



Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church
1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

www.ForestHomeChurch.org

March 13th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: newsletter@foresthomechurch.org

Is Repentance the Road Less Travelled?



*The beginning of the year we considered the theme: Why Resolve When We can Repent? At that time it was shown that repentance is a turning to God, not just for the beginning of the Christian life but throughout. It is about orientation and reorientation to the Lord, daily. We could say that it's **turning up**, and figuring (alas inviting) the Lord into every breathing moment. In what follows, I want to offer for meditation the thoughts of Mark Driscoll, one of the pastors of Mars Hill Church in Seattle. The approach considers some common things that masquerade as repentance. LH*

Driscoll on What is repentance not?

Mere Confession

It's not mere confession, where you just say you did it and then keep doing it. Some of you are married to that person. "Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry." You're not really sorry. Repentance is changing, not just confessing that you need to.

Religious Repentance

Number two, true repentance is not religious repentance. Religious repentance is where you see everybody else's sin. And you repent of everyone else's sin. It's dealing with your own sin. Jesus tells the story: two men go into the temple to pray. One says, "God, thank you that I'm better than everyone else." That's religious repentance. ... True repentance is an acknowledgement of my sin, my need for God's grace, my need for God's service and help and salvation... I might encourage you toward repentance, but my job is not to be preoccupied with your sin. I'm preoccupied with my own and have plenty to deal with.

Worldly Sorrow

Additionally, number three, true repentance is not worldly sorrow. Paul tells the Corinthians that they are practicing worldly sorrow or the ESV will call it worldly grief. This is where you feel bad, but you don't change. The Holy Spirit doesn't come in. There's not a new heart. Not a new life. Not new desires. Not a new Lord. And the result is you feel bad. And non-Christians feel bad, and we have this sort of confessional where if you do a bad thing, and you're a celebrity, you go on TV, you sit with Barbara Walters, or Oprah, or you sit on the View or with Larry King, and you cry and you say you feel bad, and then you make a large donation to some charitable organization. And everybody says, "Well, they felt bad, glad that's over." That's not repentance. That's worldly sorrow. You feel bad. But you don't change.

Pagan Repentance

Number four. It is not pagan repentance. Pagan repentance is where you're repenting so that God will bless you. The pagans would try and manipulate God to bless them. So you say, "I want to be healthy. I want to be rich. I want to be successful. I want to get married. I want my kids to obey. I'll repent, I'll tell God I'm sorry so then he'll give me something." That's pagan repentance. That's trying to manipulate God to be good. God is good and does not need to be manipulated.

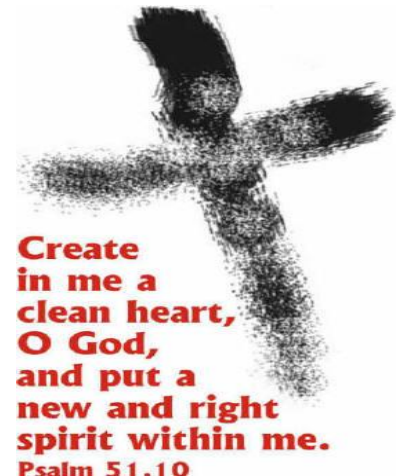
General Repentance

Number five. It is not general repentance. General repentance is where someone commits a sin and you say, "Look, you did this, this was wrong and it hurt some people, you need to fix it." And then they'll generally repent, "Yeah, well, nobody's perfect, we all make mistakes." No, it's specific repentance of specific things.

Excuse-Making

And lastly, number six, it is not excuse-making. "I sin because my genetics predisposed me toward alcoholism, or gluttony, or anger. I'm Italian, we get angry. I'm Greek, we get angry. I'm Spanish, we get angry. I'm Irish, we get angry." It's amazing how every group has this exception clause. "Well, you know, this is my personality." Now we have personality types. "My personality is unpleasant and mean and harsh. And that's my personality type." You know? "There's ENTP, ENTJ, I'm a J-E-R-K. That's my personality type."

