

Outline of the Doctrine of Repentance
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All verses relating to repentance, faith and salvation must be interpreted in context and in relation to other verses. We cannot isolate one verse and build a doctrine around it.

The doctrine that a mere prayer saves sinners, even if they evidence no repentance in their lives is a great error in our day.

One reason why so many converts in Independent Fundamental Baptist churches are so spiritually weak is because they “believed” a plan of salvation that left out repentance and a changed life. They simply “believed” but without any instruction that the life needed to reflect the reality of a heart change, if there was one. But with this manner of evangelist, the “soul-winner” got them to quickly recite a prayer or give some verbal assent that “they wanted to go to heaven when they died’. A quick prayer was made and then the ‘soul-winner’ left the new “convert” with no charge, challenge or instruction about repentance and a change of life as described in 2 Corinthians 5:17 and 1 Thessalonians 1:9.

Quotes from men who hold an incorrect view of repentance for salvation. (Many of these quotes taken from David Cloud’s works *Way of Life Encyclopedia, Repentance and Soulwinning*).

1. “What makes the wrath of God abide on a person? Believing not! So, from what must a person repent in order to be saved? He must repent of that which makes him lost. Since ‘believing not’ makes him lost, ‘believing’ makes him saved. The repentance there is a turning from the thing that keeps him from being saved to the thing that saves him. So, yes, there is a repentance from unbelief in order to believe. It is simply a change of direction. It means a turning around. You are going away from believing, and you decide to turn around and believe. You change your direction; you change your mind. With your will you believe and rely upon Christ to save you. In order to believe, you have to repent of unbelief. That which makes a man lost must be corrected” (Dr. Jack Hyles, *Enemies of Soulwinning*, 1993).

2. “10,446 professions of faith in 1995. ... Repentance is not a doctrine. The word ‘repent’ is not even found in the book of John. It is obviously assumed by God that ‘repentance’ is a part of ‘believing.’ ... Repentance is not turning from your sins. ... Repentance is to change one’s mind from unbelief to belief in Christ” (Bob Gray, “A Message from the Pastor,” *The Soulwinner*, January 1996, Longview Baptist Temple, Longview, Texas).

3. “Repentance is not a prerequisite to salvation; for if repentance is required, salvation is based, at least in part on works. ... We would suggest to you from the Word of God that repentance is included in believing. It is not a separate act which conditions salvation, but rather it is included in the act of believing” (Dwight Pentecost, *Things Which Become Sound Doctrine*, 1965, pp. 70, 71).

4. “The emphasis upon repentance has created confusion among preachers young and old. It has been a source of discouragement to soulwinners. ... I have two choices. I can follow those who wear their soulwinning pins and carry New Testaments, or I can follow those who are critical of leading people to Christ. May the critics repent and may the soulwinners realize that we are on the same team” (Brent Neal, “Is Repentance an Attack on Soulwinning?” *The Baptist Contender*, June 1996).

5. “The many false conditions of salvation [include] water baptism and repentance” (Dr. Fred Afman, “The Way of Salvation,” Sunday School class, Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 1996; quoted from Chris McNeilly, *The Great Omission*, pp.

25,26; Dr. Afman was a teacher at Tennessee Temple).

Definitions of repentance and the references where the word is used in our English Bible

1. English

A. To turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life, to feel regret or contrition, to change one's mind (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

2. Hebrew

A. shub, turn back (Hebrew)

1. 1 Kings 8:47 Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

2. Ezekiel 14:6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

3. Ezekiel 18:30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

3. Greek

A. ametameletos (Strong's #278), "not repented of, unregretted", signifies "without change of purpose"

1. Romans 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

2. 2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

B. metamelomai (Strong's #3338), meta, and melo, "to care for," "to regret, to repent oneself,"

1. Matthew 21:29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

2. Matthew 21:32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

3. Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4. 2 Corinthians 7:8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.

5. Hebrews 7:1 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

C. metaneo (Strong's #3340), "to perceive afterwards" (meta, "after," implying "change," noeo, "to perceive"; nous, "the mind, the seat of moral reflection"), in contrast to pronoeo, "to perceive beforehand," hence signifies "to change one's mind or purpose," always, in the New Testament, involving a change for the better, an amendment, and always, except in Luke 17:3, 4, of "repentance" from sin.

1. Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Mark 1:15, adds : repent ye, and believe the gospel.)

2. Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3. Matthew 11:20,21 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin!

woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (Luke 10:13; 11:32)

4. Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

5. Mark 6:12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

6. Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:5)

7. Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

8. Luke 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

9. Luke 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

10. Luke 17:3,4 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

11. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

12. Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

13. Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

14. Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

15. Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

16. 2 Corinthians 12:21 And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

16. Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

17. Revelation 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

18. Revelation 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

19. Revelation 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

20. Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

22. Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

23. Revelation 9:20,21 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

24. Revelation 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

25. Revelation 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

5. metanoia (Strong's #3341), "afterthought, change of mind, repentance," repentance," is used of "repentance" from sin or evil.

1. Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

2. Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

3. Matthew 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

4. Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5. Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

6. Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

7. Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

8. Luke 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

9. Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

10. Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

11. Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

12. Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

13. Acts 13:24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

14. Acts 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

15. Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

16. Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

17. Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

18. 2 Corinthians 7:9,10 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
19. 2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
20. Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,
21. Hebrews 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.
22. Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.
23. 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Repentance:

- A. Is a change of perception in the mind
- B. A change of direction of the life
- C. A change of allegiance that will lead to a change of heart (H. T. Spence, *A Catechetical Study for the Remnant*, page 75),

Categorization of verses on repentance (mainly New Testament verses)

1. Verses about Israel repenting of their national sins

- A. 1 Kings 8:47 *Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and **repent**, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;*
- B. Ezekiel 14:6 *Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.*
- C. Ezekiel 18:30 *Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.*
- D. Jonah 3:5-8. *The word repentance is not used in this passage, but in Matthew 12:41 Jesus said they repented. The repentance of the people of Nineveh was witnessed in their actions. True repentance is always observable by a change in one's manner of living.*
- E. Luke 3:8 *Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*
- F. Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
- G. Acts 3:19 *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;*
- H. Acts 5:31 *Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for*

to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

I. Acts 13:24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

2. Example of Personal Repentance

A. Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and **repent** in dust and ashes.

3. Examples of Preachers Preaching Repentance

A. John preaching repentance

1. Matthew 3:2 And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

2. Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of **repentance** for the remission of sins.

3. Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

4. Acts 13:24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

5. Acts 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

B. Jesus preached repentance

1. Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

2. Matthew 9:13 But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to **repentance**.

3. Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

4. Luke 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

C. The Disciples preaching repentance

1. Mark 6:12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

D. Peter preaching repentance

1. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

2. Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

E. Paul preaching repentance

1. Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent”.

2. Acts 20:20,21 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Acts 26:20 But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

4. Repentance has evidences for it (2 Corinthians 5:17)

A. Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for **repentance**:

B. Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto **repentance**: but he that cometh

after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

C. Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

D. Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

E. Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

F. Acts 13:24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

G. Acts 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

H. Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

5. Repent and believe, showing repentance and belief are separate things

A. Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent** ye, and believe the gospel.

6. Repentance accompanies belief, can't have one without the other

A. Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Mark 1:15, adds : repent ye, and believe the gospel).

B. James 2:19- the devils "believe" but without repentance

7. Associated with the Kingdom of Heaven

A. Matthew 3:2 And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

B. Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8. Associated with the Kingdom of God

A. Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

9. Commands to repent

A. Ezekiel 18:30. Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

B. Matthew 3:2 And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

C. Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

D. Matthew 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

E. Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

F. Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

G. Mark 6:12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

H. Luke 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance
 I. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
 J. Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
 K. Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.
 L. Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
 M. Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.
 N. Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
 O. Revelation 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
 P. Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
 Q. Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

10. You will perish if you do not repent

- A. Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.
- B. Luke 13:5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.

11. Heaven rejoices when a sinner repents

- A. Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no **repentance**.

12. Self-righteous men will not repent

- A. Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

13. Men will not necessarily repent if they saw a miracle

- A. Luke 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will **repent**.

