

Correspondence Course Lesson 2

What is Real REPENTANCE

BEGINNING with Adam and Eve, every human being, except Yahshua Messiah, has walked contrary to Elohim's way of life. We have all contributed our share of this world's sins (**Romans 5:12**).

Rom 3:10 According as it has been written, "There is none righteous, not even one!"

Rom 3:11 "There is not one understanding; there is not one seeking YAHWEH."

Rom 3:12 All turned away, they became worthless together, not one is doing goodness, not so much as one!"

Rom 3:13 "Their throat is a tomb being opened;" "they used deceit with their tongues; the poison of asps is under their lips;

Rom 3:14 whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.

Rom 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood;

Rom 3:16 ruin and misery are in their way;

Rom 3:17 and they did not know a way of peace;

Rom 3:18 there is no fear of YAHWEH before their eyes.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of YAHWEH,

We have all performed "the works of the flesh" - fulfilling the inordinate desires of our minds and bodies - because we have all walked according to the course of this world as set by "the prince of the power of the air" (**Ephesians 2:2-3**).

Since all human beings have sinned, all have therefore earned the penalty of sin, which is death - cessation of life forever! As the Apostle Paul expressed it:

"...what fruit did you have then in the things over which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death . . . For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:21, 23).

All human beings who have not repented of their sins are on spiritual "death row" awaiting execution of a justly deserved capital punishment. This penalty was earned simply by "doing what comes naturally"- sinning!

But Yahweh, in His great mercy toward mankind, has provided a way by which we may avoid paying that ultimate penalty:

"For YAHWEH so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone believing into Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

As a loving Father, Elohim wants all of us to eventually claim the sacrifice of His Son, Yahshua Messiah, for the remission of our personal sins. (**Romans 5:8-9**). **"but Elohim commends His love to us in this that we being yet sinners, Messiah died for us. Much more then, being justified now by His blood, we shall be delivered from wrath through Him."**

Acts 2:38 summarizes the salvation process in just one verse. And the very first word of that crucial passage is "**Repent**"! Recall also that Yahshua declared: **"But if you do not repent, you will all likewise be destroyed."** (**Luke 13:3, 5**).

But what is real repentance in Yahweh's sight, as revealed in His inspired Word? What does it involve-what must we DO?

A Change of Direction

Yahweh tells us there is something we must do before He will apply the sacrifice of His Son to pay the penalty of our sins. We must demonstrate that we no longer wish to continue in the way of life that leads to death. We do so by changing our way of living. That change of direction is "*repentance*."

Actions and deeds that are contrary to Yahweh's law are "*sin*." Sin is the violation or transgression of any of Yahweh's commandments. Notice the biblical definition of sin:

"Everyone practicing sin also practices lawlessness, and sin is the breaking of the Torah." (1st John 3:4).

To repent of sin, then, simply means to change; we turn from the way of self-indulgence and "get" to the way of "give." We turn from *selfishness* to *selflessness*. We turn from our way to Yahweh's way.

When we begin to demonstrate our heartfelt desire to change, and ask Yahweh to forgive our past way of life, He applies the sacrifice of Messiah on our behalf. We are then forgiven and freed from the guilt and penalty of our past sins. The penalty of death no longer hangs over our heads.

Paul explained it this way:

"by how much more the blood of Messiah who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to YAHWEH, will purify your conscience from dead works, to serve the living Elohim!" (Hebrews 9:14)

How merciful is our loving Creator - Let's begin to understand the details of this vital step toward salvation.

The "Natural" State of Man

Elohim inspired the prophet Jeremiah to describe the basic motivations of the human mind How does our Creator characterize the mind, or "heart," of man?

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is incurable; who can know it?

Rom 8:7 because the mind of the flesh is enmity towards Elohim; for it is not subject to the Torah of Elohim, for it is not possible to be so.

