OUR ONLY HOPE IS...

Sound Mind Ministries
DIANA KETTERMAN





Solemn Assembly
Message #2

REPENTANCE

Richard Roberts

- In several of my recent messages I talked about **Jeremiah, the "weeping prophet"**.
- At first the words "**weeping**" and "**prophet**" seem contradictory.
- However, they are two compatible terms.
- Every **true prophet** of God shares with Him the **pain of a broken heart** for the people of God.
- First, he **cries toward God**, and with God, in the knowledge of **what could have been**.
- Then, he **laments** with Him over the **people's terrible blindness** and **hardness of heart** and the accompanying **tragic loss** amidst the immeasureable blessings that are assured by God.



Richard Roberts

- Given the nature of sin, God, in His justice, could simply judge His people **completely** and **immediately**.
- But He, in **love**, desires to extend His **mercy**, **forgiveness** and **restoration** to all of His people in the **hope** that they will **repent** and **return** to Him.
- **In fact, the first word from the heart of God, from the mouth of Jesus was an urgent and loving call:**
  - **Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**! Matthew 3:2
- Repentance **from the beginning of time** to this **present hour** has been and remains the most positive word from the heart of God!



- To **KNOW** God is to **love, trust**, and **obey** Him.
- But the very **sinfulness** of **sin** and its **effect** on every person necessitates **repentance**.
- The **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit** are working all the time to **call** and to **draw** people back **from their sin** to a **full relationship** with Himself.
- **The message of "Repentance" is a timely and needed message for today.**
- It is a **now Word** for this generation.
- It must be **taught**, **preached**, and **urged** among God's people and taken to an eternally destined **lost world**.

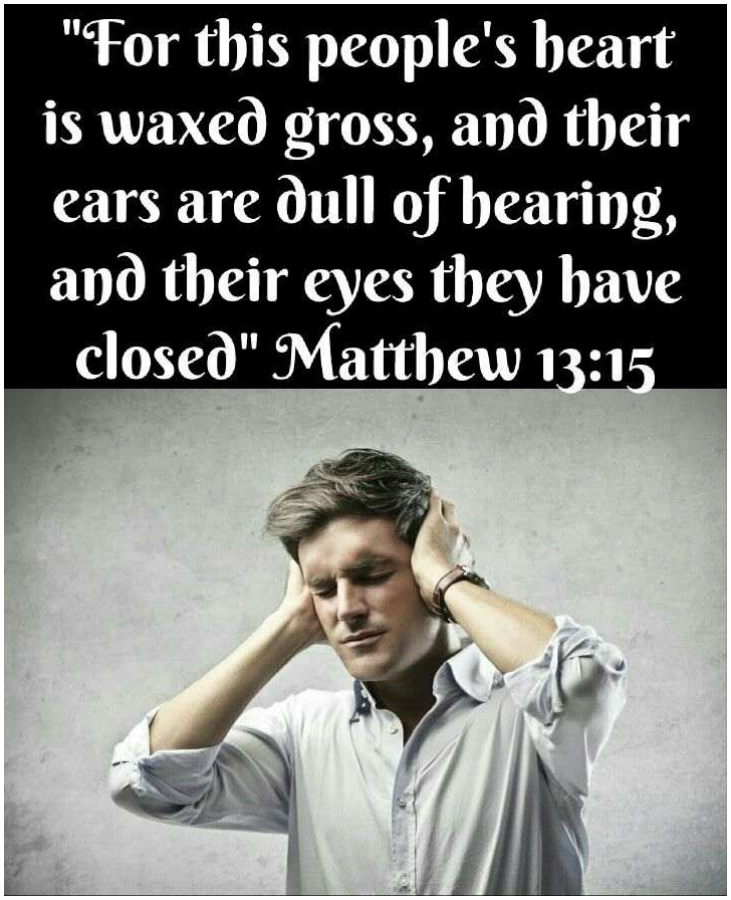


Richard Roberts



- Too often teachers speak from "**tradition**" or from a **personal interest**.
- But those teachers who have been in the awesome presence of God and who have a **clear word** from the **immediate heart** of God are those who speak **Truth**.
- **Repentance must be our heart's cry.**
- **The hour is late**!
- The signs are **warning** and **threatening**!
- There is a divine **urgency** in the air!
- **Repentance** by God's people is **our only hope** for any future for this generation.

- I believe there are **three things** that speak to today's **urgency**:
- **FIRST**, the **incredible SIN in God's people**, with little sign that they **UNDERSTAND** the **SERIOUSNESS** of **SIN**.
- With this is a terrible **LOSS of the FEAR of God**, and this has historically always been **FATAL**.
- **SECOND**, there is a **FATAL IGNORANCE of SCRIPTURE** and a consequent turning to media written by man and AI.
- God's people are turning to the reasoning of **human** and **demonic intelligence** rather than to the **CLEAR TRUE REVELATION** of God.
- **THIRD**, the much needed **SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**, to an astounding degree is **MISSING**.
- We have "**SPIRITUAL**" "**POLITICIANS**" in the place of Godly leaders.
- We **DESPERATELY** need **MEN of INTEGRITY** and spiritual POWER.
- When leaders depart from an **INTIMACY** with God, the people soon **FOLLOW**.
- Their ears become **DULL** of hearing from God and their hearts become **HARD**, so they will not hear.
  - **By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**
  - For **this people's heart is waxed gross**, and ***their*** **ears are dull of hearing**, and **their eyes they have closed**; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Matthew 13:14-15

