

True Repentance

by Thomas Brooks

True repentance is a continual act that involves a sensibleness of sin's sinfulness, a sensibleness of sin's destructiveness, sorrow for sin, and a loathing of sin and self, leading to salvation and a deeper relationship with God.

Scripture: Psalm 51:3, Ezekiel 20:43, Romans 6:21, Romans 7:24, 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Topics: "The Nature of Sin", "True Repentance"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes that true repentance involves a deep awareness of the sinfulness of sin and its destructive consequences, contrasting the nature of God with the nature of sin. He explains that true repentance is marked by sorrow, contrition, and a loathing of both sin and oneself, leading to shame and a desire to turn away from sin. Brooks illustrates that repentance is not a one-time act but a continual process of turning towards God and away from sin, highlighting the necessity of ongoing godly sorrow. He warns that those who do not actively repent may face dire consequences, urging believers to remain vigilant against sin. Ultimately, true repentance is a heartfelt response that seeks to draw closer to God, recognizing the weight of sin and the need for divine grace.

Transcript

True repentance includes a sensibleness of sin's sinfulness--how opposite and contrary sin is to the blessed God.

God is light, sin is darkness;

God is life, sin is death;

God is heaven, sin is hell;

God is beauty, sin is deformity.

Also true repentance includes a sensibleness of sin's destructiveness; how sin cast angels out of heaven, and Adam out of paradise; how sin laid the first cornerstone in hell, and brought in all the curses, crosses, and miseries, which are in the world; and how sin makes men liable to all temporal, spiritual and eternal wrath; how sin has made

men Godless, Christless, hopeless and heavenless.

Further, true repentance includes sorrow for sin, contrition of heart. It breaks the heart with sighs, and sobs, and groans--that by sin--a loving God and Father is offended; a blessed Savior afresh crucified, and the sweet Comforter, the Spirit, grieved and vexed.

Again, repentance includes, not only a loathing of sin--but also a loathing of ourselves for sin. As a man does not only loathe poison--but he loathes the very dish or vessel which has the smell of the poison; so a true penitent does not only loathe his sin--but he loathes himself, the vessel which smells of it. So Ezek. 20:43: 'And there shall you remember your ways and all your doings, wherein you have been defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that you have committed.' True repentance will work your hearts, not only to loathe your sins--but to loathe yourselves!

Again, true repentance does not only work a man to loathe himself for his sins--but it makes him ashamed of his sin also: 'What fruit had you in those things whereof you are now ashamed?' says the apostle (Rom. 6:21). So Ezekiel: 'And you shall be confounded, and never open your mouth any more, because of your shame, when I am pacified toward you for all that you have done, says the Lord God' (16:63). When a penitent soul sees his sins pardoned, the anger of God pacified, the divine justice satisfied, then he sits down and blushes, as one ashamed.

Yes, true repentance makes a man to deny his sinful self, and to walk contrary to sinful self, to take a holy revenge upon sin, as you may see in Paul, the jailor, Mary Magdalene, and Manasseh. This the apostle shows in 2 Cor. 7:10, 11: 'Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.'

True repentance is a continual act. The word repent implies the continuation of it. Anselm confesses, that all his life was either damnable for sin committed, or unprofitable for good omitted; and at last concludes, "Oh, what then remains, but in our whole life--but to lament the sins of our whole life." True repentance inclines a man's heart to perform God's statutes always, even unto the end. A true penitent must go on from faith to faith, from strength to strength; he must never stand still nor turn back. Repentance is a grace, and must have its daily operation as well as other graces. True repentance is a continued spring, where the waters of godly sorrow are always flowing: 'My sin is ever before me' (Psalm 51:3). A true penitent is often casting his eyes back to the days of his former vanity, and this makes him morning and evening to 'water his couch with his tears.' 'Remember not against me the sins of my youth,' says one blessed penitent; and 'I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man,' says another penitent.

Repentance is a continual act of turning, a repentance never to be repented of, a turning never to turn again to folly. A true penitent has ever something within him to turn from; he can never get near enough to God; no, not so near him as once he was; and therefore he is still turning and turning that he may get nearer and nearer to him, who is his chief good and his only happiness, optimum maximum, the best and the greatest. They are every day a-crying out, 'O wretched men that we are, who shall deliver us from this body of death!' (Rom. 7:24). They are still sensible of sin, and still conflicting with sin, and still sorrowing for sin, and still loathing of themselves for sin. Repentance is no transient act--but a continued act of the soul.

Those who do not burn now in zeal against sin, must before long burn in hell for sin.

As the flood drowned Noah's own friends and servants, so must the flood of repenting tears drown our sweetest and most darling sins.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/true-repentance/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net