

*"No, I tell you; but unless you repent (change), you will perish." Luke 13:3*

Repent is a biblical word. Both the Old and New Testaments thunder the call to repentance. The Bible demands it and justice requires it. The contemporary Poor People's Campaign presents the call to repentance. Interestingly few modern-day preachers scarcely mention the word.

Repentance means change. It means changing one's mind, changing one's attitude, changing one's ways. Life without change is not a pleasant picture. People who are unwilling incorporate healthy patterns of living suffer. Industries that are resistant to move with the changing times suffer. Seminaries which are not willing to change curriculum or approach end up collapsing. Churches that are unwilling to change decline to the point where they are no longer viable.

The world is constantly changing and if God's people also change there is great hope. Now this does not mean compromising our faith. The strong faith of a repentant heart is what gives us the courage to change.

Peter repented and became a mighty rock for the church. Jonah repented, and a great city heard the message of repentance and turned to God. Paul repented, and God used him to bring the Good News to the Gentile nations.

Hundreds and thousands of lives changed by the power of God; and when people have changed, their lives, their families, their businesses, their churches all have changed with them.

We live in a time when a spiritual awakening is needed. Our communities are like Nineveh, the ancient godless city that God implored Jonah to save. There are too many who have never experienced the love of Christ, and they won't unless we muster the courage and faith to go out and share the love of God with them.

Repent, repent, and change.

*Alan G. Newton*



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