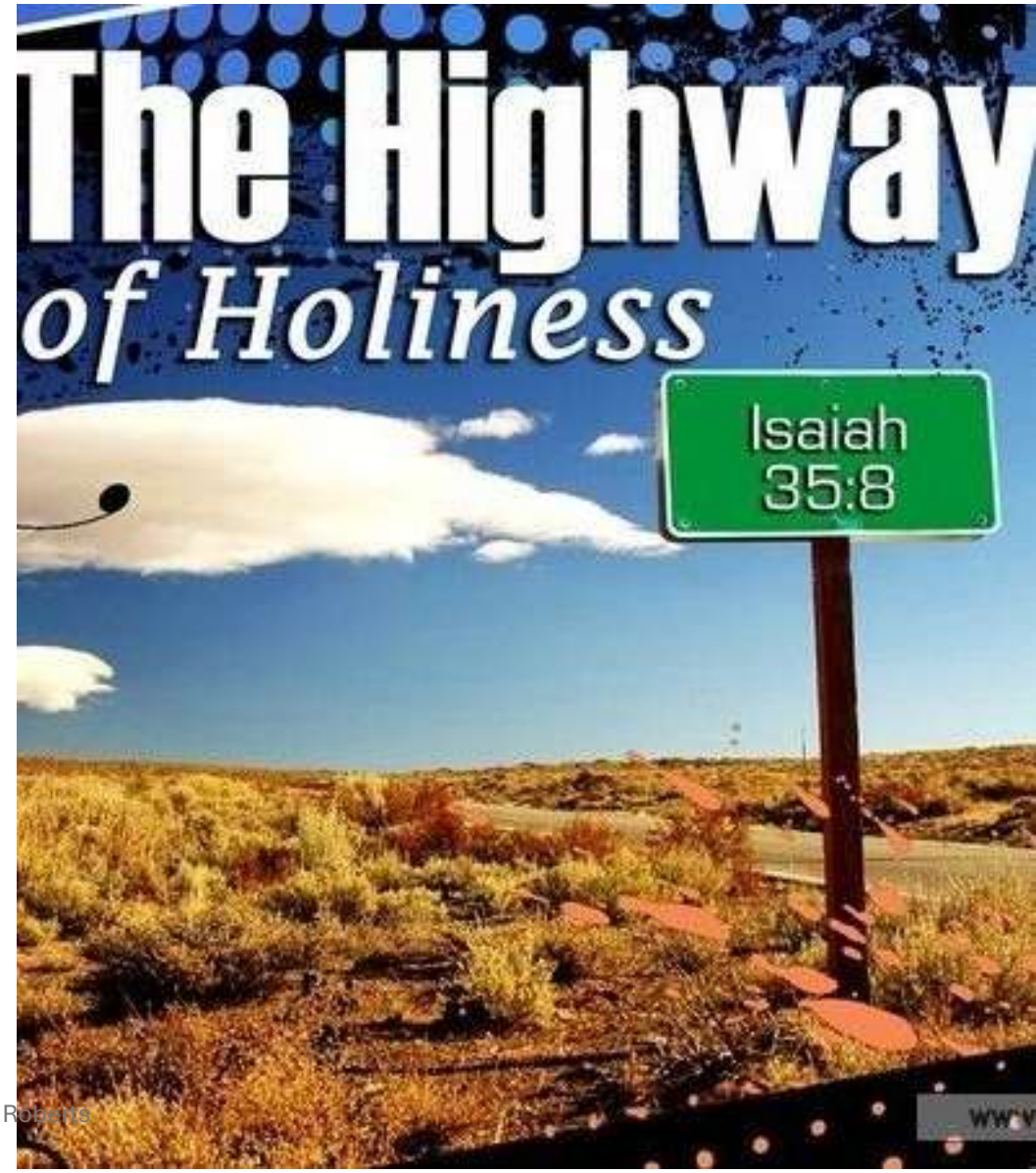


- May our prayer be that there may be an **increase in great number** who like Jesus' disciples to whom He said,
  But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. Matthew 13:16
- **Many do not want to teach in a way that might offend the listeners.**
- Some say that everyone must be **free** to do what is right in their own eyes.
- And so it is, we are in a **dangerous spiritual anarchy** that is ultimately becoming our **spiritual demise**!
- Our **spiritual survival** depends on **sound teaching** that is clearly recognized as being from the **heart of God**.
- Sound teaching will be **honored by the Holy Spirit** and made effective in the hearts and **lives of God's people**.

Richard Roberts



- **Genuine repentance** and a **return to God** on God's terms has an **opportunity** to be **personally** and **corporately transforming**.
- This type of teaching and **repentance** will create a "**highway**" of **holiness** over which God goes to His people and **THROUGH THEM**, **to a lost world**.
  - And **an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness;** the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. Isaiah 35:8
- This **highway of holiness** will lead God's people **to return to Zion**.
  - And **the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion** with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 35:10



- I urge you to **carefully consider** the **immense danger** to which so many people of this world and members of **innumerable churches** expose themselves.
- As Jesus was passing from one city and village to another, **teaching** and **preaching**, someone asked him an **enticing question**.
  - And he (JESUS) went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.
  - Then said one unto him, **Lord, are there few that be saved**? And he said unto them,
  - **Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.**
  - **When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are**. Luke 13:22-25
- Instead of satisfying a man's curiosity, Christ confronted him with an alarming truth affecting his eternal soul.



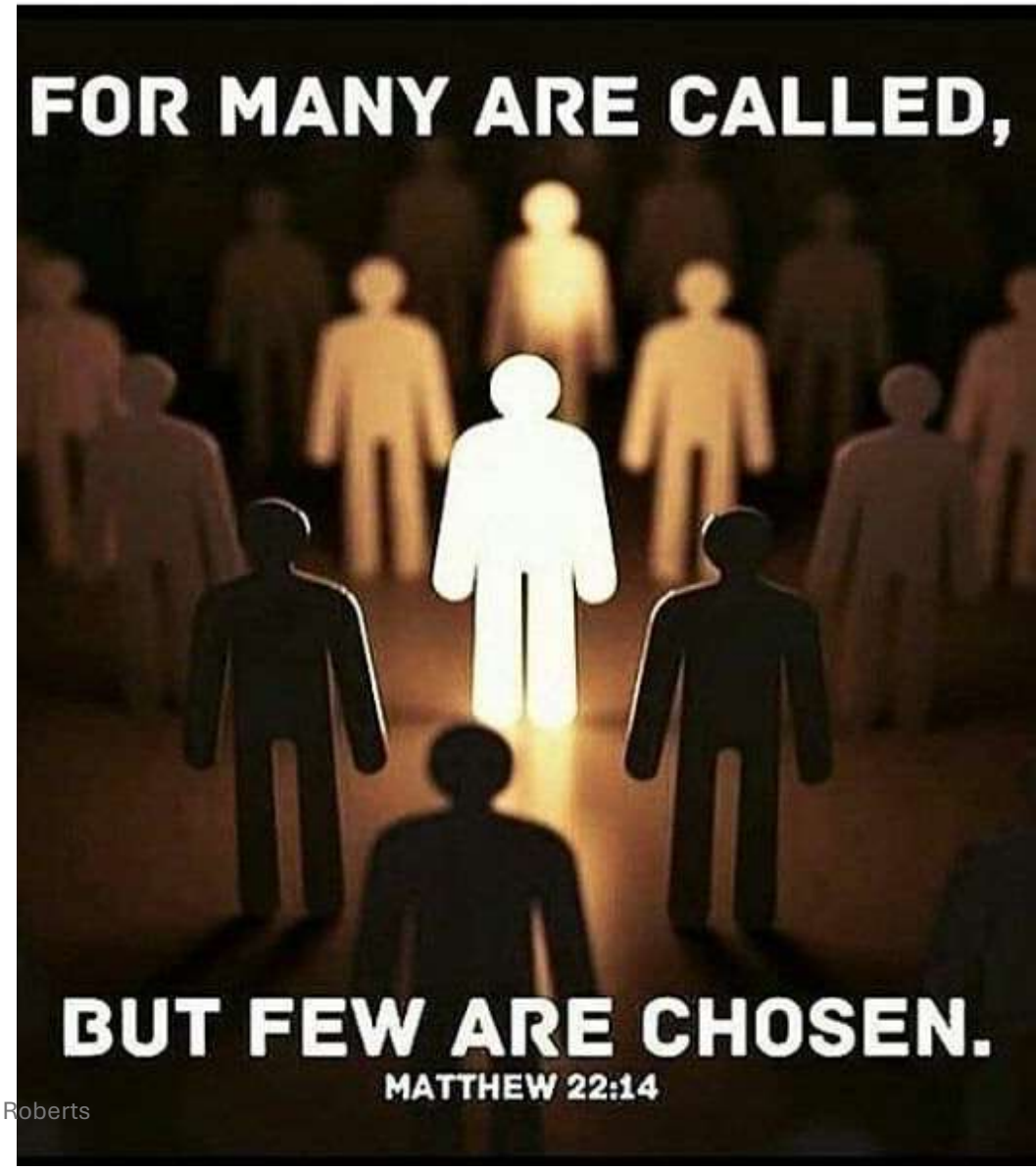
- The question of **how many are being saved** is of interest.
- Are there **billions**? **Millions**? **Thousands**? **Hundreds**? Or just a **Few**?
- While the Bible **never answers this question**, it does provide some sobering **insights**.
- In the conclusion of the **Sermon on the Mount**, the contrast between the **wise man** who built his house upon solid rock and the **foolish man** who did his building on sand provides a one-out of two count: one wise, one foolish. (Matthew 7:24-27)
- **In Christ's parable of the Sower, the count is one out of four (25%).**
- The seed that fell beside the road was **devoured** by birds,
- The seed that landed in rocky places immediately sprang up but **withered** under the scorching rays of the sun.
- The seed among thorns germinated but was **choked** out.
- It was only the seed on good soil that **produced a harvest**. (Matthew 13:1-23)



