

e-concepts

A Weekly Publication of Relational Concepts Inc.

Repentance and Salvation in Scripture

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Coming to Faith Is Changing Your Mind

When I make the initial decision to believe something that I did not believe before, that necessarily involves a change of mind. That change of mind is exactly how Paul called people to believing in Jesus Christ, in every synagogue, home, market place or prison cell he was in. For example, when unbelieving Jews came to him in Rome,

Acts 28:23-24 ...he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.

Notice that Paul's message was not one of regret and remorse over sin, a resolve to turn from sin, to make Christ Lord any other works. His appeal was for a mental change about Jesus fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. *Being persuaded* is synonymous with belief, and not *being persuaded* is synonymous with those who *would not believe*.

Faith and repentance are interchangeable, not two requirements for salvation. Faith is often given as a requirement for salvation with no mention of repentance. John's gospel is a mega example. It's the gospel that has the stated purpose of bringing us to eternal life.

John 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Although the gospel of John repeatedly talks about eternal salvation, it never once mentions the word *metanoia* (*metanoia*) repentance. Neither does it mention remorse or regret or making Christ Lord, a resolve to turn from sin, or any other works as a requirement for salvation.

Looking at It Logically

Except in quantum physics (and this is not quantum physics), never does the effect of anything produce its cause, nor is it part of the cause. A bird causes a bird nest. But the nest does not cause the bird, nor is it part of the bird. God caused creation. Creation did not cause God nor is creation part of God. Understand (by observation):

1. Every effect [like a bird nest] has a cause [a bird].
2. The cause [a bird] is always greater than the effect [a bird nest].
3. The effect [a bird nest] always follows the cause [the bird].
4. The effect [a bird nest] is distinct from, never part of, the cause [the bird].

So,

1. The effect [the changed life of a believer] has a cause [faith in Christ].
2. The cause [faith in Christ] is greater than the effect [the changed life].
3. The effect [the changed life] always follows the cause [faith in Christ].
4. The effect [the changed life] is distinct from, never part of, the cause [faith in Christ].

So the idea of a lordship salvation, or a faith + works gospel, or the on-going "preaching the gospel to ourselves" salvation of the New Calvinists is irrational, **since it sees the effect and the cause as the same thing**, and that's never ever true about anything, anywhere.