



Pastor's Comments

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No Repentance – No Pardon

Some years ago a murderer was sentenced to death. The murderer's brother besought the governor of the state for his pardon and it was granted. The man visited his brother with the pardon in his pocket and asked, "What would you do if you received a pardon?" He answered, "The first thing I would do is to track down the judge who sentenced me, and murder him; and the next thing I would do is to track down the chief witness, and murder him." The brother rose, and left the prison with the pardon in his pocket!

Repentance of sin includes at least three elements – **honesty** concerning the details of wrong doing, **sorrow** for that involvement, and **change** in manner of life. **Honesty**: It is amazing how the guilty often invent alibi upon alibi to cover-up their wrongdoing. God says, "**He that covereth his sins shall not prosper (go forward); but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy**" (Prov. 28:13). **Sorrow**: The Bible says, "**For godly sorrow worketh repentance.**" (II Cor. 7:10). Of course, genuine repentance is **sorrow for the deed, not sorrow for being caught!** **Change**: You've heard, "Sorry is as sorry does." John the Baptist said it this way, "**Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance**" (Luke 3:8).

Someone said, "Real repentance thinks God's thoughts about sin and hates it, takes God's side against self and dies to it, turns to God Himself and serves Him." What about you? Have you truly repented of your sins and turned to Christ? God promises **abundant pardon for genuine repentance**, "**Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon**" (Isaiah 55:6-7).

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