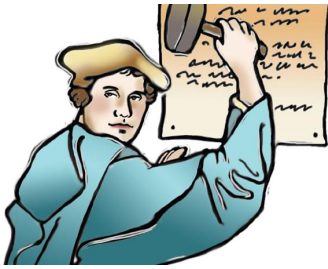


Stewards by God's Design: Three R's of the Christian Steward

Stewards by God's Design



On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The first statement said, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ says 'Repent,' he wills that the entire life of the Christian be one of repentance."

Article XII (12) in the Augsburg Confession, deals with repentance. It says, "Properly speaking, true repentance is nothing else than to have contrition and sorrow or terror, on account of sin, and yet at the same time to believe the Gospel and absolution (namely, that sin has been forgiven and grace has been obtained through Christ), and this faith will comfort the heart and again set it at rest. Amendment of life and the forsaking of sin should then follow, for these must be the fruits of repentance, as John says, 'Bear fruit that befits repentance' (Matthew 3:8)."

Bearing Fruits of Repentance

The ministry of Jesus is framed by these words, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17.

King David was a man after God's own heart. One of the characteristics of such a man is repentance. David was a sinner. He needed to repent, and he did. One such story of his sin and his repentance is found in 2 Samuel 11-12 and Psalm 51.

Read 2 Samuel 11:2-5 What was David's sin?

Read 2 Samuel 11:14-15; 22-24. What was David's sin?

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-7. How was David confronted with his sin?

Psalm 51 is David's response to Nathan the Prophet.

- Read verses 3-8. What did David acknowledge?
- Read verses 10-13. What did David ask of God?

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus. He was a preacher of repentance. The beginning of his ministry is recorded in Luke 3.

Read Luke 3:1-2 Why does Luke give such detail about the leaders and rulers who were in office at that time?

Read Luke 3:3 What was John proclaiming and why?

Read Luke 3:7-9 What did John tell the crowds in...

- Verse 7
- Verse 8
- Verse 9

Read Luke 3:10-14. What question did the crowd, the tax collectors, and the soldiers ask John?

Why is this question known as the steward's question?

How did John answer them? Why is this important?

Stewardship is the Christian life and the Christian life is stewardship. Stewards manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

Repentance is proved genuine by its fruit which is a total change of life. How does your life, as a steward by God's design, demonstrate the fruits of repentance?