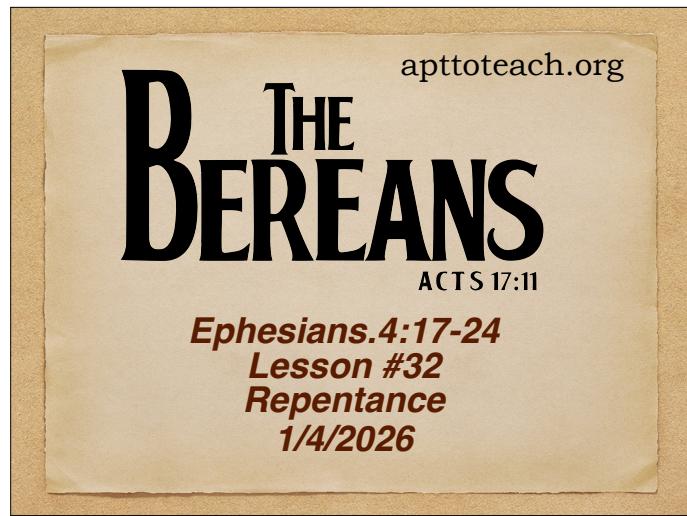




1



2

**We are looking at what goes into making disciples.**

- **Ethos** - looking at life through the lens of God's Kingdom
- **Empathy** - sharing the love and grace of God
- **Expectations** - based on kingdom values
- **Environment** - a supporting community of faith
- **Effort** - choices that only we can make

**We are shaped as Disciples by how we respond to God's revelation.**

**We show our Discipleship in how we respond to life's "ups" & "downs"**

**Death & Pain**  
is one of God's visual aids (Jas.1:2-4)

**Worldly prosperity**  
is one of Satan's distractions (Matt.4:1-11)

3

**Ephesians 4**

“17 This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you **walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind**, 18 being **darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God**, because of the **ignorance** that is in them, because of the **hardness** of their heart; 19 and they, having become **callous**, have **given themselves over to sensuality**, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not **learn Christ** in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been **taught in Him**, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the **lusts of deceit**, 23 and that you are **renewed in the spirit of your mind**, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. 25 Therefore, **laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor**, for we are **members of one another**. 26 *Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.* 28 Let him who steals **steal no longer**; but rather **let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good**, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.”

**Repentance** is a human response to God's general & special revelation

**Enabled by the Image of God placed in us.**

- It is from the **inside out** not the outside in.
- It is from a **New Covenant** not an upgrade of the Old Covenant.
- It is from a **Free Choice** not legalistic force by God or government.

4

**Being created in the Image of God** we can respond to Him:

**General revelation (Creation & spiritual Conscious)**

*Romans 1*

“19 because that which is known about God is **evident within them**; for **God made it evident to them**. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly seen**, being understood through what has been made, so that they are **without excuse**. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they **became futile in their speculations**, and their foolish heart **was darkened**.”

*Acts 17*

“24 “The God who made the world and all things in it, ... 26 He made from one, every nation of mankind ... 27 that **they should seek God**, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though **He is not far from each one of us**; 28 for **in Him we live and move and exist**, ... 30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere **should repent**,”

*John 12:40*

“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, **so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive with their heart**, and be converted and I heal them.”

**Special revelation (Scripture & Spirit)**

*Hebrews 1*

“1 God, after **He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways**, 2 in these last days **has spoken to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

5

**Ephesians spells out our calling.**

**ch.1-3**  
**We IN CHRIST**  
**God's investment**  
**in us**  
**God's part**

**ch.4-6**  
**Christ IN US**  
**Our response**  
**in this world**  
**Our part**

**“Remember”**

**possessing God's Image**  
**hearing God's word**  
**empowered by God's Spirit**

**“Walk”**

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,” 4:1

**living out God's Image**  
**believing God's Word**  
**walking in God's Spirit**

6

## Repentance is the bridge between:

ch.1-3  
What Christ has done  
**FOR us.**

**Our Identity**

ch.4-6  
What Christ can do  
**IN and THROUGH us.**

**in Action**

**REPENTANCE**  
that brings  
legal reconciliation



**repentance**  
that brings  
spiritual / social harmony



7

## Don't confuse

strategic REPENTANCE and tactical repentance.

**REPENT**

**repent**

- ✓ **Apostasy** is the reversal of strategic **REPENTANCE**.
- ✓ Strategic **REPENTANCE** need not be repeated.

- ✓ **Backsliding** is the reversal of tactical **repentance**.
- ✓ Tactical **repentance** is repeatedly needed.

8

## 1. Strategic REPENTANCE



Turning  
**from** faith in worldly hopes & self  
**to** faith in Christ (Word & Way of the Cross)

This takes place at our “new birth” by faith  
in Christ and need not be repeated.

9

## CONVERSION to Christ involves Strategic REPENTANCE.

*Acts 26:18*

“to open their eyes so that they may **turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God**, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me”

*Hebrews 6:1*

“Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a **foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God**,

10

## 2. Tactical repentance

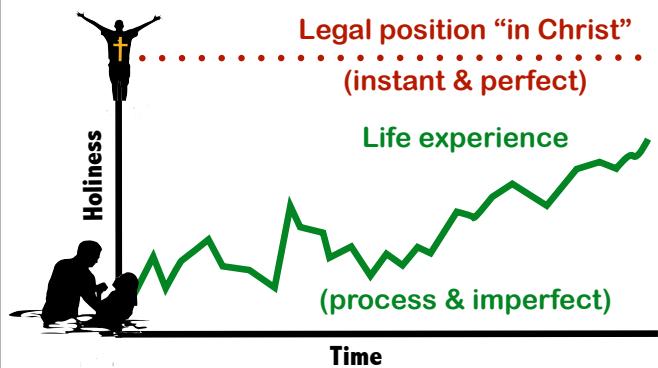


Turning  
**from** specific attitudes & deeds  
**to** walking in obedience to the Spirit.

