

LESSON 39

Topic: Repentance from Dead Works

Text: Heb. 6:1-2, Jer. 35:15-17

Aim: To encourage believers to make conscious effort to turn away from dead works to God through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Introduction: Dead works encompasses not just sinful behaviours, but moral and religious activities done without genuine faith or reliance on God's grace. It also include rituals or practices done without a sincere heart, works done to earn salvation through strict adherence to religious laws and rituals, or any actions motivated by self-righteousness rather than faith in God. Repentance from dead works means sincerely turning away from them and asking God to forgive our sins. It involves a shift in focus from self-reliance to dependence on God's mercy and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 6:1 highlights the importance of repentance as a foundational principle of the christian faith, alongside other core doctrines.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What do you understand by “dead works”? Discuss. Rom. 8:6, Gal. 6:8, Jer. 35:15, Col. 3:5
- 2) How can we refrain from dead works? 1 Jn 1:8-10, Eph.4:17-19, Col. 3:5a, :Heb. 9:14
- 3) What are the consequences of dwelling in dead works? Jer. 35:17, Ezek. 18:20a, Isaiah 59:1-2, Rev. 3:15-16

Conclusion: Repentance from dead works, as described in Hebrews 6:1, means turning away from actions that are not rooted in faith and turning towards God and His grace through Jesus Christ. It involves recognizing that our own efforts to achieve righteousness or salvation are insufficient but relying instead on God's work through faith is. Repentance from dead works is not merely about changing external behaviour, but involves a change of heart and mind, aligning our will with God's will. It is a foundational doctrine alongside faith towards God, that marks the beginning of a Christian life. In essence, repentance from dead works is a call to abandon self-reliance in spiritual matters and embrace the transformative power of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: Heb. 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God”