

What True Repentance Is Not

Elders:

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Mike Kidwell
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Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
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Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
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Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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As an addendum to Sunday night's sermon over our one word of "Repent", I thought it would be best to write about what repentance is not. Some people have a misinformed view of repentance, believing that repentance is something different than what God requires. Let's examine some common views of repentance that are not founded upon Scripture in order to help our understanding for our own soul's sake.

First, true repentance is not simply feeling sorrow for sin. God could not have been any clearer on this point. II Corinthians 7:10 reads, "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." The fact that godly grief **produces** a repentance that leads to salvation implies that there is something more to repentance than just godly grief. Matthew 26:20 states that people are to "perform deeds in keeping with their repentance". Matthew 3:8 states that we are to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance". Esau sought repentance with tears, but could not find it (Hebrews 12:17). Judas was sorrowful over his sin of betraying the Christ, yet that sorrow didn't lead to redemption (Matthew 27:3-5). Sorrow for sin is a good start to repentance, but it is not **all** that is required.

Second, true repentance is not just making a change for good. Billions of people have made changes for good in their lives. They seek medical help when their bodies are suffering. They put away negative influences in order to have a more positive life. They stop drugs and alcohol due to destroying their vital organs. Although admirable, simply changing your life for good does not bring about the repentance God demands. Certainly our good works are filthy before God due to our sin (Isaiah 64:6). We cannot do any number of good works in order to earn salvation. True repentance **must** be based on a conscious conviction to be godly. It must include a turning towards God in order for Him to graciously bring salvation to us (Acts 3:19-20; II Corinthians 3:16). True repentance is not without aim, and that aim is God.

Third, true repentance is not always an action that involves only God. If strife exists between you and another Christian, reconciliation must be present (Matthew 5:23-26; 18:15-17). If you are in an adulterous relationship, you must get out of it (Romans 7:1-3). God requires that if we have sinned against another human being, we are to repent to the extent of our sin towards them. If we do not repent towards others, then we cannot repent towards God. And if we do not repent towards God, then He is not going to extend His mercy towards us (II Timothy 2:12).

Fourth, true repentance is not a one-time act. When you come to the Lord and obey the gospel it is not as though you can just initially repent of your sins, be baptized, and you are good to go do whatever you want. There is no "once saved, always saved" idea present in the Bible. We must continually confess our sins and walk in the light of Christ (I John 1:7-9). We must have evidential works and fruit in our lives (Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:20). Repentance, like belief and confession, is a constant in the life of a Christian.

Please don't conflate repentance for anything that it is not. Please don't arrive to the throne of God on the Day of Judgment confident that you have repented of sin in view of God, when you actually haven't. Please don't live in such a way that God is forced to say to you, "Depart from me" (Matthew 7:23; 25:41; Luke 13:27).

Luke Yates

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Pam Babb, Joyce Clarkson, Heather Cobb, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Faye Haught, Mae Hill, Wilma Hill, David Hofer, Bette Sinden, Helen Swem, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

Dear Hillcrest family, Thank you for the gift card and money to help us begin our life together. The baking dish with our names on it is amazing, we both love it. How convenient it'll be on potluck days. I also love the yellow goodies for the kitchen. It's like you knew it is my favorite color. The candle smells so good as does the soap. I love and appreciate all you have done for us.

Love,
Derek and Belinda Couch

One Word: Remember to read about "confess" this week.

Every "One" Counts:

Don't forget to give an extra dollar in the offering this week! Please let Luke know



every **ONE** counts!

if you have any people who could use some encouragement and financial help as we do this good work in our community. We have not had any names submitted recently, so Luke could use your help.



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: *Keep It Pure* (Danny Boggs)

P.M. *One Word: Confess* (Danny Boggs)



Mens' BBQ night: tonight at Billy Sims BBQ in Joplin. The van will leave Hillcrest at 6:00.

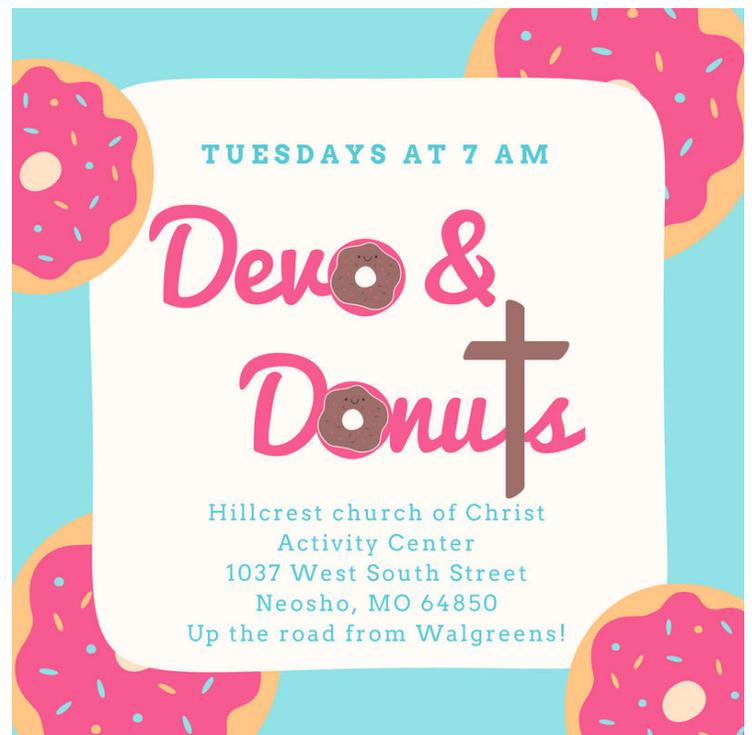
Come to a **brainstorming meeting** for next year's Vacation Bible School in the fellowship room tomorrow night after services.

Tori Murray is getting married in a few days, and Andrea Wald's hostess group is collecting money for a gift card for her and Micah. Please see Andrea if you would like to contribute.

Mark your calendars for our **gospel meeting with Chris McCurley:** September 22-25.

Medicalodge Devo: Join us this Sunday at 1:30 for a brief devotional and singing at Medicalodge in Neosho.

Dale and Mebyl Privett will be celebrating their **65th Wedding Anniversary** August 25 at 2 pm in the activities center! Everyone is invited!



PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, August 19

- AM Opening: Charles Phillips
- AM Closing: Eldon Morgan
- PM Opening: Jackson Collinsworth
- PM Closing: Fred Bukowich

Wednesday, August 22

- Opening: Ethan Murray
- Closing: Alec Fehring

RECORDS	8-12-18	8-13-17
Bible Study	139	132
AM Worship	200	201
PM Worship	161	129
Wednesday	136	143
Contribution	\$7717.60	\$7,437.85
Budget	\$7,643.38	\$7,630.58