Rom 8:8 And those being in the flesh are not able to please Elohim

What are the tendencies of the "carnal" or physically oriented mind?

Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, impurity, uncleanness, lustfulness, ²⁰ idolatry, witchcraft, enmity, fighting, jealousies, anger, rivalries, stubbornness, divisions, heresies, ²¹ envying, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and things like these; of which I tell you beforehand, as I also said before, that the ones practicing such things will not inherit the kingdom of Elohim.

Where do these attitudes and impulses to commit sin actually originate-who is the "father" of sin?

John 8:44 You are of the Devil as father, and the lusts of your father you desire to do. That one was a murderer from the beginning, and he has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own, because he is a liar, and the father of it.

Eph 2:2-3 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the will of the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit which is active in the sons of disobedience, ³ in those very deeds in which we also were corrupted from the very beginning through the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as the rest.

Incredible as it may sound, the natural state of man, commonly called "human nature," is influenced to mankind by none other than Satan the devil. Satan is revealed as "the god of this world" (***2nd Corinthians 4:4***), who has deceived all nations (***Revelation 12:9***). He is further revealed as "the ruler (prince) of the authority of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" (***Ephesians 2:2***).

Satan works in people by "broadcasting" his attitudes to their minds. The devil has used modern technology, and more specifically radio, TV, and the internet. He broadcasts attitudes of pride, vanity, selfishness, greed, covetousness, lust, jealousy, criticism, envy, resentment, hatred, animosity, bitterness and rebellion, which our minds receive, perhaps

somewhat like a radio receives electromagnetic signals emitted by radio transmitters" These attitudes of Satan in the human mind are what we have come to call "human nature." It is in reality Satan's nature, which he broadcasts to our minds and which we express in various ways.

But no person is compelled to respond to these attitudes and impulses from Satan. The devil has no power to force anyone to think or do wrong! The problem is that he is the ‘god’ or authority of this world’s system, and most love that system too much to repent, come out of it and be sanctified.

Nevertheless, unsuspecting humans automatically do so without realizing what is taking place in their minds. Most people just drift along, habitually responding to Satan's promptings. Of course, there are certain physical desires within man that are not wrong, such as the desire for self-preservation. But when lust and the self-centered attitude of "get" enter the picture, these desires become sin, and sin is the breaking of Yahweh’s law. And although human beings are creatures of habit, human beings still have free will, and can resist and abstain from the broadcasts of Satan.

However, the mind of man, under the influence of Satan's broadcasting, loves itself above all else. It is selfish. Next to itself, it loves that which belongs to it or is in some way connected to it; persons, material possessions, concepts, etc. All of these are a part of a larger "self"; like a little "empire." This is the "self" that humans love ahead of any "outsider," especially Yahweh. Even many times when one is doing something that they consider good, such as helping the poor or a friend they are doing it for the wrong motive; to be seen by man and to be lifted up for the deed. None of us are good except one, Elohim. This is because He is the only being with pure motives 100% of the time.

Mat 19:17 And He said to him, Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One, YAHWEH! But if you desire to enter into life, keep the commandments.

If we truly want to repent and please Yahweh, we must realize that apart from his spirit, even when we think we do good, we are but sinners. That apart from Yahweh, any good that may even appear to come from us is only humanistic and self-righteous

Isa 64:6 But we are all as the unclean thing, and all our righteousness is as a menstruation cloth. And we all fade as a leaf, and like the wind our iniquities take us away.

If we truly want to repent, we must not only repent from “*what we did, but repent for who we are.*” When we are being baptized into the family of Yahweh we are literally going from Sons of the flesh (Satan) to Sons of the light or spirit (Yahweh). What did Yahshua say we are to become like if we expect to enter the Kingdom?

Mat 18:2-4 And having called forward a little child, Yahshua set him in their midst. ³ And He said, Truly I say to you, Unless you are converted and become as the little children, not at all can you enter into the kingdom of Heaven. ⁴ Then whoever will humble himself as this little child, this one is the greater in the kingdom of Heaven.

