

## REPENTANCE DEFINED

How a person **defines** the word “**repentance**” dictates what he/she **believes** about it.

- I. **Traditional Church Definition** - The necessity (or willingness) to **turn from sin** as a **prerequisite** to trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour. In our present dispensation (Church Age of Grace), this is the **first step** towards the **FALSE DOCTRINE** of requiring good works for salvation.
  
- II. **Webster’s Dictionary** - **1.** To feel inner sorrow or be sorry or to be self-reproachful for what one has done or not done; to be conscience-stricken or contrite. **2.** To feel such inner regret or inner dissatisfaction over some past action, intention, etc. as to **change one’s mind** about it. **3. In religious usage,** to feel so contrite over one’s **sins** as to change, or decide to change, one’s ways; be penitent.
  
- III. **King James Bible Definition** - A **change of mind** (or if you prefer, a “**change of heart**”) that must occur **before** any differing action is taken. The 112 uses (in the KJB) of the various forms of the word “**repent**” indicate that a **change of mind** can apply to **any subject, issue, or context** (i.e. in the Bible, “**repentance**” **IS NOT** exclusively used in the context of “**sin**”.)

**NOTE:** If we are to correctly understand the Bible, it is **ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL** to use **God’s definitions** as found in the King James Bible to define **God’s Bible terms**. The KJB has a “**built-in**” **dictionary** for nearly all of its terms! **HOW?** Simply cross-reference the word or phrase to other places in the KJB where the exact same word or phrase is used, and **STUDY** God’s explanation of the word or phrase.

## **RELIGIOUS WORDS VERSUS BIBLE WORDS**

### **I. PENANCE (NOT A BIBLE WORD)**

A. To attempt to atone for your sins by works of self-righteousness such as church membership, water baptism, confession of sins, keeping RCC sacraments, good deeds, living right, being a “good person”, etc. Made popular by heretics like John MacArthur, **Penance** (aka “Lordship Salvation”) is trusting the sinner (at least in part) for his/her salvation, rather than fully trusting in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ by faith alone as the all-sufficient payment and atonement for sin. **Penance** most closely matches the “Traditional Church Definition” on page 1.

### **II. PENITENT (NOT A BIBLE WORD)**

A. Matches “II. Webster’s Dictionary” definition on page 1.

**NOTE:** One way to remember the definition of **PENITENT** is to notice the “**I**” which matches **I**nnersorrow (or to feel sorry) for one’s sins.

### **III. REPENTANCE (USED 112 TIMES IN VARIOUS FORMS IN KJB)**

A. Must use King James Bible definition on page 1.

B. God repents 28 times and refuses to repent another 9 times in the KJB. Therefore the correct definition of “Repentance” **CANNOT BE** to turn from one’s sins since God is **NOT** a sinner.

C. Best Bible reference for defining “Repentance”. - Matt. 21:28-30

D. Great Bible example of “Repentance”. - Acts 28:1-6