14. If someone sins against us and then repents, we are to forgive

- A. Luke 17:3,4 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he **repent**, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I **repent**; thou shalt forgive him.

15. Repentance preached in the name of Christ

- A. Luke 24:47 And that **repentance** and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

16. Repentance to be preached to all nations

- A. Luke 24:47 And that **repentance** and remission of sins should be preached in his

name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

17. Baptism follows repentance

A. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

18. Repent first, then sins are blotted out/forgiven

A. Acts 3:19 **Repent** ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

B. Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* a Prince and a Saviour, for to give **repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

19. God grants repentance

A. Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted **repentance** unto life.

B. 2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

C. Hebrews 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

20. Repentance toward God

A. Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance** toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

21. Gentiles should repent

A. Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should **repent** and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

22. Repent and turn to God

A. Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should **repent** and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

23. The goodness of God leads to repentance

A. Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to **repentance**?

24. Sorrow works repentance

A. 2 Corinthians 7:9,10 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to **repentance**: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh **repentance** to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

25. Repentance is impossible for some

A. Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of **repentance**, though he sought it carefully with tears.

26. God desires all to come to repentance

A. 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to **repentance**.

27. Refusal to repent brings judgment

A. Matthew 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

B. Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

C. Revelation 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they **repent** of their deeds.

28. Repentance toward God is a fundamental doctrine and is absolutely necessary

A. Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

29. Verses where repentance is associated with salvation

A. Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.

B. Luke 13:5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.

C. 1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Steps in salvation

A. Conviction -- where sin is admitted. Man must see himself as a lost, ruined, guilty, desperately wicked sinner without hope or help, in danger of hell. In repentance, a lost sinner not only sees himself as a sinner, but he recognizes the fact that he has sinned against a righteous and holy God.

1. The message that Paul preached was: "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). In repentance, there will be confession of sin to God (Psa. 32:5; 51:1-4).

B. Contrition -- where sin is abhorred. When one sees himself as he appears before God, he is brought to a place where there is godly sorrow for his sin and hates it altogether.

1. "For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin." (Psa. 38:18);

2. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of ..." (2 Cor. 7:10).

3. To hate sin is to love God. In true repentance, there is not only the desire to escape the consequences of sin, but to be rid of sin itself as a thing displeasing to God.

C. Conversion -- where sin is abandoned. Repentance involves the forsaking of sin:

1. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the 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" (Isa. 55:7);

2. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

Bible Examples of Repentance

A. The Prodigal Son coming to himself, confessing his sin against God and his father, and returning home. Luke 15:17-20.

- B. The Thessalonians believers turning to God from idols to serve the living and true God. 1 Thessalonians 1:9.
- C. Zaccheus turning from corruption to uprightness. "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham" Luke 19:8,9.
- D. Nebuchadnezzar humbling himself before God. "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase" Daniel 4:37.
- E. The Philippian Jailer running from his sin to Jesus Christ and becoming a helper of Christians. Acts 16:33-34.
- F. The Jews at Pentecost turning to Christ. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" Acts 2:38-42.
- G. It is Job, repenting and abhorring himself in dust and ashes- Job 42:6:
- H. It is Manasseh repenting of his sins after God's judgment fell on him- 2 Chronicles 33:12-19.
- I. It is Paul, turning from a life as a persecutor of Christians to the life and ministry of an apostle- Galatians 1:23
- J. David repenting of his sin with Bathsheba in Psalm 51.

Objections of the Biblical doctrine where both faith and repentance are necessary for salvation generally comes from the "hyper-evangelicals", the neo-Independent Fundamental Baptists (followers of the Sword of the Lord and Jack Hyles) and the self-styled "New IFB" (followers of Steven Anderson):

1. Objection 1 "Repentance is not found in the Gospel of John"

- A. Since "repentance" is not found in John's Gospel, it is not necessary for salvation. "Believe" is used 99 times in John.
- B. But other doctrines relating to salvation are also not mentioned in John- redemption, justification, propitiation, substitution, etc. Since they are not mentioned in John's Gospel, do they also have no bearing in salvation? We are given four Gospels so that we will have a complete picture of Christ's person, work, and message; and the fact remains that repentance is mentioned 27 times in the Gospels alone and 59 times in the New Testament. That is a heavy emphasis.
- C. John's Gospel emphasizes faith, but why make it mutually exclusive from repentance? Is it mentioned anywhere in John that repentance has no role in salvation?
- D. Why ignore the other verses where repentance is associated with salvation?

