

Call to Repent: Joel 2

-- 1/25/09, Sun Valley, tp
notes from Phil Roberts

Introduction

A. **Joel 2:12-14** Foundation of much of the teaching of the prophets about repentance and the righteousness of God.

B. We need to remind ourselves that the Bible concept of repentance is much higher than the worldly and fleshly concept it. Our deficient concept leaves us thinking that we have God over a barrel if only we will be sorry for our wrong doing.

I. Repentance is what you do NOW.

A. Felix, **Acts 24:25**: Recognized his sin and trembled, but ... postponed his response to God.

B. Much of what we think of as repentance is nothing but GOOD INTENTIONS -- AN

AWARENESS OF EVIL.

1. Both Felix and Agrippa apparently had good intentions.

2. Neither acted on their new-found knowledge.

C. The more we delay, the less likely we are to act.

D. **Isaiah 55:6** Seek ye the Lord while He may be found...

1. Delay spoils the possibility that you will accept your responsibility and that God will accept you.

2. Seek Him while He may be found ... implies that He may not be found if you delay.

3. Hearts can harden while our time runs out, **Hebrews 6:6**.

4. The fool says in his heart: "I can always repent later" or "It is never too late"

II. Repentance is Returning to the Lord.

A. Hebrew word "to turn around" and the Greek is "turning of the mind"

1. One must turn AWAY from sin, **Ezekiel 18**.

2. But also turn TOWARD God, **Hosea 14:1-2**.

B. True repentance is not just regret, revulsion of sin...

-- but also a SEEKING of God, turning to God: **Psalms 51**.

III. Repentance must come from the heart.

A. **Joel 2:12, 13** turn to Me with ALL YOUR HEART ... and REND YOUR HEART and not your garments.

-- this not just an intellectual exercise, philosophical recognition of the error of one's ways.

-- this is emotional and deeply felt if it is sincere at all.

B. Sin is often defined as "missing the mark"

1. Unfortunate exercise in tracing the etymology of the word's meaning in ancient times.

2. Godliness is not a sort of moral target practice.

3. Real meaning of the word sin in Bible times was to **VIOLATE GOD'S STANDARDS**, offend God, corrupt ourselves with evil and death...

4. Once guilty of sin, there must be **conviction of heart, humbling of heart, and true repentance of the sin** which cries out against our God on His throne in heaven.

C. Repentance that does not come from the heart is condemned by the prophets.

1. **Hosea 7:13-14** "I would redeem them but they rebelled ... when they howled upon their beds ..."

2. **Matthew 15:8-9** "but their heart is far from me"

D. Sorrow is not repentance, but without sorrow there can be not true repentance.

1. **Joel 2:13** "rend your heart"
2. **Psalm 51:8** "that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice" v. 17 "a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."
3. **2 Corinthians 7:8-10** godly sorrow produces repentance ... the guilty was crushed with grief and sorrow.
4. When Peter met the eyes of Jesus in **Luke 22**, he knew that Jesus knew what he had done. Wept bitterly.
5. **Zechariah 12:10-14** Prophecy of those who would crucify Jesus: "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first born."
6. David said, **2 Samuel 12:13**, "I have sinned against the Lord." The Lord pardoned him, but he still wrote **Psalm 51**. Grieving process is very important to repentance.

IV. And return with fasting and mourning ... actions, change.

A. We must do our part.

1. **Acts 2:38-47** continued steadfastly, continuing daily with one accord ... praising God
2. **Acts 4:32-37** one heart and one soul

B. Could not effect this change were it not for the GRACIOUSNESS of God.

1. **Joel 2:13** God is merciful, patient
2. Remember the case of Moses and the golden calf: Ex. 32:6 see the wrath! but see also the repentance of the Lord and His great patience and mercy!
3. **2 Peter 3:9** Longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - Why is the world still here? God is patient!
 - The only reason that we CAN repent is because God sought us, the Good Shepherd seeking the lost sheep leaves the 99 to seek the one lost, because he is highly loved and valued.

C. Create in me a clean heart (Psalm 51:10) -- that is the real point. We emphasize our part and ignore God's part. God creates in us the clean heart

- God has granted to the Gentiles repentance, **Acts 11:18**

V. Who knows whether He will relent.

A. Repentance must not be presumptuous

1. It is a repeated theme of the Bible: **2 Timothy 2:24-25** "if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth."
2. Again **Acts 8:22** "perhaps" Peter said to Simon the Sorcerer
3. **Jonah 3:9** Who know God may turn and relent
4. **Amos 5:15** Perhaps God will have mercy
5. All of this reminds us of the arrogant presumption that often characterizes God's people

B. Hosea 6:1-3 Here, the words of repentance in context are only words without commitment, v4-6

Conclusion.