

PureMen

PureMen Bible Study – Session 9 – 2/11/09

Something To Thank the Lord For?

Recite Memory Verse (Hebrews 2:18) & Give out Summit Stretch Prize

TEACHING MEN TO BE PASSIONATE ABOUT PURITY!



Link for Don Knotts' (Barney Fife) recitation of the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution:

<http://www.constitutionlive.com/?p=160>



Review Study Questions from Chapter Eight – *How Much Do You Care?*

"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil." -- Joel 2:12,13



**THE FIGHT FOR
FREEDOM:
ARE YOU WILLING TO
SHAKE OFF COMPLACENCY
AND COME OUT
SWINGING?**

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Last week, we focused on a couple of necessities for lasting change. Using Romans 6:17 as our back-drop,

1. We realized that **God is the Source of Change**,
2. We saw the importance of the **proper assimilation of doctrine** (teaching on Scriptures) into our hearts so that it can be lived out (obeyed) in a way that truly changes us (our beliefs, our motives, and ultimately our behavior).

Tonight, I want to briefly discuss another necessary aspect of lasting change –

TRUE BIBLICAL REPENTANCE.

Unfortunately, this seems to be somewhat of a forgotten word today in Christian circles but it is absolutely necessary. It is absolutely necessary for salvation to occur and it is absolutely necessary for us as believers even after we are saved.

REPENTANCE IS NOT:

Repentance is not just sorrow or remorse.

- 2 Cor 7:10 *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”*
- There is a difference between godly sorrow, which worketh true biblical repentance, and worldly sorrow, which ultimately worketh death.
- Repentance is not just in the shedding of tears over your sin.
- It is not in just begin sorry that you were caught or that you brought all of this pain and difficulty into your life and into the lives of those you love and care about. It is much more than that!

Repentance is not just regret.

- Many people regret the sin they have committed. But often their regret isn't as much for their “sin against God” but for the shame and embarrassment that it brought upon them, or for the difficulties it has brought them (possible loss of job or finances or their marriage).

Repentance is not just reformation or renewal or “turning over a new leaf”

- While trying to become “a better person” is admirable, it is most often done in your own strength. And anytime we do spiritual activities in our own strength, we are bound to fail.

Repentance is not just praying a prayer.

- Many people who have prayed for forgiveness of their sin have not repented of their sin.

Repentance is not just conviction.

- Many who experience conviction of their sin and know it is wrong do not repent of their sin.

So then what is **TRUE BIBLICAL REPENTANCE?**

From the very beginning of his earthly ministry, Jesus preached repentance.

Matthew 4:17 *“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

Definitions:

Source: *The Preacher’s Outline and Sermon Bible*, Vol. 1, pg. 50

- Repentance means to change; to turn; to change one’s mind; to turn one’s life. It is a turning away from sin and turning toward God. It is a change of mind, a forsaking of sin. It is putting sin out of one’s thoughts and behavior.
- Repentance is more than sorrow. It is both a change of mind and the actual turning of one’s life away from sin and toward God.

Source: *At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry*, Gallagher

- Repentance describes the transforming of a person from being one who does his own (carnal) will, to one who does the will of his Father. (p.199)
- Spiritual repentance is an experience whereby a person’s will is altered for the express purpose of bringing it into line with God’s will. (p.197)

Source: *Breaking Free from Habitual Sin*, Gallagher, DVD, *paraphrased*

- Repentance is not a “slight alteration.” Repentance means you’re going one way, doing what you want to do – self willed! But a complete 180 occurs. You are now going in an opposite direction – no longer self willed but now surrendered to the One who now controls you (the One who bought you (1Cor 6:19,20), your Master). It is a turning inside! Not just turning from sin but turning to God!

Source: *Charles Finney: True and False Repentance*, www.scrollpublishing.com/store/Finney.html

- **“First. There must be a change of opinion in regard to sin. 1.** A change of opinion in regard to the nature of sin. To one who truly repents sin looks like a very different thing from what it does to him who has not repented. Instead of looking like a thing that is desirable or fascinating, it looks the very opposite, most odious and detestable, and he is astonished at himself, that he ever could have desired such a thing. Impenitent sinners may look at sin and see that it will ruin them, because God will punish them for it; but, after all, it appears in itself desirable; they love it; they roll it under their tongue. If it could end in happiness, they never would think of abandoning it.”

When we repent of our sin, when we turn away from it and turn to God, He gives us the power and ability to overcome it. We do not repent in our own strength – He gives us the strength to forsake it. That, brethren, is lasting change!

APPENDIX – Notes from Chapter 8, How Much Do You Care?

[Questions 1, 2, 4]

Question: How important are our motives in securing lasting change in our lives?

- According to Worthen, many times our motives are anything but pure – “we want to have a problem free life so we can take pride in ourselves and have the respect of others.”
- “A lasting freedom from sin comes when our motives are pure: when we don’t want to grieve God’s Holy Spirit.” [p.131, Worthen]
- “Our desire for a full, rich relationship with the Lord is the motivation which clears the way for real change.” [p.131, Worthen]

Do You Sincerely Desire to Change? If so, get honest with yourself, with the Lord, and get in the fight!

[Questions 5, 6]

The “If-Then” Principle: - What is “our part” in the following verses?

- **2 Chronicles 7:14** *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*
- **Proverbs 3:5-6** *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*
- **Psalms 37:4-5** *“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”*
- **Deuteronomy 11:26-28** *“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.”*

[Questions 7, 8]

Crying Out To God – The Importance of Persistent Prayer!

- “When someone gets to the point of desperately wanting the Lord to remove the sin in his life, he will start crying out to Him for His help, which is never far away. God guarantees freedom to His children, but it is their responsibility to meet the conditions.” [p.134, Gallagher]
- The truth of Hebrews 2:18 – God is “running” to us to help and deliver us!

- Are you really persistent in crying out to God for help? What are the evidences? (2 minutes in prayer when you can remember to do it? Are you REALLY persistent or in reality are you just fooling yourself?)

[Questions 9, 10]

The Prayer of Faith

- On page 138, Gallagher states “*The center of the Christian faith is Christ, and our faith is inextricably tied to who He is. What a person believes about the Lord determines everything in his life as a believer. Thus, for the most part, our ability to believe the Lord for victory is directly determined by our level of trust in Him. This trust is based in one’s knowledge of His character. God is ever at work attempting to instill a sense of His trustworthiness to His children.*”
- **What is your view of God?** How do you view His character? Do you view Him as “the knowledge of the good and merciful character of God” or do you view Him as a harsh, mean, unloving God that is ready to crush and punish you for the slightest infraction? Do you view Him as harsh to justify your disobedience (He’s just too demanding – no one could ever be expected to do that!).
- “The foundation for believing God is our recognition of His goodness and His willingness to abundantly meet our needs.” [p.139, Gallagher] **Again, do you really believe that about God?**
- **[Question 11]** - Vines Definition of “believe: “To believe, also to be persuaded of, and hence, to place confidence in, to trust, signifies, in the sense of the word, reliance upon, not mere credence.”
- Romans 4:21 “*And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*”
- Matthew 7:7-11: “*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*

Testimonies?

Close in PRAYER!