

DEAD WORKS"



"DEAD WORKS" refers to anything that does not lead to right-standing with God. It is also a dependence on anything other than the blood of Christ for our justification (salvation).

"DEAD WORKS" also includes our personal acts of sin, as well as rituals that do not avail anything with God because they are truly dead and of no value to Him, eliciting nothing of His life! (It may be of interest to realize that "rituals" of this kind can "creep" into all churches).

"DEAD WORKS" may also take the form of traditions of men which are given such importance that they actually make a commandment of God no effect. Jesus recognized this practice by the scribes and Pharisees and explained it in detail as recorded in Matthew 15:18-20 so that we can recognize and avoid it. (You might take a minute and look this up before you proceed).

Finally, the NIV Bible defines "repentance from works" as "repentance from acts that lead to death" (Hebrews 6:1; 9:14). That being the case, whatever "belief" that leads you away from God, whatever personal sin, dead ritual, reliance on a tradition of man rather than on a commandment of God - Jesus urges you to repent of it. Repenting of any or ALL of these "DEAD WORKS" is not difficult. Repentance simply means to change your mind about something, change your actions in keeping with your change of mind. In this case, it is a turning from all "DEAD WORKS" as a result of believing that you must do so. John the Baptist explained God's expectation of this change of action (behavior) in keeping with repentance in Luke 3:8. "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance." He then gave some very practical examples of what those who repent should actually do as recorded in Luke 3:10-14.

(Look this reference up and make a list of what these are).



A few Scripture references illustrating various statements of repentance are listed below for the reader's benefit.

✦ Psalm 32:5: The word "repent" does not appear in this verse, but it is a verse which exemplified repentance).

✦ Proverbs 28:13: Emphasizes confessing sins and forsaking, repenting or turning from them

✦ Luke 19:1-10: A tax collector who made restitution..a true example of repentance.