

Defender

"I am set for the defense of the gospel"

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The Culture Known as "Islam"

Michael S. Demory

While it is not our intent to belittle the spiritual beliefs of others, at the same time it is our duty to expose those beliefs that promote a false understanding of God and His will. Such is the case with the so-called *religion* of Islam! Islam, in all its facets, poses a very definite threat to God's eternal purpose. We must understand that God is always in control, and His plans cannot be thwarted by men (Isa. 55:8-11); however, that does not mean that the devil has thrown in the towel.

The genesis of the cult of Islam can be traced back to Arabia in the seventh century AD. For centuries the Arabs had been living a nomadic pagan life surrounded by hundreds of gods and goddesses. Their dominant religion was Sabianism which is the worship of heavenly bodies. The moon being viewed as a male deity, and the sun as female. Together it is said that they produced three goddesses called "The Daughters of Allah." Christianity continued to spread quickly throughout the world which included Arabia where it worked to establish a monotheistic

view of God and move them to abandon their superstitions.

In AD 610 Mohammed, at the age of 40, was convinced that Allah (Arabic for God) had called him to be His prophet. He claimed that the angel Gabriel came to him to ordain the first Arab prophet. It is believed, and may very well be true, that Mohammed had received some teaching from Christians and Jews during his youth, which would account for his desire to rid Arabia of its multiple gods, and to encourage the worship of only one God. After having been kicked out of Mecca for preaching against the Arabs 360 gods, Mohammed went to the city of Medina in 622 and converted a majority of the city, after which they made him dictator of the city. In 630, he traveled to Mecca with 10,000 soldiers which was taken and converted to Islam with little bloodshed.

Since that time, Islam has been spread across the world through the sword to force allegiance to the doctrine of Mohammed. A power struggle developed after the death of Mohammed which divided the Mohammedans into several sects, the largest two being the Sunnites

and Shiites. The book of the Mohammedans called the Koran (Quran), is divided into one hundred fourteen suras (chapters). The Koran contains speeches, prayers, and utterances of Mohammed, supposedly during his receiving of divine revelation. It took him twenty-three years to record his writings but was not canonized (AD 654) into the Quran until after his death (AD 632). It is interesting, ninety-five percent of the Quran is composed of Old and New Testament texts.

As Islam spread across the world by military force, it reached Northern Africa around 667 and slowly stretched southward. Yet, it is claimed by African Americans that "Islam is the original religion of the black man." If that is the case, then the black man could not have appeared until 667! In short, the religion of Islam is based upon seventh century Arabia, in language, government, diet, clothing, family life, and culture. Mohammedans, true to the writings of Mohammed, believe that all other religions are an abomination and it is their duty to rid the world of them or force them to become members of the Mo-

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Notes From The Editor

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God's Word

Isaiah makes a wonderful statement in Isaiah 55. In this chapter, Isaiah presents God's invitation to come for a spiritual revival for those in need (55:1-2). He then shows the blessings received by accepting this wonderful invitation (55:3-5). There is the encouragement to seek and call upon Yahweh while He may be found and repent and God will forgive (55:6-7). Then the rest of the chapter, He urges us to yield to Yahweh (55:8-13). In the midst of this encouragement, Isaiah makes a beautiful statement regarding God's Word from which we can learn several things. Isaiah states, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it" (55:11).

God's Word is Powerful

When God created man, He placed man in a beautiful garden and told man he could eat "of every tree of the garden" (Gen. 2:16), thus providing for man's physical health. Paul, in warning of those who will depart from the faith, discusses those who will command to abstain from meats and states about meats, "which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good,

and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving" (1 Tim. 4:3-4). God provides for man in the physical realm. Even as God provides in the physical realm, He provides in the spiritual realm also. That spiritual provision is the powerful Word of God. We can observe how powerful that Word of God is when we realize that by God's spoken word, everything in the universe was made (Gen. 1; Heb. 11:3). That same powerful Word has the ability to save souls. "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (Jam. 1:21). "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16).

