



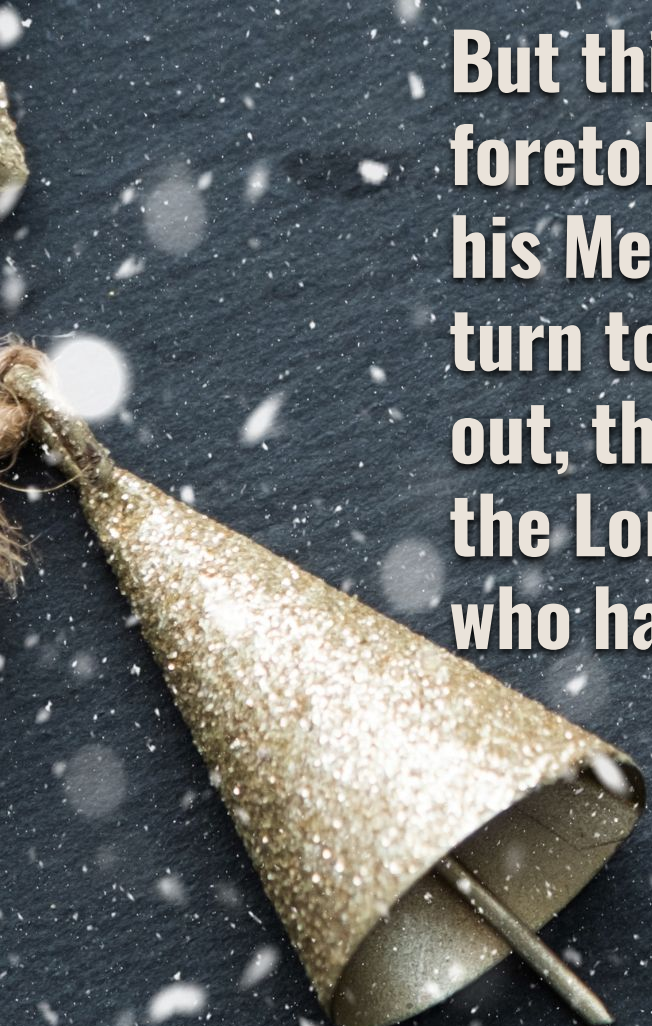
2024

the year of...

Punchline

Repenting is Redirecting



A golden bell with a wooden handle, set against a dark background with falling white particles. The bell is positioned on the left side of the image, angled downwards. The background is a dark, textured surface with numerous small, white, snow-like particles falling from the top, creating a sense of motion and atmosphere.

But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus

Acts 3: 18-20 NIV

What is Repentance?

- Turn away from a former life to a new life of faith and obedience
- Wipe away, obliterate, blow away
- We have to know and admit our sin



Tell All



What is Repentance?


- Two part formula
- Admit we were wrong
- Not doubling down on our actions
- Not just asking for forgiveness



What is Repentance?

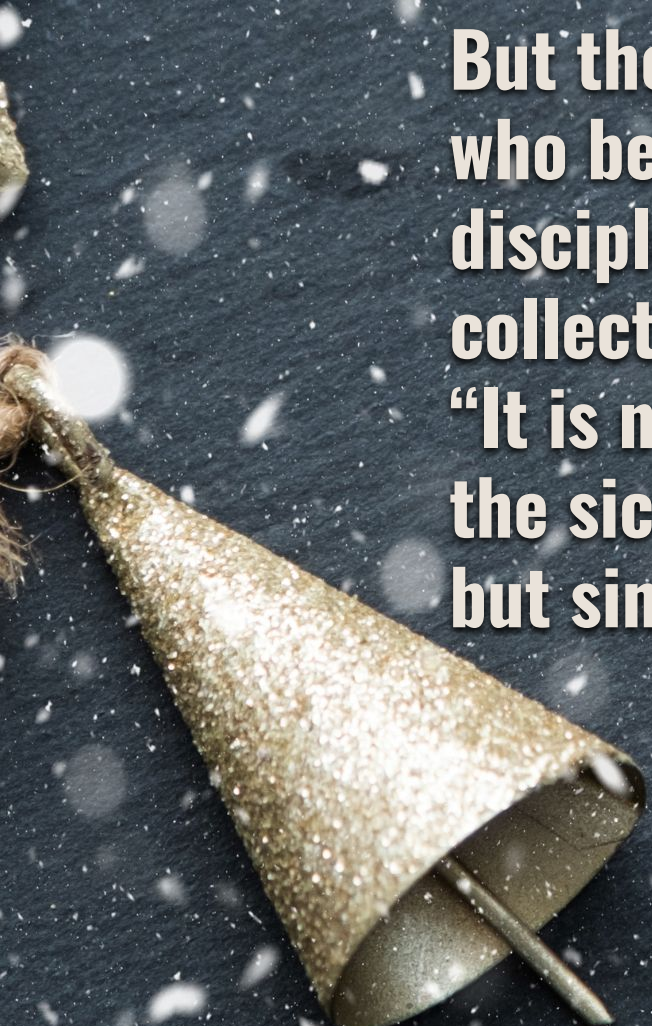
- Not intentionally repeating the same behavior
- God doesn't need perfection He needs pliability





