**Why Is Repentance Absent from John’s Gospel?**

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**INTRODUCTION**

**STATISTICS IN JOHN’S GOSPEL:**

John’s Gospel has *pisteuō* (“believe”) 100 times in Majority Text (98 times in Nestle-Aland).

John’s Gospel has *metanoeō* (“repent”) zero times and has *metanoia* (“repentance”) zero times.

**WE WILL TEST THEORIES (The response to the following two THEORIES will be the same):**

**THEORY 1: REPENTANCE IS IMPLICIT IN THE WORD *BELIEVE***:

**THEORY 2: REPENTANCE IS AN UNSTATED CONDITION FOR ETERNAL LIFE IN JOHN:**

**ANSWER 1 TO THEORIES 1 AND 2:**

**JOHN, THE ONLY NT BOOK WRITTEN TO PERSUADE UNBELIEVERS OF THE MESSAGE OF LIFE DOES NOT MENTION REPENTANCE, BUT BOOKS WRITTEN TO BELIEVERS DO MENTION IT.**

***By Book***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Metanoeō* (“Repent”)** | ***Metanoia* (“Repentance”)** | **Both** |
| Matthew | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Mark | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Luke | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| Acts | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Romans |  | 1 | 1 |
| 2 Corinthians | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 Timothy |  | 1 | 1 |
| Hebrews |  | 3 | 3 |
| 2 Peter |  | 1 | 1 |
| Revelation | 12 |  | 12 |
| Totals: | 34 | 24 | 58 |

***By Book***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Metanoeō* (“Repent”)** | ***Metanoia* (“Repentance”)** | **Both** |
| Matthew (Matthew) #3 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Mark (Mark) #5 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| **Luke (Luke-Acts) #1** | **14** | **11** | **25** |
| Paul (Rom, 2 Cor, 2 Tim) #4 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| ? (Hebrews) #6 |  | 3 | 3 |
| Peter (2 Peter) #7 |  | 1 | 1 |
| **John (Revelation) #2** | **12** |  | **12** |
| Totals: | 34 | 24 | 58 |

**ANSWER 2 TO THEORIES 1 AND 2:**

**JESUS GAVE THE MESSAGE OF LIFE FOR 6 MONTHS BEFORE FIRST PREACHING *REPENTANCE*:**

Matthew, Mark, and John all treat the imprisonment of John the Baptist as an important chronological marker. The following summarizes each Gospel account’s contribution:

Matthew Mark John

John the Baptist preached repentance 3:1-12 1:1-8 —

*Compare Matt 3:2 and 4:17*

John the Baptist baptized Jesus 3:13-17 1:9-11 —

*Mark 1:12 “Immediately”*

*shows that John 1:29-36 is*

*not when Jesus was baptized.*

*Cf. “The next day” (John 1:35);*

*“The next day” (John 1:43);*

*“On the third day” (John 2:1).*

Temptation in the wilderness 4:1-11 1:12-13 —

Jesus returned to John the Baptist — — 1:29-36

*John 1:29-34 looks back at*

*When he baptized Jesus.*

Jesus went to a wedding in Galilee — — 1:43-2:12

Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover — — 2:13-3:21

Jesus ministered in rural Judea — — 3:22

**John the Baptist imprisoned 4:12a 1:14a (3:24)**

**Jesus went to Galilee 4:12b 1:14b 4:3-4, 43**

Jesus **began** preaching repentance 4:17 1:15 —

*The Baptist could not preach*

*This from prison, so Jesus*

*then began preaching it.*

**TAKEAWAY: Jesus ministered w/o preaching repentance for six months after baptism.**

**Did He have an incomplete message?**

**ANSWER 3 TO THEORIES 1 AND 2:**

**IF REPENTANCE WAS NOT PART OF JESUS’ MESSAGE BEFORE THE BAPTIST’S IMPRISONMENT,**

**HOW SAFE IS IT TO ASSUME THAT IT WAS IMPLICIT OR UNDERSTOOD AFTERWARDS?**

**CONCLUSION**