

THE

# HARVESTER

*"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

November 1987

No. 023

## ON REPENTANCE

Have you ever before traced the old trail of man's repentance? It began unsuccessfully with the tears of Esau (Heb. 12:17). Then in the days of the prophets, Jonah was commanded to preach to the great city of Nineveh. Those men responded with repentance (Matt. 12:41). Next we read of a messenger called John who preached to men *"the baptism of repentance"* (Mark 1:4). Jesus continued the theme in Matthew 4:17 with *"Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* That kingdom now exists and God has given one final statement on the matter: *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"* (Acts 17:30).

THE HARVESTER  
5367 Scanlan Way Dr W  
Satsuma, AL 36572-2417

BULK RATE  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SATSUMA, AL  
PERMIT NO. 30

Why has repentance left such a trail on the pages of the Bible? Why has God made such a big deal over it, wanting all to repent? I believe it is because it is better than the alternative: eternal destruction! If we fail to repent, we will perish. *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."*(Luke 13:5) Clearly, repentance leads to life eternal. It is a step TOWARD heaven, granted to Jews and Gentiles alike. *"When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying; Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life"*(Acts 11:18).

What exactly is repentance? What does it mean to repent? First of all, it is not godly sorrow as many want to think. Godly sorrow merely precedes repentance. It is the step right before one repents. *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."*(2 Cor. 7:10) A man once robbed a bank. Afterwards he was truly regretful about it; however, he still kept the money. Is this an example of repentance? Yes, he was sorrowful but NO, he did not really repent. His sorrow did not cause him to try to correct the matter. The man did not show his sorrow by returning the stolen money. That is one aspect of repentance that people forget. Repentance involves action; it requires a bringing forth of fruits. That is why John the Baptist stated to many of the Pharisees and Sadducees, *"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance"* (Matt. 3:8).

The scriptural definition of repentance is found when we consider the story of the two sons in Matthew 21:28-30. *"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." Here we can see that repentance is a change of will. The first son "willed" (wished, chose, intended, purposed) NOT to work in his father's vineyard but he repented (changed his will) and did go. The fact that he WENT (fruits) proves that he truly repented.

However, could it be possible that there is more to repentance than just a change of will? I feel it has to be a change of will FOR THE BETTER! Notice how the second son had intended initially to go to work but he also changed his mind and did not go. Since the second son had a change of will, should we say he also repented? Most people would say not. According to the dictionary, repentance is actually a change for the better as a result of sorrow for one's sins. Repentance is turning from wrong to the right, from sin to doing God's commands.

There is no doubt that we are all sinners and have done wrong. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"* (Rom. 3:23) And there is no doubt that we should all repent before it is everlasting too late. Why? The reason is simply given in Acts 17:31. *"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."* Due to the inevitable Judgment Day, we must repent of all our sins or we shall perish. Since God will judge each one of us as to whether we have obeyed his commandments or not, we MUST repent! *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* (2 Cor. 5:10)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, and all correspondence to:

Ray McManus  
5367 Scanlan Way Dr W  
Satsuma, AL 36572-2417  
Ph. (205) 675-5258

It is God's desire that each one of us repent. Although he does not want to, God will punish all the sinners who do not repent. He has promised that several times in the Scriptures, even though men tend to ignore these warnings. *"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."*(2 Pet. 3:9)

How do we stand today? Have we committed sins that require immediate correction? Why not repent? *"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."*(Acts 8:22) This is the only way we will ever get to heaven. *"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."*(Luke 15:7) Our prayer now is that *"the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."*(Rom. 2:4)

RAY McMANUS

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x  
x It isn't the load that weights us down--x  
x it's the way we carry it. x  
x x x  
x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

## FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

## ABOUT BORROWING

*And if a man borrow aught of his neighbor, and it be hurt, or die, the owner thereof being not with it, he shall surely make it good. But if the owner thereof be with it, he shall not make it good: if it be an hired thing, it came for his hire. (Exo. 22:14,15)*

*The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hands: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. (Deut. 28:12)*

*The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. (Psa. 37:21)*

*The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. (Prov. 22:7)*

*Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. (Matt. 5:42)*

[Editor's Note: I found the following article to be a very interesting one. It was sent to me by Bro. Harry Cobb and is now being reprinted in full for the benefit of our readers.]

