

Of Repentance unto Life and Salvation, Part 2 (Isaiah 55:7)

Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 15, Paragraphs 4-5

Doctrine

Repentance Ongoing (Paragraph 4)

- Those who God justifies by His free grace, through faith in Christ, He brings to true **repentance**, which is a command of the Gospel (Acts 2:38).
- **Repentance**, as it is related to our sanctification, is progressive and ongoing – to be continued through the whole course of our lives (Col. 3:5 *ff.*).
- The need for **ongoing** repentance is clear:
 - i) Not all our **sin** is revealed to us at first – whether these are sins of the heart, soul, mind or strength.
 - ii) We remain in our bodies of death, which are always subject to fleshly temptation, **corruption** and infirmity.
 - iii) Even after our justification, we **sin** against the Lord, and must, therefore, confess and repent of our sins.
- It is every man's duty to **repent** of his particular known sins particularly (Lk. 19:8, 1 Tim. 1:13).
 - i) Repentance is the duty of **every** person – both of the elect and reprobate to render obedience unto the Lord; yet, only the elect are granted repentance.
 - ii) We may only turn away from those sins we are aware of – repentance is not carried out intuitively but **intentionally**.
 - iii) We repent of **particular** sins – the breaking of God's Law – not general or false notions of impropriety.
 - iv) We repent of those particular sins **particularly**: that is, we diligently and intentionally seek to be obedient to him as the fruit of faith in Christ and in demonstration of our love for God.

The Provision of the Covenant of Grace (Paragraph 5)

- God, in the covenant of grace, has guaranteed the preservation of believers unto **salvation**.
- There is no sin so **small** but it deserves damnation (Rom. 6:23).
- Yet, there is no sin so **great** that it shall bring damnation on them that repent (Isa. 1:16-18).
- The Lord God **forgives** the sins of those who confess and repent of their sins by the faithfulness and justice of His Son (1 Jn. 1:9).
- The Lord God is gracious to restore sinful believers to the **joy** of their salvation (Psa. 51:12).
- Those whom God has saved, He continues His work of salvation to its **completion** in the day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:6).

Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 76: *What is repentance unto life?*

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and word of God, whereby, out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, and upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, he so grieves for and hates his sins, as that he turns from them all to God, purposing and endeavoring constantly to walk with him in all the ways of new obedience.

Application

- 1) Faithful **Preaching** of Repentance: The command to repent 'makes the constant preaching of repentance necessary'.
- 2) **Repentance** of Sins: We must, by the strength of the Lord, put to death sin and follow the Lord Jesus in obedience to God – that we would glorify and enjoy Him forever.
- 3) Joyful **Confidence** in the Lord: We repent and persevere in our Christian lives, knowing that 'it is God which worketh in you both the will and deed, *even* of *his* good pleasure' (Phil. 2:13).