

Doctrine of Repentance

The Necessity of Sorrow

1. Gospel repentance does not belong to a Jewish dispensation in the past but is for men today.
 - *Acts 17:30 But God now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.*
2. While there is nothing meritorious in a sinner's compliance with the righteous demand of God to repent, it is his gospel duty to do so.
 - *Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*
 - *Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*
3. In Genesis 6:6 we first find the word "*repent.*"
 - *Genesis 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*
4. While it is true that "*God is not a man that He should lie, neither the Son of Man that He should repent*" (Numbers 23:19; cf. also 1 Samuel 15:29; James 1:7), the Lord does condescend to speak in our language as He does in Genesis 6:6 and also in the following passages.
 - *Psalms 78:65 Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.*
 - *Psalms 87:6 The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.*
 - *Isaiah 59:16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.*
5. In Genesis 6:6 we discover the occasion for repentance or a change of mind is sin. The realization of the exceeding sinfulness of sin brought divine repentance. The nature of repentance consists in a change of view. A new decision is found in view of the deplorable conditions which existed on the Earth and "*it repenteth the Lord He had made man.*"
6. Genuine repentance is accompanied by a real sorrow after the manner of God.
 - *Genesis 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

- *2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*
7. The fruit or consequence of repentance is to undo what has been done, to forsake or rectify as far as possible that which is sorrowed over. The pattern is found in God.
- *Genesis 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*
8. The necessity for gospel repentance is rooted in the fact that the Law of God has been broken.
- *Romans 3:20 "by the Law is the knowledge of sin."*
9. Here in part may lie a practical reason as to why repentance is no longer preached, practiced, or even understood by a large part of society today or the Church.

A new generation has arisen believing that the Law of God has no place in this age of grace. If this is true, and it is, can there be any wonder that our country and the nations of the Western world are in moral and spiritual chaos? A particular teaching in the Church has united with Communism and anarchy in a common contempt for the Law of God. Why should men have respect for human laws if they are taught that the Moral Law of God has no rule and reign over their lives today?

10. In contrast to popular theology of recent origin the Apostle Paul plainly affirms the need to repent based on the knowledge of sin.
- *Romans 7:7 "I had not known sin, but by the Law."*
11. The exceeding sinfulness of sin is only exposed or made manifest when the Holy Spirit turns the light of God's Law upon our conscience and heart.
- *Romans 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*
- A. W. Pink notes *"Practical godliness consists in conformity of our heart and life to the Law of God and in a sincere compliance with the Gospel of Christ"*. This is not legalism. It is the antidote for anti-nomianism or lawlessness, which pervades our society and our churches. The requirements of the Law are summed up in the Word of Christ.
- *Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*
 - *Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

The duty of man is to love God. The ground or reason for this love is because He is the Lord our God. The measure or extent of this duty is to love God with all the heart. Sin is failure to love God in this manner. As Mr. Pink states, sin is saying, *'I renounce God who made me; I disallow His right to govern me. I care not what He says to me, what commandments He has given, nor how He expostulates: I prefer self-indulgence to His approval. I am indifferent to all He had done to and for me; His blessings and gifts move me not: I am going to be lord of myself.'* Sin is rebellion against the Majesty of Heaven. It is to treat the Almighty with contempt.

12. In contrast to sin repentance issues from a realization in the heart, wrought therein by the Holy Spirit, of the sinfulness of sin, of the awfulness of ignoring the claims of God and defying His authority.

13. Repentance is a holy horror and hatred of sin, a deep sorrow for it, an acknowledgment of it before God, and a complete heart forsaking of it.

14. Not until this is done will God pardon us.

- *Leviticus 23:29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.*
- *1 Kings 8:47 Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness; 48 And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name: 49 Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause, 50 And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:*

15. No change in dispensation has wrought any change in the character of the thrice-holy God. His claims are ever the same.

❖ The Prophets taught repentance

- *Psalms 32:3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drouth of summer. Selah. 5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*
- *Proverbs 29:13 The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.*

- *Jeremiah 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.*
- *Ezekiel 18:30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*
- *Hosea 5:15 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.*
- *Joel 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: 13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. 14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. 16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. 17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? 18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.*
- ❖ John the Baptist preached repentance.
 - *Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
 - *Luke 1:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*
- ❖ The Lord Jesus preached and illustrated repentance.
 - *Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
 - *Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- *Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*
- *Luke 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*
- *Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*
- *Luke 13:5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*
- *Luke 15:17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

❖ When risen from the dead, Christ commissioned His servants to preach repentance.