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BAPTISM

An Editorial by T. W. Butterfield  
in GOSPEL TRUTHS

A letter from brother John Hamilton, preacher in Massillion, Ohio, tells of his joy and spiritual profit from attending the lectures at Freed-Hardeman College in February. Among the interesting things he tells about in his letter is the reading of the following letter concerning the baptism of Abraham Lincoln. I had read of

Lincoln's baptism several years ago, but this letter is so fascinating that we share it with our readers.

While at the lectures, at the chapel hour, a letter was read concerning the baptism of Abe Lincoln. A pioneer preacher by the name of John O'Kane gave this information to a personal friend, G. M. Weimer, and he wrote to Clyde Summers the following letter, I copied it at Freed-Hardeman Restoration Library. Brother Cecil N. Wright, who is on the faculty at FHC made a special trip to Chicago to get the letter. Brother Summers did not wish to put it in the mail. Here is the letter as copied from G. M. Weimer's own handwriting.

Chicago, Illinois  
547 East 87 Place, Oct. 5, 1942  
Clyde Summers,

Dear Sir:

Your card came this morning. The statement I have about John O'Kane baptizing Abe Lincoln is not something copied from a paper or book.

When I lived in Eureka, Ill., so my two boys could be in college, John O'Kane stayed with me and my family during a state convention. I asked him since he knew Abe Lincoln very well if he knew whether Abe Lincoln ever became a Christian. Then he said, "I am now going to tell you folks (I and wife and her father) all about the matter. I have kept in my own memory because he first had me arrange to baptize him, his wife resumed a bitter resentment - that it would ruin his social status. So it was postponed for a while (ten days) till the 'storm' was over. Then he and I took a buggy ride one day with a change of clothing under the seat. I then baptized him in a small river near Springfield, Ill. Of course he became a member

of the Church of Christ. But I have kept it secret so far as humans are concerned because of his home condition. Now all the possible people who might be hurt in their feelings are all or near dead. So, brother Weimer, I'll tell you folks, but keep it a secret for some years so no storm can be suffered."

We promised. Wife and her father lie in their graves in Eureka cemetery. I, as far as I know, am the only living messenger of the noted incident.

Yours in Him,  
G. M. Weimer

Took into the church 10,037. My sun is setting.  
I am almost 86 years of age.

Brother Summers kept this letter in his vault at the bank until brother Cecil N. Wright made the trip to Chicago for it.

We believe our readers will appreciate this valuable information and will rejoice to know that this priceless statement from John O'Kane is to be kept in the Freed-Hardeman Library.

THE TRUTH  
J.D. Phillips, Editor  
and Pub.  
Cowden, Illinois 62422

MOFFAT ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Extends a Welcome to All  
WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm  
SUNDAY 10:00 am & 6:00 pm

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Nov. 6-8 (F-Su)	Brushy Creek Church Lucedale, MS 7:30 evenings	Tony Whiddon & Maynard Foster (Mobile, AL)
Nov. 8-13 (Su-F)	West Broad St. Church Wedowee, AL 7:00 each evening	William Yarbrough (Sierra Vista, AZ)
Nov. 13-15	Godby Road Church Atlanta, GA	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Nov. 13-15	Leitchfield, KY	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Nov. 13-15 (F-Su)	Pleasant Grove Church near Alex City, AL 7:00 evenings	Bill Prince Jr. (Oxford, AL)
Nov. 13-15	Red Hill Church near Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
Dec. 4-6	West End Church Shawnee, OK	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)

And must I be to judgment brought,  
And answer in that day  
For every vain and idle thought,  
And every word I say?

Yes; every secret of my heart  
Shall shortly be made known,  
And I receive my just desert  
For all that I have done.

Thou awful Judge of quick and dead,  
The watchful power bestow;  
So shall I to my ways take heed,  
In all I speak or do.

Charles Wesley