



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

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Confessing Sins Versus Repenting of Sins

Chad Dollahite

At first glance, perhaps the title above seems confusing. After all, is not confessing sin synonymous with repentance? The answer to that question is both “yes” and “no.” While repentance, in many cases, does involve confession of sin, it is incorrect to equate these two concepts; understanding the difference in them is the focus of this article.

We would do well first to define the terms under consideration. When studying the Bible terms “confess” and “repent,” what do we find?

The Greek word rendered “confess” (or some form of the word) is homologeo, meaning “to say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with, assent” (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament). To confess sin means one admits the truth of the accusation; it is to speak the same as God, who calls such “sin.”

Repentance in the New Testament is translated from three separate Greek words. The word metamellomai simply means to regret or change one’s mind; it is distinguished in New Testament usage from the other two words. The second word is metanoceo and means to rethink or reconsider (carrying the idea of feeling moral compunction). The third word is metanoia, meaning a change of mind that results in a practical reformation of one’s life (definitions are paraphrased from Thayer’s lexicon).

Putting the above thoughts together, confession is merely an acknowledgement of one’s actions and may or may not be conjoined with regret and reformation, while biblical repentance (metanoceo

and metanoia) is regret that causes a change of mind and leads to a reformation of one’s life and conduct. **Mere confession is not equal to biblical repentance.**

A brief case study of two Bible characters helps to see the difference in confession of sin and repentance of sin. Simon Peter and Judas Iscariot were both apostles of Jesus (Matthew 10:1-4), and both believed and obeyed Jesus for some time, teaching and working miracles in Jesus’ name (Matthew 10:5-8; Mark 6:13). Both apostles also faltered, as Judas betrayed Jesus (Matthew 26:47-50) and Peter denied Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75). Both of these men had opportunity to repent and be restored, but this is where their similarities end. While Peter was restored, Judas was ruined. Judas “was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood’” (Matthew 27:3,4). He then “departed, and went and hanged himself” (Matthew 27:5), choosing to “go to his own place” (Acts 1:25 – literally, “to the place of his own choosing”). Peter, on the other hand, having “wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:75) after denying the Lord, returned to Jesus and was restored (John 21:15-19). The difference in these two disciples of Jesus is that one **repented**, while the other merely **reported**; such is the difference in merely confessing sins versus biblical repentance.

Repentance is more than just sorrow over sin and/or confessing sin(s). A thief, when caught, might confess, “Yeah, I did it!,” yet have zero regret. Judas confessed his sin and was sorrowful, but he did not take the necessary action to repent and be restored to faithful service. Even now, multitudes are sorrowful over their sin, but at the same time, they are unwilling to surrender their will to the Savior’s in repentance to **do what they need to do** in order to be right in God’s sight. No wonder 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, “For *godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation*, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death” (emphasis added is mine, ccd).

Though repentance involves regret/sorrow over sin (2 Corinthians 7:10), as well as confession of sin (1 John 1:9), it also involves forsaking sin, as seen in Jesus’ statement that the people of Nineveh “repented at the preaching of Jonah” (Matthew 12:41), which involved their ceasing from sin (compare Jonah 3:5-10). Repentance involves “fruits worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:8). Repentance means dying to sin and self and being raised up with Christ to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3,4).

The difference between confessing sins and repenting of sins is often the difference between “godly sorrow” and “the sorrow of the world.” And, it is still true that the God of heaven “commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30)!

Peace of Mind

Larry Yarber

“And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and

say unto him, Master carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm” (Mark 4:37-39).

Many spend their entire time on earth in fear of the storms of life. Sometimes it is even said of them, “they have a troubled soul.” As our Lord calmed the Sea of Galilee, He alone can calm the soul of man and bring an end to his inner fears. As He faced the cross of Calvary, Jesus told His disciples, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid ... If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father; ...” (John 14:27-28).

Jesus assured His disciples He would triumph over the crucifixion and His death should not scare or trouble them. All would be well with Him and with them in the midst of the storm.

Our Lord offers us this same assurance of peace. There is no temptation so great but that, with His help, we can overcome it, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1Corinthians 10:13).

There is no need which He is not mindful of and which He is not able to supply, “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:31-33).

There is no anxiety that cannot be dealt with, “And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42). There is no foe who can conquer our soul, “And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28 – also see and read Hebrews 13:5-6 and Romans 8:31). “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

Men are often troubled and tossed about by the storms of life because they have no sure anchor for their souls, “...we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus,” (Hebrews 6:18-20).

Thus, when the storms of life come, their faith fails and their hearts are filled with fear. However, God pleads with all, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your cares on him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7). When we finally learn to do so, we will find that inner peace for which we all yearn, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

Observations and Concerns

November 15, 2023

Welcome Visitors! Please be sure and aware you are greatly appreciated.

Praise in Psalm: “I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving” (Psalm 69:30).

Declaration of Appreciation: We are thankful for all those who clean the building and prepare the communion trays each week. Your service is greatly appreciated.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of *Jim Sherman* who passed away. He attended here in the past.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ *Darla Smith* has an appointment with a surgeon regarding a mass that she had biopsied and was found to be malignant.
- ▶ *Marcella Dennis* was in the hospital with pneumonia. She is better and recovering at home.
- ▶ *Ross Swearingen* was sick this past Lord’s Day.
- ▶ *Chris Nelson* is scheduled to have hernia repair surgery on Thursday, November 16th.
- ▶ *Pat Taylor* has recently had two procedures to clear blockage. She is recovering at home.
- ▶ *Sammy Gray* will be having medical tests in the upcoming weeks.
- ▶ *Trayton Linton*, great grandson of Darla Smith, was in a severe automobile accident. He is recovering at home.
- ▶ *Sherry Carmona* fell and suffered trauma to her face. She had surgery on her nose and is recovering at home.
- ▶ *Sam Orr*, father of Kathy Orr is recovering from Covid.
- ▶ *Sandra Rowell*, step mother of Landon Rowell, has lymphoma.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Nov. 15	Sunday, Nov. 19 AM	Sunday, Nov. 19 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
	Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Bill Dilks	Bill Dilks	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer	Ross Swearingen	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen
	Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM				
Worship 10:30 AM				
Worship 5:00 PM				
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM				
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