**Unless You Repent**
By *Ron Boatwright*

     There is no way to be forgiven of our sins and be saved without repentance.  Jesus says, “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5).  Repentance involves **regret**.  We must feel regret or godly sorrow because we have offended God.  2 Corinthians 7:10 says, “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation”.  In repentance we must **resolve** to change of our will.  In a parable Jesus told of a man who said to his “’Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’  He answered and said, ‘I will not’, but afterward he regretted and went” (Matthew 21:28-29).
     Repentance involves **reform** which results in a change in our conduct.  We are to “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:8).  If we repent we will **restore**.  Zacchaeus told Jesus, “If I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold” (Luke 19:8).
     Repentance also involves **confessing** our sins.  “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
     It is our sins that separate us from God and will cause us to be eternally lost if they are not forgiven (Isaiah 59:2).  When we stand before the Lord on Judgment Day, if we have unforgiven sins of which we will not repent, we will not go to Heaven (Galatians 5:19-21), but we will be eternally tormented in the fires of Hell (Mark 9:43-49).  Repentance is a change of heart which results in a change of actions. Let’s make sure we always repent when we sin, so we can go to Heaven when this short life here on earth is over.