

**A Christian
and
A Repentant Life**

Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

Repentance is a very important thing in life which need to be embraced by all. It becomes even more crucial in Christianity and must be maintained for one to continue to be in a right standing before God who is the Holy One of Israel and who expects nothing short of holiness (1 Peter 1:13-16, Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 5:8).

Adam the first man that God created and Eve when they sinned in the garden of Eden they did not repent of their sin and the result affected mankind throughout the ages and therefore repentance is not a small matter in life and cannot be discarded (Genesis 3:1-19, Romans 5:12, 17-19).

This book has come to print to be of much use especially by those who have decided to live a truly Christian life. In the book one will be able to understand more and more deeply the meaning of repentance and a genuine repentance, the importance of repentance, the life of repentance, warning on impenitence, plus more.

Be informed and do the needful and be prepared and ready for the coming of the Messiah for His

church and don't be a loser as some in some cities mentioned in the book of Matthew (Matthew 11:20-24).

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Chapter 1

What is repentance?

The word repentance in English has two translations of different Greek words:

1. Metamelomai which means to regret and
2. Metanoian which means to turn from sin to God which is a complete reversal, an about turn, that is, to go round to the opposite direction so that if you were heading to the north you change your direction to the south and if you were heading to the west you change your direction to the east. It is to have a second mind (a different mind from the one you had before). It is an issue of the heart and is an invitation to respond to divine initiative. It is to be contrite or remorseful in heart for what you have done. Going by the Scriptures repentance can be at an individual level and it reaches a point where it can be beyond that so that it comes to a group level or a national level. Repentance is a change of mind or a change of heart and attitude.

Let us look at the scripture before we move further deeper.

For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were for a season.

Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

In the above scripture apostle Paul in writing this second epistle to the church at Corinth he was addressing the issue of repentance and giving the two Greek word translations concurrently but differentiating one from the other. The apostle in verse 8 he begins with ‘metamelomai’- regret, in verse 9 he begins and touches on ‘Metanoian’ sorrow for repentance and in verse 10 he begins with the same and ends with ‘metamelomai’- worldly sorrow that leads to death. That worldly sorrow is the one that Judas Iscariot the disciple of

Jesus that turned against him and betrayed him had
(Matthew 27:1-5).

WHEN the morning was come, all the chief priests
and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus
to put him to death.

And when they had bound him they led him away,
and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Then Judas, which had betrayed him when he saw
that he was condemned, repented himself, and
brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief
priests and elders,

Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed he
innocent blood. And they said, what is that to us?
see thou to that.

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple,
and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Matthew 27:1-5

Now that was a mere regret which led Judas to
death as he hanged himself. Sorrow without Jesus
(in isolation) is not repentance and does not bring
salvation. Only godly sorrow which leads to true
repentance saves.

The one thing for one to do when one fall into sin is but to bring a true repentance before God. When King David sinned, he had to repent first before God could accept his sacrifice (1 Chronicles 21:17-27).

And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? Even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? Let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.

Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshing floor of Or'-nan the Jeb'-u-site.

And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD.

And Or'-nan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves.

Now Or'-nan was threshing wheat. And as David came to Or'-nan, Or'-nan looked and saw David,

and went out of the threshing floor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground.

Then David said to Or'-nan, Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people.

And Or'-nan said to unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: Lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all.

And king David said to Or'-nan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.

So David gave to Or'-nan for the place six hundred shek'-els of gold by weight.

And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof.

1 Chronicles 21:17-27

Repentance is not something new as many scriptures have records touching on it even in the Old Testament this scripture being one classical example among many, many, others.

And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal.

And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Exodus 40:30-32

The above that God commanded Moses to do was a foreshadow of what was to happen even in the New Testament – that all that draw near to God need to put away first their wrongdoings (sins) before approaching Him by the act of repentance. Read also the book of John (John 13: 3-10).

A true repentance is normally followed by good fruits.

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan,

And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.

Matthew 3:1-8

In true repentance people do away with their past ties.

And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds.

Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Acts 19:18-19

Many people on the other hand have misunderstood the meaning of repentance and taken it lightly treating it as a mere formality or some ritual or custom.

If one claims to have repented that individual's life will show it all whether it was a genuine repentance or it was not. Repentance is serious business. In true repentance one need to pay the price for the offense where it is possible to do so, as was the case of Zacchaeus who was ready to do so (Luke 19:1-10). For cases where one can't pay the price

one still need to make all effort on one's part not to be a victim again (John 8:1-11).

JESUS went unto the Mount of Olives.

And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

And they which heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

John 8: 1-11

From the above incidence we have a good lesson that many people have sinned but are not ready to repent and live in hypocrisy. Only this woman was caught in the very act because someone saw and reported to others. Many are sinners but no one has seen them doing it save for God who is Omniscient and Omnipresent. The woman was advised not to involve in adultery again. In this case the case of restitution could not apply to this woman.

The Holy Spirit normally convicts people of sin but many ignore and refuse to repent, and are damned (John 16:7-8).

Repentance has two components:

1. Divine help
2. Human effort

On these two components we are going to look at two examples in the scriptures as an illustration.

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Make thee an ark of go'-pher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

And, behold, I even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breadth of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy son's wives with thee.

And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his

kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Genesis 6:9-22

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so my Lord:

Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

And he said unto him, See I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither: Therefore the name of the city was called Zo'-ar.

The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zo'-ar.

Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomor'-rah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

And he overthrew those cities and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Genesis 19:15-26

We can see from the two scriptures that God intended to destroy the earth during the time of Noah and because Noah walked with God as he was a just man and perfect in his generations God revealed to him his intention as God saw him as a truly repentant person and we see for sure we see that Noah fully instructions in building the ark and so on he went God's way showing his repentant life and by that he was saved together with his family (Genesis 7:1-8:19). God gave Noah a divine help by his grace and Noah took it in obedience to God thereby providing the human effort on his part and that was a complete repentance.

The two components of repentance must be present leading to full repentance. If one is missing it leads to a state of unrepentance. God all the time gives divine help to people but it is this second component which in many cases is lacking from people. The Church of Christ has not embraced this

component. Another factor (pillar of unrepentance) is familiarity with God which leads to pride and disobedience and falling away from God's grace and from serving the Lord. We need to remember that God can replace us and bring others to serve him.

If given an opportunity to serve, just serve in humility.

Now when we come to the case of Lot, we see here also that God intended to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and because Lot was not happy with what he witnessed in those cities, showing a repentant life (2 Peter 2:6-8) God did save him and his two daughters and it is only her wife who was disobedient to the instruction of God and showed an unrepentant life and perished. Here too we see God providing divine help by his grace and mercy and Lot acted upon it in obedience to God's instruction not to look back, same to his two daughters as well.

In both these two cases we do see an element of obedience to God which is a key, factor in a true repentance. Lot's in-laws we see they perished with

the people of the two cities, why? Because they were informed and warned by Lot what was in the offing but they ignored (disobeyed) and remained in a state of unrepentance and they were judged.

Repentance needs to come from the heart or else one goes ahead to mock the Lord as one is not serious in it and later in such acts God will reach a point where he is ready to curse such a one. By repenting and paying the full price one is able to walk with the Lord as it is a true repentance.

