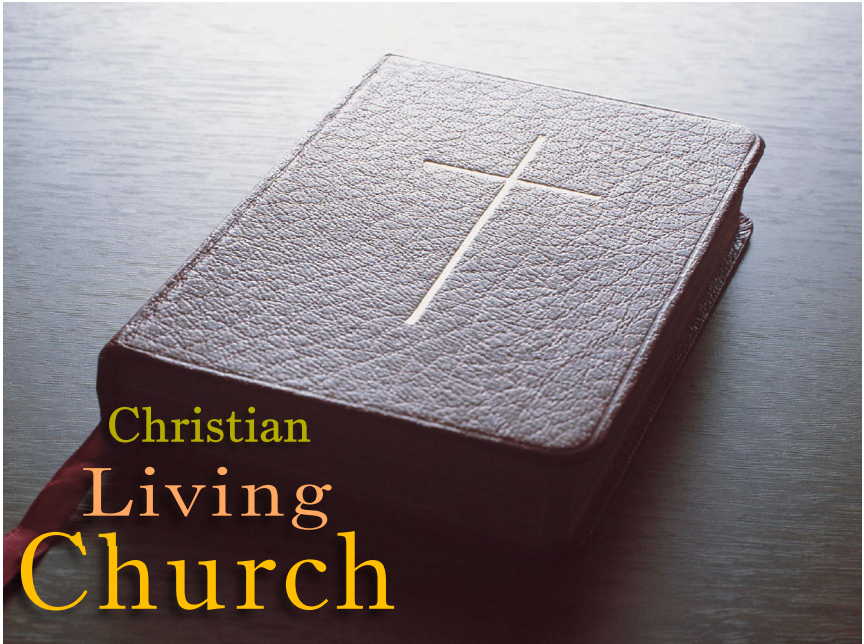


LESSON 1

# Repentance

“...And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of  
heaven is at hand.”



Christian  
Living  
Church

# Repentance



This series of lessons has been designed for private study or classroom presentation. The purpose of this foreword is to explain certain conventions utilized throughout the program. The overall concept is to begin with the basic concepts necessary for the new convert to understand and progress toward more complex doctrine. The lessons are numbered in order to maintain the proper sequence of study.

When Scripture references are encountered in the text, various actions are recommended. When in parenthetical bold (**Genesis 1:1**) the verse is to be looked up and read right away. Frequently, the next textual statement will comment on that verse. Reading verse and text in proper order will enhance one's understanding of the verse. Direct quotes from Scripture will be "*bold italicized and contained in quotation marks*" and, unless otherwise noted, will be from the King James Bible. When the reference is in parenthetical non-bold (Genesis 1:1) it is to provide the Scriptural basis for the statement if confirmation is desired. References in blue [Genesis 1:1](#) will be listed in the lesson section entitled **FURTHER STUDY**.

**FURTHER STUDY** is the "homework" section. Its purpose is to encourage Bible study at home. The referenced verses have a short summation to assist the student desiring more knowledge about a subject to find what they are looking for.

The **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** section is primarily for classroom use. Open discussion with the exchange of ideas produces growth for all involved. Most of the time the answer is contained in the referenced Scripture but sometimes the question is offered for open discussion. Even in private Bible study, analysis of the question and the search for its answer can be rewarding.

This work is offered to anyone with a desire to better understand God's Word. It is our hope and prayer that the person studying these lessons will come away with a better understanding of God's will and a closer walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With Loving Concern for all those seeking God's Message  
The Church of God Rocky Mount  
Rocky Mount, Virginia

# Key Verse: Matthew 3:2



“...And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

## Discussion Question:

What does the Key Verse mean to you?

The Bible says that all have sinned (**Romans 3:23**) and to be forgiven we need to repent. What does it mean to repent? The word rendered repent in the Old Testament comes from a Hebrew word meaning to turn back or away from, not necessarily with the idea of return to the starting point. The New Testament Greek word means to think differently, to reconsider, to feel compunction (regret). So we are told that we must turn away from something we regret having practiced and think differently about it, meaning that it is something we will never willfully approach again. That something is sin. Sin is identified by the law (**Romans 7:7**),

and therefore any violation of God's law is sin (**1 John 3:4**). Sin is a wall between us and a loving God who abhors sin because it's a failure to obey Him and that makes it a barrier that will prevent our entry into His Kingdom and life in the presence of His son, Jesus. The only other destiny that awaits us is eternal separation from God.

