

The Life of a "Repenting Repenter"

Luke 19:8-9 (ESV)

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house."

I. Obey the call to Lifelong Repentance

- True Christianity Begins with Repentance

Luke 13:3 - But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

- True Christianity Continues with Repentance

Oswald Chambers – Repentance is the Bedrock of Christianity. The believer in Christ is a lifelong repenter."

2 Corinthians 7:8-13 (NIV)

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it — I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while — yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. By all this we are encouraged.

II. Resist the Lure of Counterfeit Repentance

Matthew 27:3-5 (NIV)

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

III. Embrace the Gift of Genuine Repentance

- ✓ We are eager in making things right.
- ✓ We are earnest in keeping things right.

When there is real repentance:

- Sin becomes Hated
- Wrongs are made right
- Consequences are Accepted
- Behavior is Changed
- Forgiveness is Treasured

IV. Anticipate the Joy of a repentant heart.

Richard Owen Roberts

Repentance is not something done once and forever accomplished. One must be forever repentant. Turning from sin and self toward Christ is a continuing process. It is a day-by-day, year-after-year process of refusing to follow sin and self and deliberately following Christ.