After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.

Luke 5: 27-29 NIV



But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 5: 30-32 NIV

Called to Repent

- God calls people to repent
- Call - “what I want from them”
- Jesus calls us all to repentance even if it’s not something we associate with a calling

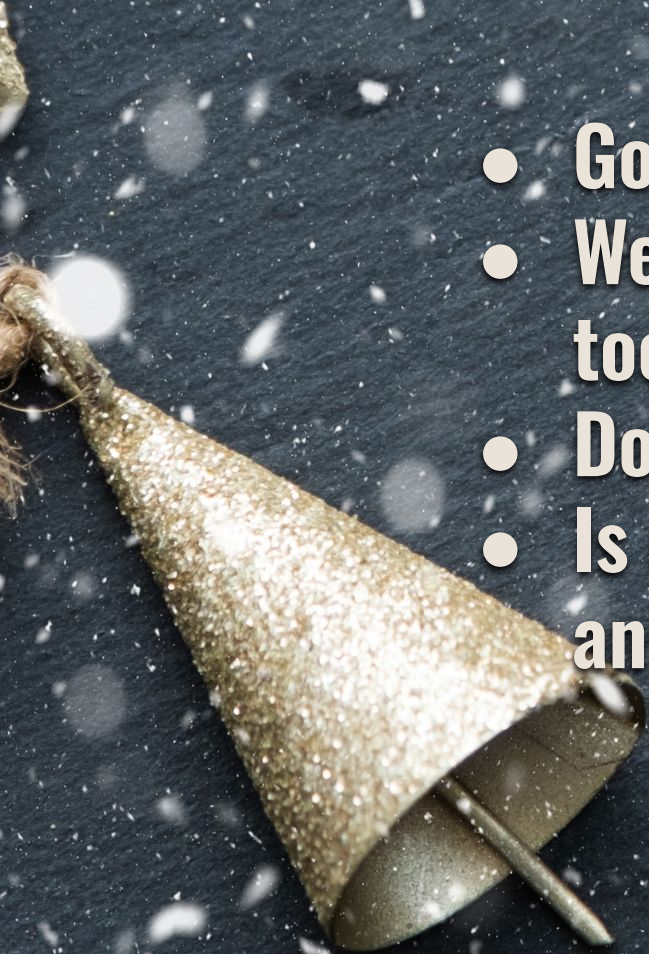



You want me to what?



Called to Repent

- God wants each of us to repent
- We repent because His is the one who took care of all our sins
- Don't resist repentance
- Is repentance the call God needs you to answer right now?





Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.

2 Corinthians 7: 8-9 NIV

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.



2 Corinthians 7: 10 NIV

Sorrow Leads to Repentance

- The felt sorrow led the Corinthians to repentance
- Worldly sorrow just ends - no change in behavior
- Godly sorrow leads to repentance and a change in behavior