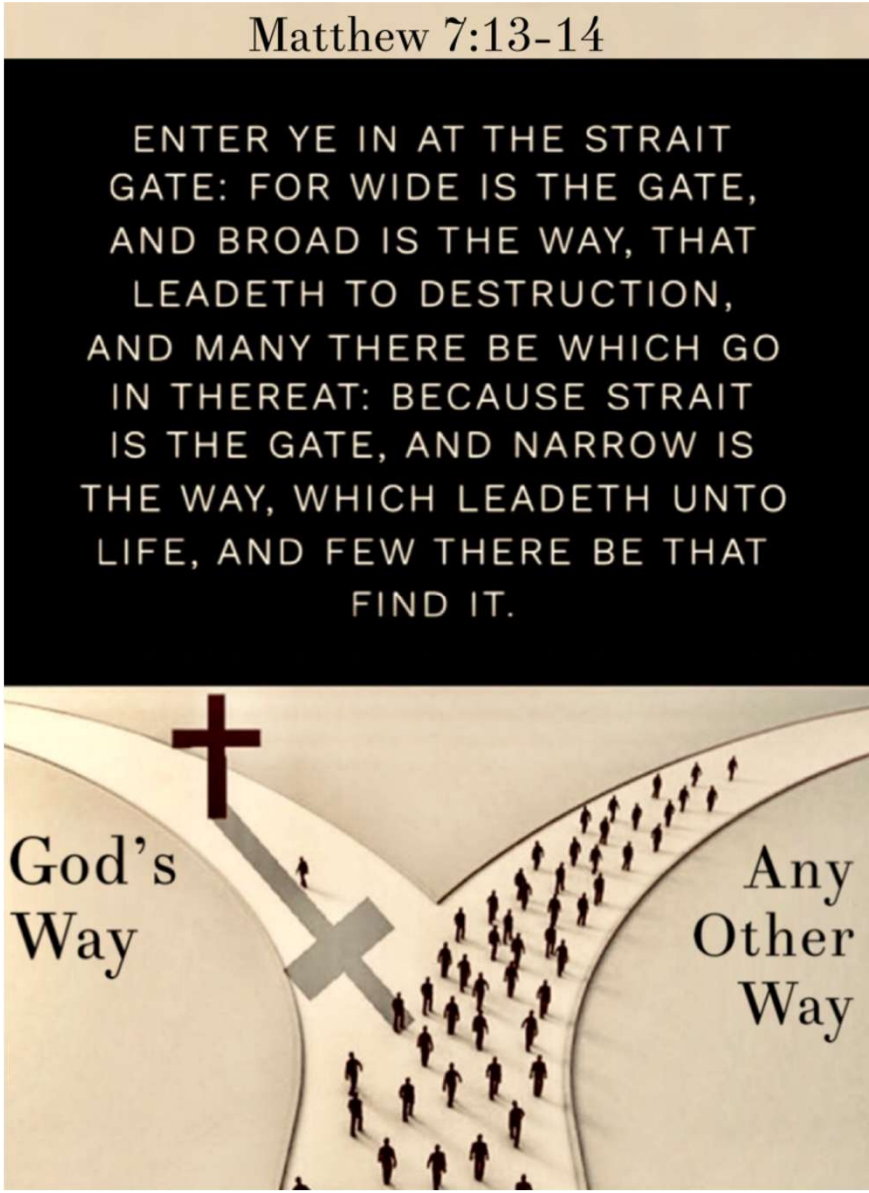
- Both the **parable of the tares among the wheat** and the parable of the dragnet indicate that **some are saved** and **some are lost**. (Matthew 13:24-30; 47-50)
- **There is no indicator of the proportion**.
- In the parable of the virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom, we learn that five were **wise and five were foolish (50%).** (Matthew 15:1-13)
- The parable of the **talents** provides a more hopeful ration: **two out of three**. (Matthew 15:14-30)
- The man with five talents gained five; the man with two talents gained two.
- It was the man who only had one talent who was **cast into outer darkness** because of his failure to increase that which he had been given.



- The **division of the sheep and goats** at the time when Christ comes in His glory makes it clear that some are in the kingdom and some are outside the kingdom, but no numbers or ratios are provided. (Matthew 25:31-46)
- In the parable of the **marriage feast**, the king was enraged at the **many who were invited but proved themselves unworthy**. (Matthew 22:1-14)
- When the invitation was broadened to the **highways** and the servants brought in all they found, both good and evil, **a man without a wedding garment** was ordered bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness by the offended king.
    - Then Christ summarized the matter by declaring, **"For many are called, but few are chosen."** Matthews 22:14



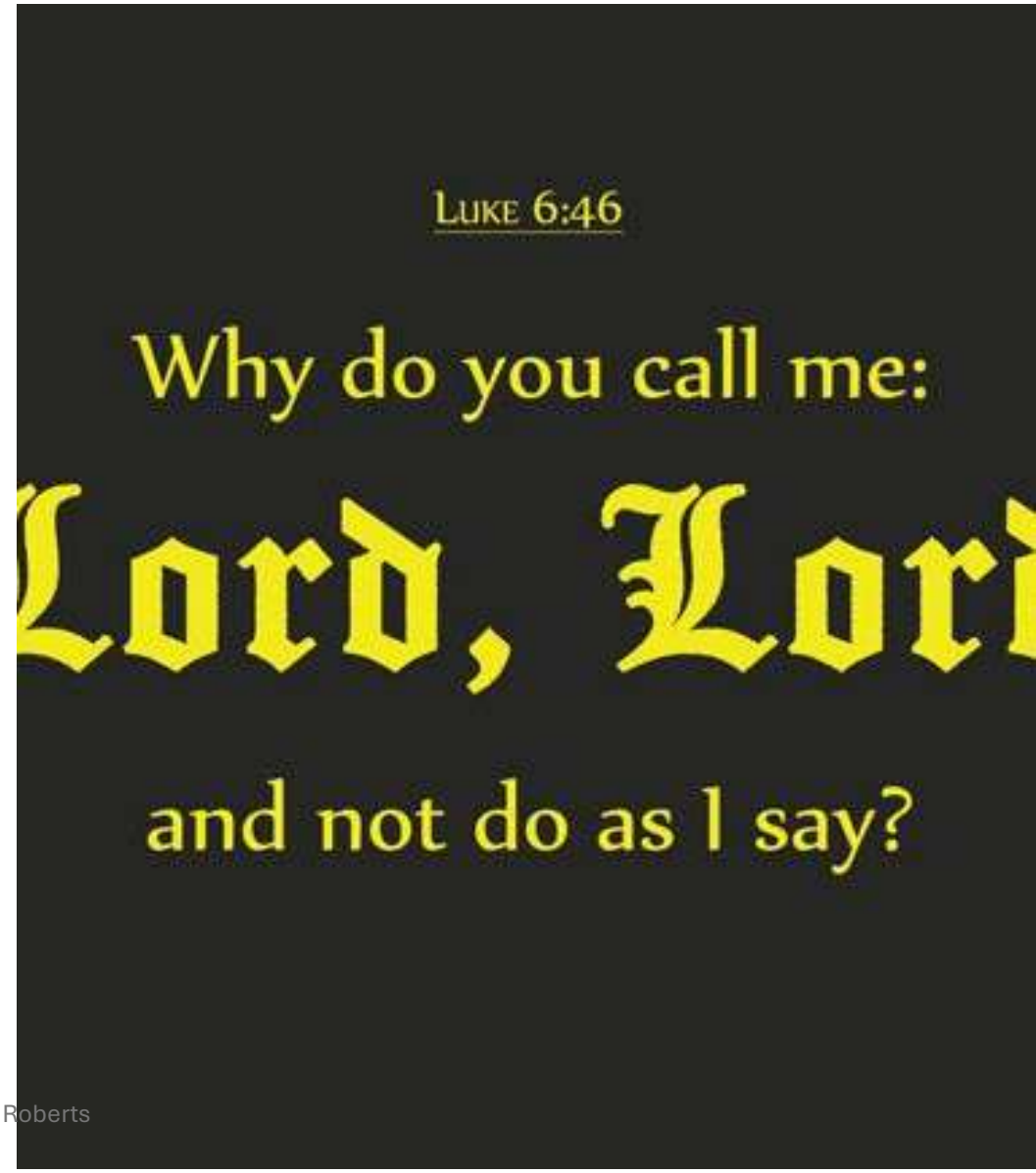
- In a very telling passage Jesus urged,
  - **Enter ye in at the strait gate**: for **wide** *is* the gate, and **broad** *is* the way, that leadeth to **destruction**, and many there be which go in thereat:
  - **Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.** Matthew 7:13-14
- Obviously, Christ did not intend to provide Bible readers today with an answer He withheld from a face-to-face inquirer.
- **The number who are being saved is not for us to know or speculate.**
- Our duty, like that of biblical characters, is to **strive to enter the strait gate.**
- All people everywhere and in all places need to take this urgent word to heart and act diligently upon it.