We come up with all— Sometimes it is very simple excuses. It starts when you're a child. You'll see this with children. "Why did you hit them?" "They made me hit them." "Really? They like took your fist and punched themselves in the face?" "No. They had a toy that I wanted so I punched them." "Well, they didn't technically make you hit them." It starts when we're little. We have excuses. We blame shift. We shift the burden to others. We change the subject. Repentance says, "No, I'm a sinner. That's true. I need to change. Sorry about that. Please forgive me. Jesus forgives me. Help me. Jesus, help me. I want to change, deeply want to change.



**Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10**

Prayer

For the last several decades, John Stott (2nd to Billy Graham as most known preacher in the world) has started his day at 5 a.m. with a prayer along the lines of the following.

Good morning, heavenly Father; good morning, Lord Jesus; good morning, Holy Spirit. Heavenly Father, I worship you as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Lord Jesus, I worship you, Savior and Lord of the world. Holy Spirit, I worship you, Sanctifier of the people of God. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more. Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you. Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me. Amen.

Prayers & Praises

- Our brothers/sisters in Africa: Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Lisa Grimenstein in her time of Pregnancy and the health of the baby
- Travel mercies for Azad to Detroit & Bryan & Isaac to Africa
- Thanks that Your mercies are new every morning
- Lord strengthen many in the body suffering with the flu and allergies
- Lord's next level for Tommy's —Next Right Step Ministry
- Guidance and grace on several in job transitions
- May Larry's brother continue to recover well from surgery
- Lord grant keen vision for Jim McAlister's writing
- Thank You Lord for the elders; please continue to pour on them Your wisdom
- Lord we pray and work for the good of our city and country
- Great Shepherd remember our wandering loved ones with your relentless love
- May the lengthening of days see the deepening of love
- Bless with wisdom those in counseling ministry
- Healing for Dawn Costello's recently married father
- Lord prepare the hearts for Frank's prison & neighborhood work
- Grant us the repentance that leads to Life
- Teach us Lord to turn and become like children before You

- Hope is the ability to hear the music of God's future. Faith is the courage to dance it today. -William Frey
- I came to understand that sin is not a matter of morality or conduct, but a state or orientation of a man's entire consciousness which does not make God its center. -Arthur McGill
- Humility does not mean you think less of yourself; it means you think of yourself less. -Ken Blanchard
- When within us we have nothing above us we soon succumb to what is around us.
- Bible searching and searching prayer go hand in hand. What we receive from God in the Book's message we return to him with interest in prayer. - Peter Forsythe
- Don't be humble, you're not that great. -Golda Meir, former Prime Minister of Israel
- Humility, that low, sweet root, From which all heavenly virtues shoot. -Thomas More
- What we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place... Modesty has settled upon the organ of conviction; where it was never meant to be. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. . . . We are on the road to producing a race of man too mentally modest to believe in the multiplication table. - GK Chesterton



- There is no room for God in him who is full of himself. --Martin Buber
- We have forgotten the gracious hand which has preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving Grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. --Abraham Lincoln
- There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of even one small candle. - C.S. Lewis
- A candle loses nothing of its light by lighting another candle. - James Keller
- God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. - James 4:6

Lent for 2011 is March 9 – April 23. Ash Wednesday on March 9 starts this 40 week day season of self examination, repentance and reflecting on Jesus in preparation for celebrating Jesus' Resurrection on

CLASSES AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE @ FOREST HOME:
Classes begin at 9 am. Worship begins at 10 am.

Grades and ages break down as follow:

Pre-K – Kindergarten

1st grade – 4th grade

5th grade and up

Prayer is the News! Time of Prayer at FH church
 Monday and Thursday 5:30 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

DATE	NURSERY (Infants to 2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER PREP
Mar 13 Mar 20 Mar 27	Cecile Allen Jane Ann Myers Lois McAlister	Mar Allens Apr/May Grimensteins	Mar 16 Pat/Karen Mar 23 Sarah/Kathleen Mar 30 Lisa/Liz
		(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim G. with questions.	

2011 Calendar

EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM @ the church Intercessory prayer for anyone
 EACH TUES 6:30 am @ the church, Men's Ministry
 EACH WED 5:00 pm @ the church, Women's Bible Study
 March 10 Bryan & Isaac go to Togo
 Mar 9-Apr 23 Lent