

“CLOSER TO GOD SERIES”

GET CLOSER
TO GOD



**TO GET CLOSER TO
GOD**

YOU MUST REPENT

I. FIRST THINGS FIRST

“The first word of the gospel is not “love.” It is not even “grace.” The first word of the gospel is “repent.” From Matthew through Revelation, repentance is an urgent and indispensable theme that is kept at the very forefront of the gospel message.”

Richard Owen Roberts, *Repentance: The First Word of the Gospel*, p. 23.

MATTHEW 4:17

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

MATTHEW 3:1-2

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

MARK 6:12

“They went out and preached that men should repent.”

LUKE 24:46-48

“And He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’”

II. WHAT DOES REPENT MEAN?

“The notion of repentance follows from the notion of sin. It suggests that sin is an act or attitude which can be corrected by some change in the person.”

Joseph P. Healey, Anchor Bible Dictionary V, p. 671

REPENTANCE

(Re)Turn to God

III. WHAT DOES REPENTANCE INVOLVE?

- 1. Recognition of your sin -**
- 2. Sorrow for your sin -**
- 3. Confession of your sin -**

“IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

III. WHAT DOES REPENTANCE INVOLVE?

4. Turning from your sin -

“Go and sin no more.”

“Bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance.”

5. Turning to Christ -

Repentance and faith go together.

“Repent and believe.”

Matthew 4:17, “Repent.” Why? “for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.””

IV. WHO NEEDS TO REPENT?

A. UNBELIEVERS NEED TO REPENT

B. BELIEVERS NEED TO REPENT

Revelation 2:4

“I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and REPENT and do the deeds you did at first.”

Revelation 3:3

“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.”

**V. WHY IS REPENTANCE
NECESSARY?**

**1. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS
US TO REPENT-**

Acts 7:30

**“God... commands all men everywhere to
repent.”**

2. BECAUSE SIN OFFENDS GOD

**“If you love Me, you’ll keep my
commandments.”**

**3. BECAUSE WITHOUT REPENTANCE
FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS
IMPOSSIBLE**

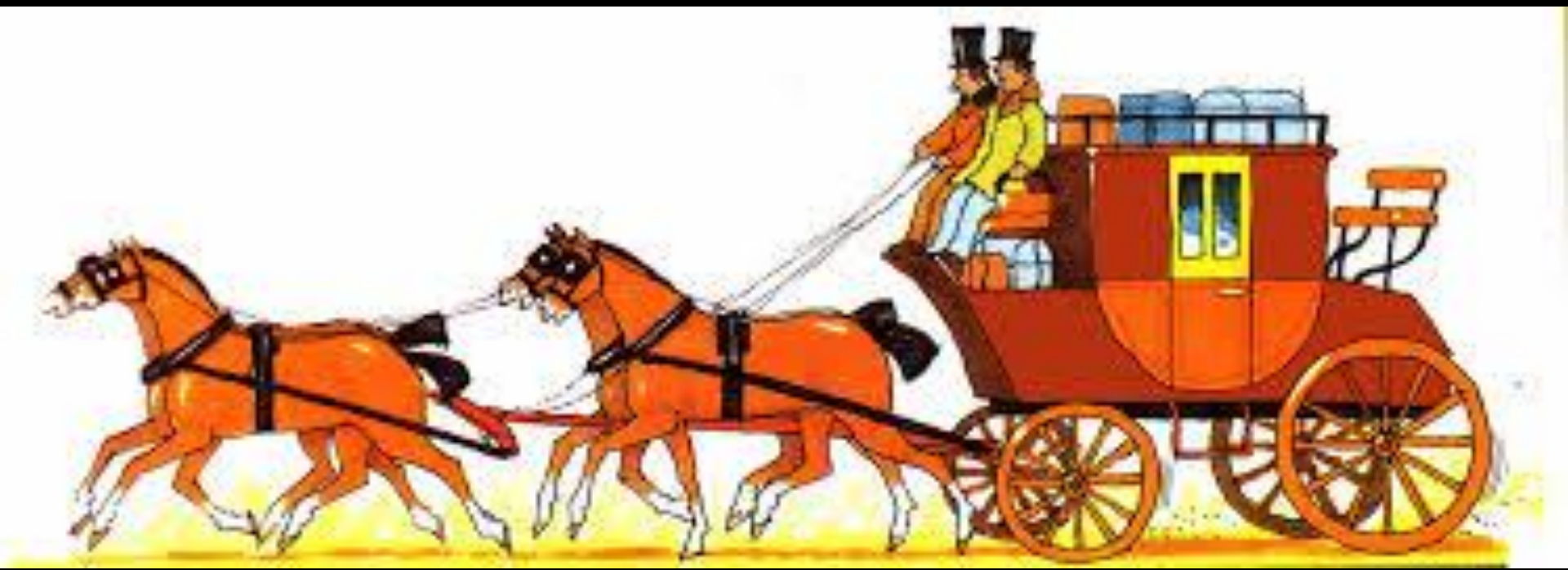
**4. BECAUSE ETERNAL PUNISHMENT
IN HELL AWAITS THE
UNREPENTANT**

Luke 13:3

**“Unless you repent, you shall all likewise
perish.”**

J. C. Ryle said,

“What greater proof of love can be given than to warn a friend of coming danger? The cry of “Fire—fire!” at midnight, may sometimes startle a man out of his sleep, rudely, harshly, unpleasantly. But who would complain, if that cry was the means of saving his life?”



**VI. REPENTANCE REQUIRES
RADICAL CHANGE**



