

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

Volume 11

April 10, 2022

Number 15

## WHY YOU SHOULD REPENT

*Jesse Flowers*

Before we discuss why you should repent, let's first briefly explain what it means for someone to repent. Repentance means "to think differently; reconsider; a reversal of one's direction." Repent simply means to "turn away from evil and do good" (1 Pet. 3:11). Now here are six reasons from the Bible why you should repent.

**BECAUSE YOU HAVE SINNED.** I have sinned. All have sinned against God in transgressing His law (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn. 3:4). Sin brings death (Rom. 6:23), thus our need for repentance.

**BECAUSE OF GOD'S GOODNESS.** "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" (Rom. 2:4). How good has God been to each one of us? "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).

**BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT.** "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). We will obey God's command to repent if we love Him (1 Jn. 5:3).

**BECAUSE IT IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION.** "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the

presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19; cf. 2:38).

**BECAUSE OF THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.** Jesus warned, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3, 5). The apostle Peter reminds us that, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).

The command to repent is probably God's most challenging command. Why? Because repentance requires change in a person's life and so many refuse to change. Repentance demands that the sinner turn from his evil and then do what is good (Ezek. 14:6; 18:30; Acts 26:18, 20).

Repentance will occur when a person humbles themselves, possesses godly sorrow, and confesses their sins to God (Ps. 51:16-17; 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 Jn. 1:9). Repent to be saved, and to spend eternity in heaven!

*Begins Today!*

## GOSPEL MEETING

with

**Jesse Flowers**

**April 10-15**

apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, '**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:37-38). "**Repent** therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the

## “AS NEWBORN BABES”

John Edwards

*“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:1-2).*

Peter exhorts all Christians to be as newborn babes. What is it about newborn babes that should characterize every child of God?

**NEWBORN BABES ARE WITHOUT MALICE.** Malice is ill will or spite. As newborn babes, Christians must be without malice. Paul said, *“Brethren...in malice be ye children”* (1 Cor. 14:20).

**NEWBORN BABES HAVE NO GUILE.** Guile is fraud and deceit. Newborn babes are not fraudulent or deceitful. As newborn babes, Christians must have no guile. The Psalmist uttered, *“Blessed is the man...in whose spirit there is no*

*guile”* (Ps. 32:2). Peter wrote, *“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him...speak no guile”* (1 Pet. 3:10).

**NEWBORN BABES HAVE NO HYPOCRISY.** Hypocrisy is falseness. Newborn babes are not pretenders or actors. They are genuine and sincere! As newborn babes, Christians must be *“without hypocrisy”* (Jas. 3:17). The Lord condemns hypocrisy in our lives (Mt. 23). We must be sincere and true in all that we do (Josh. 24:14). Are you sincere, or merely playing a part?

**NEWBORN BABES DO NOT ENVY.** Envy is simply jealousy and covetousness. A newborn babe does not have a resentful desire for another’s advantages. As newborn babes, Christians must not envy. Paul spoke of *“envying”* and said, *“...that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Gal. 5:21). Let’s put away envy, as newborn babes.

**NEWBORN BABES SPEAK NO EVIL.** To speak evil is to

speak against or put down another person. As newborn babes, Christians must not speak evil. James stated, *“Speak not evil one of another, brethren...”* (Jas. 4:11). Evil speaking is very destructive! We need to learn to speak *“...that which is good to the use of edifying...”* (Eph. 4:29).

**NEWBORN BABES DESIRE MILK.** A newborn babe has an earnest desire for milk. As newborn babes long for milk, Christians should crave the pure, untainted word of God. We should *“...hunger and thirst after righteousness...”* (Mt. 5:6). Is your desire for the word of God as strong as the babe’s desire for milk?

**NEWBORN BABES ARE EXPECTED TO GROW.** The milk provides the nourishment that is essential for growth. As newborn babes, Christians are expected to grow. Peter commanded, *“But grow...”* (2 Pet. 3:18). Have you checked your growth lately?

## Let’s Have Every Member At Every Service This Week!

**The Terre Haute **SPEAKER**** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

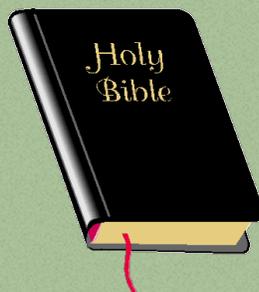
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