- Jesus warned us…
  - **Beware of false prophets**, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but **inwardly they are ravening wolves.**
  - Ye shall **know them by their fruits**. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
  - Even so **every good tree bringeth forth good fruit**; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
  - **A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit**, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
  - **Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.**
  - **Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**
  - Not every one that saith unto me, **Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven**; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
  - Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
  - And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity**. Matthew 7:15-23



- But it is not just false prophets that Jesus probes.
- He is still asking us…
  - And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say**? Luke 6:46
- Christ has never revoked His **adamant demand**…
  - 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. Matthew 5:20
- Peter says…
  - As obedient children, **not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:**
  - But as he which hath called you is holy, **so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;**
  - Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.** 1 Peter 1:14-16



- Paul says…
  - Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath **blessed us with all spiritual blessings** in heavenly *places* in Christ:
  - According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that **we should be holy and without blame before him** in love. Ephesians 1:3-4
- We are told in Hebrews 12:14 that **without holiness no man shall see the Lord.**
- That warning is still valid.



Richard Roberts

- The Apostle Paul describes the difficult times of the last days.
- A list of eighteen (18) sins are provided.
  - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
  - For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**, **covetous**, **boasters**, **proud**, **blasphemers**, **disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy**,
  - **Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,**
  - **Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures** more than lovers of God;
  - **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.** 2 Timothy 3:1-5

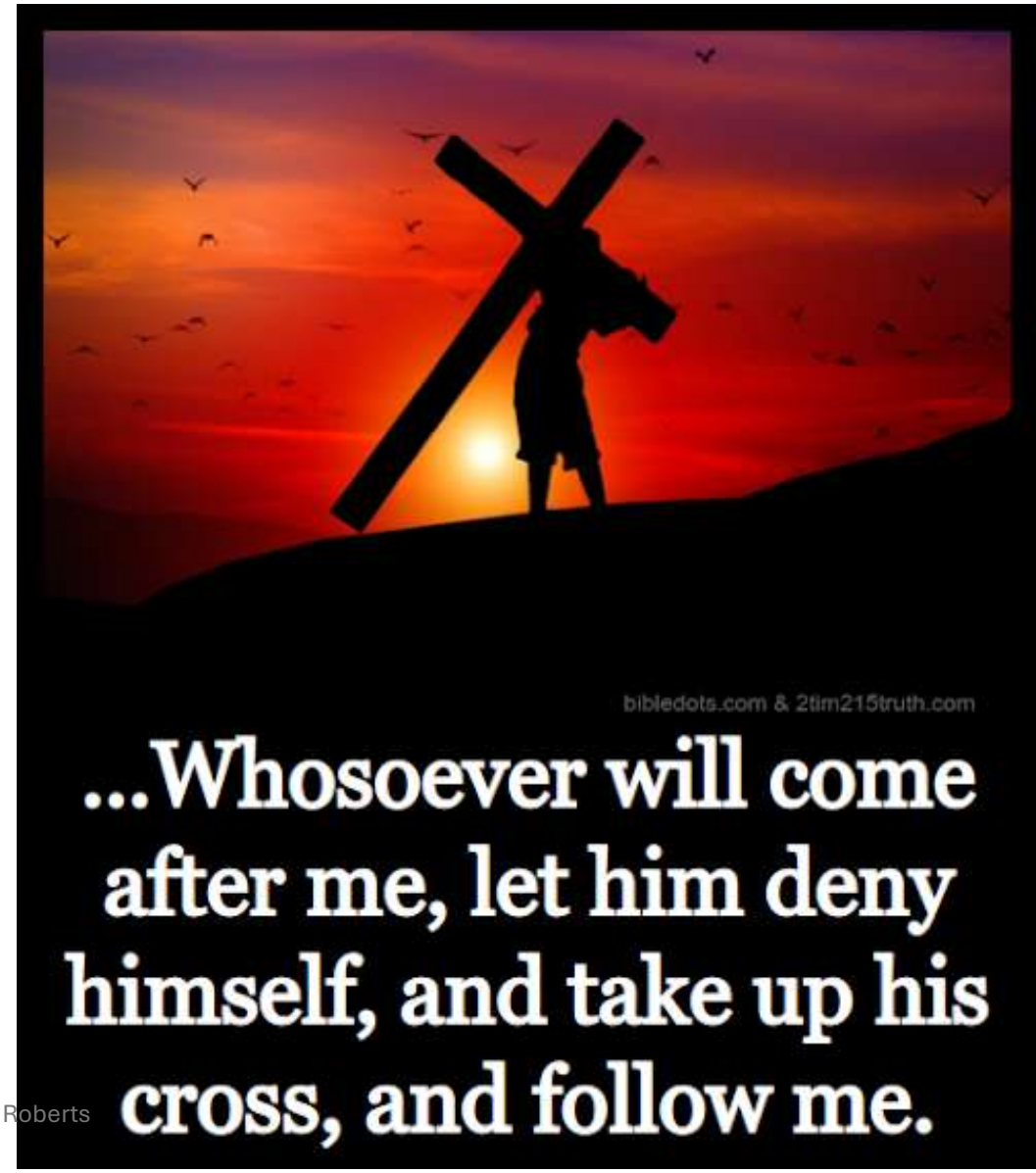


- Paul is describing the plight of religious people who are **still very much full of themselves.**
- They are persons **who have never taken seriously the explicit words of Christ.**
  - And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, **Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**
  - **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.** Mark 8:34-35
- It is impossible to go in two directions at once.
- We either **turn from our way** and **go Christ's way,** or we go our way and do not follow Christ.



Richard Roberts

- Most of the **scribes**, **Pharisees**, and **religious leaders of Christ's day** were intrigued by what He said and **amazed** by what He did but **angered** by what he claimed and demanded.
- They neither would nor could deny themselves or take up their crosses and follow Him.
- While they enjoyed their righteousness, it meant nothing to God**, for it was worth no more than filthy rags.**
- **Because they would not REPENT, they could not BELIEVE.**
- None of us has any hope of surpassing their righteousness if we **resist** repentance as they did.
- Holiness **cannot prevail in unrepentant persons** who are still full of themselves.
- It does not take repentance to enjoy a form of religion, **but repentance is mandatory for all who would live in the power of true godliness.**



- The man who inquired about the number of those being saved was urged to concern himself with the vital issue **of his own spiritual welfare.**
- **Interest in theological questions does not constitute salvation**.
- Not even the power to **perform amazing miracles** will guarantee eternal safety.
- **One can enthusiastically praise the Lord and still be lost.**
- When the master of the house shuts the door, **no amount of knocking and clamoring from the outside is going to force it open**.



Richard Roberts

- Insisting that **we ate and drank in His presence and heard Him teach in our streets** will only result in a repetition of those awful words…
  - But he shall say, **I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all *ye* workers of iniquity.** Luke 13:27
- **The time to strive to enter the kingdom of God is not after the door is shut, but now**.
  - There shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.
  - And they shall come from the east, and *from* the west, and from the north, and *from* the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.
  - And, behold, **there are last which shall be first**, and there are first which shall be last. Luke 13:28-30



Richard Roberts

- What could be more pathetic than **giving yourself to repentance**, to seeking God, and **trying to gain entrance into the kingdom of God after it is already too late**?
- Dear listener, please do not let this happen to you!
- **SIN is perhaps the most popular subject of all time**.
- It is not only frequently spoken of **but regularly practiced** by an overwhelming **majority** of the world's people.
- Many sin **without any fear of the consequences**.
- These multitudes seem to sense **no restraints of conscience** and thus they sin with delight.
- The **passing nature of the pleasures of sin** is apparently not a concept with which they are familiar or concerned.
- They **regard their lives as their own** and believe themselves to be **free to do as they please.**