Little children do not exhibit the tendencies of "human nature" to the same extent as older children, teenagers and adults. We think of very little children as being "sweet" and "innocent" because of their basically humble and teachable, and forgiving attitude.

Nevertheless, very early in life the attitudes of Satan began to make inroads into our minds. We gradually began to exhibit varying degrees of hostility and defiance toward authority. We began to resent being told what to do. We began to be subject to the whims that sprang from the desires of our flesh. Our thoughts began to be concerned with "I," "my" and "me." As a result of the influence of Satan's broadcasting, we all have fostered and harbored these wrong attitudes to greater or lesser degrees. That is why Yahweh inspired Paul to write,

Rom 3:10 According as it has been written, "There is none righteous, not even one!" Also, Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man on the earth who does good, and does not sin.

Now stop for a moment and contrast the "natural" mind of a human being with that of Elohim.

Yahweh is not preoccupied with self. He is filled with out flowing love. He loves all people. Rather than take from them, He wants to give them blessings out of His great love and concern for humanity. He is not hostile, defiant, rebellious,

resentful or selfish. Elohim wants all of us to eventually become like Him. Therefore, He wants us to turn from and strive to overcome the devil's evil influence on our thinking and actions. This is essentially what repentance is all about.

Nowhere in the Bible does Yahweh say it is wrong to have a proper love for self: "for then no one hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even also as our Master does to the Congregation." (**Ephesians 5:29**). We are told to love others as much as we love ourselves (**Matthew 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:33**). It is only when we love ourselves beyond the necessary self-concern, and at the expense of others, that it becomes sin.

Elohim gave Adam and Eve basic instruction in His way of life - the way of the government of Yahweh based on the law of Yahweh; the way of giving and sharing. Then the devil appeared. He subtly deceived Eve into disbelieving what Elohim had said, and enticed her into taking the forbidden fruit. Adam also partook of the fruit (**Genesis 3:6, 17**).

By taking and eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve doubted Yahweh, and committed treason and took to themselves the knowledge of what is good and what is evil-of deciding for themselves right from wrong. In so doing, they rebelled against Elohim's authority, disobeyed the law (command) He had given them, and sinned. By this act they acquired the nature or attitude of sin from Satan. Their eyes were now "opened" to Satan's way of self-preservation and pride, having free will to use for this selfish purpose. (**Genesis 3:7**).

When one repents, he is now surrendering his free will back to Yahweh, and trusting in Yahweh's perfect ways 100% in his/her life.

Gal 5:25 *Let us therefore live by the Spirit, and surrender to the Spirit.*

The spirit and attitude of rebellion from Satan had entered their minds. Their minds ("hearts") now had become perverted- "deceitful" and "incurable" (**Jeremiah 17:9**).

This is how *sin "entered the world" through one man, Adam (Romans 5:12)*. And the death penalty has passed onto all; not because of Adam's sin - not by heredity - but because "all have [likewise] sinned" (same verse). All of us, when we were little babies, had a humble, teachable nature like Adam and Eve when they were first created. But then our minds began to be influenced by Satan. We, too, have therefore sinned against Yahweh, having become "carnal" and self-serving.

The original words in the Hebrew and Greek from which "repent" and "repentance" are translated mean to turn-to change direction. And true repentance is exactly that. It is a complete about face from disobedience toward Yahweh to obedience, love and cooperation with Him. Hebrew was originally a pictograph language consisting of 22 pictures that later became letters.

The picture for repentance is to **"destroy the path to the house"**. Literally you leave nothing to go back for, it is a complete change.

True repentance is coming to a full realization that we have rebelled against our Maker-against His way and His righteous law. It means that we come to abhor our past sins and our self-willed, rebellious natures. We must truly be broken up and ready, with our Heavenly Father's help, to quit sinning, quit rebelling and submit to Yahweh with all our hearts and minds. The time of repentance is the turning point in our lives!

