

Repentance

by Robert Hall

PART ONE: Determining the Meaning of the Word, Repentance

A. Some Questions

1. 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 – multiple choice:
 - a. Repentance is simply being sorry for our sins.
 - b. Being sorry for our sins always brings repentance.
 - c. Being sorry for our sins in a godly way brings repentance.
 - d. Being sorry for our sins is not important.

2. Luke 3:8-14; Acts 26:20 – When people repent they show it is real – multiple choice:
 - a. by their enthusiasm
 - b. by how sorry or bad they feel about their sins
 - c. by just telling everyone how different they feel
 - d. by their deeds or the things they do

3. Acts 26:20 – Repentance involves a turning to _____.

4. Luke 16:30, 31 – The word “repent” in verse 30 is used interchangeably with the word “_____” in verse 31.

B. Determining the Meaning of the Word Repentance

1. Based on your answers to the questions in Part A, the word repent clearly means – multiple choice:
 - a. A change of mind in turning to God which results in a change of the deeds we do.
 - b. Going forward in the church and weeping for God to help you.
 - c. Simply feeling guilty for what we have done
 - d. Telling everyone how sorry we are for being such a bad person

2. *Note: Repentance is used for the change of mind regarding trusting Christ for salvation as in Acts 11:18 and is also used for the change of mind in a believer confessing his sin so that he can be restored to fellowship with God and other believers (Luke 17:3,4).*

PART TWO: Repentance and salvation from sin's penalty

A. Saving Faith and Repentance

1. Acts 2:38 – What were the people who repented called in Acts 2:44?
 - a. Believers or those who had believed
 - b. Those who repented
 - c. Those who did enough good deeds.
 - d. Those who joined the right church

2. In Acts 3:16 the man was made completely whole by faith in Christ's name. These people who saw this were told in Acts 3:19:
 - a. For this reason to do lots of good deeds to have their sins wiped out.
 - b. To wait and think this over
 - c. To repent and return to God to have their sins wiped out.
 - d. That they had no hope to have their sins wiped out.

3. In Acts 11:18 – The people who were given repentance are said to have _____ in the Lord in Acts 11:17. Acts 15:7-9 describes the same incident and states that the hearts of these people were said to have been cleansed or purified by _____.

4. In Acts 17:30 – God commands all people everywhere to _____. In response to this statement Acts 17:34 a few followed or joined Paul and _____.

5. Acts 26:18 – Paul was told by Jesus to preach forgiveness of sins and receiving an inheritance by being sanctified by _____ in me, i.e. Christ. When Paul preached in Acts 26:20, he said that people should _____ and turn to God.

6. John the Baptist called for people to repent in Matthew 3:2,8,11; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3,8; Acts 13:24. Acts 19:4 states that this repentance or change of mind is to _____ in Him, that is Jesus.

7. Matthew 12:41; Luke 11:32 – The men of Nineveh _____ because of the preaching of Jonah. In Jonah 3:5 the nature of this repentance or change of mind was to _____ in God.

8. The preceding seven questions show that – multiple choice:
 - a. Repentance is being sorry enough to gain salvation
 - b. Faith does not involve a change of mind
 - c. Faith and repentance for salvation are almost interchangeable
 - d. Faith and repentance are totally separate conditions for salvation.

B. Sometimes Faith and Repentance are Distinct

1. Hebrews 6:1 – The writer of Hebrews speaks of:
 - a. repentance from sins and faith toward God
 - b. repentance from dead works or acts that lead to death and faith toward God
 - c. faith in our works and repentance toward God
 - d. faith toward God without any mention of repentance

2. Philippians 3:4-6 - Match by putting the number of modern day equivalent on the right by the letter of the following dead works that Paul mentioned on the left:

