

Lesson 2

Humanity Changes Its Course: Repentance

There was a small boy who had a great appetite for sweet foods. He was especially fond of candy and cookies. One day his mother baked some cookies. She told him, “Son, I don’t want you to have any cookies until after dinner.”

He really wanted some of those delicious, tempting cookies. And as the day passed, his hunger and desire grew. Finally, he went very quietly into the kitchen and opened the cookie jar, taking only two or three cookies. But as he hurriedly replaced the lid, he overturned the jar and broke it. As his mother entered the room to see what had happened, he realized that he was going to be punished. He pleaded, “Mother, I’m sorry. Please don’t punish me. I’m sorry.” She was understanding and sympathetic, but firm, as she said, “Yes, I know you are sorry—but not because you disobeyed and took the cookies. You are sorry because you were caught.”

In this case, the boy was not repentant; rather, he was sorry for the consequences of his actions. In this lesson you will examine the difference between true *repentance* and concern over the *consequences* of sin. You will marvel at the nature of true repentance as you see how it begins the process of bringing together a loving and holy God and sinful people. And you will learn to appreciate more fully the sweet and gentle moving of the Holy Spirit that brings us to repentance.



lesson outline

Nature of Repentance
Aspects of Repentance
Relation to Restitution
New Testament Emphasis
Experience of Repentance

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Explain why repentance is a necessary part of the process of salvation.
- Analyze the aspects of repentance and explain the importance of each.
- Describe the experience of repentance and its results.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson outline carefully and read all of the lesson objectives.
2. Read Luke 15:11-24 through carefully several times.
3. Learn the meanings of key words that are new to you.
4. Study the lesson development and answer the study questions according to the procedure given in Lesson 1.
5. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson.

key words

consequences	idolatry	sovereignty
forsake	merit	yoke
grief	repentance	zeal
grieve	restitution	

lesson development

NATURE OF REPENTANCE

In Lesson 1 we learned that God provides salvation for all people. And through the atoning death of Christ, He made a way for them to come to Him. Also, we saw that the salvation He offers meets every spiritual need. And it leads to abundant life, great peace, supreme joy, and finally, eternal life. But for the wonderful process of salvation to begin, men and women must respond to God's offer. Our response begins with repentance.

The title of this lesson suggests that repentance produces change. To some people, repentance suggests an uncomfortable change, because they are content to live on in their self-centered ways. To others who are without hope and purpose, the light of the gospel offers a refreshing change: peace of mind, freedom from fear, and an unending hope. If they are to know the grace of our Lord Jesus that can change the hopeless, shake the careless, and produce changed lives, then repentance must be proclaimed. Repentance is an absolute condition of salvation (Luke 13:2-5). Repentance combined with faith produces conversion.

Definition of Repentance

Objective 1. *Recognize the meaning and identify examples of repentance.*

A small boy has defined repentance like this: "It is being sorry enough to quit." Repentance, like a coin, has two sides.

1. It is the act in which one *recognizes* and *turns* from sin, confessing it to God.
2. It is *more* than just turning away from one's sins—it means to leave them completely!

Repentance also includes the idea of feeling pity, suffering grief (sorrow), and comforting oneself. In addition, to repent means "to turn back, change a course of action." In this sense, *repent* indicates a change of mind or purpose.

1 In the following question circle the letter of the statement that gives the most complete definition of repentance. Repentance may be defined as

- a) feeling sorry about one's sins.
- b) turning from one's sins because they are causing someone to grieve.
- c) recognizing one's sins, feeling sorry about them, turning from them, and giving them up completely.



As you study the concept of repentance, you will notice some Scriptures that say that God “repented” of some action. Let’s examine what is meant by this expression.

2 Read the following Scriptures and explain why God “repented.” Notice the words used to describe His “change of mind.”

- a** Genesis 6:5-7
- b** Exodus 32:7-4
- c** 1 Samuel 15:11.....

These Scriptures show that God was grieved over the attitudes and actions of His people. Their sinfulness, disobedience, and rebellion against God’s revealed standard of conduct called for change.