Stale Bread to French Toast



Sorrow Leads to Repentance

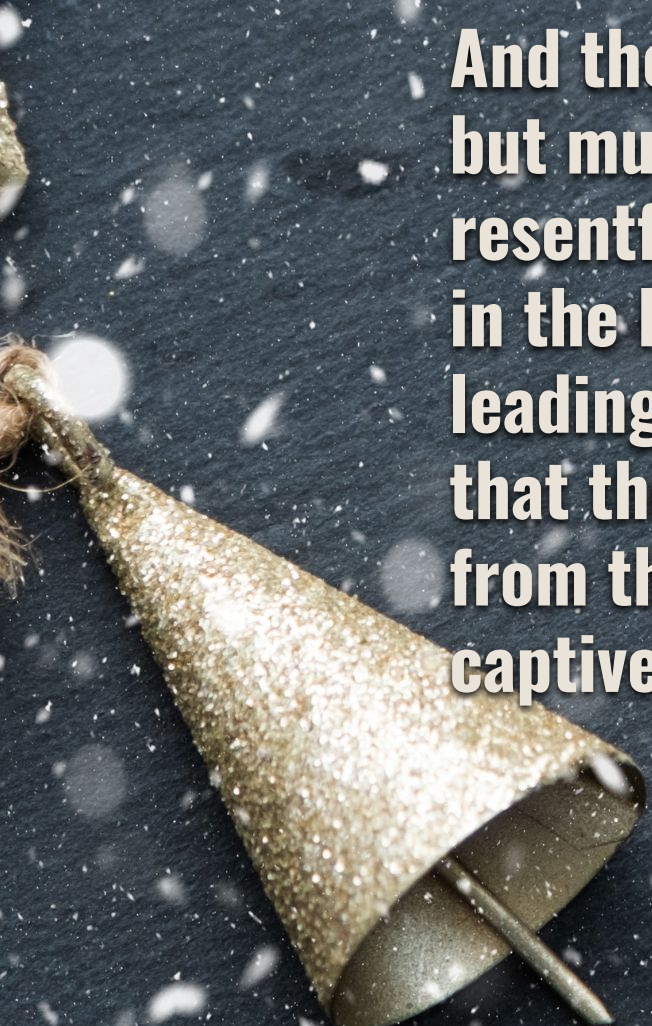
- Nobody likes to feel bad about something they've done
- Have a willingness to work through guilt NOT before going to God but with Him
- Embrace sorrow and guilt and deal with it, with God



Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

2 Timothy 2: 22-23 NIV



A golden bell with a wooden handle, set against a dark background with falling white particles. The bell is positioned on the left side of the image, angled downwards. The background is a dark, textured surface with numerous small, white, snow-like particles falling from the top, creating a sense of motion and depth. The lighting highlights the metallic sheen of the bell and the texture of the wood.

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 2: 24-26 NIV

God Grants Repentance

- Turning to God and God GRANTS repentance
- It's a gift that we can screw up and turn back to God
- It may seem like an odd gift

