**The value of repentance: What we’ve learned and other realities**

**One of the great challenges in being good “learners” is to “un-learn” what we think is true vs. what is biblical**

**Main Idea: A good Father shows us how to be good fathers**

**1. Our study of Jonah**

* **Repentance is a way to stop, or avoid, the temporal judgment of God.**
* **Repentance is a path to harmony with God.**
* **Jonah 3:7-10 describes the reaction Jesus calls “repentance” in Mt. 12:41.**
* **Repentance includes, but is not limited to, a change of mind.**
* **The issue with Nineveh didn’t involve getting eternal life (Jonah 3:4).**
* **The issue involved avoiding God’s temporal judgment.**
* **The difference is illustrated when Paul says he preached “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” Acts 20:21**

**2. Our study of John the Baptist**

* **Most of the texts about repentance are directed to, and concerning, Israel’s violation of the Mosaic Covenant, the Law.**
* **Just as with Nineveh, the issue was not getting eternal life, but being faithful to the agreement they made with the Lord (Ex. 19:8).**
* **Also, like Nineveh, Israel was facing temporal judgment (Mt. 3:7-12; 11:20-24), which eventually came in 70 AD, followed by their being set aside during this current time (Rom. 11:25-28).**
* **John’s message was preparatory (Acts 19:4).**

**2. Our study of Luke 14:25-Ch.15**

* **Like unbelievers, believers need to get right with God when issues develop.**
* **One of those times involves the results that occur when we put God on the back-burner (Lk. 14:25-27) and the results in our lives.**
* **Like others, our repentance is met with God’s mercy (Lk. 15:20-24).**
* **Still, there may be a cost to our sin.**
* **It is easy to become self-righteous about the failure of others.**

**Today’s study**

* **Repentance is one of the important and common pathways to believing in Christ, as is mentioned in Acts 19:4, but not a condition.**
* **A genuinely repentant heart is more open to believing.**
* **So, repentance is often used to lead to eternal life, but is not a condition for eternal life. Why? It’s not always an issue.**
* **A careful study of God’s Word and the evangelism presented there demonstrates many ways people come to believe in Christ.**
	+ **In John 4, the Samaritan woman had an empty life in pursuit of happiness that led her to believe in Christ.**
	+ **Those in John 6 came to Christ simply to be fed and found bread from heaven.**
	+ **In John 9, the man born blind was grateful for the release from a life-long problem.**
	+ **In Acts 16 we read of a man who had been shown mercy not only through the earthquake, but prevented from taking his own life when the prisoners were found still present.**
	+ **In none of those cases, nor others, do we find repentance mentioned to get eternal life. Why?**
	+ **In fact, consider Matt. 4:17 with John 3-4: A critical reality!**
* **The reality of the Gospel of John, Acts 16:30-31, and Eph. 2:8-9**
* **Illustration: John 3 and the motel traveler.**
* **A starting place: Is John an adequate statement of how to get eternal life?**
* **The impossibility that comes from the Gospel of John 20:30-31**
* **Idolatry: Acts 17:30 – No one who believes in the worship of images is ready to accept the claims of the Creator and His Son (1 Thess. 1:9 - “You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”).**
* **What about Luke 24? Repentance moves men toward harmony with God.**
* **Everyone who needs to repent, needs to repent.**
* **Repentance: before and after: Acts 8:8-25**
	+ **We often bring our formers habits and sins into our Christian life.**
	+ **Repentance often comes after we believe.**
	+ **Repentance is a common occurrence for growing believers.**

**Everyone listening will need to repent many times in their lives to maintain, or regain, harmony with God.**

**Failure to get right with God leads to enslavement to sin – Rom. 1:24, 26, 28**

**God doesn’t compromise when it comes to sin. But, He does show mercy.**

**God is a good, good Father who welcomes us home.**