God sends forth His Word. It is not the word of a man or group of men. God used men as His spokesmen, but it was not the spokesmen's word, it was God's Word and simply revealed by men. Peter describes this as "holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost" (1 Pet. 1:21). After speaking with the Jewish leaders in Rome, Luke states, "And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers" (Acts 28:25). It was God, the Holy Spirit, speaking by or through the prophet Isaiah. Jesus, in speaking to His apostles (not us today), said, "But when they shall lead *you*, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost" (Mark 13:11).

It is no wonder that Paul would write, "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). *Inspiration* comes from the Greek word *theopneustos*, which literally means "God breathed." The Scripture literally comes from the mouth or breath of God, not from man. God is the source and origin. Although He used human writers to communicate His message, the Scriptures are not merely the product of human thought. They are given by the inspiration of God.

God's Word is Never Without Effect

Words are powerful. We all know the power of words; think about when someone says evil things about you and the pain it causes even though you know it is not true. That is because the power of words. James discusses this subject in James 3:2-12. Notice some of the statements Inspiration makes:

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on

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Michael Hatcher, Editor

fire of hell... But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison (3:5-6, 8).

We have the adage: The pen is mightier than the sword (the exact phrase originally used by English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839 although similar phrases date all the way back to the 7th century BC) because we realize the power of words. Yet, how much more powerful when the words come from the one who was able to speak the universe into existence?

The Hebrews' writer states, "For the word of God *is* quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). We have already noted the power of the Gospel to save souls (Rom. 1:16; Jam. 1:21).

God's Word Accomplishes His Purpose

That powerful Word will accomplish what God intends. We, as individuals, might not immediately understand God's design in giving His Word or even know or understand the Word He has given. Yet, God will still accomplish His purpose in sending or giving His Word. This is the exact situation with the prophets of old as they spoke "*as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Pet. 1:21).

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto them-

selves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into (1 Pet. 1:10-12).

God was speaking through the prophets, even though the prophets (or angels) understood what they were saying. Even though they did not understand the words God spoke through them, it was still accomplishing what God desired. They could have often thought their prophesying was of little value or accomplishing nothing. When we proclaim God's message, we can also often feel as if that preaching has been in vain. We see little or no visible, positive response. It plays in our mind, and we get to thinking the Gospel has fallen on hard, barren soil and is not accomplishing anything. Yet, we need to realize, even if we see no visible, positive response, that it is still achieving God's will. We might not understand it, even as the prophets did not, but it is fulfilling God's pleasure. It is fulfilling God's will even when men fight against it.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, fought against both Amos and God's revelation through him (Amos 7). Yet, in spite of Amaziah, God accomplished His will. Saul of Tarsus fought against Christ and Christianity doing everything within his power to destroy it. Yet, all through this God's will was being accomplished as it brought about a scattering of the church (Acts 8:1-4) and as Paul becomes the great apostle Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 9; Gal. 2:7). Men today fight and struggle against God's Word, but God is still accomplishing what He desires, whether we understand it or not.

God's Word Accomplishes His Purpose of Salvation

In Isaiah, the specific item under discussion is God's mercy and pardon (Isa. 55:7). God's Word will accomplish His pleasure, the salvation of souls. The Gospel is God's power to save. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). James adds the Scriptures have the ability or power to save: "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (Jam. 1:21).

Realizing God's only power to save is in the Gospel, it is surprising so many have forsaken what the Scriptures teach and authorize for the doctrines, theories, creeds, and disciplines of man. Sadly, even preachers in the churches of Christ, instead of speaking the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11) are instead giving nice after-dinner speeches, or simply moral platitudes and messages simply given to entertain. We have some who had advocated in the place of preaching to have dramatic presentations. Instead of powerfully proclaiming God's message, they appeal to the baser senses of man in recreation, entertainment, and such like. Yet, these will not accomplish God's good pleasure even though it might draw numbers and make people feel good.

