



Foundations of Stewardship – Lesson #7

The Stewardship of Truth – Part 4

A. Clarifying Common Mistakes in Evangelism

– **Mistake #1:** “Repent of your sins and believe in Christ”

○ **Keys to understanding repentance in the Bible:**

1. Nowhere does the Bible teach that repenting _____ is part of salvation.
2. The word “repent” _____ be used to describe the proper response to the gospel, but that word is not needed and often not used in Scripture.
 - Examples without “repent” – John 3:16, John 5:24, Acts 16:31, Romans 3:21-5:1
 - Examples with “repent” – Luke 24:46-49, Acts 20:21, 2 Peter 3:9
3. There are two basic _____ of the word repentance.

1, the typical modern English understanding of “repent” – to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life (Meriam-Webster Dictionary, primary definition)

2, the understanding of the Greek word *metanoia* often translated “repent” – to change one’s mind about something; context and usage determines the object of repentance.

- Which definition is in a person’s mind will impact how the word “repent” is understood. Turning from sins does not provide eternal salvation. However, changing one’s mind about the need for a savior and about how Jesus Christ died to save us does provide eternal salvation.

4. _____ determines the object of repentance.

- In some New Testament verses, the object of repentance is sin, but these passages do not teach what a sinner must do to receive eternal life. (Examples: Luke 17:3-4, 2 Corinthians 7:8-11, Revelation 2:8)
- In some New Testament verses in a salvation context, the object of repentance is something to do with a persons’ understanding about themselves, God, or the work of Jesus Christ. (Examples: Acts 20:21, 2 Peter 3:9)

- **Clarification:** Every person who has ever believed in Christ for salvation _____ to repent about something in order to believe. However, it is dependence on Christ’s work for us, not our repenting from sin, which provides salvation.

- **Mistake #2:** “Believe in Christ and make Him lord of your life.”
 - o **Clarification:** A sinner must believe in Christ to be saved, and he must do nothing more. Jesus Christ is sovereign no matter what we do, and we are responsible to obey Christ always. But, our _____ to submit to the authority of Christ is not what saves us, it can only be dependence on the finished work of Christ on our behalf that we are saved.

- **Mistake #3:** “Believe and be baptized.”
 - o **Clarification:** Water baptism is a public _____ of salvation for people who have believed in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, but it is not a requirement or the means of salvation for the unsaved. Acts 8:26-40, 10:43-48, Acts 16:30-34

- **Mistake #4:** “Believe and confess Christ publicly.”
 - o **Clarification:** While confessing Christ publicly can certainly help others understand that someone has believed, the _____ of confessing Christ does not secure eternal salvation.

- **Mistake #5:** “Believe to be saved and be assured by good works.”
 - o **Clarification:** Telling an unbeliever to look for a transformed life, or good works, or fruitful service of any kind _____ the issue of how we are forgiven. Clear statements of Scripture ought to form the basis for any believer’s assurance. (John 3:16; 5:24; 10:28-30, Romans 8:38-39, 1 John 5:13)

B. Avoiding Mistakes in Evangelism

1. Study the _____.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace **you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2. Ask _____.

3. Keep the _____ on Christ.