Answer	Ltr.	Dead works trusted in for salvation	No.	Modern dead works trusted in for salvation
	a.	Circumcised the 8 th day	1.	Our race
	b.	Of the nation of Israel	2.	Our high morals or ethics
	c.	Of the tribe of Benjamin	3.	Our sincerity and enthusiasm
	d.	A Hebrew of Hebrews	4.	The family or clan to which we belong
	e.	As to the law a Pharisee	5.	Rituals such as being baptized
	f.	As to zeal a persecutor of the church	6.	The country in which we were born
	g.	As to the righteousness which is found in the law found blameless	7.	Our church or religious affiliation

3. Philippians 3:7-9 – Paul considered these dead works that he had trusted in:
 - a. as needed in addition to his faith in Christ for salvation
 - b. as things he needed to keep doing for salvation instead of faith in Christ
 - c. as loss and rubbish
 - d. as needed to please God

4. Hebrews 6:1 - Based on the previous questions repentance from dead works would be:
 - a. changing our minds about our sins
 - b. changing our minds so that we discard or rid our minds of what we were trusting in prior to salvation
 - c. changing our minds so that we do such works as baptism, belonging to the right church and living a good life in order to be saved.
 - d. unnecessary for us in order to be saved

5. Acts 20:21 – The message is:
- A change of mind in a God-ward direction
 - faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
 - neither a nor b
 - both a and b
6. 1 John 5:9-11 – A God-ward change of mind or repentance involves:
- Believing God's witness concerning His Son.
 - Believing God but not His Son is the source of eternal life
 - Believing that God saves us if we obey His commands
 - Believing God only to the extent that we can verify it by science and philosophy
7. Mark 1:14, 15 – The message was:
- repent and believe the gospel
 - Repent with no mention of belief
 - Believe the gospel with no mention of repentance
 - Neither repentance nor believing the gospel is mentioned
8. Romans 9:30-33 – About what did the people of Israel need to repent or change their mind?
- They needed to realize salvation was by works and not faith.
 - They needed to realize salvation was by faith in addition to works.
 - They needed to realize that how we receive salvation is a big mystery that no one can know.
 - They needed to realize that salvation was by faith and not by works.

C. Repentance Listed as a Condition of Salvation

1. What condition is explicitly stated as the condition for salvation in the following passages: Matthew 4:17; 11:20, 21; Mark 6:12; Luke 5:32; 10:13; 13:3,5; 15:7,10; 24:47; Acts 5:31; Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 3:3?
- faith or believing in Christ
 - repentance
 - both a and b
 - good works plus faith

2. If we use what is clear regarding the meaning of repentance for salvation (See A and B in this section) to interpret the verses in #1 (which are not clear regarding the meaning of repentance), what do we conclude the meaning of repentance or changing the mind would be.

- a. Being sorry for our sins
- b. Discarding what we were trusting in prior to trusting Christ
- c. trusting in Christ
- d. both b and c

D. Repentance and our Sins before Salvation

1. Revelation 9:20,21 – Many unbelievers in the tribulation will fail to repent concerning their worship of _____, their _____ of gold and silver, bronze (or brass), stone and wood nor did they repent of their _____, their _____, and their _____ or their _____.

2. Revelation 16:9 – Many unbelievers in the tribulation will fail to repent to give _____ to God.

3. Revelation 16:11 - Many unbelievers in the tribulation will fail to repent of their _____.

4. Hebrews 11:24-26 – Most people know that if they trust Christ for salvation He is going to make some very noticeable changes in their lives. Moses' faith shows this by the fact that it resulted in giving up his old life of being called the _____ of Pharaoh's daughter, the temporary _____ of sin and the _____ of Egypt.

Note: It is not that people must turn their back on sin in order to be saved that keeps them from trusting Christ. It is the fact that if they genuinely trust Christ for salvation, he will so change them that they will not be able to continue to fully enjoy sin.

PART THREE: Repentance in the Christian Life

A. Defined and Explained

1. 1 John 1:9

a.	Our responsibility	God's promise
	Confess our sins to God	To forgive us our sins To cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- b. The meaning of the word “Homologeō” which is translated “confess”:
- (1) To specifically name the sin or sins to God
 - (2) To agree with God that it is a sin by saying the same thing as He does concerning it.

