Intro: 1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

I. What Repentance is Not

a. Conviction is not repentance

• Conviction includes repentance but a person can be deeply convicted of some sin and still not repent. In Acts 24 the Governor Felix had a golden opportunity to receive Christ and missed it. He said Paul could come back to him in a different time to hear him speak concerning his faith in Christ. He never got another opportunity. Biblical historians believe the he died with tuberculosis and never accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

° 24 After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present. When I get an *opportunity* I will summon you.” Acts 24:24, 25

b. Sorrow is not repentance

• Sorrow includes repentance for it is possible to be sorry for something without repenting because of the sin that is involved in it. I can grieve and still not repent, but I must have sorrow leading me into repenting.

° 9 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were *grieved into repenting*. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. 2 Corinthians 7:9

c. Hatred of sin is not repentance

• Hating sin includes repentance. It is possible that a person can hate sin and not turn from it. It is possible that a sinner can hate sin and not repent from it. Hating sin alone is not repentance.

° 1 And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. 3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.” Luke 17:1-4

d. Promising to be a better person is not repenting

• Many make this mistake. They promise to do better and then in the end they don’t what they promised, or will do what they promised for a little while and then stop. The way to hell is paved with good intentions.

° 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:17

II. So what is repentance?

a. Repentance is turning from one’s sin

• The word repentance (metanoia) means to turn from one direction and go the other, or to reverse course.

° 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:32

b. Repentance means a change of mind

• The word repent (metanoeō) means to think differently or reconsider your guilt to sin.

° 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:17

c. Repentance is to change how you feel

• Saul on the road to Damascus was overwhelmed with a moral since of remorse. The publican and beat his chest in a since of sorrow and grieve for his sin.

° 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15

d. Repentance is a change of purpose

• The prodigal son had a change of mind to go spend his money of bars, women, and hardcore life, which led him to a pig pin filled with slop. It was there where he realizes his real purpose and went back to Dad and repented.

° 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ Luke 15:21

e. Repentance is a change of conduct

• Repentance is the change of your behavior toward God, man, the church, salvation, and the word of God. Before these things were a bothersome thing to have. Each one came with our bad attitude towards them. It left a bad impression in our hearts and now we see each one in a different light.

° 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:9, 10

III. How has our repentance come about

a. This starts by beginning to understand it is a gift

• To understand repentance is first to understand, in everything else, it is a gift from God. We do not deserve it, but we definitely need it. We can not repent unless we understand what and why we are repenting from.

° 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

b. Repentance comes from someone preaching of the word of God

• Preaching bring about conviction, conviction then brings repentance. Repentance can only happen when the word of God is first in some way. You can’t witness to a drunk because the alcohol is present first, but the gospel can witness to an alcoholic before he has taken his first drink. Then conviction can happen. Without conviction there is no repentance. They all work together to help bring salivation by grace through faith.

° 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? Romans 10:8-14

c. Repentance comes from the goodness from God

• When we consider the love of God, we look at the grace of God first. This grace that went to the

cross for us. We are then brought into repentance by the power of the blood of Christ through the

sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

° 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

° 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8, 9

d. The sorrows of life can bring people to repentance

• From the prodigal in the pig pen, to the death of David’s child, tragedy can bring repentance to all who will response to it.

° 7 Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Psalms 3:7

e. The emptiness of this life can cause some to repent

• There is nothing lonelier than being lonely on the inside of one’s heart. You can have friends that you stay with and still feel empty and lonely. My friend you will never be alone with Triune God living within you. Accepting Jesus is one of the most powerful things one can do to defeat loneliness.

° 7 For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear. Ecclesiastes 5:7

Conclusion: When is the time to repent – Now

° 2 For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2