

Pre-Passover2020 Themes

John the Baptist was given (before birth) a mission to prepare people **before** the ministry of Jesus. (Luke 1)
In our Christian walk ... there was a time at the “beginning” of our seeking God in our life



Mat 3:7 But when he (*John the Baptist*) saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his **baptism**, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who **warned** you to **flee** from the **wrath** to come?"

Mat 3:8 Therefore bear **fruits** worthy of **repentance**

- ie proper **fruits** of reforming... the proper **evidence** that you are sincere.
- ie Do not bring your cunning and dissimulation (concealment of one's thoughts, feelings, or character) to this work;
- Ie do not carry your hypocrisy into your professed repentance, but evince your sincerity... by forsaking **sin**
- **Fruits** – Conduct See [Mat 7:16-19](#).
- **Meet for repentance** - Fit for repentance; appropriate to it the proper expression of repentance.

3:7 With **the Pharisees and Sadducees** it was a different story. When they came to listen to him, John knew that they were not sincere. He recognized their true nature: **the Pharisees** professed great devotion to the law, but they were inwardly corrupt, sectarian, hypocritical, and self-righteous; **the Sadducees** were social aristocrats and religious skeptics who denied such basic doctrines as the resurrection, the existence of angels, the immortality of God's chosen. Therefore he denounced both sects as a **brood of vipers**, who pretended to desire to escape **from the wrath to come**, but exhibited no signs of true repentance.

3:8 He challenged them to prove their sincerity by bearing **fruits worthy of repentance**. **True repentance**, “amounts to nothing whatever if it produces only a few tears, a spasm of regret, a little fright. We must leave the sins we repent of & walk in the new, clean ways of holiness.

- It's not simply a matter of getting dunked," John warned. "It's a way of living. If your repentance is sincere, fruit will be produced in your life
- **Mat 21:32** For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw *it*, you did not afterward relent and believe him.



Warning ... needed by everyone

- **Rom 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- **Jer 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, & desperately wicked: who can know it?
- **Gen 6:12** And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.
- **Job 15:14-16** What *is* man, that he should be clean? and *he which is* born of a woman, that he should be righteous? **15** Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. **16** **How much more abominable and filthy *is* man, which drinketh iniquity like water?** (2Sam 23, 1Chr 11)
- **Jer 6:10** To whom shall I speak and give **warning**, That they may hear? Indeed their ear *is* uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it.
- **Eze 3:17-18** "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them **warning** from **Me**: **18** When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

Flee

- **Deu 28:25** The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and **flee** seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.
- **1Co 6:18** **Flee** fornication.
- **Pro 14:7** **Go** from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not *in him* the lips of knowledge.
- **2Ti 2:22** **Flee** also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.





Wrath

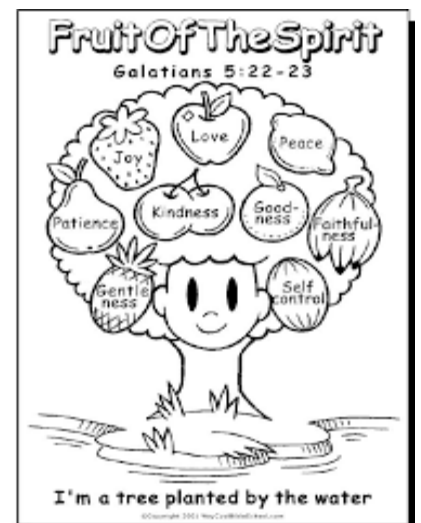
- **Nah 1:2-6** God *is* jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and *is* furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies; 3 The LORD *is* slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit *the wicked*. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds *are* the dust of His feet. 4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and

Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts. 5 The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. 6 Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.

- **Eze 25:17** I will execute great vengeance on them (*Philistines*) with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I lay My vengeance upon them."
- **Mat 10:28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- **Heb 10:31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Fruits