If you make a true repentance on some sin, whenever you will face a similar situation, a voice will tell you 'Don't do it'. But some refuse and ignore and fall into sin and go back to their state of impenitence.

The process of repentance

From the following scripture we are going to see that repentance is a process.

And he said, A certain man had two sons:

And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into the fields to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no worthy to be called thy son.

Luke 15:11-21

We can see in the above scripture that truly repentance is a process as follows hereunder:

One must first come to one's senses

One must see one's guilt

One must be willing to change

One must be ready to change

One must go ahead and confess one's sin

And finally, at that juncture one is forgiven of the sin so committed. Now repentance has to do with mending of relationship and I say it is a process of restoring back a relationship to its original (good) state. In that respect we have three aspects namely:

1. Man to man (Luke 17:3-4, Matthew 18:15-22)

2. Man to God (Psalm 51:17, Ezekiel 18:21-23, Acts 2:38)

3. God to man (Genesis 6:5-7, Jonah 3)

God's nature too is penitent in that when we change God changes too and when we repent God repents too as He is willing of a change in us but he cannot change His will.

Just as faith without works is dead (James 2:17) the same apply to repentance in that without the human effort on one's part on God's divine help, results in no repentance (state of impenitence).

It can be said that Repentance is a cry for help (salvation), It is sending an SOS signal to God saying one's life is in danger, for God to intervene (save one). It is saying to God 'Me as an individual I cannot save myself from this therefore I need your help'. An example can be the case of Peter (Matthew 14:25-31) and the case of the disciples (Luke 8:22-25) the genuine crying of Peter and the genuine concern/crying of the disciples could be equated to true repentance as in both cases Jesus intervened and saved them.

Repentance is a way for a Christian of purging away any filth from one's life so that one is free from any defilement brought about by dead works which if left unattended to lead to spiritual death which ultimately leads to physical death as well (2 Corinthians 7:1, 10, Romans 6:23a).

To repent also simply means to turn away from sin toward the living God with a change of heart and attitude just as the Ninevites did and which can be found in the book of Jonah (Jonah 3:1-8)

Chapter 2

The origin of impenitence

The state of unrepentance must have had its origin from somewhere and it did not just appear. Unrepentance is just the opposite of repentance and it involves retaining the status quo after having sinned, that is, the refusal to repent of one's sin/s.

Now impenitence began in heaven by Satan who then was an archangel of God in charge of worship and was known as Lucifer who was lifted up in the heart and imagined to be like the most High God and in addition to the sin of pride went ahead and rebelled and was flushed out of heaven very fast together with other angels who sided with him (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:13-17 Revelation 12:7-12).

When Satan and other fallen angels were cast down to the earth from heaven Satan went to where Adam and Eve lived in the garden of Eden and because sin is contagious the duo also fell into sin and it was spread further to the rest of mankind (Genesis 3:1-13; 4:1-9, Romans 5:12).

NOW the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the tree thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:1-13

Their state of impenitence remained much intact both the man and the woman.

AND Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

But into Cain and to his offering he had no respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Genesis 4:1-9

That is how sin continued to spread to mankind to date. That fact has increased exponentially and we can see it very clearly from the case of Cain being very wroth, his countenance falling and then murder!!! Cain's status remained the same after all these happenings- he remained unrepentant.

But in Christianity the vicious cycle must stop or else judgment just as it happened to Cain (Genesis 4:10-12). The Adamic nature must be put off in the second Adam (2 Corinthians 5:1-7, 1 Corinthians 15:47).

Chapter 3

The starting point of Christianity

Christianity has a starting point one of which is repentance. For one to be saved a repentance is mandatory and that is very clear from the Holy Scripture. That is why John the Baptist preached repentance in beginning his public ministry and the same was with Jesus' ministry as well as that of the apostles it was the same pattern.

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan,

And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:1-6

Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zebulun and Naphthali:

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying,

The land of Zebulun, and the land of Naphthali, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;

the people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 4:12-17

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men, and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:36-42

Chapter 4

The call for repentance

God has been calling for repentance throughout the ages but man as a fallen creature in many cases has not heeded. Here we are going to see some of those callings for repentance.

THE vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uz-zi'-ah, Jo'-tham, Ahaz, and Hez'-e-ki'-ah, kings of Judah.

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and purifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Go-mor'-rah.

Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Go-mor'-rah.

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and fat of fed beasts; and I

delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of goats.

When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me, the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be

as white as snow; though they be red like crimson,
they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 1:1-18

THE word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the
people of Judah in the fourth year of Je-hoi'-a-kim
the son of Jo-si'-ah king of Judah, that was the first
year of Neb-u-chad-rez'zar king of Babylon;

The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the
people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of
Jerusalem, saying,

From the thirteenth year of Jo-si'-ah the son of
Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the
three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD
hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you,
rising early and speaking; but ye have not
hearkened.

And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants
the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye
have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.

They said, Turn ye again now everyone from his
evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and

dwelt in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever:

And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.

Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

Jeremiah 25:1-7

Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

Ezekiel 14:6

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD.

Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

Ezekiel 18:30

Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

Joel 2:12-14

And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal.

And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Exodus 40:30-32

What transpired above was a shadow or reflection of the New Testament dispensation in which the

Church of Christ too were expected to be approaching God in repentance and not just casually as is now common with Christians today who approach God and begin by pouring their problems to him not taking into account their spiritual state first. Also, of importance in repentance is that it extends to repenting beyond the individual as well, as we see in the Scripture (Leviticus 27-40, Ezra 9:5-7, Daniel 9:1-8 and so on).

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

Acts 3:19-20

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given

assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 17:30-31

Now let me say something going by this last scripture. When you see the messenger of God the prophet (an end-time prophet) preaching repentance and holiness in our land and also crisscrossing the nations of the world doing the same, get to know for sure that he has been sent by God to do just that as judgment is near and before that happens there is in between the rapture of the holy Church of Christ (Malachi 2:17-3:5; 4:5-6).

Therefore, don't take lightly the message of the messenger but repent, live a holy and righteous life and it will be well for you (Matthew 11:20-24, 2 Chronicles 20:20). I have seen this prophet and have heard his preaching and teaching and his life and have come to the conclusion without an iota of doubt that surely this one has been sent by God the Holy One of Israel (Deuteronomy 18:21-22, Matthew 7:17-18).

Chapter 5

The importance of repentance

From the onset we need not forget the fact that God is holy and to be able to appear before him one needs to be holy as well and which we see in the Old Testament as purification (Exodus 3:1-6, 40:16-32) which was a shadow of the New Testament of repentance (Acts 17:30-31). It is of utmost importance for a Christian to live a repentant life as it is the only way that can steer one well right into heaven. Christianity is a journey that leads Christians to their ultimate destination the holy city of the New Jerusalem and of course it is a spiritual one.

Let me now give an illustration in comparing it with the physical journey. In this life on earth for one to move from one place to another using whatever means, one may encounter corners and so on, as the road is not always straight at some points, but nevertheless one reaches his or her destination. But it is not the same with the spiritual journey which is on a straight path with no corners and in it if one deviates even just a little it makes a big

difference as one cannot make it to one's right destination which is heaven but instead will end up in another place which is hell. The Scripture is clear on that.

Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Deuteronomy 5:32-33

The instruction was for the Israelites to be able to reach the promised land and possess it and live in there. We too have strict instructions to be able to enter heaven and live there. You can read also the following: Joshua 1:7, 11:15, 23:6 Proverbs 4:27, Isaiah 1:16-17.

In the spiritual walk / journey it is a highway of holiness and only holiness and righteousness are exalted and that is the benchmark for the redeemed

of the Lord (Isaiah 35:8). But thanks be to the Lord because as he provided the Israelites with one to guide them and that they be obedient to him (Exodus 23:20-23) he has done the same to his Church (Isaiah 30:21, John 16:13) and therefore expects us to live a holy life (Hebrews 12:14) as holiness is his nature (1 Peter 1:15-16). If you want to know how important a repentant life is look at the life of the first man Adam (Gen 3:1-19, 23-24) and that was not all as death and hell follow each other (Romans 5:12, 6:23a, Luke 16:19-31). So we need to know that God has given us the opportunity to repent only in this life on earth and not any other place. Adam and Eve squandered that opportunity so did the rich man. Let us be careful in life and repent now when we are still alive. The rich man lost it and ended in hell and could not do anything about his life and that is why he saw that his brethren who were still alive had the opportunity to repent and to live a holy life before death catches with them. So, it is wise to repent now and live righteously before it is late (Psalm 90:8-12, Luke 2:25-32).

Repentance as we are going to see is not a small thing before the Lord. It is through repentance that our souls are healed and we are restored back to the Lord. Repentance is for cleaning or purging up one's life of sin without which one will not see God (Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 5:8, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2 Corinthians 1:13-16; 6:16-7:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:7, 2 Peter 3:10-14). Repentance is a must for anyone that needs to be restored back to God as it is the door to one's restoration, that is, it opens the door for restoration and revival. It follows therefore that without repentance brought before God there is no revival / restoration. I can liken repentance to knocking a door for it to be opened for one.

Equally it is through repentance that one is forgiven of sins committed and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ and receives a new birth (a rebirth) and also by it a Christian can continue to maintain a good and valid relationship with God in the Christian walk (Acts 2:36-41; 3:16-20; 13:38-39; 17:30-31, 1 John 1:8-10; 3:1-3, James 4:7-9, Luke 15:20-24, Revelation 2:4-5; 15-16; 3:2-3).

Repentance is so important in the life of a believer as it is the only sidewalk / avenue that a believer can get rid of sin and which is unnecessary luggage in the highway of holiness (Isaiah 35:8-9) in one's walk with the Lord in order to be able to continue in the Walk to the end (one's final destination) which if not done, one will surely tire up being weighed down and fall on the way as their journey is quite long needing travelling light (without sin). Also, to note is that without repentance one's prayers will not be heard and therefore no answers will be forthcoming from God and one will be stranded in life.

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

The condition for God to hear from heaven and to forgive is repentance. Look at this other scripture.

O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

Daniel 9:19-22

We can see that it is only after Daniel had prayed confessing of his sin and that of his people Israel that the angel Gabriel was sent to him to touch him and to give him skill and understanding. Therefore,

there is no forgiveness of sin and God's touch without repentance.

At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it;

If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of that evil I thought to do unto them.

Jeremiah 18:7-8

The above scripture is similar to the one we have just read above and the condition for God to change his mind is if the nation repents and turns away from their wickedness.

AND the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

Arise, go unto Nin'-e-veh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

So Jonah arose, and went unto Nin'-e-veh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nin'-e-veh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nin'-e-veh shall be overthrown.

So the people of Nin'-e-veh, believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

For word came unto the king of Nin'-e-veh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nin'-e-veh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,

Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything: let them not feed, nor drink water:

But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he

had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 3:1-10

God is very just and he did not bring judgment upon the city of Nineveh as the people truly and fully met his condition that if a nation turn away from wickedness and repents genuinely to God, God too will revoke his pronouncement of judging it and he will forgive that nation.

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:6-7

For thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be
always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me,
and the souls which I have made.

For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth,
and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he
went on forwardly in the way of his heart.

I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead
him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his
mourners.

I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him
that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

Isaiah 57:15-19

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken
heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 34:18

O ISREAL, return unto the LORD thy God; for
thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say
unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us
graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

Assh'-ur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Leb-a-non. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall as the olive tree, and his smell as Leb-a-non.

They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Leb-a-non.

Hosea 14:1-7

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of:.....

2 Corinthians 7:10a

THEN drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

And he spake this parable unto them, saying,
What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he
lose one of them doth not leave the ninety and nine
in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost,
until he find it?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his
shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his
friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice
with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.
I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven
over one sinner that repenteth, more than over
ninety and nine just persons, which need no
repentance.

Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if
she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and
sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?
and when she hath found it, she calleth her friends
and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with
me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the
presence of the angels of God over one sinner that
repenteth.

Luke 15:1-10

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

And if he trespass against thee seven times a day, and seven times a day turn again to thee saying I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Luke 17:3-4

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Luke 22:31-32

Jesus was foretelling what Simon Peter would do. That he would deny him. But Jesus had prayed for him in advance. Jesus went on to tell him to strengthen his brethren when he is converted back to him (when he has repented and has been restored back). Here we learn that after going astray we

need to repent first to be reconverted/restored back to the Lord. Now let me bring you to yet another very important reason why repentance is necessary.

Thou hast a few names even in Sar'-dis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Revelation 3:4

If one has not repented of sin the garment is still soiled and defiled.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels stood around about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God,

Saying, A'-men: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might be unto our God for ever and ever A'-men.

And one of the elders answered saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 7:9-17

By repenting of sin, one is forgiven and washed by the blood of the Lamb of God which was shed at Calvary and one's garment became clean.

And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things.

Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

I am Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Revelations 22:6-14

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut all by day: for there shall be no night there.

And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh

abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 21:23-27

Sin defiles and unless one repents and is washed by the blood of the Lamb and the name written again in the book of life, entry into heaven is not possible. Get to know that when you were saved the Lord gave you a wedding garment (as His bride) and which you must keep clean until his coming for you to be officially wedded to him in that glorious marriage of the Lamb of which all in heaven have been waiting for (Revelation 19:1-9).

That wedding garment need to be maintained in its original good condition away from any defilement which comes about as a result of sin. Therefore, you must put away from it any sin by repenting of any sin that may come into your life at any point for it to remain clean. That way, you will be worthy to walk in white with the Lord in heaven.

In the next scripture (Revelation 7:9-17) you can see that great multitude John saw all were clothed in white robes and he could not identify who they

were and was told that those had washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. You are wondering how? Well, by bringing repentance before the Lord whenever they find sin in their lives to remove defilement on them. Because of that they remained clean and later found themselves in heaven and were greatly praising the Lord.

In the next scripture (Revelation 22:6-14) you can see that there is no time for arguments but for keeping the sayings of prophecy in the Bible obeying God's commandments which of course include repenting of any sin in one's life so as not to remain filthy before the Lord so as to have a right to the tree of life in heaven and be able to enter into that city, the city of new Jerusalem.

