

Preacher's Pen
Sunday, March 19, 2006

Yes, You Have To – Repent (part 2 of 2)

“Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: 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.”, (Acts 26:19-20)

In previous lessons of our series answering the question, “What do I HAVE to do – to be saved?”, we have seen that scripture is plain that one has to believe with obedience and repentance. This, and the remaining topics are not optional. They are God mandated.

This morning will be part two on the topic of repentance. In addition to being absolutely necessary to “turn around” (to repent) or realize Godly sorrow, it is also necessary to understand the result(s) of having repented.

Unfortunately, many have spoken the words, “I repent”, but have not followed up on it. In short, they turned around for a fleeting moment and then turned back around only to continue in the direction previously headed – eternal condemnation, Hell.

So, this morning we will look at how the Apostle Paul both taught and lived his own repentance. We will understand that of necessity there comes a permanent change of life *and* lifestyle. In other words, while God is clearly eager to accept anyone “just as I am”, He also demands an immediate change. We are to leave a life of sin and disobedience and begin a life of righteousness.

Again, not only is repentance (along with belief, confession, baptism, and living obediently unto death) absolutely necessary, but it does not stand alone. Neither does repentance mark the beginning of life “in Christ” – the name Christian is not warranted yet. This simply marks the change of ambition and desire.

In Christian Love and Service,
Lyndal