3 Examine the following Scriptures closely: Psalm 147:5; Proverbs 15:11; Isaiah 46:10; and Hebrews 4:13. What do they teach us about God?

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We have learned that God knew in advance how people would respond to His grace and His revealed plan. But their free, though sinful natures, under the deadly influence of Satan, could not produce the righteous and holy character that God requires and longs for in His people. When He created man, or chose Israel, or selected Saul, He did not determine how each would respond to His grace, although He *knew* what the outcome would be. Each had the opportunity to respond positively, but did not do so. (We will consider the subject of God’s foreknowledge in greater depth in Lesson 5.)

Let us remember that God’s nature is unchanging. Everything He does is consistent with His nature. Thus, when God said to Nineveh, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be destroyed” (Jonah 3:4), we recognize His unchanging justice and righteousness. But when Nineveh repented, His other unchanging qualities—mercy and long-suffering—became evident as He “repented” and spared the city. God, in this example, did not change; the people of Nineveh did. All Scripture that refers to God’s “repenting” can be understood in this way.

4 Repentance, as seen in God’s response to those situations mentioned in this lesson, may be explained best as the

- a) action God took based upon His authority alone.
- b) response God made to mankind’s failure.
- c) unchanging purpose of God to judge, punish, and destroy humanity.

In the New Testament we see examples of repentance that show clearly what this word means. In Matthew 21:28-31 Jesus gives the Parable of the Two Sons. In this parable, the Father asked his older son to go and work in the vineyard. The son responded, "I will not," but later he *changed his mind* and went. The Greek word translated *changed his mind* (repentance) also means "to feel regret, experience a change of feelings, remorse." Other words used for repent and repentance give us the meaning of one who has arrived at a different view of things. This person has had a change of mind and heart. He has recognized his errors and shortcomings, is sincerely sorry for them, and is willing to forsake them. The person who repents demonstrates a different attitude toward sin and God from that point on.

Repentance may include a spirit of grief (Luke 18:13) and a broken spirit (Psalm 51:17). As we confess our sins, we may be greatly moved by their awfulness. Some, like Peter (Luke 22:62), may weep bitterly. But regardless of the extent of grief that one feels or expresses, the important thing is confessing the sins and deciding to forsake them. No amount of emotion will make up for confessing and forsaking sin.

- 5 Repentance, as seen in the New Testament words that explain it, represents
- a) the emotional response of a sinner to a sense of guilt.
 - b) regret for sins committed and a change of mind toward sin and God.
 - c) primarily a change of mind and attitude, but not a change of behavior.



Repentance includes a godly sorrow for sin. The regret of the truly repentant person involves a deep sadness of heart, not because he or she will be punished but for the terrible wrong done to the holy, loving, and gracious God. Paul speaks of this kind of sorrow to the Corinthian believers: "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

While it is imperative for you to recognize sin and confess it, it is equally important that you turn away from sin, forsaking it completely. You will remember the illustration of the boy's *sorrow* over disobeying his mother and breaking the cookie jar. His *sorrow* was not true repentance. Why? He had no intention of turning away from future temptations to satisfy his desire for sweets. *To repent is to turn away from sin.*

6 Read the following Scriptures and list the things that people *turn away from* when they repent.

- a 1 Thessalonians 1:9
- b Acts 14:13-15
- c Acts 26:18

Repentance is not just feeling sorrowful about our sinful actions. To truly repent, we must turn away from sin. For example, Maurice is caught cheating on his examination. The instructor punishes him by giving him a zero. Maurice regrets being caught and failing his test, but he is not at all sorry about the times he cheated and was *not* caught. He is *sorrowful* but not *repentant*. In fact, he is ready to cheat again at the first opportunity. Mary also cheats on an examination, but her conscience bothers her. She goes to her instructor, confesses her dishonesty, and offers to accept the penalty. She is truly repentant, because she has decided to stop cheating. Someone has said, “Heaven is full of repentant people who were once sinners; hell is full of regretful people.” Regret or sorrow for one’s actions is not enough; repentance is required if one is to be forgiven and is to know the joy of having sins forgiven.

