

PIVOTAL REPENTANCE

- I. A Study in Choices: Canterbury East vs West Story-choice!
 - A. East or west?
 - B. One choice takes me out of the city and into the less populated country side. The other choice takes me into Canterbury proper where there is lodging, help and directions to where I need to go next.
- II. Introduction-
 - A. In a moment I am going to change the word "Choice" into a more descriptive word. A word of action. But before I do that, let's read our passage for today,
 - B. **SLIDE:** I Peter 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore **be** self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, **keep** loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 **Show** hospitality to one another without grumbling.
 1. The three words that are bold-type demonstrate the need for Choice.
 2. We see that in the Choices listed in our passage today—be, keep, show—there is a command to exchange one thing for another.
 3. Exchange? Yes, and notice that this exchange process begins in the mind.
 - a) Command to Exchange not being self-controlled/sober-minded TO being self-controlled/ sober-minded
 - b) Command to Exchange not loving TO loving each other.
 - c) Command to Exchange Not showing hospitality TO showing hospitality.
 4. I will say it again because it is important to our understanding the rest of these verses— making the exchange begins in our minds.—exchanging one action **for** another.
 5. In the context of I Peter the choice/the exchange is **from** the deeds of the flesh **to** doing the will of God.
 - C. To place today's passage in context, we need to go back to chapter 4:1,2
 1. **SLIDE:** 4.1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God...
 - D. Since Christ suffered—"arm yourselves with the same way of THINKING"
 1. Equip yourselves
 2. Equip yourselves with the same attitude; the same purpose; the same intention as Jesus
 3. Though Christ suffered in the flesh, He was faithful in all ways to the Father. He accomplished the Father's will at all times.
 - E. We are called to 'arm ourselves with the same way of thinking' as Christ.
 1. How? We are only able to Because we have the 'mind of Christ' (I Cor. 2.16).

2. Why must we arm ourselves ? Because we have 'the flesh'
 3. In the choices we are asked to make every day, we find that a TURNING exists. We **turn from one** and **turn to** God. We **turn from** the Flesh and **turn TO** to Christ.
- F. This idea of turning; the idea of Choosing to turn; the idea of exchanging; the idea of the need to turn **from** the flesh and turn **to** Christ can be said using another word. Here is where I am changing the words we are familiar with—Choice/Exchange/Turn—to a new word PIVOT.
1. Notice the **SMARTY WORD: Pivot:** there is pivot from the flesh TO the will of God.
 - a) And in this pivot, we find, like Paul, that our flesh does not give up easily. Our flesh yearns to continue in its passions and desires (Jas. 1.14; Gal. 5.24).
 - (1) **SLIDE:** Our Flesh is always seeking to sever us from our one true purpose—to glorify God and to live for the will of God.
 - (2) The flesh never rests; it never goes dormant; it never sleeps. It is the Lion behind the door seeking to devour
 2. PIVOTING encompasses the wrestling with the Flesh/the Old Nature. Pay attention to the PIVOT in the following statements:
 - a) **SLIDE:** Struggling with the flesh yet doing the will of God is a sharing in Christ's suffering
 - b) **SLIDE:** Wrestling with the Flesh is Choosing the way of the Cross.
 - c) **SLIDE:** Denying the Flesh is Living a Cruciform Life.
 - d) **SLIDE:** Refusing to Live for Fleshly, Human Passions is Choosing to Live for the Will of God.
 3. **SLIDE:** This struggling, the wrestling, the denying, the refusing causes the sufferer to change thinking patterns—He/She must take on the mind of Christ which alters the focus of one's life: **from** the passions of the flesh **to** the Will of God.
- G. I'm going to layer in another concept.
1. The words Turning From and Turning To— ie Pivoting—Turning from the flesh and turning to Christ sounds so familiar to me.
 2. This sounds like the definition of REPENTANCE
 3. I call this Pivotal Repentance.
 4. **SLIDE:** Biblical Repentance is changing your mind about your sin—no longer is sin something to toy with; it is something to be forsaken as you 'flee from all appearances of evil.' It is also changing your mind about Jesus Christ — no longer is He to be mocked, discounted, or ignored; He is the Savior to be clung to; He is the Lord to be worshipped and adored. (Got Questions Ministries. www.GotQuestions.org)

- a) Pivotal Repentance is not only 'not sinning' BUT "it is the infusion of Christ's righteousness (JT Richards)" which compels us to live for the will of God.
- b) We cry out—"Father lead us not into temptation (do not allow us to be tempted or drawn away by sin) but deliver us from evil."