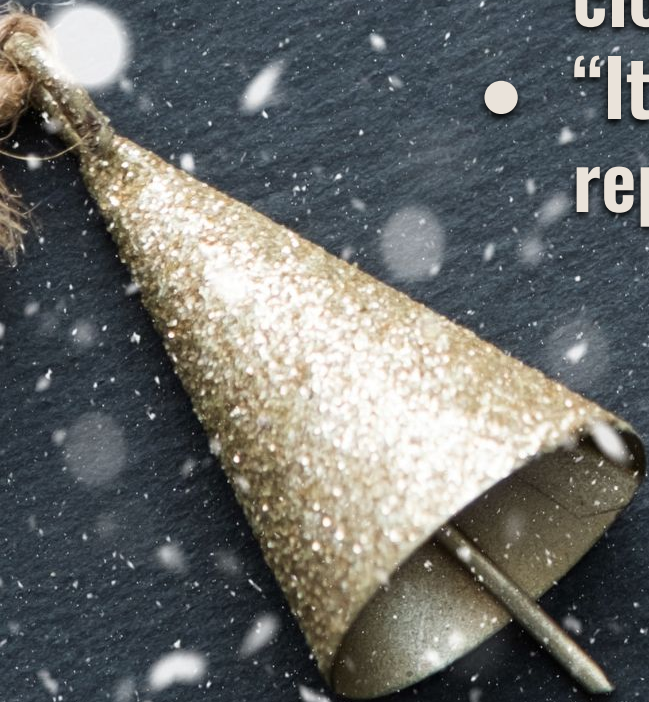


Backhanded Gifts



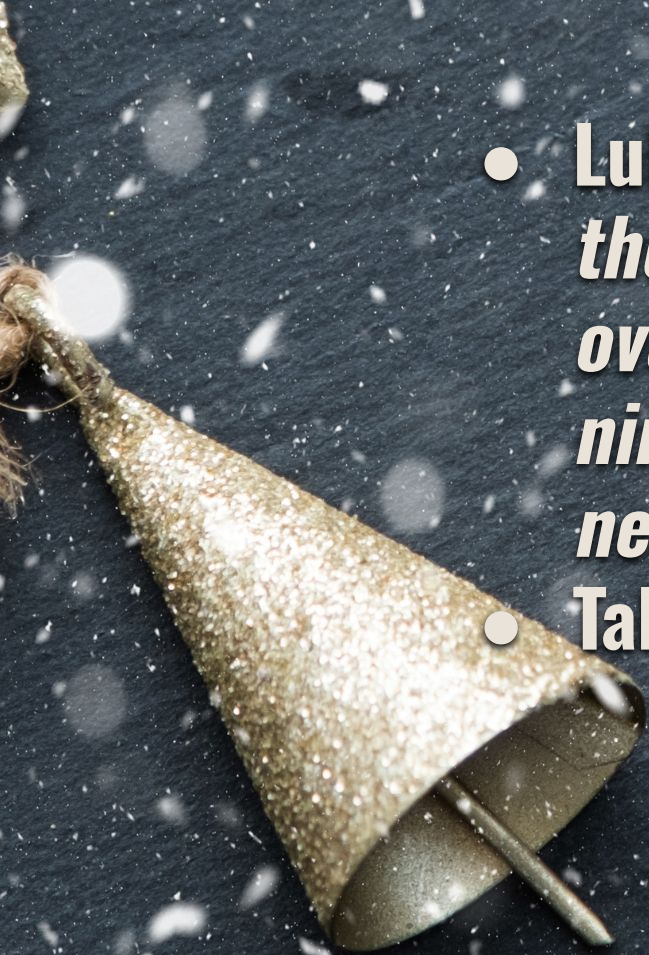
God Grants Repentance

- It's a gift to admit faults and still get closer to God
- "It's your kindness Lord that leads us to repentance"



God Grants Repentance

- ***Luke 15: 7 “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”***
- **Take advantage of the gift of repentance**



Wrap Up

- What do you need to repent of?
- Own it, admit it, work through it with God
- Remember we're called to repent
- Embrace your guilt with God
- Repent and redirect your life right back to God



Audio file

[Repentance Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

So we've all at some point in our lives probably been going in the wrong direction. I remember I had just moved in to a townhouse in college with my junior year college on Whitney Way and Odana on the West side of Madison. And I went out for a run. My roommates were gone. I decided to go for a run. And I'm I get going and I turn and before I know what I'm like. And I thought I. Was like kind of. Turning back towards the house, well, I didn't. I had started going more towards downtown. I was like, this doesn't look good and like I was kind of in shape like a couple miles in shape but not like 8-9 miles. I gotta get back home in shape. So I realized I'm like, oh, we're going completely the wrong direction. I'm getting tired and winded and everything hurts and I have to turn around and, like, walk run basically crawl to get back to my townhouse where I lived and ended up out for a lot longer time than I wanted to, right, find a new landmark, basically reorient myself to get back home. Right. And if you get on, get off course on any drive. Now we use our phones or GPS or or cell phones or whatever it might say, proceed to the root right. You get off the little blue line or green line on your phone, but proceed to the root or rerouting get back. That's in essence what we're going to talk about today, kind of this idea of redirecting ourselves. This is week one of a new little four week mini series we're doing called 2024, the Year of. Dot dot dot. OK. So it's a little bit of a playoff of New Year's resolutions or goals, where each week we will kind of talk about one word that I feel like is a word we could all take in for the year that maybe we should consider making a keyword for ourselves this year and today we're going to start with the really light hearted word of repentance. Right. So we're to talk about everybody wants to learn about repentance, what we're going to start with it. Right. So we are going to do it now. If you've heard me talk about repentance before, many of you have, I always like to say it's not a stop sign. It's a U-turn because it's more than just stopping what we're doing, but it's actually turning around. And going back. Towards God, kind of like that. GPS is rerouting you. Like we talked about. So I want you to think of it like this. Repenting is redirecting. Repenting is really redirecting and today we're going to look at what repentance really looks like and we're going to see some other scripture that will show us how. God actually really calls us to repent. How a feeling of sorrow or guilt or shame can be a good thing, and that it leads us to repentance and also that God actually grants us the ability to repent or actually gives us repentance or says a gift. So that's what we're going to kind of look at today as we dive in and then hopefully, as you see that we can make. Repentance part of our lives of this year in 2024. So I'm going to start by reading Acts 3. This will be verses 18 through 20. If you want to follow along in your Bibles, you can. I'll be in a few different scriptures, so it'll be up here behind me as well. So I'm going to read X 318 through 20, kind of what is repentance says this, but this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent then, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped. Out that times of refreshing may come from the Lord that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you, even Jesus. Alright, we'll stop there. So it says. Repent and turn to God repenting. This is like an act of having some sort of sorrow or remorse. But really it's to turn away from a former life. To a new way. Of life based on faith and based on. Now, biblically repentance is used a lot in terms of idol worship. They're taught to repent of worshipping idols or false gods and turn back to the