2. Objection 2- Repentance is wrapped up in faith and are the same thing- "The word 'repent' is not even found in the book of John. It is obviously assumed by God that 'repentance' is a part of 'believing'" (Bob Gray).

- A. If repentance and faith are the same, why does Paul make such a plain distinction between them? "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21).
- B. Repentance and faith are two separate things that come together for salvation, but they act together as one thing.
- C. If repentance and faith are the same, why did the Jesus say that repentance is a part of the Great Commission? "And that repentance and remission of sins should be

preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).” Both repentance and faith are to be preached. While these doctrines are intimately connected, they are not the same. Biblical salvation involves both: “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

3. Objection 3- The Philippians Jailor in Acts 16:31- Paul never mentions repentance

A. Paul made no mention of repentance, only “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ”.
B. It is obvious that the jailor was already under deep conviction and had heard Paul and Barnabas preach. He was probably already familiar with their calls to repent.
C. Just one chapter later, in Athens, Paul clearly mentioned repentance (Acts 17:30). His message at Athens was probably no different that what he preached at Philippi.
D. The word “repent” is not necessary in every Gospel appeal (Acts 16:31) in the same way that the word “believe” is not necessary in every Gospel appeal (Acts 3:19).
E. The reason why verses such as John 3:16 and Acts 16:31 don’t mention repentance is that proper saving faith includes repentance and proper repentance includes faith. Repentance and faith are sometimes spoken of in Scripture as both being necessary for salvation (i.e., Acts 20:21; Heb. 6:1), while at other times only one or the other is said to be necessary.

1. Salvation is referred to as coming to repentance with no mention of faith in Matthew 9:13; 11:20-21; 21:32; Mark 1:4; 2:17; 6:12; Luke 15:7; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 11:18; 26:20; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:25; and 2 Peter 3:9.

2. In other passages, such as John 3:16 and Acts 16:31, salvation is referred to as believing and repentance is not mentioned.

4. Objection 4: This is Lordship Salvation

A. “Lordship Salvation” can be defined as “John MacArthur, whose book *The Gospel According to Jesus* lays out the case for lordship salvation, summarizes the teaching this way: “The gospel call to faith presupposes that sinners must repent of their sin and yield to Christ’s authority.” In other words, a sinner who refuses to repent is not saved, for he cannot cling to his sin and the Savior at the same time. And a sinner who rejects Christ’s authority in his life does not have saving faith, for true faith encompasses a surrender to God. Thus, the gospel requires more than making an intellectual decision or mouthing a prayer; the gospel message is a call to discipleship. The sheep will follow their Shepherd in submissive obedience. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/lordship-salvation.html>)

B. Such teachings are abhorrent to the hyper-evangelicals as it tends to reduce the number of conversions and lengthen the time and process for a sinner to truly be saved.

1. They try to associate a negative connotation of such words and phrases, like “lifestyle evangelism” to scare people away from acceptance of any methodology or theology that goes counter to their own definition and practice of so-called “confrontational soulwinning”.

C. It is not necessary to adopt any form of “Lordship Salvation” to insist in repentance as a part of salvation, as the Scriptures plainly teach it.

5. Objection 5: This is works for salvation

A. Not if the Lord commanded it

B. Repentance is no more a work than believing is

C. Repentance is never called a work

D. Romans 4:5 separates works and belief. If any of these men believe that repentance and faith are the same thing, then why don’t they also separate repentance from works?

6. Objection 6- The only sin that needs to be repented of is unbelief. “There is only one sin that the lost man is to repent of and that is the sin of unbelief” (Bob Gray). “There are those who say we have to repent of our sins in order to be saved. No, we have to repent only of the thing that makes us unsaved, and that is unbelief” (Jack Hyles).

