

## REPENTANCE

### II Peter 3:9

**Repentance** – The bible is clear by studying context that there is more than one meaning to the word *repentance*. There are two NT Greek words which are translated *repentance*; 1. *metanoia*, its verbal counterpart (*metanoeo*), and 2. *metamelomai*. The first Greek word (*metanoia*) is found 58 times in the N.T. and carries the basic meaning of changing ones mind about something or someone.

**John 6:44; Acts 5:31; 11:18; II Peter 3:9** The first thing we must consider is that repentance is something that is given by God. No one can come to Christ without God the Father calling them.

**Matthew 5:45; Romans 2:4, and Acts 15:11; Ephesians 2:8-9.** These verses show that some other words in the bible like *Grace* have two different meanings, 1.Common Grace, and 2. Saving Grace.

## TURNING FROM SIN

**Luke 17:3-4** Clearly this passage does not refer to eternal life or salvation. This forgiveness is man to man and involves fellowship. This repentance calls to question a change of mind about sinful behavior.

**Acts 8:22** Peter had words with Simon Magus who had obviously been saved as Dr. Luke makes perfectly clear in (**Acts 8:13**) thus this repentance was for believers forgiveness and fellowship.

## GENERAL REGRET

**Matthew 27:3** After betraying Christ, Judas regretted what he had done and gave back the money and hanged himself. Judas repented but not unto salvation, he repented with remorse.

**II Corinthians 7:8** After the church had received his first letter of reprimand, they had come to understand some of the spiritual truths he sent to them so Paul first regretted then did not regret sending the letter because it produced positive results.

**Hebrews 12:17** Though Esau was remorseful and regretted selling his birthright and lost the blessing he could not get his father to change his mind and reverse the blessing he gave to Jacob.

## A CHANGED MIND ABOUT CHRIST UNTO SALVATION

**II Peter 3:9** In some passages repentance, (*metanoia*) is synonymous for salvation. In these verses there is what is termed a metonymy which is a cause and effect. The cause is a change of mind about Christ and His Gospel, The effect is an immediate salvation. Such is the case with the Jews in Acts.

**Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 5:30-31** Jesus had explicitly told the Apostles to start the Gospel message in Jerusalem. These were the people who had rejected and crucified Christ. According to **Acts 3:17; 13:26-27** they had rejected and killed Him from ignorance. Now however, due to the overwhelming evidence from His resurrection, the Jews are given a chance to “change their minds regarding Jesus Christ”, (repent), believe, and have their sins forgiven and become justified or saved, (**Acts 13:38-39**).

**Important Note---** Any view that repentance or turning from our sin before salvation takes place violates the spiritual law that salvation is 100% a gift from God **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

**Acts 11:17-18** These verses are commentary to what happened in **Acts 10:43-46** when Peter was sent to Cornelius the Gentile and preached the Gospel to him and his family. Peter never mentions repentance, only that they must believe in Jesus Christ to receive remission of sins.

**John 3:16; 6:47; 11:25; 20:31** All these verses pertain to salvation by believing in Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 7:21; John 5:24; 6:29** God's will for us is to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation.

**John 20:30-31** John's Gospel is written primarily to unbelievers in order that they might believe. It is noteworthy to be clear that John **NEVER** uses the word repent in any passage referring to salvation.