In the next scripture (Revelation 21:23-27) you can see that in that wonderful and glorious city nothing that is defiling is allowed in it as it is a holy city.

And you know that it is sin that defiles your life (the inner man in you) therefore take time now and remove it by genuinely repenting it before the Lord and asking for forgiveness and cleansing so that

you are among those in that city from the nations of the world.

I do remember when I joined the Ministry of Repentance and Holiness, I used to wonder why were people publicly repenting of their sins yet they are saved and most likely had done so at their conversion!? Then as that kept on disturbing my mind I one day went into prayer and fasting and asked the Lord about it. I thank the Lord for he wasted no time and said not a word but conveyed his answer to me in a dream where I found myself in an altar service and people were publicly repenting of their sins. Finally, when I awoke from sleep and pondered on the dream, I got the message which God had conveyed to me and it was: 'This is the way to go and you need to do likewise'. Later I took a bold step one Sunday when the pastor announced calling for those who want to bring a public repentance before the Lord, I was one of them. I do remember what the Lord says in 1 Samuel 15:22 - To obey is better than sacrifice. I obeyed the voice of the Lord which he revealed to me in that dream. You too, don't argue your case as

I did not argue. Just do the needful while there is time- Repent, repent and repent, as the Lord is coming for the Church that has repented of her sins and is living a holy and righteous life and her garment is clean (Revelation 19:7-8). Read this too (Psalm 66:18).

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me:

Psalm 66:18

Let us look at the following scripture touching on sin and requiring action on behalf of the offender.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks, with thy estimation by shek'-els of the sanctuary, for a trespass offering:

And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it unto the priest: and the

priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.

And if a soul sin, and commit any of those things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity.

And he shall bring a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his ignorance wherein he erred and wist not, and it shall be forgiven him.

It is a trespass offering: he hath certainly trespassed against the LORD.

Leviticus 5:14-19

God treats sin as a trespass and a debt which needs amends and payment for it to be forgiven and cleared. As you can see above, in the Old Testament by a ram and a fifth part. But in the New Testament one has to pay by repentance and not only by repentance; but by a genuine repentance coming deep out of one's heart (equated in the O.T

a ram without blemish from the flocks) Normally in every day life, debts are paid and because sin is a debt it too has to be paid (repented of well) as we know that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) hence the need for bringing a repentance before the Lord whom one owes. You can read further the importance / need for repentance in the book of Luke (Luke 13:1-5).

As for the Son of God touching on sin he had to pay most dearly on the cross for man's sin to purchase him from sin back to God, but for man it costs him nothing, but just repentance on his part, to be forgiven of sin and to be cleansed and therefore it is mandatory on his part (Romans 3:23-25, 1 Peter 3:18 Acts 2:36-38, 1 John 1:8-9, 1 Peter 1:18-19)

It is prudent on our part to come out of indebtedness before God who is all righteous by repenting of any sin we may have gotten into so as to continue to enjoy our freedom in him. It is absolutely needless for us to continue to be burdened with sin in our lives whereas there is a place for them at the cross of Jesus as at the cross

the blood continue to flow to wash away the sins of mankind by their true faith (Hebrews 9:15, John 29, 1 John 2:1-2).

The only way that one can purge away one's sin and be pure and in a right standing with God and maintain one's wedding garment bright and clean as well as to have one's name maintained in the book of life in heaven is by repentance (1 John 1:8-9, 2:1-3, 3:1-2). There is no other way and I stand to be corrected if at all one knows and can tell me supported by Scripture.

Repentance restores one's spiritual ground lost to the enemy Satan who is the accuser of the brethren (Zechariah 3:1, Revelation 12:10) as then he has nothing to accuse one before the Lord as one has been forgiven by God and is on a right standing with Him. If one does not repent to God one's sin and ask for forgiveness (Isaiah 1:18, 1 John 1:8-9) one is left with no ground to stand on and be able to fight Satan hence one can only be defeated as is just hanging in the air as is lacking in righteousness which is an armor of spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:14).

If one repents of sin one need request to be washed once again by the blood of the Lamb of God and also from that time henceforth to turn away from sin and strive to live a righteous life (Ezekiel 18:21-23, 30-32) being empowered by the Holy Spirit who is our only helper (John 14:15-17). It is after repentance that one's sin is forgiven and through the blood of the Lamb of God one is cleansed (Revelation 7:13-15, 22:12-14).

NOW before the feast of the pass over, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments;
and took a towel, and girded himself.

After that he poured water into a basin, and began
to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with
the towel wherewith he was girded.

Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith
unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou
knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my
feet: Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou
hast no part with me.

Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only,
but also my hands and my head.

Jesus saith unto him, He that is washed needeth not
save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and
ye are clean, but not all.

For he knew who should betray him; therefore said
he, Ye are not all clean.

John 13:1-11

First of all, let me put it clear that washing,
cleaning, or bathing in the spiritual realm is
symbolic to repentance which normally brings

about sanctification. From the above scripture you can see Jesus talking of the word of being washed and being clean. So Jesus was figurative in his speech. Without repentance (confession of sin) there is no sanctification (being made clean). He told the disciples that they were clean but not all of them because Judas Iscariot was already guilty of stealing from their coffers (John 12:1-6) and also was soon going to betray him as well (Matthew 26:36-50).

If one stops repenting of sin one is automatically not part of Christ (a disciple) as has disconnected himself or herself from the Lord who is ever holy (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Now part of the body which all the time must become dirty through walking bare footed are the feet and which needs washing and our bodies (all members in our bodies) are likened to the feet that gets dirt and dust often therefore as born again Christians it is true we were washed by the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed at Calvary, but in our Christian walk some of our members in the body might get some dirt (sin) and hence the need to

repent for that particular member that has led us into sin.

It is quite true that many of our members can lead us into sin if they are controlled/restrained by the fruit of the Spirit which is temperance (Galatians 5:22-23), so let it help us in life by our willingness. Look at the following scriptures which talk on our members of the body.

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, thou shalt not commit adultery:

But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 5:27-30

I think if we were to take it literary we would have cut so many of our body members such that there would nothing left in us to be called a body, as each one can offend us on a daily basis and the best antidote is to be controlling/restraining them daily for them to remain intact and to help us in living righteously to please our Creator. If not, we may find ourselves dysfunctional as have cut off the members of our bodies.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Neither yield ye your member as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 6: 11-13

Simon Peter was told by Jesus that what he was about to do to him, Peter does not know, but will

later come to know and for sure he truly came to know of it (Luke 22:47-62).

Now if you thought I was just talking out my mind on the issue of the need of repentance then read the following to refresh your mind.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Psalm 51:1-3

Sin can never just be wished away but it will ever be with us and before God until such a time that we acknowledge it to God in true confession as king David did in order for us to be washed and made clean by the mercies of God.

O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness,
that thou mayest be saved How Long shall thy vain
thoughts lodge within thee?