When we finally come to real and complete repentance, we mean business. We are ready, in every aspect of our lives, to say: "Yes, Master, Your will be done." In real repentance, we have become completely sick and tired of our selfish ways. We are truly sorry for our sins-and we are ready and willing to make a permanent change. It doesn't matter what the consequences are. In true repentance there is no compromising or deceiving ourselves that we really don't have to change. There is only a burning desire to be obedient to our Heavenly Father and His righteous law, just as our Fore-Father Abraham was.

Learning that our nature must begin to be changed is a vital step toward attaining the real purpose of our lives.

Once we understand this, our Creator can begin the process of creating His righteous character in us. He does this by placing within us His Holy Spirit, which imparts the spiritual power necessary to conquer and overcome the inordinate, Satan-inspired impulses that lead us to sin.

Scripture states “eye for eye, and life for life”. Our Savior Yahshua, didn’t only forgive our sins, but paid the penalty of our sins by His own death so that we can live, and we are now His bondservants to allow Him to live through us by His Holy Spirit. That is why as His servants, His work must be first in our life.

Luk 17:7 But which of you having a servant plowing or tending a flock will immediately say to him coming out of the field, Come, recline?

Luk 17:8 But will he not say to him, Prepare something what I may eat, and having girded yourself, serve me until I eat and drink, and after these things you shall eat and drink?

Luk 17:9 What thanks does he receive, that servant, because he did the thing that he was commanded? I don't think so!

Luk 17:10 Likewise even you, when you have done all the things that are commanded, you say that we are idle servants because we have done only what we ought to do.

Our Heavenly Father will not accept those whose "repentance" is merely an outward show-where there is no real change of attitude. Notice what Elohim says in Joel:

Joel 2:12-13 Yet even now turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with wailing, declares YAHWEH.

¹³ Yea, tear your heart, and not your robes; and turn to YAHWEH your Elohim. For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He pities concerning the evil.

Only a heartfelt attitude will open the way to a close and saving relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Psa 34:18 YAHWEH is near to the broken of heart; and He saves the crushed of spirit.

Sin is against Elohim-He is the Lawgiver whose perfect law we have broken.

Psa 51:4 Against You, You only, I have sinned, and done evil in Your eyes;

To repent means to be so humbled and broken up at the thought of having rebelled against the living, Holy Creator-so abhorrent of our deceitfulness, vanity and selfishness- that in real sorrow we turn to Yahweh for mercy, forgiveness and the help we so desperately need in order to overcome and develop His righteous character. Look at what Job said when he realized what true repentance was.

Job 42:6 Therefore, I despise myself, and I have repented on dust and ashes.

Job now realized how small he was in comparison to the Creator (**Chapters 36 through 41**). We must realize that before baptism our way of life only led to death, and now we must strive with all our heart to follow Yahweh’s Torah because it is the human manual to teach us right from wrong.

Psa 119:105 Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

All of us must ultimately come to see ourselves as Job did. We need to see ourselves through Yahweh's eyes. By studying Yahweh's Word, we begin to understand that we all fall far short of the glory of Yahweh (**Romans 3:23**), and desperately need His forgiveness and help. How can one start to change from self-centered love to Yahweh’s-love-to begin showing love toward Yahweh and one's neighbor? This desire must come from Yahweh Himself! Yahweh’s goodness and mercy lead one to repentance.

Rom 2:4 Or do you abuse the riches of His kindness and forbearance, and the opportunity He has given you, not knowing that the kindness of YAHWEH leads you to repentance?

