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**The Importance of Repentance:**

John the Baptist in Matthew 3:1-2, Jesus in Matthew 4:17, Peter in Acts 2:37, and Paul in Acts 20:21; all preached repentance. Repentance helps to qualify a person for forgiveness; and forgiveness leads to salvation, and salvation is the doorway to eternal life in heaven, no one can enter without it (See Luke 13:3, 5). Failure to repent causes a person to lose out on many of God's blessings in life, plus leaving him or her with no hope of ever going to heaven.

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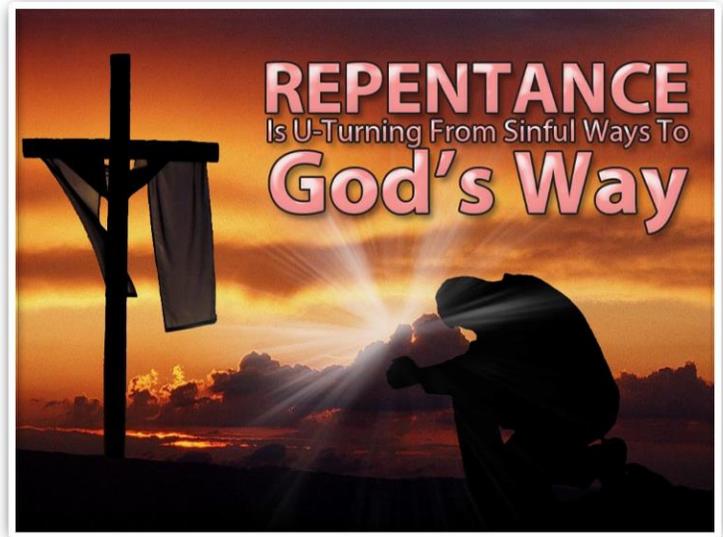
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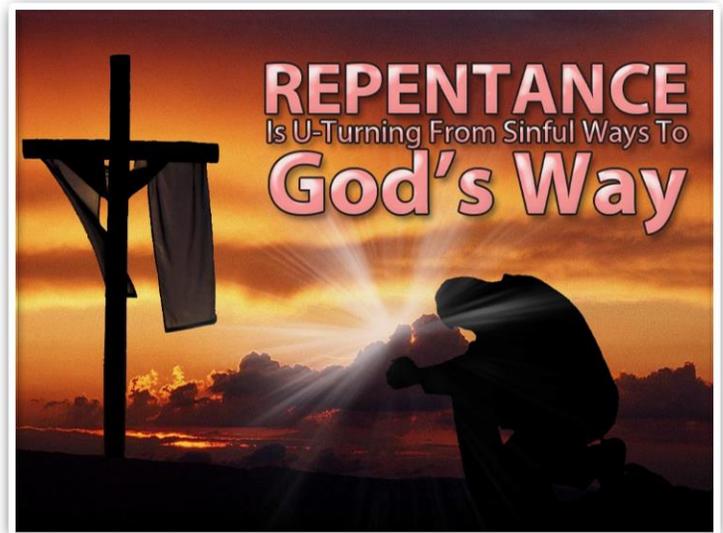
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**Repentance:** Are today's teachers and preachers teaching and preaching repentance? If not, why not? Has the need for repentance diminished? Has God lessened or changed the terms of admission into His kingdom? In Luke chapter thirteen verses 1 through 5, Jesus gives us a stern warning, "Unless we repent, we shall perish."

### **What is Repentance?**

Repent means," to be sorry for your sins, to have a change of mind about sin and a changed attitude toward sin. True repentance is to make a decision that changes the total direction of one's life; it causes you to turn from sin and evil and turn to God.

**Repentance** involves the mind, emotions and the will:

**The mind:** first we must decide in our mind that sin is evil and that God hates sin. A changed mind about sin produces a changed attitude toward sin. A changed attitude changes our character; and a changed character changes our behavior.

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**The emotions:** are an important part of repentance. David said, "I will declare my iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin (See Psalms 38:18). Repentance is being sorry enough about your sins to stop sinning.

**The will:** a changed mind and being sorry for our sins is not enough to produce true repentance; we must be willing to change our behavior.

In Luke 15:11-32, the story of the prodigal son, we see the perfect illustration of repentance.

**The mind:** this young man's condition caused him to think about his life: he realized that he needed a change (See Luke 15: 17).

**The emotions:** This young man left home under unfavorable circumstances. therefore, he needed to apologize to his father and seek his father's forgiveness (See Luke 15: 18-19).

**The will:** He also knew just thinking about his situation, and feeling sorry would not change anything. Therefore, he turned his footsteps toward home with repentance on his lips.

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