

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

September 2023

## Repentance for Everyone

### REPENTANCE

Repentance at first blush may sound like a down and depressing subject; but actually, it is very uplifting and positive. It might appear negative because of its connection with sin, guilt, regret, remorse, etc. And those are indeed connected to it. But those are where you start before repentance – they are what you leave behind – not at all where you end up. Where you end with repentance is acquittal, remission, freedom, cleansing, renewal, joy and peace. What could be down and depressing about that?

Repentance, as it turns out, is the transition between darkness and light; it is the step that takes you from death to life. Listen what the LORD Himself said to the wayward people of Israel:

10 "Son of man, say to the house of Israel, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?" ' 11 Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?' *Ezekiel 33:10-11*

Repentance is turning from evil and death ... so you can *live*! It is a 180-degree turn, an "about face," a radical change in direction that points you to God and puts you back on the path that leads to eternal life. Notice that sin and offenses not only lead to ultimate condemnation and death, but they also weigh you down, causing you to waste away, even now in *this* life. Why would you choose to remain in that?

The Sovereign LORD pleads for you to, "Turn! Turn from your evil ways and live." He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. And Paul adds to that. He says in Romans 2:4, "... God's kindness leads you toward repentance."

Some think God is out to punish or destroy sinners, but as you can see, what He really wants is to *save* them. The LORD's call for sinners to turn and repent comes from His kindness and love. Jesus tells us the same:

29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." *Luke 5:29-32*

It was not Jesus who lacked compassion for sinners. No, He went to them, even as others criticized Him for doing so. He loved them. He was calling sinners to repentance.

God, the Father, loves sinners too. And He is merciful to those who repent. Jesus made that clear in this illustration:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-robbers, evildoers, adulterers-or

(Continued on next page)

even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." *Luke 18:10-14*

God sees the heart. When the guilt of sin draws you to humbly confess before God in repentance, you will not walk away disappointed. God will lift you up. Just like this "tax collector," you will go home justified.

Paul is on the same page when he says:

10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret...  
*2 Corinthians 7:10*

God Himself says it, too. Repentance is the way to salvation and rest for your soul. Listen to His word through the prophet:

15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says:  
"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength,"  
*Isaiah 30:15*

God wants to save you. But you have to trust Him. He wants you to turn from the selfish and sinful past to a life that seeks to do right:

16 wash and make yourselves clean.  
Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong,  
17 learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed.  
Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the

case of the widow.

18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land;

20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword."

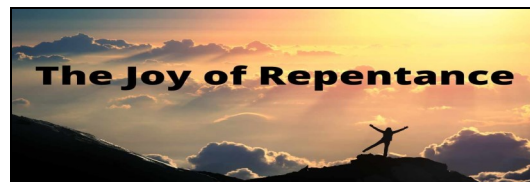
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

*Isaiah 1:16-20*

That is the call of God to everyone. ... He wants you to do right. He wants you to be clean. He wants to save you. ... That is His call to *you*, and His call to everyone. Jesus said, in Luke 24:47, "repentance and remission of sins will be preached in his name to all nations." But it is to *you* He is speaking right now. Repentance and remission of sins are for *you*.

And there is great joy in it, too – far beyond just within your soul. Jesus says:

"I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."  
*Luke 15:10*



God rejoices with them. His promise is mercy, remission, cleansing, salvation, quietness and rest. He continues His call. And He is waiting. Waiting for your humble heart to come to Him. Peter tells us:

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.  
*2 Peter 3:9*

He wants *everyone* to come to repentance. Everyone. And that means you.

Blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Pete



**Connect**

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# Sunny Place Church—September Events



You are invited to:  
**Sunny Place Church Annual Picnic**  
On Sunday, September 10th,  
12:30 p.m., at the Parsonage  
Meat and drinks are provided, please bring a  
side dish to share. Invite family & friends,  
all are welcome!



Praying Together...Time with Jesus



**Sunday, September 17th**  
In the Sanctuary, after Worship.  
A light lunch will be provided.



GROWING DEEPER

**Worship Wednesday**  
**September 20th, 6:00 p.m.**

There will be dinner, fellowship,  
singing, and an encouraging  
message. All are welcome.  
Please bring a dish to share.

*This is a great opportunity to meet  
in fellowship, and worship our  
Lord in Scripture, music,  
and prayer.*



## LADIES LUNCHEON

You are invited to a fun  
filled Wednesday lunch  
at Aurelio's Pizza in  
Addison, on Wednesday,  
Sept. 27th, 11:30 a.m.



**Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.**

**"Faith in Action"**

A study of the Book of James  
Led by Pastor Pete

**Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.**

*In-person and on Zoom*

7:00



**"Pray Without Ceasing"**

A study on having a life  
of fervent prayer.

Led by Pastor Pete  
In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times.  
If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information  
to: [sunnyplacecog@gmail.com](mailto:sunnyplacecog@gmail.com) to request a link to be sent to you.  
You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on:  
[sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons](http://sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons).

# TLC

Together Loving Christ

**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group  
Thursday's at 7:00 p.m.

***Grow in the Word!***



## **Scripture of the Month:**

<sup>1</sup>But now, this is what the Lord says—  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I  
have summoned you by name; you are  
mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I  
will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will  
not be burned; the flames will not set  
you ablaze.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the Lord, your God,  
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior”

*Isaiah 43:1-3*



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Visit us at: **[www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)**

***Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ***