

Repentance

Luke 3:7-14

Introduction: Many people tend to destroy the message rather than listen to the message (illustration of throwing away a cigarette package rather than quitting smoking. Noah, Jeremiah, Daniel, John the Baptizer all preached a message of repentance but were not listened to. But there is no salvation without repentance, Matthew 7:22-23.

I. Why Is Repentance Important?

- A. It's the first sermon preached
John (Luke 3), Jesus (Mk 1:14-15), Apostles (Acts 2 & 3)
- B. Only way to escape hell and be saved
Luke 13:3-5, Acts 3:19, Acts 20:21, Acts 17:30

II. Few Are Convinced Of Their Sinfulness

- A. Even good people must repent
Isaiah (6:5), Peter (Luke 5:8)
- B. Definition of sin
Ours: well I'm better than him (97% think going to heaven)
God's: his holiness compared to ours, Rom. 3:23, 6:23
Luke 10:13 (Capernium) Sodom & Gomorrah would still stand if they heard what you've heard.

III. Repentance Is Not

- A. Being sorry for sin (rich young ruler)
- B. Admitting Guilt, Numbers 14:40-44
- C. Fear of Punishment, Felix of Acts 24:25
- D. Doing good deeds to make up but remaining in sin

IV. Repentance Is

- A. A Change of Heart
- B. Ultimate Humility, Psalm 51)
- C. Turning Away (Saul to Paul)

V. Space To Repent

Revelation 2:21 I gave her time...

Our time is not promised, Are you ready to meet the Lord?