H. **SLIDE:** The Christian walk is a continual, ongoing recognition of our depravity; of our need to PIVOT in every moment of our lives. This PIVOTING is initiated by the Holy Spirit and illuminated by the Light of Christ.

- I. We need to grasp the reality of Repentance—that is, the reality of Pivoting in order to understand today's text. Because Pivotal Repentance; a life of continual repentance has a **TURN From** and **Turn To** requirement—BE self-control and a sober mind.

III. Passage for today: The Context for Pivotal Repentance

A. **SLIDE:** 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore **be** self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, **keep** loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 **Show** hospitality to one another without grumbling.

B. Let's begin: Verse 7: **SLIDE:** The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded...

- 1. The end of all things/ the culmination of all things is near/ is at hand.
 - a) 4:13—Peter tells his readers to : But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
 - b) 5:4—Peter reminds his readers that the Chief Shepherd will appear.
 - c) Christ is coming back! Everything that needed to be accomplished has been accomplished; All is in readiness;
- 2. THEREFORE...(Because the end is near) **be** self-controlled and sober-minded...A COMMAND; and IMPERATIVE
 - a) 'BE' is a pivot word. You are not self-controlled and sober-minded naturally so you need to PIVOT to be so. Turn from one and be another.
 - (1) Remember we, as Christians, have the mind of Christ AND the Flesh.
 - b) Be Self-controlled and Be sober- minded. These are different words yet their meanings are similar.
 - c) Be Self-controlled: (sofroneo) be of a modest, humble mind;
 - (1) Self-controlled carries the idea of being in your Right Mind.
 - (a) Luke 8.35: *Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his **right mind**,...*

(b) Rom. 12.3: *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with **sober judgment** (a modest, humble mind), each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

(2) Be Sober-minded: (nefo) to be clear headed, not intoxicated, be vigilant

(a) Sober-minded carries the idea of **having a mind** that is Watchful. Awake. Ready for Action. (Remember “the end is near”)

- i) I Pet. 5.8 (Nefo)—**8** *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
- ii) Luke 12.—**37** *Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.*
- iii) I Thes. 5.6—**SLIDE: 4** *But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake (be watchful as 1 Pet. 5.8) and be sober. (NEFO)*

3. Notice that the command for self-control and a sober-mind, both involve the MIND.

- a) Let’s merge Peter’s command with his words in 4:1—Arm yourselves with the same kind of thinking (as Christ) with the modest, humble mind/vigilant, watchful mind
- b) Arming oneself with the same thinking as Christ IS exercising self-control and having a sober-mind

4. Arming oneself//Setting one’s mind (in the context of Faith)

- a) Requires the PIVOT. And the PIVOT requires putting on self-control and a sober mind
- b) This is the Pivot
 - (1) Think of Walking—
 - (a) We talk a lot about the Christian life being a spiritual walk.
 - i) Did you know that Only Believers can walk because only Believers have been made alive in Christ . Only living people can walk and Only those in Christ are alive; therefore, they are the only ones who walk. Everyone else is dead in their trespasses and sins.

- (2) A walk is a continually interrupted falling. REPEAT To walk you must pick up one leg and as your weight moves forward you are going to fall UNLESS you pick up your other foot and place it forward to catch you as you propel yourself forward.
- c) Arming oneself with the same way of thinking as Christ —Being self-controlled(a humble mind) and sober-minded (awake and vigilant) works the same way.
- (1) There is an awareness (requires a humble and awake mind) that you are moving toward the Flesh
- (2) Then you must lift your other foot! To Set your mind on Christ , you will need to set your other foot toward Christ —to do the will of God. This is the pivot. The pivot is repentance.
- (3) Notice that Pivotal repentance does **not** require that the sin has been committed. REPEAT
- (4) Pivotal repentance reveals our flesh for what it is and it reveals our desire for it AND , empowered by the Holy Spirit , causes our step go toward Christ.
- (5) Pivotal Repentance, because it requires self-control and a sober-mind, is a predetermined action; It is pre-established, preplanned and pre-decided
- (a) "I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus."
- (b) AND it is continual
- (c) That's why we teach that the Christian life is a life of continual repentance. It's the same as defining walking as a continual interrupted falling.
- d) A life of continual repentance leads to something. A mind that is self-controlled/sober-minded; ...wait for it!

