

## 146 - Change your mind...for REAL!

The word, Repent or Repentance, bothered me for a long time, before I wrote the book, GO GOD! I was required to deal with it and the word Obey, because my aversion to those words were based not on my understanding of their true meaning, but on my memory of growing up and having obedience demanded rather than inspired; and hearing “repent” preached on street corners by people who seemed to me to be lunatics, not even associating them with religion, let alone with Christianity.

We have studied the meaning and importance of obedience many times, but over the past few weeks, the Father has impressed upon me to examine the meaning and importance of repentance. So, let’s agree tonight to set aside what we remember from what we’ve heard from others, perhaps especially religious leaders, about repentance. Let’s cast aside what people have said and look into the Father’s heart through what He says in the scriptures.

The first discovery to make is the actual definition of the word, Repent. CLNT-KC, page 245: repent = “*metanoeo, after-mind, to be distinguished from after-care, regret. It is simply a mental change.*”

Now, it’s a simple matter to type the word into a lexicon search, but as with so many others that we have examined in 146 studies together, we find multiple words in Hebrew and Greek that are used in various Bible versions to mean the same thing. The problem is that one definition doesn’t work for all these words.

The simple difference between after-MIND (repent) and after-CARE (regret) may seem insignificant, but like all the scriptures, every word is important because the Father “*magnifies His name, His promise (or saying) above all else,*” Psalm 138:2 declares.

Here is but one example of many to show how important the differences are between different versions -- I can't even call them *translations*, because when you read a *direct* translation, you can't understand how other versions got the language so wrong.

Exodus 32:12 - [ESV](#), [NASB](#), [AMP](#), [CJB](#), [KJV](#) -- Read only the end of the verse.

Now look at it from the CLV:

Turn back from the heat of Your anger and **show mercy** concerning the evil to Your people.

Isn't "**show mercy**" vastly different from "*relent from,*" "*change your mind,*" or "*repent*"?

Here's a correct use of the word repent, in **1 Samuel 15:29** (pick up the story in verse 27)

27 As Samuel turned around to go Saul held fast to the hem of his robe, and it was torn. 28 Samuel said to him, Yahweh has torn the kingship over Israel away from you today and has given it to an associate of yours who is better than you. 29 Moreover, the Permanent One of Israel does not deal falsely, and **the Holy One of Israel does not repent, for He is not like a human that He *should* repent.**

Other versions read, "***does not change His mind.***" That's an accurate reading of the definition, but those same versions use change His mind -- or repent, or comfort, or regret, interchangeably. The upshot is that if you don't KNOW what word ought to be used, you'll come away with a completely different understanding of the scriptures.

That's not a news flash for those of us who have studied together for nearly three years, but the issue of repentance is a hugely important one, because, as we just read in 1 Samuel 15, repentance is a particularly

human activity, but it is not one that can be accurately applied to our Father. There is nothing about which He has changed, would change or will change His mind. The Father has been described as regretting -- as when He regretted that He made mankind, prior to the flood in Noah's time. Sometimes the word repent is used in some versions for "**turn back**":

## 2 Chronicles 6:37-39 (ESV)

37 yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and **repent** and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,' 38 if they **repent** with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray **toward their land**, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name, 39 then hear from heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you.

Now the CLV:

yet they turn back their heart **in the land** where they are captives, so that they **return to You** and supplicate in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we are depraved, and we are wicked, 38 and they **return to You** IN (with) all their heart and IN (with) all their soul, in the land of their captors who had captured them, and they pray **IN the city** that You have chosen and toward the House that I have built for Your Name, 39 then You will hearken from the heavens, from the site of Your dwelling, to their prayer and their supplications, and You will execute right judgment for them, and You will pardon Your people who have sinned against You.

REPENT is not the same as RETURN TO. REPENT is not REGRET or COMFORT. REPENT is a mental change; a change of mind. When you hear

someone say I repent, it means NOTHING! When we have had a change of mind, literally...when we have deliberately, knowingly, willingly and certainly changed our minds -- we have repented. There is NO scripture which says that repent means confess your sins! Nowhere does the scripture instruct us to SAY anything ABOUT changing our minds; it only says REPENT; that is, CHANGE YOUR MIND. Shut up about it, but YOU DO IT! If you want to apologize, OK, but understand that our apology accomplishes nothing except maybe placating someone we've injured and making ourselves feel better for being stupid. Apologies, or confessing sins, has NOTHING WHATSOEVER to do with actual repentance - with actually changing our minds.

