

*“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Heb 3:13)*

## DO ALL IN HIS NAME

In studying **James 1:4** we find that Christians are to be “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” Why must a Christian be lacking in nothing? Because we are commanded to glorify God (**1 Cor. 6:20**), and in order to glorify God we must strive to do our best in all we do (**1 Cor. 10:31**). If Christians are to obtain heaven in the end, can we in our service to God be selective, focusing only on the things we excel at and neglecting those things in which we do not? In reading **Mat. 25:15-30** the parable of talents, I believe the scriptures teach differently.

We know from Christ himself that He will not accept the lukewarm Christian (**Rev 3:16**). I would contend that if one tends to overlook his/her shortcomings in life; he or she might be “lukewarm.” For instance, do we offer benevolence freely and without hesitation? If fellow brethren ask for assistance with completing a task around their homes and you are always saying you’re too busy to help, because of a football game on TV, or because of wanting to spend time with your own family is that doing all you can to glorify God? How many of

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## REASONS FOR REPENTANCE

True repentance is necessary for salvation. Jesus said, “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (**Lk. 13:3**). The repentance commanded by God, the repentance we read about in the Bible that leads one to salvation, to forgiveness, is a change of heart that results in a changed life. It is a change brought on by what Paul called, “godly sorrow” (**2 Cor. 7:10**). It is an understanding that one has wronged God and regretting that wrong and being moved then to stop doing that wrong and to do what is right. It is a change of heart that brings about not merely a

changed life, but a righteous life. Since it is clear that repentance is necessary for one to be saved that should be enough incentive for anyone to turn from sin and turn to God. Yet, many ask the question, why should I repent? What is it that compels one to do so? We want to consider a few reasons for repentance.

One should repent because God desires men to repent. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but

*“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: “(1Co 15:1-4)*



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## REASONS FOR REPENTANCE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Eze. 33:11). He desires that each of us turn back from sin to Him and be saved. Dear reader, as you are now looking at this article, do you not realize that God has been longsuffering with you and that even now is giving you opportunity to set things right in your relationship to Him if it is suffering from the effects of sin? Let us not be like those who would despise God’s “goodness and forbearance and longsuffering” but instead let us esteem “the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance” (Rom. 2:4). Repent because the God who loves you and has done so much for you (Rom. 5:8) desires it.

One should repent because sin drives men to repent. Many are ignorant of what sin is or what it does. Their conscience becomes seared (1 Tim. 4:2) and thus they “wax worse” (2 Tim. 3:13). The glorious gospel of Jesus Christ

teaches men of sin and its awful consequences (Jas. 1:15). Thus sin should become as Paul said, “exceedingly sinful” (Rom. 7:13) in their sight. For by the gospel, we learn that sin is lawlessness (1 Jn. 3:4). That sin comes between, separates, and destroys our relationship with God (Isa. 59:1-2). That it ensnares us and we become a slave to it (Jn. 8:34; Rom. 6:16). That it will bring forth death both now and finally in eternity (Rom. 6:23). That the price of remission of sin is death (Heb. 9:22) and thus in order for us to have a chance to be forgiven, God offered up an innocent one who had done no sin that we might be saved (Rom. 8:32; 5:6-9). Understanding sin, its effects, and the terrible cost of remission should drive men to repent. We should be moved by godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10) to turn to our God like the prodigal to his father and say, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee” (Lk. 15:21). Repent because of the great price God paid for

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## MEET THE APOSTLES—PART V

Jesus sent out more than eighty apostles on the limited commission, as opposed to only twelve that He sent out on the great commission.

*Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2)*

*After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them... “And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come*

*near to you.’” (Luke 10:1, 9)*

It is true the seventy are not expressly called apostles; but an apostle is “one who is sent” and the seventy were sent. Therefore, they were apostles, sent on the same mission with the same credentials as the twelve (Luke 10:17). But unlike the twelve, their names were not revealed.—  
Bob Myhan

*REASONS FOR REPENTANCE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2*

your sin.

