## Persuasion, No Penance, Plus the Prize Part 4: Repentance, a Remedy for What Wrong? (Part 2)

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**INTRODUCTION** 

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1. John is the only NT book written to unbelievers

| 7 + 1 Signs | Α  | B | C | D | <del></del> |
|-------------|--|---|---|---|-------------|
|             | E  | F | G | H | I           |
| Purpose     | Jesus actually performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples. But these [eight signs] have been written so that <b>you</b> may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing <b>you</b> may have life in His Name. (20:30-31) |   |   |   |             |

2. Luke was not written to unbelievers. Luke 1:4 (Theophilus = God's Friend)

"those things in which you were instructed (katēkeō)"

3. Acts was not written to unbelievers. Acts 1:1 (Theophilus = God's Friend)

"The former account [Gospel of Luke] I made, O Theophilus..."

4. Matthew was not written to unbelievers. (the short answer)

It was written to disciples, so they would produce more disciples. (Note the audience of Matthew 28:19-20: the Eleven)

If it were written to unbelievers, we would expect two things that are not there:

- A. An emphasis on believing, but only 11 uses appear: 8:13; 9:28; 18:6; 21:22, 25, 32a, 32b, 32c; 24:23, 26; 27:42
- B. A CLEAR statement of what is to be believed.
- 5. Mark was not written to unbelievers. (the short answer)
  - A. An emphasis on believing, but only 15 uses appear: 1:15; 5:36; 9:23a,23b, 24, 42; 11:23-24, 31; 13:21; 15:32; 16:13-14, 16-17

A CLEAR statement of what is to be believed.

"Believe the gospel" would not qualify as CLEAR by itself.

## John Emphasizes the Message to Be Believed; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts Do Not. Why? A book written to unbelievers must emphasize believing the message of life. John's Gospel emphasizes believing Jesus' promise of everlasting life. John's Gospel never mentions repentance. (Revelation does give emphasis to repentance, but is written to believers) Books written to believers can assume that the readers know what the message of life is. Books written to believers emphasize what the original readers needed to know. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts do emphasize repentance.

## Devil's Advocate: Is it Possible that John's Gospel Implies Repentance, though not using the term?

(That is theoretically possible, but we will see that Matthew and Mark disprove this notion)

## Answer to the Devil's Advocate: Jesus Did Not Begin His Ministry with a Message of Repentance

Jesus' ministry in John 1–3 JB in Prison Jesus' ministry (John 4ff)

(several months of ministry) Jesus went to Gal (4:1*f*, 43)

Jesus' ministry in Matt 3:1–4:11 Matt 4:12 JB in Prison Matt 4:17 Jesus began to

Jesus went to Galilee preach, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is

at hand."

Thus, Jesus gathered His first believing disciples (John 1) w/o a repentance message;
He ministered at the wedding in Cana w/o a repentance message (2:1-12);
He ministered at Passover/Unleavened Bread w/o repentance (2:13–3:21);
He ministered in the Judean wilderness w/o repentance (3:22-36); and
He ministered to the Samaritans in Sychar w/o repentance (4:1-42).\*

(\*Repentance was not part of message to Samaria per Matt 10:5 in context)

John the Baptist repentance (Matt 3:2/Mark 1:4), so Jesus did not need to. When John was imprisoned, Jesus began preaching repentance (Matt 4:12, 17/Mark 1:14f)

| Why Di  | id Those People Need to Repent?  1. From the Gospels: The Kingdom is at hand       |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|   | 2. From the Land Covenant: Deuteronomy 30  |  |  |
|   | 3. From Acts: Acts 3:19ff  |  |  |
|   | 4 will receive the Millennial Kingdom, when  |  |  |
| SUMMARY John's Gospel tells Unbelievers how to Receive Everlasting Life |  |  |  |
|   | Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts Give Emphasis to how Israel Will Receive its Kingdom |  |  |
|   | How Did Christendom Mix Repentance into the Message of Life?                       |  |  |

To Whom Did Jesus and John the Baptist Preach Repentance?

CONCLUSION