

6 THINGS GOD USES TO BRING MEN TO REPENTANCE

1 SIGNS & KNOWLEDGE

— Mt.11:20-24; Lk.16:30-31

²⁰Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: ²¹"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (Mt.11:20-21)

- Jesus came to Chorazin and Bethsaida and preached the truth, including miracles. Yet they did not repent (Mt.11:20-24).
- Miracles were signs to bring men to Christ. The knowledge of these things was to cause men to repent.

³⁰And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' (Lk.16:30-31)

- This is the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man went to Hell and said, "I want to go back and tell my brothers."
- They will not repent if they will not believe the Word. God has given us the Word so that men might repent.

2 SORROW FOR SIN

— 2Co.7:9-10

⁹Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. (2Co.7:9-10)

- God has given us sorrow for our sin. Have you ever done something wrong and then felt bad? Every time. That is a good thing. You sin and the bell goes off called conscience.
- A lot of people think that being sorry for your sin is repentance. Feeling sorry for your sin is not repentance, but it can bring repentance.



3 GOD'S GOODNESS

— Ro.2:4

⁴Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (Ro.2:4)

- God's goodness is for the purpose of bringing men to change their mind about Christ and to place their trust in Him.

4 CHASTISEMENT

— Rv.3:19

¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Rv.3:19)

- Do you know why God is rebuking you and chastening you? He wants to turn you around.
- It is not a theological issue. It is a personal commitment issue. God uses chastisement because it works.

5 FINAL JUDGMENT

— Mt.21:42-43; Ac.17:30-31

³⁰Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." (Ac.17:30-31)

- God designed final judgment to lead men to repentance. You cannot faithfully preach the Word without speaking of judgment.

6 GOD'S GRACE

— Ac.2:38; 3:19

^{2:38}Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Ac.2:38) ^{3:19}Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord (Ac.3:19)

- God is still waiting for them to repent, even though they rejected and crucified their Messiah.
- God said, I know you did it through ignorance. The door of Refuge (City of Refuge) is still wide open.
- They had turned down all five of God's prodding's to come to repentance. God's sovereign grace can bring repentance.

