

WEEK 8 / Midterm / Dr Ko

Chapter 35 Conversion (Faith and Repentance) – What is true repentance? What is saving faith? Can people accept Jesus as Savior and not as Lord?

1. Key points

- a. Conversion is a single act of faith and repentance, in which we willingly turn from our sin and place our faith in Christ.
- b. Saving faith includes knowledge of the facts of the gospel, agreement with these facts, and a personal trust in Christ to save us.
- c. Repentance includes sorrow for our sin and a decision to turn from our sin and to walk in obedience to Christ.
- d. Repentance and faith continue throughout the life of a believer.

2. Summary

- a. After God has effectively called us through the gospel, and after he has given us new spiritual life, we respond to him in conversion. “Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.” Conversion is a process of turning from our sin and to Christ.
- b. Saving faith is more than mere knowledge. While we must know who Christ is and what he did (Romans 10:14), this knowledge is not sufficient. In fact, even the demons have this knowledge (James 2:19). Nor is it sufficient to know the facts and to agree that they are true. Nicodemus and King Agrippa both knew and agreed with some truths about Jesus, but neither had placed their faith in him (John 3:2; Acts 26:27–28). In addition to knowing and agreeing with the facts of the gospel, we must decide to rely on Jesus to save us. This is saving faith—a “trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God.” Believers do not merely believe that Christ died to pay the penalty for sins in the same way that we might believe that metal conducts electricity. Believers must place their trust in Jesus to pay the penalty for their own sins and to reconcile them to the Father. The Scriptures speak of this as “believing in” Jesus (John 3:16; Acts 16:31) or “coming to” Jesus (John 6:37; Matthew 11:28–30). In other words, we put our confidence in who Jesus is and what he did. This faith will naturally grow as we learn more about Jesus Christ (Romans 10:17).
- c. “Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.” Like saving faith, repentance is more than simply knowing and agreeing that sin is wrong. Many people engage in wicked behavior with the knowledge that what they do is wrong, and they never repent. Repentance is also more than simply feeling sorry about our sins; it includes a decision to forsake our sin and to live in obedience to Christ instead. Paul describes a grief for sin that goes beyond normal worldly grief; it produces repentance that leads to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:9–10).
- d. In speaking of conversion, Scripture treats faith and repentance as two aspects of a single act. A person turns from sin (repentance) and to Christ (faith). Some evangelical scholars have argued against including repentance in our understanding of conversion; they state that it promotes a works-based “lordship

salvation” and that saving faith only requires trusting Christ as our Savior. Some have argued that salvation only requires intellectual assent to the facts of the gospel. In both cases, they argue that submitting to Christ as our Lord is an optional later step of sanctification. However, Christ speaks of salvation as taking on his yoke (Matthew 11:28–29), and Scripture continually portrays salvation as an act of turning in repentance and faith (Isaiah 55:6–7; Acts 20:21; Hebrews 6:1). At some points, it refers only to faith (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9), and at others it refers only to repentance (Luke 24:26–27; Acts 2:37–38; 3:19; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10). Often today, people pray to receive Christ, and this seems like an appropriate manner to express to God our sorrow over our sin, our trust in him, and our commitment to follow him.

- e. When we recognize the role of repentance in conversion, we begin to understand the anemic results in many ministries today. All too often, the gospel is presented as a package of facts to which one must subscribe, and there is no call for people to decide to turn from sin and to Christ. Many who have merely assented to certain facts will wonder why no change has taken place in their lives, but this is because they have not personally responded to Christ in faith and repentance.
- f. Faith and repentance begin at conversion, and they continue throughout the life of the Christian. Every day, believers repent from sin; every day, believers trust in Christ (Matthew 6:12; Revelation 3:19; Galatians 2:20).

3. The order of salvation (*Ordo Salutis*)

- a. Election (God’s choice of people to be saved)
- b. The gospel call (proclaiming the gospel message)
- c. Regeneration (being born again)
- d. **Conversion (faith and repentance)**
- e. Justification (right legal standing)
- f. Adoption (membership in God’s family)
- g. Sanctification (right conduct of life)
- h. Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
- i. Death (going to be with the Lord)
- j. Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

4. Explanation and scriptural basis

- a. Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.

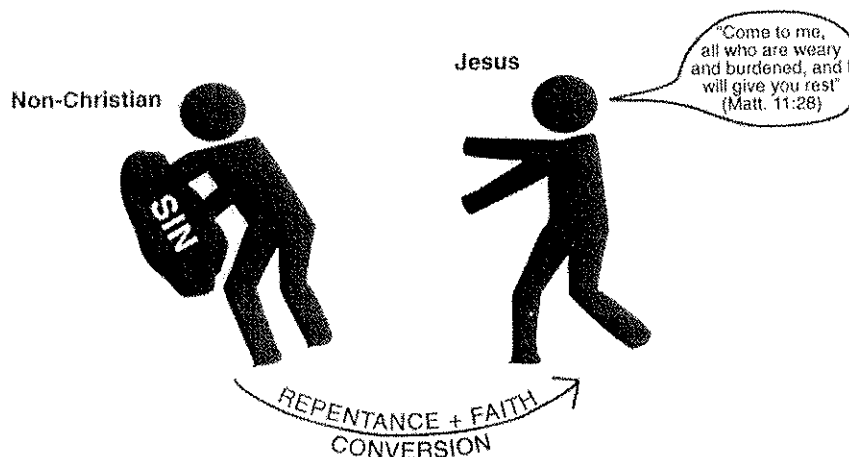
5. True saving faith includes knowledge, approval, and personal trust

