

## ***Of Repentance unto Life and Salvation, Part 1 (Luke 24:47)***

*Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 15, Paragraphs 1-3*

### **Doctrine**

#### *The Doctrine of Repentance*

- **Repentance** is the turning away from sins to obedience of God, as revealed in His Word.
- Repentance, alongside faith, is the proper response to the **Gospel** (Mk 1:15).
- We must **avoid** two heresies:
  - i) Faith without **repentance** is nominalism (to be a ‘Christian’ in name, but not in life), and ‘easy-believism’; this is not indicative of true regeneration from the Holy Spirit.
  - ii) Repentance without **faith** is futile legalism and ‘works-salvation’; this, too, is no salvation at all because it does not rightly address the issue of our justification.
- Therefore, when we speak of faith, what naturally must follow is **repentance** (hence, Chapter 14 is ‘Of Saving Faith’ and Chapter 15 is ‘Of Repentance’).
- To those who have lived in their sins, particularly those who are converted at a later age, **repentance** is to be clearly manifest (Titus 3:3-5).
- To those who are raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord, such faith and repentance may seem more gradual; yet it is still **true** faith and repentance wrought by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 3:15).

#### *The Surety of Lasting Repentance for Believers*

- There are **none** who do good and do not sin (Lk 18:19).
- The Christian, in this life, will always **struggle** against the power and deceitfulness of temptation, indwelling corruption and the prevalency of temptation (Rom 7:21).

- Even the strongest and most godly believer is subject to **fall** into great sins and yield to such provocations (Gal 2:11-13).
- God has, in the covenant of **grace**, mercifully provided that believers so sinning and falling be renewed through repentance unto salvation (Lk 22:31-32).
- This salvation includes the rescue from **present** sin and its tyranny, for Christ has secured in Himself also our eternal salvation.
- It may be noted that this promise is true, not only of the individual Christian, but also of the corporate **church** (Rev 2:4-5).

#### *The Evangelical Grace of Repentance*

- Saving repentance is an evangelical **grace** (Zech 12:10), meaning:
  - i) It is worked by the **Holy Spirit**,
  - ii) Working through the **Gospel** – that Word of Life – both in its reading and in its hearing.
- In repentance, the person is made sensible of the manifold evils of sin, and, by faith in Christ, **humbles** himself accordingly (Ezk 36:31).

### **Application: Ongoing and Maturing Repentance**

- 1) Godly **sorrow** (Lk 22:61-62)
- 2) Detestation of **sin** (1 Jn 2:16)
- 3) Self-**Abhorrency** (Rom 7:24)
- 4) Praying for pardon and strength of **grace** (Mt 6:13)
- 5) **Resolve** and Endeavor, by the supplies of the Spirit, to walk before God unto all well-pleasing in all things (Psa 119:128)