

Dig Deeper

Philemon – “Forgive, as Christ has forgiven you.”

Study to show yourself approved to God

Study the following passages of Scripture to discover how “repentance” and “conversion” works. Use the Word Study documents provided to help you understand more about “repentance and salvation not by works of righteousness which we have done.” Discuss your finding and understanding of each verse with each other. What conclusions can you draw?

- **John 6:44** – *no man can come except the Father draw him*
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** – *by faith, and that no of yourselves*
- **Titus 3:5** – *not by works of righteousness that we have done*
- **Romans 5:8** – *while we were yet sinners Christ died for us*
- **2 Corinthians 7:8-10** – *godly sorrow works repentance*
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** – *the god of this world blinded us, but*
- **Romans 2:4** – *the goodness of God leads you to repentance*
- **2 Timothy 2:25** – *God will give them repentance*
- **Romans 9:16** – *not of him that wills, nor of him that runs, but God*
- **Acts 9:5-6, Acts 26:14** – *it is hard to kick against the goads*
- **Exodus 19:4** – *I carried you on eagle’s wings brought you to myself*
- **Exekiel 36:26** – *A new heart, and a new spirit will I put within you:*
- **Jeremiah 33:14-25** – *God’s covenant is God’s doing, not theirs*
- **Isaiah 64:6** – *all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;*

It is a serious mistake to think that our salvation is based on something good in us, even the wiliness to repent is the work of the Spirit of God, not of us, lest any man should boast. Too often we want to take some credit for earning God’s grace and mercy. If it is earned, it is not grace. If it is merited, it is no mercy.

Conversation Starters

1. Have you ever lost something of great value that was precious to you? How did you feel and what did you do?
2. Can you explain how a watch works? A microwave? A Television? A cell phone or a computer? Can you explain gravity or magnetic poles?
3. Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Why did the chicken cross the road? The answer is “to get to the other side.” But what motivated the chicken to cross the road in the first place? How can you get a chicken to cross the road?
4. Now apply these things to salvation. Who initiated your salvation and why? Was there something good in you that drew you to Christ or made you worthy of salvation?

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there anyone too sinful to save?
2. Is there such a thing as the “unpardonable sin”?
3. Is repentance a work toward salvation or a work of God in salvation?
4. Can you think of some terrible sinners you know personally who have been wonderfully transformed by Christ? Tell their story.

Books to Read

- *The Hiding Place* – by Corrie Ten Boom
- *Unbroken* – by Laura Hilenbrand
- *The Hound of Heaven*, by Francis Thompson (read the story)
- *The Bondage of the Will*, by Martin Luther
- *The Sovereignty of God*, by A.W. Pink

Hymns and Songs to Sing

- *My Tribute*, by Andre Crouch (to God be the glory)
- *Thanks to Calvary*, Gaithers
- *It is No Secret*, by Stuart Hamblen (read the story)