



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



Steps To Christ

Ellen G. White

Chapter 3 Repentance

Memory Verse – Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV)

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God,
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,
So that he will not hear.”

Scriptures

New King James Version

Scriptures

1. What should precede the blotting out of our sins?

Acts 3:19 (NKJV). “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”

Scriptures

2. What else is related to repentance?

Acts 2:38 (NKJV). “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Scriptures

3. What type of repentance did the Corinthians have?

2 Corinthians 7:9 (NKJV). “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.”

Scriptures

4. How are godly sorrow and worldly sorrow different?

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV). “For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

Scriptures

5. What reaction did godly repentance produce?

2 Corinthians 7:11 (NKJV). “For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication!* In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

Scriptures

6. How do the inhabitants of heaven feel about genuine sorrow for sin?

Luke 15:10 (NKJV). “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Scriptures

7. How does God define genuine repentance?

Psalm 51:17 (NKJV). “The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.”

Scriptures

8. What does God require once we have the light?

Acts 17:30 (NKJV). “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,”

Scriptures

9. What is the correct response to a message of repentance?

Mark 1:4, 5 (NKJV). “⁴ John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. ⁵ Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.”

Scriptures

10. What leads the sinner to repent?

Romans 2:4 (NKJV). “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”

Scriptures

11. To whom is the message of repentance given?

Luke 5:32 (NKJV). “I have not come to *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Scriptures

12. What is God's desire for all?

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV). “The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Scriptures

13. How does God approach the problem of our sins?

Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV). “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’”

Scriptures

14. What should our prayer be?

Psalm 139:23, 24 (NKJV). “²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.”

Scriptures

15. What is God's promise regarding that prayer?

Philippians 3:15 (NKJV). "Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you."

Study Questions

Study Questions

1. What does repentance include? (Paragraph 2).

“Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it.”

Study Questions

2. There will be no change in the life until what happens? (2).

“We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.”

Study Questions

3. Describe an improper repentance. (3, 4).

“There are many who fail to understand the true nature of repentance. Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned and even make an outward reformation because they fear their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. They lament the suffering rather than the sin.”

Study Questions

4. List several people in Scripture who had a faulty repentance. (3, 4).

“Esau, Balaam, Judas, Pharaoh.”

Study Questions

5. What does the sinner feel when convicted of sin?
(5).

“Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart. The sinner has a sense of the righteousness of Jehovah and feels the terror of appearing, in his own guilt and uncleanness, before the Searcher of hearts.”

Study Questions

6. What characterized a genuine prayer of repentance? (6).

“The prayer of David after his fall, illustrates the nature of true sorrow for sin. His repentance was sincere and deep. There was no effort to palliate his guilt; no desire to escape the judgment threatened, inspired his prayer.”

David saw the enormity of his transgression; he saw the defilement of his soul; he loathed his sin. It was not for pardon only that he prayed, but for purity of heart. He longed for the joy of holiness—to be restored to harmony and communion with God. This was the language of his soul:”

Study Questions

7. What point causes many to err? (8).

“They think that they cannot come to Christ unless they first repent, and that repentance prepares for the forgiveness of their sins.”

Study Questions

8. What does repentance precede? (8).

“It is true that repentance does precede the forgiveness of sins; for it is only the broken and contrite heart that will feel the need of a Saviour.”

Study Questions

9. What leads us to genuine repentance? (9).

“It is the virtue that goes forth from Christ, that leads to genuine repentance.”

Study Questions

10. What leads us to the foot of the cross in repentance for our sins? (13).

“... a knowledge of the plan of salvation will lead him to the foot of the cross in repentance for his sins, which have caused the sufferings of God’s dear Son.”

Study Questions

11. What is seen as the light of Christ shines into our souls? (16).

“... but when the light from Christ shines into our souls, we shall see how impure we are; we shall discern the selfishness of motive, the enmity against God, that has defiled every act of life.”

Study Questions

12. What sins are especially offensive to God? (20).

“The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God; for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character,”

Study Questions

13. How are we to come to Christ? (22).

“We must come to Christ just as we are.”

Study Questions

14. What testifies to the enormity of sin? (23).

“The love and suffering and death of the Son of God all testify to the terrible enormity of sin and declare that there is no escape from its power, no hope of the higher life, but through the submission of the soul to Christ.”

Study Questions

15. What excuse do some give for not doing what is right? (24).

“The impenitent sometimes excuse themselves by saying of professed Christians, ‘I am as good as they are. They are no more self-denying, sober, or circumspect in their conduct than I am. They love pleasure and self-indulgence as well as I do.’

Thus they make the faults of others an excuse for their own neglect of duty.”

Study Questions

16. What is a great danger? (25).

“I will not here dwell upon the shortness and uncertainty of life; but there is a terrible danger—a danger not sufficiently understood—in delaying to yield to the pleading voice of God’s Holy Spirit, in choosing to live in sin; for such this delay really is.”

