

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Un-regrettable Repentance

(Michael Baker)

Throughout His public ministry, Jesus Christ always encouraged repentance. He states that all men must repent of their sins or they will perish in Luke 13:5. Before He ascends into heaven in Luke 24, He expresses His desire that the message of repentance should be preached to all. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of life. At the realization of sin's effect on our lives, our grief should lead us to repent. When we understand that our sin causes us to fall short of God's glory, we can allow it to turn to sorrow that produces repentance.

But sadly, we see some who are insincere while seeking forgiveness. They might have been caught in their wrong-doings and may “repent” to get out of trouble. By saying we are sorry for our sin and not experiencing the sorrow that should be produced, it relays that we are not genuine in our repentance.

When we do fail and sin, we should express our sorrow at our iniquity. 2 Corinthians 7:10 lays out two distinct types of sorrow men experience. Godly sorrow leads to a repentance that we will never regret. This sorrow at our failure to serve God, is what He is seeking, and leads to our

salvation. But repentance that is of the world lacks godly sorrow that leads only to death.

In Acts 17, Paul is preaching to the polytheistic people of Areopagus, and tells of how God demands that they repent of their ways. The text reveals that there were some who believed Paul and joined him. Do you think that these men repented in their belief? Were they sincere in their response to Paul's message? Did they revoke their old religious practices to serve God wholeheartedly, or did they respond to his message with mockery and unbelief?

Originally when David sinned with Bathsheba, he attempted to keep it hidden. Eventually his shortcomings were known throughout all the land, but godly sorrow was not produced until Nathan the prophet approached him. As David is writing Psalm 51, even today we can feel the sorrow he had toward God when he writes “Against thee only have I sinned” in verse 4. He felt deeply grieved by his sorrow and genuinely wanted to be forgiven by the Lord. We should not try to suppress the feeling of guilt for our sin when it is present in our lives, but allow that sorrow to

drive us to repentance. But what might cause us to repent?

In Matthew 12, the scribes and Pharisees approach Jesus requesting a sign demonstrating His power. Jesus says they will not receive a sign expect the sign of the prophet Jonah. What is interesting here, is as He is recalling the account of Jonah and his ministry to Nineveh, He makes the statement that they repented at the preaching of Jonah. When Jonah was cast over the boat into the sea, he was presumed dead. But after 3 days, they saw him alive as he preaches the gospel of repentance to those who were far off. The power of God was manifested in the words he spoke to the people of Nineveh. The word of God will urge us likewise to repent in a godly manner through the sorrow that is felt.

When that message of repentance is heard, we experience these feelings of sorrow for falling short of His glory. These true emotions will lead us toward serving God. The people of Nineveh believed God as the text reads and immediately a decree was made by the king for a nationwide fast. Godly sorrow produces repentance that you will never regret!