A. What about other sins?

1. If I “believe” but deliberately sin constantly, am I saved?
2. In Luke 3:10-14, the people asked John what they should do in light of his message. He never tells them to repent of their unbelief. He lists specific sins as sharing, helping people, not stealing, being content with your wages, do no violence.

B. What about sin in general?

C. What about our sin nature?

D. It is not only unbelief that sends a man to Hell; it is all of his sin. Romans 5:12 says that it is the sin of “one man” which has resulted in death. Adam’s sin was not merely unbelief; it was disobedience.

E. Revelation 20:12-15 tells us that unsaved men will be condemned by their works and cast into the lake of fire. They will not be condemned only by the one sin of unbelief.

F. Revelation 21:8 tells us that unbelief is only one of the sins which cause men to be outside of the eternal city of God. “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

G. “Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they REPENT OF THEIR DEEDS” (Rev. 2:22).

H. “And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and REPENTED NOT OF THEIR DEEDS” (Rev. 16:11).

I. If the only sin that sends men to hell is unbelief, then why do we have Ten Commandments? There would only be one commandment, “That Shalt Believe”

7. Objection 7- How can a sinner repent of all of his sins if he can’t remember them all? Must he repent of every single sin?

A. We do not have to repent to every single sin but repent of that fact that we have sinned, he have transgressed and that we have rebelled against God.

B. There is a difference in repenting from “sin” and repenting from “sins”.

8. Objection 8- Repentance is merely a change of mind

C. Curtis Hutson, former editor of the Sword of the Lord, wrote a 1986 booklet “Repentance: What Does the Bible Teach?” Hutson denied that repentance means to turn from sin (p. 4). He denied that repentance is sorrow for sin (p. 8). He even denied that repentance means “a change of mind that leads to a change of action” (p. 16). He claimed that repentance simply is “to change one’s mind” and that it did not necessarily result in a change of life. But how can one change his mind regarding sin and god and have no change in the life? This is because Hutson was trying to cover the failure in Sword-type evangelism that relied on a mere verbal assent to the gospel with no correspondent change of life. So many of their converts would make a profession but them not follow through with that profession. How to explain so many spiritual “misfires”? They can claim that mere belief is sufficient but no corresponding change of life was required, so all of their “converts” who “prayed” or who “bowed their head” were really saved, even if they never set foot in a church afterwards or demonstrated any other fruits stemming from their “decision”.

9. Objection 9- This is a new doctrine. ““Who in the world would have thought that Independent Baptist preachers would try to redefine Bible ‘repentance’? ... Repentance is not turning from your sins” (Bob Gray, Longview, Texas).

A. Quotes from the past. We do not base the authority of our understanding on repentance on men but it is interesting to see how so many Sword/Hyles “Independent Fundamental Baptists” refuted the teachings of their “mentors” whom they claim to respect so much. (most quotes cited in *Way of Life Encyclopedia*, by David Cloud)

