

## Solution to Study 0008

A. Please give a definition or description of what in your mind is repentance (*You may get a hint from a dictionary or from what you believe repentance to be*).

*The answer will vary from person to person, however, it should look like this: To turn away from a course of action you were pursuing, but which you are now convinced is wrong; and to turn to doing the right thing.*

B. There are certain people in the bible who did what may be described as repentance, while others did not repent at all. As you study the scriptures below:

1) Please state which ones did not repent, which ones repented genuinely, and which ones repented falsely;

- (a) Adam and Eve. *Genesis 3:1-13. No Repentance*
- (b) Cain. *Genesis 4:1-12; 1 John 3:12. No Repentance*
- (c) Esau. *Genesis 25:29-34; Hebrews 12:16-17. False Repentance*
- (d) Pharaoh. *Exodus 8:8-15, 20-32; 9:22-35. False Repentance*
- (e) Achan. *Joshua 7:1-26. False Repentance*
- (f) King Saul. *1 Samuel 13:8-15; 15:1-31. No Repentance (1 Samuel 13:8-15); False Repentance (1 Samuel 15:1-31)*
- (g) King David. *2 Samuel 11:1-27; 12:1-14; Psalm 51:1-19. True Repentance*
- (h) Nebuchadnezzar. *Daniel 4:1-37. True Repentance*
- (i) King Asa. *2 Chronicles 15:1-19; 16:1-12. No Repentance*
- (j) King Uzziah. *2 Chronicles 26:16-21. No Repentance*
- (k) King Manasseh. *2 Chronicles 33:1-17. True Repentance*
- (l) Isaiah. *Isaiah 6:1-7. True Repentance*
- (m) The Prodigal Son. *Luke 15:11-21. True Repentance*
- (n) Peter. *Luke 22:31-34; Matthew 26:69-75. True Repentance*
- (o) Judas Iscariot. *Matthew 27:3-5. False Repentance*
- (p) Saul of Tarsus. *Acts 9:1-20. True Repentance*
- (q) Simon the Sorcerer. *Acts 8:5-23. False Repentance*

2) Based on this study, what in your mind are the marks of true/genuine repentance.

- (a) Acknowledgment of guilt/admittance of sin
- (b) A broken and contrite heart
- (c) Confession of sin
- (d) Acknowledgment of the Lordship of God and Christ over all things
- (e) Godly sorrow for sin
- (f) Change of heart/ change of disposition towards sin and sinful acts.

3) Why don't people repent or why do they repent falsely?

(a) **WHY PEOPLE DON'T REPENT**

- i. They blame others
- ii. They refuse to accept guilt
- iii. They refuse to take responsibility for their actions/conduct
- iv. Anger at those telling them that they have sinned

(b) **WHY PEOPLE REPENT FALSELY**

- i. They feign repentance only because they have lost a blessing
- ii. They feign repentance only because they were found out
- iii. They feign repentance only because they want respite from the punishment or hardship they are facing.
- iv. They feign repentance only because they want to look before people
- v. Their repentance is an emotional act, without any recourse to God and righteousness
- vi. They feign repentance only because they want something from God, and they believe that repentance will enable them gain access to it
- vii. They feign repentance only because they want to avoid judgment or punishment

**Conclusion**

Our study has shown us that there is true/genuine repentance and there is also, false/fake repentance. Some of the parameters that must be present for repentance to be genuine include (*any three of "B.2" above*). Also, some people neither repent at all nor repent genuinely because (*any three of "B.3" above*).

Based on our study this week, we can therefore, define true repentance as a permanent change of attitude towards sin and sinful living, resulting from a deep conviction and acknowledgement of guilt for sin, occasioned by a broken and contrite heart; leading to a change in action and behaviour to righteousness.

**Note:** True repentance recognizes that sin is an offence and a transgression against God, not necessarily against man! (see **Genesis 39:9; Psalm 51:4**)