

Ephesians 5:3-21 ESV

# The \$1,000,000 Question: Are You Repentant?

Sunday, August 16 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, August 17 at 7 PM  
12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2015

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: We have sinned, which made us deserving of hell; so God, *through Jesus*, took action to make the way to heaven. Jesus did *everything necessary* for everyone, *but heaven is open only to the repentant*.

So, *the one million dollar question*: Are YOU repentant; thus, are you sorry for all your sins and trusting in Jesus Christ alone as your Savior? If you said “yes,” let’s learn ♦what is *wrong* and ♦what is *right* for Christians (Ephesians 5:3-21).

1. **Let Us Not Be Deceived, Sin Without Repentance Will Result in God’s Wrath:**
  - a. Don’t be associated with sin: <sup>3</sup> **But sexual immorality** [*Πορνεία*] **and all impurity** [*uncleanness*] **or covetousness** [*greediness*] **must not even be named among you** [*or associated with you*], **as is proper** [*fitting*] **among saints.** // Repentant ones are saints or holy ones in God’s sight, so there should be no connection between *Christians* and the sins of *sex, uncleanness, and greed*.
  - b. Don’t talk about sin: <sup>4</sup> **Let there be no filthiness** [*shamefulness*] **nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.** // Those who *talk about sin* are *drawing close to falling into sin*, so Christians should focus on their blessings and give thanks!

- c. Don't participate in sin: <sup>5</sup> **For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure** [*unclean*], **or who is covetous (that is, an idolater)** [*who makes money his god*], **has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and [of] God.** // Sin – to be *associated with it* is bad, to *talk about it* is worse, to *participate in it* **without repentance** will result in eternal condemnation!
- d. Don't be deceived about sin: <sup>6</sup> **Let no one deceive you with empty** [*meaningless*] **words, for because of [such] things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.** // There are many today who *claim to speak for God* yet they *endorse* ♦sexual sin, ♦uncleanness, and ♦the desire for money. But **don't believe them**, or *participate with them*, **because** the wrath of God will come upon all who *remain* unrepentant!

## 2. **Knowing the Great Danger of Unrepentant Sin, Let Us Live as Christians:**

- a. <sup>7</sup> **Therefore do not become partners** [*sharers*] **with them** [*in their sin and punishment*]; <sup>8</sup> **for at one time** [*apart from Christ*] **you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** [*live as who you are*] <sup>9</sup> **(for the fruit** [*the result, the outcome of being children*] **of light is found in all that is good and right and true),** <sup>10</sup> **and try to discern** [*to learn*] **what is pleasing to the Lord.** // In modern America, *like ancient Ephesus*, sin is common, so *temptation is ever-before us!* Therefore, **by God's guidance and power**, let us **not** join in their *sin* and *punishment*, **but** live as *who we are* in Christ!

- b. Don't participate in their sins: <sup>11</sup> **Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them** [or bring their sins to light]. [Don't talk about their sins to understand them better:] <sup>12</sup> **For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.** <sup>13</sup> **But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,** <sup>14</sup> **for anything** [thus any sin] ~~that becomes visible~~ **[having been made known] is light** [then the Holy Spirit can use such visible sins to lead people to sorrow and faith]. **Therefore** [a well-known phrase] **says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."** // Dr. Kretzmann has this quote from the Expositor's Greek Testament: "...these Christians were not at liberty to deal lightly with such sins... or be silent about them, but had to speak out against them and hold them up to rebuke, with the view of bringing their heathen neighbors to... forsake [their sins].... [Then he made this comment on the well-known phrase:] **At God's call the Christian should... call out to his unbelieving, godless neighbor: With your sins you are lying in spiritual sleep, death, and destruction. Therefore arise from sleep, arise from the dead; repent, be converted (NT II:285)! Then the Spirit will work to bring sorrow and give faith!**
3. **Let Us Examine Our Lives; Then Honor the Lord:**
- a. <sup>15</sup> **Look carefully** [or accurately] **then how you walk** [how you live], **not as unwise** [or foolish] **but as wise,** <sup>16</sup> **making the best use of the time** [by immediately seizing every opportunity to live for

*Christ and call others to repent], because the days are evil.* <sup>17</sup> **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. //**

Through Jesus we are saved, *but we are not yet in heaven.* Why? The Lord wants us to ✨live for Him and ✨call others to repent! That is God's Word to us, *but what are many doing today?* They have become masters at making excuses about why they should abandon God's ways to indulge in their own ways☹️. We are all clever; our reasoning can make sense, *but let us repent!*

- b. <sup>18</sup> **And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery** [*excessive indulgence to gain a particular feeling*], **but be filled with the Spirit** [*for these purposes*], <sup>19</sup> **addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,** <sup>20</sup> **giving thanks** always and for everything to **God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,** <sup>21</sup> **submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**Conclusion:** Today's sermon is filled with instructions for the repentant – *those who are sorry for their sins and trust in Jesus alone as their Savior.* Repentant ones desire, *according to their new nature,* to know and follow God's will for their lives. Therefore, *rejoicing in our Lord Jesus Christ,* let us go forth to live God's Word! And all God's people said: **Amen!**

**Response:** God's words are *full and true,* but the words of the world are *hollow and false.* Dear Lord, please show me wherever I am putting my ways over Your ways; then make me sorry, assure me of Your forgiveness, and help me to live so that You are honored in every circumstance. Amen!

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