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East Columbus Bulletin

Some Essentials to Repentance

“Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!” (Ezekiel 18:30-32).

In the context of this passage Ezekiel has clearly stated the dilemma: *“The soul that sins, it shall die”* (verse 20). The soul that sins will die or be spiritually separated from God. However, God *“has no pleasure in the one who dies.”* Thus, he clearly states the solution — *“repent.”* Some have said that repentance is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That's a good definition, but consider from this passage some other essentials to repentance.

A necessary prerequisite to repentance is for one to “consider.” “Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die” (verse 28). God wants the sinner to contemplate the seriousness of the transgression. It is like a parent telling a child, “Go to your room and think about what you've just done.” Those words came to me when I was a boy. I had thrown a rock and hit another

Times of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- The Pines/Cady Hills Bible Study -Sun. & Thurs. at 7:00 p.m.
- Young Bible Scholars --To be announced.
- Lady’s Bible Classes at YMCA – To be announced.
- Sunday Sermon is recorded and placed on Darrell Powell’s Facebook page and can be viewed later when posted.
- Second Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study – 3:30 p.m. TBA
- Third Sunday – Trinity Care Home Service - 1:30 p.m. (NEW)
- Fourth Sunday Song Service following 10:00 a.m. sermon
- Gospel Meeting at Northeast Church of Christ (Tupelo) October 2-5, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. M-W.

News and Notes

- **Prayer Requests:** Patsy Chunn, Jim Ratcliff, Doug Wheeler, Steve and Lynette Coburn, Mike Butler, Lee Gallop, and the Andy Elliott Family. Ernest Roberts, evangelist on Island of Grenada is in poor health and his wife has been hospitalized with a stroke. The Andy Elliott family suffered a house fire June 12 and lost most everything in the fire. Please continue to do what you can for them as they settle into their new home.
- **Sick:** Lee Gallop is recovering from health issues in Windsor Place room 217. Jim Ratcliff is being treated for heart issues. Jerry Paschall is undergoing medical tests for health issues. Patsy Chunn is undergoing tests to determine a course of treatment for cancer. Darrell Powell is undergoing treatment for a blood clot. Dylan Haas is sick with mononucleosis and is recovering from a broken arm.

Contact Information:

East Columbus church of Christ,
811 Alabama Street, Columbus, MS 39702

Minister – Darrell Powell

Website: eastcolumbuschurch.org

Facebook: East Columbus church of Christ

Editor - Ed Williams at 662.323.9502 or glenedwilliams@yahoo.com.

child in the eye. I was forced to face the victim (bloody face and all) and contemplate what I had done. It taught me a valuable lesson. The transgressor must think about the wickedness he has committed and recognize the consequences. Hopefully, such introspection will lead to the godly sorrow that produces repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Next, the sinner must “get a new heart and a new spirit” (verse 31). The heart is where his sins are conceived (Luke 6:45). Thus, God wants him to reprogram his mind (Romans 12:2). A good or bad heart produces a good or bad person. It is impossible for one to change their lives without changing their hearts. Put away evil thoughts and think on things that are pure!

Finally, God exhorts the sinner to “cast away from you all your sins” (verse 31). Literally, the word “cast” means to fling the garment! It pictures one who repudiates the deed done and is ready to shove it away! He is ready to cease from his ungodliness and to start living a godly and holy life.

So my brother, is there sin in your life? If so, then repent! God does not want you to die, but to live!

George Slover, Moment with the Master, 10-12-21

We Desperately Need God

There is no rational explanation for the senseless, evil actions of depraved hearts and minds. The unmitigated evils of racism and murder, often combined as we have once again seen, have no justification in reason. There can be no argument given. There is no way to explain rationally what could possibly be going on in the heads of those who commit these atrocities. We live in the aftermath of the path of destruction left by the god of this world who blinds hearts and minds to what is good and true. The hostility of the enemy of the true God is on full display.

We desperately need God. We need the gospel. We need repentance, rebirth, renewal, and reconciliation. Only Jesus can give what we need, yet we are the ones who keep pushing Him away and then thinking that we can come up with some solution to overcome evil. We can't. We won't. Not without Him. If we try to fix evil without God, we make it worse. All the evil—all that we are so sick about and weary of—can only be dealt with through Him. It will be judged and cast into the lake of fire by God.

Come back to Jesus. And come, Lord Jesus.

Doy Moyer, 5-17-22

Give Me the Truth!

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the truth.

Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear that the truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins you can help. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove yourself charitable. However I may react to it, whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, give me the truth! For the truth, and only the truth, can make men free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness, and lead me to the joys of heaven.

If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass, if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left my first love; if I have been led astray by error; or if I have done none of these, but simply need to grow in knowledge and be edified, give me the truth!

Bill Crews