true God. Totally great. That is absolutely a form of repentance, but really it applies to any behavior that doesn't honor God. Any sin towards God. We need to repent of. So the scripture says, repent. And turn and your sins will be wiped out if you go back into the text. What it means the phrase really means, like, obliterate or to blow away your sins. There's this power in what repentance can do to really wipe it away. But in order to actually wipe away our sins. We have to know what they are and we have to admit to them if any of you ever read like an autobiography or a tell all book from somebody where they just talk about their life and who they are and all this kind of stuff, these are fairly popular. There was one that came out last year, book called Spare, and this was Prince Harry from Britain. His kind of his memoir or his tell. When it first came out on the first day, it sold 1.4 million copies on day one in the US, UK and Canada. At that time, that broke a record for fastest selling nonfiction book. I was trying to look it up, but I did see some notes that maybe, ironically, Britney Spears memoir might have broken that also, but. In Prince Harry's book, he tells a lot of things about himself. He talks about his childhood, he talks about his mom's death and how he wasn't sure she was actually dead, or believed she was actually had died. He talks about his time in the military, drug use controversies, his marriage to Meghan Markle. He gives everyone a look inside his life, right. He missed some things. Now it's all in his terms. What we really need to do in terms of repentance is give God our tell all book, but don't hold anything back because he already knows it. So we want to give God our tell all. So we need to know and admit that we were wrong and turn back to God. So it's really kind of a two-part formula. But we have to admit that we've been wrong. It was favorite thing, right to admit that we were wrong, that we didn't have it right. And this is hard because in general, we aren't good at this as a society. I'm not right. I don't get up in the morning, go to the coffee pot and I'm going to pour my coffee and add some. Hey. That was wrong today in it, right? Sounds fun, right? But it starts with actually admitting that. We got something wrong. Right. There's some other things that really repentance is not. It's also not like feeling like, well, maybe I was wrong, but I'm going to double down and I'm going to justify why I did what I did or trying to explain it away. I know I did this, but here's why it was actually OK. God doesn't want that from us, and Christians were every bit as bad as it as anybody else of trying to to justify why. We had some behavior we shouldn't have had, right? We can. There's we can try to use Scripture like well, God, I did this, but I think it says this here or I did this for you, God. And he's like, no, I wouldn't call you. To sin or call you to behavior that doesn't honor. So it's not justifying our actions. Repentance also isn't just strictly asking for forgiveness now asking for forgiveness can absolutely be a part of repentance, but it's not the only piece. Because if you think about it right. So if I go to Chris, I'm gonna use Chris as an example. It is my brother-in-law, and we're talking about chili, and we're going to be back and forth about this chili cook off for a while. If I'm really mean and rude to Chris and tell him how terrible I think his chili is, it's not. It was actually really good. But if I tell him all that and I realize I was rude and I realize I sent against him and I just go to Chris and say, Chris, forgive me, there's nothing wrong with that. But I didn't actually admit to Chris that I was. So I need to actually apologize and say I was wrong as well as asking for forgiveness, so it's not strictly asking for forgiveness. Repentance is redirecting the behavior towards God, right? So we have these things it's not doing. We're going to admit we're wrong. We're not going to just justify our actions. We're not going to strictly ask for forgiveness. We're going to admit we were wrong, and then we're gonna redirect and actually go back towards God. Not intentionally. Repeat the same behavior last week when Pastor Corey was here from cultivation church. She talked about the book, cost of discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoffer. I'd love that reference. I actually read that book this past year as well, and she talked about the. Concept of cheap. Grace, which is like where we we get God's forgiveness and his grace. We don't actually want to change our. Behavior at all. Right. It's that

