

prophecy, as the one crying in the wilderness, the one to make the way straight, to prepare the way for the Messiah's coming. What a story. But the part we want to see today is the Revival part. Where he began his ministry crying in the wilderness, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

The revival under John was essentially a preaching one. The repentance preached was a preparation for the reception of the coming king, and for a place in the coming kingdom. These topics preached with vigor, earnestness, sincerity, and plainness of speech were the causes of the revival which ensued. Here we can notice three things that relate to Revival and Repentance.

1. The Prominence of Repentance.

a. The Call of Many.

The word repent is the first one used by **John**. It occupies the same position in the ministry of **Jesus**. "Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' "The first word of command spoken at Pentecost was "Repent," which Peter gave in response to the question of the people, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" **Paul** declared that "God now commandeth all men everywhere to repent;" and summing up his ministry at Ephesus he said: "I have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus declared one purpose of His coming was "To call sinners to repentance;" also that "it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached." **Peter** declared that Jesus had been raised "to give repentance and remission of sins unto Israel." So we have it stated that Jesus came, suffered, and rose from the dead, all to make repentance possible to men. Then **the apostles** were especially instructed on this one point. Their training was directed to the effectual preaching of repentance. To them were committed the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

b. The Terms of God.

Jesus speaks of the "key of knowledge." They had the knowledge which, imparted to the people, opened the kingdom of heaven to them. One of the keys was repentance. They also had power to remit and to retain sins; and Jesus promised to ratify in heaven what in His name they did on earth. They did not have power in His name to do anything they liked; but they had power to do as He instructed them; and He gave them authority to declare to men the terms on which their sins would be remitted. Repentance was in these terms. That knowledge has now been committed to writing, and can be used by us all. On the authority of God's Word we can tell men that if they repent and turn to Jesus their sins will be blotted out; and wherever men accept that testimony and act accordingly they will find Jesus in heaven ratifying it. He still stands by His word, and gives His Holy Spirit to bear witness with the spirits of those who obey Him. The primary position taken by repentance in the preaching of John the Baptist, Jesus, and the Apostles; its declared relationship to the Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection of Christ; its place in the Great Commission as a duty to be preached to all nations; and its connection with the remission of sins and admission to the kingdom of heaven, all require that it should be more pressed in the preaching of the day than is usually the case. Unless repentance is given an equal prominence to that which it had when the Christian Church was started, the preaching of today will not issue in revival.

2. The Character of Repentance.

a. "A Change of Mind" about Christ .

This we learn from the word itself. It means "**a change of mind.**" A man says he will not do a certain thing. He eventually does it, and explains that he changed his mind. A change of mind affects action. In John's instructions he detailed how repentance was to be expressed. "Fruits of repentance" was his phrase. Men were to share their plenty with the destitute; the tax gatherers were to be honest, and only to exact what was due; and the soldiers were to do violence to no man, neither to accuse any falsely, and were to be content with their wages. A consideration of the position of the people to whom Peter gave the command to repent on the day of Pentecost will help to an understanding of the subject. These men had joined in the cry, "We have no king but Caesar." Concerning Christ they had said, "We will not have this man to reign over us." Now they discover that God had made Him both Lord and Christ. In view of the fact that they have rejected Him and that He is now in a position of power, they feel their position to be a very serious one, and they say, "What shall we do?" The reply, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," practically meant that they must change their minds about Christ. They must reconsider their position towards Him. Instead of rejecting Him they must accept Him.

b. "A Change of Mind" about Self .

And this is the message we have to urge upon men today." We have turned everyone to his own way." "The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God." We have said in our hearts, "No God; we do not want one. Religion is restraint. Let us cast its cords from us." We have to change our minds about which will/shall govern us, our own or Christ's. The question is, whether we shall be our own lords or whether Jesus shall be King. Repentance, admitting to the kingdom of heaven, is a change of mind about Christ. Such repentance may have much or little emotional sorrow about it. It is not the degree of sorrow, or emotion, that gives it its virtue, neither is it the length of the sorrow. There is no necessity for men who hear the command to spend nights in tears, or to undergo any prolonged agony, before they come into the light. Experiences of this kind vary according to temperament, scriptural knowledge, or the tenacity with which one holds on to some favorite sin. When the command comes to a man clearly, it is possible for him to obey it at once. Any man who can clearly define his position towards Jesus as follows: "I accept Jesus as my God and Savior, and will endeavor to learn His will, and will at all times do it, even though my will be different from what I can see His to be," has repented, and, though he has not passed through the agony of Luther or of Bunyan, can, on the authority of God's Word, rejoice in the knowledge that his sins are pardoned, and that he is accepted as a child of God.

3. The Motives for Repentance.

John gave three reasons why men should repent.

a. The Kingdom is Near.

