**REPENTANCE**

**Bible Repentance**: Acknowledging we are in sin and desiring to turn away from our sin and follow God.

**Lexicon:** Change your mind to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life.

Many struggle with the idea of repentance. Some have a very hard time acknowledging and admitting their sins. Admitting you are wrong and being humble that you have sinned against God and others are critical steps in our walk as Christians.

The other major challenge with repentance seems to be truly changing our walk. Changing our direction completely from following what we want and the sin that goes with it to following the Lord and the path that leads to true life (**Matthew 7:13-14**). Jesus puts it this way in **Matthew 3:8** “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance”. Sometimes we have an easier time acknowledging our faults and letting God and others know we want to sincerely please Him, than it is to actually make that transformation in our lives (**Romans 12:1-2**).

**Story of Poncho’s rebellion:** Early on when we got Poncho, Jessie’s dog, he had a tough time adjusting to his new environment. Rather than being in pen he was now on a chain and he had a dog house. One Saturday night there was a storm and he got tangled up with his chain and could not get into his house. So I went out to try to untangle him. While doing this he freaked out and got very made. He turned his anger on me at one point and bit my hand pretty bad. I finished untangling him but then had a very troubling night. Having a vicious dog with small children around was not something I was going to allow. And on the other hand, Poncho was Jessie’s dog and I knew if we gave him away her heart would be broken. I talked with Beth about it and gave much time to prayer. The next morning was Sunday, and after I got ready to go the meeting house I went out still not sure of what I needed to do about Poncho. As walked toward his house I saw him coming toward me. I stopped while Poncho crawled up to me and laid down on my feet. Poncho was repenting for what he had done to me. And in over 10 years since this incident he has never shown this type of behavior toward me or any of the family. He not only repented, he has brought forth fruits of repentance.

**Some verses on repentance that can help us all.**

**Luke 15:7**

**Luke 24:44-49**

**Acts 3:19 & 26**

**Acts 11:11-18**

**Acts 17:24-31**

**Acts 26:19-20**

**2 Corinthians 7:9-10**

**2 Peter 3:9**

In **Acts chapter 2:37-38** we see that Peter in response to the question of “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” instructs them to repent and be baptized. We can see that baptism without repentance is useless. Repentance is an important step in becoming a Christian. If you are not a Christian this morning and you want to sincerely repent of your sins and be baptized to wash them all away, we can help you now.

For those of us who are Christians, in this life we need to sincerely repent when we sin to maintain a productive life for the Lord and eternal life one day in Heaven. Notice our final passage in **1 John 5:16-17**. This may be a challenging verse. I believe the sin not leading to death is the sin that is repented of. The sin leading to death seems to be the sin that is not repented. Let us be quick to repent when we fall short. Let us not let pride get in the way when repentance is needed. Rather let us be clothed with humility and sincerely and truly repent.

If we can assist you now, please come forward as we sing, **Bring Christ Your Broken Life**.