7 Distinguish between an example of true repentance and an example of what is incomplete repentance (or just regret alone).

- a) A father, after becoming drunk, drives his car onto a busy highway, where he has a serious accident. His only child is killed, and two other people are badly injured. He is filled with sorrow and blames himself for the tragedy. He decides to forget about it by again getting drunk.
- b) Alonzo runs with a very rough gang of street fighters. His gang beats a young man to death. Alonzo’s conscience bothers him. He recognizes the awfulness of his crime and confesses his part in it to the police. He breaks away from the gang also. He is required to report regularly to the police and follow their instructions for a year, and he begins a new life as a law-abiding citizen.

In Question 7, you saw that there was a difference between Alonzo and the father. The father was deeply sorrowful for his error, but he continued to do the thing that caused the tragic accident. Alonzo, however, was more than sorrowful. He recognized his errors and then made a decision—he had a change of mind and heart—and broke away from his life of crime.

In Luke 16:19-31 we see the rich man in hell crying out for pity. He was full of sorrow, but it was too late for him to repent. Those who do not repent now will some day weep and wail in sorrow (Matthew 13:42, 50; Luke 13:28), but not in true repentance. One day they will cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from God’s judgment (Revelation 6:16,17) *because* they were unwilling to turn from their sin.



FREEDOM FROM SIN

Sorrow without a genuine change of mind and heart leads only to despair. But true repentance, which is the godly sorrow that leads to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10), involves a change of mind and heart. Sorrow over our failures, shortcomings, and errors (without the change of heart and mind), makes us place our attention on our own weakness and sins. This kind of sorrow even makes us hate ourselves—even though we may love sinning. But repentance opens wide the door of God’s mercy and pardon. True repentance helps us to see beyond our unhappy, miserable condition to the cross of Christ—where there is freedom, light, and life.

8 Choose the statement below which best describes the meaning of repentance (as it is presented in the Word of God).

- a) A person finds himself overcome by weakness and failure. He is guilty of either breaking the laws of God or of failing to observe them. Finding himself miserable, guilty, filled with sorrow and hating himself because of his weakness, he decides to work harder and perform good works, to make up for his sinful ways.
- b) A person recognizes that he is guilty of breaking God’s laws or of not keeping them. He sees the awfulness of his sins and is deeply sorrowful. He confesses his sins and determines to stop sinning.

In answer a) we see a tendency that has led some people to completely misunderstand the nature of repentance. That is the idea that we can gain the favor of God by doing good works. As we have seen, repentance, when it is united with faith in Christ, produces conversion, while doing good works is part of an unscriptural plan to gain merit before God. Nothing can be added to Christ’s work of atonement. Moreover, a person may do good works without ever forsaking sin, and he or she may mistakenly believe that as long as he or she does good deeds, it is okay to continue in sin. But in repentance a sinner *must* recognize his or her sins, *turn away from them*, confess them to God, and forsake them completely. It is only in this way that sins will be forgiven; only in this way will we enjoy the benefits of God’s great salvation.

ASPECTS OF REPENTANCE

Objective 2. *Identify the three aspects of repentance and explain their significance.*

Scriptural repentance has three aspects or ideas: the intellectual, the emotional, and the volitional (which we will refer to as “an act of the will”). To illustrate these aspects of repentance, let us consider the following example. Suppose you were traveling on a bus and suddenly realized that you were on the wrong bus and traveling in the opposite direction from your desired destination. This knowledge corresponds to the *intellectual aspect* by which a person recognizes,

through the ministry of the Word, that he or she is not right with God. You are disturbed when you discover that you are traveling to the wrong destination. You become anxious, maybe even fearful. These *feelings* illustrate the *emotional aspect* of repentance, which is a self-accusation and genuine sorrow for having offended God (2 Corinthians 7:9,10). You leave the bus at the first opportunity and find the right one. This decision illustrates *an act of will*: to make a complete turn-about and to begin traveling in God’s direction. This simple illustration shows that true repentance affects the intellect, the emotions, and the will of the repentant sinner.

