

THE BEREANS

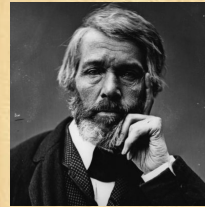
ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 4:17-19

Lesson #20

Repentance #1 The old self

12/10/2017



Thomas Carlyle
(Scottish philosopher)

“Of all acts of man repentance is the most divine. The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none.”

1

What changes

when a person becomes a Christian?

- ✓ **Some things will not change at all** - our past, circumstances, personality, etc.
- ✓ **Some things will change immediately** - our personal and positional relationship with God.
- ✓ **Some things will change over time** - through insight, growth, discipline, company we keep.
- ✓ **Some things may change dramatically** - through a work of God's Spirit and faith.



2

Repent

μετανοέω
metanoeo



meta - “after”
noeo - “to perceive”

to change
the way we
“see things”
and thus how we behave

3

The Greek word translated “repent” in the New Testament

“Repent” (verb) 34 times

5 times in Matthew

2 times in Mark

9 times in Luke

5 times in Acts

1 time in 2 Corinthians

12 times in Revelation

“Repentance” (noun) 24 times

3 times in Matthew

2 times in Mark

5 times in Luke

6 times in Acts

1 time in Romans

2 times in 2 Corinthians

1 time in 2 Timothy

3 times in Hebrews

1 time in 2 Peter

4

REPENTANCE

is to be understood
in two contexts.

5

The structure of Ephesians

ch.1-3
What Christ has done
FOR us.

Our Identity

ch.4-6
What Christ is doing
IN and **THROUGH** us.

in Action

REPENTANCE
that brings
legal reconciliation



repentance
that brings
spiritual / social harmony



6

1. Strategic REPENTANCE



**from
self**



**to
Christ**

Turning
from worldly hopes (dead works)
to faith in Christ

7

CONVERSION to Christ involves Strategic REPENTANCE.

Acts 26:18

“to open their eyes so that they may **turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God**, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me”

Hebrews 6:1

“Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a **foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God**, 8

2. Tactical repentance



**from
sins**



**to Godly
living**

Turning
from specific sins **to** obedience
so as to commune with God. 9

2 Corinthians 12:21

“I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not **repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.**”



Strategic REPENTANCE
is not without need
for repeated tactical
repentance. 10



Luke 14

“²⁶ If anyone comes **to Me**, . . . ²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and come **after Me** cannot be My disciple.”



**Repentance is
coming TO and
AFTER Christ.**

**and following
AFTER Christ.**

**coming
TO Christ**



11

1 Corinthians 1:2

“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling,”

The Corinthians had REPENTED (strategically)

1 Corinthians 3:3

“For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”

but were in need of repentance (tactically)

12

REPENT

exchanging hope
in self
and the world
for the Cross of Christ



- ★ The sin of unbelief
- ★ Conversion
- ★ Not repeated

repent

letting go of worldly
attachments, attitudes,
& actions for
Kingdom living



- ★ Acts of sin
- ★ Communion
- ★ Repeated

13

Don't confuse

strategic REPENTANCE and tactical repentance.

REPENT

- ✓ **Apostasy** is the reversal of strategic REPENTANCE.
- ✓ Strategic REPENTANCE need not be repeated.

repent

- ✓ **Backsliding** is the reversal of tactical repentance.
- ✓ Tactical repentance is repeatedly needed.

14

Water baptism
is about
conversion.



The Lord's Supper
is about
communion.



Both are about repentance.

15

Acts 2:38

“Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”



Conversion

is symbolized in water baptism which is our initiation into the faith.

1 Corinthians 10:16

“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?”



Communion

is symbolized in the bread and cup which is our abiding in the faith.

16

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17

Repentance is turning **FROM** something
(a futile mind from a hard heart)
and it **starts on the inside**.

Ephesians 4

"¹⁷ This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;"

- The "**mind**" of the old self is rooted in a way of seeing things - "**darkened**", "**dead**", and "**ignorant**".
- "**Because of**" suggests that a worldly mindset starts with a "**hardened heart**".

18

Moral reform is the fruit
of a renewed mind.

Matthew 6:22

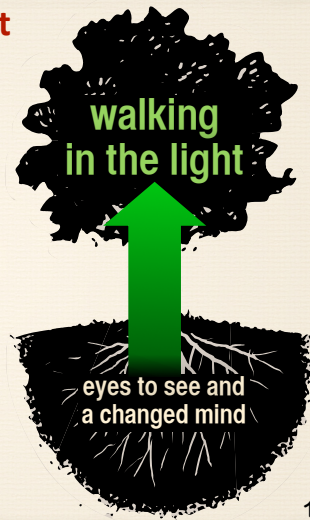
"**The eye is the lamp of the body**; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light."