Jeremiah 4:14

Just as the inhabitants of Jerusalem were told to wash their hearts from wickedness to be saved, we too must not think otherwise assuming that we are still saved. We must not waste time but to repent of any evil in our hearts as the wise psalmist above did and it was well with him (Psalm 51:5-19).

It is not optional but mandatory to control/restrain members of our bodies and when for one way or the other have relaxed and happen to fall into sin the only solution remaining is to repent, be it in our thought life, speech, hearing, sight and doings by our hands or feet.

Now this is the advice Solomon the son of David, led by the Holy Spirit had to say in the book of Proverbs (Proverbs 4:20-27).

For your information the eye, the ear and the tongue are very important to born again Christians as God uses them and are prophetic senses and therefore need to be guarded. Do not allow

nonsense into them as they can be defiled and become unholy and not useful to God.

Watch what you see, hear or speak. Our God sees, hears and speaks (Exodus 3:7-17). So, you need know that the above organs are holy to the Lord and must be cleaned in repentance for God to use them in communicating to Christians who are born by him (John 1:11-13, 3:1-6, James 1:16-18, 1 Peter 1:13-23). Repentance is a commandment of God for all men and Jesus Christ came to call people to repentance as it is through it and having faith in God can one have eternal life in heaven (Acts 17:30-31, Luke 5:32, Acts 11:18).

Chapter 6

Warnings on impenitence

God has not kept quiet on the issue of impenitence as we are going to see.

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Proverbs 1:23-29

In the above scripture we see the willingness of God to fill people with His spirit if only they repented but none would hear of it. That is the same as in other scriptures (Acts 2:36-38, Isaiah 55:6-7; 66:4; 65:1-5). This is what God told Jeremiah about his word.

Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts,
Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make
my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood,
and it shall devour them.

Jeremiah 5:14

God still calls for repentance from the people in the world now just as he told those of Jerusalem through the mouth of prophet Jeremiah.

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways and see,
and ask for the old paths, where is the good way,
and walk their in and ye shall find rest for your
souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

Also I set watchman over you, saying, Hearken to
the sound of the trumpet. But ye said, We will not
hearken.

Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them.

Hear O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened to my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

To what purpose cometh there to me incense from She'-ba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.

Therefore thus saith the LORD,

Behold, I will lay stumbling blocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them; the neighbor and his friend shall perish.

Thus saith the LORD, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth.

They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they are cruel, and have no mercy; their voice roareth like the sea; and they ride upon horses, set in array as men for war against thee, O daughter of Zion.

We have heard the fame thereof: our hands wax feeble: anguish hath taken hold on us and pain, as of a woman in travail.

Go not forth into the field, nor walk by the way; for the sword of the enemy and fear is on every side.

O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us.

I have set thee for a tower and a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way.

They are all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: they are brass and iron; they are all corrupters.

The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; the founder melteth in vain: for the wicked are not plucked away.

Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.

Jeremiah 6:16-30

The above was a warning from God through the mouth of his prophet Jeremiah to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah for their apostasy by not

hearkening to the words of the Lord God nor to his law and that whatever they will be doing in the name of the Lord will not count, that is, will not be acceptable, until they go back to the right way of the Lord.

If they failed to do so by being stubborn in unrepentance God surely was going to judge them. God had set watchmen over them (the prophets) whom they needed to listen to and obey but they remained arrogant and adamant to their own destruction.

The above incident to the people of God the Israelites is equally a stern warning to the Gentile Church of Christ that need to live in the will of God hearkening to his words spoken by his true ministers, as well in his law found in the holy scriptures, which is equated to the old paths which is good and that God never changes (2 Timothy 3:14-17, Hebrews 2:1-4, 13:8). Because the Lord God never changes, so are his ways and his word so we need not fall in the trap of modernism because of the many technologies in the world by moving

away from what the Scriptures say (Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, Proverbs 30:6, Revelation 22:19).

God calls for repentance for some of us who had chosen the new paths of modernism to repent which is a gesture of love towards us, before we fall in our walk of faith (Jeremiah 6:26). We must heed it lest we are destroyed or as apostle Paul advised Timothy, we become shipwrecked in our faith (1 Timothy 1:18-19) and lest we are left to the spoiler (Jeremiah 6:19-23, 1 Timothy 1:20). Let me give another illustration on the old paths which is a good way (the right way) for a believer by the following scripture:

And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon

their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:8-10

Although the scripture is talking of the restoration of Israel in the Millennium rule in Jerusalem after the Tribulation period is over and Christ has come on earth a second time, it nevertheless touches on the holy saints who will accompany him (Revelation 19:11-20:6). Now touching on the good way, it is holiness, which is God's standard, as he is holy (1 Peter 1:13-16). Modernism compromise God's standard and one end up being corrupted and defiled. The way of holiness is the only way to Heaven which is a place of no sorrow and no sighing but everlasting joy and gladness (Revelation 21:1-5; 22: 1-5). But one cannot remain holy with an impenitent heart and expect to see God (Matthew 5:8, Hebrews 12:14, 1 John 8:10; 1 John 3:1-3). One can purify oneself by repenting of any sin in one's life and turning away from it and not being impenitent which is in itself disobedience. A Christian must acknowledge sin in life by genuine confession (repentance) to God in

order to be helped (1 John 2:1-2), as such things as excuses cannot help as the case of Adam and Eve was in the Garden of Eden after they had fallen into sin (Genesis 3:1-24) – impenitence can very well exclude us from being in heaven.

We need not live in self will but in God's will not deviating from God's truth. If we go our ways (new paths) we are living and walking solo, that is, without God which is really a dangerous path to walk in and for sure we will not only fall but perish as well (Jeremiah 6:21-23). What modernism brings to the Church of Christ is but one thing- corruption and rebellion (Jeremiah 6:28) and which leads to God's rejection (Jeremiah 6:30) and that means God's presence leaving that congregation (body of believers in Christ Jesus).

Let us as Christians love and live by the Scripture to remain saved and safe for the following reasons as per what the Scripture says as follows:

-- It is food for the soul (Psalm 119:103-104, Isaiah 55:1-2, Jeremiah 15:16, 1 Peter 2:1-2, John 6:47-50)

-- It is pure (Psalms 12:6, 18:30; 19:8, 119:140, Proverbs 30:5, Isaiah 45:19)

-- It is light unto us (Psalms 19:8, 119:105, 129-130, Proverbs 6:23)

-- It is trustworthy unto us (2 Peter 1:19, 1 Kings 8:56, Psalm 111:7-8, Ezekiel 12:22-25, Luke 21:33, Isaiah 55:7-13).

But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,

And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.

The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners.

But wisdom is justified of her children.

Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

Woe unto thee, Cho-ra'-zin! Woe unto thee, Beth-sa'-i-da! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Si'-don, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Si'-don, at the day of judgment, than for you.

And thou, Ca-per'-na-um, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Matthew 11:16-24

We can see from the above scripture the need to appreciate God's goodness and proclaim it to other people as well as to have a change of life in repentance and in the fear of the Lord which was lacking in those cities that were criticized by Jesus.

THERE were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate mingled with their sacrifices.

And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things?

