

Acts 29

Radical Reformation (AD 1517-1648)

Introduction

All of life is repentance. It is not only how we begin the Christian life, but how we continue in it. Instead of just having a once in a lifetime decision of faith, we should have a lifetime of many faithful decisions.

Discussion Questions

- The Reformation was about confronting false theology and restoring faith and repentance to the life of Christians. We are often warned about presumptions and religious assurances (Luke 3:7-9; 1 Cor. 10:12). What are some of the false views of God and the gospel held today? How are Christians affected by these teachings?
- Religious teaching seeks to infuse work into our faith. There is a desire to obligate God to us in some way. Yet, God disarms us of our efforts (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:26-27). How do you struggle in working for God's blessing? What effect does grace have on the works you do?
- A religious view of baptism can give a false assurance about the state of one's soul. This is true for those baptized as children and adults. This is because in religion we tend to repent less and less often. But, in the gospel we repent more and more often (1 Jn 1:8-10). Have you been baptized? What difference does your baptism make? What role does repentance play in your life after baptism?

Think About It

Repentance is discovering the particular idolatries of the heart, our besetting sins, and uprooting them at the motivational level. Faith is seeing ourselves in Jesus, who has done everything for our acceptance, so we can be adopted as children of God. This is the dynamic of our walk with Jesus. We uproot the idols of the heart, and we live out of our identity as children of God.

What Will You Do?

Repent of any known sin in your life. Look to Jesus in faith, and seek forgiveness. Accept the freedom from guilt and shame that Jesus provides. If you have not been baptized, be baptized and recognized as a child of your heavenly Father. Finally, walk in the newness of life and joy that God promises to his children.

Renewing Your Mind

Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. (1 Cor. 10:12)

Take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Pet. 3:17-18)

Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel. (1 Cor. 1:17)

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ... And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Gal. 3:27,29)

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6:4)

I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:8)

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezek. 36:25-27)

Prayer Requests

