



# Foundations

Hebrews 6  
'Repentance'

## REPENTANCE – CONFESSING OUR SIN

Text: 1 John 1:5 – 2:2

Repentance is an essential ingredient in our coming to Christ, being born again and being saved. But it is also intended to be an ongoing discipline in the life of the believer. This passage highlights the importance of the confession of sins in living continually with an attitude of repentance.

When we first come to Christ we confess our sin – we confess that we are sinners in need of salvation. We would be unable to confess each of our sins individually, there are far too many!

But as believers we confess our sins: that is, we should be able to identify each sin (implicit in the “if” of 2:1), and deal with it quickly. We are no longer sinners but saints, sin is an anomaly in our lives. But we mustn't deny it when we do sin. The pursuit of God is characterised by a zero-tolerance attitude to sin. We should be quick to confess our sin, and so live in a continuing attitude of repentance, turning to God afresh every day.

### God's Perfect Standard

God created us, and has saved us, for fellowship with him. God's own perfection and holiness is the standard which demands the separation of sinners from this fellowship, “your iniquities have separated you from your God” (Isa 59:2).

John shows here how the nature of God and the presence of sin in the life of believers are incompatible.

- What characteristics and attributes of God are in view in this passage?
- What are the consequences of us falling short of God's standard as believers?

### Continuing in Repentance

We have noted that there are 3 elements of Repentance:

1. Recognition of Sin
  2. Remorse for Wrong-doing
  3. Redirection of Lifestyle
- How are these expressed in this passage?
  - What consequences are we warned of if we are not ruthless with sin?

### The Power of Confession

We know that confession was vital to our initial salvation (Romans 10:9-10). Here we are told it is also vital in our ongoing Christian life.

- What benefits of confession are we promised in 1John?
- What part does Jesus play in our repentance?

### The Fruit of Repentance

Repentance is intended to be evident through its fruit. Jesus said, “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance!” The idea of the fruit of repentance is expressed in this passage in the phrase “live out the truth” (v6). If we live a life of zero-tolerance of sin, quick confession, and a continuing attitude of repentance, what will it look like to “live out the truth”?