1. John R. Rice

- a. "To repent literally means to have a change of mind or spirit toward God and toward sin. IT MEANS TO TURN FROM YOUR SINS, earnestly, with all your heart, and trust in Jesus Christ to save you. You can see, then, how the man who believes in Christ repents and the man who repents believes in Christ. The jailer repented when he turned from sin to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ" (*What Must I Do to Be Saved?* 1940).
 - b. "What do I mean by repent? I mean to TURN YOUR HEART FROM YOUR SIN. Turn from sin in your heart and start out to live for God. ... A penitent heart that TURNS FROM YOUR SIN and turns to Jesus" (John R. Rice, "Repent or Perish," *Sword of the Lord*, March 3, 1971).
 - c. "There ought to be plain preaching against sin. People ought to be taught TO TURN FROM SIN in genuine repentance" (John R. Rice, *Dr. Rice, Here Are More Questions*, Vol. II, p. 425, 1973).
2. Harold Sightler, "Recognizing his guilt, there is a TURNING FROM SIN. There is a turning to God. The actual word 'repentance' means a turning completely around: a change of course; a change of mind. ... TO THINK OF REPENTANCE THAT DOES NOT CAUSE THE SINNER TO TURN GLADLY FROM HIS SINS IS IMPOSSIBLE. ... I know that we have a shallow religious movement in our times that will allow men to profess faith in Christ and at the same time continue to live in the world. Such a shallow religious faith is not real. These are mere professors and have no part with God in salvation" (*Chastening and Repentance*, 1963).
 3. B.R. Lakin, "Repentance toward God -- that's TURNING AWAY FROM ALL YOUR SIN and everything you know to be wrong, and TURNING RIGHT ABOUT FACE, then trusting Jesus Christ as your complete Redeemer" (*Prepare to Meet Thy God*, 1964).
 4. Lester Roloff, "Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin. REPENTANCE IS A FORSAKING OF SIN. Real repentance is putting your trust in Jesus Christ so you will not live like that anymore. Repentance is permanent. It is a lifelong and an eternity-long experience. You will never love the devil again once you repent. You will never flirt with the devil as the habit of your life again once you get saved. You will never be happy living in sin; it will never satisfy; and the husks of the world will never fill your longing and hungering in your soul. Repentance is something a lot bigger than a lot of people think. It is absolutely essential if you go to heaven" (*Repent or Perish*, 1965).
 5. Oliver B. Green, "True repentance is sorrow for sin committed against a holy God and not only sorrow for sin, but TURNING FROM SIN, FORSAKING SIN AND TURNING TO GOD. Sin nailed the Savior to the cross and certainly that fact alone is sufficient reason why ALL WHO HAVE GENUINELY REPENTED HATE SIN AND FORSAKE SINFUL WAYS" (*Commentary of Acts of the Apostles*, Acts 2:37-38, 1969).
 6. J. Frank Norris "Baptists preach the gospel of repentance for sin. They preach and practice the very same gospel of repentance, of salvation, of baptism, as the first Baptist preacher we have any record of whose name was John and who came from God" (J. Frank Norris, *Lectures on Romans*, c. 1947).
 7. Leon Maurer "A rotely memorized prayer or some repeated statement without true repentance and faith never saves anyone. He must be very serious about it and really mean it. ... Consider a case where the person being dealt with is going to repeat a prayer after the soul winner as he calls on the Lord to save his soul. Here is a pattern which can be followed merely as an example: 'Lord, I realize I am a sinner. I am lost in my sin. I TURN FROM MY SIN. I repent of my sin. Right

here and now I do trust the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour...' (Leon F. Maurer, *Soul Winning: The Challenge of the Hour*, 1970).

8. "The preacher who leaves out repentance commits as grave a sin as the one who leaves out faith. I mean he must preach repentance just as often, and with as much emphasis, and to as many people as he preaches faith. To omit repentance, to ignore it, to depreciate it, is rebellion and treason. Mark its relative importance: You may make a mistake about baptism and be saved, for baptism is not essential to salvation. You may be a Christian and not comprehend fully the high-priesthood of Jesus Christ (He. 5 :11), but 'Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.' So said the Master Himself. Repentance is a preparatory work. For thus saith the Lord: 'Break up your fallow ground and sow not among thorns.' I submit before God, who will judge the quick and the dead, that to preach faith without repentance is to sow among thorns. No harvest can be gathered from an unplowed field. The fallow ground needs to be broken up. The most striking instance on record of repentance as a preparatory work was the ministry of John the Baptist. He was sent 'to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' He did it by preaching repentance, and Mark says his preaching was 'the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' Here is the true starting point. Whoever starts this side of repentance makes a false beginning which vitiates his whole Christian profession. When true repentance was preached and emphasized, there were not so many nominal professors of religion. To leave out or minimize repentance, no matter what sort of a faith you preach, is to prepare a generation of professors who are such in name only. I give it as my deliberate conviction, founded on twenty-five years of ministerial observation, that the Christian profession of today owes its lack of vital godliness, its want of practical piety, its absence from the prayer meeting, its miserable semblance of missionary life, very largely to the fact that old-fashioned repentance is so little preached. You can't put a big house on a little foundation. And no small part of such preaching comes from a class of modern evangelists who desiring more for their own glory to count a great number of converts than to lay deep foundations, reduce the conditions of salvation by one-half and make the other half but some intellectual trick of the mind rather than a radical spiritual change of the heart. Like Simon Magus, they believe indeed, but 'their heart not being right in the sight of God, they have no part nor lot in this matter. They are yet in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.' Such converts know but little and care less about a system of doctrine. They are prayerless, lifeless, and to all steady church work reprobate" (B.H. Carroll, 1889).

