

**Repentance from Dead Works**

**Lesson Four – Part 1**

**Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1-6 (NLT)**

**11**There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are **spiritually dull and don’t seem to listen.** **12**You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again **the basic things about God’s word.** You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. **13**For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. **14**Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

**Chapter 6**1So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the **fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds** and **placing our faith in God**. **2**You don’t need further **instruction about baptisms**, the **laying on of hands**, the **resurrection of the dead**, and **eternal judgment**. **3**And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding. **4**For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, **5**who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— **6**and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

**Hebrews 6:1 (KJV)**

Therefore leaving the **principles of the doctrine of Christ**, let us go on unto perfection; **not laying again the foundation** of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.

Paul, speaking to the Hebrews, tells them that need to “go on unto perfection.” As we saw in the New Living Translation, the word “perfection” means “maturity.” Last week we talked about how someone can be a Christian for many years and still be a spiritual baby.

There are different reasons for that. The main one is that they have not taken the time to study God’s Word. It is SO important for us get into God’s Word. As we do, we can **KNOW** who God is and what His nature is. For us to be able to walk in faith, **WE ABSOLUTELY MUST KNOW WHAT GOD’S NATURE AND WILL IS.**

The first **“Doctrine of Christ”** mentioned in Paul’s list is **“repentance from dead works.”** The New Living Version says “Evil works.”

Let’s look at the word “Repentance.” What does it mean?

The Greek word is “metonoia” and it basically means “changing your mind.” It means if you are going in one direction, you change 180 degrees and go in the opposite direction.

Dictionary dot com says Repentance means:

1.deep sorrow, compunction, or contrition for a past sin, wrongdoing, or the like.

2.regret for any past action.

Jesus said;

**Mark 1:15 (NKJV)**

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel"

So, what is the gospel? First of all, the “gospel” means “good news.” The gospel can be summed up by two scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 15:3, 4**

 "That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures"

**“The content of genuine repentance consists of a change of mind, a change of feelings, and a change of direction resulting in a change in lifestyle and conduct.”**

**A Sunday School teacher once asked a class what was meant by the word "repentance." A little boy put up his hand and said, "It is being sorry for your sins." A little girl also raised her hand and said, "It is being sorry enough to quit" (Author Unknown).**

We don’t seem to hear much about repentance anymore. We live in a society that does not FEAR God. If you read through the Bible and if you look at history, this is not a good place to be.

The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts our heart and brings us to repentance! Without his “WOOING” none us would ever be saved.

So, when we repent of our sins and ask the Lord to come into our lives, the Bible says we become a NEW CREATION!

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)**
17  Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**This is talking about our SPIRIT. You see, we are a SPIRIT, we have a SOUL and we live in our BODY.**



Our Spirit is the REAL us! Our Soul is our mind, our will and our intellect. Our spirit and soul will continue forever, long after our bodies have returned to the dust. They will continue on forever in Heaven or in Hell. The choice is yours.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)**

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* **your whole spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Spirit** – *pneuma* – breath, wind, spirit. This is who we are. We ARE a spirit, created in the image of God. God is a SPIRIT.

**John 4:24 (KJV)**

God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

**Soul** – *psyche* – This is our mind, our will and our intellect. It is also what the Bible refers to as the “old man.” This is where our “Sin Nature” resides.

Without the Word of God, it is impossible to distinguish or “divide” between the Spirit and the Soul. We are more geared to listening to what our SOUL says than we are our SPIRIT.

**Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)**

For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

If we let our SOUL rule us, we can come up with all kinds of different doctrine and thoughts about the Bible! We must learn what the Word of God says, NOT what we think.

I was talking to a friend of mine the other day and we were talking about healing. He said, “Well, ultimately, death is the ultimate healing.” My response was that people use that idea as a copout because they do not understand what the Bible truly teaches about healing. In the “Atonement” healing was provided for JUST AS MUCH as was forgiveness of sin. We have not been taught properly what the Bible teaches about healing and when someone who is sick is prayed for and doesn’t get healed, then we start making up reasons as to why they weren’t healed and we do that with our “SOUL.” Pastor David once said, “It is ALWAYS God’s will to heal.” I totally agree with him. You will NEVER find anywhere in the Bible where it is God’s will for you to be sick or to die from disease! NEVER!

**Body** – *soma* – Just as an astronaut needs a “space suit” to endure the vacuum and the rigors of space, we MUST have our “earth suit” or body for our spirit and soul to live on earth. When we die, our body will return to the dust. At the resurrection, we will be given a NEW body.

When God created Adam and Eve, they WERE THE GOD’S OF THIS WORLD! They had been given dominion or authority over everything on earth. Some preachers have said that Adam and Eve were little gods and basically that is true. These ministers have faced all kinds of adversity for saying that but if Adam was created in God’s image and given complete authority on earth, can he NOT be called a little god? He was created completely in God’s image but Adam’s image changed when he sinned! Because of Adam’s sin, Satan is now the “god of this world.”

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV)**

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Because of what Adam and Eve did in the garden, breaking God’s law of eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. By doing that, Adam gave all the dominion God had given him over this earth to Satan. Because of that, we were all destined to spend eternity separated from God!

