

There is Hope Radio

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True Repentance

PreacherRichD

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Your radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures.

Welcome to *There is Hope Radio*. I want to get that out right off the bat. There is hope, but sometimes truth must be spoken so we do not have a false hope.

Today's broadcast is probably going to be one of the most Let's Get Real broadcast on *There is Hope Radio*. So let me make it very clear at the very beginning. The purpose of *There is Hope Radio* is not to attack, condemn, judge, or shame anyone. The purpose is to speak truth and love. The purpose is to address issues that most churches, most pastors, most Christians will not speak on or are afraid to speak on. The purpose for *There is Hope Radio* is to look at issues of the day and find solutions.

I believe the word of God has solutions. I believe there are biblical principles, if followed, that will transform individuals, communities, and nations. I absolutely believe the word of God and applying biblical principles can create an atmosphere for creating positive futures in the lives of individuals and the world around us.

The truth spoken in love sets captives free. John 8.32 says, *If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* So now with that preparation, are you ready for today's message? I probably got you scared. It won't be that bad. I have a simple title for this message, but it's certainly not an ear-tickler message. The title of today's message is True Repentance.

Yes, the title is Repentance. Well about now, we probably lost half our audience. So if you're still listening, then you're one of the bold ones that is out there in radio land. But I promise you, by listening, this show is going to be of help to you. If you identify as a Christian, you should absolutely love the word repentance. True repentance leads to true freedom.

If you're the one who claims to be a Christ follower, and you have a dislike for the word repentance, you either do not understand the concept of repentance, or you may not be truly born again. It is because of repentance you have the ability to spend eternity in heaven.

Because of repentance, you can have a relationship with your creator.

Because of repentance, you are a child of God. By the way, only Christ followers are children of God. That's another topic to cover at a later day.

Because of repentance, you have the spirit of God. His spirit is living within you. Because of repentance, you have the power to say no to sin and yes to God.

Because of repentance, your life is different than what it was before repentance.

Because of repentance, you are living in more freedom than bondage. Because of repentance, you have a more fruitful life.

Because of repentance, you're becoming transformed and have the ability to live out a life of sanctification. So why would we ever not want to take a look at the topic of repentance? But before I go any further, I should define what repentance is. But before I do, I want to mention something to you.

Most who are atheists, agnostics, pagans, deists, or of other religions do not receive the gospel message because they do not like the concept of repentance. Sadly, they do not understand how repentance comes about, and sadly, many Christians do not have a clear comprehension of how repentance comes about. Oh my goodness, I'm jumping ahead of myself.

I need to give you the definition of what repentance is, and I've got to do all this in 13 minutes. It is really hard. That's why, honestly, I use a script, because I could never do this in 13 minutes without it. And by the way, I should mention you can get a transcript of today's broadcast by going to creatingfutures.org/thereishope. That is creatingfutures.org/thereishope.

The Greek word for repentance is metanoia. Metanoia is a verb that means to change one's mind. The literal meaning is to understand, wonder, and think about. It does not literally mean to turn around, which you hear many times individuals say that. Why is that important? Because unless a person does metanoia, to change their mind, they will not turn around to a different direction. So, I'm going to cover this in more detail just to bring some clarity, because again, many times we hear that repentance literally means to turn an opposite direction. But that is not accurate. The first step to repentance is to meditate, to think about, and put one's mind to.

The Hebrew word for repentance is teshuvah, which does mean to return, to turn back, to turn.

The English definition of the word repentance is to feel or express sincere regret, remorse about one's wrongdoing.

So, if we combine the Greek, Hebrew, and English meaning the word of repentance, the best translation is to mentally change your mind that leads to changing one's attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors. Thus, if there is true repentance, there will be evidence of true repentance. There will be fruit.

Acts 3.19 says, Repent therefore and turn back, be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. So, true repentance is us changing our minds and God bringing the change, the

conversion process. Why is this so important? Because if we are left alone, we will not repent.

God has given us the grace to repent. He has empowered us to repent and it comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. So, now I want to share some good news about repentance. Unless God puts it into our heart, we will not have any desire to truly repent. So, if we feel conviction, guilt, sorrow for our words, actions, or behavior, it is coming from God and He will give us the will, the ability, the strength, and the power to repent. That is truly good news.

So, if you are listening to me now and God is speaking to your heart that there is something you need to repent of, just know that He will give you the grace and the ability to do it because you are not wanting to repent based upon your own desire. It is something that God has put in you. Now, I need to give you a warning.

Because we have free will, we can harden our hearts to the things of God. We can become callous, hard-hearted, close-minded, and reject the tugging of the Holy Spirit. That is a dangerous place to be. So, if God is tugging on your heart to repent for something you have done, something you are doing, or is tugging on your heart to get right with Him or to come to Christ, make the decision to repent and trust His Holy Spirit right now. His Holy Spirit will empower you the ability to change your mind and turn a different direction. Why do I say do it right now? If you do not respond to His tugging, you can harden your heart and die in bondage to the evil desires of your heart and not experience freedom on this earth and you will not have eternal life.

So, if the Holy Spirit speaks to you, tugs on your heart that you need to change, you need to go a different direction, that you need to change the way you think, then right now would be a good time to say, God, help me to repent. Help me to turn around.