Study Questions

17. What is every act of transgression doing? (27).

“Every act of transgression, every neglect or rejection of the grace of Christ, is reacting upon yourself; it is hardening the heart, depraving the will, benumbing the understanding, and not only making you less inclined to yield, but less capable of yielding, to the tender pleading of God’s Holy Spirit.”

Study Questions

18. What can neutralize all the power of the Gospel?
(29).

“Even one wrong trait of character, one sinful desire, persistently cherished, will eventually neutralize all the power of the gospel.”

Study Questions

19. How do we destroy ourselves? (30).

“We have destroyed ourselves by our determined rejection of His love.”

Study Questions

20. How focused should our approach be? (32).

“Deal truly with your own soul. Be as earnest, as persistent, as you would be if your mortal life were at stake.”

Study Questions

21. When we see ourselves as we really are, what should we not do? (34).

“As you see the enormity of sin, as you see yourself as you really are, do not give up to despair.”

Study Questions

22. How do you meet Satan's claims about your sinfulness? (35).

“When Satan comes to tell you that you are a great sinner, look up to your Redeemer and talk of His merits. That which will help you is to look to His light.

Acknowledge your sin, but tell the enemy that
‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;
and that you may be saved by His matchless love
(1 Timothy 1:15).’

Study Questions

23. When do we best realize the sinfulness of sin?
(35).

“It is when we most fully comprehend the love of God that we best realize the sinfulness of sin.”

Thought Questions

Thought Questions

1. How do you know if your repentance is genuine?

Thought Questions

2. How do we know if another person's repentance is genuine?

Thought Questions

3. What if we really don't feel sorry?

Thought Questions

4. Is there anything you can do to help feel sorry?

Thought Questions

5. Does repentance effect our emotions, our thinking, or both?

Thought Questions

6. How can our past experience affect our repentance?

Thought Questions

7. Do I have to feel sorry before God will forgive me?

Thought Questions

8. Why does God rarely remove the results of my sin, even though I am genuinely sorry?

Thought Questions

9. How does punishment influence repentance?

Thought Questions

10. Should I feel sorry if my sin didn't hurt anyone else?

Thought Questions

11. Is it possible to be sorry for one sin, and not for another?

Thought Questions

12. Do I have to be sorry? Why can't I just want to do better next time and stay with the positive?

Thought Questions

13. Can I feel guilty for things I shouldn't feel guilty about?

Thought Questions

14. Are certain types of people more easily made to feel guilty?

Thought Questions

15. Why do we make excuses for sin?

Thought Questions

16. Why do I feel so uncomfortable when I see my sins?

Thought Questions

17. How do I know when God is wanting me to help others be aware of their sins?

Thought Questions

18. Why do I feel so strongly about certain sins, yet other people don't seem to be?

Thought Questions

19. How can I avoid going into depression over these matters?

Thought Questions

20. [Add your questions]

Problem Solving

Problem Solving

You just ran into an old friend from college days. He was a leader and very spiritual then, but in the last ten years following graduation, he has been backsliding. He no longer attends church because of the demands of his career and the influence of his wife. He has taken up some bad habits, and has had no contact with anyone from church for more than eight years.

He said he had watched *It Is Written* just last week, and you feel that God has made this meeting a divine appointment. What do you think God would have you do?

Notes: You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply.

Additional Exercises

Additional Exercises

1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

Additional Exercises

2. Additional Reading:

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 161-169. “Helping the Tempted.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 717-726. “David’s Sin and Repentance.”

Additional Exercises

3. Create an outline for Chapter 3.

Additional Exercises

4. Study the difference between “self-esteem,” “self-respect,” and “self-worth.”

Esteem: 2T 212; FE 467; 1T 312; 2T 301; 5T 478;
5T 29, 30; TM 441; 5T 539; SC 3.19, 7.22; 4BC
1140, 1178.

Respect: 5T 30; FE 281; Ed 291, 292.

Worth: 2T 634, 305; MH 498, 163; GC 477; SC
1.15.

Additional Exercises

5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

Additional Exercises

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

Ellen G. White Quotes

The Great Controversy, p. 467

“The first step in reconciliation to God is the conviction of sin.”

Conflict and Courage, p. 145

“Repentance is the first step that must be taken by all who would return to God.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 9

“Whatever may have been your past experience, however discouraging your present circumstances, if you will come to Jesus just as you are, weak, helpless, and despairing, our compassionate Saviour will meet you a great way off, and will throw about you His arms of love and His robe of righteousness. He presents us to the Father clothed in the white raiment of His own character.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 300

“We often sorrow because our evil deeds bring unpleasant consequences to ourselves; but this is not repentance. Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross.

By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.”

Selected Messages, book 1, p. 325

“As soon as we consent to give sin up, to acknowledge our guilt, the barrier is removed between the soul and the Saviour.”

