

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” Such was the prophecy that Isaiah the prophet gave concerning **John the Baptist**. He came “preaching the baptism of **repentance** for the remission of sins”. To truly “flee from the **wrath** to come”, one had to “Bring forth **fruits** worthy of **repentance**”. He warned that “every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the **fire**” (see Luke 3:3-9).

In Luke 13:3&5, the Lord Jesus Christ himself warns us twice that “except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise **perish**”. The Bible repeatedly speaks of this perishing. One example is in Luke chapter 16 when Jesus taught about a certain rich man that died (v. 22). “In **hell** he left up his eyes, being in **torments**” (v. 23). Then, in verse 24, he begs for just a little bit of mercy (which he does not get) saying “I am **tormented** in this **flame**”. Also, Revelation 20:14-15 describes that after the final judgment, “**death** and **hell** were cast into the **lake of fire**. This is the second death. (15) And whoseever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the **lake of fire**”. Behold the terrible future of all unrepentant sinners.

This is extremely important for you to understand, oh reader. The Bible says “For all have **sinned**, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23). That includes **you**. Sin has **consequences**, as the Apostle Paul warns in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 saying “Know ye not that the **unrighteous** shall **not inherit the kingdom of God**? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God”. Revelation 21:8 warns us as well: “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”. If you do not repent, you will die in your sins. You will not go to heaven, but you will instead spend **eternity** in the **lake of fire**.

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Thankfully, this is not the Lord's will for any of us. 2 Peter 3:9 says “**The Lord** is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering** to usward, **not willing** that any should **perish**, but that all should come to **repentance**”. Matthew 3:11 records John the Baptist declaring “I indeed baptize you with water unto **repentance**: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I... he shall baptize you with the **Holy Ghost**, and with **fire**”. After John was put in prison, Jesus came preaching “And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent** ye, and **believe** the gospel” (Mk 1:15). Paul put it this way: “**repentance** toward God, and **faith** toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). **Repentance** and **belief** in the **gospel**, this is the Biblical pattern of salvation.

So, **what is repentance**? Repentance is a fundamental **change of mind** about **sin** that leads one to no longer love, excuse or justify their sin, but, rather, to abhor it, and, therefore, to **turn from it**. It is brought about by **godly sorrow** (2 Cor 7:10) when a person realizes that they have grievously offended the Holy God. If you genuinely repent, your life will show it. You'll have “**fruits** worthy of **repentance**”.

The **gospel** message is that **Jesus Christ**, the Mighty God, the Creator of all things, came into the world to **save us from our sins**. He, the Son of God, left the glory and majesty of Heaven; was born of a virgin as “**Emmanuel**”, or God with us, and, as such, fully God and yet, fully man; was tempted in all points like as we, yet **without sin**; suffered, **bled** and **died** a horrible death on an old rugged **cross** as an **atonement** for our sins; was **buried**; **rose again** the third day; is **alive** forever more; and is **coming back to judge** the living and the dead. Through this atonement and resurrection, He **conquered** sin, death and hell for us! Anyone that will truly repent and believe this wonderful message will be, as Jesus taught in John chapter 3, **born again**, born of the **Spirit of God**. God will give you His **Holy Spirit**. You will have **power** in your life to live a life of victory; **victory in Jesus!**

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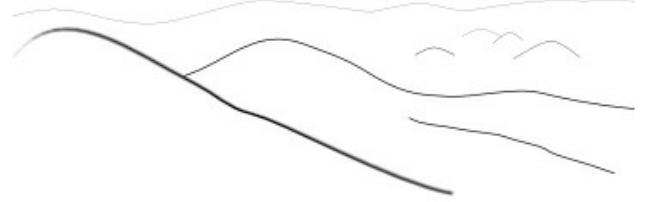
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“**Seek ye the Lord** while he may be found, **call ye upon him** while he is near” (Isa 55:6). Time is running out. The **Lord Jesus Christ** is **coming back** soon. Are you **prepared**? **Turn from** all known **sin** through real **repentance**, and **believe** in the glorious **gospel** of the **Lord Jesus Christ** before it is too late.

Just as **John the Baptist's** call to **repentance** heralded the **first coming** of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, so the **call to repentance** continues to **cry out** today in preparation of **His return**.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Crying In The Wilderness



All scripture quotations are from the King James Bible.
Gospel Tract by Br. Patrick O'Connell, Dec. 2, 2013. For more information,
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