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower of Si-lo'-am fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13:1-5

One is supposed to die (sleep) in Christ and not in sin, hence the need for repentance now. That is why Jesus said 'Blessed are those who die in the Lord' (Revelation 14:13) as they will rest with the Lord. It is we either repent or else we perish and it is that serious. I believe repentance also has a time limit and does not remain for ever (2 Peter 3:8-12).

Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, it is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:

Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter in to my rest.

Psalm 95:8-11

The Israelites refused to repent of their way of life and God swore that they should not enter into his rest. How about you and I are we better than them? If we continue to remain stubborn and in impenitent, we too will not enter God's rest in heaven, as God had sworn they did not enter the promised land save for Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephune and the young ones (their children) (Numbers 14:27-33).

HE, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Proverbs 29:1

Well, the Israelites were stiff necked before the Lord their God and for sure they received what they deserved. We too if we refuse to repent by turning away from our wicked ways then we too are headed in the direction of those Israelites which only leads to destruction and not salvation.

I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;

Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things in their vessels;

Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom,

Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom.

Isaiah 65:2-7

WOE to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city! She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.

Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by:

their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man,
that there is none inhabitant.

I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive
instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off,
howsoever I punished them: but they rose early,
and corrupted all their doings.

Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until
the day that I rise up to the prey: for my
determination is to gather the nations, that I may
assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine
indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the
earth shall be devoured with the fire of my
jealousy,

Zephaniah 3:1-8

From the above scripture we do see that the
inhabitants of Jerusalem were living in sin
unashamedly and God was waiting for them to
repent, but alas, the people continued to live in
impenitence and God made a firm decision to
finally judge them harshly in the end if they remain
in the status quo. Christians too, need not push God
to the end by living in impenitence lest they are
judged harshly by the Lord.

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God, leadeth thee to repentance?

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:

But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

For there is no respect of persons with God.

For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another;)

In the day when God shall judge the **secrets** of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Romans 2:4-16

The riches of goodness, forbearance and long-suffering of God is for us to repent and to turn away from sin and go back to him. It is not weakness on God's part as he is Almighty and will eventually judge all unrighteousness (sin), regardless of our position in life, as he has no respect for any one (we being merely creations of his hand). To remain impenitent is but to court

disaster on our part. God is going to judge all people the Jews and the Gentiles alike.

But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long - suffering to us - ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

2 Peter 3:8-12

Terrible times is ahead of us unless we stop being impenitent but to be penitent and to strive in holiness and righteousness as we do not know the time that the Lord is coming to take us home in heaven.

God's grace should not be vain in our lives as it serves as windows of opportunity for us to examine our lives and to repent of any sin in us. Apostle Paul warned the church just as apostle Peter too did.

AND unto the angel of the church in Sar'-dis write;
These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of
God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that
thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which
remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found
thy works perfect before God.

Remember therefore how thou hast received and
heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou
shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and

thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Revelation 3:1-3

The coming of the Lord is sudden as a thief that comes at night to steal, just as he has said through his servant John the son of Zebedee and who was brother to James and addressed to the church at Sardis, but it is to all the churches to take note of that fact.

Without repentance our works are not recognized and we are actually dead spiritually unless we quickly repent of any sin committed and begin anew to do what is righteous before God. Let us watch to do God's will and in case we fall, to repent and to rise up in our walk by doing God's will. To live a life of impenitence is to be self-righteous and is a dangerous thing to do before a holy and righteous God. Remember the prodigal son had to repent first to his father before he was accepted back (Luke 15:21-24). It is the same with a Christian who have to repent to his Father in heaven before he or she can be forgiven and accepted in restoration.

The prodigal son did a life audit (self-examination) and realized the need to repent. Christians we too need to do the same daily and not seldomly and where we find we erred in some way we repent of the same there and then. If we fail to do that we can easily lose with God as some that were self-righteous and are recorded in the scriptures (Jeremiah 7:1-11; 8:6, Luke 18:9-14).

Let us not forget that God is a consuming fire (Deuteronomy 4:23-24) also he is Omnipresent (Jeremiah 23:24) and also, he is Omniscient (Psalm 139:2)

Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; Shall they fall, and not arise? Shall he turn away, and not return?

Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.

I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.

Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

How do ye say, we are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain.

The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?

Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 8:4-12

Just as the state of the Jews were at the time of the prophet Jeremiah in unrepentance and God warned them through the prophet, it is the same to the Church of Christ on the unrepentant who face both shame and a fall. From the wordings on the warning it reminds me of the following scriptures: Daniel 12:1-2 - shame and everlasting contempt in verse 2, Matthew 25:44-46- failure to do the right thing (repentance) and which lead to everlasting punishment in verse 46, Revelation 20:1-3, 10, 15- casting down has to do with judgment and on God's judgment day all that were not in good tune with the Lord God will finally be cast into the lake of fire.

Many of us Christians and even the unconverted have a wrong belief that because God is a loving God he is going to pardon / forgive sin as he is equally merciful as long as one pleads to him. But all that is only possible now and not later and more so on the judgment day. On that dreadful day it will be totally different and many will be taken by big surprise as no amount of pleading will help

anything and there will be no negotiation either so
repentance is today to be on the safe side.

Chapter 7

The Christian Life

The life of a Christian is a life of struggle, a struggle between the Spirit of God in him or her and the spirit of Satan out there as well as the Spirit of God and his or her flesh (body). That is why we have these two scriptures in the epistle of Apostle Paul to the church in Rome and the church in Galatia.

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

For that which I do I allow not; but what I hate, that do I.

If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which his good I find not.

For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. so then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 7:14-25

Quite a controversy it is as a result of sin or evil in a Christian which is nothing other than the old man (the Adamic sinful nature) which is at war with the new man (the nature of God). We therefore deduce from the above scripture that a Christian has two natures of the first Adam and of the second Adam

and therefore two conflicting laws of the flesh and of the spirit (of the body and of the Holy Spirit). Remember what Jesus told the disciples before his arrest, trial and crucifixion that the spirit is willing but the body (flesh) is weak (Matthew 26:36-41). But I thank God that in Christ Jesus there is also deliverance a partial deliverance of the soul at conversion to be followed by another deliverance of the body for total / complete deliverance of a Christian's whole being at the coming of the Lord to rapture His holy Church (Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:50-57). Another illustration follows:

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:16-18

Christians are advised and encouraged to walk in the Spirit of God for this same obvious reason so that one is not under the law of the flesh of sin and death but under the law of grace, of the Spirit, of life (Romans 8:1-4).

All said, it all depends on us, whether we are totally submissive to the Spirit of God or not- that is what will make the difference. So, if one submits to the flesh and not to the Spirit one can fall into sin and which will require repentance by that individual to God.

Sometimes back I used to hear some Christians who I believe thought were more spiritual saying that there is no need of repentance for a born again Christian as he or she is now free from sin his or her sins forgiven and washed by the blood of Jesus but, are they continuing in submission to the Spirit of God? We need to know that Christians are undergoing a process of molding and refining by the Holy Spirit on a daily basis as they continue to be submissive to the Spirit in obedience before they are finally perfected. They are therefore not as God's holy angels as yet, as are still in this weak

and corrupt body called the flesh and are not purely spiritual but partially so. (Luke 20:27-36).