We, as a people, must return to a faithful proclamation of the truth of the Gospel: something the denominational world cannot and does not offer. The Word of God is the only way man will be pardoned by God from his sins.

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hammedan cult. If violence is what it takes, then violence is what they will use (referred to as Jihad, “Holy War”). There are five obligations of every Muslim and five articles of faith. This of course is not an exhaustive view of Islam as there is not enough space to do so. It is our prayer that every soul will research diligently into every aspect of this cult before accepting it as God-ordained. It is not a peaceful cult, but one solely founded upon violence.

The Koran vs The Bible

Koran means “to recite” or “the thing read.” All Mohammedans believe that the Law of Moses, the Psalms, and the Gospel of Christ are additional revelations of God, but revelations corrupted by Jews and Christians. They teach that translating the Bible into other languages is what corrupts it, which is why the Koran is only considered pure in its original language of Arabic.

If we believe in absolutes, then we must believe that truth is absolute, meaning that there is only one truth. Believe it or not, Mohammed believed that the Bible was the one and only truth! Take for example what he said in Sura 5:47, 68:

Let the People of the Gospel judge by what Allah hath revealed therein. If any do fail to judge by (the light of) what Allah hath revealed, they are (no better than) those who rebel...say: O People of the Book! [Bible] ye have no ground to stand upon unless ye stand fast by the Law, The Gospel, and all the revelation that has come to you from your Lord.

Here within these two passages of the Koran, Mohammed confirmed that if **any man** does not

heed the words of the Law of Moses or the Gospel of Christ, they are no better than one who rebels. He states specifically “People of the Book [Bible]” have nowhere to stand unless they stand on the Law and Gospel. It does not appear that Mohammed considers the Bible to be tampered with or corrupt. But even more important is that Mohammed stated that it is the Gospel that God (Allah) has given men to evaluate truth—not the Koran. Anyone willing to reject the Gospel as their spiritual guide is a rebel, plain and simple. Therefore, every Mohammedan, according to their book, is bound to reverently search and accept **all** that is contained in the Bible so he may be properly guided thereby; thus, proving that the Bible is the only source of truth for all peoples.

One problem with the writings of Mohammed is that either he misinterpreted texts or intentionally changed people and dispensations, and by doing so created contradictions that prove the Koran to be false. In Sura 28:9, Mohammed thought that it was Pharaoh’s wife that adopted Moses, when in fact as Moses states, it was Pharaoh’s daughter (Exo. 2:5-10). In the book of Esther, a man by the name of Haman served King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) who reigned between 485-464 BC (Est. 3:1-3). Yet Mohammed placed Haman some one thousand years earlier in the employment of Pharaoh of Egypt (Sura 28:6, 38; 29:39). The Koran even goes further to say that Pharaoh commanded Haman to build a tower of brick up to heaven (Sura 28:38). However, this tower, known by the “People of the book (Bible),” as that of Babel, which was constructed more than 600 years

earlier, depending upon which Pharaoh is meant (Gen. 11:1-9). In Sura 19:28, Mohammed confused (intentionally or not) Jesus’ mother Mary, with the sister of Old Testament high priest Aaron, whose name was Miriam (Exo. 15:20).

How can the Quran state that the Bible is the one and only book of God to man, while at the same time arguing that the Bible has been corrupted? That argument is utterly illogical. But we hear the same illogical arguments from the Catholic, Mormon churches, and Jehovah’s Witnesses. If truth is absolute (which it is) then there can only be one correct interpretation of God’s revelation to man. The Bible alone contains the only discourse that instructs all men, everywhere, in every generation how to live and how to deal with their fellowman.

