

## Repentance is Always Timely

**Matthew 4:17- From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** (KJV)

Sincere repentance is always timely and beneficial for believers during earthly life. Repentance is necessary to cleanse the self of sins and to begin anew in Christ. Believers think and act in ways offensive to the Lord God necessitating repentance. God's reassuring love provides the hope and motivation for believers to repent. Desire for firm unity with the Lord Jesus Christ facilitates repentance in believers.

**Luke 13:5- I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.** (KJV)

Failure to repent carries with it the threat and peril of serious danger to the soul. Constant care of the believer's soul is necessary and requires great vigilance. The soul and the relationship with Jesus Christ are of primary importance in life. Sins put the believer in an undesirable position for the great and final judgment. The Lord knows each believer's thoughts and actions and will judge accordingly.

**Acts 3:19- 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.** (KJV)

Believers have the opportunity to repent while the mind is well-functioning. Opportunities to repent are not to be wasted as life may end unexpectedly. Repentance affords the opportunity to seek eternal life and to avoid damnation. Receiving forgiveness of sins is possible until the very last moment of life. Repentance restores joy to life and increases love and appreciation for God.

**2 Corinthians 7:10- For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.** (KJV)

The life in Christ involves taking responsibility for sin and embracing repentance. Repentance includes combined action of the believer's heart, the mind and soul. The primary way believers can reconcile with God is through sincere repentance. The life in Christ improves when the believer repents and seeks to begin anew. Actively addressing personal sins keep the believer on the path to God's Kingdom.

**2 Peter 3:9- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.** (KJV)

Procrastination in seeking repentance has no place in the serious believer's life. God's goodness, mercy and forgiveness merit thanksgiving and appreciation. Love, thanksgiving and gratitude for God are demonstrated through repentance. Trust and confidence in God become evident when believers sincerely repent. Joy and peace permeate the heart, mind and soul when sincere repentance occurs.

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St. Epiphanius; St. Germanus of Constantinople. St. Nikodim of Pech, Apodasis of Mid-Pentecost. May 12/25, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.