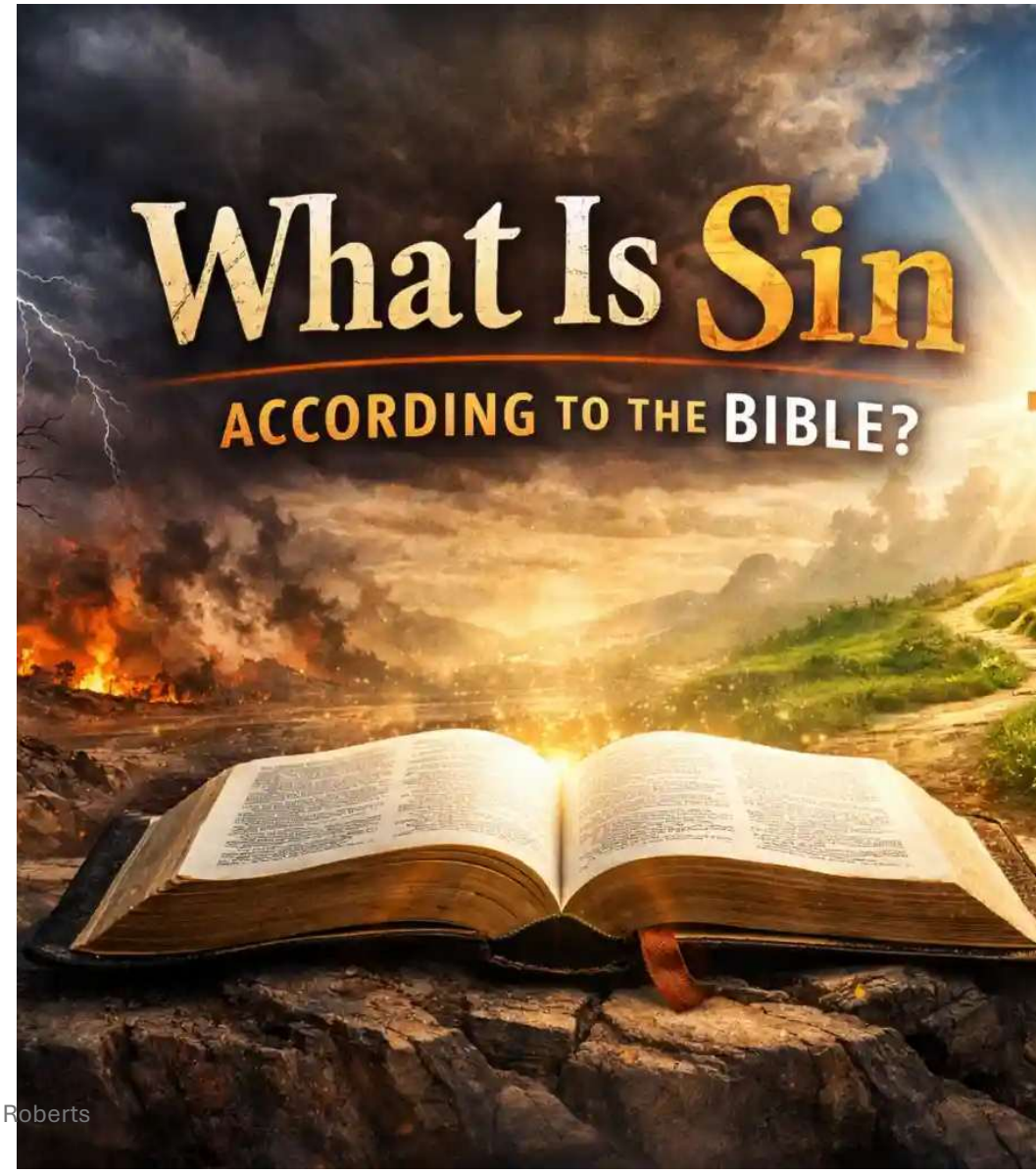
Richard Roberts

- Many are hindered by the full enjoyment of sin because they have been **exposed** to **moral training, ethics**, and **religious** teachings.
- Many **sin regularly** but they have **restraints** and **boundaries** as to how far they will go.
- Thus, they tend to "**put the brakes on sin**" and try to keep their **conduct withing the limitations** they have set for themselves where they are comfortable.
- Moral standards have not been constant throughout history.
- The ethical position of America is **vastly different today than in the past.**
- The level of **flagrant public sinning** today can not be compared with the moral restraints from even fifty years ago.

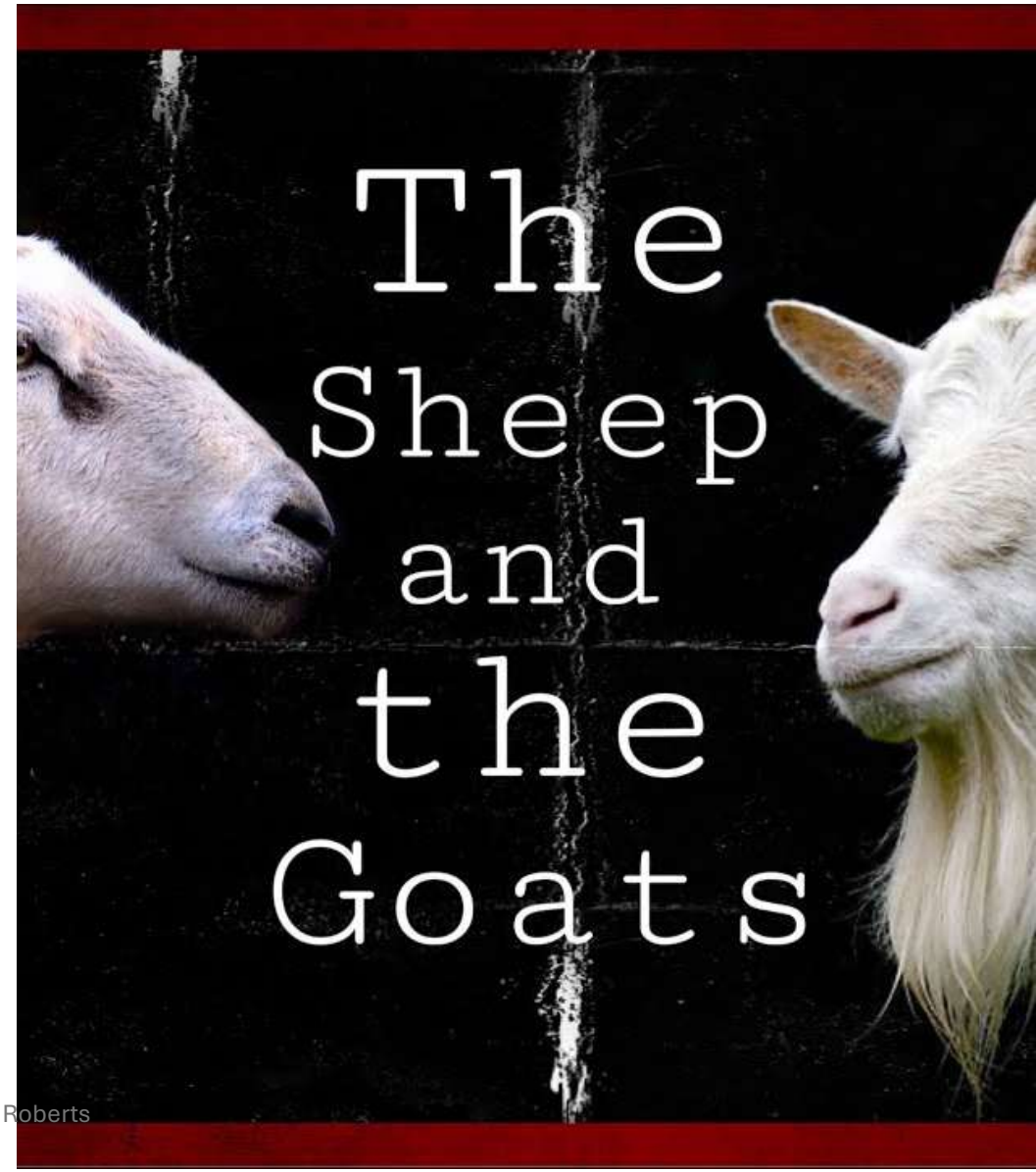


Richard Roberts

- Blatant sinning is an indicator **of where the Word of God stands in our society.**
- Those who know the Word, know it **speaks frequently of sin**.
- **The Bible is the greatest single source of vital information on the subject of sin to be found anywhere in the world.**
- Yet, because the biblical perspective on sin is **negative**, it has not received in a sin-loving society.
- The biblical doctrine of repentance is that **all sin is grievous against God.**
- None of us have a right to offend God.



