

**Do We
Have To
Repent?**

Do we have to repent to receive God's forgiveness? No, our forgiveness literally "came upon all men." All we have to "do" to be saved and sealed is accept the gift.

Romans 5:18

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one **the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

Repentance alone can't save an unbeliever. Some notable unbelievers repented, but it did not save them. Judas repented that he betrayed Jesus Christ, whom he knew to be innocent.

Matthew 27:3-5

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Yet Jesus tells us that Judas was lost, not saved!

John 17:12

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and **none of them is lost, but the son of perdition**; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Another notable unbeliever, Esau, repented—with tears—that he gave up his birthright to his brother Jacob.

Hebrews 12:14-17

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or **profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.**

Yet we know for sure that Esau is lost.

Malachi 1:3

And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

Romans 9:13

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but **Esau have I hated.**

John the Baptist preached repentance.

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

People confessed their sins, were baptized, and then had to act in a way showing that repentance.

Matthew 3:6

⁶And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

They were supposed to “bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.” If they did not, they would be cast into hell’s fire.

Matthew 3:10

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore **every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.**

Today we are saved only by believing that the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ took away our sins and saved us from an eternity in hell. We are not judged on our works.

The repentance that counts is when an unbeliever changes his mind and accepts the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation. That is the “Godly sorrow that worketh repentance to salvation.”

Repenting, or simply being sorry for something that you have done, does not bring salvation. That is the “sorrow of the world that worketh death.”

2 Corinthians 7:10

For **godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation** not to be repented of: but **the sorrow of the world worketh death.**