- a. Knowledge alone is not enough.
 - i. We must have some knowledge of who Christ is and what he has done for us (Romans 10:14).
 - ii. But knowledge of the facts is not enough, because people may rebel against them (Romans 1:32; James 2:19).
- b. Knowledge and approval are not enough.
 - i. A person can know and approve of (or agree with) the facts and yet not trust in Christ (John 3:2; Acts 26:27–28).

- c. I must decide to depend on Jesus to save me personally.
 - i. Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of my sins and for eternal life with God.
 - ii. Personal trust is more than mere belief in the facts about Jesus, it is a trust in Jesus to save me (John 3:16; 6:37; 7:37).
- d. Faith should increase as our knowledge increases.
 - i. Knowledge does not decrease faith, neither does ignorance increase faith (Romans 10:17).

6. Faith and repentance must come together

- a. Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.
- b. Repentance includes:
 - i. An intellectual understanding that sin is wrong.
 - ii. An emotional approval of the teachings of Scripture regarding sin – a sorrow for sin and a hatred of it.
 - iii. A personal decision to turn from it and obey Christ.
- c. Mere sorrow for sins is not repentance unless it is accompanied by a decision to forsake sin and to follow Christ (Acts 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Hebrews 12:17).
- d. Conversion is a single action of turning from sin in repentance and turning to Christ in faith.



- e. Some argue that requiring repentance is preaching salvation by works, and that saving faith is only an intellectual assent to the facts of the gospel.
 - i. Yet Scripture often describes the need to turn from sin to Jesus (Matthew 11:28-29; Isaiah 55:6-7; Acts 20:21; Hebrews 6:1).
 - ii. Sometimes only faith is mentioned (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - iii. Sometimes only repentance is mentioned (Luke 24:46-47; Acts 3:19; 5:31; 17:30; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10).
 - iv. If we water down the gospel, much damage can result.

7. Both faith and repentance continue through life

- a. Matthew 6:12
- b. Revelation 3:19
- c. Galatians 2:20
- d. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Midterm

Last Name:

First Name:

Doctrine of Human

Monism To glorify Dichotomy	Distortion Original sin
-----------------------------------	----------------------------

1. Our purpose in life is _____ God.
2. The curse brought about a _____ of roles of Adam and Eve.
3. _____ is the view that man is made up of two parts.
4. _____ is the view that man is only one element and that his body is the person.
5. _____ is the guilt and tendency to sin that all people are born with because of Adam's sin.
6. The primary purpose of God's punishment of sin is _____.
 - a. Proving God's righteousness
 - b. Warning observers
 - c. Deterring further sin
 - d. None of the above
7. When Adam and Eve failed in the garden, God established a _____ between himself and those whom he would redeem.
 - a. Covenant of works
 - b. Covenant of redemption
 - c. Covenant of grace
 - d. All of the above

Doctrine of Christ

8. _____ is the act of God the Son whereby he took to himself a human nature.
 - a. Kenosis theory
 - b. Nestorianism
 - c. Chalcedonian
 - d. Incarnation
9. Christ descended into hell after death (True / False).

10. The two states of Christ are the _____ of Christ and the _____ of Christ.
11. Which of the following is NOT an office of Jesus Christ?
- a. King
 - b. Prophet
 - c. Priest
 - d. Apostle
12. The Holy Spirit is now the primary manifestation of the presence of Trinity among us
(True / False).
13. Which of the following is NOT a part of the Holy Spirit's revealing ministry?
- a. Making prayer effective
 - b. Teaching truth
 - c. Giving assurance of salvation
 - d. Revealing God's words to prophets

Doctrine of Salvation

14. Unbelievers continue to remain alive only because of God's common grace (True / False).
15. The list of events in which God applies salvation to us in the specific sequence in which they are believed to occur in our lives is the _____.
- a. Order of salvation
 - b. Fatalism
 - c. Reprobation
 - d. Election
16. Which of the following does the lecture identify as an element of the gospel call?
- a. A promise of forgiveness and eternal life
 - b. An invitation to respond to Christ personally
 - c. An explanation of the facts of salvation
 - d. All of the above
17. The lecture states that regeneration comes _____ saving faith.
- a. Before
 - b. At the same time as
 - c. After
 - d. None of the above

Conversion (Faith and repentance)

Conversion	Saving faith
Faith	Repentance

18. _____ is our willing response to the gospel call.

19. _____ is trust or dependence on God based on the fact that we take him at his word and believe what he has said.

20. _____ is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God.

21. _____ is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.

22. Repentance continues throughout life (True / False).