*Lesson #7 Repentance, Conviction, and Condemnation*

*Part One Repentance*

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

PERISH/ Strong’s Number 622
**Part of Speech:**Verb **Definition:**to destroy, destroy utterly
**Usage:**(a) I kill, destroy, (b) I lose, mid: I am perishing (the resultant death being viewed as certain). ("violently/completely perish") implies *permanent* (absolute) destruction, i.e. to cancel out (remove); "to die, with the implication of ruin and *destruction;*" cause to be *lost* (*utterly* perish) by experiencing a miserable end.

REPENTANCE/ Strong’s # 3341
**Part of Speech:**Noun **Definition:**change of mind, repentance
**Usage:**repentance, a change of mind, change in the inner man.

*These are serious matters with eternal consequences… so it is important that we have a clear understanding for decision making purposes, for accepting grace, and for applying our faith that was given to us by Jesus. (let’s look at 2 Peter chapter 3 together).*

Romans 10:9-10…that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10**For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Acts 16:30-31 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” **31**So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

*There is a seriousness of rejecting Jesus (God’s sacrifice for our salvation), but there is also a bountiful provision in the acceptance of Him. This is why we see so many well intending yet (some) obnoxious street ministers getting in the faces of humanity. They understand the eternal results of not accepting the gift of salvation (Jesus). Their method is not great because it tends toward hell, fire and damnation (law) rather than heaven, still waters, and life (grace); but they do mean well, and many do get saved.*

*Q. What does it mean to perish? And how do we prevent it?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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(Let’s look at Lazarus and the Rich Man in Luke 16:19-31)

Luke 16: 29-31 Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ **30**And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ **31**But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

*Q. Why would they not believe if one rose from the dead? Wouldn’t that be obvious?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Q. What does hearing Moses and the prophets mean?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Even John the Baptist, who was born as the forerunner of Christ, questioned if Jesus was the One. Let’s read about it in Luke 7:18-22. It’s interesting that Jesus didn’t reassure John through hardy approval of the ministry he had served God in… He didn’t appeal to John’s emotions. Instead, Jesus took him straight to the Word. John knew the Word. In this passage in Luke 7, Jesus was quoting Isaiah 35. John would ‘know’ that Jesus was the One by His response of using the Word to answer the question.*

*This is important because of what we learned a few lessons back. The Word is a seed. When we plant the Word in our hearts it grows. We get revelation through the Spirit interacting with the Word in our hearts. Things that we get from God externally: signs, wonders, etc… they are great, exciting, and temporarily alleviating of circumstances; but they don’t have an everlasting affect on our souls unless they are rooted in the Word. God designed it/us this way.*

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

*For further reflection on repentance see: Acts 26:30… Look for 3 things to do by grace.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 7:21-23… Consider what to practice and not practice.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 55:7… Look for 2 things to forsake as a born again believer.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 15:7… Look at what happens in heaven when ‘one’ repents.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Romans 2:4…. See what leads people to repentance.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2 Corinthians 7:9… See what else led to repentance. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*PART 2 Conviction and Condemnation*

Romans 4:1-3 What then shall we say that Abraham our fatherhas found according to the flesh? **2**For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

*Q&A. When Abraham believed, God put \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on his account.*

JUSTIFIED/Strong’s#1344  **Part of Speech:**Verb **Definition:**to show to be righteous, declare righteous
**Usage:**I make righteous, defend the cause of, plead for the righteousness (innocence) of, acquit, justify; hence: I regard as righteous.

Romans 4:4-5 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. **5**But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

*Q&A. God justifies those who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

*Q. If we work to acquire God’s favor, healing, acceptance, etc… does that mean He then owes us something? A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!!!*

*That question may seem stupid but think about it. Have you ever been good before God with the mindset that He would reward you? Or that things would work out for you ‘because’ you were doing what you thought you ‘should’ be doing? It’s the same thing. When we have this mind in us; we are saying that God owes us for our performance.*

Romans 4: 6-8 Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom GOD IMPUTES RIGHTEOUSNESS APART FROM WORKS; (capitals added by me for emphasis). **7**“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; **8**Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.”

*What do any of these scriptures have to do with conviction? What is conviction?*

*CONVICTION/ Strong’s # 1651* **Part of Speech:**Verb
**Definition:**to expose, convict, reprove **Usage:**(a) I reprove, rebuke, discipline, (b) I expose, show to be guilty.

*Some teach that God does not convict Christians because all our sin has been put upon Jesus. John 16:8 says that he convicts the world of sin. Christians are not ‘of’ the world. Some teach that He does convict Christians and thereby calls us back from a poor choice with equally poor consequences. Romans 6:16 says we are a servant to whom we obey.*

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*What ‘is’ important to have settled in our hearts is that God never condemns a born-again believer. When we sin and come under feelings of condemnation, guilt, or shame… that is always coming from ourselves, others, and the devil.*

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:34 Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

*Jesus is praying for us! He is having a conversation about us with our Father! God lovingly corrects us, but always leaves the choice to us of how we will respond.*

Hebrews 10:14-18 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. **15**But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, **16**“This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” **17***then He adds,* “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” **18**Now where there is remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin.

*There is so much here. We are perfected, but ‘are being’ sanctified (set apart, dedicate, make holy, purify). It is a process and during this process sometimes we sin. We miss the mark, but God no longer remembers our sins and we need not make any offering for them! When we mess up it is always good to go to God and let Him cleanse us. Apologize ask for refreshing.*

*All that being said… a born-again person who refuses to relent in a known sin will live under conviction, condemnation, ramifications, and eventually a hardening of heart. That is a spiritually dangerous place to go. When we hear about people like this or even see ourselves having been like this at times, it causes us to question salvation, to question our right standing with God. It gets messy and God would have us to never go there.*

*We know when we are thinking and acting in ways that are contrary to the Spirit within us. There is no peace when we choose to continually live with sin in our lives. There is no victory in our life with God because we are not expecting His blessing. We are expecting what we think we deserve… bad. We begin to see Him through a clouded lens. It can seem like our life is not alive. We lose our intimacy and fellowship with LIFE Himself. Why? Because to act in such a manner is prideful. It says in Psalms 138:6 … the proud… he knows them from afar. That is a sad state.*

*What do we do if this is us? Change our mind, change our heart, turn around and seek Him.*

*James 4:6* But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

James 4:8a Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Hallelujah!!!