The Jewish ideas of the kingdom were material. It has frequently been said that Jesus replaced this with the idea of a spiritual kingdom. But He did nothing of the kind. The material kingdom for which the Jew was looking is still to come. The mistake made was not in thinking of it as material, but in thinking only of the material, and having no thought of spiritual fitness for it. Because they were the children of Abraham the Jews thought they would inherit it. John corrected this idea, and showed them they could not enter it unless there was a change of character brought about by repentance. Jesus said many would come from the East and from the West and would sit down in the kingdom of heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whilst many of their physical descendants would be cast out. Jesus insisted upon humility, meekness,

love of peace and righteousness, and other spiritual qualities, as being required for the kingdom. The spiritual state was to come first. The promise of inheriting the earth still remained, but it would be fulfilled to the meek, not to the Jew as such.

After the Resurrection the apostles looked for the establishment of the temporal kingdom. They said: "Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus did not at this point reply, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not understood Me?" These men were to preach the gospel of the kingdom. For this they had been trained. They were within a few days of commencing their ministry. If they were wrong on this point they must be corrected. But they were not wrong. Jesus simply said: "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." He gave them a work to do. That was the thing they were to trouble about. The time of the setting up of the kingdom was in the Father's hands. Let them fulfill their program first, and God's part would soon be accomplished. In harmony with this is Peter's declaration after Pentecost: "Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send the Christ who hath been appointed for you, even Jesus; whom the heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things." Repentance is a prerequisite to the kingdom. The kingdom has two forms: a present spiritual one, and a future material one: Repentance is necessary for entrance into that state where Jesus rules now; and membership of the spiritual kingdom is the condition of having a place in the kingdom when realized materially in the future.

b. The Remission of Sins.

It is God who forgives sins. It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin. As the Lamb of God, Jesus bears away the sin of the world. The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. Forgiveness of sins is a tremendous business. It is the most costly of all the things undertaken by God. And being so great, man can do nothing to win it. The whole work must be undertaken by God. But forgiveness having been made possible, it comes to man with a command attached. Man has something to do in order to receive it. He has to repent. He is commanded to repent. The condition is one which he can fulfil. Any man who wills to turn can do so. And if a man does not repent he cannot be forgiven. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

c. The Wrath to Come.

John urged men to flee from the wrath to come. That wrath was the wrath of God executed by Jesus. John expressed it under the figure of fire. The fire may not be literal; but whatever it is, it will not be less terrible than the figure. Paul, too, uses the coming judgment as a reason why men should repent: "God commandeth all men everywhere to repent; because He hath appointed a day, in the which He shall judge the world in righteousness by that Man Whom He bath ordained ; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He bath raised Him from the dead." Men think of judgment as vindictive, hard, and unfair. Paul tells us "God will judge the world in righteousness." There will be perfect justice. And the Judge is "that Man whom He hath ordained." Jesus has been tempted in all points as we are. In human nature He has met the enemy. He knows the strength and cruelty of his assaults. The Judge being Jesus we may rest assured that everything that can be said on man's behalf will be said. For Jesus is not only Judge, He is Advocate, too. When He was upon the Cross He could find something to say for His murderers. The Judge of all mankind is

by no means devoid of tenderness. The terrible thing is not that He will be the Judge, but that men will persist in sin till even Jesus, who speaks for men when no one else can say a word, will be compelled to condemn. There is coming a time when sin has to be finished, and if men remain sinners until then their case will be hopeless.

Conclusion:

An old Hebrew legend tells of a disobedient angel atoning for his sin. God told him to go to earth and to bring back the most precious thing he could find as a gift for God. The angel visited earth and returned with a drop of blood from a soldier who had died for his country. God said, "That is precious, but it is not the most precious thing." The angel went again to earth and returned with a drop of perspiration from a nurse who was caring for a sick child. God said, "That is precious, but it is not the most precious thing."

The angel went again, and saw a rancher stalking a man who had stolen his cattle. The rancher followed the thief to his home, and peered through the scope of his rifle to see him move from room to room. He was about to pull the trigger, when the thief picked up a small child. The rancher watched as the thief kissed the child and put him to bed.

Suddenly the rancher was seized with remorse. He realized that he had nearly killed the child's father. With a tear of repentance, he returned home. The angel caught the tear of repentance and brought it to heaven. God said, "You did well. Nothing is more precious than a tear of repentance."

The good news of the Gospel brings hope to all of us, especially to those who find themselves on the fringes of our world. It also belongs there. The good news of God's grace announces God's presence on the fringe. God's love goes beyond the boundaries of where we thought God was supposed to be. God promises that there is no place on earth where He will not go or be for us.

God will lead us through the deserts and wilderness of life. He will reveal His glory to us during the journey. His power will be felt where we are most vulnerable. The desert and the wilderness are suitable places to hear God speak to us, just like God spoke to Moses through the burning bush in the wilderness, or as God spoke the message of repentance through His servant John the Baptist. What God says to us won't always be what we want to hear, but what He says will be what we need to hear. Today, while traveling through the wilderness, we must listen to what God says to us on the journey, because what He says to us will be good for us.

Repentance Is Precious To God!

Repentance

A man with a nagging secret was unable to keep in any longer. Not being a religious man, he wasn't sure what to do. He went to the Catholic Church, entered the confessional, and admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumber yard where he worked.