- It is time for alarm when the church that the Lord Jesus Christ established **knows scarcely any more about repentance than does the sin-loving world.**
- This is the **tragic situation** in our world today.
- There is a **general disregard** for biblical doctrine in the church.
- Without a solid biblical doctrine, **the church becomes an assorted lot of flesh and spirit.**
- **A mixture of sheep and goats are a shepherd's nightmare.**
- The world cannot believe in Christ because it cannot believe in the **mixed multitude** that calls itself "Christian".
- The world has no means of distinguishing between the those who say they are the sheep of Christ's flock and the goats of the world that **sit side by side** in the same sanctuaries and **mouth the same religious jargon.**



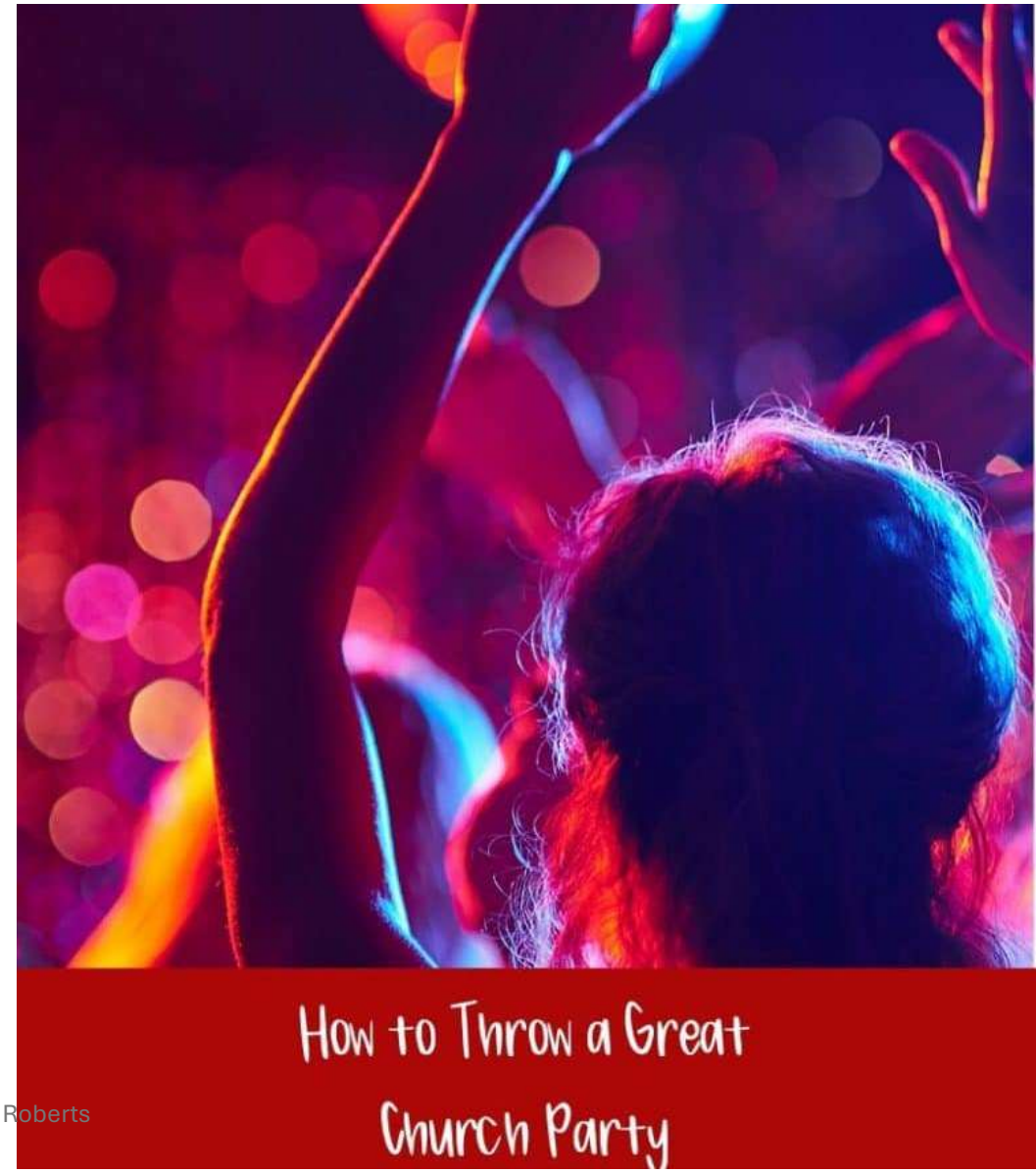
Richard Roberts

- The greatest hinderance to the growth of Christianity in today's world is **the absence of the manifest presence of God** from the church.
- The Lord has been so **deeply grieved by the refusal of the church to faithfully proclaim the whole counsel of His Word in the power of the Holy Spirit** that He has largely withdrawn from the church and left her to her own devices.
- The heart cry of God is stated in Malachi 3:7, "**RETURN to me and I will return to you.**"



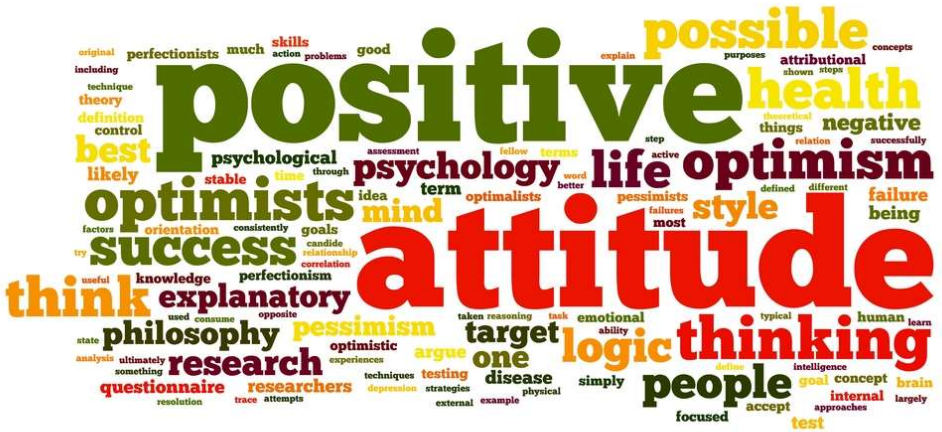
Richard Roberts

- Teachers and preachers have become **grievously negligent** about the subject of repentance.
- **Many have sought to make converts who neither understand nor practice biblical repentance.**
- Therefore, **the strength of the Church is diluted** by **unrepentant** and **unconverted** persons **who suppose themselves to be "Christians"**.
- There is a **common failure in understanding the mandatory nature of repentance.**
- Some seem to believe that **repentance** is an **option**.
- Multitudes have sought to turn to Christ **without ever TURNING from their sins.**
- Therefore, it is increasingly difficult, **if not impossible, to distinguish the church from the world.**

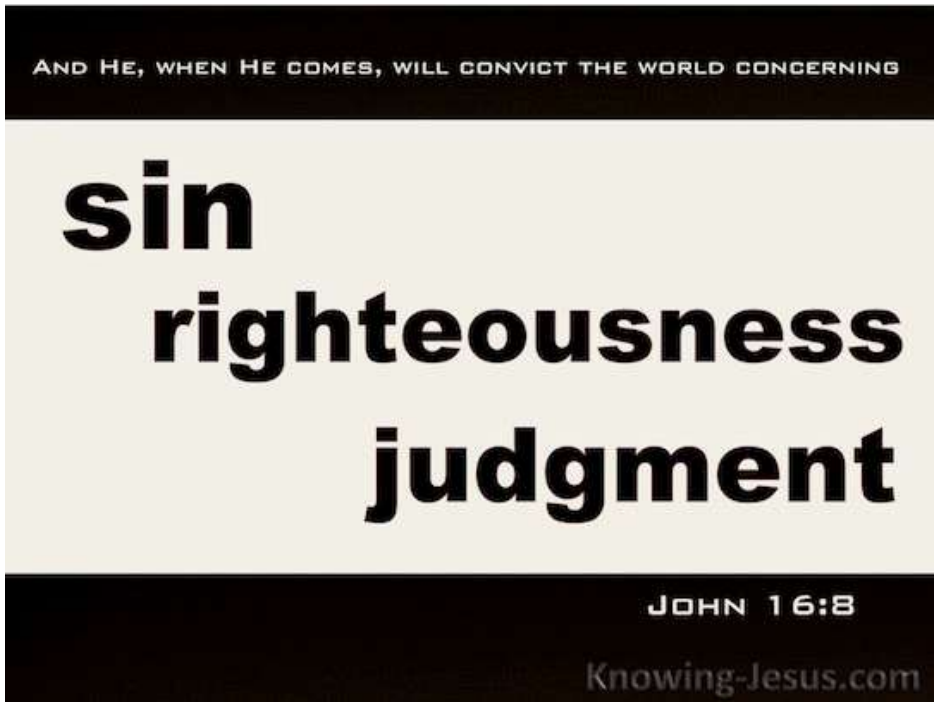


Richard Roberts

- Some have the viewpoint that **repentance** has nothing to do with **salvation**.
- To assume that sinners can turn to the Righteous One **without turning** from **unrighteousness** is the height of **theological nonsense**.
- Repentance has often been neglected because of **a grievously distorted focus upon the positive.**
- There is a widespread notion that **Christianity must always be stated in positive terms.**
- **Faith** is perceived as **positive** whereas **repentance** is viewed as **negative**.
- How would you like it if your **mechanic** always had a positive outlook with your vehicle and never found anything wrong?
- Or can you imagine going to a **medical doctor** when you are having health issues and he always treats you as if there is nothing wrong?



