

## SERMON: *There's a change in my life since YOU came along!*

TEXT: Acts 3:19

INTRODUCTION: The Biblical definition of repentance is "to change one's mind." The Bible also tells us that true repentance will result in a change of actions (Luke 3:8-14; Acts 3:19). Cf. Acts 26:20. The full biblical definition of repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of action. In terms of the kingdom, it involves...

1. **A change in one's allegiance.** Kingdom citizens submit their own will to the will of the King. Cf. Matthew 6:10; Romans 6:12-18; Matthew 6:24; 7:21. The King deserves our loyalty, obedience, honor and praise. A change in one's expectations. If all one lives for is TODAY, tomorrow will grow very unappealing. If there is no hope for the future, there is no power for TODAY. Cf. Acts 1:9-11; John 14:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. The King deserves our anticipation.
2. **A change in one's values.** Our culture values success, appearance, image, wealth and independence. The values of Kingdom citizens adopt the King's values and make decisions and choices that reflect His values. The King deserves our cooperation.
3. **A change in one's priorities.** Priorities reflect personal allegiance, expectations and values. It also determines how I will spend my time and money. Kingdom citizens prioritize their time and money to benefit the King and His Kingdom. Cf. Matthew 6:24-34, especially vs.33. Unless the King occupies FIRST place in our life, He occupies NO place. The King deserves our full attention.
4. **A change in one's life mission.** Those with no mission in life are aimless and unproductive. James calls them, "double minded." The King wants His followers to be servants. Cf. John 13:15; Matthew 20:27-28; 25:21. Kingdom citizens humble themselves to serve those in the Kingdom.

CONCLUSION: Can you say, "There's a change in my life since the King came along?" Repentance will turn your life around like nothing else will!

- Mark N. Posey

SERMON: Christ is ALL in ALL!

TEXT: Colossians 3:11

1. Christ is life to the body of truth—Col. 3:16.
2. Christ is light to the realm of thought—Eph. 4:20,21.
3. Christ is energy to the machinery of work—1 Cor. 1:24.
4. Christ is music to the notes of life—Heb. 2:12.
5. Christ is renewal to the inner man—2 Cor. 4:16.
6. Christ is hope to the wandering soul—2 Cor. 5:14-15.
7. Christ is change to the seeking eye—2 Cor. 3:18.

*Pulpit Preview* is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email on a bi-weekly bases. Editor: Mark N. Posey D.D., preaching minister for the Austinville Church of Christ (2833 Danville Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603) since 1994. Please send all comments to—[pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org](mailto:pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org) or address above. **Thanks, MNP.**



# PULPIT PREVIEW

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## Thanks be Unto God

We praise (Heb. 13:15-16), preach (Rom. 8:28) & prayer (1 Tim. 2:1) about God's great giving and goodness. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift (Jam. 1:17). For all His goodness we are eternally thankful! What are some of the great blessings & benefits given to us by God for which we should always be thankful?

1. **Thank God for His goodness (Rom. 2:4).** God's goodness is indented to cause man to repent. Oh how good God has been to us when we had no goodness demanding His mercy. Cf. 2 Cor. 7:9-11; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Pet. 3:9.
2. **Thank God for His love (John 3:16).** John 3:16 has long been celebrated as a powerful and succinct declaration of the gospel. Of the 31,373 verses in the Bible, it may be the most popular single verse used in evangelism.
3. **Thank God for His gift (2 Cor. 9:15).** If we really understand and appreciate the "indefinable gift" God has given us, our lives will be saturated with gratitude; we will praise and proclaim His excellences (1 Pet. 2:9-10).
4. **Thank God for His blessings (Eph. 1:3).** Paul called for a blessing upon the Father (in the sense of recognizing His glory, honor and goodness), because the Father has already blessed the Christian with every spiritual blessing. For physical and spiritual blessings, Christians should be thankful.
5. **Thank God for His grace & mercy (Titus 2:11-12).** The ancient Greek word for *teaching* has in mind what a parent does for a child. It speaks of the entire training process: teaching, encouragement, correction, and discipline. Grace is a teacher in this sense and a powerful teacher it is.
6. **Thank God for His promises (2 Peter 1:4).** God's promises are both *exceedingly great* (in the sense of being large and imposing), and they are *precious*, in the sense of being valuable. We might break a promise, but not God!
7. **Thank God for His word (2 Tim. 3:16).** With great spiritual power beyond our intellect...
  - The Bible gives us eternal life (1 Pet. 1:23).
  - The Bible spiritually cleanses us (Eph. 5:26).
  - The Bible gives us protection against demonic powers (Eph. 6:17).
  - The Bible brings us spiritual strength (Psalm 119:28).
  - The Bible builds faith in us (Rom. 10:17).

CONCLUSION: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

-Mark N. Posey

**SERMON:** *What Shall the END be for those that obey NOT Jesus?*

**TEXT:** 1 Peter 4:17-18

**Introduction:** Everyone will be judged, but no one knows when (Matt. 24:36). Scripture identifies the reality of judgment (Acts 17:30-31; Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; 2 Tim. 4:1). Cf. Rev. 20:11-15 & 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

1. **Whose name will NOT be found in the Book of Life? Cf. 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Hebrews 6:1-6.**

2. **Whose name WILL be found in the Book of Life? Cf. Rev. 20:11-15; 21:27.**

**Conclusion:** Judgment Day is coming! When that day will occur is not a puzzle or riddle to be solved. It is a day to be anticipated! Are you ready for that day to come?