It is unique in that the Bible alone reveals both sides of man—sinning yet striving toward holy perfection. While Mohammed admitted that he was only a man and a sinner, Jesus, as God, never sinned once (John 8:58-59; 10:30; 1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15). Only the Bible tells us from where we came, and why we are here. The Bible is the only truth from God because it convicts men of sin, instructs us how to be cleansed of sin, and how to gain victory over sin. With over 300 Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus Christ, all of them were fulfilled in Jesus, not Joseph Smith, Charles Taze Russel, or Mohammed. According to God’s own Word, the Bible is indestructible and incorruptible and will endure forever (1 Pet. 1:23-25; Isa. 55:8-11).

The Bible says it is the only inspired book of God through His

own words (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and by the words of historians. Flavius Josephus recorded the history of his Jewish nation beginning with Genesis down to his day. He testified to the fact that all things mentioned in the New Testament were historical fact. In comparison, the Koran is a book written by one man during a 23-year period, while the Bible chronicles historical events that occurred over a 4,000 year period. Although many claim that their religious books are inspired by God, those who do, use Bible texts as their springboard.

In short, Islam is based upon a false assumption of God and written by an infidel. Their doctrine is situational as it makes God dispense evil as well as good. This religious cult is very dangerous and one that every person should carefully assess before accepting as being God given.

A "Holy" War

Jihad is an Arabic word that denotes, "exerting, striving, or struggling." There are two main classifications of Jihad: (1) Greater or inner which deal with one's own struggles in life; (2) Lesser or outer, which is subdivided into jihad of the pen or tongue and jihad of the sword. It is the latter that is the focus of Mohammedans in converting non-Mohammedans to their way of life and beliefs. Though they have added a third subdivision of the Lesser Jihad called "Civilization Jihad." Their goal is a kind of "Grand Jihad" that will eliminate Western civilization from within by sabotaging our miserable house by our own hands, thereby making God's religion (cult) victorious over all religions. This is stated in the

"Muslim Brotherhood in America" guide, July 2025.

Americans, and mostly Christians of all stripes, have allowed themselves to ignore the underbelly of the beast known as Mohammedism. The Media and politicians have lulled Americans to sleep with the idea that Mohammedans are a peaceful group of people, it is only the small group of extremists that we need to be careful about. The problem with that line of thinking is not one *Muslim* is innocent of extremism. Though not all necessarily participate in the use of the sword, they do support it by not speaking out to expose their goals. Just look at all the countries on the other side of the world that are "Muslim," and show me how they are peaceful. They do not allow other religions in their countries, they have public hangings, and mutilations of anyone violating their 7th century laws.

The United Kingdom is now paying the price for turning a blind eye to the Civilization Jihad in their country, with increased violence in their communities. To gain acceptance, they begin with playing the victim and wanting asylum to protect them from the violence of the country from which they came. Then they run for office, working their way into mayor's seats and city councils, then into the county offices, then State and now Federal offices. We the people, not wanting to be called *racist* vote for them. Vote for the very people who want to eliminate the Constitution and all our laws. The very people who will not take their oath of office on the Bible, but only on their Quran; the very people who refuse to assimilate to our culture, our laws, our way of life, are the ones we vote

for and will one day bow down to and convert or die.

These people are using our laws against us to gain the upper hand and destroy our way of life, so do not be fooled by their *innocent* demeanor. Unlike false religions of the past, which Islam is not a religion but a 7th century governmental system, Mohammedans believe in the sword through forced compliance with *their* laws, not ours. In 630, Mohammed took 10,000 soldiers with him to Mecca and forced the people to accept Mohammedism or die. Every city they approached were given the same ultimatum, which is how their form of government spread. If you will recall the Crusades of the 11th and 13th centuries was a forceful conquest of the world, from Arabia to Western Europe. The Roman Catholic Church stood up against the Mohammedans to take back the "Holy Lands."