But, God’s great mercy and grace was extended toward us, in that Jesus came to live this life as a man completely without sin!

I don’t know how many times I’ve heard people say that Jesus was the perfect God/Man. While He was on this earth, He was not. He lived this life without any special qualities of being God. He walked through EVERY temptation and struggle just like you do but He did not sin!

**He had to be born to a virgin, one of the fundamental doctrines of Christ, because the sin nature of man is passed down through the father.**

**Exodus 34:7 (KJV)**
7  Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

**Deuteronomy 5:9 (KJV)**
9  Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me,

**It is important to understand this. We are all born with a sin nature in our life but we are not guilty of sin when we are born!**

I used to wonder what would happen to babies when they were born and then died as babies. Would they be separated from God eternally because they had not had time to accept Christ as their savior?

**Deuteronomy 24:16 (KJV)**
16  The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: **every man shall be put to death for his own sin.**

**Romans 5:12 (KJV)**
12  Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

**The sin nature passes from the father to the child. The sin nature comes to all of us because of Adam eating the fruit of the forbidden tree!**

But what about the babies and young children? Do they go to Hell when they sin and die? Are they separated forever from the presence of God?

Paul talks about what we call, the **“AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY.”**

**Romans 7:8, 9 (ESV)**

But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. **For apart from the law, sin lies dead. 9I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died.**

Paul was obviously alive while writing this letter to the Romans and during his experience. He was talking about being ALIVE to God and being DEAD to God.

**Death NEVER means a CESSATION OF EXISTENCE. It simply means to be SEPARATED! When we die, our spirit and our soul are separated from our body. If we die spiritually, we are SEPARATED ETERNALLY from God.**

**When we are born, our spirit is alive to God. At some time in our life, we understand good and evil, or as Paul said, the commandment comes or sin is revived and we “die” which means our spirit is separated from God!**

Everyone reaches this point in their life at different times. Some people may never reach this, such as special needs people.

When we ask the Lord to save us and we repent of our sins, then we are born again! Our spirit, once again connects with God and we become alive to Him!

Again, in **2 Cor. 5:17** We are told that all things become new. Well, that is our spirit. What about our bodies and our old sin nature which is a part of our soul?

How many of you, once you asked the Lord into your life, never sinned again or never had an old temptation rise up in your life?

**How do we overcome the sin that tries to keep creeping back into our lives?**

**1 Corinthians 11:31 (KJV)**
31  For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

In Celebrate Recovery, we teach everyone to take a **“fearless, daily inventory.”**

We need to judge ourselves. That simply means we need to assess where we are in our walk with the Lord.

Do you want Jesus MORE THAN ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE?

**Are you seeking Him daily?** Have you set a daily time for prayer and study of His Word? You don’t have to read several chapters a day. Start somewhere. Read a few verses and meditate on them throughout the day.

**If nothing else, take notes on what I teach or what Pastor David teaches and go over your notes during the week!**

Spend some time in prayer every day. Set aside a particular time for prayer. Then, pray throughout the day!

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)**
Pray without ceasing.

Judge yourself and realize just how much God loves you! I would much rather judge myself than have to have God chastise me.

How does God chasten us?

**Hebrews 12:6-8 (Amplified)**

For the Lord disciplines *and* corrects those whom He loves,
And He punishes every son whom He receives *and* welcomes [to His heart].” **7**You must submit to [correction for the purpose of] discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **8**Now if you are exempt from correction *and* without discipline, in which all [of God’s children] share, then you are illegitimate children and not sons [at all].

**God NEVER disciplines and chastens His children by putting sickness or disease upon us. NEVER!**

**WARNING:** *The Amplified Bible is a good Bible for the most part. You must remember that the Amplified Bible is a mixture of the Word of God AND man’s commentary. There is a lot of good commentary in the Amplified Bible but there is some that is not scriptural. Be sure, when you read this version, make sure the commentary part of it lines up with God’s Word.*

*For example,*

***Matthew 7:7 (Amp)***

*Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you.*

*In the New Testament, we are NEVER told that we have to ask God, over and over and over, and maybe after the 10,000th time, He will answer our prayer. When the the Amplied says “Keep on asking, keep on seeking and keep on knocking” implying that God does not answer your prayer WHEN you ask, is NOT scriptural.*

*Jesus said,*

***Mark 11:23-24 (KJV)***

*23  For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.
24  Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

*The Word of God must all fit together and* ***IT DOES WHEN RIGHTLY DIVIDED!***

**Again, God will never bring sickness and disease on you. He will never tempt you with evil. There is enough of that in the world.**

Think about your children. Would you EVER put sickness or disease on them?

**James 1:13 (KJV)**
13  Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

**We are talking about REPENTANCE. How do we walk free from the sins that pull us away from a perfect, mature walk with God!**

**Hebrews 12:1 (KJV)**
Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*,** and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

We MUST get into God’s Word, it WILL change you! If there is a sin you struggle with, get your heart to where you desire Jesus more than anything in this world. Ask Him to put that love for Him in your heart!

**Galatians 5:16 (KJV)**

*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

**Galatians 5:16 (NLT)**

o I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.