9 Identify each of the three aspects of repentance by matching the number of the aspect on the right with its correct definition on the left.

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|--------|---|-----------------------|
| a | Involves a decision to change directions | 1) Intellectual |
| b | Deals with recognition of the fact that one is not right with God | 2) Emotional |
| c | Involves the change of feelings one has in relation to sins he or she has committed | 3) An act of the will |

The cost of turning from our sins is high: “Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33). Repentance involves every part of our life. It means not merely recognition of sins and sorrow over the past, but also our intentions for the future. It is the forsaking of our own way to go God’s way in obedience and fellowship with Him.

Often we hear messages that stress the appeal of Jesus, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened” (Matthew 11:28), but He who says “come” to the burdened sinner says also, “Take my yoke upon you” (v.30). We cannot “*simply* accept Jesus and be saved,” with no strings attached. It is impossible to accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior without involving our intellect, emotions, and will, which include every aspect of life: our affections, desires, and intentions. We must totally surrender to the Lordship of Christ and accept His yoke.

10 Explain how each of these is involved in repentance.

- a Intellect
- b Emotions
- c Will

RELATION TO RESTITUTION

Objective 3. *State the relationship between repentance and restitution.*

In Luke 3:3-18 John the Baptist preached the Good News to the people and urged them to change their ways. In verse 8 he urged them to “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” Here John was asking for evidence that would prove that their repentance was genuine. Paying back what we have wrongfully taken, or making right a wrong we have done, is called *restitution*.

Restitution is a principle that is introduced in the Old Testament Law (Exodus 22:1; Leviticus 6:5; Numbers 5:6,7). Although the custom of making restitution for the wrong we have done is biblical and time-honored, we must understand that in itself, it does not save a person.

- 11** Read Luke 3:8-14 and 19:2-10, and circle the letter of each TRUE statement.
- a** From Luke 3:12,13 and 19:8 we learn that Zacchaeus was reluctant to recognize his sins.
 - b** In Luke 19:8 we see that Zacchaeus had truly repented.
 - c** By comparing Luke 3:8-14 with 19:2-10 we learn that restitution is a declaration to God and others that we have turned from our old way of life.

Restitution is a visible evidence of our decision to turn from sin to Christ. It supports our testimony that we are following a new Master. Although restitution is not a means of salvation it is a healthy indication that we have experienced God’s saving grace.

12 State the relationship between repentance and restitution.

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NEW TESTAMENT EMPHASIS

A Continuous Message

Objective 4. *List four New Testament persons who preached repentance and state the emphasis of each.*

The Bible declares that repentance is the first step in the soul’s return to God (Ezekiel 14:6; 18:30; Malachi 3:7; Luke 13:3, 5). Without repentance no one can be saved. Thus, the plea to repent is primary in God’s call to people in both the Old and New Testaments. The compelling and urgent plea of Old Testament prophets, ending with Malachi, was revived in the powerful message of repentance proclaimed by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2, 8, 11; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3, 8).

There is a definite development of the use of the word *repentance* in the New Testament. In the New Testament alone the words *repent* and *repentance* occur 64 times. From a desert of Judea, John the Baptist sounded the warning to the Jewish people that they should repent in view of the coming of the Messiah (Matthew 3:1-12). His message of repentance produced great results among the people, and multitudes repented and reconsecrated their lives to God. Undoubtedly many of these people who sincerely responded to John’s preaching were among the thousands who came into the church on the Day of Pentecost and following.

Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee and like John He declared, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” (Matthew 4:17; compare with Mark 1:15). In Matthew 4:17 (TEV), the definition of *repent* is: “Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom of heaven is near.” Repentance continued to have a prominent place in the preaching of Jesus and His disciples (Matthew 11:21,22; 12:41; Luke 5:32; Mark 6:12).

One of the last commandments Jesus gave before He returned to heaven was that repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8). But the fully developed message of repentance and faith appears in the Book of Acts, where it is emphasized from beginning to end. Peter preached *repentance for salvation from sin* on the Day of Pentecost and thousands repented (Acts 2:38). He continued with this same message soon afterward, and again many people repented of their sins and turned to God (Acts 3:19). In his later ministry through letters, he said of the Lord: “He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).



