

Basic Spiritual Truths

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee . . . ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.
Luke 3:1-2 (New International Version)

John the Baptist **brought two basic spiritual truths** that paved the way for Jesus and are reminders to all believers.

- **Truth #1: SINCE ALL ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD, ALL NEED REPENTANCE.**

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵Every valley shall be filled in, very mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’” Luke 3:3-6 (NIV)

Repentance = to turn, to change, or to turn around

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.
Matthew 3:6 (NIV)

Repentance brings forgiveness! (See Exodus 34:7; Numbers 14:18; Isaiah 1:18)

When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.
Psalm 65:3 (NIV)

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. Psalm 130:3-4 (NIV)

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. Isaiah 55:6-7 (NIV)

- **Truth #2: REPENTANCE HAS FOUR PROGRESSIVE MARKS.** (Luke 3:7-18)

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.” Acts 17:30 (NIV)

- True repenters understand their spiritual danger. (Luke 3:7)

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Ephesians 5:6 (NIV)

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power . . .
2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 (NIV)

There will be weeping there [in hell], and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. Luke 13:28 (NIV) See also Mark 9:48; Matthew 8:12; 13:42, 50)

- True repenters reject “religion.” (Luke 3:8b)

And so the Lord says, “These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote. Isaiah 29:13 (New Living Translation)

How do faith and repentance go together? You turn from sin—that’s repentance; and you turn to Christ—that’s faith.

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:21 (NIV)

- True repenters actually change! (Luke 3:8; 10:14)

First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. Acts 26:20 (NIV)

Repentance = a heartfelt sorrow for sin, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ

But if you use the Spirit’s help to stop doing the wrong things you do with your body, you will have true life. Romans 8:13b (NCV) See also 2 Corinthians 3:18.

- True repenters receive the Messiah. Luke 3:15-18 (NIV)

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” ¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. Luke 3:7-18 (NIV)

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.