

Athens: Times Of Ignorance Part 2

Acts 17:16-31

God Commands Repentance

Acts 17:30-31

God Commands Repentance

Acts 17:30-31 "All men everywhere..."
Rom 3:23 "for all have sinned..."
Rom 4:15 "...where there is no law,
neither is there transgression."

Therefore, **all** are under law!

Demands of Repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- "What **MUST** we DO...?"

How do you show repentance?

- Steal a man's watch... you give it back!
 - Steal a man's car... you give it back!
 - Steal a man's wife... you keep her???
- (cf. Mark 6:17-18)

Offended party may concede a watch or a car
(Acts 5:4), but can't give his wife the right to
marry another. (Mt. 5:32; 19:9)

Demands of Repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- **DESIRE TO REPENT** – Luke 3:10
 - Effect of gospel on the heart – Acts 2: 37-38
 - Godly sorrow for one's sin – 2 Cor. 7:10; cf. Mt. 26:69-27:5
 - cf. Simon - Acts 8:20-23, 24

Demands of Repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- Positive – Something to be done.
Luke 3:10-11

Demands of Repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- Negative - Some things "must" be stopped – *Luke 3:10-14*
 - Repudiation of sin
 - Ephesian idolaters – *Acts 19:18-19*

Demands of Repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- SOME THINGS "MUST" BE DONE – *Luke 3:11-14*
 - Restitution of wrong (as able)
 - **Zacchaeus** – *Luke 19:8-9 (Lev. 6:1-7)*
 - "In vain may anyone tell me that he repents... stealing my horse while he continues to ride him without my consent..." (*Brents, page 191*)

Demands of Repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- SOME THINGS "MUST" BE DONE – *Luke 3:11-14*
 - Reformation of conduct
 - Regret (sorrow) causes change – cf. *Ps. 51:17*
Mt. 21:28-32; Luke 15:18; 1 Cor. 6:9-11
 - Rebuked for not learning this – *Mt. 21:31-32*

Demands of Repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- COSTLY – *Luke 14:25-33*
 - Giving up sin – *Eph. 4:17-24*
 - The cost can be very great – *Acts 19:19*

Demands of Repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- EMOTIONAL – *Ezra 10:44*
 - Does not change the nature or the demands of repentance
 - Liar – *Eph. 4:25*
 - Thief – *Eph. 4:28*
 - Adulterer – *1 Cor. 6:9-11*

Does Not Remove Temporal Consequences

- Convicted murderer does not escape death penalty. **Acts 25:11**
- Convicted thief does not escape “due reward.” **Luke 23:40-43**
- Convicted prodigal does not regain wasted money. **Luke 15:13**
- Convicted adulterer not free to “marry another” or continue adultery. **Mt. 19:9**

What Produces Repentance?

- **Bible preaching.** *cf. Jonah 3:1-2*
– “Preach the preaching that I bid thee.” *cf. Luke 11:32*
- **The goodness of God.** *Romans 2:4*
- **The Judgment to come.** *Acts 17:30-31; John 12:48; Hebrews 10:31*
- **Godly sorrow.** *2 Corinthians 7:10*

Fruits of Repentance- “For behold...” 2 Corinthians 7:11

- Can see the effects of repentance!
 - **Earnest care** – Haste (with care) to correct sin
 - **Clearing** – Diligent change answered critics. Matthew 5:16

Fruits of Repentance- “For behold...” 2 Corinthians 7:11

- **Indignation** – Displeasure over previous sin. *cf. 1 Tim. 1:12*
- **Fear** – Dread of not pleasing God. *2 Cor. 5:11; Of the apostle Paul. 1 Cor. 4:18ff; Of further contamination. 1 Cor. 5:6*
- **Longing** – Earnest desire to do & be right ... to maintain fellowship with what is right. *cf. Luke 15*

Fruits of Repentance- “For behold...” 2 Corinthians 7:11

- Can see the effects of repentance!
 - **Zeal** – Fervent spirit, not apathetic neglect. *cf. Zeal without knowledge. Rom. 10:1-2*
 - **Avenging** – Sin no longer tolerated. *1 Cor. 5; cf. 2 Cor. 2:6*
 - **Approved yourselves to be pure** – Pure in the matter

Efforts to Avoid Repentance

- Deny the existence of sin.
- Deny personal guilt. **1 Sam. 15:13,15**
- Transfer responsibility for sin. **Ezek. 18:20**
– Calvinism, society, drugs, genes, bad home environment, etc. *cf. Rom. 12:1-2*
- Cover up sin. **1 Sam. 11**
- Harm those who expose sin. **Mt. 14; Mk. 6; cf. Gal. 4:16**

**God's Command To
Those In Athens**

- Repent & escape the wrath to come! (*Luke 3:7-8*)

**God's Command To
You**

- Repent & escape the wrath to come! (*Luke 3:7-8*)