

# Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.12.15

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## Sermon recordings

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**Speaker-AM:** Jamie Rinehart

**Title:** Acts 13

**Recording:**



**Speaker-PM:** Brad Bunyard

**Title:**

**Recording:**



**BROTHERS, CHILDREN OF  
ABRAHAM, AND YOU GENTILES  
WHO FEAR GOD, IT IS TO US THAT  
THIS MESSAGE OF SALVATION HAS  
BEEN SENT.**

**- ACTS 13:26**



Every day, united in spirit, they would assemble together in the temple. They would break bread in their homes and share their food with joyful and generous hearts as they praised God, and they were regarded with favor by all the people. And day by day the Lord added to those who were being saved.

**Acts 2:46-47**

### Repentance, 12/12/2024 By Josh Vinyard

We are called to repentance. Christ commanded it from the beginning of his preaching (Mark 1:15). Unforgiven sin will keep us out of heaven, and forgiveness of our sins is not promised to us if we do not repent (Rev. 2:5; Heb.10:26). Repentance is a part of the change of character that we must make to please God. Paul told the Christians in Rome not to be conformed to this world, but to be “transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:1-2). Repentance is necessary because it is part of the process of putting off the old man of sin and putting on the new man that is Christ-like (Eph. 4:22-24). If we don’t repent, we will be eternally lost when we go to the final judgment (Acts 17:30-31).

What is repentance? Repentance comes from the Greek word “metenoi,” which means a change of mind or to have another mind. It is a change of mind, but it is not just a change of mind. It is a change of mind for the better. It is to decide to turn away from something wrong (sin) and decide to turn toward something right. We see Jesus explain it that way in Matthew 21. In that passage, he tells a story of a man who had two sons. The man went to the first son and said, “Son, go work today in the vineyard.” That first son didn’t want to go but afterward he regretted (repented in the KJV).. He later went to his second son and asked him to go to the vineyard. This son said he would go but didn’t actually go to the vineyard (v. 31). Jesus then asked, “which of the two did the will of the Father?” Those listening correctly said the first son. You see, both sons changed their minds, but only the first son changed his mind for the better.

Where does repentance come from? You can change for a lot of reasons. A person can change their life and not repent. For example, a person may realize alcohol is making them look like a fool and decide to quit. That doesn’t mean they know God, know Christ, or even acknowledge that they are sinners in need of repentance. Bible repentance is when we have godly sorrow in our hearts (2 Cor 7:8-11) for our sins and that godly sorrow is one thing that helps lead us to repent. Worldly sorrow (sorrow because you got caught) is also not the godly sorrow or type of heart God wants.

What does repentance lead to? It leads to a change of action. It begins in the heart and mind, and it shows itself in how we actually live. John the baptist’s message was to “bear fruit in keeping with repentance (Matt. 3:8). Paul told the Gentiles that they should “repent and turn to God, performing deeds consistent with repentance” (Acts 26:20). Both King Saul and King David did terrible things in the Old Testament. Saul’s sins were no worse than David’s. Both recognized that they had sinned and confessed that they were guilty. The real difference came in how they acted afterwards. Saul continued in his sins and even twisted and hardened his heart. David repented, and showed by his devotion to God, that he meant it (Psalm 51). This shows that God doesn’t just want us to say we are guilty of sin. He wants that, and He wants us to change our minds about it, but He also wants us to show that we will love and serve Him with all our hearts and show real changes in our lives.

Final Note: Repentance is not a one-time act for us to be saved. It comes after faith but before confession and obedience in baptism. It puts us in the right relationship with God. Once in that relationship, it is a continual course correction when we mess up. After Simon was converted and messed up, Paul asked him to repent and pray (Acts 8:22) for forgiveness.