

Can Anyone Be Saved Without Repentance?

Focus: Why repentance is necessary and how God calls all people to turn and live.

Key Verse: *“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”* — Luke 13:3

Text: NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends: Will God welcome you into heaven? If you said “Yes,” why? I’ve heard many answers over the years:

- I have done my best to keep the Ten Commandments!
- I work hard and help my neighbors!
- I attend worship and give money!

Those are all good things, but will they get us into heaven?

Today’s key question: Can anyone be saved without repentance? *Let’s find the right answers by digging into God’s holy word!*

1. **Two Tragic Situations:** **Luke 13:1–5**¹ ...on that very occasion there were some present who reported to [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. // What does that mean? Men had sinned, so they brought animals to be sacrificed by the priests. While the sacrifices were being done, Pilate sent Roman soldiers to put the men offering their sacrifices to death – *mixing their blood with the blood of the animals.*

- a. Jesus Responded to the News: ² ... “**Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans just because they have suffered this fate** [dying as they did]? ³ **No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**”
 - i. We tend to be like those who brought the report: Since those men suffered a tragic death, *we assume they did something to deserve it!* Is that why Charlie Kirk was assassinated – he did something to deserve it? **No!**
 - ii. **Isaiah prophesied that people would think the same of Jesus:** “...we ourselves assumed that He [Jesus] had been afflicted, Struck down by God, and humiliated [because of His sins]” (**53:4**), yet we know Jesus is our sinless substitute (Heb. 4:15).
- b. Jesus Gave Another Example: ⁴ **Or do you think that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse offenders than all the other people who live in Jerusalem?** ⁵ **No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**” // Twice Jesus made it crystal clear: “**unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**” // So, can anyone be saved without repentance? The answer is “**No!**”

- 2. **Dead Men Walking:** Acts 2:36–40 – It was 50 days after Easter in Jerusalem. When many people – *dead in their sins* – were drawn together by a **loud noise**, *Peter used the OT to teach them about Jesus*. Then he said...

- a. Peter’s Sermon Conclusion: ³⁶ **Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made**

Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” // *The H.S. enabled them to understand.*

- b. Like Dead Men: ³⁷ **Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart** [made contrite, filled with godly sorrow], and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what are we to do?” // 53 days earlier – on Good Friday, *they had rejected Jesus to be the Messiah!* But now, *by the Holy Spirit,* ➔ they knew the horrible truth, ➔ were filled with godly sorrow, and ➔ cried out: “...what are we to do?”
- c. Hope for the Hopeless: ³⁸ **Peter said to them, “Repent [believe in Jesus], and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...”** // When Peter said, “**Repent,**” they were already contrite, so Peter was calling them to **trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins!**

3. **More Calls to Repent:**

- a. The LORD Said: **Ezekiel 33:11** ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure at all in the death of the wicked [in seeing them enter eternal punishment], but rather that the wicked turn from his way [that is, repent] and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! // Even today, the LORD is pleading with everyone: **REPENT, REPENT, REPENT!!!**
- b. The Beginning of Jesus’ Ministry: **Matthew 4:17** ...Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”
- c. Paul’s Great Sermon on Mars Hill: It’s in **Acts 17:22-31** – *I encourage you to read it and think about it!* Paul told them about God’s greatness – *creating and*

sustaining all things! Then he concluded with these words: **“So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent, [WHY?] because He has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed [that is, JESUS], having furnished proof to all people by raising Him from the dead.”**

4. **So, Again, What Is Repentance?** *“...a change of mind leading to a change of behavior...”* (BW, Friberg).
 - a. How does God change our minds and work contrition? By the Holy Spirit working through **God’s word of Law**. Are you open to God’s Law?
 - b. How does God convert us and change our behavior? By the Holy Spirit working through **God’s word of Gospel**. Are you open to God’s Gospel?

Conclusion:

- Those who refuse repentance – *reject God’s word* – harden their hearts and will perish apart from God.
- God’s warnings are acts of mercy, calling even the hardened to turn and live.

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, we have certainly condemned ourselves and are helpless to fix our dreadful situation. Therefore, we are so grateful for ➔Your work through ➔Your word to lead us to repentance!

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