悔改与相信一得着救恩的条件(壹)

Repentance and Believing—the Conditions for Obtaining Salvation (I)

我们今天来看第五题,就是悔改与相信。悔改与相信,乃是人得着救恩的条件。一个人要得着神的救恩,必须悔改相信。神虽然因着祂的大爱,已经借着基督将救赎为人作成了,也要借着圣灵将祂所作成的救赎作到人身上,但人若不悔改相信,这救赎还不能在人身上变作救恩。必须人悔改相信,神的救赎才能在人身上变作救恩,使人得蒙拯救。

In this chapter we come to the matters of repentance and believing. Repentance and believing are the conditions for man to obtain salvation. In order for man to obtain God's salvation, he must repent and believe. God accomplished redemption for man through Christ and will apply Christ's accomplished redemption to man through the Holy Spirit because of His great love. However, if man does not repent and believe, redemption cannot become salvation to him. Man must repent and believe in order for God's redemption to become salvation to him.

壹 悔改

I. Repentance

一 悔改的意义

A. The Meaning of Repentance

"悔改",在希腊原文的意思,是"心思的转变"。所以圣经所说的悔改,乃是心思转变,不像人所以为的,是改过自新。从人堕落以后,人的心思是背着神,而向着神之外许多的人、事、物,并且从人堕落以后,人多是受自己的心思支配,"随着···心思所喜好的去行(弗二3,原文)。人的心思怎么想,人就必定怎么说;人的心思想什么,人就必定行什么。不管人的心思所喜好的是什么,或是好事,或是坏事,人的心思总是背着神,而向着神之外的人、事、物。人的心思既是背着神,而向着神之外的人、事、物,就人的行事为人也必是背着神,而向着其他。所以人需要悔改,需要在心思里有一个转变。人的心思一转变,人的行事为人也就随着转变。

According to the original language in the Bible, repentance is related to a change of mind. This differs from the human understanding of repentance, which is related to correction and self-reformation. Since man fell, his mind has turned away from God toward many persons, things, and matters. Moreover, man is dominated by his own mind, "doing the desires...of the thoughts" (Eph. 2:3). Man speaks what is in his mind and acts according to his thoughts. Whether the desires of his thoughts are good or evil, man's mind is turned away from God while facing a host of persons, things, and matters apart from God. Since man's mind is turned away from God and turned toward matters apart from God, his deeds and behavior are continuously apart from God and directed toward other things. Therefore, man needs to repent, to have a change in his mind. Once man's mind changes, his deeds and behavior will change.

(一)"应当悔改归向神。"徒二六20。

1. "That they should repent and turn to God" (Acts 26:20).

这里的"归向神",原文是"转向神"。人的心思既然支配人的行事为人,背着神,而向着神之外许多的人、事、物,就人必须从心思里有一个转变,使他从他的心思,到他的行事为人,都从神之外的东西,转过来向着神、原来人的心思所向着的,都是神之外的东西,它支配人所行所作的,也都是背着神的。堕落的人,在心思的支配之下,一切都是向着神之外的,一切都是背着神的。他犯罪作恶,是背着神;他行善为义,也是背着神。他犯罪作恶,怎样是向着罪恶,而不向着神;他行善为义,也同样是向着善义,而不向着神。他爱世界,是向着世界,而不是向着神;他愿超世,也是向着超世,而不是向着神。他爱时髦,是向着时髦,而不是向着神;他爱古板,也是向着古板,而不是向着神。他吝啬爱财,是向着钱财,而不是向着神;他乐善好施,也是向着乐善,向着好施,而不是向着神。他吃喝嫖赌,是向着吃喝嫖赌,而不是向着神;他清操持守,也是向着清操持守,而不是向着神。他吃喝嫖赌,是向着吃喝嫖赌,而不是向着神;他清操持守,也是向着清操持守,而不是向着神。他的是神自己。他什么都要,就是不要神。所以他需要悔改转向神,需要从他的心思里有一个转变,先从他的心思里转起,而后转到他外面的行事为人,直到将他的人生,将他的全人,都转过来向着神。

