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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11


*Colossians 3:5-11*  
Lesson #10  
"Repentance #1"  
03/29/2026

1

Social pressure    Psychotherapy    Social models  
Exorcism    Discipline    Sound systematic theology  
Prayer of faith    Law & order    Neuroscience

"What is your theology of change?"

## Repentance

Larry Crabb 

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*Galatians 3:3*  
"Having begun by the Spirit, are you now perfected by the flesh?"

**Does this exclude:**

- Psychotherapy
- Social science
- Legislated behavior
- Modeling

**Is it limited to:**

- Exorcism
- Prayer & faith



3



As Christians we are not alone *in more ways than one.*

The Gospel is good news *but not in the shadow of many of the world's values.*

4

**Christians are Anointed Alien Ambassadors with a spiritual inheritance, and identity that challenges and is challenged by many worldly values.**

*Colossians 3*

"5 Therefore **consider as dead** the members of your earthly body — immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, **put them all aside**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since **you laid aside** the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have **put on** the new self who is **being renewed** to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but **Christ is all, and in all.**"


5

**Note:**

- Christians can be tempted and drift away from their new nature "in Christ."
- Christians must not forget **who they are and what they have "in Christ"**.
- Believers are to keep their baptismal covenant to take seriously their "new self" in Christ.
- Paul recognizes that **working out the potentials of the "new self" is a process.**

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**Repent** μετανοέω  
metanoëo




meta - "after"  
noëo - "to perceive"

"changing how we see things and how we behave, from the inside out"

"correcting"

7


**REPENT**  
turn from hope in self and the world to faith and hope in Christ



- Reconciliation
- Conversion
- Once for all
- Strategic

*Hebrews 6:1*  
"let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,"

**repent**  
letting go of worldly attachments, and actions for Kingdom living




- Rehabilitation
- Cooperation
- Often necessary
- Tactical

*Luke 17:3*  
"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him."


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Conversion marks the initiation of a new self that needs developing through nurturing.

**Initiation**  
Word of the Cross  
**Believe**  
(strategic)



**Confirmation**  
Way of the Cross  
**Behave**  
(tactical)



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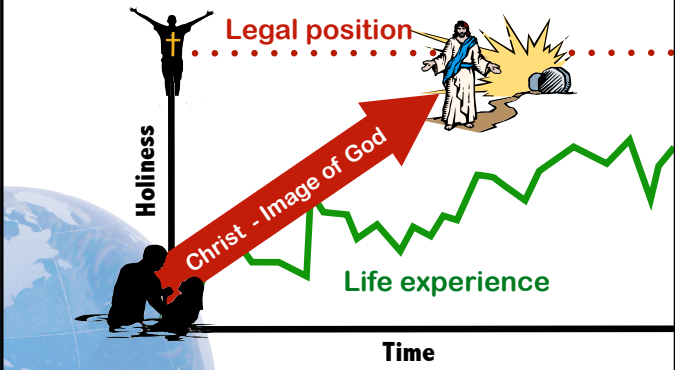
**REPENTANCE**, repentance, and saving faith?

	Change mind about Christ and self	Behavioral Intent		Behavior	
		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					
Radical grace					

**Don't let an Old Covenant nullify the freedom and grace of a New Covenant Gospel.**

10

**Baptism points us in the right direction.**  
Abiding marks our behavior.



Legal position

Holiness

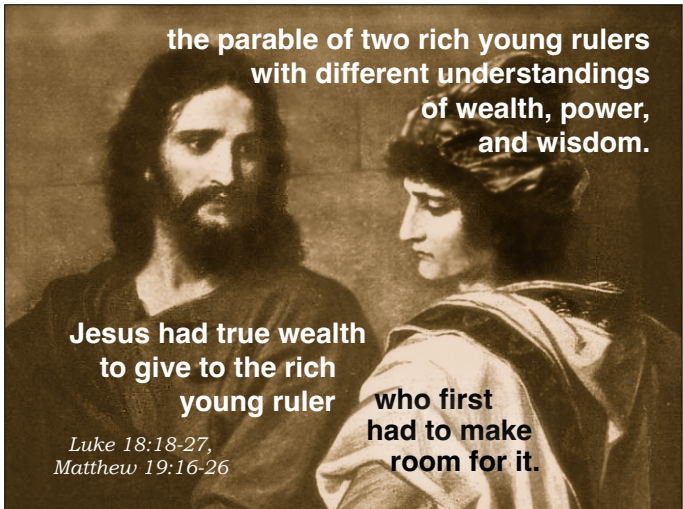
Christ - Image of God

Life experience

Time

11

the parable of two rich young rulers with different understandings of wealth, power, and wisdom.



Jesus had true wealth to give to the rich young ruler who first had to make room for it.

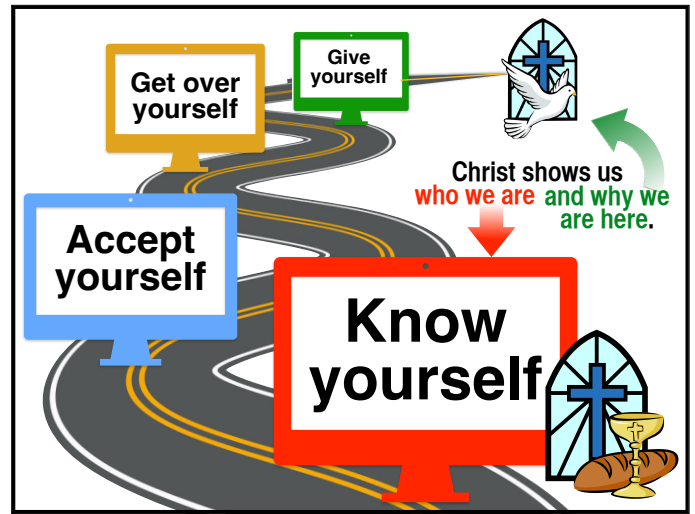
*Luke 18:18-27,*  
*Matthew 19:16-26*

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**Parable of the Prodigal sons**

<b>Prodigal</b> <i>Luke 15:11-24</i>	<b>Older brother</b> <i>Luke 15:25-32</i>
Chose Freedom	Chose a superficial life
Feeling the Pain	Following the Rules
Seeing the Light	Keeping score
Yielding the Will	Flaunting pride
Taking the Step	Jealously mad
Sharing the peace	Staying away

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*Connecting with God & others*

**starts with owning our NEW SELF "in Christ", affirming that we are reconciled to God, which frees us to be socially vulnerable and bear witness to the world as the Body of Christ.**

**Self talk**

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**Note Paul's insights and concerns.**

*Colossians 3*

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- 1. Idolatry in seeking life through fleshly passions and at the expense of others.**
- 2. Hypocrisy in limiting God's grace to people like us only and claiming that we are not in process.**

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"You can safely assume that you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do."

"A big difference between you and God is that God doesn't think He is you."

**Anne Lamott**

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"The idea of god was nothing more than a symbolic representation of the collective values of the society that worships itself through him, she, or it."

**Emile Durkheim**  
1858-1917

"Genesis tells us that God created man in His image. History suggests that man has been trying to return the favor."

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## What can we learn from this text?

- ✓ We are not alone **in more ways than one.**
- ✓ There are two contexts for “repentance” **(strategic and tactical).**
- ✓ Repentance starts with **wise insight** not with **superficial optics.**
- ✓ True faith **NORMALLY** produces **outer fruit** (**OBEDIENCE** to the Word & Way of Christ).
- ✓ True faith is symbolized in **water BAPTISM** in the name of Christ.

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