Repentance

Intro: As a basis for our lesson turn to Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” Repentance is the change of will (see Mat. 21:28-31 “But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. 30And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. 31Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.”). It is the turning from sin, motivated by godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10 “For godly sorrow worketh repentance [change of one’s mind with regard to sin] to salvation not to be repented of [regret]; but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”). According to our text, repentance is:

I. A DIVINE COMMAND:
   A. God commandeth men
      B. Preached by the forerunner (John the Baptist)
         1. Mat. 3:1-2 “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
         2. Mat. 3:7-8 “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:”
      C. Proclaimed by the twelve; Mark 6:12 “And they went out, and preached that men should repent.”
      D. Included in the Great Commission; Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 46And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
      E. Proclaimed by the apostles as they labored under the Great Commission,
         1. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
         2. 2 Pet. 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

II. A UNIVERSAL NECESSITY:
   A. All men everywhere
   B. Why is this true:
      C. Because sin is universal.
         1. Rom. 3:9-10, 23 “What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 23As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:… 23For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
         2. 1 John 1:8, 10 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us…. 10If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”
   3. Thus, repentance should be universal.
   D. Because sin is destructive in nature.
      1. All the dark experiences of life are associated with sin:
         a. Pain
         b. Shame
c. Sorrow
d. Death

2. Eze. 18:30-31 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. 30Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”

3. Luke 13:1-5 “There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? 3I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

4. Rom. 3:16 “Destruction and misery are in their ways:”

5. Gal. 6:7-8 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 7For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

III. A PRESENT OBLIGATION:
A. The times of this ignorance God winked at
B. Because of past mercies.
   1. Winked at or overlooked (ASV, NKJV).
      a. It is from the Greek ὑπεροράω (huperora),
      b. It means “to indulgently take no notice of, overlook, disregard” (BDAG), or “to intentionally not regard or be concerned about certain objects or events—to overlook, to purposely pay no attention to, disregard” (Louw-Nida).
   2. This shows God’s mercies.
C. Because of present revelation.
   1. More knowledge brings more responsibility.
   2. Luke 12:47-48 “And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”
   3. Light has appeared; we are to walk in the light.

IV. IMPELLED BY THE JUDGMENT.
A. Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
B. Let us notice some observations.
   1. The time is fixed
      a. “He hath appointed a day”
      b. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
      c. Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
   2. It is universal in scope.
      a. “He will judge the world”
b. Mat. 25:32 “And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:"

c. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

3. The standard.
   a. “In righteousness”
   b. Not man’s righteousness but God’s.
   c. The Gospel reveals God’s righteousness:
      (1) Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
      (2) Rom. 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”
   d. That righteousness as revealed in the life and teachings of Christ; John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

4. The judge
   a. “By that man whom He hath ordained”—Jesus.
   b. John 5:22, 27 “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:... 27And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.”

5. The assurance.
   a. “He hath given assurance unto all men in that He hath raised Him from the dead.”
   b. The resurrection proved Him to be the Son of God; Rom. 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”
   c. It proved His teaching was true.
   d. It proved the resurrection of the dead, without which there could be no judgment.

Conclusion: Have you repented?