Since man's mind rules his actions and behavior and is turned from God to many things outside of God, there is a need for a change in his mind so that he may turn in both his thoughts and deeds from things apart from God back to God. Originally, man's thoughts are toward things apart from God, and these direct man to carry out things that are apart from God. Everything related to the fallen man, who is controlled by his mind, is turned from God toward things apart from God. When man sins and commits evil, he is turned from God. However, when he does things that are outwardly righteous and good, he still has his back toward God. Just as his sinful and evil acts are apart from God and toward wickedness, his proper and good acts also are apart from God. If he loves the world, he will choose the world instead of God, but if he wants to ascend above the world, he will strive toward that goal rather than God. If he wants to be fashionable, he will choose modernity instead of God, but if he is content to be old-fashioned, he still will not be directed toward God. If he is stingy and greedy, he will direct his efforts toward money instead of God, but if he is charitable and generous, he will direct his efforts toward charity rather than God. If he is gluttonous and lascivious, he will long for things instead of God, but if he is self-disciplined and virtuous, he still will not long for God. He can set his mind on a host of things, having no thought in the slightest toward God. All his thoughts and doings are related to goals, but none of these goals are God Himself. He wants everything except God. Consequently, man needs to repent and turn to God; he needs to have a change in his mind. Such a turn begins with the mind; then it will affect his outward actions and behavior until his entire life and being are turned toward God.

悔改不是重在改过,不是重在脱离什么,乃是重在转过来向着神。比方一个人从前喜欢看电影,以后觉得不对,所以就不去看了。他这样的悔改,不是圣经所说的悔改,乃是世人所说的悔改。圣经所说的悔改,乃是他觉得他看电影不要神,所以他就悔改,他就从心思里有一个转变,从电影转向神,今后他就不要电影,不看电影,只要神了。一个悔改,若没有叫人转向神,那就是世人所要的悔改,不是神所要的悔改。你虽然不去看电影了,但你却转向别的事(也许是很好的事),你的心思还没有转向神。神所要的悔改,乃是人的心思转过来向着神,不仅是改人的错,更是改人的不要神;不仅是把坏的改好了,更是把向着神之外的心思改过来向着神。所以就是人所看为对,所看为好的人,也需要这样的悔改。顶对、顶好的人,也许顶不向着神。他虽然没有错,但也没有神;他虽然不要坏,但也不要神。所以他需要悔改,需要从心思里转变,从他所向着的对,所向着的好,转过来向着神。悔改不是别的,乃是把人一切的不要神、不向着神,改过来向着神;乃是把不要神的人,转过来归向神。

Repentance is not self-correction or even a forsaking of things but a turn to God. A person who loves going to movies may feel it is wrong and stop going. This is the human concept of repentance, not the biblical concept. According to the Bible, a person should repent because he is convicted of his love for movies instead of God. His change of mind is from movies to God, and henceforth, he desires God instead of movies. Repentance according to the human concept does not cause a person to turn to God; this is not the repentance that God desires. A person may give up movies, but if he turns to other things, even proper things, his mind is still not turned to God. The repentance that God desires is a turn of the human mind toward Himself. This is not simply a matter of correction but a matter of no longer rejecting God. This is not a matter of changing from being bad to being good but of turning from godless things back to God Himself. Thus, one needs to repent of what he regards as proper and good. Even the most proper and upright person can be turned away from God very much. He may be faultless but without God; he may deplore evil but reject God. Thus, he needs to repent, to have a change of mind, to turn from proper and good things back to God. True repentance causes man to turn back to God, to turn from not wanting and not facing God.

(二) "当向神悔改。" 徒二十21。

2. "Repentance unto God" (Acts 20:21).

