

Repentance Bible Study

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This study begins with the basic and foundational understanding that God is love. 1 John 4:8
He loves the world. John 3:16
He created humans in his image, to love and be loved. Genesis 1:27
He understands that it is not good for man to be alone because he created man for fellowship and relationship. Genesis 2:18

In the Garden, was a place of perfect relationship between God and man.

No evil, shame, guilt, disobedience, blaming.

They walked together in the cool of the evening, conversing, sharing, naked and safe.

Genesis 3:8

It was a place of perfect union and relationship. The way God intended it to be.

But man has a choice, he always has a choice.

To fellowship with God

To do their own thing

God promises:

Provision, blessing, security, relationship, wisdom, help, insight, strength, healing,

Purpose, happiness and everything you need.

He asks us to:

Be fruitful, multiply, subdue the Earth, eat any plant or animal, just NOT from

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Genesis 1:28-30; 2:16-17

But man always has a choice.

Because of disobedience, that very good relationship between God and man, that covenant (agreement) between them was broken.

Knowledge of evil entered, shame entered, guilt entered, disobedience, and fear were unleashed.

Hiding and consequences resulted.

THAT set in motion the plan for mankind through the ages to restore the perfect, very good relationship between God and man. The one we were created for. The one originally displayed in the Garden.

Man always has a choice.

Our perception of everything has forever been shifted now. We see everything through a lens of evil. That was not what God wanted for us. That was not his best plan for us. But man always has a choice.

God never wanted us to experience evil. He never wanted us to be exposed to evil. His love for us desired not simply protection from it, but he never wanted us to understand it, know it or experience it. He knows the power of evil. He knows the deception of evil. He is all knowing and wanted to spare his kids of the horrors of evil.

His goal is to have perfect fellowship with man. To walk in relationship with man. Loving and being loved.

But man always has a choice.

When we turn away from that relationship, he gives us opportunity to return, change our mind and come back to him. To reconsider our ways.

That is what the bible calls "REPENT".

To "repent" (in the Old Testament) means = to turn back, away from

To "repent" (in the New Testament) means = to think differently, or afterwards

The word repent or its various forms are used 112 times throughout the bible.

It is the story of the bible. People living their lives and choosing to turn to God and his ways or doing their own thing and going their own way.

It is the seasaw of the bible. People choosing God's ways, living according to them (for a while), forgetting them or willfully choosing not to live his way, the consequences that followed and returning, repenting then repeating the whole process.

Over and over from Genesis to Revelation the call is to turn back to God's ways, to relationship with him.

The Judges called for repentance.

The Kings called for it. (Yet, some willfully choose to do it their own way)

All the Prophets called for repentance.

John the Baptist said, "REPENT!". Matthew 3:2

Jesus echoed, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand" Matthew 4:17

Peter, the disciple, shouted the same, "Repent!" Acts 2:38

God even said to his churches in Revelation "Repent" Revelation 2-3

Today, the call for repentance goes out.

God is love. He desires only to bless and demonstrate his lovingkindness, compassion, strength, healing and provision to those who walk in relationship with him. He wants relationship with his children. To love and be loved.

Man always has a choice.

When we turn from him, the call is to return, repent. Turn back. Change our mind. Think differently.

As we grow in him, he shows us things we still need to think differently about. Things we need to turn away from. Things that are not his best for us. Things that are evil for us.

We are constantly growing in our relationship with him so that one day we can even see him face to face.

Repentance is the saw that cuts off the branches of our life that do not produce fruit. Matthew 3:8 says, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

Repentance cleans out the clutter that blinds our vision. It softens our heart to feel compassion and tenderness again.

It is "His kindness that draws us to repentance." Romans 2:4

So, repentance is a gift to us to restore our relationship with the God who loves us.

America is being called to repentance.
The world is being called to repentance.
I am being called to repentance.
You are being called to repentance.

All of us have a choice.

Man always has a choice.

"Dear Lord, Thank-you for wanting a relationship with me and loving me so much. I want your love and want to love you more. I want to change my thinking about you and your will. I want to turn to you and your ways. They are so very good. Help me to turn away from evil. Heal me from the experiences of evil. I return to you, MY God. Thank you. Amen"