Repentance is a gift from Yahweh and to truly have a convicted heart of our sinful nature we must pray to Him and ask Him for that repentant heart. Most in this world are so full of pride that they will never humble themselves to ask Yahweh to show them how filthy they really are. We are living in a very humanistic society that wants to think of themselves as basically good, only our Heavenly Father can give this heart of repentance. Yahshua plainly said; **“No one is able to come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.” (John 6:44, 65.)**

How does one know if the Father is "drawing" or calling him to repentance? If you understand what you have studied thus far and believe what the Bible says, and you want to come to Our Heavenly Father and obey Him, then you are being called!

Unconditional Surrender to Yahweh

Once we repent-completely surrender to Yahweh and are baptized, Yahweh puts His Spirit into our minds. It then begins to influence our ways of thinking and living. But the Holy Spirit does not take away our free moral agency. It won't force us to do anything. It will only **LEAD** us in the direction of Yahweh's truth and give us the spiritual strength to do His will.

Repentance simply means giving up your way and turning to Yahweh's way. It means surrender, unconditional surrender-to live by every word of Yahweh. Since the Bible is the Word of Yahweh, it means to live by the Bible. It means utter voluntary submission to the authority of Yahweh, as expressed in His Word! He is our Master and we must put Him first in everything.

Mat 10:37-39 The one loving father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And the one loving son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take up his staff and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ The one finding his life shall lose it. And the one losing his life on account of Me shall find it.

Repentance-(surrendering to Yahweh)-is not a matter of giving up everything good. Repentance is positive. Not only do we escape the ultimate penalty of sin, Yahweh's way leads to innumerable blessings in this life! Everything in life ultimately comes down to cause and effect. Our Heavenly Father does not want us to surrender our will to Him and be obedient to His law to restrict us, as Satan would want one to think, but to protect us from sin and death.

Repentance emphatically does not mean we must give up the use or appreciation of material things. What Yahweh is interested in is the attitude we have toward material things-whether we seek first, as our highest priority, His Kingdom and His righteousness (*Matthew 6:33*).

He wants us to give up only those things that are bad for us-that hurt us spiritually and physically.

Repentance from dead works will only stop us from receiving future curses in our life for disobedience to our Heavenly Father's law, but what about all the sins that were committed before repentance, and even the ones that we will do out of weakness after we repent? There is only one way to have your sins cleansed and that is by accepting the shed blood of the Son of Yahweh (Yahshua) for the removing of those sins, past, present and future.

Rom 5:8-9 but Elohim commends His love to us in this that we being yet sinners, Messiah died for us. ⁹ Much more then, being justified now by His blood, we shall be delivered from wrath through Him.

Acts 2:37-38 And hearing, they were touched in the heart, and said to Simon Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men, our brothers, What shall we do?

³⁸ And Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, each of you in the name of Yahshua YAHWEH for the forgiveness of sins, that you may receive the gift of the Spirit of Holiness.

It is clear from scripture that it is the blood of the Son of Yahweh (Yahshua) that paid the penalty for our sins. This is what puts us back in covenant relationship with Yahweh. Our repentance and turning away from sin is what keeps us in that covenant relationship as Yahweh cannot dwell in sin. If we continue to willfully sin after the full knowledge of the truth, then we are mocking the great sacrifice that Yahshua made for us and are not truly repentant.

Heb 10:26 For if we are willfully sinning after receiving the full knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins...

The law of Yahweh cannot cleanse you from sin, but keeps you from future sins, and is a prerequisite to accepting Yahshua's shed blood for forgiveness of past sins

Eze 18:21-22 But the wicked, if he will turn from all his sins which he has done, and keep all My statutes, and do justice and righteousness, living he shall live; he shall not die.

22 All his transgressions that he has done, they shall not be mentioned to him in his righteousness which he has done; he shall live.

Did Paul make it plain that although the unmerited pardon of our sins is by the grace of Yahweh through faith in Messiah's sacrifice, a true believer is nevertheless obligated to Yahweh to keep His law?

Rom 3:31 Do we then nullify the Torah by faith? Far be it. On the contrary, we establish the Torah!

Rom. 2:13 “For not the hearers of the Torah are righteous with Elohim, but the doers of the Torah shall be justified.”