- *Luke 24:7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.*
- *Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

❖ Repentance was given to spiritual Israel and forgiveness of sins. On the Day of Pentecost Peter did not say that the people were to do nothing but rest upon the finished work of Christ. Rather, he preached repentance.

- *Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out!"*

❖ When Paul was converted he was sent to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

- *Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.*

16. The time does come when those who will not repent cannot repent. To those who shut their eyes, stopped their ears, hardened their hearts, and gave themselves up to destruction in the days of the Prophets (Isa. 6:10), of Christ (Matthew 13:15) and of the Apostles (Acts 28:27) was the judgment pronounced that repentance would not be given to them "*Lest they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and be converted, and I should heal them,*" (Mark 4:12).

17. The nature of repentance is not always clearly understood.

- *Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*
- ❖ Trembling beneath the preaching of God's Word does necessitate true repentance. Felix "trembled" but he was not converted.
- *Acts 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.*
- ❖ Being "almost persuaded" does not elicit genuine repentance. Agrippa illustrates this.
- *Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

Jesus spoke of those who were persuaded of the gospel message and then perished.

- *Matthew 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*
- ❖ A person may be conscious of his evil doing and acknowledge the same without being converted with authentic repentance as Pharaoh confessed his sins.
- *Exodus 10:16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you.*
- ❖ Humbling the heart beneath the mighty hand of God is not repentance. A solemn example of this is Ahab who was sorry he had killed Naboth.
- *1 Kings 21:27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. 28 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? Because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.*

While the repentance of Naboth was right and rewarded by God it was not genuine for in the next chapter he is rebelling against God again.

- ❖ Confessing sins is not repentance. Thousands have gone forward to an altar or a mourners bench and then backwards into the same sin.
- *2 Peter 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*

- ❖ A person may even do works meet for repentance and yet remain impenitent as Judas confessed his sins to the priest, returned the money, and then committed soul murder.
- *Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.*

18. Repentance is even more than conviction of sin or terror of wrath to come. In Acts 2 the Bible reveals that individuals were already under such terrors when they were still commanded to repent. Their legal terror did not produce saving repentance in which there is an evangelical judging of self and a mourning over sin out of a sense of God's grace and goodness.

- *Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

19. What then is repentance? A. W. Pink helps Christians to understand evangelical repentance.

We would say that: Repentance is a supernatural and inward revelation from God, giving deep consciousness of what I am in HIS sight, which causes me to loathe and condemn myself, resulting in a bitter sorrow for sin, a holy horror and hatred for sin, a turning away from or forsaking of sin. It is the discovery of God's high and righteous claims upon me, and of my lifelong failure to meet those claims. It is the recognition of the holiness and goodness of His Law, and my defiant insubordination thereto.

It is the perception that God has the right to rule and govern me, and of my refusal to submit unto Him. It is the apprehension that He has dealt in goodness and kindness with me, and that I have evilly repaid Him by having no concern for His honor and glory. It is the realization of His gracious patience with me, and how that instead of this melting my heart and causing me to yield loving obedience to Him, I have abused His forbearance by continuing a course of self will.

Evangelical repentance is a heart apprehension of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. It is the recognition of the chief thing wherein I am blameworthy, namely, in having so miserably failed to render unto God that which is His rightful due.

True repentance is always accompanied by a deep longing and a sincere determination to forsake that course which is displeasing to God. With what honesty could any man seek God's pardon while he continued to defy Him and would not part with that which He forbids? Would any king pardon a traitor, though he seemed never so humble, if he saw that he would be a traitor still?

True, God is infinitely more merciful than any human king, yet in the very passage where He first formally proclaimed His mercy, He at once added "that will by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus 34:5-7), i.e. guilty hearted, those with false and disloyal hearts toward Himself, who would not be subject to Him in all things, and declined to have their every thought brought into captivity to obedience unto Him (2 Cor. 10:5).

God's mercy (Psalm 130:4) is never exercised as the expense of His holiness. God never displays one of His attributes so as to dishonor another. To pity a thief, while continuing a thief, would be folly, not wisdom. Well did the Puritan Thomas Goodwin say, "Resolve either to leave every known sin and to submit to every known duty, or else never look to find mercy and favor with God."

- *Deuteronomy 28:19 Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. 20 The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.*

20. Biblical repentance presupposes several things.

- ❖ Biblical repentance presupposes a recognition and acknowledgment of God's claims upon us as our Creator, Governor, Provider, and Protector. Thus repentance does presuppose that a supernatural enlightenment has been given.
- *1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*
- ❖ Biblical repentance presupposes a hearty approval of God's Law and a full consent to its righteous requirements.
- *Romans 7:12 "The Law is holy, and the commandment is holy, and just, and good"*

It cannot be otherwise for God is its Author.

