

This email is the *sixth in a series of articles* I've titled "GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW". Each future article builds upon previous articles, so if you need to review an earlier article, they are available online at www.warnerschapelchurchofchrist.org . It is my hope that these articles will be beneficial to everyone who receives them. Please share them with your friends and family members and feel free to email any questions or comments to me [David Moore] at dmoore5@triad.rr.com .

GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW!

God wants you to know that you must repent of your sins in order to have forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. In Luke 13:3 (KJV), Jesus said: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish". In light of what Jesus said, we will consider an example of people who manifested their love toward Jesus by repenting of their sins as a part of their obedience to the gospel of Christ. You will notice that the scripture doesn't literally state that they repented. However, their repentance is implied in the description of what transpired.

In Acts 2:38 (KJV) Peter told the people to "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins". Verse 41 states: "they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls." To whom were the 3000 souls added after they gladly received his word and were baptized? Verse 47 answers this question: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." The Lord would not have saved them and added them to the church if they had not repented. The reason being is that Jesus had said: "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish". So the implication drawn from Acts chapter 2 is that those who gladly received Peter's word repented of their sins.

In Acts 17:30 (KJV), we are told that God "now commandeth all men every where to repent". As defined by the example found in Matthew 21:28-31, repentance is a change of mind that brings about a change of life. Repentance is not just being sorry for sin because "godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation" (2 Corinthians 7:10 KJV). Following the healing of the lame man, Peter told the people in Acts 3:19 (KJV) to "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out". This was obviously due to the fact that Jesus had previously said "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47 KJV).

Based upon the above scriptures, repentance like belief in Jesus is prerequisite to forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. In the next article we will consider the relationship between confessing Jesus as the Son of God, forgiveness of sin, and eternal salvation.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." (James 1:19 KJV)