

## Turn from your sins or burn for your sins

Text:

**Jonah 3:4-5**, And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

INTRODUCTION: The Bible is, from beginning to end, a book that calls men to stop sinning and turn to God.

**Matthew 3:1-2**, In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

**Matthew 4:17**, From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Luke 13:3**, I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

**2 Peter 3:9-10**, The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

DISCUSSION:

### I. ALL SINS ARE AGAINST GOD.

**Jonah 1:2**, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

**Psalms 51:4**, Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

**Proverbs 15:3**, The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

**Psalms 90:8**, Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

A. He saw the sins of Sodom and Gommorah, **Gen. 18:20-21**.

B. He saw the sins of those in Noah's day, **Gen. 6:5**.

### II. JONAH DID NOT WANT TO PREACH REPENTANCE.

**Jonah 1:3**, But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

A. Many today do not want to preach repentance.

**1 Kings 22:7-8**, And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

B. Preachers are commanded to preach repentance.

**Ezekiel 3:17-19**, Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

**Acts 24:25**, And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

### **III. ULTIMATELY JONAH DID PREACH AND THE NINEHVITES DID REPENT.**

**Jonah 3:4-5**, And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

A. It was total repentance, "from the greatest to the least."

B. It was genuine, "they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth."

**Matthew 3:8**, Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

C. It was urgent repentance. They had for days but they repented right away.

**James 4:14**, Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

## CONCLUSION:

1. God is loving and merciful, preparing a place for those who repent and turn to Him.

**Matthew 25:34**, Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world :

2. God is just and holy, a God of wrath who will punish the impenitent.

**2 Peter 3:9-10**, The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

3. Hearing God's word brought repentance and salvation to 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost. What about you today?