same idea. We actually need to work back towards God and change the behavior. And yeah, we're going to slip up and make mistakes and fall because we're. That happens, but it's that willingness to change our behavior. And when we do that, it shows that we know we need God because we're changing our behavior to honor him. And yeah, it's admitting we aren't perfect, but God doesn't need perfection. He needs pliability, right? It's that willingness to change and be molded into what he wants doesn't need to be perfect on our own cause we can't. But he wants us to be willing to be changed and molded and what he wants. So assess where you sinned and admit that you've been wrong. Admit it, and then move back towards God and let him shape you into who he wants you to be. That's kind of the crux, I think, of repentance. Well, that's what it is. But do I really need to do this? The answer is, yeah. Because we're actually called to. Let's read Luke 5 verses 27 through 32. It says after this Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. Follow me? Jesus said to him and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house in a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees. And the teachers of the law, who belonged to their sect, complained to his disciples. Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners? Jesus answered them. It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. So you've heard the stories about Jesus calling his disciples right? He calls all of his disciples famous stories in the Bible. He just says follow me. Right. And fishermen or ordinary people would come and follow. He also calls people to do a lot of other things right. That's what happens here. He calls people to repent. He says that that's part of his call. So in this passage, Levi's, a tax collector, he's called, he's all excited about it. So he throws a banquet in his home. And there's probably a bunch of other tax collectors there. Many of these would have been seen as unclean by Jewish. Might have been seen as cheats or liars, or people that they didn't like, and the Pharisees had an issue with this like why? Are you associating with them? Why? They're sinners and Jesus like. Yeah, I came to call sinners to repentance. Call what he wants from them. What he wants from us, what he wants us to do. Jesus calls us to repentance, even if it's not something we usually associate with a calling, right? Think about something like you're asked to do by somebody. That doesn't really maybe seem like what you would have had me do. Picture this for a minute. I'm going. Stay with me. We're going to diagram a basketball play and this is an old one that's kind of famous. So imagine me being on the team and if you don't know any of basketball, you'll still do fine. Don't worry. So you're in the Huddle, games on the line, right? Coach is going around telling people what they're gonna do for this last play. They come to me and say, Jeff, here's what you gonna do. I'm like, oh, yeah, getting the last shot. I'm going to score crowds going to go wild. He's like, OK, right before we end the. Well, which you get down on all fours and bark like a dog. Like what you want? What? This is basketball, not a play. Well, this was actually a very famous play that happened to believe in JB basketball game years ago where they did have a player get down and bark like a dog to distract the other team and then score and my 6th grade team actually ran this. We were terrible. So we tried. Everything in the. Book to do this. This became a thing that teams would do is trying to distract, but if you're on a basketball team, you're probably not thinking. Your coach is going to ask you to. Bark like a dog, right? Repentance may not always seem like something we see as a calling from God. Maybe. Yeah, we're supposed to do it, but that idea that he actually calls us to do it, he wants us to do it. But that's, I think, a good way to look at it. The fact that God wants us to repent, like, just kind of sit on that it's something. That he wants from us. God wants each one of us in this room to repent. We share that call. In the same way, he wants us to follow any other call in our lives. We follow God because he saved us and he gives us the gift of eternal life. We repent because he's the one who took care of all our sins on the cross. So he wants us to repent.

