



THE DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE 2023

**GROWING & GOING**

## **SUNDAY 12TH MARCH 2023**

“ Rediscovering the role of repentance.”

Matthew 3:1-17 / Ps. Sam Toms

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- Repentance for Forgiveness
- Repentance for Participation
- Repentance is the foundation for Receiving the Spirit of God.
- Repentance for transformation

A good biblical theology of Sin is possibly one of the most impacting and significant theologies we need to have. Our traditions, habits and practices often flow from our theology of Sin, How we deal with Sin in our world and in our own lives.

God provided a way to achieve forgiveness from Sin before Jesus came to Earth by observing and keeping the Law and the Commandments of God and by offering sacrificial offerings in a bid to atone for Sin.

Read Hebrews 9:22 – what are the Requirements for the forgiveness of Sin?

Then read Hebrews 10:4 - What was the problem humanity had with the sacrificial system that was established?

The Old Testament sacrificial system was important, and one of its primary purposes was to show its own insufficiency. The insufficiency of the sacrificial system stands in stark contrast to the complete sufficiency of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Read Hebrews 9:24–28 – What is unique about Christ's willing sacrifice?

This complete and total forgiveness we receive in Christ changes the way we approach Sin once we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and King and have initially repented of our Sins. This repentance is complete and total, just like our forgiveness.



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What remains for the believer is to realise that repentance becomes a beautiful practice, not to obtain eternal life or forgiveness, but to become Christlike, to enter into what His kingdom is doing. We Repent to participate more fully in the life of Christ.

Hebrews 12:1 – Sin is something that we need to continually work through the effects of. Repentance is a wonderful tool that the believer has been given to free us from the trap and condemnation of Sin.

We can struggle with repentance because we, at times, can confuse the idea of repenting with us lowering our self-worth. Nothing could be further from the truth. As we repent of the Sin that is not in our ‘new mind and heart’, we are cleaning the dirt of a beautiful gem.

Many believers are caught in bitterness, unforgiveness and other attitudes that corrupt their hearts and rob their Joy. Repentance is a wonderful habit to visit frequently.

Autonomy and independence from God are often hidden sins (also known as idolatry of self). God wants us to have a soft heart to hear and follow his lead. Repentance is vital in believers having a prepared heart for what God is about to do. This is the heart of John the Baptist’s call to ‘repent - for the kingdom of heaven is here/near!’

What is God calling you to repent of?



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