**SERMON:** Let us go on to perfection!

**TEXT:** Hebrews 10:19-25

1. Draw near in Faith (10:22): Heart.
2. Hold fast in Hope (10:23): Mouth.
3. Stimulate to Love (10:24): Conduct.

**Con:** Let us consider one another, in every possible way, to provoke, to stir up, to help to love and good works.

**SERMON:** Abundantly Above!

**TEXT:** Ephesians 3:20

1. Abundant Grace to save us—Rom. 5:20.
2. Abundant Pardon to forgive us—Isa. 55:7.
3. Abundant Sanctification to fill us—Ps. 36:8.
4. Abundant Peace to quieten us—Phil. 4:7.
5. Abundant Life to equip us—Jn. 10:10.
6. Abundant Joy to gladden us—Phil. 1:26.
7. Abundant Power to energize us—Col. 1:11.

**“You are writing a Gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By deeds that you do,  
By words that you say.  
Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
Say, what is the Gospel  
According to you?”**  
*Cf. Philippians 1:27*

**Sermon Illustration:** In 1945, when American troops were on Okinawa, they found a tiny village named Shimabuku. Thirty years previously, a missionary on his way to mainland Japan had stopped long enough to make two converts. He taught them a couple of hymns, gave them a Bible in Japanese, and encouraged them to live by it. The villagers patterned their lives on Jesus, knew the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount became their guide to social conduct. The Bible was the main literature in school. The result was that for years they'd had no jail, no brothel, no drunkenness, no divorce, and there was a high level of health and happiness. The Word of God transforms. Cf. Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2; Jam. 1:25.

**Encouragement:** Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you. Cf. Hebrews 3:13; 10:25; Romans 14:19.

**Sermon Illustration:** As pioneers in covered wagons drawn by oxen made their way across one of the central states to a distant place for homesteading, they were horrified by a long line of smoke in the west, stretching for miles across the prairie, and soon it was evident that the dried grass was burning fiercely and coming toward them rapidly. They had crossed a river the day before but it would be impossible to go back to that before the flames reached them. One man gave the command to set fire to the grass behind them. Then when a space was burned over, the whole company moved back upon it. As the flames roared toward them from the west, a little girl cried out in terror, "Are you sure we shall not all be burned up?" The leader replied, "My child, the flames cannot reach us here, for we are standing where the fire has been!" When we stand with Jesus, who has appeased the wrath of God, we stand in assurance, confidence and hope. *\*borrowed*

**SERMON:** Let's BE like Christ!

**TEXT:** 1 Pet. 2:21, "example...you should follow..." Christ is the example to follow!

1. Be Holy—1 Peter 1:15.
2. Be Perfect—2 Corinthians 13:11.
3. Be Still—Psalm 46:10.
4. Be Sober—1 Peter 5:8.
5. Be Faithful—Revelation 2:10.
6. Be Clean—Isaiah 52:11.
7. Be Kind—Ephesians 4:32.

**SERMON:** ABOVE all that we ask or think!

**TEXT:** Ephesians 3:20

1. Life—we are born from above (Jn. 3:3).
2. Gifts—good & perfect gifts (Jam. 1:17).
3. Wisdom—it makes us wise (Jam. 3:17).
4. Priority—set affections (Col. 3:1-4).
5. Need—shield of faith (Eph. 6:16).

**SERMON:** What the world needs NOW!

**TEXT:** John 13:34-35

1. *Eros* includes passion or infatuation as well as sexual or romantic love.
2. *Storge* refers to the natural affection between a parent and child.
3. *Phileo* refers to the intimacy that good friends share.
4. *Agape* is sacrificial love—a commitment that motivates us to deny ourselves on behalf of another.

**Con:** Jesus uses the word *agape* in John 13:34-35. Loving one another is evangelistic!

**SERMON:** God's Holy & Divine Word!

**TEXT:** Hebrews 4:12

1. *B*—Beautiful in its language (Ps.23).
2. *I*—Incorruptible in its nature (1 Pet.1:23).
3. *B*—Bountiful in its provisions (Ps.22).
4. *L*—Loving in its message (Jn. 3:16).
5. *E*—Enlightening in its guidance (Ps. 119:105).

**SERMON:** God Cannot and He Will Not!

1. "God cannot lie" (Titus 1:2).
2. "God cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim. 2:13).
3. "God cannot be tempted with evil" (Jam. 1:13).

**SERMON:** Christ, Our Dear Lord!

**TEXT:** Hebrews 7:25

1. Christ saves to the uttermost.
2. Christ lives eternally.
3. Christ pleads incessantly.

**SERMON:** Christian Purity Illustrated!

**TEXT:** Matthew 5:8

1. Pure Virgin (2 Cor. 11:2).
2. Pure Gold (1 Peter 1:6ff.).
3. Pure Branch (John 15:2).
4. Pure God (1 John 3:3).

**SERMON:** The Greatest of These!

**TEXT:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

**Intro:** Faith, hope and love are essential to faithful Christian loving. We walk by faith, grow by hope and live by love.

1. Love surpasses the Sensational—vs.1.
2. Love supersedes the Spectacular—vs.2.
3. Love supplants the Sacrificial—vs.3.

**Con:** When love is absent, the Christian is nothing; he is empty.

Love ever gives.  
Forgives, outlives,  
And ever stands  
With open hands.  
And while it lives,  
It gives,  
For this is love's prerogative--  
To give, and give, and give.

- John Oxenham

**SERMON:** The Nature of God!

**TEXT:** Revelation 15:4

1. God is Spirit (John 4:24). Cf. Psalm 84:2.
2. God is Light (1John 1:5). Cf. Psalm 27:1
3. God is Love (1John 4:8,16). Cf. Jn. 3:16.

**SERMON:** Just a Closer Walk with Thee!

**TEXT:** Ruth 3

1. Be Cleansed (3:3a).
2. Be Consecrated (3:3b).
3. Be Clothed (3:3c).
4. Be Committed (3:3d-4).
5. Be Compliant (3:5).