After years of gaining and losing ground the Crusades ended in 1291 with a partial reconquering of Jerusalem. Since that time the Jihad movement has been redefined many times. It is through the Al-Qadeesta Jihad movement that today's reinterpretation of Jihadi ideology has become more extreme. Jihad has evolved into seven politically shaped concepts: (1) Empire building, (2) Suppression of apostate subjects, (3) Revolution against false Muslim leaders, (4) Anticolonial struggle and purification of religion, (5) Countering Western influences, (6) Guerrilla Warfare, and (7) The direct targeting of civilians.

Number 4 began in the 1700s with a call to purify British control of India, North Africa, and the Middle East. Number 5 was em-

ployed during WWII to cleanse Egypt of non-believers. In the 1980s number 6 was employed to defeat the godless Russians in Afghanistan. This would then be used against the United States such as the *USS Cole* attack, East Africa embassy bombing, and the September 11 attacks.

In the past fifty years plus, the Jihadi movement has focused on what they call “Civilization Jihad” where they conquer nations from the inside. We have witnessed this takeover in England and other counties in the 20 years; however, it started long before that. For the past 75 years in the United States and with the help of our *representatives* in congress, *Muslims* have been implanted into various cities across our country. Through immigration they are relocated here by our government then allowed to bring their families where they gradually become a large community.

In 2023, Dearborn, Michigan, became the first majority *Muslim* city with roughly 55% of its resi-

dents of Middle East or North African ancestry. The Civilization Jihad incorporates grade schools, high schools, and Universities to hold classes to familiarize students with Mohammedism. Recently, in Richardson, Texas, they clandestinely tried to open a university that offered courses in technology. However, every course required the students to learn the Quran and Mohammedan practices. Fortunately, Texas discovered this before it got a foothold and shut it down.

They attend city council meetings and demand religious equality through special prayer rooms, ability to pray in the streets, and allowing their calls to prayer over loudspeakers, and cities are caving to it. In November 1990, the 101st congress quietly repealed the McCarran-Warner Act of 1952 that forbid *Muslims* from holding any public office. Mitch McConnell and John McCain were just a few of the RINOs supporting it. Once in office and gaining the majority, they change city ordinances allowing sharia law.

More cities and even states are updating their flags by the adding the Islamic 8-point star to be included. This is a holy war, and a second crusade is needed to stem the tide. Mohammedans have a 100-year plan to take off any country and turn it into 7th century Arabia. They are slow and methodical, starting with their migration as victims of oppression. Then they begin getting involved in the community, then running for office, then changing ordinances, allowing mosques to be built, public calls to prayer, etc. Because we are viewed as infidels, their laws allow for rape and stabbing of non-Muslims, which increases as they gain more power. They are not a peaceful people as they would like us to think, they have always been people of the sword, not peace which most Americans have accepted. Just look at England and other countries in Europe who have given them too much latitude and know that is what America will face if we do not put a stop to it now.

Mexico, MO

“Did I Repent, or Was I Just Sorry?”

Noah A. Hackworth

Is godly sorrow repentance? This question can be answered in one word: **No!** A segment of our brotherhood has mistakenly accepted “godly sorrow” for repentance. Those who have made this mistake have put themselves in an unfavorable, most unpleasant situation, as well as the local church where they hold membership. For years, we have seen people try to become Christians without meeting the demands of repentance (Luke 13:3). They have been deceived, misin-

formed, or both, by someone. Without credible evidence, such people have somehow reached the conclusion that sorrow, especially “godly sorrow,” is repentance. If sorrow, godly or not, is repentance, then someone could (1) rob the local bank, express sorrow to the authorities for having done so, but keep the money; (2) steal another man’s wife or another woman’s husband, express sorrow to the offended parties and keep the stolen man or woman. If godly sorrow in these cases

is repentance, it would be the ideal way to *get rich quick* and change a *marital status* at will. However, there is no need for anyone who is a competent student of the Bible or who respects the authority of Jesus Christ to mistake sorrow for repentance.