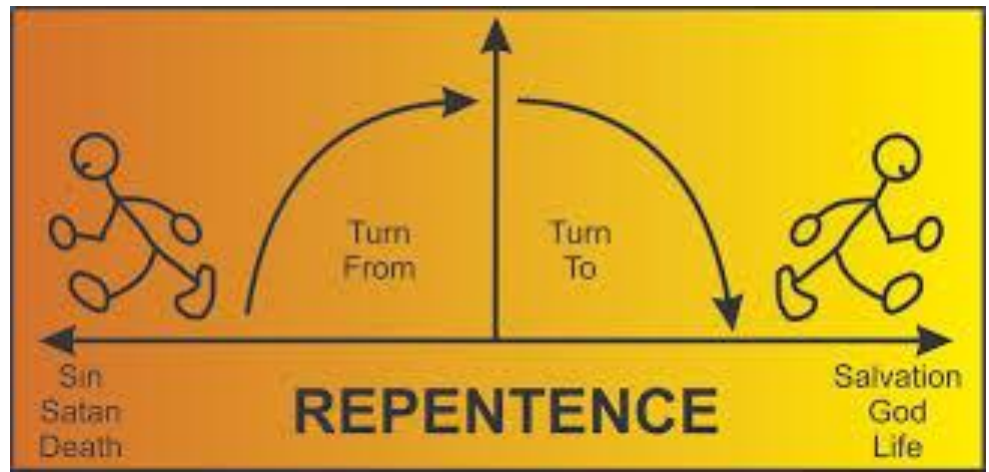
- **Mat 7:15-20** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will **know them by their fruits**. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.
- **Gal 5:22-23** But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.



Jer 6:19 Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people— The fruit of their **thoughts**, Because they have not heeded My words Nor My law, but rejected it.

Repentance

- Mat 3:5-6 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him (*John the Baptist*) 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.



What Is REAL Repentance?

Who Needs To REPENT?



- **Recognize** —
(i.e. Acknowledge your Sin)
- **Remorseful** -
(i.e. Regret & Grieve Over Sin)
- **Resolve** —
(i.e. Change Your Mind)
- **Reform** —
(i.e. Change Your Lifestyle)
- **Restore** —
(i.e. Make Amends If Possib

Sin = 1Jn 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, & sin is lawlessness. **Jas 4:17** Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin. **1Jn 5:17** All unrighteousness is sin

Act 2:36-38 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that

God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." **37** Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

- ERV - ... they felt very, very sorry
- HCSB - ... they came under deep conviction
- Knox - ... their consciences were stung

Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Rick Thomas.NET

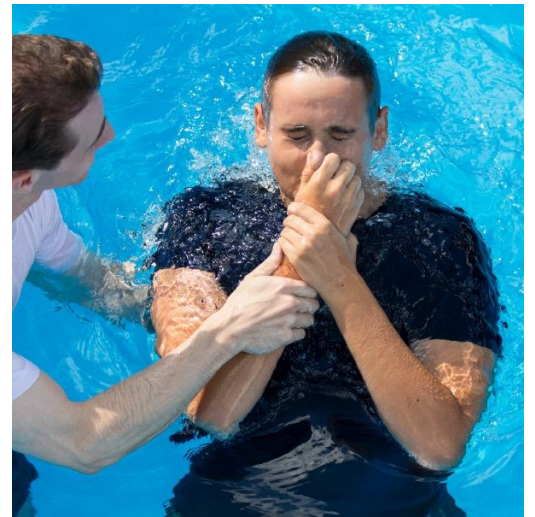
- ① FREEDOM FROM YOUR SIN
- ② REMOVAL OF ALL GUILT
- ③ REGRETS BEGIN TO DISAPPEAR
- ④ CLEANSSES YOUR CONSCIENCE
- ⑤ SOVEREIGN CLARITY ABOUT PAST
- ⑥ RESOLVES PERSONAL CONFLICT
- ⑦ MATURES YOUR RELATIONSHIPS
- ⑧ SECOND CHANCE TO DO BETTER
- ⑨ PROVIDES A CHRISTLIKE FUTURE

Co 7:10 For **godly sorrow produces repentance** leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2Co 7:11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing of yourselves, *what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Baptism ... (More than one?)

- **Mar 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
- **Act 19:1-6** And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples **2** he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" **3** So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." **3** And he said to them, "**Into what then were you baptized?**" So they said, "Into John's baptism." **4** Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." **5** When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.
- **Luk 12:49-51** "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! **50** But **I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!** **51** Do *you* suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.
 - **Mat 20:22** But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." **23** So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared by My Father."
- **Rom 6:3-6** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death?** **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old man was **crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.



The Church puts great emphasis on "counting the Cost" **before** baptism

Luk 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

It is unclear if this is the same as John the Baptist seeking fruit of repentance?

- Do we have much evidence of "change" **before** our baptism or does it follow? (as we have the Holy Spirit inside us ... not simply as a guide before baptism)



To review ... John the Baptist said...

Mat 3:7-8 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Mat 3:8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance

And he went on to say ...

Mat 3:9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Mat 3:10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Mat 3:12 His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Jesus identifies who is called ... (the call goes out to all!)

John 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself."

Those who are baptised, have a personal invitation to participate in the Lord's supper.

In 2020, let's prepare for this annual renewal of our covenant with Christ!