

Repentance from Dead Works

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 01 June 2019

Text

1Pe 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking,

1Pe 2:2 As new born babes, **desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

1Pe 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance from dead works**, and of faith toward God,

Heb 6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Heb 9:14 **How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

I. **Jews & Sinai Covenant**

- a. The Book of Hebrews was addressed primarily to Jews.
- b. The Jews believed that keeping God's laws was the only means of remaining upright with God.
- c. They relied on the sacrificial system and strict law keeping to somehow pay for past sins and justify themselves to God.

II. **Dead Works**

Clark's Commentary defines dead works as "such works as deserve death—works of those who were dead in trespasses, and dead in sins, and dead by sentence of the law, because they had by these works broken the law"

- a. In the Book of Hebrews, Paul emphasises the truth that faith in the sacrifice of Yashua Maschiach is the only way to have our sins forgiven.
- b. Keeping God's laws is essential, but law keeping can never save anyone because of the **Law of Sin & Death**:

Rom 6:23 **For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Rom 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Rom 8:2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from **the law of sin and death.***

- c. Christians can never be justified by any form of works, even good works.
- d. These “dead works” are works performed as required by man-made religions
- e. They can also be so-called “good works” (whether moral or ceremonial) that people do — to make themselves acceptable to God.
- f. They are “dead” because they are not the product of the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, but the mere attempt on the part of unregenerate sinners to justify themselves before God.

III. **Dead Works Are Filthy Rags**

Isa 64:4 *For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.*

Isa 64:5 *Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.*

Isa 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;** and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

Php 3:8 *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

Php 3:9 *And be found in him, **not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:***

- a. All human attempts at righteousness amount to filthy rags [cloth used by women in menstruation.
- b. Self-righteousness: e.g, Job

Job 32:1 *So these three men ceased to answer Job, because **he was righteous in his own eyes.***

Job 32:2 *Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because **he justified himself rather than God.***

Job 32:3 *Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.*

- c. Job was righteous in his own eyes
- d. He tried to justify himself rather than be justified by Elohim

IV. **Dead Works Cannot Save**

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

Eph 2:10 For we **are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- a. Our own works cannot save us
- b. In our re-generation, the Holy Spirit will lead us into good works according to YAHWEH's plan for each of us.
- c. These Spirit-led good works will result in Heavenly rewards for us.

V. **Repentance: Definition & Steps**

Mat 3:1 In those days came **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

Mat 3:2 And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Mar 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, **Jesus** came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Mar 1:15 And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Mar 6:12 And they went out and preached that men should **repent.**

Act 2:38 Then **Peter** said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

Act 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but **now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:**

- a. Preaching repentance: John the Baptist, Yashua, Disciples, Peter, Paul
- b. Meaning of repentance:

G3340

metanoēō

met-an-o-eh'-o

From [G3326](#) and [G3539](#); to think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider (morally to feel compunction): - repent.

VI. **Steps of Repentance**

- a. Acknowledge we are sinners

Rom 3:10 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:**

Rom 3:23 For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

b. Godly sorrow

2Co 7:10 For **godly sorrow** worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God are **a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.

c. Confession

Psa 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

d. Shame

Ezr 9:6 And said, O my God, **I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.**

e. Hate sin

Psa 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, **hate evil**: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Rom 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. **Abhor that which is evil**; cleave to that which is good.

f. Turn away from sin

Eze 14:6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.**

g. Restitution

Luk 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, **I restore him fourfold.**

VII. Ongoing Repentance

a. Contrary to Joseph Prince's false teaching, living in unconfessed sin is living [walking] in darkness

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

1Jn 1:6 **If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:**

b. Repentance must be ongoing—daily

1Jn 1:8 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

1Jn 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1Jn 1:10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

VIII. Conscience

a. Evil

Heb 10:22 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

b. Defiled

Tit 1:15 *Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

c. Seared

1Ti 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

1Ti 4:2 *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

d. Purged

Heb 9:14 *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

e. Good

1Ti 1:5 *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*

f. Pure

1Ti 3:9 *Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*