

Matt 3:1 Now in those days John
the Baptist came, preaching in the
wilderness of Judea, saying, 2
"Repent, for the kingdom of
heaven is at hand."

To understand John saying,
“repent”, we need to look
carefully at John’s baptism.

To whom was John's baptism
given and for what reason?

Matt 3:5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea, and all the district around the Jordan; 6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 "Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance;

John's baptism was for the Jews!
Those already in a covenant
relationship with God.

John's baptism was based on their
confession of sins – thus the sign
of repentance.

Acts 19:4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."

During His time on earth, Jesus' baptism was the same.

Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Remember that John's baptism required confession of sins. It differs in the confession that we make under the New Covenant.

Matt 3:6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

What forgave their sins? Under the Law of Moses, they had to go to the priest and make a sacrifice

Lev 4:27 'Now if anyone of the common people sins unintentionally in doing any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done, and becomes guilty, 28 if his sin , which he has committed is made known to him, then he shall bring for his offering a goat, a female without defect, for his sin which he has committed.

Lev 5:11 'But if his means are insufficient for two turtledoves or two young pigeons, then for his offering for that which he has sinned, he shall bring the tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering;

Jews had to sacrifice a goat, two turtledoves
or two young pigeons or if poor enough, about
two quarts of flour.



Today we make no sin offering!

Jesus took care of the sacrifice.



Heb 10:12 but He, having offered
one sacrifice for sins for all time,
sat down at the right hand of God,
13 waiting from that time onward
until His enemies be made a
footstool for His feet. 14 For by
one offering He has perfected for
all time those who are sanctified.

Repentance differs from the
actions one takes later

John the Baptist told them -
Mt 3:8 "Therefore bring forth fruit
in keeping with repentance;

We do not do penance to pay for our sins as the Roman Catholic church teaches.

They even incorporate this false doctrine into their version of the Bible – The Douay-Rheims

Act 8:22 Do penance therefore
for this thy wickedness: and pray
to God, that perhaps this thought
of thy heart may be forgiven thee.
(Douay-Rheims; Roman Catholic
version)

The Greek word, *metanoeo*, appears 34 times in the New Testament and is translated consistently as “repent” in most other versions but most often as “do penance” in the Douay-Rheims.

Metanoeo is translated only 6 times as “repent” and elsewhere as “do penance” in the Douay-Rheims.

Penance in the Douay-Rheims (*metanoeo*) calls for sacrifice.

The best verse to demonstrate that
penance involves sacrifice
appears to be —

Lev 5:5 Let him do penance for
his sin: 6 And offer of the flocks
an ewe lamb, or a she goat, and
the priest shall pray for him and
for his sin. (Douay-Rheims; RC
version)

In other words, you have to pay somebody to do something for you to obtain forgiveness of sin.

There is nothing you can do by yourself.

How can we be sure that the word
repent does not mean for us to do
penance – to sacrifice?

Heb 9:24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 nor was it that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood not his own. 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Jesus is the only sacrifice God
will accept for our sins.

Clearly penance is not what Peter and John told Simon to do since Jesus is the one and only sacrifice for our sins.

Act 8:22 Do penance therefore for this thy wickedness.
Rheims



Unlike John's baptism, our
confession is not of our sins but
of Jesus being the Christ!

Acts 8:35 And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. 36 And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 37[And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.

The confession before baptism in
the New Covenant is –

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the
Son of God."

Jesus' baptism in this New Covenant is
far greater than that of John

John the Baptist Matt 3:11 "As for me, I
baptize you with water for repentance,
but He who is coming after me is
mightier than I, and I am not fit to
remove His sandals; He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Repentance is not the deed done, but
the change of mind that occurs
leading to those deeds.

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and
return, that your sins may be wiped
away, in order that times of
refreshing may come from the
presence of the Lord;

Are you willing to change your
mind about the life of sin you
have been living (repent) and turn
to God's path?

If you also believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, you have the right to be baptized for the remission of your sins.

His blood will pay the price you can not pay.