**Job 42:6**, beginning with verse 1...

42 Then Job answered Yahweh, saying: I know that You are able in all things, And no plan of Yours can be thwarted. Who is this who obscures counsel without knowledge?" Wherefore I have professed ideas when I was not understanding, Marvelous thoughts from me, that I did not know. 4 "Hearken now, and I My self shall speak; I shall ask of you, and you inform Me." 5 With the hearing of the ear I had heard of You, But now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I **recant and repent** On soil and ashes.

The ESV says, in verse 6: ...*I despise myself, and repent...*

The KJV says "abhor myself."

Recant does not mean despise or abhor! I tried to find a definition of "recant" in the lexicon, but I ran into 13 Hebrew words and 2 Greek words for abhor. I went through every Hebrew word and never found Job 42:6! That means that the KJV guys stuck the word abhor into the text, maybe because it sounded similar or something, but NOT because it was the *right* word.

I had to go to Webster's online dictionary for **Recant**: *"to withdraw or repudiate (a statement or belief) formally and publicly; renounce; revoke; to make an open confession of error."*

So Job says here in 42:6, "I withdraw and repudiate, formally and publicly, what I once believed; I renounce it and herewith make an open confession of my error. Moreover, I deliberately, willingly and knowing adopt a mental change; I change my mind about You, O my God! I am climbing out of my own stupidity and into alignment with You and with Your word."

**Remember this principle:** when the word of God seems confusing, it isn't His word, but our understanding that needs clarified. I would add here, when you think you know what something means as you read it in the scriptures, check it out, because more times than not, it means something else; and when you investigate the real meaning, your eyes open into a dimension of the Father you did not and could not know before; and the new understanding you reach brings you into a new and richer relationship with Him that you did not and could not have known before. This is the most important reason for me personally to correctly cut the word of the truth -- that I may know Him.

Back to REPENT -- or to the mental change that is repentance. My challenge to us tonight is to read through the scriptures and, wherever we see the word repent or repentance, we substitute the definition of "a change of mind." My expectation is that as we do this, the Father will enlighten the eyes of our hearts with the revelation and a true appreciation, not only what repentance IS, but how important it is TO Him and FOR us.

Let me make clear that Repenting is **NOT** Confessing. Repentance is not even verbally necessarily. We can change our minds without saying a word; and, lest we forget, our Father hears our thoughts before we think them!

John the Baptist's call to the people of Israel was, "**Repent! for near is the kingdom of the heavens!**" (Matthew 3:2). Yeshua did the same thing, immediately upon His return from being tried in the desert.

#### **Matthew 3:8**

Thenceforth begins Jesus to be heralding and saying, "**Repent!** for near is the kingdom of the heavens!"

#### **Matthew 11:20-21**

He begins to reproach the cities in which most of His powerful deeds occurred, for they do not **repent**.

21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the powerful deeds which are occurring in you occurred in Tyre and Sidon, long ago they would **repent**, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

#### **Matthew 12:41**

41 "Men, Ninevites, will be rising in the judging with this generation and will be condemning it, for they **repent** at the heralding of Jonah, and lo! more than Jonah is here!

#### **Luke 5:32**

31 And answering, Jesus said to them, "Those who are sound have no need of a physician, but those who have an illness.

32 I have not come to call the just, but sinners, to **repentance**.

#### **Luke 13:5**

3 No, I am saying to you. But if you should not be **repenting**, you all shall likewise be perishing.

4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam falls and kills them, are you supposing that they came to be debtors beyond all the men dwelling in Jerusalem?

5 No, I am saying to you. But if ever you should not be **repenting**, all of you similarly shall be perishing."

#### **Luke 15:7**

7 I am saying to you that thus there will be joy in heaven over one sinner **repenting**, more than over the ninety-nine just persons who have no need of **repentance**.

### **Acts 2:36-38**

36 "Let all the house of Israel know certainly, then, that God makes Him Lord as well as Christ -- this Jesus Whom you crucify!"

37 Now, hearing this, their heart was pricked with compunction. Besides, they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "What should we be doing, men, brethren?"

38 Now Peter is averring to them, "**Repent** and be baptized each of you in [actually ON, as in "*on account of*"] the name of Jesus Christ for the pardon of your sins [it's actually "*INTO the pardon of your sins*"], and you shall be obtaining the gratuity of the holy spirit.