- ❖ Biblical repentance presupposes that the Moral Law was never repealed.
- Jesus said, "*Think not that I am come to earth to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill it*" (Matthew 5:17, 18).

Jesus condemned the Pharisee because they pretended that their rules and regulations surpassed the Law.

- *Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

That the Moral Law of God was never to be repealed is taught in the Psalms.

- *Psalms 119:142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.*
- *Psalms 119:144 The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.*
- *Psalms 119:152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever.*
- *Psalms 119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*

Christ did not die to disannul the Law so that now it wholly ceases to be a rule of life to believers but rather to recover His people unto conformity thereto. Though men love their corruptions, God sitteth as king forever (Psa. 29:10) and will assert His crown rights (Luke 19:27).

- *Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*
- *Psalms 29:10 The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.*
- *Luke 19:27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.*

Only a regenerated man can repent and delight in the Law of God after the inward man.

- *Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.*

By righteousness believers establish the Law that all the world might become guilty before God.

- *Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*
- *Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*
- *Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

Without God's Moral Law there is no sin and no need to repent.

- *Romans 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.)*

If the Law were wholly repealed to the point that it has no present operative force what is the need to argue as Paul does that "*by deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight*"? (*Romans 3:20*). It would have been sufficient to say that a repealed Law could neither justify nor condemn anyone. Instead, the Apostle shows that the Law requires a "*patient continuance in well doing*" and threatens "*tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil*" (*Romans 2:5, 7*).

21. The New Testament speaks in a uniform manner teaching that those who do not repent have no saving interests in Christ's righteousness by faith. They are under the wrath of God and the curse of the Law as though Christ had never died.

22. Christless sinners ,who are really awakened by the Holy Spirit to see and feel what a dreadful state they are in, want to repent when they realize they are under the wrath of God and the curse of His Law because they have broken it! But this argument could not be made if the Law had been repealed.

- *Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*

23. God the Father, as the Governor of the world, gave the Law. God the Son magnified it by expounding its purity, by obeying its precepts, and by enduring its penalty. God the Holy Spirit honors the Law by pressing upon the sinner its holy demands and using it as a schoolmaster to bring the soul to Christ by showing the necessity for repentance.

- *Isaiah 42:21 The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.*
- *Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

24. It is the special secret sovereign work of the Holy Spirit to impress upon the hearts of the elect the Law of God, so that it is their very nature to repent and to love God with all their hearts so they might serve Him without servile fear in holiness and righteousness all the days of their lives.

- *Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

- *Luke 1:74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*
25. True repentance presupposes a honest and broken hearted acknowledgment of wicked failure to keep God's righteous Law. Unfortunately, it is this enforcing of the infinite glory of God, of His governmental supremacy, of His holy Law, of His righteous claims, of His demand for loving obedience that is left out of much of the professing Church even today due in large part to Dispensational and other forms of teaching.
26. There are three kinds of repentance spoken of in Scripture.
- The Repentance of Desperation illustrated in the lives of Esau, Pharaoh, Ahithophel, and Judas.
 - The Repentance of Reformation such as Ahab manifested and the people of Nineveh under the preaching of Jonah.
 - The Repentance of Salvation based upon an evangelical conviction of sin.
 - ❖ *Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*
 - ❖ *2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*
27. There is a contrast to be noted between a legal conviction in the soul and an evangelical conviction leading to gospel repentance.
- Legal conviction fears hell while evangelical repentance reveres God.
 - Legal conviction dreads punishment while evangelical repentance hates sin.
 - Legal conviction informs the mind, while evangelical repentance melts the heart.
 - Legal conviction excuses itself and claims the finished work of Christ as a basis to continue in sin while evangelical repentance makes no excuses and has no reserves but cries, *"I have dishonored Thy name, grieved Thy Spirit, and abused Thy patience."*
28. There is discernable fruit when gospel repentance is genuine.
- ❖ There is a real hatred of sin as sin, not merely its consequences.
 - *Ezekiel 14:6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.*

- *Ezekiel 20:43 And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.*
- *Psalms 119:104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.*
- ❖ There is a deep sorrow for sin.
 - *2 Corinthians 7:9 Now I rejoyce, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*
 - *Matthew 26:75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.*
 - *Leviticus 16:29 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:*
 - *Joel 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: 13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*
 - *Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*
- ❖ There is a confessing of sin.
 - *Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*
 - *Psalms 32:3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.*
- ❖ There is an actual turning away from sin.
 - *Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*