



## Midweek Meditation



*“And (John) went into all the region...proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” Luke 3:3*

Having entered into the season of Advent, we know who will be showing up: John the Baptist with his continual cry to repent. Repent? I don't like that word. I'm comfortable with the way I am...I don't want to repent. If repenting means more time for God each week and less time for me, then I don't want to repent. If it means cutting down on my cussing, and drinking, and lusting; if it means making changes in my life, then I don't want to repent. Our sinful flesh hates to repent. We don't want to hear God's preacher. We don't want to mourn over our sins. We don't want to live a life of repentance.

Thank God that repentance is His work and not ours. Repentance means to be turned, and God does the turning. He turns us away from sin to His mercy. I vividly remember a man in his early forties, many years ago, who had lived a wicked life. He came to see me at the church one day. He didn't want to continue in sin. He wanted to know if God could forgive him and turn him around. What a joy it was to give Jesus to this man; to announce to him that Christ died also for him; that forgiveness, life, and salvation was Jesus' gift to him in his baptism. After being baptized he became very sick, and a few weeks later he died. He died in the faith. He died professing his Savior. God turned this man away from sin to Jesus, and away from hell to heaven. He desires to do this in everyone. This is Advent. God is at work. May He work within all of us.

*Lord Jesus, turn me away from sin to Your grace and mercy. Amen.*