Faith in the shed blood of Yahshua is the only way to eternal life, but it is clear that true faith and repentance is only granted to those who truly repent and strive to be obedient to our Heavenly Father's Torah (law). True repentance will bring a true change of life that will be evident to those around you.

Rom 6:1-6 What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Let it not be! We who have died to sin, how shall we still live in it?

3 Or are you ignorant that all who were baptized into Messiah Yahshua were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death that as Messiah was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father so also we should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together with Him in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be in the resurrection,

6 for we know this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, so that we no longer serve sin.

Rom 6:7-12 For he who is dead has been freed from sin.

8 But if we died with Messiah, we believe that also we shall live with Him,

9 knowing that Messiah being raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For in that He died, He died to sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives to Elohim.

11 So also you count yourselves to be truly dead to sin, but alive to Elohim in Yahshua, Messiah our Master.

12 Then do not let sin reign in your mortal body, to obey it in its lusts.

The law of Yahweh is a spiritual mirror into which one may look to find the spiritual dirt (sin) on one's mind and heart. The mirror is not responsible for the presence of the dirt, or for the harm the dirt may cause. The function of the mirror (the law) is to show the dirt, so that one may do something about it (repent of sin and become cleansed) and thus become free from fears, from misery, from penalties of sin; free from the bondage of Satan's way.

Yahweh's law is the way to peace, happiness and joy. It is a perfect law-given by Yahweh to mankind to make man happy, to lead him into the full, abundant life, both in this life and for all eternity. The evils mankind suffers from today are not caused by the law, but by the breaking of it!

What warning message did Elohim inspire His prophet Ezekiel to record for the descendants of Israel?

Eze 33:7-11 And you, son of man, I gave you as a watchman to the house of Israel. And you shall hear the Word from My mouth and warn them from Me. ***8*** When I say to the wicked, O wicked one, surely, you shall die! And you do not speak to warn the wicked one from his way, that wicked one shall die in his iniquity, but I will require his blood from your hand. ***9*** But you, if you warn the wicked from his way, to turn from it, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. ***10*** And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, This you have spoken, saying, Surely our transgressions and our sins are on us, and we are rotting in them, even then shall we live? ***11*** Say to them, As I live, declares Adonai YAHWEH, I do not have delight in the death of the wicked, except in the wicked turning from his way, and so to live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! For why will you die, O house of Israel?

The book of Ezekiel was intended for the modern descendants of Israel. However, their ancient forefathers also did that which was right in their own eyes because of their unconverted minds (***Jeremiah 17:9***)

They did not have Yahweh's Spirit within them, which would have enabled them to resist Satan and to obey Yahweh. This was because they rejected The Holy Spirit that had been made available to them (**Acts 7:51**). Possessing the Holy Spirit enables one to bring forth the "fruit of the Spirit" listed in **Galatians 5:22-23**. But without the Holy Spirit, we, as they did, bring forth fruits called "the works of the flesh." Some of these are listed in **Galatians 5:19-21**. Mankind today continues to manifest these "works," or results, of doing what comes naturally. And the whole world is reaping the frustration and sorrow that result from breaking Yahweh's commandments. What message did Elohim commission the prophet John to proclaim in Judea?

Mat 3:1-8 Now in those days John the Baptist came preaching in the deserted places of Judea, ² and saying, Repent! For the kingdom of Heaven has drawn near. ³ For this is He spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of YAHWEH! Make smooth His paths!"

(Isaiah 40:3) ⁴ And John himself had his clothing from hairs of a camel, and a belt of leather about his loin. And his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea went out to him, and all the neighborhood of the Jordan, ⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, Offspring of vipers! Who has informed you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore, bring forth fruits worthy of repentance.

What was Yahshua's message from the beginning of His ministry?