**Acts 3:19** - This is Peter speaking to the Sanhedrin after healing the lame man in front of the Temple gate:

19 **Repent**, then, and turn about toward the erasure of your sins, so that seasons of refreshing should be coming from the face of the Lord,

**Acts 17:30**, Paul is speaking to the Greeks in the Areopagus -- the big amphitheater -- in Athens. These are Greeks, now; thoroughly indoctrinated into their philosophies and pagan gods:

30 "Indeed, then, condoning the times of ignorance, God is now charging mankind that all everywhere are to **repent**,

**Acts 26:19-21**, This is Paul testifying before King Agrippa:

19 "Whence, king Agrippa, I did not become stubborn as to the heavenly apparition,

20 but first to those in Damascus, besides in Jerusalem also, besides to the entire province of Judea, and to the nations, I reported that they are to be **repenting** and turning back to God, engaging in acts worthy of **repentance**.

21 "On this account the Jews, apprehending me as I am in the sanctuary, tried to lay hands on me.

Paul said that the Jews apprehended and tried laying hands on him -- in a distinctly unfriendly way, we can be sure -- BECAUSE he was saying the same thing to them that John the Baptist and Yeshua said to them before!

### **Romans 2:4-5**

are you despising the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, being ignorant that the kindness of God is leading you to **repentance**?

5 Yet, in accord with your hardness and unrepentant heart you are hoarding for yourself indignation in the day of indignation and revelation of the just judgment of God

### **2 Corinthians 7:9-10**

Now I am rejoicing, not that you were made sorry, but that you were made sorry INTO **repentance**. For you were made sorry according to God, that in nothing you may suffer forfeit by us.

10 For sorrow according to God is producing **repentance** INTO unregretted salvation, yet the sorrow of the world is producing death.

**Let's get this one for sure:** When we are convicted in our spirits of error in any area of life, and the sorrow or regret we feel agrees with God -- meaning that we see how far we have removed ourselves from His nature in us -- that sorrow produces the necessary change of mind so that we do not regret our own salvation!

**Let me say that differently:** When we regret our attitudes and behavior *because* of how far removed they are from the Spirit of God in us, our Godly sorrow produces the change of mind we desperately need. God doesn't do it for us; we do it, BECAUSE of the Spirit's conviction in us; so



that we don't meet the Lord, regretting that He saved us because we are such a mess!

## 2 Corinthians 12:21

21 Not again at my coming will my God be humbling me toward you, and I shall be mourning for many who have sinned before and are not **repenting** of the uncleanness and prostitution and wantonness which they commit.

## 2 Timothy 2:25

24 Now a slave of the Lord must not be fighting, but be gentle toward all, apt to teach, bearing with evil,

25 with meekness training those who are antagonizing, seeing whether God may be giving them **repentance** to come into a realization of the truth,

26 and they will be sobering up out of the trap of the Adversary, having been caught alive by him, for that one's will.

In verse 25, it looks like God is giving someone a change of mind, but I see that notion nowhere in the scriptures, so it looks to me that when we -- or when people whom God anoints to **train**, that is to **discipline**, literally to HIT -- antagonizers -- opposers who may also be retaliating. Like Barbara says, *"That'll learn 'em, durn 'em."*

## Hebrews 6:6, beginning in verse 4

4 For it is impossible for those once enlightened, besides tasting the celestial gratuity and becoming partakers of holy spirit,

5 and tasting the ideal declaration of God, besides the powerful deeds of the impending eon,

6 and falling aside, to be renewing them again INTO **repentance** while crucifying for themselves the Son of God again and holding Him up to infamy.

## Hebrews 12:17, beginning in the last part of verse 16:

Esau, who, for one feeding, gave up his own birthright.

17 For you are aware that afterwards also, wanting to enjoy the allotment blessing, he is rejected, for he did not find a place of **repentance**, even seeking it out with tears.

Does there come a time when we act so foolishly as not to be able to change our minds, even though we want to desperately, as Esau did? I'm not saying I know; I'm asking, because this text appears to establish a principle, and we may witness it play out in the lives of people we know.

## 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not tardy as to the promise, as some are deeming tardiness, but is patient because of you, not intending any to perish, but all to make room for **repentance**.

The ecclesias are told to **REPENT** --to change their minds -- in *Revelation 2 and 3*, after being told what the Lord had against them.

## Revelation 3:19-22

"Whosoever I may be fond of, I am exposing and disciplining. Be zealous, then, and **repent!** [*Now look what comes next -- this is what changing your mind gets you!*]

20 Lo! I stand at the door and am knocking. If ever anyone should be hearing My voice and opening the door, I will also be coming in to him and dining with him, and he with Me.

21 "The one who is conquering, to him will I be granting to be seated with Me on My throne as I, also, conquer, and am seated with My Father on His throne.

22 "Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the ecclesias."

