

Is Repentance Required After Baptism?

Acts 3:19-21

Introduction: Most people can answer our question without thinking. Yet, many Christians fail to repent of their sins. In fact, the continual cleansing crowd believes repentance is not required after baptism. In our lesson, we will explore the answer to this question and examine a real couple's situation that was living in adultery as it applies to repentance.

I. Repentance is required whenever sin occurs (these passages focus on repentance after baptism).

A. Simon the sorcerer was required to repent for a sin he committed after his baptism (Acts 8:13, 22).

B. This agrees with what the Hebrew writer said concerning those who fall away in their sins (Heb. 6:4-6).

1. "Renew them again to repentance."

2. Repentance is required after baptism whenever sin exists.

3. Repentance is perpetual no matter when the sin occurred.

C. When the Corinthian congregation sinned by ignoring the man who had his father's wife, they were required to repent (2 Cor. 7:8-10).

1. A lack of Godly sorrow for sin results in suffering loss.

2. Repentance leads to salvation implying a lack of repentance does not lead to Salvation but eternal death.

D. Four of the 7 churches of Asia were required to repent for their sins (Rev. 2:5, 16, 21-22, 3:3, 19).

II. If a person is not willing to repent of his sins, is he saved?

A. If a person does not repent, his sins are not remitted (Acts 2:38).

B. Repentance is a requirement for sins to be removed!

C. Forgiveness is not granted until repentance is made (Lk. 17:3-4).

D. Repentance is extremely important to one's soul!

III. Take the example of a couple living in sin (Matt. 19:9).

A. Would repentance require them to cease their sexual relationship prior to baptism?

B. However, this couple claims they never knew about God's laws concerning divorce, marriage, and remarriage until 6 years after they were

baptized. Would they be required to cease their sexual relationship once they learned they were living in adultery?

1. It would be no different if they had learned for the first time that swearing was wrong a month after they were baptized.

2. Many Christians do not realize that drinking alcohol is sin (1 Pet. 5:8). Must they cease their drinking if they desire to go to heaven?

C. If they died before they learned they were living in sin would they be saved (Acts 17:30)?

1. Many people could claim ignorance about baptism. Would they be saved if no one ever taught them about the necessity of immersion?

2. Every Christian is required to study to learn the truth on any given subject (2 Tim. 2:15). Their ignorance was no excuse.

D. If the couple intends to “run out the clock” and repents late in life after sexual relationships have ended, would they be saved?

1. Constantine the Great did that choosing to be baptized just days before his death. He wasn't saved because he did not repent (Rev. 17:8).

2. If a person was baptized, lived on without repentance after their baptism, were they truly baptized, or did they just get wet? They would need to be baptized for the remission of sins since remission of their sins were never realized.

3. Ultimately, the Lord will judge.

Conclusion: Why gamble with your soul's salvation when we know repentance is required no matter when sin occurs.