



## "CHOOSING REPENTANCE OVER GUILT"

EZEKIEL 33:11-12

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**FEBRUARY 3, 2019**

**Introduction:** Today we are going to examine a basic attitude choice that not only impacts our lives now, but our eternity.

### I. **Definition of Repentance** (Ezekiel 33:11-12)

**Definition of repentance:** Repentance is a change of **mind** that leads to a change of **direction** in life.

Ezekiel 33:11-12 <sup>11</sup> "As surely as I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; I desire that the wicked turn from his evil ways and live. Turn, turn from your wickedness, for why will you die? <sup>12</sup> For the good works of a righteous man will not save him if he turns to sin; and the sins of an evil man will not destroy him if he repents and turns from his sins." The Living Bible

### II. **The Problem With Guilt** (2 Samuel 11; Psalm 32:3-4)

Ecclesiastes 8:11 "Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil."

Psalm 32:3-4 <sup>3</sup> "When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer."



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## A. The Physical Effects of Guilt

## B. The Emotional Effects of Guilt

### 1. Depression

2 Corinthians 7:10 "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

### 2. Anxiety

2 Samuel 12:7, 11-12 <sup>7</sup> "Nathan then said to David, 'You are the man!' Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.'

<sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household;'

<sup>12</sup> 'Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.'"

## C. The Spiritual Effects of Guilt

### 1. Distance from God (James 1:15; Genesis 3:8-10)

James 1:15 "Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."

Genesis 3:8-10 <sup>8</sup> "And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' <sup>10</sup> And he said, 'I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.'"



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## 2. Discipline from God (Hebrews 12:6-8)

Hebrews 12:6-8 <sup>6</sup> “FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES. <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

### III. **Developing An Attitude Of Repentance**

#### A. **Identify Areas of Your Life Where You Have Failed to Meet God's Standards** (Psalm 139:23-24)

- Your relationship with God (unconfessed sin, unkept promises, failure to spend time with Him)
- Your relationship with your family (parents and siblings)
- Your relationship with your spouse
- Your relationship with your children
- Your relationship with others (immoral relationships, people you have offended, friendships that need to be Christ centered)
- Your habits
- Your possessions (trusting in money, dishonest dealings, failure to be a good steward)

Psalm 139:23-24 <sup>23</sup> “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup> and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”

#### B. **Acknowledge Your Failure to God** (Psalm 51:4)

Psalm 51:4a “Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight.”



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## C. **Accept God's Forgiveness** (1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:1-2)

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Psalm 51:7, 9 <sup>7</sup> "Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>9</sup> Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."

Psalm 32:1-2 <sup>1</sup> "How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!  
<sup>2</sup> How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!"

## D. **Make Restitution Where Necessary** (Matthew 5:23-24)

Matthew 5:23-24 <sup>23</sup> "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, then come and present your offering."

## E. **Turn Away from Known Sin in Your Life** (Psalm 51:10)

Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Conclusion