One should repent because of the final judgment. Many scoff at the idea that the Lord is coming back and will judge them (**2 Pet. 3:3-4**). Yet God “hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (**Act 17:31**). On that day, every one will give an account for the deeds they have done in the body, no one will be exempt (**2 Cor. 5:10**). On that day, we are told “the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (**2 Ths. 1:7-8**). Will you not turn to God dear reader, turn from your sins to Him who can save to the uttermost (**Heb. 7:25**). Repent be-

cause you will be judged by God for all you have done in this life.

Why should you repent? What is it that compels you to do so? If you want to be saved, you must repent. God Almighty, the creator of you and the entire universe desires you to. The awful nature and consequences of sin should drive you to repent. The certainty of judgment and the terrible punishment for the ungodly and the sinner should compel you. True repentance is necessary for salvation. Have you sinned (**Rom. 3:23**)? If so, then you have no reason not to, but every reason to repent. – Phillip Stuckey

## HOW MANY ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN?

The answer is simple: One. However, it seems with today’s doctrines and creed books that there are many ways into Heaven. Why be baptized when you can simply accept Jesus in your heart, say a few words and be saved, or skip the full immersion and just get sprinkled with water. Due to my job, I’m in a different city every day. One day I might be bumper to bumper in traffic and the next, trying to dodge chickens crossing the road. I always have to use my GPS going between the country and the city. One thing I enjoy is finding that one route that will cut off drive time, even if it’s only ten minutes. However, while we may find alternate routes when driving, there is no alternate route to Heaven. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said, “enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it”. Do you believe

we can follow different roads to Heaven? The Bible only speaks of one way: the narrow way. There are doctrines (the wide gate) that God hates as seen in Revelation 2:15 which reads, “Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate”. Those who claim to believe in Jesus but don’t follow His commandments are on the wrong road (Luke 6:46, Matthew 7:21-23). When men choose their own ways, multiple roads are created. Yet, only God's way is right. Proverbs 14:12 states, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death*”. If people are on different roads, they are not all headed for Heaven! – Bryan Garlock

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## **What Must One Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear – Matthew 17:5; Romans 10:17**

**Believe – John 8:24; Romans 10:9**

**Repent – Luke 13.3; Acts 2.38**

**Confess– Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37**

**Immersed– Mark 16.16; Acts 2:38**

**Live Faithfully – Revelation 2.10; 1 Corinthians 15:58**

### *DO ALL IN HIS NAME- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

us visit the poor and orphans in our communities as talked about in **James 1:27**? Have you ever heard a brother/sister downplay the need to discipline a child by saying “Boys will be Boys” or “Isn’t that cute?” What about those brothers and sisters of the local church who will never volunteer to work or perform duties at the church? Do they sign up to perform duties at the church or find excuses not to accomplish them? Finally, what about those of us who never participate in social gatherings with other Christians or don’t partake in extra opportunities to study the Bible together? When we neglect to strengthen our weaknesses are we really doing ALL we can to glorify God?

Please, don’t misunderstand my questions; I’m not implying that one must participate everything. I’m just asking at what point do we as Christians begin to extinguish our shining lights. Often in this world we focus on what we do well and make excuses for those things we are poor at. When we become Christians, we cannot think like the rest of the world! In the song “Do all in the name of the Lord” it says “Dear Christian friends, if you’d be one, Do all in the name of the Lord.” We need to make sure we truly love God with our heart, mind, body, and soul and giving Him everything, we have (**Mt. 22:37; Rom. 12:1-2**).

Remember, being a Christian is a life long journey and we are continually striving for perfection. As you journey through your Christian life, reflect upon what Paul tells us in **Col. 3:17** “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” The Apostle Paul also states in **Php. 2:14-16**, “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.” Let us make sure that we not only do nothing without the Lord’s blessing, but that we are doing ALL we can. Strive to strengthen up our weaknesses and do everything we can to serve God and glorify His precious name! - Jim Love

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## **ANVIL SPARKS**

“Innovations are usually adopted on the plea of expediency, and afterwards defended as Scriptural. Church-supported societies, sprinkling, and instrumental music are all illustrations.” - R.L White-side

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