2. Repentance is the change of mind in which we do not agree with God concerning our sin to the point where we agree with His thoughts concerning our sin.

3. Proverbs 28:13 – What is involved in genuine confession of sin? Turning loose of the sins or _____ them.

B. Scriptures Concerning Sin in the Christian Life

1. 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 – When we repent of sins in the Christian life – multiple choice:

- a. It keeps us from suffering loss or harm.
- b. It saves us from sin's power
- c. cp. 1 Corinthians 11:29-32 – It saves us from pre-mature physical death as a judgment or discipline for sin
- d. All of the above

2. 2 Corinthians 12:21 – When believers have not repented of their sins, it is a cause for us to _____.

3. Acts 8:19-23 – When believers wrongly believe that power with God may be bought, they must repent so that the thought or intention of their heart may be _____.

4. Luke 17:3, 4 – When a believer declares his repentance, we are to _____ him.

5. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 – Believers who oppose the truth of God's word must be gently corrected or instructed so that they will repent, i.e. change their mind, and come to a knowledge of the _____.

6. Revelation 2:4, 5 – When believers leave their _____ love for God, they need to repent and _____ the things or deeds you did at first.

7. Revelation 2:14-16 – Believers in a church need to repent when they permit error in their midst such as the teaching or doctrine of Balaam which promotes to participate in idolatry and committing _____ and the teaching or doctrine of the _____ (=people who turn God’s grace into a sinning license).

8. Revelation 2:21, 22 – Believers who teach or follow false doctrine need to repent of - multiple choice:

- a. The deeds or ways of false teachers
- b. Any physical or spiritual immorality involved with the false teaching
- c. Both a and b
- d. Neither a nor b

9. Revelation 3:16-19 – Believers should respond to God’s _____ and _____ for being lukewarm by repenting.

PART FOUR: Hebrews 5:11-6:9

1. 5:10, 11 – The Hebrew Christians were dull of hearing in regard to being able to understand teaching about Melchizedek. This teaching had to do with – multiple choice:

- a. Christ’s death
- b. Christ’s resurrection
- c. Christ’s priesthood
- d. Christ’s 2nd coming

2. 5:12 - The Hebrew Christians were criticized for not being – multiple choice:

- a. saved by this time
- b. teachers by this time
- c. sinless by this time

3. Matthew 28:19, 20 – Multiple choice:

- a. All believers are responsible to share the gospel with the unsaved.
- b. Only gifted believers are responsible to share the gospel with the unsaved.
- c. All believers are responsible to to teach those who trust Christ to obey all Christ’s commands.
- d. Only gifted believers are responsible to teach those who trust Christ to obey all Christ’s commands.
- e. both a and c
- f. both b and d

4. Ephesians 4:11 – The gift of evangelism (effective sharing of the gospel of Christ), is given to – multiple choice:

- a. All believers
- b. some believers
- c. only to unbelievers.

5. 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 – The spiritual gift of teaching is given to – multiple choice:
 - a. All believers
 - b. some believers
 - c. only to people who are very intelligent

6. Hebrews 5:12 – The Hebrew Christians needed to be teachers in the sense of – multiple choice:
 - a. having the spiritual gift of teaching
 - b. being able to teach those who trusted Christ on obeying all Christ's commands
 - c. becoming smarter so they could teach

7. Hebrews 5:12 – These believers were needing instruction in – multiple choice:
 - a. the basics of God's word
 - b. the advanced things of God's word
 - c. no more of God's word – they already knew it.

8. Hebrews 5:13, 14 – Which of the following is true:
 - a. The immature Christian needs advanced teaching and the mature Christian need basic teaching
 - b. The immature Christian and the mature Christian need just basic teaching.
 - c. The immature Christian and the mature Christian need just advanced teaching
 - d. The immature Christian needs basic teaching and the mature Christian needs advanced teaching.

9. Hebrews 5:14 – The mature believer is able because they have used what they know to discern – multiple choice:
 - a. good only
 - b. evil only
 - c. good and evil

10. Hebrews 6:1 – These Hebrew Christians needed to be able to leave living only on the basic teaching concerning Christ and go on to:
 - a. maturity
 - b. salvation
 - c. sinless perfection
 - d. repentance

11. Hebrews 6:1,2 – The foundational truths of Christianity are:

As expressed in your Bible	Explanation
_____ from dead works. “Acts that lead to death” (NIV) better translated as “dead works”	Change of mind regarding those things we falsely believe might save us such as good works or rituals
_____ in God	When we place our faith in Christ we are placing our faith in God (John 12:44)
_____ about baptisms. The word “washings” is better understood as “baptisms”	This would include Spirit baptism, water baptism, the baptism of John the Baptist
Laying on of _____	This was done in the local church to show that authority had been given to people to do a certain task (Acts 6:6; 13:3)
_____ of the dead	This deals with the fact of the resurrection of both believers and unbelievers
Eternal _____	This deals with the fact that there is a judgment to come.

12. Hebrews 6:3 – The plan is for these Hebrew Christians to go on to maturity assuming that God _____.

13. Hebrews 6:4-6 – It is stated that these people had tasted the heavenly gift. Based on the use of the same Greek word in Hebrews 2:9, would you state that these people – multiple choice:

- a. sampled but did not experience the heavenly gift of salvation.
- b. fully experienced the heavenly gift of salvation.
- c. did not sample nor experience the heavenly gift of salvation.

14. Romans 8:9 – This tells us that the Holy Spirit - multiple choice:

- a. indwells some believers but not all believers
- b indwells all believers
- c. does not indwell believers at all

15. John 14:17 – It is stated that the world, i.e. the unsaved, - multiple choice:

- a. all have the Holy Spirit.
- b. can receive the Holy Spirit
- c. cannot receive the Holy Spirit.

16. Hebrews 6:4-6 – It is stated that these people were partakers or sharers of the Holy Spirit. Based on your answers to questions 13 and 14, these people – multiple choice:

- a. are definitely unbelievers who only said they were Christians
- b. are both believers and unbelievers
- c. are definitely believers

17. Hebrews 6:4-5 – Notice the description of these believers in the following chart:

Description	Explanation
Enlightened	Hebrews 10:32; John 8:12 – received the light of life
Tasted of the heavenly gift	Ephesians 2:8,9 - received God’s gift of salvation
Partakers or sharers of the Holy Spirit	Galatians 3:26; 4:6 – We receive the Holy Spirit when we trust Christ for salvation
Tasted of the good word of God	1 Peter 1:23 - experienced God word in being born again
Tasted the powers of the age to come	The word “powers” is also translated miracles. These miracles showed that Christ was the promised Messiah who would set up His kingdom (see Matthew 11:3-5 cp. With Isaiah 35:5,6; 61:1)

18. 6:6 cp. 5:12-6:1 - The possible falling away is falling away from – multiple choice:
- going on to salvation
 - going on to sinless perfection
 - going on to spiritual maturity

Note: In Hebrews 6:6, the word translated “seeing” (KJV), “since” (NAS, NKJV) and “because” (NIV) may also be translated “while” according to the alternate translation note in the NIV and the study edition of the NAS.

19. 6:6 - A Jewish Christian of the first century trusts Christ for salvation. He decides to not avail himself of the present high priestly work of Christ to walk in fellowship with God. He chooses to use the Old Testament sacrificial system to maintain his fellowship with God. Since the sacrifices pictured Christ’s death on the cross for us, they would be _____ to themselves Christ again and putting him to open or public _____ as though His death really didn’t provide the complete solution for sin.

Note: When Christians today decide to try to relate or deal with God as they did prior to salvation in order to deal with sin in their Christian life and ignore the need to progress to maturity, they make it look as though Christ’s death really didn’t provide everything they need to deal with the sin problem. They see Christ as providing everything they need for life (2Peter 1:3) but not everything that they need for godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

20. 6:4-6 -When believers fall away from going on to maturity and revert to pre-salvation ways of dealing with sin, it is _____ to renew them again to _____ while they are falling away.