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**"

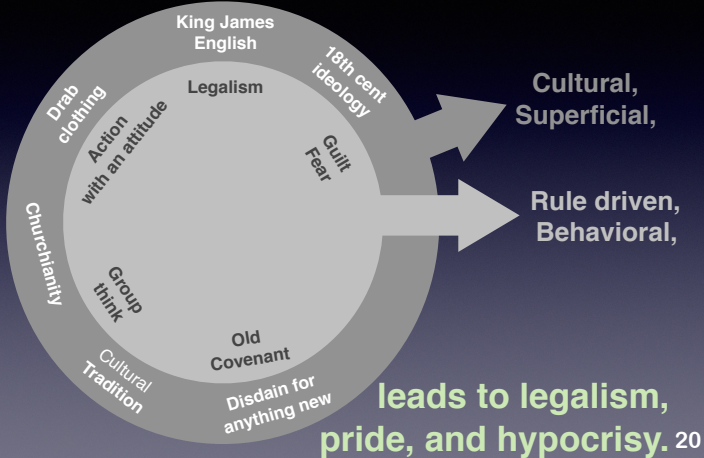
Ephesians 4

"²³ and **that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, ²⁴ and put on the new self,"

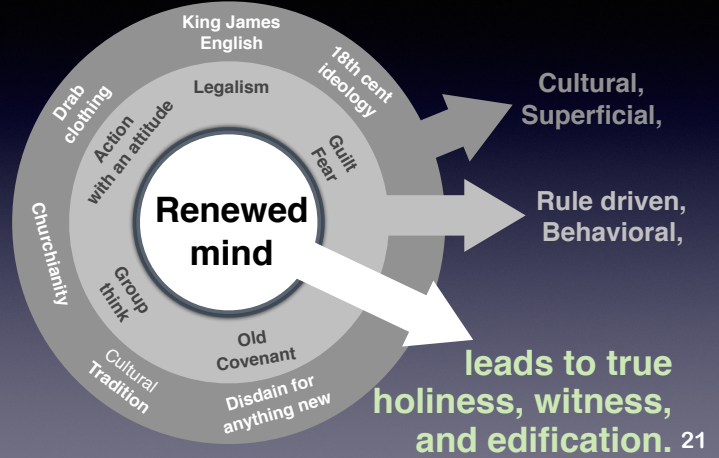


19

Repentance that is focused on
the "outward" life



Repentance that comes
from the heart



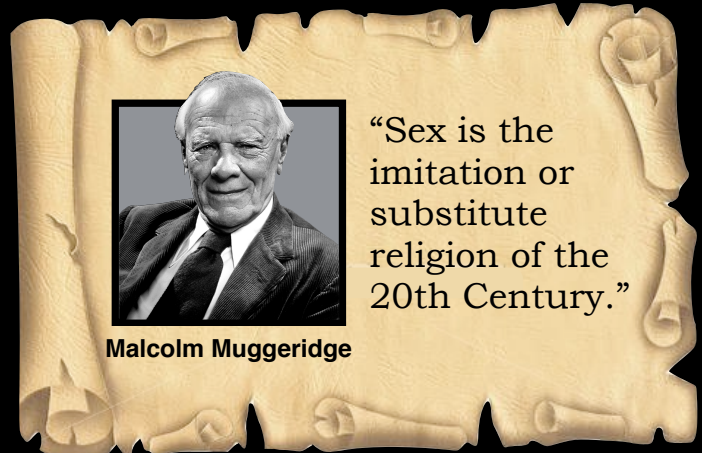
Repentance is turning from a **sensual**
orientation as we address unmet longings.

Ephesians 4

"¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness."

- The "**having become**" suggests that what started as a hard heart and became a dark mind, can result in a "**callous**" condition where there is little sensitivity to pain and reason.
- Facing in the wrong direction sets us up to "**give ourselves over**" to all kinds of selfish, sensual strategies to fill the emptiness of our lives.

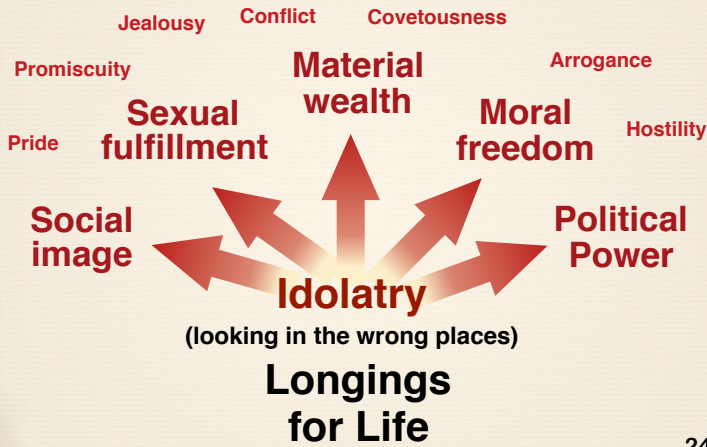
22



Malcolm Muggeridge

23

The seedbed of sin



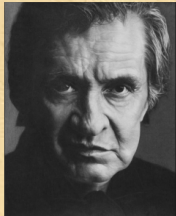
24

Facing in the right direction makes it easier to make good decisions.

- Take your baptism seriously - renew the mind
- Strategic (macro) decisions set the stage for good tactical (micro) decisions.



25



Johnny Cash

"Sometimes I am two people. Johnny is the nice one. Cash causes all the trouble. They fight and the one that I feed generally wins."

26

Consider

- Our unmet longings drive us toward sensuality or spirituality to find life.
- Holy living is not automatic for believers but requires daily choices.
- It is easier to make good choices if our life is facing in the right direction.
- The choices we make build spiritual "muscle memory".



27

True Repentance that leads to outward holiness

- Applies to saving faith (coming TO Christ) and to a daily lifestyle (FOLLOWING AFTER Christ).
- Is from the inside out.
- Is a changed way of perceiving and thinking.
- Is turning not only FROM sin but also TO Christ.
- Requires commitment, choices, and hard work.



28



Sam Ewing

"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, some don't turn up at all."

29