The Priest asked him exactly how much lumber he had taken. The man replied, "Well, I took enough to build my house, enough for my son's house, and my two daughter's houses. Oh, and the house we have at the lake."

"This offense is very serious," the Priest said. "For this there should be a far-reaching penance. Have you ever considered doing a retreat?"

The man replied, "No, Father, I never have. But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber."

Not so sure the man understood how repentance is supposed to work. The story of Chuck Norris is a good one. When he was 12 years old he went forward at a Billy Graham crusade and accepted Christ as his Savior. But he never really committed his life to serving Christ. He

went on to study Martial Arts and become the karate middleweight champion of the world for eight straight years. He appeared in multiple karate movies, and in one, he fought against Bruce Lee in a death match.

Years later, he starred in the hit TV series *Walker, Texas Ranger*. He was successful in almost every area of his life. But he never had a relationship with God.

One day he came home from work and he saw his wife Gina reading the Bible. He commented, "You're not getting religious on me, are you?" She said, "This is good stuff! You should read this." So he sat down on the couch and began reading the Bible with her. The Spirit of God began working him over. Norris says God was saying "You need to come back to Christ. You need to finish what you started when you were 12 years old. You need to make Him the Lord of your life."

And so Chuck Norris surrendered his life to Christ. Except this time, Norris' life was transformed. If you watch the last two seasons of "Walker, Texas Ranger," you'll see a much stronger emphasis on faith in Christ. After the show ended, Norris and his wife got involved in all kinds of ministries. He helps out with the Trinity Broadcasting Network, the Billy Graham Association, and the Make a Wish foundation. He also began the Kickstart program, which ministers to at risk students in junior high schools across America. In other words, Norris doesn't just mentally acknowledge Jesus Christ. His life is changed for the better because of Jesus Christ.

"Wash me!" was the anguished prayer of King David. "Wash!" was the message of John the Baptist. "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me," said the towel-draped Jesus to Peter. Without our being washed clean, we all die from the contamination of sin. For God's sake, and yours, wash!

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ????, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel, Larry McKahan

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 11

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 12

R Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp
Alternate: ? ? ? ?
Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 18

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 19

O Team 6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

October 11 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

October 12-14 — Missouri Baptist Biker Fellowship Fall Ride

October 23-25 — Missouri Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

October 29 — Diversicare 2:30 pm

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

November 5 — Daylight saving time ends! Set clocks back 1 hour.

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will meet tonight, Sunday, October 8. Come!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Also, we will continue our study on **Fearless**. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm

Library News

We will be phasing out the books in the Library (located in the Senior Women's Sunday School room.) If you are interested in any of these books, you may help yourselves to them anytime before October 16.

Servants Needed

Help! Our current van drivers need some relief! Would you be willing to drive one month (or more) out of the year? See George or Mike.

Missouri Missions Offering

Theme: 1 Corinthians 3:9a: "For we are laborers together with God." This will be the last week to give.

Food Pantry Collection Day!

Sunday, October 15

You may place your non-perishable items in the basket in the hallway at any time.
Thank You!

Operation Christmas Child

Shoe Box Collection Day—

Sunday, November 12

There are a few boxes on the front pew along with some items Don Beavers has graciously donated.

Also, there are printed labels on top of the piano. The suggested shipping price for this year is \$9.00.

Just a Reminder ...

The whole month of October is **Pastor Appreciation Month**. Please let Pastor Allan and Ellen know how much they are appreciated and loved!

For the Record . . .

At the September Business Meeting we voted to stop sending money for the Patee Park Food Pantry since regulations limit how much they may distribute each month and they have a surplus amount. Instead, the money collected each month will be sent to Matt and Karissa Long, missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

For the Record

Attendance: October 1, 2017

Sunday School.....	33
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	33
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	47
Children's Worship.....	9
Sunday Night	9
Wednesday Night	14

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,040.52

Offering Received ... \$ 2,394.23
MMO to date \$ 1,504.00
Disaster Relief..... \$ 620.00

Offering Received by Mail:

October Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Daniel Waters

October Van Driver:

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

October Birthdays:

03...Don Hart
08...Brigida Winans
09...Elvera Crow
10...Fred Kerns
10...Jaden Schottel
14...Dillon Burgess
18...David Schottel
18...Abby Sutton
19...Caitlyn Schottel
22...Angie Liechti
28...Ellen Lane
31...Tim Izer

October Anniversaries

Mike and Martha Green
October 1, 2005

Prayer Requests ...

Robbie Hutcherson Family
Steve & Teresa Noyes—recovery
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—home isolation
Chad Bradford—heart surgery
Gary and Sharon Yarbrough
Larry Danner—cancer
Emily Jones, Tammy's daughter
Gina Harr—strength
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Pat Means—Mary Sharp's Sister
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Don and Marcia — house sale
Troy Griswold—cancer treatment
Gary & Peggy Fewins and family
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family

Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert
Ellen Blanton Lois Ulmer
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Louanne Laurence Leona Reynolds
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Kevin Duty Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
