***Foundation of Repentance***

**The Lost Art of**

**Repentance *Part 2***

**Pastor Mark Schwarzbauer PhD**

**Family Worship Center 5/1/16**

**Text:** Hebrews 6:1-3

**Part Four: Restoration of Personal Responsibility[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. Flip Wilson and “Geraldine” *The devil made me do it* (never accepting responsibility).
2. Man at the fall and ever since has deflected responsibility – Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent.
3. Man developed into blaming something else or someone else.
4. Comedian Anna Russell in her “Psychiatric Folksong” (short version)

At three I had a feeling of Ambivalence toward my brothers

And so it follows naturally That I poisoned all my lovers.

But now I’m happy; I have learned The lesson this has taught,

That everything I do that’s wrong Is someone else’s fault

1. The new repository for blame… “I’m not guilty, I’m just sick!”

A. Ethan Couch – He had already been on probation for alcohol related offense at age 14. At age 16 he stole 2 cases of beer from Walmart, got drunk to three times the legal limit for adults and driving drunk he killed 4 people and injured 9 others. The defense argued that he had “Affluenza” and therefore wasn’t responsible because he was too rich and spoiled to know right from wrong. Couch got probation and no jail time.

B. President of the American University Richard Berendzen, got caught making obscene phone calls. He blamed it on being a victim of child abuse.

C. Not responsible for stealing because of kleptomania.

D. Not responsible for lying because of being pathological.

E. People now defend their wrong actions on being a victim themselves or sick.

F. It is popular to look for an environmental or obscure medical scapegoat to relieve people of taking any personal responsibility.

G. Culture will continue to develop this to new extremes as people accept less responsibility for themselves.

1. Personal responsibility.

A. Romans 14:12 “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

B. We are free moral agents - Joshua 24:15.

C. Our theme in 2015 of “Choosing Your Destiny” covered this thoroughly.

D. Why I am Not an Atheist- Part Three – Free Will, 7-14-13

1. The good news is… You really can change.

A. I Corinthians 6:9-11.

B. Such WERE some of you - You CAN change.

1. Repentance – gives you back the power for real change.

A. There are organic brain diseases and real organic psychological illnesses. However, in absence of true organic brain disorders to call wrong behavior “sickness” instead of what is really is “sin”, cripples the person.

B. You can’t repent of “sickness” but you can repent and overcome “sin.”

1. Dr. Hobart Mowrer, professor at Harvard and Yale, past president of American Psychological Association, wrote in the American Psychologist[[2]](#footnote-2) “For several decades we psychologists looked upon the whole matter of sin and moral accountability as a great incubus and acclaimed our liberation from it as epoch making. But at length we have discovered that to be free in this sense, that is, to have the excuse of being sick rather than sinful, is to court the danger of also becoming lost. This danger is, I believe, betokened by the widespread interest in existentialism, which we are presently witnessing. In becoming amoral, ethically neutral and free, we have cut the very roots of our being, lost our deepest sense of selfhood and identity, and with neurotics, themselves, we find ourselves asking, “Who am I, what is my deepest destiny, what does living mean?”

A. Mowrer was an agnostic who had incredible success curing “mental illness” by insisting people “repent.”

B. William Glasser- *Reality Therapy*, Jay Adam- *Competent to Counsel* et al.

1. Time to repent - face our problems and confess our sins and turn to God for forgiveness.
2. Jesus and the cross.

A. Sin has real consequences including hell and separation from God.

B. Jesus took your sin upon himself to set you free. Col. 2.

C. We are called to “repent and believe” Mark 1:15, Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30, 20:21, 26:20 et al.

1. Communion brings us back to repent and believe.

**Closing…** Don’t let anyone rob you! Fake police or false shepherds… Repent, recover your joy, be refreshed and live in victory! Communion

**Discussion Items and Questions for Home and Small Group**

1. In your own words explain what it really means to “repent”.

2. Why do you think people blame others or things instead of accept the responsibility for sin?

3. How does facing “sin” instead of calling it “sickness” empower a person to change?

4. How does God wash, sanctify and justify us?

5. Take time to pray together.

1. Portions of part four are from the article I’m not guilty, I’m just sick” by Bert Thompson Ph.D. http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=9&article=1344 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Sin”: The lesser of two evils. Mowrer, O. Hobart, American Psychologist, Vol 15(5), May 1960, 301-304. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)