Connect Study—Repentance

Heb 6:1-3 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding”.

**What is repentance?**

“*Repentance is changing from what I want to what God says*”.

The Greek word for repentance, *Metonia*, appears 50 times in the New Testament. It means a change of mind. It is a change of the whole personality from a sinful course of action to God. It means repentance is not just the change of intentions or plans but actions.

**The Importance of repentance**

Each of these Bible characters speak strongly about repentance. Read these verses to see what they say:

Jesus—Matt 11:20

Peter –Acts 2:38

Paul—Acts 26: 20

God the Father—Acts 17:30

1 Cor 6:9-10 “Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God”

Worldly repentance vs Godly repentance

2 Cor 7:10 For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

Judas was sorrowful about his betrayal of Jesus yet he did not repent. Also contrasting Saul and David. Both of them were anointed as kings. Both of them sinned. But when Saul was confronted by Samuel, his focus was on himself. He said to Samuel, “I know I messed up, but please at least honour me before the elders of my people and before Israel…” (paraphrase). He was more concerned about the embarrassment. But when King David was confronted by Nathan about his sin of adultery and murder. He repented in front of the leaders. “I’ve hurt the heart of the one I love”. When we sin, do we wait till we are caught out before we repent? Are we more concerned about the human consequences or breaking God’s heart?

Our Hope

God’s love is inexhaustible. His blood is enough to cover every sin. He is powerful enough to break every bondage of sin.

Discussion:

What is one area that you have ‘repented’ from since last year? Has there been any discernible change in your attitude/behaviour etc?

Put in your own words the difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow.

Ps Jonathan mentioned that 1 Cor 6:9-10 does not refer to a believer who struggles with sin, but to someone who practices sin. What is the difference between these two groups of people?