



THE IMPORTANCE AND BLESSING OF REPENTANCE 28:13-14

This proverb speaks of the **importance and blessing** of repentance. There is a two-fold **warning** ① *"He that covereth his sins"* This has reference to **concealing, hiding, putting a veil over, glossing over, or making light of** one's own sins. ② *"he that hardeneth his heart"* This has reference to becoming **desensitized or numb** concerning spiritual matters.

There is a two-fold **danger** associated with these warnings ① *"shall not prosper"* The **covering of sins** will result in a failure to **flourish, to thrive, and to grow** spiritually. This speaks of the danger of failing to **move forward** spiritually. ② *"shall fall into mischief"* The **hardening of the heart** will result in a **stumbling** and a **slipping** into **bad behavior**, resulting in more sin.

There is a twofold **remedy** to the warning and danger ① *"confesseth and forsaketh them"* (sins). This is **repentance** and stands opposed to, and is the remedy for **making light of one's sin!** ② *"feareth alway"* This is **reverence** and stands opposed to, and is the remedy for the **hardening of the heart**.

There is a two-fold **blessing** associated with these remedies ① *"shall have mercy"* The one who **confesses and forsakes sin** shall find **deliverance** with God. This stands in contrast to *"shall not prosper"* ② *"Happy is the man"* There is **cheer, joy, and contentment** in reverence to God. This stands in contrast to *"shall fall into mischief"*

This proverb exalts the **importance** and **blessing** of repentance, and reveals the demoralizing effect of failing to repent.

I. THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE

1. That The Bible Is A Message Of Repentance Reveals The Necessity Of Such:

John the Baptist came upon the scene preaching repentance-*"Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* [Matthew 3:2]. He said to the *Pharisees* and *Saducees* of his day *"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance"* [Matthew 3:8]. *Jesus Christ* came to call sinners to repentance-*"for I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"* [Matthew 9:13]. He preached repentance-*"Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* [Matthew 4:17]. He preached in *Mark 1:15* *"repent ye, and believe the gospel"* He preached in *Luke 13:3,5* *"except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish"* He commanded the church of *Ephesus*, and the church of *Pergamos* to repent or else-*"repent and do the first works, or else I will come unto thee quickly and remove thy candlestick out of his place, except ye repent"* [Revelation 2:5]. *"Repent or else I will come unto thee quickly and will fight against them"* [Revelation 2:16]. The *Apostles* preached repentance-*"And they went out, and preached that men should repent"* [Mark 6:12]. *Paul* preached repentance-*"Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ"* [Acts 20:21].

2. Repentance Is Necessary For All Persons:

Paul declared in Acts 17:30 “*now God commandeth all men every where to repent*” ALL HAVE SINNED, ALL CONTINUE TO SIN, AND THEREFORE ALL NEED TO CONTINUALLY REPENT!

3. Repentance Is Necessary For All Sins:

Repentance is not just for a few particular sins, but for all sins! All sin is against God, and therefore all sin needs to be repented of! Every sin is an act of rebellion and defiance against God, and every sin is detestable in the eyes of God, therefore every sin needs repentance!

4. Repentance Is Necessary For Fellowship With God:

This is illustrated in *Jesus* washing the feet of the *apostles* [John 13:1-11].

II. THE NATURE OF REPENTANCE

This is illustrated in “*The Parable Of The Prodigal Son*” [Luke 15:17-20].

1. In All True Repentance There Is An Awakening Concerning One’s Condition:

“*And when he came to himself*” [verse 17]. He began to take an inventory of where he was. He began to realize that he was worse off than he was before he left his father’s house! HE WAS AWAKENED TO HIS STATE AND CONDITION!

2. In All True Repentance There Is An Utter Discontent:

“*How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger*” [verse 17]. HE BECOMES COMPLETELY DISSATISFIED WITH THE LIFE OF THE FAR COUNTRY! This discontent also includes godly sorrow [II Corinthians 7:8-11].

3. In All True Repentance There Is A Resolution:

“*I will arise and go to my father*” [verse 18]. HE BECAME DETERMINED TO LEAVE WHERE HE WAS! “*I will arise and go to my father*” These words are expressive of his desire to leave the “*far country*” and its way of life, to leave the hog pen, to leave his own ideas and plans!

4. In All True Repentance There Is A Recognition Of Personal Sin And Accountability:

“*Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee*” [verse 18]. The “*prodigal*” came to realize, and confessed that the reason he was in the condition that he was in was because “*I have sinned*” There was no casting of blame, there was no excusing his sin, or seeking to justify it. THERE WAS HONEST AND HEART-FELT CONFESSION [II Samuel 24:17; Nehemiah 9:2; Psalm 51:1-4; I John 1:9-10].

5. In All True Repentance There Is A Deep Humility And A Sense Of Unworthiness:

This is expressed in verse 19, and is the direct result of coming to the realization “*I have sinned*” There was shame [Ezra 9:6], and there was a loathing of self [Ezekiel 36:31]. Until the sinner gets to this point, they have not fully realized the impact of “*I have sinned*” SO MANY IN THEIR REPENTANCE WANT TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES!

6. In All True Repentance There Is An Actual Leaving Of Sin:

“And he arose” [verse 20]. He had passed beyond mere resolving! He had passed beyond mere regret! *“And he arose”* There was no bargaining with the master of *“the far country”* SO MANY TODAY, WANT REPENTANCE WITHOUT LEAVING THE FAR COUNTRY [Ezekiel 14:6; 18:30-32]. NO SINNER WILL EVER REPENT UNTIL THEY RISE UP OUT OF THE MIRE AND MUCK OF SIN!

7. In All True Repentance There Is A Return To The Lord:

“and came to his father” [verse 20]. His proud independence and self-will are gone! In other days he demanded his portion and resolved to spend it as he pleased, but now **he is willing to be under rule as a hired servant**, he has had enough of being his own master and doing things his own way! **He yields up his cherished freedom, his liberty to think and do and say whatever he chose and he longs to come under the loving rule and guidance of his father!** He did not come bringing the swine with him! He did not come bringing the harlots with him! He did not come bringing the husks with him! He did not come bringing the lifestyle of the far country with him! HE LEFT ALL OF THIS *“and came to his father”* He *“came to his father”* empty and confessing what he had done, confessing his unworthiness without one syllable of self-praise, or blame or justification! THERE WAS A RETURNING TO LIFE WITH THE FATHER [Acts 26:20].

“Repent” because there is forgiveness, healing, and mercy with the Lord [II Chronicles 7:14; Isaiah 55:7].