

**Back to Basics – Repentance from Dead Works**  
**Ps. 51:1-19**

*Thesis: To help us better understand repentance so that we can truly repent of our sins.*

**Introduction:**

- A. Perhaps one of the reasons that we do not like talking about repentance is because it involves confronting our sins.
  
- B. Throughout the New Testament, we are told to repent.
  - 1. Lk. 13:3 - I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.
  - 2. Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
  - 3. Acts 17:30 - Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,
  
- C. But what does it truly mean to repent?
  - 1. In this Psalm of David, we see true repentance.
  - 2. To help us understand this Psalm, notice a brief recap of its setting.
    - a. David has committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed (II Sam. 11).
    - b. Nathan the prophet comes to David and tells him a parable (II Sam. 12:1-15).
    - c. As a result of this adultery, David son dies (II Sam. 12:15b-23).
  
- D. Throughout this lesson, we will look at repentance through the eyes of David.

**I. In repentance, there is an acknowledgement of sin (51:1-6).**

**A. David acknowledged his sin.**

1. Notice the account of the story (II Sam. 12:13).
  - a. Nathan has just come to David and told him this parable that condemned the rich man.
  - b. When David realizes that the parable is about him, he immediately says, "I have sinned against the Lord" (12:13).
2. In order for David to receive forgiveness, he had to acknowledge his sin.
  - a. David may have gotten so caught up in the sin that he did not realize that he had sinned.
  - b. However, as soon as it was brought to his attention, he immediately admitted his sin.

**B. Today, an acknowledgement of sin is necessary for repentance.**

1. We must understand that we have sinned.
  - a. There is not one of us who have lived a perfect life.
    - 1) I Jn. 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
    - 2) I Jn. 1:10 - If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
    - 3) Rom. 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
    - 4) Gal. 3:22a - But the Scripture has confined all under sin.
  - b. We must understand that we have sinned, and are not perfect.
2. Not only do we have to understand that we have sinned, but we must also be willing to acknowledge our sins.
  - a. David could not have received forgiveness if he had refused to acknowledge the problem.
  - b. Today, we must acknowledge that we have sinned in order to receive forgiveness.
    - 1) I Jn. 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
    - 2) Pr. 28:13 - He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

***I. In repentance, there is an acknowledgement of sin.***

## II. In repentance, there is a purging of sin (51:1-2, 7-11).

### A. David understood that it was only when the sin was removed that a clean heart could be created.

1. Notice the plea that David makes for the washing away of this sin (51:1-2, 7-9)
  - a. We know that God forgave David for this sin because Nathan told him that God had forgiven him (II Sam. 12:13b).
  - b.
2. Upon this purging of sins, David begs God to “create in [him] a clean heart” (51:10).
  - a. With the sin gone, now David needed to have a clean heart.
  - b. Now that the sin was no longer in his heart, David had room for God.

### B. Today, when we truly repent of our sins, God forgives us.

1. It is important to remember that this is true for the children of God.
  - a. Remember: David was “a man after [God’s] own heart” (Acts 13:22).
  - b. He was faithful to God.
  - c. For the one who is not a Christian, forgiveness is obtained by obeying the command of God in baptism.
2. God has promised to forgive us of our sins.
  - a. Heb. 8:12 - “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”
  - b. Heb. 10:17-18 - then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” {18} Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.
  - c. I Jn. 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*I. In repentance, there is an acknowledgement of sin.*

*II. In repentance, there is a purging of sin.*

## III. In repentance, there is a deliverance from guilt (51:12-17).

### A. Even though David was sorrowful for his sin, he was not bound with guilt because he knew that he was forgiven (II Sam. 12:15b-23).

1. Once sins are purged, there is no reason to feel guilty about the sins that are committed.
  - a. Notice what David did just after his son from this adulterous relationship died.
    - 1) II Sam. 12:20 - So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.
    - 2) David worshiped God and ate.
  - b. David gives a reason for his actions to his servants.

- 1) **II Sam. 12:21-23** - Then his servants said to him, “What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” {22} And he said, “While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ {23} But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”
  - 2) The point is that David was free from guilt because he had been forgiven of his sin.
2. Far too many times, people feel guilty over sins for which they have already been forgiven.
    - a. There is no reason to feel guilty because those sins are no longer accounted to us.
    - b. We have to know and understand the power of forgiveness; and when we repent, we are forgiven.

**B.** It is important to understand that even though David was free from guilt, he was not free from the consequences of his sin.

1. It is important to understand that repentance does not remove the earthly consequences of the sin.
  - a. Example: one who gets pregnant out of wedlock will still be pregnant even though she has repented.
  - b. Remember, David’s son with Bathsheba died just seven days after being born (**II Sam. 12:18**).
2. Repentance does, however, remove the eternal consequences of the sin.
  - a. Even though you may still suffer earthly consequences, your eternal home will be in heaven.
  - b. David was still “a man after [God’s] own heart” (**Acts 13:22**).

### Conclusion:

It is only after repentance has been made that God will be pleased (**51:18-19**).

**Lk. 15:10** -Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

The one who repents will “do works befitting repentance” (**Acts 29:20**).

Even though it is not directly mentioned in our text, David did “works befitting repentance.”

He did not commit this same sin again.

- I. In repentance, there is an acknowledgement of sin.
- II. In repentance, there is a purging of sin.
- III. In repentance, there is a deliverance from guilt.