



## Top Christian New Year's Resolutions

- Read the Bible more regularly
- Pray more often and more consistently
- Go to church every week
- Share the Gospel
- Begin volunteering

# Repent

1. <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 3:2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
2. <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
3. <sup>NAS</sup> **Acts 2:38** And Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

## To Repent

- *Metanoeo* – “to repent”
  - Compound word; lit., *to think differently after*
- “Repentance is therefore, primarily, an *after-thought*, different from the *former thought*.”
- “A virtuous alteration of the mind and purpose as begets a like virtuous change in the life and practice.”
  - Not primarily sorrow or regret

## Repentance: God's Gift

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Acts 5:31** "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Acts 11:18** And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life."
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 2:4** Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

## Repentance: God's Work

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ...
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Ephesians 4:22** to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.



# Applications

## Repentance is not sorrow over past sin.

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 26:28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree "--
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 3:24** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Psalms 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 5:24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 5:1** Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Colossians 1:13** For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

## Repentance is walking in newness of life.

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Colossians 3:1** If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry...<sup>7</sup> and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

## Examine Ourselves Honestly

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Revelation 3:14** "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: <sup>15</sup> 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

## Make the Most of Each Day

- <sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 90:10** The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away...<sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

## Repent in Hope

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Revelation 3:19** 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. <sup>20</sup> 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. <sup>21</sup> 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. <sup>22</sup> 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

## Seek God's Mercy and Strength

- <sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 90:14** Satisfy us in the morning with your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. <sup>15</sup> Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. <sup>16</sup> Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. <sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

## Focus on God

- <sup>NIV</sup> **Psalm 90:1** ...Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 12:2** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



# Conclusions

## Reconciled to God in Christ

- Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

## United to God in Christ

- Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleas'd with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

## Perfected Like God in Christ

- Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.