



# The End of Repentance

Hebrews 12:1-17

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

<sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore lift up your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup>that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

## I. Running the Race

## II. Feeling the Pain

## III. Winning the Prize

Message

Please ask God's Spirit to guide you as you consider these applications:

**Give praise to God for the wondrous work of Jesus on your behalf.** Speak to one another or say out loud what these are in our passage. Rejoice in the sure promises of God in Christ Jesus.

**Ask Him to give you insight into areas at home, school and work that need repenting.** We continue to struggle with the remaining effects of sin and its control over our hearts. While we are weak in this struggle, God is able to fortify and strengthen us in this battle. Ask for His help.

**Look to the founder and perfecter of your faith.** What has Jesus endured for our sakes? What confidence can we have that he is able to do this? How is Jesus the prize and the goal of this life of faith that we are now living? How does his Word reflect the loving face of our Savior?

**See the corporate nature of repentance in this community of faith.** We have sworn a vow before God and each other in the sacrament of baptism that we will commit ourselves to the growth in holiness of our brother in the Lord. How have you been doing that today? What ways can you begin to accomplish this in the lives of others in our community?

**Pray for CTR.** We as a community of faith need to live confidently and humbly in the certainty of the gospel. God has empowered us to pray for one another. Pray for one another. Pray especially for Explorer Camp this week and for the team from Covenant Presbyterian helping us.

Application

### Question 76: What is repentance unto life?

“Repentance unto life is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby, out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, and upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, he so grieves for and hates his sins, as that he turns from them all to God, purposing and endeavoring constantly to walk with him in all the ways of new obedience.”

Larger Catechism

## Memory Verses

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

### Taking Gathered Worship Home

*It is important to spend some time each day talking to God in prayer and reading the Bible. We want to learn as a community of faith how we are to grieve about our sin and look in repentance and faith to Christ. Please read the indicated passages each day and spend some time reflecting on them and discussing them with others as appropriate.*

Sunday, 9/5

**Read:** Hebrews 12:1-17.

**Ask yourself or one another:** What were the main points of the sermon? How do they apply to us as a congregation? How do they apply to me? What am I going to do about it? How does the repentance of Christ empower us to do so? Review Application.

**Sing:** *His Love Can Never Fail* (words in order of worship).

**Pray:** Ask God to continue conforming us as a congregation to the image of Christ together through biblical repentance and faith.

Monday, 9/6

**Read:** Ephesians 4:17-24.

**Ask yourself or one another:** How are you able to have your mind enlightened? What is the end result of this pursuit? Why is it so important that we continue to look to Jesus?

**Meditate** on the memory verse above. Ask God to use these verses to reorient your heart and mind on what Christ has done for us.

**Sing:** *His Love Can Never Fail*.

**Pray:** Ask God to help us to learn the truth that is in Christ Jesus, and to help us to put off the old self and put on the new one.

Tuesday, 9/7

**Read:** Hebrews 12:1-3.

**Ask yourself or one another:** How does the faith of others strengthen our walk with Christ? What encouragement can we take from knowing the Jesus is seated at the right hand of the throne of God?

**Review** the memory verses. Work on committing them to memory.

**Sing:** *His Love Can Never Fail*.

**Pray:** “Our great God, allow us to see the loving face of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Allow the testimony of the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit to break the stronghold of sin in our lives, and to know Him who is the founder and perfecter of our faith.”

Wednesday, 9/8

**Read:** Proverbs 4:20-27; Psalm 119:105.

**Ask yourself or one another:** In what ways are we hiding God’s Word in our hearts? How do these passages exemplify true repentance? Why must we keep our eyes looking forward?

**Meditate** on the memory verses & read thru the *WLC question* on back.

**Sing:** *His Love Can Never Fail*.

**Pray:** “Lord Jesus, you are wisdom and life to us. We ask that you would give us a desire for your Word; help us to understand and apply it to our lives. Please make our path well-lit and our way straight.”

**Read:** Hebrews 12:4-11.

**Ask yourself or one another:** Consider the ways that you are experiencing the discipline of God. How does this reflect God’s love for you? Can you see the peaceful fruit of righteousness resulting from this discipline?

**Review** the memory verses & read thru the *WLC question* on back.

**Sing:** *His Love Can Never Fail*.

**Pray:** “Gracious Lord, you continue to show your love for us through your perfect hand of discipline. Teach us, we pray, to be trained through your discipline, that it might produce in each of us the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Father of spirits, we ask that you would make us more and more like Jesus, who is our life. Renew us and revive us, that we might share in your holiness.”

Thursday, 9/9

**Read:** Hebrews 12:12-17.

**Ask yourself or one another:** What does biblical repentance look like? How are we responsible for one another in obtaining the grace of God? Why is the “root of bitterness” so destructive in the body of Christ?

**Meditate** on the memory verses & read thru the *WLC question* on back.

**Sing:** *His Love Can Never Fail*.

**Pray:** “O Lord, we are weak in our faith. We desperately need your healing, that we might lift up our drooping hands and strength in our weak knees. Most of all, Lord, we pray that you would grant us endurance for the race, that we might all obtain holiness, so that we might see you as you are.”

Friday, 9/10

**Read:** Joshua 1 *in preparation for gathered worship tomorrow.*

**Sing:** *His Love Can Never Fail*.

**Rejoice:** Do something to celebrate God’s favor. Perhaps enjoying a special meal or inviting friends over. Make a point of giving God praise for His kindness to us.

**Pray:** Lord, teach us to walk by faith and not by sight. Work in us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Make us attentive to your Word in worship tomorrow and help us to receive your feast with faith. Build us up as a community of faith to live as your people. In Christ’s name we pray.

Saturday, 9/11