

Repentance – Light and Darkness

This study highlights what life in God’s kingdom should be and should not be. The good news of the kingdom of God is that we are called to and can live a life out of the world of sin and in the light with God – good news indeed!

1 Peter 2:9-10

God’s kingdom is a kingdom of light – this is new and amazing, a kingdom where sin is absent and God’s love and power and mercy set the stage

To live in the light we need to repent – turn from darkness and sin and go the other direction, toward God and life in harmony with God’s ways

Every person alive is either in the light or the darkness (part of the kingdom of God or the Kingdom of the world)

Fill in the diagram highlighting the truths about light and darkness from 1 Peter 2:9-10

Darkness –Kingdom of the world (where people are lost/not saved)	Light - Kingdom of God (where people are found/saved)

Ephesians 2:1-3

This is written to Christians in the city of Ephesus – at one time they were in the darkness because their sins “killed” them spiritually – they were lost, not saved

Sin is the universal problem of man – write the word “sin” on the sketch below as a visualization of how it separates us from God

Darkness – without God	What separates	Light with God
Man		God’s presence

Ephesians 2:4-9

Here we see God highlighting the good news
 Because of his Great love for us
 God who is rich in mercy (or pardon)
 Will make us alive in Jesus (our Savior)
 God’s grace or undeserved favor saves us
 It is a gift that we cannot earn and do not deserve
 That is why it is such Good news

Apart from God’s grace – shown in Jesus – is there any reason you deserve to be forgiven of your sins? Is there any amount of money or good deeds you can give God as an acceptable payment for the sins you have committed?

Based Eph 2:1-9 write a sentence about what you see and feel about the good news of Jesus and how it relates to you and your sin?

Colossians 3:1-14
 In these verses we see contrasting ways of thinking and living
 One is in agreement with the Kingdom of God and the light
 One is in agreement with the kingdom of the world and darkness

Make a list of all the things that should NOT exist in the Kingdom of God and next to that a list of what should exist in this kingdom of light from Colossians 3:1-14

Should NOT be in the Kingdom of God	Should be in God’s kingdom

Which kingdom would you rather live in? Do you see the good news?

Gal 5:19-21
 These verses paint a similar picture to the ones in Colossians –here God mentions a person’s “sinful nature” – this is what we struggle with on a regular/daily basis. We commit many sins in our life but there are a core few that are a daily challenge.

God says those who live like this will not be in His kingdom – this highlights an initial informed decision to repent and then an ongoing repentance decision for life

From the list in Gal 5:19-21 think about the sins have you committed in your life that have gotten between you and God? What do you see as your sinful nature – the sins you battle with daily?

James 4:17
 Complete repentance is more than just a list of things we should stop doing
 It is also to start doing Godly things that God calls us to do.

Matthew 28:18-20
 God calls us to go and make disciples of others – to share this good news with others – it is an active thing we need to start doing.

How do you feel about going and sharing the good news with other people?

What challenges can you see needing to overcome to share the good news regularly for the rest of your life?

What are some other examples of things a person who repents will start doing?

Have you made an informed and complete repentance decision, one that is for your whole life as you respond to the good news about Jesus and the Kingdom of God?

What do you see being the most challenging part of that decision?

What will help the most as you repent and give your whole heart to God?

Write your name –
list any sin you have done
throughout your life

Jesus
list any sins Jesus' has done
in his life

Now cross out your name and write Jesus over your list of sins then cross out Jesus and write your name over his list of sins - imagine how Jesus has offered to take your sins away on the cross –

how do you feel about the Good News?

When you think about the reality that God cannot tolerate sin in his presence, 1 John 1:5 God is light in him there is no darkness at all - – why does this make sense?