21. 6:4-6 – The repentance discussed here is – multiple choice:
- The change of mind in a believer who confessed and forsakes his sinful behavior or life pattern to restore fellowship with God and other believers as in Luke 17:3,4.
 - The change of mind in an unbeliever who forsakes His false ideas of how to be saved and trusts Christ as in Acts 17:31-34.
 - hypothetical as this situation could not happen.

22. 6:7, 8 – The warning is illustrated by the _____ which brings forth useful vegetation which brings God’s _____ and _____ which brings forth thorns and thistles (or briars), it is _____ and _____ cursed and will end up being _____.

Note: The words “in danger of” in the NIV should be translated “close to.”

23. 6:7, 8 – As when a farmer burns off his field, is it the ground itself which is destroyed or is it the vegetation which the farmer burnt off? _____

24. 6:7, 8 – The ground that produced bad is said to be – multiple choice:
a. close or near to being cursed or judged.
b. cursed or judged
c. blessed

25. 6:7, 8 – What word in v. 8 is contrasted to the word “blessed” or “blessing” in v. 7?
a. burned
b. thorns and thistles (or briars)
c. rejected or worthless

Note: The word “rejected” or “worthless” in v. 8 is the Greek word “adokimos” and is used in v. 27 of 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 to speak of being disqualified or rejected for a reward (not salvation).

26. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 – Who is burned up in this passage on judgment?– multiple choice:
a. the good lasting works of a believer
b. the bad unlasting works of a believer
c. the believer who produces bad works

27. Hebrews 6:7, 8 – What is burned up in this passage? – multiple choice:
a. the good vegetation
b. the bad vegetation
c. the ground which produces bad vegetation.

28. Hebrews 6:9 – The author of Hebrews in this passage of rebuke and warning in 5:11-6:9 points out that he has been speaking of – multiple choice:
a. salvation
b. losing salvation
c. things which accompany salvation

29. Hebrews 6:9 – It is obvious that the Hebrew believers who received this letter – multiple choice:

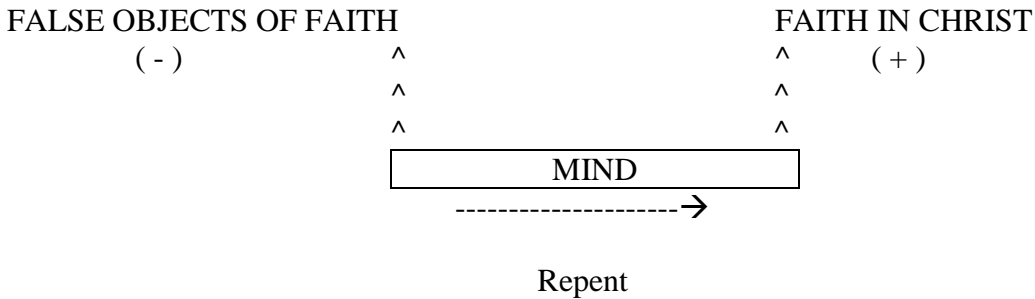
- a. had not yet been saved
- b. had been saved and lost it
- c. had not yet fallen away from going on to maturity

PART FIVE: The Problem of Hebrews 12:17

Esau was not rejected for salvation but for blessing. The place for repentance, i.e. change of mind, that he was seeking was not his own or God’s but Isaac’s. When Jacob stole the blessing, Isaac could have rescinded it but decided to let it stand according to Genesis 27:33. Isaac obviously knew that Jacob was to be served by Esau according to God’s word in Genesis 25:23. Hebrews 11:20 states that Isaac’s decision to let the blessing stand and to not rescind it was made by faith. For this reason it is stated that Esau found no change of mind or repentance on Isaac’s part even though Esau begged for the blessing with tears.

PART SIX: Repentance Charts

A. Repentance for Salvation



B. Repentance to Restore Fellowship with God

