

## Course Correction (#1)

Do you remember when you learned how to drive a car? Didn't you quickly learn that to keep a car on the road you must constantly correct your direction? In Scripture there is a similar process; it's called "Repentance".

To most people "repentance" – like the word "sin" – is just an old fashioned expression. But God predetermined that repentance (like sin) should never lose its significance. As long as the earth remains and the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, the need for human repentance will be emphasized. Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, repentance, then, is a necessary course correction for salvation in Christ (Rom 3:23; Matt 9:13; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38). Even Christians must repent (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

Repentance means "to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction (Strong's). Compunction is a feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed). But repentance is more than just an attitude. True repentance results in a practical, visible change in one's behavior (Read Jonah 3:10; Matt 12:41; Luke 3:7-14; Acts 26:19-20). Repentance must be an important matter to God, since it is mentioned over 900 times in the Bible. Here are a few examples:

1. It is needed to overcome sinful ignorance (Acts 17:30).
2. It is essential to blotting out sins (Acts 3:19).
3. It was the first subject in Jesus' public ministry (Matt 4:17).
4. It was the last subject Jesus discussed (Rev 3:19-21).
5. It is a matter of utmost urgency: repent or perish (Luke 13:1-5).
6. It results from "hearing" the Scripture (Luke 16:19-31).

So we must heed what the Scriptures teach us about repentance; it is demanded by God. We will have more on this subject next month.

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.