C. PRAYS!

1. SLIDE: 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore **be** self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.
2. For the sake of your prayers//so that you may pray (NIV)//for the purpose of prayer (NASB)
 - a) Let me say this in the converse: Peter is saying that the person who is Not self-controlled and who is NOT sober-minded cannot and, can I dare say it, will not pray!
 - (1) SLIDE: Does the mind that is constantly 'out of control' ; perpetually agitated or restless; hysterical, persistently frantic or uptight and figity; given to fits of rage; constantly angry, irritated and / or annoyed pray?

(2) Does the mind that is drunk; inebriated; not clear thinking; negligent; inattentive pray?

3. PRAY:

- a) Prayer is so much more than a cry for help when we need something or want something! Prayer is so much more than asking for another pillow!
- b) Prayer is about faith in a relationship; faith in a relationship with God the Father. In that faith-relationship we are calling on Him; we are walking and talking with Him; we are listening to Him
- c) We were created to walk in a faith-walk with God; We were created to communicate with God in a faith-walk conversation , trusting God in all the details of our lives, all life long.
- d) Faith-walking prayer is real and alive in every moment, every breath we take. Trusting Him with all the details of not only our lives but the lives of each other.

4. SLIDE: Prayer is an expression of submission to God and an expression of our dependence upon Him. Prayer is arguably the most objective measurement of our dependence upon God. Think of it this way. The things you pray about are the things you trust God to handle. The things you neglect to pray about are the things YOU trust YOU to handle. (HB Charles-Gospel Coalition)

- a) Why do we need prayer? Because He knows we are dust. He knows we are fidgety; He knows we get carried away by distorted thinking; that we are frivolous and irresponsible in living; that we are intoxicated with anxiety, worry and pleasures; He knows that we are emotionally volatile; and quickly given over to emotional and irrational unsubstantiated thoughts (vain imaginings)
 - (1) Without prayer, there can be no pivotal-repentance. I don't care how much doctrine you know or how clearly you can articulate the truths of Scripture.
 - (2) Faith-walking prayer is the key to pivotal repentance.
- b) It's here, in the context of self-control; sober-minded; and prayer, Peter tells us to keep loving each other deeply and to show hospitality to one another.

D. SLIDE: 4:8 Above all, **keep** loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 **Show** hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1. Above all

- a) "In every respect" — this is a Christian's top priority
- b) This is a requirement of each Christian because loving each other is crucial in Setting our minds on Christ in our present suffering.
- c) This is a WE ; an all of US statement. 'Y-All' as JT would say.

- d) We must Not only pray **but must love each other deeply.**
2. Love each other earnestly—deeply, earnestly, fervently, enthusiastically, passionately, eagerly
 - a) Loving each other is crucial!!!
 - (1) Jesus
 - (2) John
 - (3) Paul
 - (4) Peter:
 - (5) Author of Hebrews
 - (6) James
 - (7) Solomon
 3. Why is loving each other crucial? Why did Peter add it? Why did he move the Pivotal Repentance into the context of LOVING EACH OTHER? That is, Why did he move the PIVOT into the context of the Church?
 - a) Peter is aware of what is in the human heart
 - (1) Remember the illustration of the water in the glass we spoke about years ago?
 - (2) Give illustration
 - (a) At that time, the application was to us as individuals.
 - (b) The application was to be aware of what is spilling so that God can change us
 - b) Take the water in the glass illustration and expand it to include each other and our response to each other
 - (1) WE are all spilling, ALL the time! It doesn't matter how old or young you are; how long you've been a Christian; how much you know or how many books you read—fill in the blank—We are all spilling all the time!
 - (2) We are usually unaware of the effect of our words and actions have on another person
 - (3) AND conversely, we are easily hurt and offended and become defensive by another's words and actions towards us
 - (4) Because of the constant spilling we MUST practice self-control (humble mind) and be sober-minded (vigilant) , armed with God's way of thinking, in order to prayerfully walk lovingly with each other.
 - (5) We NEED each other to clean up the messes our spilling makes.
REPEAT
 - (6) Appropriate Response of a Self-controlled, sober mind says "you're only spilling. That's ok. Let me help you."
 4. The effect of earnestly loving each other /of helping each other clean up the mess: is that this kind of love covers a multitude of sins

