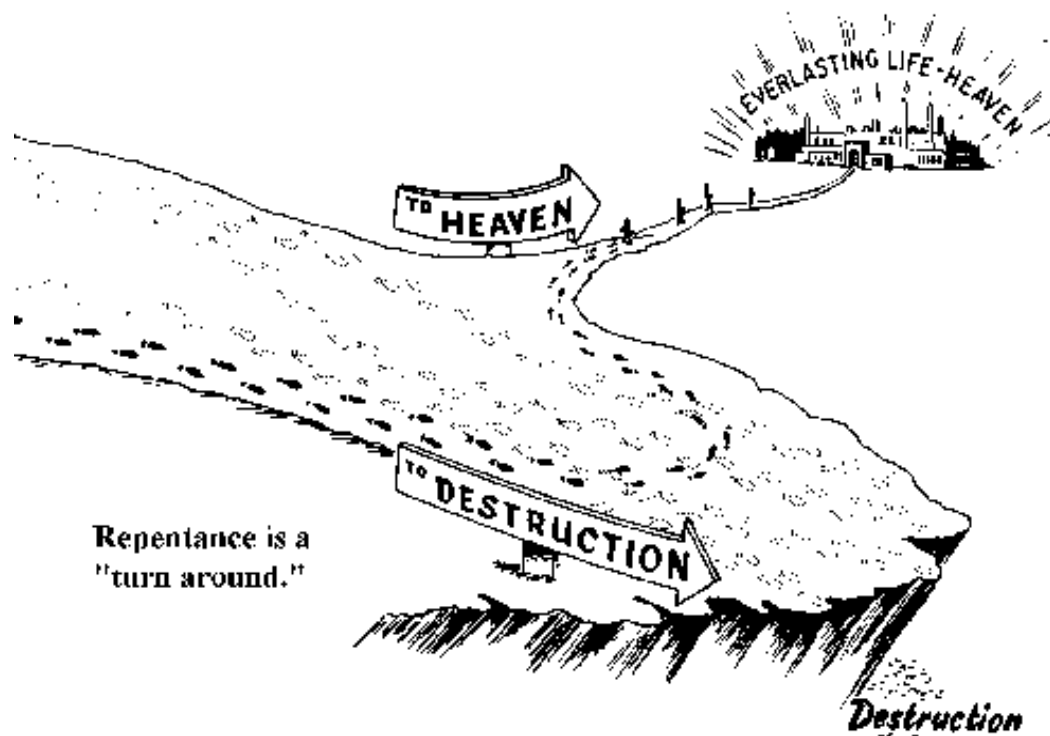


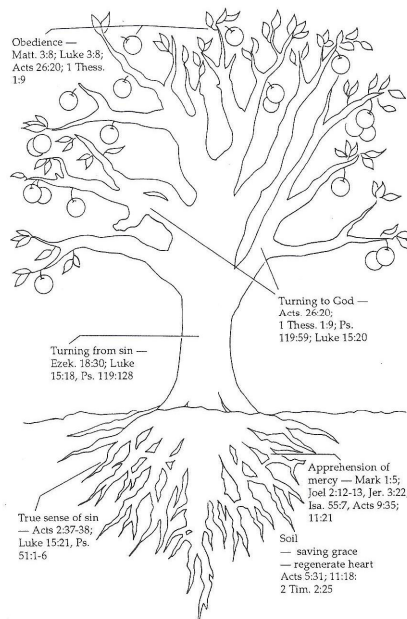
BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD GAVE US REPENTANCE (I)!

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavour after new obedience, so says the Westminster Larger Catechism Q76.



In God's sovereignty, He calls and regenerates you. As a result, you will convert (repent of your sins and to have faith in Jesus Christ). Regeneration is inseparable from its effects – repentance and faith. Without being born again, it is spiritually impossible for you to repent of your sins and believe in Christ. But when you are regenerated, it is spiritually impossible for you not to repent and not to believe in Christ. Faith and repentance always go hand in hand, they always go together. They are twins. Or sometimes, we say that they are husband and wife -- Mr. and Mrs. Faith (Madam Repentance). *Repentance* is the vomiting out of our sins, while *Faith* is the eating of the Bread of Life.

Today, we will focus on *Repentance*, using the Westminster Larger Catechism quoted above as a guide and the picture of the tree as an aid:



[1] The Soil Of True Repentance.

Like anything that is good and true, there is a *true repentance* and there is a *false repentance*. We are of course interested in *true repentance*, but we cannot avoid mentioning something about *false repentance* as we go along. Here we are looking at the soil out of which the tree of *true repentance* will grow and flourish.

- **Acts 5:31**~ *Him (referring to Jesus Christ) God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*
- **Acts 11:18** ~ *When they heard these things, they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."*
- **2 Timothy 2:25** ~ *In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.*

These three passages teach us that *repentance* is a gift from God, that it is God who grants *repentance* to men. That is why the definition given above correctly points out that *repentance* is a *saving grace*. The word "grace" means God's favour given to undeserving, hell-deserving sinners.

No man is able, by himself, to produce *true repentance*. Therefore, in the grace of God, He has given to some men *repentance*, enabling them to truly turn from their sins that they may have life. We see therefore that *repentance* is a saving grace. The grace of God is the soil out of which the tree of *True Repentance* grows and flourishes.