

Answers to Sermon Notes

Life Action Redux/Warm Up #3: "Repentance"

I Corinthians 6:9-11

5/8/22

1. I don't know if you have noticed it or not, but our **language** is changing.
 - a. I am not referring to whatever the latest word is for what used to be called **groovy** or **awesome**, or bad or...
 - b. I am referring to the elimination of words that our culture seems to have **no use** for.
 - i. Words like, "**husband**," and, "**wife**."
 - ii. We have simply decided that the **boundaries** these two words establish are **too restrictive**.
2. These changes are not just occurring in the society around us, they are also occurring in the **church**.
 - a. A similar thing seems to have happened to the word, "**repent**."
 - b. More familiar are words like **believe**, receive, **accept**.
 - c. **Repentance**, similarly, has become a bit too **restrictive**.
3. But, while the word may seem **antiquated** (more of an OT word/concept than a NT word/concept), and not in line with the **loving** message of Jesus, the biblical evidence for such notions is non-**existent**.
 - a. Repentance is more a **NT** concept than an **OT** concept. (**459%** more frequent).
 - b. Jesus not only puts it at the **center** of his **message** (Matthew 4:17),
 - c. he indicates that it is to be a **state** of **being** for those he delivers from darkness. (Luke 5:32)
 - i. This is what Martin Luther was referring to in his **first thesis**.
 - a. "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' he intended that the **entire life** of believers should be repentance."
 - d. So, despite the modern church's **aversion** to the word, **repentance** is at the center of the faith, and we really need to know what it is and what it means.
4. Though our text today is **short**, and though the word, "**repent**," is not even used in it, it holds for us five **critical** things that we need to know about repentance.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

5. The first critical thing this text shows us about repentance is that repentance is **change** – a change of **direction**.
 - a. Repentance is **turning** from darkness to light, from **sin** to righteousness.
 - i. When Paul refers to the unrighteous in verse 9, he is not referring to those who have not, "**accepted** Jesus," he is referring to those who **practice** unrighteousness.
 - ii. Even as he makes clear in **Romans** 2:1-11.
 - iii. As does **our Lord** in places like Matthew 7:21-23.
 - b. While many think of this as, "**works** righteousness," and speak much of, "**grace**," they **deny** the clear teachings of scripture that without the living testimony of one's **sanctification** there is no proof of their **justification**. (James 2:14)
 - c. This doesn't mean that we are **perfect**; it means we are ever-**striving**. (Philippians 3:10-15)

6. The second critical thing this text shows us about repentance is **necessary**.
 - a. It is necessary in order to **inherit** the kingdom of heaven.
 - i. This means, “to be **saved**.”
 - b. This is why it is so important that we not be **deceived**. (vs. 9)
 - i. We cannot **indulge** in sin and **enjoy** the salvation of Christ at the same time.
 - ii. “**Sin** is not **safe**.”
7. The third critical thing this text shows us about repentance is **possible**.
 - a. More and more, there are **voices** teaching that this kind of biblical repentance is **not possible**, and not to be **expected**.
 - b. But, if it is not possible, **how** could all of these people have **experienced** it? (vs. 11)
 - i. And how could God **require** it?
 - c. The **scriptures** are clear that turning from sin is possible. (II Peter 1:3-4, I Corinthians 10:13)
 - d. We must draw upon the **Spirit** that he has given us. (Romans 8:1-11)
8. The fourth critical thing this text shows us about repentance is **personal**.
 - a. Each of us has a **story** – a **history** with sin.
 - b. Each of us has things that we are particularly **susceptible** to.
 - c. Just because it is OK for **others** doesn’t mean it is OK for **you**.
 - i. If it leads you to sin, you must **remove** it. (Matthew 5:27-30, Matthew 18:7-9)
 - d. You are **responsible** for your fight against sin.
 - i. You must take it **seriously**.
 - ii. You must employ whatever **methods** are necessary.
9. The fifth critical thing this text shows us about repentance is **beautiful**. (vs. 11)
 - a. The work of God in our sanctification is beautiful and leads to **peace**, **joy**, and blessing.
 - b. Those who are **sanctified** are beautiful people, with beautiful **stories**.
 - i. Patient, careful, caring, honest, brave, worshipful, humble, sacrificial, loving...
 - ii. Sanctified people are **Christlike** people.
10. I don’t know if you have noticed it or not, but our language, the language of the church is **changing**.
 - a. But, the eternal word of God **remains** the **same**.
 - b. Let us answer the Lord’s call, who came to call **sinners** to **repentance**.