- a) To Cover means that love forgives and restores; it convicts and exhorts; it can rebuke; it endures rather than passes judgment or condemnation.
 - b) To Cover emphasizes the importance of showing compassion towards each other because there is an sober-mindedness about ourselves that informs us that we are all the same—we are all spilling.
 - c) As my mother always said, “Put your dukes down.”
5. A good word picture for “Love one another deeply”
- a) **SLIDE:** *John 13 He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*
 - b) Love each other deeply—Wash each other’s feet AND, I will add, allow your own feet to be washed. (Eg Peter)
 - (1) WARNING—We are not going to naturally wash each others feet NOR are we going to naturally want someone to wash our feet. In fact, WE WILL RESIST IT! What will happen to us all if we do not make the pivot? We will become like the world/non-Christian/
 - (a) Gal. 5. 14-17: *For ^sthe whole law is fulfilled in one word: ^t“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you ^ubite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.*
 - (b) *But I say, ^vwalk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify ^wthe desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For ^xthe desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, ^yto keep you from doing the things you want to do.*
 - c) **SLIDE:** *“When the followers of Jesus remain faithfully present in the midst of hostility toward Jesus and his gospel, their RIGHTEOUS BEHAVIOR (towards each other) indicts all who reject the Lord and remain in their unbelief. When Christians feel compelled to verbally condemn folk (each other), I suspect this is because their lives never could.” JT Richards (italics are mine)*

E. The final Pivot point is

- 1. **SLIDE:** *Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.*
 - a) ‘Show’ is our third pivot word. We will naturally NOT want to show hospitality. We are selfish, self-serving, self-interested in our flesh ALL the time. Taking on the mind of Christ is the pivot.
 - b) Hospitality is the practical outworking of the ‘Loving each other.’
 - (1) Practicing hospitality— pivoting from serving ourselves TO ONE ANOTHER is critical to the welfare of THE ONE ANOTHER.
 - c) What is Hospitality?

- (1) It's more than our idea of having people in your home.
- (2) Listen to this from the Thesaurus —Hospitality is being friendly, welcoming, congenial, sociable, cordial, gracious, amicable, well disposed, helpful, obliging, accommodating, neighborly, warm, warmhearted, kindly, kindhearted, generous, bountiful, openhanded.
- (3) Jesus gives us the definition: Matt. 25.-³¹
 - (a) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.
 - (b) **SLIDE:** ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
- d) What limit is placed on hospitality? NO GRUMBLING!

(1) Eg—on bench waiting for Alex

IV. Summary:

A. Key take-aways

1. Arm yourself with the same thinking as Christ. Set your mind on doing the will of God.
2. This requires Repentance. Repentance is the Pivot. Turning from the flesh to Christ is considered repentance.
3. Be Self-controlled and a sober-minded.
4. Praying is essential. A walking-faith PRAYS. PERIOD. Prayer is an expression of submission to God and an expression of our dependence upon Him. Prayer is necessary for repentance. Prayer is a necessary component of loving each other. Prayer is arguably the most objective measurement of our dependence upon God.
5. Love each other deeply—wash each other's feet continually and be washed yourselves. We are all only spilling. Put your dukes down

6. Practice Hospitality without expectation of anything in return and without grumbling.
 7. We must all pivot from the flesh choosing faithfulness to God. This is Transformational.
 8. As Two-Footed Christians, where are you going to place your first foot? Where are you going to place your second foot?
- B. "Biblical Repentance is changing your mind about your sin—no longer is sin something to toy with; it is something to be forsaken as you 'flee from (all appearance of evil)'. It is also changing your mind about Jesus Christ —no longer is He to be mocked, discounted, or ignored; He is the Savior to be clung to; He is the Lord to be worshipped and adored." (Got Questions Ministries. www.GotQuestions.org)
- C. **THEREFORE**, Arm yourselves with the same way of thinking (as Christ)... Be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, Love each other deeply for love covers a multitude of sins. Practice hospitality without grumbling.