Mark 1:14-15 And after John was delivered up, Yahshua came into Galilee proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of YAHWEH, ¹⁵ And he said, The time is complete and the Kingdom of YAHWEH has arrived. Repent and believe in the good news.

Very clearly both John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Messiah and Yahshua himself, who was the Messiah, preached in order to accept salvation and enter the New Covenant, one needed to repent of his sins first, and then accept the blood of Yahshua for the forgiveness of those sins.

Were Yahshua's disciples to preach the same message? Did Yahshua say repentance would be preached among all nations?

Luke 24:47 And repentance and remission of sins must be preached on His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Messiah's disciples (**Acts 2:1-4**), what message did Elohim inspire Peter to preach to the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem?

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, each of you in the name of Yahshua YAHWEH for the forgiveness of sins, that you may receive the gift of the Spirit of Holiness.

Are the end time congregations also told that they must repent of their sins to reign with the Messiah in the coming millennial Kingdom?

Rev 2:5 Then remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works. And if not, I am coming to you quickly, and will remove your menorah from its place, unless you repent.

Rev 2:16 Repent! But if not, I will come to you quickly, and I will make war with them by the sword of My mouth.

Rev 2:21-23 And I gave time to her that she might repent of her fornication. And she did not repent. ²² Behold, I will cast her into a coffin, and those committing adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent of their works. ²³ And I will kill her children with death; and all the congregations will know that I am the One searching the inner parts and hearts. And I will give to each of you according to your works.

Rev 3:3 Then remember how you received and heard, and keep, and repent. If, then, you do not watch, I will come upon you like a thief and you will not at all know what hour I come upon you.

Rev 3:19 "I, as many as I love, I rebuke and I chasten." Be zealous, then, and repent.

Yahshua gives a warning to almost every one of the end time believers that their lives are not perfect before our Heavenly Father and we must search our souls and remove all sin and worldliness to inherit the Kingdom with Him. In the world we live in today, most see no problem with wasting endless hours a day watching unholy TV or sports. We must start to ask not only the question "is what I am doing sin", but also IS IT HOLY? In these end times so much of what we consider normal in our life is an abomination to Yahweh. If we are no different than the world than we have not repented and changed.

1st Joh 2:15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, ¹⁶ because all that which is in the world: The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and its lust. But the one doing the will of YAHWEH abides forever.

In these last days before Yahweh's Kingdom is set up, we must strive at all cost against any unrighteousness that is in our lives and ask Yahweh daily to forgive us where we fail.

Mat 6:9-12, So, then, you should pray this way, Our Father who is in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as it is in Heaven, also on the earth. ¹¹ Give us the bread of our need this day, ¹² and forgive us our offenses as we also have forgiven those who have offended us.

It is also vitally important to understand that unless we forgive others, our Heavenly Father will not forgive us. We must realize that only His grace (unmerited and undeserved pardon) has saved us and nothing we could do could earn this great gift of salvation. It should humble us that we were in such a desperate state and truly allow us to forgive others the same way that Yahweh has forgiven us.

Mat 18:21 Then, Peter drew near to him and said, My Master, how many times should I forgive my brother with me who is at fault. Should I forgive him up to seven times? ²² Yahshua said to him, I do not say to you, until seven times, but rather until seventy times seventy seven. ²³ Because of this the kingdom of Heaven has been compared to a man, a king, who desired to take account with his slaves. ²⁴ And he having begun to reckon, one debtor of ten thousand talents was brought near to him. ²⁵ But he not having any to repay, his master commanded him to be sold, also his wife and children, and all things, as much as he had, even to pay back. ²⁶ Then having fallen down, the slave bowed the knee to him, saying, Master, have patience with me, and I will pay all to you. ²⁷ And being filled with pity, The Master of that slave released him and forgave him the loan. ²⁸ But having gone out, that slave found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii. And seizing him, he choked him, saying, Pay me whatever you owe. ²⁹ Then having fallen down at his feet, his fellow slave begged him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay all to you. ³⁰ But he would not, but having gone away he threw him into prison until he should pay back the amount owed. ³¹ But his fellow slaves, seeing the things happening, they were greatly grieved. And having come they reported to their Master all the things happening. ³² Then having called him near, his Master said to him, Wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt, since you begged me. ³³ Ought you not also to have mercy on your fellow slave, as I also had mercy? ³⁴ And being angry, his Master delivered him up to the tormentors until he pay back all that debt to him. ³⁵ So also My heavenly Father will do to you unless each of you from your hearts forgive his brother their offenses.

