

ESSENTIAL TESTAMENT  
NEW WORDS

Grace Perseverance Time Sin  
Gospel Repentance Faith Word  
Self-Control Wisdom  
Sacrifice  
Life

## Session 4: Repentance

# **1.METANOIA: THE PRIMARY WORD FOR REPENTANCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- The word “metanoia” is used 22 times in the New Testament, and its singular meaning is “repent from sin, evil”, leading to a change in heart and practice to the person experiencing metanoia.

- Another common interpretation for the word is to turn around, to forget the sin that has been committed.



## **Examples from the New Testament:**

**Matthew 3:8: “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”**

**Acts 20:21: “I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.”**

**Romans 2:4: “Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?”**

**2 Timothy 2:25: “Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.”**

**•Repentance is seen in these verses as an active occurrence in the lives of Christians as well as God's leading a person to repentance. The reality is all repentance is from God with the help of the Holy Spirit. Martin Luther says in the explanation to the 3rd article of the Apostles' Creed, "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."**

## **PARTNER WORDS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**Metanoeo – Verb meaning  
“to perceive afterwards”,  
or “to repent.”**

**Ametameletos – Adjective  
meaning “not repentant  
of.”**

## **BIBLICAL VIEWS OF SIN**

- 1. Repentance as an act of fear**  
**Genesis 33: Jacob meeting Esau and fearing for his life**  
**Genesis 50:15-21: Joseph's brothers fearing for their lives after Jacob their father died**

## **2. Repentance as an act of sorrow**

**2 Samuel 12:12, Psalm 51:  
David's sorrow over his sin  
against God**

**Matthew 26:75: Peter's sorrow  
over disowning Jesus**

# **Repentance that leads to a change of heart and life**

**See David's change of heart – still suffered consequences of his sin, but always remained committed to the Lord, as is evidenced by his many Psalms written following his sin.**

**See Peter's change of heart – lived his life for Jesus, even facing death by crucifixion.**

# **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIBLICAL TEACHING OF REPENTANCE FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

## **A current example of repentance**

**2 years ago a youth pastor in Texas confessed to killing a convenience store clerk when he was a teenager over a decade earlier. The murderer was never caught and brought to justice, and even after he turned his life over to the Lord he never really knew the peace that God had for him. He had repented of his sin before his God, but knew he still needed to repent and suffer the consequences on this earth. His parishioners were shocked at his revelation; they knew him as a loving and Godly man. But in the end, the need for repentance led him to a confession that landed him in jail.**

## **Some questions:**

- 1. It is a very dangerous and deadly mistake to remain indifferent and unconcerned over a physical infection. If left unattended, seemingly insignificant wounds can become deadly. How does the devil tempt you to remain unconcerned about the seemingly harmless spiritual infection of sin?**
- 2. Repentance is also connected to believing. How does faith and belief help a person be repentant?**
- 3. Can a repentant person be stuck in the same sins over and over again?**