Now the scriptures we are going to share all touch on the life of Christians (the Church of Jesus Christ) yet we are going to find more and more touching on the need for repentance yet they were all saved!? That can only corroborate the fact that a Christian's life is a repentant life, period.

Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed a far off.

And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilean.

And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:54-62

Peter saw the need for repentance and took upon himself to truly repent of his sin of denying the Lord, by weeping bitterly. The Lord knew he had truly repented and restored him back to Himself.

Before we proceed further let us look at another scripture in the book of proverbs.

Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:
For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Proverbs 24:15-16

Carefully let us look at the last verse (verse 16). A just (righteous man) falls seven times and rises up again. It simply implies that a Christian may fall into some temptation but in all of them he or she must repent of the sin to enable him or her to rise up again in his or her Christian walk and to journey on. If one falls seven times, also there must be a need to repent seven times to get forgiveness and restoration (Luke 17:3-4).

If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

MY little children, these things write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1:8-2:2

Now I wish I knew the above scripture which brings to nothing the thoughts and sayings of those Christians then, who thought they were more spiritual but in actual fact knew little of the word of God and were but deceiving themselves.

The fact that we have an advocate does not mean that we live a careless life falling into sin as a habit. Falling into sin for us Christians need to be a rare occurrence, an accident and not a normal thing at all lest we abuse the grace given to us. It is when one has fallen into some sin that one need to repent of the sin and the advocate who is our Lord will be of help before the Father (Hebrews 9:24).

Just as we have been told in 1 John 2:1 not to sin, the same has been said in Romans 6:1-4. We also have warnings on living an ungodly lifestyle in the last chapter. It is a dangerous thing to follow the path of unrighteousness in life.

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons

of God: therefore the world knoweth us not,
because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth
not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that,
when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we
shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth
himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

A Christian need to purify himself or herself
continually by repenting of any sin that cometh into
his or her life.

UNTO the angel of the church of Eph'-e-sus write;
These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in
his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the
seven golden candlesticks,

I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience,
and how thou canst not bear them which are evil:
and thou hast tried them which say they are
apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nic-o-la'i-tans, which I also hate.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:1-7

And to the angel of the church in Per'-ga-mos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those

days wherein An'-ti-pas was my faithful martyr,
who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

But I have a few things against thee, because thou
hast there them that hold the doctrine of Ba'-laam,
who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before
the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto
idols, and to commit fornication.

So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the
Nic-o-la'i-tans, which thing I hate.

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and
will fight against them with the sword of my
mouth.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit
saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh
will I give to eat of hidden man'-na, and will give
him a white stone, and in the stone a new name
written, which no man knoweth saving he that
receiveth it.

Revelation 2:1-7

AND unto the angel of the church in Sar'-dis write;
These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of

God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Thou hast a few names even in Sar'-dis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:1-6

And to the angel of the church of the La-od-i-ce'-ans write; These things saith the A'-men, the

faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:14-22

The above four texts from the book of Revelation to the churches demands for repentance from Christians. I do believe that only those that live a repentant life to the end are more likely to be the ones who will enter into heaven than those who do not and had something to repent of.

And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the

lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously appareled, and lived delicately, are in kings' courts. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.

This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face which shall prepare thy way before thee.

For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

And the Lord said, Where unto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?

They are like unto children sitting in the market place and calling one to another and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.

The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

But wisdom is justified of all her children.

Luke 7:19-35

Looking at the above scripture one thing come out and which is the need for repentance, as there was no response to the situation at hand by these men Christians need not to live as the non believers whose lives lack repentance and who are offended

by the word of God instead of allowing it to transform their lives by accepting it and repenting. We know very well as Christians that God does not change (Hebrews 13:8) and it is only us human beings who are imperfect and impure that need to change. As Christians we had gone to the Lord in order to be transformed and to eventually be like Him and not to continue to remain the same lacking God's transformation. Now transformation is only possible in repentance in Christ Jesus and which we need to bring whenever we find we have deviated from God's ways.

As Christians we need to have only one agenda which is to be with the Lord in heaven after this life here on earth and that is possible with complete transformation in repentance (1 John 3:2-3). Therefore, let us not be as the non believers mentioned above in that scripture and who Jesus kept on asking questions or as others who Jesus saw that they had other agendas (John 6:1-29).

But what think ye. A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard.

He answered and said, I will not; but afterward he repented, and went.

And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

Whether of them twain did the will of his father?

They say unto him, The first.

Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

For John came unto you in the way of righteousness and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward that ye might believe him.

Hear another parable: There was a certain householder which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyards, and slew him.

When the Lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected,

the same is become the head of the corner: This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?
Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Matthew 21:28-43

A Christian need to live by reflecting on one's life daily on: speech, thoughts and actions and responding on them accordingly to make amends as necessary in bringing fruit meet for repentance. Remember what apostle Paul told the church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 13:5). Let us do that lest we are caught with what befall king Belshazzar (Daniel 5) and we lose our inheritance in heaven.

Chapter 8

Example of true repentance

There is both what is called a true repentance which is a genuine and sincere repentance and one which is quite the opposite. In this segment, I am going to dwell in the former examples of which I now do present one by one.

NOW when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore. And Shech-a-ni'-ah the son of Je- hi'-el, one of the sons of E'-lam, answered and said unto Ezra, we have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage and do it.

Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they swear.

Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jo-ha'-nan, the son of E-li'-ash-ib: and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away.

And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem;

And that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and elders, all his substance should be forfeited and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away.

Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day

of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, trembling because of this matter, and for the great rain.

And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.

Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.

Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do.

Ezra 10:1-12

Here we see a serious people going for a serious repentance. They were serious in that they were ready to pay the cost for their transgression as they were ready and willing to do away with the strange wives together with the children that were born by them.

THE words of Ne-hem-i'-ah the son of Hach-a-li'-ah. And it came to pass in the month of Chis'-leu,

in the twentieth year, and I was in Shu'-shan the palace,

That Ha-na'-ni, one of my brethren came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

And I said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned

against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye trespass, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the utter most part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

O LORD, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and

grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king cupbearer.

Nehemiah 1

Nehemiah really had poured out his heart to the Lord God confessing of their sins. That too, was a true repentance.

But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jez'-e-bel his wife stirred up.

And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Am'-o-rites whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth' and went softly.

And the word of the LORD came to E-li'-jah the Tish'-bite, saying,

Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? Because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

1 Kings 21:25-29

Here we find king Ahab who was so wicked being stirred by his wife Jezebel humbled himself so much before the Lord as a sign of true repentance from the heart and the Lord acknowledged by postponing the judgment he had pronounced on the king's household.

JO-SI'-AH was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Je-di'-dah, the daughter of A-dai'-ah of Bos'-cath.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

And it came to pass in the eighteen year of king Jo-si'-ah, that the king sent Sha'-phan the son of Az-a-li'-ah, the son of Me-shul'-lam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying, Go up to Hil-ki'-ah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people:

And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house,

Unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.

Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.

And Hil-ki'-ah the high priest said unto Sha'-phan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD.

And Hil-ki'-ah gave the book to Sha'-phan, and he read it.