JOHN THE BAPTIST



JESUS



APOSTLE PAUL

Paul preached *repentance* to the city council in Athens (Acts 17:30). And in summarizing his ministry he said, “I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus” (Acts 20:21). He adds this fact about the ignorance of repentance: “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

13 In your notebook, list four New Testament persons who preached, and state the emphasis of each.

14 Circle the letter of the TRUE statements that concern the New Testament emphasis on repentance.

- a** The theme of repentance indicates God’s call to people to acknowledge Him.
- b** John the Baptist’s call to repentance was a continuation of the urgent plea of the Old Testament prophets for a return to righteousness.
- c** The message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins preached by Peter and Paul was limited to Jews alone.
- d** Repentance was a major theme of John the Baptist, Jesus and His disciples, and the early church.

Repentance is an oft-repeated theme in the Bible. For as long as there is need for salvation from sin, there is a need for repentance. This has been true since the fall of man, and it will be true until the time of grace and opportunity to repent has passed.

Who Should Repent

Objective 5. *Identify who should repent and why.*

The call to repentance is universal. “God has overlooked the times when people did not know him, but now he commands *all of them everywhere to turn away from their evil ways*” (Acts 17:30, TEV). Every person is included in this call. All those who have never believed in Christ are invited to repent, receive God’s forgiveness, and become a part of His family (John 3:15-17; Titus 2:11; Revelation 22:17).

Also, those who have already believed in Christ and become His followers are called to repentance. Sometimes Christians lose their zeal for Christ as their love for Him grows cold. Christians in the church at Ephesus were guilty of this (Revelation 2:5). They were urged to repent and renew their relationship with Christ. Others, such as those at Laodicea, became so spiritually indifferent that their very spiritual life was threatened (Revelation 3:15-17). True repentance is the only cure for the spiritually dead, indifferent, or unresponsive. Repentance is the only way back to God whenever there has been failure and sin. God’s promise of forgiveness if we confess our sins

(1 John 1:9) is directed primarily to Christians, although it can be applied to anyone who is ready to repent.

15 Choose the statements below which correctly state *who* should repent and the reasons *why* they should repent.

- a) Every person who has not believed in Christ is invited to repent of his or her sins and follow Christ.
- b) Christians who are overtaken by sin, lose their first love, or become spiritually unresponsive are called upon to repent to maintain a clear conscience before God.
- c) Christians, like non-Christians, must repent for salvation.

EXPERIENCE OF REPENTANCE

Objective 6 Explain why repentance is necessary, how it is produced, and what are its results.

Why Is It Necessary?

To the question, “Why is repentance necessary?” we may respond: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). This includes all of us; no one is excluded (except the Lord Jesus Christ). You may recall from Lesson 1 that sin is failing to live according to the law of God or else breaking His law. The switch operator who fails to put down the safety gate and thus causes the express train to hit a car full of unsuspecting people who are killed is as guilty of causing death as a criminal who willfully shoots and kills a person. The switch operator is guilty of the *sin of omission*; for he knew what was required of him, but he failed to do it (James 4:17). The criminal who willfully shoots and kills another person is guilty of the *sin of commission*. He is guilty of breaking the law (1 John 3:4). Whether our sins are those of *omission* (failing to do what is commanded) or *commission* (doing what is forbidden), we may be sure that all wrongdoing is sin (1 John 5:17).



Having sinned, we stand guilty before God. The law demands payment of a penalty. And since sin pays its wages, death (Romans 6:23), in our sinful state we stand condemned and without help. But God offers pardon and eternal life for all who accept His forgiveness.

16 Explain why repentance is necessary. Use your notebook if you need more space.

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How Is It Produced?

