

Repentance

vs

Believing



By Brother Mark

Repentance **VS.** **Believing**

“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” - Mark 1:14,15

Before anyone starts accusing me of believing in works salvation or easy believeism, let me state that I fully believe the work of Jesus on the cross for our salvation. That it is by grace alone Ephesians 2:8,9. Nothing we can do—no work is required for salvation. Jesus has done it all for us. It’s a free gift by simply believing in Him and His redemption that was paid for us.

Understand a good student of the Bible will read all of the evidence on a subject comparing spiritual with spiritual 1 Corinthians 2:13 (or Scripture with Scripture) to conclude what God is saying.

Let me also say that on both sides of the argument all agree that it is Jesus Christ alone that saves people. Again, all agree

on this that it is Jesus and nothing else that is He alone saves us from sin and hell. Matthew 1:21; John 3:16; 3:36; 10:9; 14:6; 1 John 5:12.

Before we get into the question let's look at some examples of people in the New Testament that became saved.

See Chart #1 <http://www.biblecharts.org/personalwork/examplesofconversions.pdf>

Now that we have seen a few examples of Biblical conversion, let's look at the Scriptures and see what is the truth about the title question, "Repentance vs. Just Believing and is it necessary for salvation?"

The Bible says:

By Repenting – (ex. Matthew 3:2,6; Mark 1:15; 6:12; Luke 24:47) By Believing – (ex. John 3:16; 11:25; Acts 16:31; Mark 1:15) And by Confession – (ex. 1 John 1:9)

Once the above happens you will be Born Again (ex. John 3:3,7; 1 Peter 1:23)

Let's look at the Old Testament in regards to these words.

First let's look at what happened from the beginning in Genesis 2:16,17 God's command. Go to Genesis 3:6-19 the disobedience and punishment. Do you see when confronted with sin that confession and seeking forgiveness should have been made?

Genesis 6:5-7 is the first time we see God "repenting." Now, what is this "repenting" spoken of here? In Hebrew (the language the Old Testament was written in) the word is "nacham" נחם it means, "to be sorry for, or regret." What does this mean? Is God sorry for something? God expresses

grief or regret because of their wickedness even though He already knows it.

Genesis 20:1-8

Leviticus Chapter 4 contrast this to the work of Jesus in Him it is done period.

Repent/Repentance/Repented/Repenting

Genesis 6:5-7; 20:1-8; Exodus 32:12,14; Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 32:36; Judges 2:18; 1 Samuel 15:29,35; 1 Kings 8:47; 1 Chronicles 21:15; Job 42:6,10; Psalms 90:13; 106:45; 110:4; 135:14; Jeremiah 8:6; 18:8,10; 15:6; 18:8,10; 20:6,19; 26:3,13; 31:19; Ezekiel 14:6; 18:30; 24:14; Hosea 13:14; Joel 2:14; Amos 7:3,6; Jonah 3:9,10; Zechariah 8:14.

The phrase “we have sinned” directed to God.

Judges 10:10,15; 1 Samuel 12:10; 1 Kings 8:47; 2 Chronicles 6:37; Jeremiah 14:7; Daniel 9:5,15.

The phrase “turn from their wicked ways.”

2 Chronicles 7:14.

Confess/Confession/Confessing/Confessed

Leviticus 5:5; 26:40; Numbers 5:5-7; 22:34; Joshua 7:11,12,19,20; 1 Samuel 7:6; 15:24-26; 2 Samuel 12:13; 24:1,10-17; 1 Kings 8:35; 2 Chronicles 6:26; 30:22; Ezra 10:1,11; Nehemiah 1:4-10; 9:1-3; Psalms 32:5,6; Chapter 51; 79:8,9; 106:6; Daniel 9:4,20.

Now let’s look at the New Testament in regards to Repentance and believing.