So-called "Repentance Blacklist", men who hold to the Biblical definition of repentance, from an anti-repentance website affiliated with Stephen Anderson, <http://repentanceblacklist.com/blacklist/> These men are called "Certain Sons of Belial" for preaching that repentance is necessary for salvation. Anderson, like many of the Jack Hyles-type of hyper-evangelicals, holds to an "easy believism" in that a mere outward profession without any signs of repentance was sufficient for salvation. Anderson is a major leader in the self-styled "New IFB" and their influence is growing.

John Calvin
Martin Luther
Charles Spurgeon
Billy Sunday
D.L Moody

Mother Teresa
Billy Graham
John Piper
Paul Washer
Ray Comfort

John McArthur
J.I Packer
T.D Jakes
Kenneth Copeland
Jessie Duplantis

Eric Hovind
Oral Roberts
Richard Roberts
Kenneth Hagin Sr.
Kenneth Hagin Jr.
Frederick Price
Creflo Dollar
Rodney Howard Browne
Jack Van Impe
Rinehard Bonnke
Morris Cerullo
John Kilpatrick
Clarence McClendon
Rick Joyner
Hal Lindsey
Charles Capps
Robert Tilton.
David Platt
Jan Boshoff
Levi Price
Joseph Prince
Joel Osteen (as weak as
he is on any doctrine, this
is doubtful)
Rick Warren
J.C Sproul
John Hagee
Brother Nathaniel
Benny Hinn
Joyce Meyers
James White
A.Z Tozer (should be A.
W. Tozer)
John Graf
Francis Chan
Robert Lyte
Southern Baptist
Convention
The Fellowship Tract
League
Chick Publications

Bearing Precious Seed,
Lansing, MI
God Save America
Conferences
Local Church Bible
Publishers, Lansing, MI
Moody Bible Institute
Way of Life Publications
Way of the Master
A Voice in the Wilderness
Ministries
Answers in Genesis
Creation Ministries
International
Search the Bible Ministries
Word for the World
Masters Baptist College -
Fargo, ND
James Beller
Kirk Cameron
David Cloud
Dennis Corle
George Eager
Doug Fisher
Keith Gomez
William Grady
John Graf
Don L. Green
Oliver B. Greene
Al Lacy
Chris McNeilly
E.Y. Mullins
W.D. Nowlin
Lester Roloff
Jack Schaap
Gerald Sutek
Randy Taylor
Jim Vineyard
Bryan Denlinger
Andy Bloom
Dan Botterbrodt

John E. Britt
Paul G. Burbidge
Travis Burke
Ivan Casteel
David Coe
Chuck Cofty
Beau Comeaux
Matthew Conrad
Pastor Cooley
Eric Damron
Dennis Deneau
Art Dunham
Randy Engesetter
Tim Fellure
Leroy Goodman
Kent Gossmeier
George Gray
John Hallman
Andrew Hammack
Dino Hatem
Joshua Joscelyn
Craig Ledbetter
James Lyman
Keith McIntyre
Scott McIntyre
Stan McIntyre
Jerry H. Matson
Bobby Mitchell
Daniel Morgan
Chuck Mosher
Bob Nappier
Abe Partridge
Steven Pawley
Al Pihringer
Ron Robey
Tony Scheving
Gary Schwer
Daniel Walton
Gary Webb
Jerry Wilhite
Jon Zwingel

They could have added:

John R. Rice
Harold Sigtler
Harry Ironside
B. R. Lakin
J. Frank Norris

References,

Cloud, David, various reports and articles by David Cloud at wayoflife.org as well as *The Way of Life Encyclopedia*, *Repentance and Soulwinning* and
Spence, H. T., *A Catechetical Study For The Remnant*