He's not mad about our repentance. He doesn't like what causes us to need to repent. Right the sin. The behavior, but he does call us to that repentance part. Part of being a Christian and a follower of God is to repent. So don't resist repentance. If you feel like you're having a hard time hearing from God. In your life like man, I just can't. Hear what God wants from me. Take a second to think about. Is there something I need to repent of? Is repentance the call that God needs you to answer right now, before any other call? So don't resist that and don't feel alone in it, because like I said, every one of us in here is called to repent and we all will have things we need to repent. So it's something we're all supposed to do. And I get that it's really hard sometimes because we can feel so much guilt about our sin. But sometimes that guilt can actually help drive us towards repentance. Let's read 2nd Corinthians 7 verses 8 through 10. Paul writes, even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I don't regret it. But I did regret it. I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while. Yet now I'm happy. Not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended. And so we're not harmed in any way. By us godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. So Paul wrote this letter. He wrote a lot of letters. We're going to hit on a couple of them later on this year, but this is the second of two to the Corinthian Church and the first one. He calls out a lot of behavior and things that were going on. That probably ruffled some feathers, convicted some people, hurt some, and even caused sorrow and Paul's, like Paul's kind of confusing sometimes because he's like, yeah, I felt bad about it, but then I didn't feel bad about it. And like, I wasn't happy about it then I was happy because it led you to do this other thing. I love reading, Paul, but sometimes, like, he's tough. But what he's basically saying. Is his reasoning the sorrow that you? Felt from my letter led you to repentance. He didn't like that. They felt bad, I don't think. But he's like that sorrow was short lived and it led you to turn back towards God, Paul, saying like in essence it was worth it because of how important repenting is now. They're repenting. They're improving their relationship with God, even though the sorrow or the hard part led to it. And Paul draws the distinction that this is godly sorrow, not worldly sorrow to Paul, worldly sorrow is sorrow, or grief or guilt, which is ends there. There's no remorse. There's no change in behavior. It's just done. But godly sorrow when we know we've done wrong in God's eyes, it doesn't end there. It can lead to repentance and a change in behavior and actually having a better relationship with God. So the sorrow, the hurt of wrongdoing leads to repentance. Even when we feel like we have that feeling that guilt is it's too much. It's too late. Is done. But it's never done for God. Who here has ever left? Bread out on the counter uncovered and just been left out, right? What happens to it? Does it stay nice and soft and tasty? No. Right. It goes stale. It goes hard. And then for a lot of people, like, oh, it's done, we throw it away. We don't have to. Because that's stale bread. I have turned in to French toast. Bake. It's not over. There's actually recipes where it tells you to intentionally stale some bread and turn it into something delicious. Right. You actually make it stale and crunchy and hard, but it's not done. Our guilt, our sorrow and our shame can feel like that stale breath where it's hardened up. It's worthless. We just want to toss it away. It's done. It's over with. But it's not with God. It can actually lead to repentance, which is something amazing. And nobody likes to feel bad or feel guilty or feel sorrow, right? We have a lot of feelings in life. That guilt one is not. One of the pleasant ones, at least. Maybe for some of you. You like it? I don't know. I can't speak for that. I don't enjoy that feeling. But hard and difficult feelings, hard and difficult experiences can be. Let that guilt and sorrow lead somewhere. Let it lead to repentance. Have a willingness to work through that guilt. Not before going to God, but with God. Go to God and say Yep, I screwed up. Help me work through it. I need you to help me work through it. And if that conversation is genuine, God will say yes and pull you in and do that with you. So don't ignore the guilt and sorrow and just be consumed by it,

