

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2007**

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BELIEVERS

Message Twenty-Four

Their Present—Sanctified by the Spirit unto Repentance

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:2; Luke 15:8-10; John 16:8-11; Matt. 4:17; Acts 17:30; 26:20

I. The believers are sanctified, separated unto God, by the Spirit—1 Pet. 1:2:

- A. In 1 Peter 1:2 the sanctification of the Spirit is before justification through Christ's redemption.
- B. The sanctification of God the Spirit separates us from the world and causes us to turn to God so that we may belong to Him and enjoy His full salvation—Acts 20:21; 26:18, 20; Rom. 5:10.
- C. In eternity God chose us, making a decision to gain us; in time the Spirit comes to sanctify us, to set us apart, from the world so that we would obey Christ's redemption—Eph. 1:4-5; 1 Pet. 1:2:
 1. The Spirit comes to separate us for the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.
 2. This is the sanctifying work of the Spirit following God's selection to carry out God's choice and to bring us to Christ's redemption.
- D. The Spirit separates us unto God through seeking us by enlightening us, illustrated by the woman in the parable in Luke 15:8-10:
 1. The Spirit enlightens sinners so that they may repent.
 2. The lamp signifies the word of God used by the Spirit to enlighten and expose the sinner's position and condition so that he may repent—v. 8; Psa. 119:105, 130.
 3. The Spirit's seeking is inside, carried out by His working within us—Luke 15:8:
 - a. The word *sweep* indicates the searching and cleansing of the inside of a sinner.
 - b. The fact that the Spirit's finding us takes place within the "house" of our being reveals that we were lost in ourselves.
 - c. When we connect Acts 26:18 with Luke 15:8, we see that the enlightening of the Holy Spirit is to open people's eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God.
 - d. Through the Spirit's finding us by enlightening, we wake up, come to ourselves, and realize how foolish it is to stay where we are—v. 17.
 4. As a result of the Spirit's enlightening, we are separated to God and we repent; the repentance resulting from the enlightening of the Spirit is an inward matter—Acts 26:18, 20.

- E. The believers have been convicted by the Spirit concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment—John 16:8-11:
 1. One day the Spirit came to us to separate us unto God by convicting us concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.
 2. Through this convicting work of the Spirit, we were sanctified to God and we repented.
- II. After the believers are sanctified, separated unto God, by the Spirit, they repent—Mark 1:15; Matt. 3:2; 4:17; Acts 2:38; 11:18; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20:**
- A. This is portrayed by the second and third parables in Luke 15:
 1. The prodigal son’s waking up was due to the enlightening of the Holy Spirit signified by the woman with the lamp; his repentance was produced by the Spirit’s enlightenment—vv. 8, 17-19.
 2. In our experience the Holy Spirit came to seek us and enlighten us and thereby separate us unto God; this resulted in repentance, which is a change in our mind that produces a change in the direction of our life.
 - B. To repent is to have a change in our thinking, philosophy, and logic—Acts 17:30.
 - C. The believers have had a change of mind, a turn in their mind from the things other than God to God and His kingdom—Matt. 3:2; 4:17:
 1. On the negative side, to repent before God is to repent not only of our sins but also of the world and its corruption that usurp and corrupt the people whom God made for Himself and to repent of our God-forsaking life in the past.
 2. On the positive side, to repent is to turn to God in every way and in everything for the fulfilling of His purpose in creating mankind; this is “repentance unto God”—Acts 20:21; 2 Tim. 1:9.
 3. When we repented, we had not only a change of our mind but also a turn in our mind from everything other than God to God Himself.
 - D. To repent is to turn not only to God Himself but also to His kingdom, to His reign, and to place ourselves under His rule—Matt. 3:2; 4:17.
 - E. When we repented, we had an actual turn from all things, good and bad, to God Himself; this was a turn not only in mind but also in activity—Acts 14:15; 20:21; 26:20; 1 Thes. 1:9.
 - F. Our repentance straightens all the crooked places and smoothes all the rough places in our heart, making our entire being straight and smooth for God to come in to carry out His full salvation—Luke 3:3-6.
 - G. Repentance works in us in such a profound way that the result of repentance is that God gives us the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the divine inheritance—Acts 2:38; 26:18.
 - H. The believers’ repentance is according to the divine requirement for God’s New Testament economy—v. 20; 17:30.
 - I. Repentance is a gift given by the exalted Christ as Leader and Savior—5:31.
 - J. Repentance is a crucial item of the proclamation of God’s New Testament economy; in our preaching, we must emphasize repentance, proclaiming repentance for the forgiveness of sins—Luke 24:47-48.