## **4. How do we live without sin and walk as Jesus did?**

### **1 Peter 1:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope **fully** on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in **all you do**; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." ...

2:<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of **all** malice and **all** deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of **every** kind. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, **crave** pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul...

### **Exodus 20:20**

<sup>20</sup> *Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."*

### **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

<sup>14</sup> *For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

### **2 Timothy 2:1-5 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>*Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. <sup>5</sup>Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.*

### **Ephesians 6:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on **the full** armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the*

*authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

*<sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

**Next meeting is Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7.30pm**