

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove
 Faith Bible Church
<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>
 August 28, 2011



DAILY DOCTRINE

Repentance

<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/repentance.pdf>

1. Much confusion has resulted by an improper interpretation of the word “repentance.”
 - a. Repentance is not a separate step in salvation, there are *no steps* in salvation.
 - b. When a person believes he repents; when he repents he believes.
 - c. Repentance is *not* sorrow for sin.
 - d. Repentance is a change of mental attitude toward Jesus Christ and/or His work.

2. Hebrew word for repent is *nacham* (נָחַם). Technically, this term does have connotations of sorrow. However, the subject of this verb is always God. Does God feel sorry for what He has done? Of course not! This term is used of God anthropopathically, i.e. human experiences are ascribed to God in order to connect with man to make a point of doctrine. An anthropopathism is when a human characteristic is ascribed to God to express a divine attitude that He does not literally have. This is analogical language.

USES	SUBJECT	OBJECT
Genesis 6:6	God	Creation
Exodus 32:14	God	Israel
Judges 2:18	God	Groanings
1 Samuel 15:35	God	Saul
Psalms 90:13	God	Servants
Jeremiah 15:6	God	Jews
Amos 7:3, 6	God	Discipline

3. Greek, *metanoëo* (μετανοέω). It is a compound word: *meta* = change + *noëo* = mind. This always means a complete change of mental attitude; the concept is mental not emotional. It is used of the two categories of people: the unbeliever and the believer.
 - a. The unbeliever. In the following verses the subject is always the unbeliever. Christ is always the object. The unbeliever is the one doing the repenting—he changes his mental attitude toward either the person or work of Christ, or both: Matt. 12:41; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3; 15:10; 16:30. Repent and believe are always synonymous in salvation: Acts 17:30; 20:20; 26:20; Heb. 12:17; 2 Peter 3:9. This change of mental attitude is possible because of the Holy Spirit’s ministry in common grace, cf. John 16:8-11.

b. Believers. The subject is the believer either stated or implied. The object varies:

USES	SUBJECT	OBJECT
Hebrews 6:2	Believer	Dead works
Rev. 2:5, 16	Believer	Carnality
2 Cor. 12:21	Believer	Carnality

4. Greek, *metamelomai* (μεταμέλομαι). This is usually translated repent in Matthew 21:29, 32; 27:3; 2 Cor. 7:8; Heb. 7:21. It should be translated “regret.” It has emotional connotation. It is to feel emotionally sorrowful. Judas was sorry that he had betrayed the Lord, he did not repent, however. His emotional guilt did not do him any good. It led to his suicide. Rejection of grace always leads to some form of guilt. Guilt kills! Grace gives life!

In the Logos,

Pastor Don