What does one lay up for himself if he chooses to remain unrepentant?

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of YAHWEH is everlasting life in Yahshua, Messiah our Master.

Yahweh's law is the way to eternal peace, happiness and joy. If Elohim were to grant eternal life to those who persistently rebel; who stubbornly refuse to repent; who fail to develop righteous character; they would bring nothing but eternal unhappiness and frustration upon themselves and others. Therefore, the most merciful thing Elohim can do for all concerned is to deny continued existence to such rebels. The incorrigible will simply be put to death and cease to exist forever. Only those who repent and obey Yahweh will be born into Yahweh's glorious, eternal Family!

Beware of False Repentance

Notice what else Yahshua said about people who want to worship Him without obedience to Yahweh's commands **“...and in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” (Isaiah 29:13) For forsaking the commandment of YAHWEH, you hold the tradition of men: washing of utensils and cups, and many other such like things you do. And He said to them, Well do you to set aside the commandment of YAHWEH so that you may establish your own tradition? (Mark 7:7-9).**

1Jn 2:3 And by this we know that we have known Him, if we keep His commandments.

1Jn 2:4 The one saying, I have known Him, and not keeping His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in that one.

1Jn 2:5 But whoever keeps His Word, truly in this one the love of YAHWEH has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.

Carnal man would rather do almost anything else than surrender himself to Yahweh. His natural mind (**Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 8:7-8**) rebels at the thought of submitting to Yahweh's law. In Messiah's day the hypocritical religionists substituted their own laws and traditions in place of Yahweh's law. Since then, men have declared that Yahweh's commandments are null and void; deceiving themselves by thinking they can receive salvation by merely believing in the sinless Messiah as their Savior with no change in their lives. Human nature wants to be right, but it doesn't necessarily want to do right! So people often say, "Well, here's the way I look at it" - thus putting their concept of righteousness above the Bible. If it "looks right" to them, it becomes their law.

But many in these end times who refuse obedience to Yahweh will also be rejected at Yahshua's return.

Mat 7:21-23 It will not be that just everyone who says to Me, Master, Master, will enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but the ones who do the will of My Father in Heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, Master, Master, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many works of power? ²³ And then I will declare to them, from everlasting, I never knew you; "depart from Me, those working lawlessness!"

Elohim's eyes are upon those who are of a meek and contrite spirit-those who tremble before the two-edged sword of His Word. Yahweh recognizes a repentant attitude, a humble seeking individual for forgiveness and mercy. He will truly honor all who turn from evil works and deeds that His Word defines as SIN.

True repentance requires a permanent change of direction. It is a total commitment to a course from which there is no turning back. It is not a temporary, spontaneous emotional response so prevalent today in religious "revival" meetings. You have learned that it is something much deeper and vastly more profound.

Let us strive to be the faithful ones. Let us look into our hearts and let the Word of Yahweh cut to our heart and let us pray to our Heavenly Father to give us the Spirit and heart of true repentance that we may have on white robes at Yahshua's return.

Points to Remember

- 1) Sin is the breaking of Yahweh's law! (**1st John 3:4**)
- 2) The only way to have our sins forgiven is by the blood of Yahshua.
- 3) Yahweh will not apply His Son's blood to our sins without true repentance
- 4) Repentance is not just an emotional feeling but a true change of life

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