Paul says in Romans 2:4 (TEV), “Surely you know that God is kind, because he is trying to lead you to repent.” God in mercy and love leads people to repentance (John 6:44), but He uses a number of ways to bring them to this experience. One way is *through the ministry of the Word of God* in general. When Jonah preached God’s Word to the people of Nineveh, they believed it and gave up their wicked behavior and evil actions (Jonah 3:4, 8, 10).

In addition, *the preaching of the cross produces repentance*. The message of God’s love demonstrated at the cross moves people greatly. It appeals to those who are miserable and helpless in their sins—those in need of spiritual healing (Matthew 9:13). Such love, which provides a way for unworthy human beings to be forgiven, leads to repentance.

A fresh vision of God also brings repentance. When Job saw the majesty of God revealed, he despised himself and repented (Job 42:1-6). You see, then, that the goodness of God leads us to repentance through God’s Word in general, through the preaching of the cross, and by means of a fresh vision of God. There are other means that He uses as well.

Have you ever heard it said that “the only time some people look up is when they are flat on their backs”? A loving Heavenly Father must often permit more drastic events to overtake us to get us to recognize our own need (Revelation 3:19). *Sometimes troubles, sicknesses, or tragedies help us to recognize our need for God*. Remember, it wasn’t until the prodigal son recognized the awfulness of his problem that he “came to his senses,” repented, and turned toward home (Luke 15:17-20).

Sometimes God uses *the example or witness of godly and dedicated* Christians to bring people to repentance. We may be sure that God will use whatever means are required in order to speak to the hearts of people.

17 Name some of the means God uses to bring people to repentance.

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What Are Its Results?

The results of repentance are great, indeed. Repentance produces joy in the heart of the sinner, and at the same time it creates joy in heaven as the angels of God rejoice (Luke 15:10). Repentance opens the door that leads to faith and the forgiveness of sins. John says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

In addition to the wonderful joy the sinner experiences when he or she repents; there are other beautiful benefits. When Job repented, God healed him and restored his children and his material blessings (Job 42:10-17). And when Jonah repented, God rescued him at the point of death (Jonah 2:1-10). Moreover, God promised that if His people would repent and turn away from their evil deeds, then He would hear them in heaven, forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Imagine that salvation is like a chain and then think of repentance, faith, and conversion as links in this chain. As each link in a chain is separate, so in the “chain of salvation.” Each link is separate and yet it is linked to each of the other “links.” As the process of repentance begins, it ignites a “chain reaction,” in which faith, conversion, regeneration, justification, and adoption are joined to produce the miraculous experience of salvation.

CONVERSION



REPENTANCE

FAITH

FORGIVENESS

18 State some of the results of repentance.

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self-test

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter of the correct answer in each of the following questions.

- 1** Repentance is important in the process of salvation because it
 - a) is the first step in a return to God.
 - b) demonstrates the worthiness of the one who repents.
 - c) expresses sorrow, which is the most important part of repentance.
- 2** Repentance is best defined as
 - a) the evident sorrow for sins.
 - b) recognizing sin, feeling sorry for what we have done, confessing it to God, and forsaking it completely.
 - c) the knowledge of shortcomings and the desire to do better.
- 3** The story of the rich man in hell, who cried out for pity, teaches us that
 - a) some people tend to recognize their sins at a late stage of life.
 - b) we ought to carefully review our lives from time to time to see if we are doing what we feel is right.
 - c) those who do not repent now will one day weep in sorrow . . . when it is too late.
- 4** The various aspects of repentance teach us that
 - a) every part of our being is concerned with the act of repentance.
 - b) basically, repentance is a simple step, and it costs us little or nothing.
 - c) repentance is a gift of God; therefore, it is an act in which people have no part.
- 5** While repentance has a prominent place throughout the Bible, we see that
 - a) repentance has a less prominent place in the New Testament because the emphasis now is on grace.
 - b) repentance outside the Gospels is not prominent and is therefore unimportant in the New Testament.
 - c) there is a full development of the teaching of repentance in the New Testament.
- 6** According to biblical teaching, who should repent? (Circle the best answer.)
 - a) Those who have never believed in Christ should repent.
 - b) Christians who fail God and become spiritually indifferent, and all sinners, are urged to repent.
 - c) Repentance is the requirement for the elect only.
- 7** Repentance, as we have learned in this lesson, is produced by the
 - a) goodness (kindness) of God alone. It is a gift and therefore we have no part in the act.
 - b) goodness of God. And the means He uses are the message of the Word in general, the preaching of the cross, a vision of God, or circumstances of difficulty, sickness, and tragedy.
 - c) good nature of people, who demonstrate their willingness to go God's way after they have carefully considered the consequences of their sins.
- 8** The Bible declares that repentance is necessary because
 - a) all people are guilty of sin.
 - b) it is a requirement for all people whether or not they are guilty of sin.
 - c) it is an evidence that people's intentions are right.

