Lesson One

Disclaimers, explanations and overview

Acts 17:30-31 [New American Standard]

*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."*

[**overlooked** “winked at”, to overlook, not punish]

[**ignorance** “to not know”]

[**fixed a day** “appointed”]

**REPENT** #3340 *metanoeo* “to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider” [change your mind]

Repent is used 26 times in the New Testament.

New Testament “repent” is not the same as the Old Testament “repent”, which is #7725 *shuwb* “to turn back” (or away), also translated return, bring again, etc.

**REPENTANCE** #3341 *metanoia* “compunction (contrition, self-reproach) [for guilt, including reformation], reversal of decision”

To receive new revelation, repentance is mandatory! **We must think differently!**

[**overlooked** “winked at”, to overlook, not punish]

[**ignorance** “to not know”]

Lack of knowledge, ignorance brings:

* Bondage
* Destruction

Isaiah 5:13-17

***Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge;***

*And their honorable men are famished,*

*And their multitude is parched with thirst.*

*14 Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without measure;*

*And Jerusalem's splendor, her multitude, her din of revelry and the jubilant within her, descend into it.*

*15 So the common man will be humbled and the man of importance abased,*

*The eyes of the proud also will be abased.*

*16 But the Lord of hosts will be exalted in judgment,*

*And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness.*

*17 Then the lambs will graze as in their pasture,*

*And strangers will eat in the waste places of the wealthy.*

* “go into exile”, to denude in a disgraceful manner [Strong’s]
* Captivity, “the state of being a prisoner” [Encarta]
* Exile: “ unwilling and/or prolonged absence from one’s country or home imposed by vested authority as a punitive measure” [Encarta]

Hosea 4:6-12

***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.***

*Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest.*

*Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

*7 The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.*

*8 They feed on the sin of My people And direct their desire toward their iniquity.*

*9 And it will be, like people, like priest; So I will punish them for their ways And repay them for their deeds.*

*10 They will eat, but not have enough; They will play the harlot, but not increase, Because they have stopped giving heed to the Lord.*

*11 Harlotry, wine and new wine take away the understanding.*

*12 My people consult their wooden idol, and their diviner's wand informs them; For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, And they have played the harlot, departing from their God.*

* “destroyed”, to be dumb or silent, to be brought to silence, to perish, to be undone [Strong’s]

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

*And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?*

* The flesh will prevent maturity and keep us from growth.
* If we try to obtain the meatier things of God, the things of depth and mystery, we will be unable to process or digest it because our systems will not be ready for it.
* The GOAL is spiritual maturity! The GOAL is the deep things of God, knowledge and understanding.

Hebrews 5:11-6:3

*Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

*Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permits.*

* We’re expected to grow in the Lord, and the apostle is indicating that this is not happening to some believers. Some believers have:
  + Become dull of hearing [could this be destroyed by lack of knowledge?]
  + Need the basics, the elementary things of God STILL
  + Have not matured to the point of teaching others, but still need taught themselves
* These infant believers, or this place of infancy in believers are unaccustomed, which is better translated “unskillful, inexperienced or ignorant” of the word of righteousness!
* The mature:
  + PRACTICE
  + Have their senses trained to discern good and evil
    - DISCERNMENT is severely lacking in the Body of Christ
* So to grow, we practice the elementary tenets of faith and use those as our building blocks as we **go on to learn of the deeper things and disciplines of Christ**!
* [Which we’ll be doing as these weeks progress…]

Ephesians 4:11-15 NASU

*and He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;*

* Paul outlines the structure for growth in the Body of Christ here. God has anointed some to do various tasks to equip others to do the work of the Kingdom.
  + We do these things to attain:
    - unity in faith
    - knowledge of the Son of God (so we don’t go into bondage or be destroyed)
    - maturity
* He contrasts a mature man with children.
  + Maturity attains these things
  + Childishness gets stuck in:
    - ever-blowing doctrines
    - tricks of men
    - craftiness in deceitful scheming
  + The implication is that without growth into maturity, we are tossed about in confusion, deceived and captive…

***“Think differently, reconsider, change your mind”***

Matt 3:2-3 **Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matt 11:20 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not **repent**.

Mark 1:14-15 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, " The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent** and believe in the gospel."

Mark 6:12 They went out and preached that men should **repent**.

Luke 13:3 and 5 "I tell you, no, but unless you **repent**, you will all likewise perish.”

Luke 16:30 "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will **repent**!'

Luke 17:4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I **repent**,' forgive him."

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19 "Therefore **repent** and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 8:22 "Therefore **repent** of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should **repent**

Acts 26:20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should **repent** and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

Rev 2:5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you **repent**.

Rev 2:16 'Therefore **repent**; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

Rev 2:21 I gave her time to **repent**, and she does not want to **repent** of her immorality.

Rev 2:22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they **repent** of her deeds.

Rev 3:3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and **repent**. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

Rev 3:19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and **repent**.

Rev 9:20-21 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not **repent** of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not **repent** of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Rev 16:9-11 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not **repent** so as to give Him glory. Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not **repent** of their deeds.

