



# The Voice Of Truth

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## Repent or Perish

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Repentance is both necessary for salvation and difficult to bring about. Repentance is a universal command. Paul expressed himself on this by saying, "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent" (**Acts 17:30**). Paul says that all men should repent because God "hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained" (**Acts 17:31**). Motivation for repentance is the coming judgment.

God has required repentance under every dispensation! Repentance has always been one of the conditions God demands. Ezekiel tells us, "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions, so iniquity shall not be your ruin" (**Ezek. 18:30**). Peter says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (**2 Pet. 3:9**).

So what is repentance? Repentance is a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. "But what think ye? A man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to-day in the vineyard. And he answered and said I will not:

but afterward he repented himself, and went" (**Matt. 21:28-29**). Repentance means a change of mind. Repentance is a complete change of attitude, a change of mind. It is a turning from evil to righteousness. Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin, and act of turning around and going in the opposite direction (**2 Cor. 7:9-10**). Godly sorrow worketh repentance, but godly sorrow is not repentance, godly sorrow causes repentance. The sorrow which a man has for his sin will cause him to turn from his evil, to repent, to turn from the power of Satan to the power of God. ? "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil" (**Isa. 1:16**).

When one repents, it is well to burn the bridges on the way that leads back to sin. The opportunity to return to sin should be destroyed. "Many also of them that had believed came, confessing, and declaring their deeds. And not a few of them that practised magical arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver" (**Acts 19:18-19**). The Ephesians destroyed the opportunity to return to their old ways of doing. Remember what Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (**Luke**

13:5).

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PEOPLE YOU STAND WITH.  
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## Five Scriptures Christians Ignore

By J.S. Smith

In spite of our plea to speak as the Bible speaks and to live after the examples and doctrines of the apostles, we find that many Christians ignore scriptural commands and examples when they are inconvenient or unpleasant. It is precisely these occasions that the tempter uses to expose our faith as hollow. Here are five scriptures that Christians tend to ignore:

1. “Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:23-24). To the contrary, we find Christians resisting efforts to resolve conflicts and standing on pride instead of pursuing peace.

2. “Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone” (Matt. 18:15). No, we are more likely to see brethren telling anyone and everyone but the offender about the slight that occurred. We witness some brethren getting their feelings hurt and scampering off to another congregation with a grudge in their hearts and a chip on their shoulders. The last thing some will do in such a case is what Christ commanded.

3. “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). Receiving the word with readiness might include doing Bible class lessons, reading and studying at home and listening carefully to the sermon. Instead, some class books are never marred by a single pencil stroke, some Bibles could be left on the pew and never missed at home, and some sermons are lost in the din of grumbling stomachs and wristwatch tapping.

4. “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” (Heb. 10:24-25). If your presence would be such an exhortation, imagine the powerful discouragement of your willful absence. Whose faith is being tested and strained because you are not there to stir them up?

5. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). We are too caught up in the road rage, dog eat dog, me first ways of this world to let our lights shine. We keep the gospel in our church life compartment and strain never to expose our faith to anyone, lest they be offended. And then we wonder why more are not brought to the cross. Is it really any wonder?

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