Well, I want to share with my non-Christian listeners, I am sure there are some who are not Christians that are listening. I want to speak to you. I want to speak to you if you are an atheist, you are agnostic, you are a pagan, you are a deist, you are agnostic, or you are of other religions than Christianity, I have some amazing news to you if you are listening. Whether you believe it or not, the God of the universe has kept you listening.

One of the main reasons, whether you admit it or not, that you reject God or Christianity is because of the word repentance. You have no desire to turn from your ways of sin. Many of you completely believe there is no such thing as a concept of sin. So, I will say it again, you have no desire to turn from your ways of sin, or you have no faith to believe you can turn away from sinful, bad actions or behavior. By the way, God will let you know that there is the concept of sin. So, listen, Christians have told you that you need to repent and accept Christ into your heart. So, you reject the message because of the word repent. I beg of you, please listen to me. Do not try to repent on your own. It will be a useless vain effort. It will only bring discouragement or unbelief. Instead, ask God if he is real to put the desire upon your heart to repent. Do not ask him to make you repent because he won't make you repent, that you have a free will. But ask him if he is real to you to reveal to you that what you are doing is sin and you need to turn from it and ask him to give you the desire to turn from it. Be sincere. If you are sincere, I will promise you that if you are sincere and you are

saying, God show me if what I am doing is sin, give me the ability to stop doing it. He will empower you and he can do an amazing work in your life and it is through the power of Jesus Christ. If he puts the desire to repent, you will know it. If he puts the desire to repent, then ask him to give you the ability to repent and to empower you to repent. I want to share a couple of Bible verses with you. Acts 3 19 in the Bible says, *Repent therefore and turn back, be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.*

Acts 2 38 says, *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.* Listen, you can get baptized but if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, baptism means nothing. So what you need to do is come to a place to say, God I am a sinner, I fall short, I need someone to give me the strength, the power to turn from my wicked ways and that Jesus Christ is that one and ask Jesus to give you the gift of his Holy Spirit and God will do an amazing work.

Well there is so much I want to cover, so little bit of time but what I want to do for now for sure is I want to pray for each of our listeners. I want to pray for you guys, I want to pray for myself too.

Lord God, I just thank you for every person that is listening to this broadcast. They didn't tune me out, they are still listening, so praise God for that. Listen, there is hope for eternal life, there is hope for life to be transformed. So, Lord God, will you instill that hope, that encouragement to each listener that they can be set free from whatever it is that they may be struggling with.

I want them to know Lord, will you please reveal to them, if they say no to sin and yes to God, some amazing things can happen because of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That through having a relationship with Jesus they can have eternal life, through Jesus they can have victory over sin. So, I pray Lord, soften hearts to be at a place to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Heavenly Father, I believe you are working in the hearts of those listening to this broadcast. You are calling Christians to live out a life of repentance, but what is even more exciting is that you are working in the hearts of individuals who in the past have rejected the gospel message. Right now you are giving them faith to believe in the message of repentance. You are giving them the faith to be able to believe that they can turn from their sins and turn to Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. And so Lord I believe you have instilled that in some that are listening and I want to pray for them right now. Lord, you know each person that is listening.

You know their story, you know their situation, you know their struggles, you know the battles they go through, you know the sin that takes control of their life. You know everything about them, you know everything about each of us. And I would just pray Father God right now that you would speak to our hearts to get right with you, to repent of whatever it is we need to repent of, to turn away from it.

Lord, will you empower us to turn away from it. Lord, I pray that you would speak to hearts to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. That they would say, Lord God I need you, I need

a Savior, I need a Deliverer, I need someone that can point me in the right direction, I need someone that can deliver me and set me free from the things that entangles me. And so Lord will you just minister to every single listener and will you reveal yourself to them. And we pray this in Jesus name, Amen.

Well we have come to the end of this broadcast. I know it was not as tough as you maybe thought it was, right? I hope so. I hope it was easier to swallow than maybe you thought it was or I thought it would be for you. But get ready for our next broadcast because I am going to be talking about public repentance. I'm going to talk about public repentance and I'm going to be very direct. I'm going to talk about the need for public repentance to take place in Fairfield Bay, Arkansas. If you want to see true healing in the community and if you want to see a move of God.

Listen, there needs to be true public repentance in every city in America. And I'm going to be doing some of my own public repentance in the broadcast. I'm going to talk more about that. Why is there the need of public repentance? What does public repentance look like? And I probably, I don't know, again, I don't have many minutes each week, but I want to address some of the things I think needs to be repented of here in Fairfield Bay. And I'm sure that there's some of the same sin that takes place in other cities.

Well, listen to me. I want you to know that there is hope for our communities and for our nations.

Just before we close out this broadcast, I want to mention to you that you can reach me by phone to receive prayer for you or someone else, to receive mentoring, or just to complain about this broadcast if you want. You can give me a call, PreacherRichD, give me a call at 1-866-WANT-GOD.

That is 1-866-WANT-GOD or 1-866-926-8463. Thank you for tuning in. You've been listening to PreacherRichD, the radio host of *There is Hope Radio* and the founder of *Creating Futures*.

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