

Repent and Believe the Gospel

- After Jesus was baptized and John was put into prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching
- We find this in Mark chapter 1
- Jesus said "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand"
- And He said "repent ye, and believe the gospel"
- These ideas of repentance and belief are reinforced and reiterated throughout the New Testament
- The message He came preaching at the beginning of His ministry here (at 30 years of age) is the one we continue to preach
- In our study of the Basics of Christianity, it is the place we must start
- No man will be transformed eternally by simply gaining an academic understanding of Bible doctrines
- Christianity starts when a man is saved, regenerated, forgiven, justified, redeemed, by faith
- This happens when we turn from sin and believe the gospel

- But we must define some terms
- Let's begin with repentance
- What does this word mean?
- The word used in this passage is met-an-o-eh'-o in Greek
- It means "to change one's mind, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins"
- In regard to salvation, it is a turning from sin to God
- Instead of going in the same direction, one turns around and goes in exactly opposite direction
- The bible not only continues to use this term, but also describes what it looks like in the lives of disciples

- Jesus makes His purpose clear a chapter later, in speaking with scribes and Pharisees about eating with publicans and sinners in Mark 2:17...

"They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

- Peter preached repentance as the New Testament church began in Acts 2:38...

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

- And then in Acts 3:18...

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"

- The disciples preached in this way, just as Jesus said they would preach after He was crucified and risen from the dead in Luke 24:46-47...

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

- We are to preach a turning from sin and a turning to Christ, for these things are inseparable
- We see this demonstrated in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11...

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

- And in Romans 6:16-18

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

- To have faith in Christ, to embrace Him and Him alone for salvation of our souls, is to turn from sin

- We must turn from sin to embrace Him

- And when we do, He releases us from it's chains and provides the power to have victory

- What about defining the word believe?

- This is the Greek word pist-yoo'-o

- It is "to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in"

- In its moral or religious sense, it means "to trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something"

- Is also referred to as "saving faith"

- When Paul and Silas were miraculously delivered from prison by earthquake, the keeper asked them in Acts 16:31-32...

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

- Perhaps the greatest salvation passage in all the scripture speaks of this belief over and over, beginning in John 3:16...

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

- To have an eternal home in heaven, we must turn to Christ from sin and believe

- Many wonderful things are true of us when we do

Salvation (is provided)

Salvation is defined by a rescue from the penalty of sin through faith in Jesus Christ. We are called to embrace the salvation God offers through Christ, and to proclaim that offer of salvation to every creature.

- As seen in Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Regeneration (takes place)

Regeneration takes place at the moment of salvation, when a sinner is resurrected from the grave of sinfulness and made new and alive in Christ Jesus. It is that which we would call second birth, marking the beginning of an entirely new life, free from slavery to sin, bondage to the power of death, being newly indwelt with the living Spirit of God.

- Observed in John 1:12-13...

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor

of the will of man, but of God."

Justification (is obtained)

Justification is the act of being made right with God apart from your own merit, through the merit and action of Jesus Christ. Our just penalty for sin is death; our just redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only one able to reconcile us to God through His own blood.

- Described in Romans 3:22-28...

"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Redemption (is provided)

Man was separated from God through Adam's sin, and therefore must be brought back into a proper relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Redemption is the event that occurs when we are saved that restores us to that former relationship with our Father in Heaven.

- We learn more in Ephesians 1:5-7...

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

(He is our) Propitiation

Propitiation is what took place when Jesus suffered and died on the cross to take our place, he replaced us on the cross, and was therefore the propitiation for our sins.

- This is found in 1 John 2:1-2...

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have

an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

(And we experience) Imputation

People are sinful, and therefore unrighteous in our standing before God. We cannot make ourselves righteous, and must rely on God to impute the righteousness of Christ to us; it is because of Christ that we are declared righteous.

- Explained in Romans 4:17-25...

"(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

Forgiveness (is given)

Our sins have been forgiven by God when we have genuinely repented and placed our faith and trust in Christ. When we are forgiven, we are no longer responsible for paying the penalty for our sinfulness, which is death.

- Discovered in Ephesians 1:5-8...

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;"

(And we experience) Spirit Baptism

We are baptized in the Spirit of God at the time of salvation; we die to our old spirit, which is

of the flesh, and become alive to the Holy Spirit.

- Which is described in I Corinthians 12:12-14...

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many."

(And we have) Eternal Security

Those who know Christ are eternally secure in Him, and that their salvation cannot be taken away, forfeited, or rejected, for it is not their own to lose. It is held by the power of God, who cannot let go, nor break His promise to grant eternal life.

- Revealed for us in John 10:28-29...

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

(And) Glorification

I believe we will be glorified by God when we are with Him, seeing Him as He is, and sharing in His own glory, because we are partakers of His own inheritance. Our glorification will include the removal of the curse of sinfulness from our bodies, minds, and hearts, allowing us to share fully in a state of glorification in Heaven.

-Seen in Romans 8:16-17...

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Christopher Harper, September 2021