Obstacles to receiving new revelation:

* False doctrine/teaching
  + [“instruction” *didaskalia* #1319]
* Tradition (of man)
  + [“transmission, send from one person to another” *paradosis* #3862, from #3860 *paradidomi* “to surrender”]
* Religion/religious spirit
  + [religious is only found three times in the Bible, with three different definitions, but for this purpose it refers to the Pharisees, scribes, elders, etc. of Jesus day and the spirit they walked in]
* Pride
  + [“haughtiness” *huperephania* #5243, and *huperephanos* #5244 “appearing above others”]
* Un-renewed mind
  + [renew = “to renovate, reform” *ananeoo* #365]
* Unrepentance when new truth is revealed.
  + The refusal to think differently, to change one’s mind.

FALSE DOCTRINE/TEACHING –TRADITIONS OF MEN:

Christ quoted Isaiah 29:13 in Matthew 15:9 and Mark 7:7:

*BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.*

Mark 7:8 NASU

*"Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."*

1 Tim 4:1-2 NASU

*But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons…*

Col 2:22-23 NASU

*(which all refer to things destined to perish with use) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.*

Col 2:8-9 NASU

*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.*

Warnings about FALSE:

* false prophets
* false Christs
* false testimony
* false witnesses
* false apostles
* false brethren
* false circumcision
* false signs and wonders
* false teachers
* false words

RELIGION/RELIGIOUS SPIRIT – PRIDE:

Mark 9:30-32 [New American Standard]

From there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know about it. For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later." But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.

*Jesus was working with His disciples privately, out of the public eye/ear to tell them plainly what was going to happen. However, they did not understand this plain talk.*

*Is there some plain talk of Jesus’ that we’re not understanding because we have our own understanding {doctrines, teachings, traditions, ways of thinking, etc.} of how things are going to play out? Have these (false) teachings, doctrines, etc. kept us from hearing what Jesus has plainly been saying? Do Christ’s plain teachings not fit because my head is full of other?*

Mark 8:9-13 [New American Standard]

About four thousand were there; and He sent them away. And immediately He entered the boat with His disciples and came to the district of Dalmanutha. The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him. Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, "Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." Leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side.

*Jesus just fed 4000, and as soon as he sent them away He got in a boat and went to another region where the religious spirit (Pharisees) greeted Him asking for a sign. He refused to give one, then instead of ministering, He left!*

*Is it possible entertaining the religious spirit causes Jesus to leave? Selah. If Jesus is ministering and teaching, but the spirit He encounters instead of wanting deliverance, healing, or understanding is one of religion [testing, questioning, looking for a sign], it is possible to drive Him away? Selah. Jesus left. No ministry, no teaching, no sign. He left.*

**This is the spirit that will try to shut down what the Spirit of God is doing. This is what we have to guard against.**

UNRENEWED MIND – UNREPENTANCE:

THE WHAT:

Rom 12:2 NASU

*And do not be conformed to this world, but* ***be transformed by the renewing of your mind****, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 NASU

*Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.*

THE WHERE:

Ephesians 4:22-24 NASU

*that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you* ***be renewed in the spirit of your mind****, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

THE HOW:

Colossians 3:1-4 NASU

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Change your mind about teachings and doctrines and religion and pride!

Think differently!

Renew your mind.

Repent to obtain revelation!

Do it now because it’s the 11th hour.

OLIVET DISCOURSE

Message Christ gave His followers concerning the days to come and the culmination of life on earth.

Matthew 24, Mark 14 and Luke 21

We’re going to look at Christ’s words at the end of each of these recaps.

Matt 24:37-44 NASU

*"For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.*

*"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”*

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man:

* people will be:
  + eating
  + drinking
  + marrying
  + being given in marriage
* in other words…routine life!

Therefore BE ALERT. We don’t know WHICH DAY the Lord is coming, only that HE IS. But Christ said He is coming “**when you do not think He is.**”

Mark 13:33-37 NASU

*"Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, ' Be on the alert!'"*

Take heed.

Be alert.

You do not know when the **appointed time** will come.

Christ has put us in charge here on the earth and He has given us each assigned tasks! We are to be doing them as we wait.

The doorkeeper/watchman is supposed to be ALERT and watching!! The watchman will alert the household of His master’s return!

We should make sure if we’re not watchmen that we have set ourselves under watchmen that are **alert** and **awake**!

If we are watchman, we better be alert and awake!

He may come at any watch: evening, midnight, when the rooster crows, or morning…

In case he should come suddenly, we better not be asleep!!!

**BE ON THE ALERT!**

Luke 21:34-36 NASU

*"Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

**Be on guard.**

Be careful or your hearts will be weighted down with:

* dissipation
  + spend wastefully, squander, to indulge in intemperate pursuits of pleasure
* drunkenness
* anxieties of life
  + what are these anxieties???? Finances? Relationships? Needs? Wants?

…that day will close on you SUDDENLY & UNEXPECTEDLY LIKE A TRAP.

For those not on guard, not watching, caught up in the above list, that day will come on you suddenly, like a trap.

**Keep on the alert at all times!**

**Praying for strength to escape all these things…**

**Praying to stand before the Son of Man.**

Acts 17:30-31 [New American Standard]

*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."*