因为悔改是转向神,所以真实地悔改,必须是"向神悔改"。世人所要的悔改,是向善悔改,向对悔改。但神所要的悔改,不只是向善、向对,更是向神悔改。人很可能从恶改向善,从错改向对,而仍没有改向神。他没有改的时候,向着恶,向着错,而不是向着神;改过了,是向着善,向着对,仍不是向着神。这不是圣经所说,那叫人接受救恩的悔改。叫人接受救恩的悔改,不是向别的悔改,乃是向神悔改;不是以神之外的事物作目标,乃是以神自己作目标。

Since repentance is a turn to God, genuine repentance must be a repentance unto God. Those in the world demand a repentance unto uprightness and goodness, but God requires a repentance unto Himself, not just to what is good and right. A person may change from being wicked to being kind and from being wrong to being right, without turning to God. Before such a change, he is toward evil rather than toward God; once he

changes, he may pursue (or be inclined toward) things that are good and proper, but he is still not toward God. This is not the repentance that causes man to receive salvation. According to the Bible, the repentance that results in man's salvation can never be unto anything other than God Himself. Nothing outside of God can be the object of true repentance.

二 悔改是神赐给的

B. Repentance Being a Gift from God

真实地悔改,是神因着祂的怜悯,赐给人的。

True repentance is granted to men by God because of His mercy.

(一)"神…将悔改的心…赐给…人。"徒五31,提后二25。

1. "God...to give repentance" (Acts 5:31; see also 2 Tim. 2:25).

神要人接受祂的救恩,就借着祂的灵,光照人的心思,叫人看见自己远离神的光景,叫人知道该转回 归向神,而感动人的心情,将悔改的心赐给人,使人从神之外的一切转向神。许多人原来在神之外, 喜好罪恶,贪爱世界,或恋慕许多别的事物。有一天神怜悯他们,借着圣灵转他们的念头,叫他们从 罪恶,从世界,或从许多别的事物转向神。

Because God wants man to receive His salvation, He enlightens man's mind by His Spirit so that man will see his condition of being far from God and realize his need to turn back to God. Then He touches man's feelings and gives him a repentant heart so that he will turn from everything apart from God back to God. Initially, people love sin, covet the world, and desire many things. One day, however, God, by the Holy Spirit, has mercy on them, causing their thinking to turn from sin, the world, and other things back to God.

(二)"神也赐恩给…人,叫他们悔改。"徒十一18。

2. "God has given repentance unto life" (Acts 11:18).

许多人原来是不要神的;是没有想到神的,但到了一个时候,神就因着祂的怜悯,恩待他们,为他们 安排一切环境和心境,使他们悔改,专心归向神。

Many people, who never had a desire for God or even considered God, were graced by God at a certain point in time through His mercy; God arranged their environment in order to give them a heart to repent and wholeheartedly turn back to God.

(三)"祂的恩慈是领你悔改。"罗二4。

3. "God's kindness is leading you to repentance" (Rom. 2:4).

人弃绝神,犯罪作恶顶撞神,得罪神,本该立刻受神惩罚,被神除灭。但神却因着祂的恩慈、宽容忍 耐人。祂这宽容忍耐人的恩慈,是要领人悔改,转向祂。许多人若是早死几年,就不得悔改得救了。 许多人所以能免去病死、灾害、战火、轰炸、坠机、沉船,就是因为神的恩慈、宽容忍耐他们,给他 们机会,领他们悔改,好叫他们转向神,得蒙救恩。

Because man forsakes God, commits sin and evil in rejecting God, and offends God, he should be punished and destroyed by God. Yet God exercises forbearance and patience because of His kindness. His patient and forbearing kindness leads man to repentance so that man may turn to Him. The reason that so many have survived terminal illness, calamities, wars, bombings, plane crashes, and disasters at sea is because God's kindness patiently bore with them, giving them the opportunity to be led to repentance so that they might turn back to God and obtain salvation.

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