Chart #1

Repent/Repentance/Confession	Believe/Believing/Faith
<i>Found Approx. 70 times in the Bible.</i>	<i>Found Approx. 175 times in the Bible.</i>
Matthew 3:2,6,8,11; 4:17; 6:12; 9:13; 10:32,33; 11:20; 12:36,37,41; 13:15; 18:3,21,32,35; 27:3,4.	Matthew 4:23; 5:48; 9:35-38; 11:28-30; 13:19-23; 16:24-27; 19:16-22; 22:2-14; 25:14-30; 27:54; 28:18-20.
Mark 1:3,4,5,15; 2:17; 4:11,12; 6:12. Luke 1:77; 3:3,8; 5:8,12,31,32; 10:13; 11:4; 13:3,5; 14:33; 15:4,7,10,18-32; 16:24,30; 17:3,4; 18:13,14; 19:8-10; 20:18; 22:32; 24:47.	Mark 5:36; 6:6; 8:34-36; 10:15,17-22; 11:22; 13:13; 15:39; 16:15-20.
John 3:3,5-8; 8:11.	Luke 1:1,69,70,77; 5:20; 7:50; 8:12; 9:23,25; 12:8,9; 14:23,26,27,33; 18:26,27,42; 22:32; 23:42,43.
Acts 2:37-42; 3:19,20,26; 5:30-32; 8:9-24; 13:38; 17:30; 19:4,18; 20:21; 22:16; 26:18,20.	John 1:7,12; 2:11,23; 3:3,5,8,15-21,36; 4:39,41,48,53; 5:24,38,40; 6:29,35,40,47,51,54,58,65; 7:31,38,49,48; 8:12,24,30,31; 9:35,36,38; 10:42; 11:25,26,27,45,48; 12:40,42,44-48; 14:1,2,6; 16:9; 17:3; 19:35; 20:27,29,31.
Romans 2:4; 10:10	Acts 2:21,44; 4:32; 5:14; 6:7; 8:12,13,37; 9:42; 10:43; 11:21; 13:39,43,48; 14:1,2,23; 15:7; 16:1,14,15,30-34; 17:4,5,11,12,34; 18:8,27; 19:2,9,18; 22:16; 28:24.
2 Corinthians 12:21.	Romans 1:16,17; 3:22,24,26; 4:3,5,17,18,24; 10:4,9-13,14; 11:20,23.
2 Timothy 2:25.	1 Corinthians 1:23; 7:13; 14:24; 15:2.
Hebrews 6:1,6.	2 Corinthians 4:4; 6:14,15.
2 Peter 3:9.	Galatians 2:16; 3:6,22.
Revelation 2:5,16,21,22; 3:3,19; 9:20,21; 16:11.	Ephesians 1:13.
	2 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:12.
	1 Timothy 4:10; 6:12.
	2 Timothy 1:12; 2:13.
	Titus 1:15; 3:8.
	Hebrews 3:12,18,19; 4:3; 10:38,39; 11:6,31.
	1 Peter 1:21.
	1 John 4:15; 5:1,10,12,13.
	Jude 1:5.

Even though the word repent is only found in about 70 places as compared to believe in 175 places does not mean it's not true. For example the term Born Again is only found in the entire Bible three times (John 3:3,7; 1 Peter 1:23) yet we use it all the time and talk about it constantly. Yet no one dare say it's not a true doctrine?

Chart #2

Repent	Believe	Mix Repent/ Believe
1. Acts 17:30 2. Mark 6:12 3. Luke 5:32	1. John 20:31 2. Romans 10:9 3. 1 John 5:13	1. Mark 1:15

Let me give three prominent examples of repent and believe. Why three examples? Because the Bible says, "...that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." (Matthew 18:16a)

First, we have to repent. But what does this mean?

Well, many Christians and other people believe the term repentance to mean "turning from sin." But that's not what repentance means. Nowhere in the Bible do we see the words turn or turning from sin attached to the word repentance. In the Bible, the word repent means "to change one's mind" from the Greek word *metanoēō* μετανοέω that is to change one's mind or to think differently about something.

True repentance will result in a change of actions (Luke 3:8-14; Acts 3:19).

Acts 26:20 says, "But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."

Is there a connection between repentance and salvation?

To repent, in relation to salvation, is to change your mind in regard to Jesus Christ. In Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts chapter 2), he concludes with a call for the people to repent (Acts 2:38). Repent from what? He is calling the people who rejected Jesus (Acts 2:36) to change their minds about Him, to recognize that He is indeed "Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). Peter is calling the people to change their minds from the rejection of Christ as the Messiah to faith in Him as both Lord and Savior.

It is impossible to place your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior without first changing your mind about who He is and what He has done. It's a change of mind. Biblical repentance, in relation to salvation, is changing your mind from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ.

It's extremely important that we understand repentance is not a work we do to earn salvation. No one can repent and come to God unless God draws that person to Himself (John 6:44). Acts 5:31 and 11:18 indicate that repentance is something God gives—it is only possible because of His grace. No one can repent unless God grants repentance.

All of salvation, including repentance and faith, is a result of God drawing us, opening our eyes, and changing our hearts. God's longsuffering leads us to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), as does His kindness (Romans 2:4).

Again it must be clear that repentance is not a work that earns salvation, repentance unto salvation does result in works. It is impossible to truly and fully change your mind without that causing a change in action.

In the Bible, repentance results in a change in behavior. That is why John the Baptist called people to "produce fruit in

keeping with repentance” (Matthew 3:8). A person who has truly repented of rejection of Christ to faith in Christ will give evidence of a changed life (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:19-23; James 2:14-26).

Biblical repentance then is changing your mind about Jesus Christ and turning to God in faith for salvation (Acts 3:19). Turning from sin (confessing sin to God) is not the definition of repentance, but it is one of the results of genuine, faith-based repentance towards the Lord Jesus Christ.

Second, we must believe in Jesus

The Bible is crystal clear that salvation is by believing in/on Jesus. There are many verses to prove this as shown in chart #1

The Bible says in John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” John 20:31

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9

Third, we must confess our sins.

Confessing sin 1 John 1:9

So what do we learn?

To repent, that is changing your mind about Jesus and what He has done for us for salvation, is important in connection to salvation. IT IS NOT A WORK! One must believe in Jesus

in connection to salvation. One must confess their sins for forgiveness in connection to salvation.

I would strongly encourage you to take the time and read all the verses in the chart. Study them carefully asking the Holy Spirit to guide you.

End.