**Revelation 9 & 16** talk about people who do NOT **repent**, although they have had every opportunity.

## Revelation 9:21

20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed in these calamities, **repent** not of the acts of their hands- that they will not be worshiping the demons and idols of gold and silver and copper and stone and wood, which are neither able to be observing nor to be hearing nor to be walking-

21 and they **repent** not of their murders, nor of their enchantments, nor of their prostitution, nor of their thefts.

## Revelation 16-8-9

8 And the fourth messenger pours out his bowl on the sun. And it was given to him to scorch mankind with fire.

9 And mankind is scorched with great heat, and they blaspheme the name of God, Who has the jurisdiction over these calamities, and they do not **repent**, to give Him glory

10 And the fifth pours out his bowl on the throne of the wild beast. And its kingdom became dark; and they gnawed their tongues for misery

11 and blaspheme the God of heaven for their miseries and for their ulcers; and they do not **repent** of their acts.

Listen to this picture of an entire nation that would not repent, even though the Father Himself chose them and brought them out of bitter slavery, parted the sea for them, watered them from solid rock, sheltered them by day from the desert sun with a pillar of cloud, warmed them by night with a pillar of fire, fed them miraculously for 40 years, and caused their garments and shoes not to wear out the whole time, and Who brought them into the land He had promised to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, exactly as He had promised, and before the eyes of all Israel.

## Isaiah 65:6

I spread out My hands the whole day to a stubborn and rebellious people,  
Who are walking in the way that is not good, after their own devisings, The

people who are provoking Me to vexation onto My face continually, Who are sacrificing in the gardens And fuming incense on the bricks, Who are sitting among the tombs, And among the rocks are they lodging all night, Who are eating the flesh of swine, And the broth of vile things is in all their vessels, Who are saying, Keep near to yourself! You must not come close to me, for I am holy to you! These are a smoke in My nostrils, A fire that is glowing all the day. Behold, it is written before Me; I shall not hush, save I repay; And I will repay into their bosom your depravities And the depravities of your fathers together, says Yahweh, Because they fume incense on the mountains, And on the hills they reproach Me; And I will measure their wage in full value into their bosom.

I'm well aware that Isaiah was speaking to and about Israel, but how many times have you heard me say that our accountability is even higher than theirs, because the Messiah died, was raised, ascended, poured out the Father's own Spirit of Holiness over us and into us, and both the Father and the Son THEMSELVES make their abode with us, the scripture declares?

If obedience is always the dividing issue, as Barbara so often and so rightly says, then I would offer that repentance is the issue which divides or brings together. Have we been sorry only according to the world and are, therefore dying in our sins, even though the Messiah died already for our sakes; or have we changed our minds according to Godly sorrow, and are therefore living to and for Him?

I would offer that the conciliation that the Father accomplished through the Messiah Yeshua is effective in us, and we only live as friends of God, truly, when we have changed our minds about our Father, about our lives, and even about our world which so often seems to make little sense.

I can offer no prayer for anyone for repentance, other than to pray that everyone come into it and, thereby into a realization of the Son of God Who died for them and in Whom they can live right now; and through Whom they can live beyond the reach of death upon His return; and in Whose name every living soul from Adam to the consummation will find salvation, that God will be all in all, exactly as the scriptures declare.

Father, for the sake of Your name, I pray for all living souls to come into repentance - to change their minds because Yeshua the Messiah died for

them to bring them to You; and for You, Father, to bring us a revelation of You, of Your love for us and Your faithfulness to us.

Holy Father, Your Name is awesome beyond my ability to say it. I bless You with every breath and every beat of my heart. Let my life bless You if by any means. Father, I cannot begin to thank You enough or adequately for the change of mind you won in me so far. I give You all praise and thanks for making us one in the Messiah Yeshua, Who died for me that I might live, and that Your grace be lavished over me.

I pray, Father, that You and I are one, just as Yeshua prayed for the 12. I pray too, Father, that every living soul change his or her mind - that they repent - and turn away from their self-interests, self-importance, and from their flesh, toward You, toward Your purpose, and toward Your Spirit. Only in the change of our minds away from ourselves and toward You will we find and fulfill the purpose for which we were created. Otherwise, all really is vanity, as Solomon lamented. The vast wisdom he had, he lost; but we have Your Spirit living and operating in us to will and to work according to the counsel of Your will.

Your will be done, Father, in and through my life, and, I pray in the life of everyone hearing my voice right now. I thank You for one whom I know and love who has ears to hear and eyes to see what the Spirit is saying to the ecclesia. Watch over her and protect her to walk in all that You are calling her into before the son of Mankind returns in glory.

You are Holy, Father. You are Most High and Most Holy. I worship and declare Your Name and Your praise in the ecclesia. Blessed be Your Name, Father; blessed be Your Name into the consummation.

AMEN