

November 23rd

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Scripture Reading: Acts 16:11-18:28

Memory Verses: Acts 17:30-31 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Song: "Humble Yourselves"

When Daniel Webster was asked what his most profound thought was, he answered that it was his accountability to God. Accountability is no small matter with God; there is a day when the books will be opened and every person judged according to their deeds by the things which are written in the book (Revelation 20:11-15). Those whose names are not found in the Lamb's book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

The book by which we will be judged arises from the sayings of Jesus (John 12:48).

Hebrews 4:12-13 says, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

We do not know when that fixed day will come, but we know it will come. When it comes our eternity will be fixed as well. We must be prepared for the day and hour (Matthew 25:1-14).

God requires repentance of all people everywhere. No one is exempt. Repentance is the heartfelt turn from sin to righteousness, from the world to the Lord, and from selfishness to service. Repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of life.

Repentance is the hardest part of obedience to the gospel. It is not a change for a moment but the beginning of a new life that has died to sin, so that one can live to righteousness. Peter tied repentance with baptism in Acts 2:38. Baptism without repentance is in vain, and repentance without baptism is futile. Accountability before God requires both.

Prayer: "Oh Father, thank You for granting to me the opportunity to repent of my sins and to live for You. Help me each day to overcome my temptations so that I may live for You. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

Thought Questions:

Do I say no to sin and yes to righteousness?

Do I let sin reign in my life?