- The need for repentance has suffered at the hands of the church's **large-scale commitment** to and love for success.
- The tendency is to **pick and choose the elements of both religious truth and psychology** that will most readily promote **accomplishments**.
- A **focus on the love of God**, the **role of faith** in human **happiness**, the benefits of the **upbeat life,** a well **integrated personality**, are seen as much more helpful in **building large churches** than preaching against **sin**, **judgement** and **hell**.
- **You will notice that there is an absence of the Holy Spirit in these ministries**.
  - **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
  - **Of sin, because they believe not on me;**
  - Of **righteousness**, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;
  - Of **judgment**, because **the prince of this world is judged**. John 16:8-11



Richard Roberts

- When there is virtually **no conviction**, it can hardly be surprising that there is **little or no repentance** and virtually **no TRUE conversions.**
- There also exists a tragic lack of **moral earnestness** among religious leaders.
- **How does God feel when His doctrines are set aside?**
- **Does He merely smile** in the realization that this is **a new age** in which we live and that **the old-fashioned truths are no longer relevant**?
- Or does He **rise in indignation** against all those who seek to accomplish His purposes **in their way instead of His?**
- The Bible provides evidence that God is **against all those who stray from His ancient paths.**



- It is not merely that **God weeps over His wayward church**; **He stands against it and refuses to bless** any and all who violate His **will**, His **way**, and His **Word**.
- In profoundly moving words, Isaiah describes wayward Israel:
  - **But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, *and* he fought against them.** Isaiah 63:10
- You have heard the scripture quoted, **"If God be for us, who can be against us?"** (Romans 8:31)
- But did you ever hear anyone ask, **"If God is against us, what does it matter who is for us?"**
- We are living in a day when many have largely **abandoned God** and God Himself is fighting against us.
- In Jeremiah 5 and 7 **God promises to bring disaster on His people who are wayward**.



- How could any disaster be greater than having God as our enemy?
- The Lord Jesus gave us urgent words of caution concerning our hearing.
    - And he said unto them, **Take heed (care) what ye hear (listen to) for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have**. Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18
- What this is saying that what a person **takes care in listening to** will either **add to** or **take away** from them.
- This Word places an **important responsibility** upon each of us.
- Our **spiritual intake** can have a very dramatic **effect** upon us.
- Some, being careless about **what they hear**, will sit for years listening to **unsound and unprofitable teaching and preaching** and will suffer the loss in **withered spiritual lives.**
- Others sit under a **solid biblical ministry** but are **CARELESS** about **HOW** they hear, and **experience very little if any spiritual growth**, and indeed they may even lose much of what they had earlier gained.



Richard Roberts

- God is longing for **a LISTENING people**.
  - **Hear, O my people**, and I will testify unto thee: O Israel, **if thou wilt hearken** unto me;
  - There shall **no strange god be in thee**; neither shalt thou worship any strange god.
  - I *am* the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: **open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.**
  - **But my people would not hearken to my voice**; and Israel would none of me.
  - **So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust**: *and* **they walked in their own counsels.**
  - **Oh that my people had hearkened unto me**, *and* Israel had walked in my ways! Psalms 81:8-13



- Paul rejoiced when the Corinthians received his first epistle, and they felt a **true and godly sorrow over the awful sins** both he and the Holy Spirit specified.
- They **dealt with their sins**, **putting them away**, **making wrongs right**, **demonstrating** they were **truly a Church of Jesus Christ**.
  - **For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death**. 2 Corinthians 7:10
- This was an excellent example of **corporate repentance**.
  - For behold this selfsame thing, that **ye sorrowed after a godly sort**, what **carefulness** it wrought in you, yea, *what* **clearing** of yourselves, yea, *what* **indignation**, yea, *what* **fear**, yea, *what* **vehement desire**, yea, *what* **zeal**, yea, *what* **revenge**! **In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.** 2 Corinthians 7:11



- **True repentance** is always marked by a **genuine earnestness**.
- The **unrepentant church** is marked by a **spirit of carelessness**, **indifference**, and **neglect** concerning sin, but **godly sorrow** provokes an **overwhelming eagerness** to deal with it at its very roots.
- Through **earnest searching**, sins which previously appeared too slight to contemplate are **brought into true proportion and put away**.
- **The human tendency is to sorrow over the sins that hurt us.**
- But the **truly repentant learn to sorrow over all sins** because they **hurt God**, including those **corporate sins** which bring the Church under judgement.
- **Sin robs the Church of her favor with God and power among men.**

Reasons For Spiritual Weakness:



- Being overcome by sin... ***Galatians 6:1***
  - Turns into spiritual death. ***Jas. 5:19-20***
- Not using God's word to judge what is right. ***1 Corinthians 2:12-16; 1 Tim. 1:8***
  - Failure to do this caused many to be weak. ***1 Cor. 11:30***
- If left alone spiritual weakness becomes carnality. ***1 Cor. 3:1-3***
  - We must choose to be ruled by the Holy Spirit. ***Romans 8:5, 7***

- **True repentance** is marked by **vindication**.
- This is a great **eagerness** to be totally **clear**, to be truly and finally **free of both the guilt** and the **error of sin.**
- Those who are **truly repentant** posses an urgent **determination** to **leave nothing unsettled**.
- **Godly sorrow leads to repentance**, which provokes a corporate open **acknowledgement**, not **denial**, not **excuses**, no **covering up**, but **clear** and full **confession** of every evil which the Holy Spirit reveals.
- **Open confession is crucial to the corporate body of Christ.**



Richard Roberts

- **True repentance** is marked by **indignation**, specifically of **wrath unto grief**.
- The repentant are filled with **indignation** against the sin.
- Have you ever gotten **angry** or **fumed** against yourself for your sin?
- You may have asked, "**How could I do such a wicked thing against the God I love**?"
- David understood this agony.
  - And **David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people**. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, **O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly**. 2 Samuel 24:10
  - Thus **my heart was grieved**, and **I was pricked in my reins**. So foolish *was* I, and ignorant: I was *as* a beast before thee. Psalms 73:21-22
- Job wrestled as well.
  - I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee**. Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes**. Job 42:5-6
- In the **truly repentant**, sin is the object of **hatred**, **scorn**, **rage**, **reproach**, **shame, grief, anger, and fixed determination** to see it **destroyed forever**.