9 Circle the letter of the most complete answer. The results of repentance are that

- a) the sinner is filled with joy, as are his or her family members and community.
- b) heaven rejoices with the sinner who turns to God.
- c) the world is filled with joy over the change brought about by the act.

10 Restitution is a biblical teaching. Its chief value lies in the fact that

- a) it produces merit before God.
- b) it gives this message to the world: the one making the restitution has changed.
- c) it secures salvation for the one who performs it.

11 MATCHING. Identify the aspects of repentance by matching each aspect (right) to its correct definition or application (left).

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| a Celia feels sorry for the sins she has committed. | 1) Intellectual |
| b Henry realizes that his life is not pleasing to God. | 2) Emotional |
| c Eric decides to quit his life of sin completely. | 3) An act of the will |
| d The prodigal son says, "I will arise and go to my father." | |
| e The prodigal son comes to his senses. | |
| f The prodigal sorrows over the awfulness of his problems. | |

answers to study questions

- 10** Your answer may be worded slightly different from ours.
- a** The intellectual aspect of repentance deals with the recognition of our guilt and unworthiness before God.
 - b** The emotional aspect concerns the sorrow and shame we *feel* because of our sin against God's grace and love.
 - c** The aspect of will in repentance concerns the act of the will which results in forsaking our sins and turning to God.
- 1** c) recognizing one's sins, feeling sorry about them, turning from them, and giving them up completely.
- 11** **a** False.
b True.
c True.
- 2** **a** God *repented* because of people's wickedness. He was *sorry* that he had created them.
b God *repented* because Israel sinned and rejected Him. He "changed His mind."
c God *repented* because of Saul's disobedience. God said He was sorry that He had made Saul king.
- 12** Restitution is evidence of true repentance. It cannot save, but it does testify that we have undergone a change.
- 3** God has full and complete knowledge of all things.
- 13** John the Baptist preached repentance and emphasized the Messiah's coming. Jesus also preached repentance for the forgiveness of sins and that the kingdom was near. Peter preached repentance and emphasized saving faith. Paul based his ministry to Jews and Gentiles on the message of repentance (Acts 20:21).
- 4** b) response God made to humanity's failure.
- 14** **a** True.
b True.
c False.
d True.
- 5** b) regret for sins committed and a change of mind toward sin and God.
- 15** Answers a) and b) are correct. Answer c) is not correct, since Christians don't repent for salvation. They repent in order to maintain a clear conscience and fellowship with their Lord.
- 6** **a** Idols.
b Idolatry and superstition.
c Darkness and Satan.
- 16** All of us are guilty of sinning. We have failed to do God's will and we are guilty of breaking His laws. The penalty for unrepentant sinners is death, but for all who repent God offers pardon and salvation.
- 7** b) Alonzo runs with a very rough gang of street fighters . . .

17 God's goodness leads us to repentance. The means He uses are: His Word in general, the preaching of the cross, and a vision of God. Trouble, sickness, and tragedy may also bring us to repentance. The lives of Christians, as well as their witness, are means God uses to bring others to repentance.

8 b) A person recognizes that he or she is guilty of breaking God's laws . . .

18 Repentance causes joy in the repentant sinner and in heaven. It precedes faith and leads to forgiveness. It is the first link in the chain of salvation.

9 a 3) An act of the will.

b 1) Intellectual.

c 2) Emotional.