Men Must Repent

It has been made unmistakably clear by the Holy Spirit that men must repent, and he who does not will bring about his demise (Luke 13:3). John,

the man sent by God (John 1:6), interrupted the quietness of the Judean wilderness with “Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mat. 3:1-2), and Jesus also preached the same message (4:17). The apostles were told by the Lord to preach repentance and remission of sins beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47). On the day of Pentecost, people were told to “repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Paul told the Athenians that God “now commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (17:30). It is forever settled. Men must repent.

Biblical Usage

Without unnecessarily burdening ourselves with the number of times *repentance* is used in the Bible, suffice it to say, in one form or another, whether explicitly stated or implied, repentance is taught hundreds of times. T.W.

Brents (*The Gospel Plan of Salvation*, p. 236) says:

In all the forms in which the word is used it refers to God thirty-seven times, and with reference to man sixty-nine times. It is used to indicate sorrow or regret twenty-eight times, a change of mind or will twenty-five times, and a change of mind resulting in reformation of life fifty-three times...When used in the New Testament as a command to the alien in order to the remission of sins, it always indicates such a change of mind as produces a change or reformation of life under circumstances warranting the conclusion that sorrow for the past would or had preceded it.

Though I did not take the time to count how many times *repentance* is used in all its forms, I shall proceed assuming that Brents is correct in his numerical count. Even if he miscounted, it would not change the word's basic meaning as used in the Bible.

Repentance and Godly Sorrow

To be sorry for our sins is certainly necessary to effect genuine repentance. Still, too many times, “godly sorrow” is the only thing that occurs, and that is without a change in behavior or relationship. Repentance demands the cessation of sins repented of; one cannot continue the sin he supposedly repented (Rom. 6:1-2). God forbid that this be attempted. Anyone who has access to the original text, whether a Greek New Testament or an Interlinear, can see how Paul makes clear (2 Cor. 7:8-10) the distinction between godly sorrow and repentance.

For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent [*metamelomai*, regret], though I did repent [*metemelomen*, regret]: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance [*metanoian*, reformation]: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance [*metanoian*, reformation] to salvation not to be repented [*metameleton*, regretted] of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Brents again observes:

Surely, nothing could be more apparent than the difference in the use which Paul makes of these two Greek words, though both rendered repent in the common version. Paul wrote the Corinthians a letter which made them sorry, and he regretted it, but he ceased to regret it when he saw that their sorrow worked in them repentance; i.e., such a change of mind as culminated in their reformation.

The case for repentance unto the remission of sins is clearly established. Godly sorrow is related to repentance and is certainly necessary. Still, genuine repentance requires such a change of character and activity that affects a reformation of life that can be clearly seen. John the Baptist put it

correctly: “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance” (Mat. 3:8).

Repentance and Restitution

This is a *problem spot* between many good brethren. Does godly sorrow, which works repentance, necessitate any kind of restitution? Adam Clark says:

No man should expect mercy at the hand of God, who, having wronged his neighbor, refuses, when he has it in his power, to make restitution. Were he to weep tears of blood, both the justice and mercy of God would shut out his prayers if he made not his neighbor amends for the injury he has done him (*Commentary on Genesis*).

Added to this is the comment made by Zaccheus, which is available for all to read. “And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold” (Luke 19:8).

Conclusion

It is relatively easy to be sorry for our sins unless we have become entirely insensitive to wrongdoing. Still, if the sorrow is genuine, it will culminate in repentance, which is “a change of mind that leads to a reformation of life.”

Additionally, if restitution is in order, let it take place. After all, the Scriptures say, “But the way of the transgressor is hard” (Pro. 13:15). The work of elders, preachers, and church leaders will be made a lot easier, and their work much more pleasant when genuine repentance takes place in the lives of the people with whom they must deal. The work of church leaders will be attended by less grief when people repent and bring forth the fruits that will, without question, indicate that a change in life and character has occurred.

Deceased

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