This needs to be repeated as part of  
the process of spiritual growth.

11

## Two spheres of Righteousness, REPENTance, and sanctification



12

# theological paradoxes

- Divine unity - and trinity
- Divine sovereignty - and human freedom
- Christ's divinity - and humanity
- God's kingdom is here - and yet to come
- Human dignity - and depravity
- Salvation is present - and future

It is dangerous to let one side define the other.

Historically, the church has been divided  
by its dogmatic claims to have  
solved these mysteries.

13

In this world and this body we know:  
1) God's ways are not fully revealed to us.  
2) we walk by faith, not sight,  
3) our sight is limited.

*Deuteronomy 29:29*

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, so that we may follow all the words of this Law."

*2 Corinthians 5*

"6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight."

*1 Corinthians 13*

"9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known."

14

## Common hindrances to Discipleship

- **Ethos** - Looking at reality through worldly eyes
- **Empathy** - narcissism
- **Expectations** - Hoping God will deliver worldly hopes
- **Environment** - Listening to the wrong crowd
- **Effort** - Feeling powerless to make a difference  
    Seeing God's "sovereignty"  
    as micromanagement of human choices.

When we believe that God "controls every detail of life" we risk:

- 1) shaping OUR God in the **image of human** (micromanagement).
- 2) being called to worship a God who can be **confused with Satan**.
- 3) insulting **God's limitless** - knowledge, power, creativity, etc.
- 4) making a **mockery of** - relationships, ethics, love, judgment, etc.
- 5) minimizing **Apostolic emphasis** on human "free" choice options.

15

"Calvinism emphasizes divine sovereignty and free grace;  
Arminianism emphasizes human responsibility.  
The one restricts the saving grace to the elect;  
the other extends it to all men on the condition of faith.

**Both are right in what they assert;  
both are wrong in what they deny.**

If one important truth is pressed to the exclusion  
of another truth of equal importance, it becomes an  
error, and loses its hold upon the conscience.

**The Bible gives us a theology which is more human  
than Calvinism, and more divine than Arminianism,  
and more Christian than either of them."**

*Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, vo. VIII:815-6*

16

## Common hindrances to Discipleship

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Seeing the **New Covenant** as an upgrade of the **Old Covenant**,  
keeping us in bondage to the Law and the flesh.

When we confuse **REPENTANCE** with **repentance** we:

- 1) tie our peace with GOD to Christ's works **IN & THROUGH us**, not **FOR us**.
- 2) cheapen **GRACE** with the **fine print** of our obedience to the **LAW**.
- 3) **cheapen** the demands of the Law.
- 4) encourage merger of church with state and **superficial holiness**.
- 5) minimizing **Apostolic emphasis** on human responsibility from the heart.

**As Christians we are responsible to  
put off the old self and put on the new self.**



17

18

## What must I repent of to become a Christian?

	Change mind about Christ and self	Be willing to turn from all known sins at conversion	Be willing to keep on turning from all known sins	Turn from all known sins	Keep on turning from all known sins
Holiness					
Arminian					
Calvinistic					
Lutheran					
Apostles?					

19

*Strategic Repentance brings eternal life, and leads to Tactical Repentance, and Godly living.*

## Repentance

- Is taking **Baptism** seriously.
- Starts with a changed **way of seeing and faith**.
- Is from the **inside out & integrated into all areas of life**.
- Is turning not only **FROM sin but also TO Christ**.
- **REPENTANCE** is our peace with God, **repentance** is our worship of God.



20

## Helpful hints for enlightened Christians navigating through the dark side of life.

- Realize that it is **your response in the face of choices** that will determine your steps.
- **Facing in the right direction** gives you a better chance of staying on the right path.
- The **company you keep will influence** your response when you face temptation to move in the wrong direction.
- The consequences of your **choices** tend to create **momentum** in the direction of your life.

21

*Water baptism is a sign of conversion.*      *The Lord's Supper is a sign of communion.*



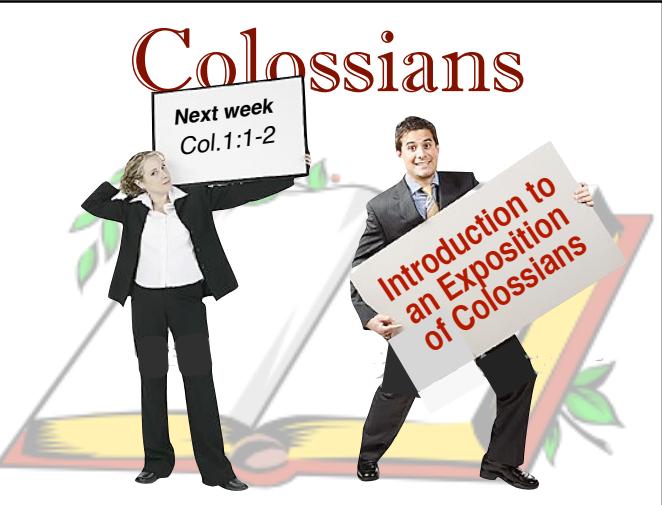
**Both are about repentance.**

22

## Colossians

Next week  
Col.1:1-2

Introduction to  
an Exposition of Colossians



23