

Repentance Unto Life

Joe Slater

Some of the Jews in the Jerusalem church rebuked Peter for evangelizing the Gentile Cornelius and his household. But after Peter explained, “they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance unto life.’”

How does God grant repentance to people? After all, repentance is a command! “God now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:31). How can something be both given and commanded?

Many sincere religious people believe that a lost sinner can do nothing relative to the salvation process; he must passively wait for the Holy Spirit to miraculously put such things as faith and repentance into his heart. But such is not taught in the Bible! If God miraculously put faith and repentance into my heart, but not into yours, would that not be showing partiality? Yet Acts 10:34 states unequivocally that God shows no partiality!

God grants repentance like He grants us our daily bread – by giving us opportunities and the necessary things to produce it. When we pray, “Give us this day our daily bread,” do we expect God to send down a plate of food miraculously from Heaven? Of course not! He provides the soil, rain, sunshine, etc., necessary for food production. In His providence he grants us health, strength, and opportunities to earn or produce food.

In similar indirect ways God gives us repentance. His word shows us the need to repent and what will happen if we don’t. And He gives us opportunities to repent before it is too late. That was the main thing with Cornelius. Prior to Acts 10, Gentiles had been excluded from opportunities to hear and obey the gospel. But now God granted them repentance leading to eternal life!

MARRIAGE

Here is what the Bible says about marriage: “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled” (Hebrews 13:4). “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 18:22).

Marriage is widely discounted as “just a piece of paper.” But it is much more than that! Aside from being a significant legal document, it signifies a commitment. More than that, the lack of marriage loudly proclaims the absence of commitment. No commitment of either husband or wife to the other, “for better or worse,” or “for as long as we both shall live.” No commitment of a father or mother to whatever children may be born to that non-committed union.

An aged married woman had a serious case of dementia. Her husband finally had to put her in a nursing home. He came to see her every day. He helped feed her, dress her, and fix her hair. She often had to ask, “Who was that man?” Someone asked him, “Why do you come every day, since she doesn’t even know who you are?” He replied, “I know who she is, and I know who I am. She is my wife.”

That’s what marriage is – more than “just a piece of paper.” It is committed love!

--Cecil May, Jr. (via *Preacher Talk*) (adapted)

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We cannot approve of sin and remain innocent ourselves! Furthermore, we need to screen the television shows we watch, the movies we view, our use of the internet, the places we go, our music (lyrics and videos), and the companions with whom we spend time.

--Louis Rushmore (via *Voice of Truth International*)

Can You Spell *Bewusstseinslage*?

At the end of May, 2018, 515 young people (ages 8 to 15) gathered for the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee. On the last day, the field had narrowed to only two contestants: Naysa Modi (12) and Karthik Nemmani (14), both from Texas. Naysa was given the word “bewusstseinslage,” which she misspelled (it is a technical term from the field of psychology for “conscious mental states which cannot be associated with specific sensations or images” [psychologydictionary.org]). Up next was Karthik Nemmani who correctly spelled the word given to him, the word that led to his being crowned the 2018 Spelling Bee champion, the word “koinonia” (www.usatoday.com).

Many are the benefits derived from faithful and consistent attendance to our Bible classes and worship. Chief among them is the opportunity for meaningful fellowship. If the word “faithful” describes your attendance, you will probably recognize the word koinonia, it is the Greek word regularly translated as “fellowship” in the New Testament. Not only was “koinonia” the winning word for Karthik Nemmani in 2018, it a winning word for Christians every year. Fellowship will make you a stronger, more faithful Christian. It will help you to win the greatest competition the world has ever known: the spiritual battle for your soul.

--David Bragg (via *Bulletin Gold*)

Commitment

“Motivation is what gets you started. Commitment is what keeps you going.” (Jim Rohn)

“Commitment is what transforms a dream into a reality.” (Abraham Lincoln)

“Most people fail, not because of a lack of desire, but because of a lack of commitment.” (Vince Lombardi)

--via Campbellsville, KY