because guilt and shame and sorrow aren't the end game, right? It's not. You screwed up. Shame on you. You're guilty. It's done. Unfortunately, I know people that have heard that even in the church, and if you have no, that is not at all the way I see it and not the way we see it here. If you've screwed up, great, you can still repent and we can still go to God and work through that. That's not the end. So take any feelings of guilt and remorse and feeling bad about messing up or sinning. And let's go to. God with those. And work back towards him because it's never over with him. Let those feelings even take you to the next level and have God help you deal with. And you can say, oh, that's so hard to do. I know. If you're like, I don't know that I can go to God with it yet, that I would encourage you to talk to somebody you trust, whether it's me or Julie or. One of our leaders or anybody about that. And just say I feel it. I feel that guilt and. Let us help you work towards God with that, because he. Wants to work through it with you. If you feel that sorrow or guilt, don't just live in it and let it be. But embrace it. Deal with it and process it with God and with somebody else. If you need to. Because part of it dealing with that guilt is talking to God about it and he wants to. So let those feelings lead to repentance and finally know that repentance is something God actually gives us, or grants us the ability to do. Second Timothy 22 through 26 says this. Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels and the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome, must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed in the hope that God will grant them repentance, leading them to a knowledge of the truth that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will stop there. So this is Paul again. Writing this is a second letter to Timothy, and he's talking about dealing with false teachers in this letter as well as people that oppose the teachings of Jesus. This was a massive issue in the time and place where Timothy was. So Paul's addressing it with them. And what he's saying is how to deal with them. And he's saying deal with them kindly, gently. Give them gentle and gracious instruction. And here's where he comes in. This then will allow them to turn to God and God to grant them repentance. God gifts that repentance. He grants it. It's given. I think it's a gift really that we're able to screw up and wrong God and yet still turned back to him. He allows us that and even applying here to false teachers and people that oppose Jesus God grants repentance even as to the most undeserving. Even if it doesn't feel like a gift, right, you put a gift that you're like, I don't know. Is that really a gift or not? We're like, we've heard of backhanded compliments, right where somebody compliments you. But you're like, you're not really coming from a genuine place with that. There's backhanded gifts, right? These can be a variety of things. Like a self help book on a certain topic that you struggle with. You're like, OK, you're trying to help me, but I see what you're doing here. Like, you're not, really. And these can come in a variety of things. Right. Like I'm terrible with tools. So if Ryan got me a self help book, I'm like fixing stuff for dummies. I'd be like, OK, it'd be funny cause it's coming from Ryan, right? Like, a backhanded kind of if you could get me one of those, I'd laugh at it. But something like that, right? Like you're trying to tell me to fix something that maybe I don't see as an issue or it's hard. For me, right backhanded kind of gift. I feel like repentance can kind of feel that way if we're not careful with it be like. God gives it to me, but it just. Wants to make me feel bad about myself, but that's not actually it. He doesn't just want you to feel bad about yourself. He gives you the ability to repent, the gift to repent so that you can come back to him and be closer to him. The gift is that we can admit faults and in spite of them, get closer to God. So if you're having a hard time repenting, try looking at it as something God gives you the ability to do. I get to repent and get even closer to God than I was before. There's an old worship song that Chris Tomlin called kindness. And one of the lines in the course,

as it's your kindness Lord, that leads us to repentance. God is kind enough to allow us and want us to repent so we can have a relationship with him. He gives repentance to us not all that differently from how he gives us the gifts that we talked about in our Advent series leading up for Christmas, right? He gives us hope, peace, joy, and love, and they're found in Jesus. And if we choose to use them, we can take advantage of them. Same thing with repentance. It might have more of a negative connotation, which I understand, but it's still something that we can use if we're willing. To take advantage. God wants us to repent and come back. So much so that when one person does that, it says there's a party in heaven. Luke, 15. Seven, I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over 1 Sinner who were pence and over 99 righteous persons do not need to repent. If repentance was such. A bad, terrible thing. I don't think there would be this much rejoicing going on in heaven. So I don't think we need to necessarily be like jumping him down like, yeah, I get to repent cause I totally screwed up. Not quite there but also. Take advantage of it. Take advantage of the fact that we can repent and it's something that God has given us the opportunity to do. So let's try this year to look at repentance and not see it as such a negative, but something we're going to do. It's hard. I get that. All right, don't expect you to necessarily go home. Just write the list. Right. Here's all the cool stuff I get to repent of. If you want to. Great. But I get that it's hard. But do start. By thinking of what do I need to repent? Big, small. It doesn't matter. It's all important. Then do it. Repent. Both parts stopping the behavior of the action and working back towards God. Own it, admit it, and work through it with God. Work through it with. Because remember, we're called to it no differently than how you're called to anything else in. Your lives. Ever. God's called you too. You are called to repent as well. It's part of being a follower of Jesus. Part of what we do. And if you're feeling guilty or there's some sorrow about something, you've. Have you repented of anything, or is there something you need to repent of? Don't ignore that guilt or sorrow, but embrace it and take it to God. And he'll embrace you right back because he just wants you to come to him about it. He wants his people to repent. He gives us that opportunity. So repent and redirect your life back towards God. Let's pray. Got to thank you again for today. I thank you for the the ability that you've given all of us to repent, that you allow us to repent and work back to you, to be closer to you. I pray that this year that would be something we don't shy away from. That when we wrong you and other people that we'd be willing to repent, that we would know and admit our mistakes, that we would see it as something you call us to do. That we would just repent of it God and come to you and be closer to you because of it. So I pray that all of us got. We just see it as as part of our lives as part of something we need to do. And it's something that even when it's difficult. That it has. A positive outcome from it as we get closer to you. And we thank you that you will wipe those sins clean. You'll wipe that wrong behavior. Out from our lives. We thank you for doing that, your.