And Sha'-phan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD.

And Sha'-phan the scribe showed the king, saying, Hil-ki'-ah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Sha'-phan read it before the king.

And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

And the king commanded Hil-ki'-ah the priest, and A-hi'-kam the son of Sha'-phan, and Ach'bor the son of Mi-chai'-ah, and Sha'-phan the scribe, and As-a-hi'-ah a servant of the kings, saying,

Go ye, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.

So Hil-ki'-ah the priest, and A-hi'-kam, and Ach'bor and Sha'-phan and As-a-hi'-ah, went unto Hul'-dah the prophetess, the wife of Shal'-lum the son of Tik'-vah, the son of Har'-has, keeper of the wardrobe; (now, she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her.

And she said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel,

Tell the man that sent you to me,

Thus saith the LORD, behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read:

Because they have forsaken me, and have burnt incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shalt not be quenched.

But to the king of Judah which sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him,

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard;

Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.

Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers,
and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace;
and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will
bring upon this place. And they brought the king
word again.

2 Kings 22

AND Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked
David to number Israel.

And David said to Jo'-ab and to the rulers of the
people, Go, number Israel from Beer-she'-ba even
to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I
may know it.

And Jo'-ab answered, The LORD make his people
a hundred times so many more as they be: but, my
lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants?
Why then doth my lord require this thing? Why
will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?

Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Jo'-
ab. Wherefore Jo'-ab departed and went throughout
all Israel, and came to Jerusalem.

And Jo'-ab gave the sum of the number of the
people unto David.

And all they of Israel were a thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword.

But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Jo'-ab.

And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel.

And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying,

Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things: choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.

So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, choose thee. Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the

angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.

And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man.

1 Chronicles 21:1-13

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest and be clear when thou judgest.

Behold, I was sharpen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, thou desireth truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalms 51:1-17

In the above scripture we see David really bringing a genuine confession and repentance before God. That is the greatest of all penitents in the book of Psalms.

AND the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

Arise, go unto Nin'-e-veh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

So Jonah arose, and went unto Nin'-e-veh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nin'-e-veh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nin'-e-veh shall be overthrown.

So the people of Nin'-e-veh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even unto the least of them.

For word came unto the king of Nin'-e-veh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nin'-e-veh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, let neither man nor beast, herd, nor flock, taste anything: let them not feed, nor drink water:

But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 3

Now that is of a class and order of its own. I have never read such a repentance in the scriptures and I

am yet to witness such genuine repentance in my life as it is exemplary and exceptional.

And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Cai'-a-phas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it with these witness against thee?

But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see The Son of man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

And he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee.

Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26:57-75

Peter realized much later to his amazement what he had done after remembering what the Lord had told him earlier and it was too bad for him and he was really remorseful in heart and genuinely repented of his actions by weeping bitterly.

Sometimes in life it can happen to you and me just as it happened to Peter and we need not just be quiet but to act by genuinely repenting to the Lord as Peter did so that it is well with us that is, we are restored.

And he said, A certain man had two sons:

And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him,

Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:11-24

In the above scripture we see that prodigal son was truly remorseful for his foolish deeds and came to himself and decided to go back to his father and to show that he was serious in his returning, he was ready even to take the position of a servant in his father's house-he had really resolved to come back

and stay and never to leave the house again. And for sure he was welcomed back and not as he thought as he was completely restored back as a son and not a servant to his father.

And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 18:9-14

In the above scripture there is a good lesson for us which is that when we go before God, we need to humble ourselves for him to consider our case as He is the Lord and Master, our very Creator and we need do away with self righteousness as that Pharisee. We need to be sincere to God when we go before him as the publican in true repentance.

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on hi, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:33-43

Quite exemplary a repentance it was such that his request to the Lord was granted immediately!

AND Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

And, behold, there was a certain man named Zac-che'-us, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zac-che'-us, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.

And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

And Zac-che'-us stood, and said unto the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost.

Luke 19:1-10

Here too, in the above scripture we get a true repentance from this rich man Zacchaeus who was going at great length to make restitution four times! Jesus saw a serious person in his personality and said he too was a son of Abraham.

We can all see clearly from the incident that genuine repentance brings salvation to souls as it did to Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus saw Jesus and his heart was broken and was ready for any thing and received in return salvation as truly he was repentant not only to the poor but to those he wronged as he was a tax collector and had unworthily enriched himself (Luke 3:1-13).

Before repentance is made, one must recognize first that one has sinned and that there is a need to acknowledge it by going for repentance (Psalm 51:3, Luke 15:17-18, Matthew 26: 74-75). Now of equal importance is that one need to understand the height of one's fall for there are those sins that need one to be in sackcloth and ashes for God to hear

and accept one's repentance. One need to know the gravity so that one knows what kind of repentance one need to bring to the Lord (2 Samuel 11:1-12:25, Jonah 3:1-10)

Whenever one comes for repentance before the Lord one must open one's heart as God looks at one's heart (Psalm 51:17). One need to open one's heart on what one sees that leads one to the sin. David opened his heart for God to give a new heart (Psalm 51:10).

Sins are interrelated confess therefore, the mother sin that opens the door for other sins to come in one. Diligence is required in repentance asking for restoration with much effort in seeking the Lord until one reaches a time one feels one is restored. Remember the case of the widow in the book of Luke, (Luke 18:1-8). Be ready to get rid of all that leads one to the sin. Remember the sin of Achan (Joshua 7). Preserve your true repentance by having the word of God in your heart to face the temptation of the Devil not to sin again. Always obey the Holy Spirit's advice. Make every effort not to sin again.

Chapter 9

Warnings on ungodly living

The scriptures warn God's people not to continue to live ungodly lifestyle as such lead to them to being condemned and judged by God. Let us look at some of them.

Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.

But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Numbers 15:29-31

We find from the above scripture two category of sins one done ignorantly and one done presumptuously. The latter sin has a heavier judgment than the former in that it is done

knowingly that it is sin before God whereas the other is done unknowingly that it is sin before God. May the Lord help us to be very far away from what we very well know to be sin before God. Let us look at an example of presumptuous sin and what happened.

And the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp; And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of the LORD, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dib'ri, of the tribe of Dan:)

And they put him in ward, that the mind of the LORD might be showed them.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.

And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.

Leviticus 24:10-16

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected,
and is nigh unto cursing, whose end is to be burned.

Hebrews 6:4-8

For if we sin willfully after that we have received
the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no
more sacrifice for sins,

But a certain fearful looking for of judgement and
fiery indignation, which shall devour the
adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy
under two or three witnesses.

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall
he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot
the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the
covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy
thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of
grace?

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance
belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the
Lord. and again, the Lord shall judge his people.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the
living God.

Hebrews 10:26-31

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

And turning the cities of Sodom and Go-mor'-rah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly;

And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

2 Peter 2:4-9

Those are all serious warnings. Look at this too.

THEREFORE we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

God also bearing them witness both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Hebrews 2:1-4

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this book and do hope it has been of much help to you in your daily walk with the Lord. If you have any comments to make please do contact us. In case you want to place an order with us you are free to do so by requesting for Books Order form using the address given hereunder.

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