

Doctrine of Repentance

1. English definition of repentance: Remorse or contrition for past conduct or sin; it is the act or process of repenting. In the verb form it means: to feel remorse, contrition, or self-reproach for what one has done or failed to do; it means to be contrite; it means to feel such regret for past conduct as to change one's mind; it can also mean to make a change for the better as a result of remorse or contrition for ones sins.

2. Etymology:

2.1 In the Hebrew the common word so translated "repent" is **Nacham** and it means to change ones mind about some past thought or action and very often, though not always it has an emotional connotation attached.

2.2 In the Greek we have two verbs meaning to repent and unfortunately though their meanings vary they are both translated "repent."

2.2.1 There is the verb **Metanoieo**, as in our verse sixteen, which means to change one's mind based on a rational decision which more often than not has no emotional connotation. There is the verb **Metamelomai** which means to feel sorry about what one has done.

2.3 Again I would point out for emphasis. When translated in the New Testament the two are rendered "repent."

3. Let me provide a few uses of the Greek word **Metanoieo** - a word recall which means simply a change of mind.

3.1 Peter in an early message demands a change of mind about Christ for salvation.

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **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 Spirit.

3.2 Those saved under the evangelism of Jonah had a change of mind about Jehovah for salvation.

Mat 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they **repented** at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.

3.3 In the case of Esau he felt terrible and even cried that he had missed out on deliverance but he refused to "repent" i.e. to change his mind about Christ to come.

Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Heb 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of **repentance (Metanoia)**, though he sought it carefully with tears.

3.4 Jesus is told of a group of radical Galileans who had been executed by Pilate; their blood then had been apparently used in a blood ritual. Those conversing with Jesus thought they were lost eternally.

3.4.1 Jesus uses their tale to stress how without a change of mind, in this case about the Kingdom, there could be no salvation.

Luk 13:1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

Luk 13:2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?"

Luk 13:3 I tell you, no! But unless you **repent**, you too will all perish.

3.5 In a warning to the church at Laodicea as we will later see - believers are told they must change their mind about doctrine or they will be disciplined.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent (Metanoieo)**.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

4. Now let me provide two uses of **Metamelomai** - a word translated repent and one which has what we in the English think of as a "tearful or emotional meaning - repentance."

4.1 God did not feel sorry about making Christ a Priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 7:21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not **repent** [be sorry], Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

4.2 Judas Iscariot felt sorry for his act of betrayal.

Mat 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, **repented** himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Mat 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.