



“Runaway Bride, Return to Me!”

(Do You Get It? Repentance IS the Christian Life)

Hosea 14:1-9

“Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, willed that the entire Christian life be one of repentance”

Martin Luther, (Thesis 1 of 95)

“True repentance is not just found at the beginning of a Christian’s life, but is the continuation of it as well. There may be a grand act of repentance at the beginning, when first a person becomes a Christian, but repentance will continue to be the principle of that Christian’s life so long as he is in this world. Repentance is the disposition of a true Christian’s soul—there will always be sorrow for sin so long as there is sin in a Christian’s life; there will always be shame for sin so long as he fails his Savior; there will always be a determination to rid his heart and mind and behavior of anything which does not please God; and there will always be a turning away from his sins to God to confess them, to ask that they might be forgiven in Christ Jesus, and to plead for strength to put them to death for once and for all.”

Robert Rayburn

*I need more grief, O God, I plainly need it. I can sin much, but I cannot correspondingly repent.
O Lord, give me a molten heart. Give me tears, give me a fountain of tears. Give me the grace of tears.*

*Drop down, from the heavens, and bedew the dryness of my heart!
If I may not water my couch with my tears, nor wash Thy feet with my tears,
grant me at least one or two little tears.....”*

Archbishop Lancelot Andrews

As our ‘evergreen,’ the LORD is the perpetual source of every blessing and provision to His people.

George Schwab

*I think you know what I've been trying to say
I promised I would never leave you
That you should always know
Wherever you may go, no matter where you are
I never will be far away*

Billy Joel, Lullaby (Good Night, My Angel)

I. Hosea’s Message: *YOU MUST “RETURN”* to The LORD Your God! (vs. 1-3)

- A. With *Words* from your Mouth (Profession)
- B. With *Proof* from the Heart (Changed Life)

II. Hosea’s Hope: *HE WILL HEAL!* (vs. 4-7)

- A. Heal the *Broken Covenant Relationship*
- B. *Revive and Renew* His Spiritually Parched People

III. Hosea’s Conclusion: *WHO IS WISE?* (vs. 9)

- A. Who “*Get’s It?*”
- B. How do You see *Yourself* in the Story? (Albrecht Durer: The Prodigal Son)

Hosea 14:1-9

Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall!

2 Take words with you and return to the Lord.

Say to him:

*"Forgive all our sin and receive us graciously,
that we may offer the fruit of our lips.*

3 Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses.

*We will never again say 'Our gods' to what our own hands
have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion."*

4 "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.

5 I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily.

Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots;

6 his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon.

7 People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like the vine—Israel's fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.

8 Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols?

I will answer him and care for him. I am like a flourishing juniper (an evergreen); your fruitfulness comes from me."

9 Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand.

The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them,

but the rebellious stumble in them.

Joel 2:13

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Isaiah 55:6-7

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

