

God Grants Repentance
Acts 11:1-4, 17-18

I. Intro

- A. God is so good
- B. We are not left to what we deserve
- C. We are not left to our own strength
- D. We are HIS, and serve in HIS power
- E. But, How do we experience this life to the FULL? REPENTANCE

II. Text

- A. 1-4
 - 1. Sharing a meal with the unclean Gentiles was unheard of.
 - 2. This was beyond their comprehension
 - 3. They were more offended with what Peter did, than they were impressed with what God did.
 - 4. I believe they were genuinely inquisitive, wanting to know more.
- B. 5-16: Peter recounts the story
- C. 17: Peter asks "Who was I stand in God's way?"
- D. 18:
 - 1. When they heard these things...
 - 2. They fell silent
 - 3. AND THEY GLORIFIED GOD
 - 4. Then to the Gentiles God has GRANTED REPENTANCE

III. Point

A. God Grants Repentance

- 1. Repentance: metanoia
 - a) Meta: with, after, behind
 - b) Noia: understand, perceive, consider, think
- 2. Repentance: webster: :
 - a) 1 to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life
 - b) 2 to feel regret or contrition
 - c) 3 to change one's mind
- 3. The renewal of the mind:
 - a) Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
 - b) 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- 4. What Repentance is: A mind change
- 5. What Repentance is not: listing out sins that will be committed again.
- 6. Why is Repentance important:
 - a) Luke 13:3 Jesus said: No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.
 - b) Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 7. What does this mean?
 - a) Allow your hard hearted, hard headed mind to be changed by God!
 - b) Repentance IS what we must do to DIE DAILY TO SELF

B. God Draws us to Repentance

- 1. People do not enjoy change, people resist it
- 2. Some folks don't want to even change a spent light bulb
- 3. So, if repentance is change...

- a) The Jews were being changed
- b) The mindset was being changed
- c) The PARADIGM shift is radical!
- 4. So, if change is a challenge, how are we drawn to repentance?
 - a) Romans 2 1Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. 2We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? 4**Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?** 5But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
 - b) Lets not understand this wrong:
 - (1) Repentance comes from a response to God's kindness
 - (2) Conviction comes from understanding God's beautiful plan
 - (3) Change means an opportunity to do better
- 5. The FAITH WALK is an adventure, and it pleases God

C. God Desires Repentance

- 1. God desires that our mindset changes
- 2. God makes us new, for His glory and purpose
- 3. 2 Corinthians 5: 16From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. b The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

IV. Close

- A. I ask you to consider the Biblical view of repentance
- B. I ask you to allow your mind to change
- C. I ask you to place yourself in close proximity to GOD ALMIGHTY, and FIND JOY and PEACE
 - 1. Study the Word
 - 2. Apply the Word
 - 3. Gather with the Church
 - 4. Gather with a small group
 - 5. Spend time in Prayer!