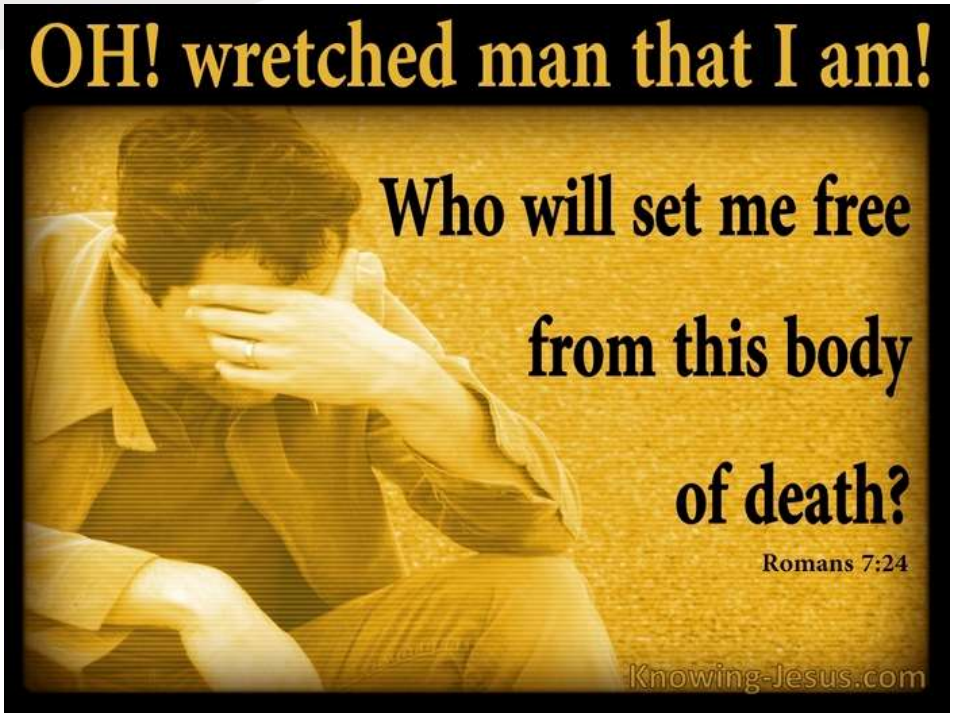


Richard Roberts

- **True repentance** is marked by **fear**.
- Just as the burned child **fears the fire**, so the repentant know that **sin costs dearly;** they know what **sin cost the Saviour**, they know what **sin costs them in separation from Him**, and **they want no part of it.**
  - **The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom**. Psalm 111:10
- Jesus warned, "And **fear not them which kill the body**, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather **fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**." Matthew 10:28
  - **What doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.** Deuteronomy 10:12
- It is only by **fearing God** that one can be **kept from sin**.
  - **The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way**...Proverbs 8:13
  - By **mercy** and **truth iniquity** is **purged**: and **by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil.** Proverbs 16:6
- **True repentance provokes fear**; lest we be **hardened** through the **deceitfulness** of sin, fear lest others be **damaged** by our ill-conduct, fear lest we bring **shame** upon the **Gospel** and **encourage** the world in its **downward plunge** to perdition.



- **True repentance** is marked by **longing**.
- Think of the **longing** to be wholly **rid of sin** as manifested in Paul's words.
  - **O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?** Romans 7:24
- Peter said, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby**." 1 Peter 2:2
- **True repentance** causes churches to **yearn to be holy** as God is holy, **to not lapse back** into the God-dishonoring patterns of the past, to **live above the world**, to long to hear, "**Well done, thou good and faithful servant.**" Matthew 25:21

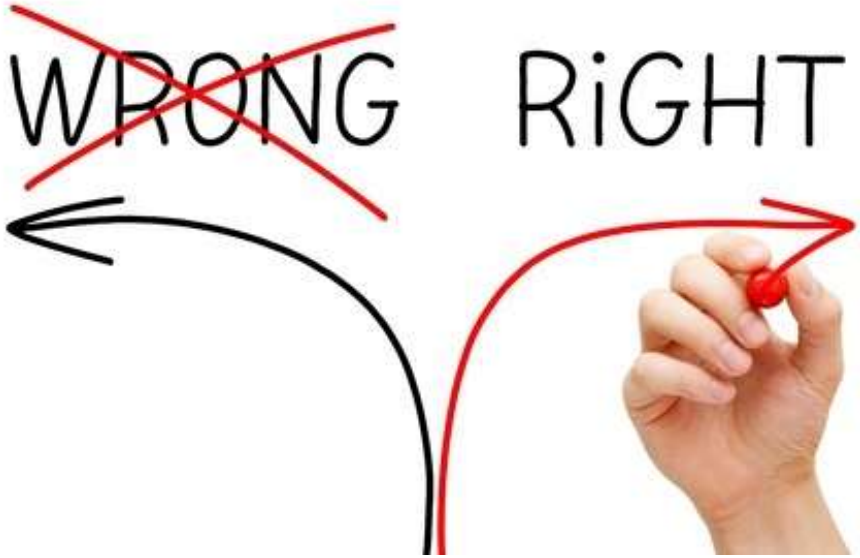


- **True repentance** is marked by **zeal**. Paul says,
  - But *it is* good **to be zealously affected** always in *a* good *thing*, and not only when I am present with you. Galatians 4:18
- **It is with great zeal that we grasp every opportunity to fling off sin and all that contributes to it in this life.**
  - **Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off**, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.
  - **And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee**: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Matthew 18:8-9
- Those with **zeal** understand and appreciate the New Testament believers in the book of Acts.
  - Many of them also which used curious arts **brought their books together, and burned them before all *men*: and they counted the price of them, and found *it* fifty thousand *pieces* of silver**. Acts 19:19
- With **vehement zeal they refused to let opposition** stand in the way of full biblical repentance.
- These are willing to **stand absolutely alone, if need be,** and do not shrink from being considered "**fools**" for Christ's sake.



Richard Roberts

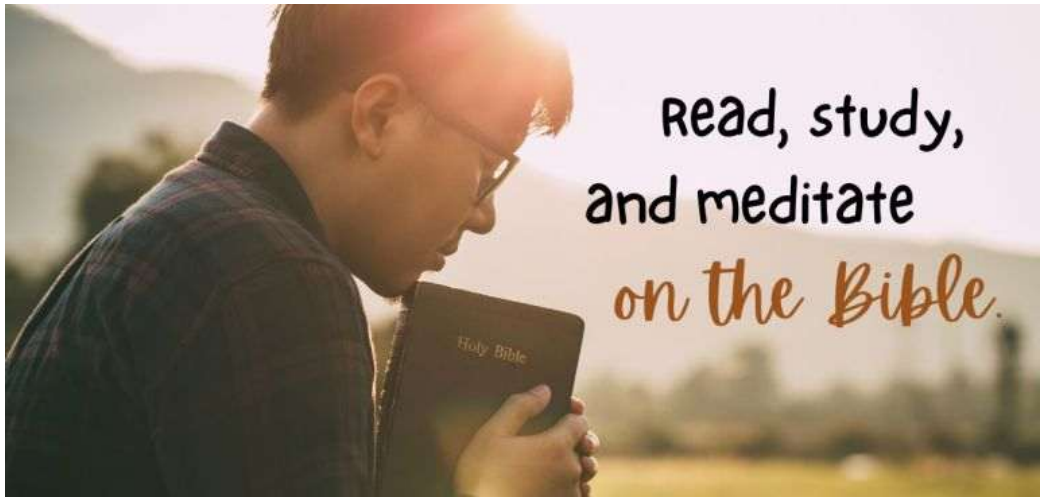
- **True repentance** is always marked by **avenging of wrong**.
- This is **not talking about getting even** with those who have wronged us, but that **sin must be punished** and **wrongs righted**.
- The **corporate body** understands that each sin **was paid for by Christ** and that sins will either be **repented of** or the body will be **judged** and **punished** by God.
- Think of those ministries who will **do anything** to get more clicks or followers or members, **no matter** who the members are.
- Some are **even fake members or bots**, but all that matters is what **looks good to men**.
- Those who are **esteeming the wealthy** and/or **compromising truth** will require **restitution** before God.



- Thankfully, Paul knew what to do about **corporate sin** in the Corinthian church.
- Thankfully when **he confronted the church,** they heard his Word as the **Word of God** and **responded with repentance**.
- **Corporate repentance is still a necessity today.**
- We must have an **attitude of brokenness** and **contrition** before God and **be sensitive** to what He is saying to the us.
- **Arrogancy** and s**elf-sufficiency** make us virtually **immune** to the voice of God and the **promptings** of the Holy Spirit.
- **We must seek His face and humble ourselves and ask the Holy Spirit to show us where we have grieved Him.**



- I urge you to carefully **study** and **mediate** upon the Word.
- **Search** it out.
- **Discipline** your spirit!
- Become an **earnest** student of the Bible.
- Be **conscientious** and pay **close attention** to what you study.
- **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will help you to **understand** the Word.
- **Be faithful to the Scripture.**



Song of Repentance

We’ve fallen short
We’ve wandered far from Your ways
Forgive us O Lord
We’ve sinned against Your name



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsEYgZooUvk&list=RDjsEYgZooUvk&start_radio=1

- Our prayer must echo the same heart cry as that of God's servant David.
- Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me.Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem… But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Psalm 51; 1 Peter 2:9-10
- O God, return the hearts of Your people once again to REPENTANCE!