

Christian Repentance

Reflections on Repentance

Psalm 32

1. The **Urgency** of Repentance (vs.6-7)
 - A. Do not Delay in Repentance (2 Cor 6:2; Heb 12:17)
 - B. God is a Refuge for the Repentant (Ps 46:1-3; Prov 30:5)
2. The **Anguish** of Unrepentance (vs.3-4)

Israel provides a great examples of hardness of heart that prohibits a response of repentance (Ps 95:6-8). David uses vivid language of the physical effects that his unrepentant sin had upon him (Ps 6:2; 31:9-11).
3. The **Process** of Repentance (v.5)
 - A. Admission - This has to do with knowledge and agreement concerning the violation necessitating repentance (Ps 51:3; cf. Ps 25:4; 119:75, 79; 139:2).
 - B. Confession - This has to do with the specific disclosing or profession of the sinful actions of which one is repenting (Prov 28:13; Luke 19:18)
 - C. Genuine repentance... (Ps 51:1-6)
 - I. ... starts with Understanding God's Character (v.1)
 - II. ... desires to be cleansed from the sin (vs.2, 7)
 - III. ... specifies the sin being repented of (vs.3-4)
 - IV. ... does not defend the sinful action (v.3)
 - V. ... understands that God is most offended (v.4a; 2 Sam 12:13; Luke 15:18)
 - VI. ... agrees that God's judgment against sin is good (v.4b)
 - VII. ... takes responsibility for the sin (v.5; cf. 1 Cor 10:13; James 1:13-16)
 - VIII. ... knows that repentance must also be internal (v.6)
4. The **Joy** of Forgiveness (vs.1-2)

The penitent is joyful because he understands the character of God as the one who forgives, saves, and keeps (Ps 25:6-7; 51:1). Those who are forgiven are abundantly and unimaginably blessed of the Lord (Ps 36:10-12; 103:8-14).
5. The **Restoration** Following Repentance (vs.10-11)

The repentant enjoy the benefits of God's lovingkindness (Isa 44:22-23) and a restoration of relationship (John 21:15-17).
6. The **Wisdom** Gained in Repentance (vs.8-9)

Proper fear of the Lord and an understanding of Him will lead to repentance (Rom 2:4), and those seeking repentance are in a proper condition to learn God's wisdom and be wise (Prov 1:7; 9:10; 111:10).