

SALVATION SO SIMPLE – REPENTANCE REVIEWED

For a long time we have all watched and heard different views regarding the simplicity and specifics relating to salvation. With all of the varieties of churches and varieties even within the church types, it's amazing how complicated man has made salvation. I personally believe that the pride of man (intellect) and the faithfulness to various associations with 'churches' is the root of the confusion.

I have watched and heard many views as well, and the only peace/rest I've found is strictly from the Bible! I also, with most, believe most people are very sincere with their faith and practices. (no matter the name) My purpose for now is to share some thoughts and Bible references to clarify the doctrine of faith associated with repentance.

I've noted some faithful ministers and how they differ greatly in this doctrine.

First I would like to state my desire to be true to the Bible and not be contentious, critical or judgmental of general efforts of people that have yielded their lives to 'Christian' service. With that said, I'd also like to state my desire to not be willingly ignorant of some people that have not been completely faithful to the Bible, and their fruit is now evident.

The Bible may not always be popular and people do not have to acknowledge it, but it doesn't change the fact that it is truth. (*Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*)

Five words I'd like to review before proceeding are: **Ward - To - Fro -- Toward - Froward**

NOAH WEBSTER 1828

Ward - To guard; to keep in safety; to watch. To defend; to protect.

To - Noting motion towards a place; opposed to from, or placed after another word expressing motion towards.

Fro - From; away; back or backward; as in the phrase, to and fro, that is, to and from, forward or toward and backward, hither and thither.

Toward / Towardliness - Readiness to do or learn; aptness; docility.

Froward - Perverse, that is, turning from, with aversion or reluctance; not willing to yield or comply with what is required; unyielding; ungovernable; refractory; disobedient; peevish; as a froward child.

(*Deu 32:20*) And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end *shall be*: for they *are* a very froward generation, children in whom *is* no faith.

(*Psa 18:26*) With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

(*Pro 2:15*) Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

(*Pro 3:32*) For the froward *is* abomination to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous.

(*Pro 4:24*) Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

(*Pro 6:12*) A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

(*Pro 8:8*) All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them.

(*Pro 8:13*) The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

(*Pro 10:31*) The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

(*Pro 11:20*) They that are of a froward heart *are* abomination to the LORD: but *such as are* upright in *their way are* his delight.

(Pro 16:28) A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

(Pro 16:30) He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

(Pro 17:20) He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.

(Pro 21:8) The way of man *is* froward and strange: but *as for* the pure, his work *is* right.

(Pro 22:5) Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

(1Pe 2:18) Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

I must assume that we would all agree that all people are naturally 'froward'.....

With this in mind, all people have a natural problem. The Bible calls it sin.

All people sin at various levels because of one reason, we are sinners. (same reason a dog barks, it is a dog!)

There are two very real teachings that we need to be aware of: (two extremes)

Easy Believism

Insincere or a half-hearted look to something for a free ticket to heaven.

Salvation by works

Thought that any man is able or can do anything that can help restore man's fallen nature.

I find it very interesting that most 'professing believers' may find themselves in either one of these philosophies; yet still on the natural man's way straight for hell.....

Quick Summary – Salvation is completely by FAITH, plus nothing, minus nothing!

Well, does a person have to repent of their sin or repent toward God or both to be saved?

What about the thief on the cross? Did he repent of his sin or did he turn toward Christ?

What about a ten year old child raised in a Bible believing church. The level of sin that he has seen and acknowledged is probably low, but the power of God and Truth is incredible if we are lifting it up! If you consider the contrast between Truth and sin, God will always be magnified if we emphasize Him. (His Word) All will agree the contrast grows with exposure to sin, but an under emphasis of God (His Word) may be why we are losing our children!

This simple thought poses a lot of problems, especially with IFB's, regarding salvation!

Not to be confused about....

Salvation is very simple for the one who realizes they are separated from God because of their sin and cannot save themselves!

So why do men make it so confusing when God just tells us to trust Him? How can we know God's will?

I do think, as mentioned previously, that most people are very sincere with their faith and practices, but the Bible does not teach salvation by sincerity! We must trust God at His Word!

I think the confusing part about repentance must be clarified; as the Bible teaches that it is necessary!

One of the confusing parts is emphasizing the turning from sin only. God wants to emphasize that we turn from our way to His way. (His Word)

I'm concerned that over emphasizing turning from sin and under emphasizing the turning to God, is a works salvation; as the fruit of salvation is not evident.

I'm just as I'm concerned that a simple, half-hearted prayer to gain heaven is easy believism; as the fruit of salvation is not evident!

Is repentance demanded by God? You better believe it!

Is the power in: the repentance of sin or the repentance toward God?

Last time I checked, my old sin nature was alive and well....

The majority of context in which repentance is taught throughout the Bible is in reference to preservation from destruction. (here in this life)

The most important verse regarding repentance relating to eternal salvation is in Acts.

Act 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

If a person is un-willing to turn to God (His Word) for doctrinal teaching, especially regarding salvation, this person remains froward, un-repentive.

If a person is sick of their sin and acknowledges the fact that their natural way is taking them to hell; if they will turn (repent) to God (His Word) and receive the atonement, the shed blood of Christ, that was provided to pay for their sin, they will receive the gift of salvation!

They will have a desire to learn more and more about God's will for their life and how they should strive to live it. (and tell others, and seek to build a shelter for their family!)

If there is no desire to know more and more about God and His plan/will for one's life, they have missed salvation!

In summary: the significance of repentance is in turning to God (His Word). This fits harmoniously with salvation by FAITH as taught throughout the Bible.....

Man will have a problem with this because man is naturally froward and this must be dealt with!

Surrender to God (His Word) and allow Him to mold and make you today!

Summary: There are two main types of repentance. The first regarding salvation. Turning from your self(sin) toward God and receiving the atonement that God hath provided for every man! (Acts 20:21)
The second is regarding daily life. When we stumble or move away from God's way, turn back and rejoice in His goodness!