Selected Messages, book 1, p. 391

“Repentance is no less the gift of God than are pardon and justification, and it cannot be experienced except as it is given to the soul by Christ. If we are drawn to Christ, it is through His power and virtue. The grace of contrition comes through Him, and from Him comes justification.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 668

“Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 301

“Through affliction God reveals to us the plague spots in our characters, that by His grace we may overcome our faults. Unknown chapters in regard to ourselves are opened to us, and the test comes, whether we will accept the reproof and the counsel of God. When brought into trial, we are not to fret and complain. We should not rebel, or worry ourselves out of the hand of Christ. We are to humble the soul before God.”

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 163, 164

“Only He who reads the heart knows how to bring men to repentance. Only His wisdom can give us success in reaching the lost. You may stand up stiffly, feeling, ‘I am holier than thou,’ and it matters not how correct your reasoning or how true your words; they will never touch hearts. The love of Christ, manifested in word and act, will win its way to the soul, when the reiteration of precept or argument would accomplish nothing.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 175

“Repentance comes from Christ as truly as does pardon.”

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 189

“We do not repent in order that God may love us, but He reveals to us His love in order that we may repent.”

Education, pp. 291, 292

“The true object of reproof is gained only when the wrongdoer himself is led to see his fault and his will is enlisted for its correction. When this is accomplished, point him to the source of pardon and power. Seek to preserve his self-respect and to inspire him with courage and hope.”

Selected Messages, book 1, p. 156

“Satan is determined that men shall not see the love of God which led Him to give His only-begotten Son to save a lost race; for it is the goodness of God that leads men to repentance.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 555

“No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation.”

The Great Controversy, p. 468

“Without the law, men have no just conception of the purity and holiness of God or of their own guilt and uncleanness. They have no true conviction of sin and feel no need of repentance. Not seeing their lost condition as violators of God’s law, they do not realize their need of the atoning blood of Christ.

The hope of salvation is accepted without a radical change of heart or reformation of life. Thus superficial conversions abound, and multitudes are joined to the church who have never been united to Christ.”

Selected Messages, book 1, p. 312

“It is natural for us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think; but although it is painful for us to know ourselves as we really are, yet we should pray that God will reveal us to ourselves, even as He sees us.”

The Ministry of Healing, p. 168

“Most pitiable is the condition of him who is suffering under remorse; he is as one stunned, staggering, sinking into the dust. He can see nothing clearly. The mind is beclouded, he knows not what steps to take. Many a poor soul is misunderstood, unappreciated, full of distress and agony--a lost, straying sheep. He cannot find God, yet he has an intense longing for pardon and peace.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 85

“To men whom God designs shall fill responsible positions, He in mercy reveals their hidden defects, that they may look within and examine critically the complicated emotions and exercises of their own hearts, and detect that which is wrong; thus they may modify their dispositions and refine their manners.

The Lord in His providence brings men where He can test their moral powers and reveal their motives of action, that they may improve what is right in themselves and put away that which is wrong. God would have His servants become acquainted with the moral machinery of their own hearts.”

Quiz

Quiz

1. T F Forgiveness precedes repentance (SC 3.8).
2. T F Repentance for sin includes sorrow for sin and turning away from it (SC 3.2).
3. T F You meet Satan's claims that you are a great sinner by talking out Christ's merits (SC 3.35).

Quiz

4. T F The sinner should wait until he has repented before coming to Jesus (SC 3.8).
5. T F We destroy ourselves by rejecting God's love (SC 3.30).

Quiz

6. What can neutralize all the power of the gospel.
(SC 3.29).

One wrong trait of character, one sinful desire,
persistently cherish.

Quiz

7. What leads the sinner to repentance? (Romans 2:4 NKJV).

The goodness of God.

Quiz

8. How are we to come to Christ? (SC 3:22).
Just as we are.

Quiz

9. What sins are especially offensive to God? (SC 3:20).

Pride, selfishness and covetousness.

Quiz

10. List one thing we see when the light of Christ shines into our souls. (SC 3:16).

How impure we are, the selfishness of motive, and the enmity against God.

Quiz

11. What excuse do some give for not becoming Christians? (SC 3.24).
- A. They don't have the finances.
 - B. They don't understand prophecy.
 - C. They are too old.
 - D. They are as good as the Christians.

Quiz

12. Who of the following had a genuine repentance?
(Psalm 51 NKJV).

A. Judas Iscariot.

B. Esau.

C. David.

D. Balaam.

Quiz

13. What should the sinner feel when convicted of sin? (SC 3.5).

- A. Afraid of appearing guilty before God.
- B. Afraid to change.
- C. Afraid of what others might say.
- D. Afraid to suffer the results of sin.

Quiz

14. What should you NOT do, as you see yourself as you really are, and the enormity of your sin? (SC 3.34)
- A. Repent.
 - B. Look to the merits of Jesus.
 - C. Give up to despair.
 - D. Begin reformation.

Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“... a KNOWLEDGE of the PLAN of SALVATION will lead him to the foot of the cross in REPENTANCE for his sins, which have caused the sufferings of God’s dear son.” (SC 3:13).

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