The initial step toward repentance is to realize that we are in a lost state, unconverted to the Christian Way of Life. The unconverted life is filled with evil thoughts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, pride, foolishness, things that defile a person (**Mark 7:21-23**). This is because in the unconverted, unrepentant life the flesh rules, and the works of the flesh are not centered on things spiritual, but on things selfish and rebellious (**Galatians 5:19-20**). The carnal mind (the mind of the flesh)

# Repentance



is the enemy of God because it is not subject to the law of God, in fact, it is unable to be so (**Romans 8:7**) because the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (**Jeremiah 17:9**). Even those who seem to be good, decent people, if they have not subjected themselves to obedience to Christ, are in the unconverted state. Righteousness is not enough to save you, for man's righteousness compared to God's is as filthy rags (**Isaiah 64:6**) because His thoughts and ways are so much higher than man's (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). There may be a way in the mind of man that *seems* good enough, but without repentance there will be no eternal life for him (**Proverbs 14:12**).

By this time it should be abundantly clear that no matter how good we think we are, we are not good enough! (**Matthew 7:21**). Realizing how inadequate we really are compared to God's goodness (**Job 42:6**), and

that our ways, from God's perspective, are evil and not good, we should loathe ourselves (**Ezekiel 36:31**). We must repent for the remission of our sins (**Acts 2:38**). First, try to understand that God *wants* the sinner to repent, it is His *divine desire* that all men repent, and if they do, He will keep His promise and give them eternal life (**Ezekiel 18:21**; **2 Peter 3:9**). Second, if you ignore the teaching of one explaining the need to repent, you hurt no one but yourself (**Ezekiel 33:9**; **18:20**) because it will be intolerable in the Day of Judgment for the unrepentant (**Luke 10:13-15**).



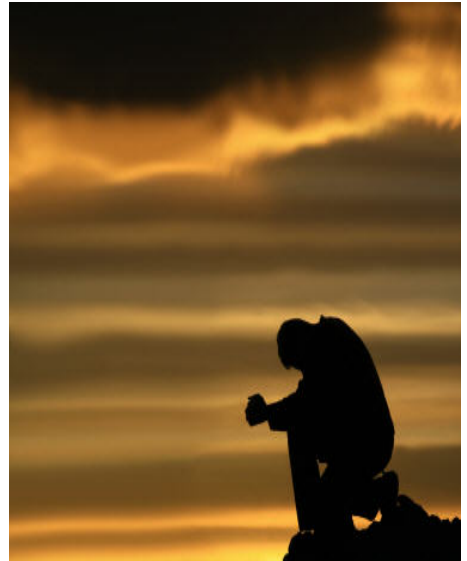
# Repentance



Third, you should obey God (**Acts 5:29**). It is the wisest course. Once one has comprehended the need for repentance by realizing their lost state and the cost of remaining so, the question arises, What must I do to repent? It isn't complicated. Admit that you have sinned, understand that it is against the LORD God because you have not obeyed Him, (**Jeremiah 3:13**) and pray much in the same way as David, King of Israel, prayed in Psalm 51:2-4:

*Wash me thoroughly from  
mine iniquity, and  
cleanse me from my sin.  
For I acknowledge my  
transgressions: and my  
sin is ever before me.  
Against thee, thee only,  
have I sinned, and done  
this evil in thy sight:  
that thou mightest be just-  
ified when thou  
speakest, and be clear  
when thou judgest.*

Sincerely expressed, this plea for mercy will be heard. Casting aside one's pride and trusting in His mercy is the attitude that God wants to see (**Isaiah 66:2**). Rejoice, the deep sorrow for your sins leads to salvation but the sorrow of the world ends in death (**2 Corinthians 7:9-10**). Your joy is in good company, because the angels will express joy with you (**Luke 15:10**), for now the Spirit of God dwells in you and you are His (**Romans 8:9**).



# Repentance



## Discussion Questions:

1. When you repent and ask God's forgiveness, what happens to your sins? **Isaiah 1:18; Colossians 2:13; Acts 3:19**

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2. What is one of the greatest obstacles to repentance?  
**Proverbs 16:18**

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3. What is the usual first act of obedience after repentance?  
**Acts 2:38**

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4. What are the four possible attitudes of repentance?  
**Matthew 13:3-23**

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# Repentance



## FURTHER STUDY:

**Romans 1:28-32** Those who do not retain God in their knowledge are worthy of death.

**Romans 3:10** There is not one righteous.

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