

**REPENT
AND
BELIEVE**

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“REPENT ye and believe the gospel.”
The Lord Jesus Christ says this to us, as surely as He said it to sinners long ago.

Are we **sinners**? Most certainly we are, because we disobey God’s Commandments. God says about everybody: “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23. We sin even in our *desires*. Just one stray thought from God’s law is sin, for Jesus said, “Whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery already with her in his heart,” Matthew 5:28.

The seriousness of all this is that God *condemns* our sinful acts and

thoughts, and that we stand guilty before Him. More serious still, He must punish us if we do not repent, for “God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil,”
Ecclesiastes 12:14.

Our punishment, if we die guilty, will be to suffer the wrath of God in hell for ever. With deep compassion Jesus warns us that the sentence against guilty sinners will be: “Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth,” Matthew 25:30. No wonder then that Jesus Christ compassionately commands us, “Repent ye, and believe the gospel,” Mark 1:15.

The **gospel**, or good news, which you must believe is summed up thus in the Bible: “Christ Jesus came into

the world to save sinners,”

1 Timothy 1:15.

This means that Jesus Christ, having been sent into the world by God in His love and mercy, willingly came to suffer the full punishment due to His people for their sins. This he did when He *died* for them on the Cross of Calvary, and thereby He obtained eternal life for them.

The gospel is totally *true* and *trustworthy*, for the Bible says, “This is a *faithful* saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” This is the gospel which Jesus requires you to believe.

To **believe** is not only to accept the gospel as being true but also, by God’s help, to *trust* in *Christ* as the only Saviour to save you from your sins and from hell at last.

When you trust in Christ, God will forgive your sins, cancel your debt to His justice, and reconcile you to Himself.

To **repent** is to realise your sinfulness by God enabling you, to cast yourself on the mercy of God revealed in Christ, and to be truly sorry to God because you have sinned against Him. At the same time, you will hate your sins and turn from them to God, and you will now begin to live a truly Christian life in thankfulness to God for His mercy.

It is *absolutely necessary* that you repent and believe the gospel because the Lord Jesus Christ will return to this world to judge us. He will descend from heaven, “in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not

God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8. Such .
punishment is more dreadful than anyone can say.

We lovingly urge you to give your serious consideration to this all-important matter. Do not put it off. Tomorrow may be too late. It is with supreme authority and loving goodwill that the Lord Jesus Christ says to you, “Repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

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