



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

27 Sep – 3 Oct, 2020

Faith and repentance, part 2

**‘So Samuel said, ‘When you were little in your own eyes,
were you not head of the tribes of Israel?
and did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?’ 1 Samuel 15:17**

Repentance yields to freedom from the power of sin

- † Through repentance and full confidence in His Lord's mercy and love, Saint Paul was freed from his sins. *‘For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed’ 1 Cor 15:9-11*
- † Every time we come to the Lord with a change of heart, He says, *‘Your sins are forgiven’ Lk 7:48*
- † Saint John Climacus writes: Where there is real humility, all bonds are made free

Good repentance vs bad repentance

- † King Saul's repentance was not genuine **(1 Sm 15)**
 - He made excuses that his actions were dictated by his circumstances **(1 Sm 13:11-12; 15:13, 15, 24)**
 - His repentance was calculated in a way to minimize the consequences of sin **(1 Sm 15:25-31)**
 - His repentance was short lived **(1 Sm 15:25)**
- † The repentance of Judas was not genuine too and he ended in hanging himself **(Mt 27: 4)**
- † King David's repentance and the prodigal son's repentance were holy (previous lesson)
- † The criminal on the cross repented and put His life in the Lord's hands **(Lk 23:39-42)**

- He feared the Lord and did not give excuses to his sins
- He humbled himself and relied on God's grace trusting His judgment

Misconceptions about repentance

† Feeling terrible about yourself

- Some people believe that repentance is sincere only when you despise yourself because you are a hopeless sinner
- This is what Judas did. This is not repentance

† Feeling regret

- Repentance brought about only because of the consequence of what was done, and the regret that comes with it. There is no repentance because the sin was evil, but because of the punishment that will be received because of it. For example, feeling sorry you were caught cheating in an exam. If you were not caught you would not have been as sorry
- Let us remember that Christ is nearer to us than we are to ourselves. What I care about is Christ not the world

† Getting rid of all tendencies to sin

- Some people think that true repentance can only happen when we are able to rid ourselves of that tendency to sin. But that will never happen. What we can do, however, is to say no to that temptation. This is the reason why many Christians do not go to Confession, saying, 'Why will I confess when I am just going to sin again?'

† All of the above may be effects of repentance but are not repentance in itself. All of these focus on feelings, repentance is much more objective and concrete; it is a decision

What must we do to repent? (4 H's)

† Honesty

- Call sin a sin
- *'I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord' Ps 32:5*

† Humility

- Admit you fell into sin because you are weak. You need God to overcome your sins

† Hate the sin and not the sinner

- **If you hate sin you will stay away from it and you will not make any justifications for doing it**

† **Have a good confession**

Repentance is movement toward goodness, wholeness and joy

† **It looks not down into hell, but up into Heaven**

† **Its fruits are freedom, hope, peace, joy, and victory in the spiritual war**

† **It is a renewal of baptism, a baptism of tears that washes away our sins and purifies the soul, giving us a clean slate and a fresh start**

Basic Teachings

The Ten Commandments

- 1. I am the Lord your God, do not worship any god other than Me**
- 2. Do not make any idols of any type**
- 3. Do not misuse God's Name**
- 4. Remember to keep the Sabbath Holy**
- 5. Honor your father and your mother**
- 6. Do not kill**
- 7. Do not commit adultery**
- 8. Do not steal**
- 9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor**
- 10. Do not covet (*Ex 20:1-17*)**

Bibliography

- 1. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version**
- 2. Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for all Walks of Life, by Vassilios Papavassiliou, (Indiana, Ancient Faith Publishing, 2013), Kindle Edition**
- 3. Ascending the Heights: A Layman's Guide to the Ladder of Divine Ascent, by Father John Mack, (California: Conciliar Press, 1999)**
- 4. The Ladder of Divine Ascent, by John Climacus, (New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1982)**

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance' Matthew 3:8

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Orthodox Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
أؤمن بإله واحد
أب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يُرى وما لا يُرى
وبربٍ واحدٍ يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساوٍ للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وتألم وتأس
وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم وقُبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث على ما في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الأب
وأيضًا يأتي بمجدٍ
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
وبالروح القدس
الربّ المحيي
المنبثق من الأب
الذي هو مع الأب والإبن
مسجود له ومُجدد
الناطق بالأنبياء
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
وأعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين