

**Church of Christ**  
 3221 E. Hebron Lane  
 Shepherdsville, KY  
 40165-8959

Non-profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Permit #10  
 Shepherdsville, KY

For this commandment which I command you today  
is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.

It is not in heaven, that you should say,  
“Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us,  
that we may hear it and do it?”

Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say,  
“Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us,  
that we may hear it and do it?”

But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart,  
that you may do it.

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,  
in that I command you today to love the LORD your God,  
to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments,  
His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply;  
and the LORD your God will bless you ...

- Deuteronomy 30:11-16

**Assemblies**

Sunday Morning	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.

**Elders**

Tom Brown	502-921-2778
Laymon Byers	502-957-3627
John Smith	502-231-5341

**Evangelists**

Ron Halbrook	502-955-1748 halbrook@insightbb.com
Steven F. Deaton	502-543-9686 sfdeaton@insightbb.com

**Phone: 502-957-5115**

**Sermons, Articles, and More at  
hebronlanechurch.com**



# Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ  
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 31 Number 3

March 2007

## Vital Repentance

Many of our neighbors believe faith alone will save. This doctrine, however, does not stand when examined in light of God’s Word. Rather than a soul-saving doctrine, faith only damns man.

The Bible teaches that a man must not only believe in Jesus as the Son of God, but also repent of his sins (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3). Jesus declared such in the great commission. He said, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Lk. 24:46, 47). Peter obeyed the Lord and told men from the start of the gospel that repentance is for the remission of sins, to have one’s sins blotted out (Acts 2:38; 3:19). In other words, if one wants to be forgiven and counted as a child of God, a Christian, then one must repent of his sins.

**Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.**

- Acts 3:19

What is repentance? It is not sorrow for sin. It is not a change of behavior. Rather, it is a change of mind which comes from sorrow for sin and leads to a change in behavior. Paul said to the Corinthians that their “sorrow led to repentance,” “for godly sorrow produces repentance” (2 Cor. 7:9, 10). John said, “bear fruits worth of repentance” (Lk. 3: 8). When a person repents, he changes his mind about the sinful things he has done. He makes up his mind not to engage in lawlessness anymore—and fights to stick to it.

The man who believes in Jesus but continues to get intoxicated, has not repented. The woman who has confessed Jesus as the Christ but remains in adultery, has not repented. The teenager who is convicted that Jesus is the Savior but persists in looking at pornography, has not repented. The same is true for anyone who believes but continues in

continued on p. 2

**hebronlanechurch.com**

sin. There is no repentance and, therefore, no salvation.

Repentance is vital to salvation. It will lead us away from rebellion and to submission to Christ's commands, including baptism (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). It will lead us to a changed life, a life dedicated to serving the Lord.

- Steven F. Deaton

---

## Errors In Organization

Men have long sought to improve on God's ways. They have the audacity to believe that the Lord somehow missed a thing or two, and, with man's extreme intelligence and ingenuity, the perfect and efficient plan can do great wonders. This includes the organization of the church.

Some, like the Roman Catholics, believe the universal church should be organized under one earthly head. Thus, they have the pope. He is supposed to be the leader of the church, shepherding it through the ages. However, the Bible declares there is but one Head of the Church, Christ (Eph. 1:22, 23). For the Roman Catholics or anyone else to place another head on the church is a perversion of God's pattern.

Many of our denominational friends corrupt the organization of the church as God intended it. They do this in two ways. First, they band groups of churches together into a denominational body—a body that is larger than the local church, but smaller than the universal church. Yet, when you study the Word of God, you will only find the universal church, made up of all the saved, under the Christ, and the local church (Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 1:2). Second, denominations generally have one man who oversees the local work. They call this man the "Pastor." Such an organization of the local church is contrary to what the Holy Spirit revealed. The local church is to be shepherded by a plurality of pastors (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1). These men are also known as elders or bishops (Titus 1:5-7; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

Not only do Roman Catholics and denominations err in organization, so do some brethren. Many years ago a large number of Christians decided to accept the sponsoring church arrangement. This is where a church, usually a large one, solicits funds from other

churches, usually smaller ones, to do some type of work like evangelism. The "sponsoring church" has decided to take on a work that it, by itself, cannot fulfill. When the other churches send part of their collection to the sponsoring church, they turn over their autonomy as well. They lose control of the work being done, and depend on the sponsoring church to oversee it. This violates God's will. He said that elders are to oversee the church over which they were appointed (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-3). They are not authorized to oversee the work of several churches, not even two churches.

Another problem with organization among churches of Christ is the appointment of unqualified men or the lack of appointing qualified men. The Lord has revealed specific qualifications for pastors (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-7). When men are appointed who do not meet these qualifications—either because they are well liked or the church just feels like someone needs to serve as elders—a church has transgressed the doctrine of Christ. If men who are qualified are not appointed to oversee the church, then that church is in rebellion. Churches of Christ that fall in these categories are no better off than the Catholics and denominations.

- Steven F. Deaton

---

## Who Can I Blame?

Who can I blame for my sins?

Me.

God does not tempt me and the devil cannot force me (Jas. 1:13-15; Rom. 8:30-39). There is always a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). I have free will and choose to sin. Therefore, I can only point to myself as the one responsible for my sin.

When judgment comes, I will not be able to point to someone or something else. Adam and Eve could not (Gen. 3:7-19). Saul could not (1 Sam. 15:1-23). I will stand before God and give an account of what I have done (2 Cor. 5:10). Hence, I can only blame me.

- Steven F. Deaton