

## EP76 Revelation 9:20-21 P6

We have been discussing this issue of our **Willingness to Believe**. We have discovered that so many within the household of God, due to their hard-and-fast commitment to the **work of their hands**, are worshipping demons and simply will not repent, nor will they repent of their idolatry.

In our last Podcast we discussed their idols of gold and silver. In this Podcast, we will address the idols of brass and of stone and of wood, and we will finish out this amazing chapter.

### Idolatry

*Revelation 9:20, "...did not repent of...the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood which now can neither now see nor hear nor walk."*

### Brass and Stone

The brass and the stone both speak of judgment. Brass or bronze covered the altar of burnt offering, upon which the sacrifices for sin were made.<sup>1</sup> The law of God was etched in stone, indicating its permanence and inflexibility. And those who violated the law of God were stoned to death in judgment.<sup>2</sup>

Consider that the religion of Christianity exists, thrives, and finds its existence because of the brass and the stone. The law, your law, my law, anyone's law brings forth judgment and condemnation for sin, which brings forth division and separation between those who are better at hiding their sin and those who are relatively honest about their sin (or those who get caught in their sin). This is nothing short of idolatry.

### Forgiveness—I Don't Think That Word Means What You Think It Means

Even though Jesus died for the sins of the world such that there is no longer an issue of sin between God and man (just an issue of relationship which comes through believing), the issue of sin rules the communities of Christianity. On the surface, we are told that Jesus died for our sins and those of the entire world, and that if we say the magic prayer, He will forgive us of all our sins. But in practice, it seems that "forgiveness" does not mean what we think it means.

Jesus may forgive our sins, but for some reason other believers (especially religious leaders) do not believe He really does, and so they do not. They tend to function as if they have a higher authority, a greater seat of judgment, than Jesus does. This is blatant idolatry, and an exaltation of the **ME**. Believers quickly learn that in real-life, forgiveness means that if we sin in the right areas, we will be judged, condemned, outed, and, if necessary, cancelled. And so most everyone within Christianity learns to hide things and deceive so as not to get in trouble. Is that discretion just wisdom or a sad result of our idolatry?

All of us were born into sin, it is who and what we are, it is **NOT** simply what we do.<sup>3</sup> The sinful acts that we do are just the fruit of the sinful tree (so-to-speak) that is corrupted through-and-through. Hence the need for God to overtake us and possesses with the New Creation, thereby transforming us. But that is a big process that takes time, and it is a process that is largely out of our control, except with regard to our **willingness** to let God do what He needs to do to transform us. Even getting to the point of willingness

<sup>1</sup> *Exodus 27:1-8*

<sup>2</sup> *See Exodus 9:13; Leviticus 20:27, 24:23; Numbers 15:36; Joshua 7:22-27*

<sup>3</sup> *Psalm 51:5; Job 14:4, 15:14; Romans 7:14*

is a big deal and a big effort on His part to convince us that we need more of Him.

However, instead of teaching people **WHY** we can bet our lives on **Yahweh** and give Him permission to invade our lives and conquer our enemies, and **HOW** to bet our lives on **Yahweh** (to now be believing in His name, and choosing to be that little child), most of our religious institutions are instructing people that sin is the problem, and that we are to fight sin. However, people have been fighting sin for centuries upon centuries with the same success that a cat would have if they were trying extremely hard to bark. That is just not an evolutionary jump that can be made.

### The 2-Blind Spots

Though God in His mercy chooses not to rain down judgment for every bad things that we do, it is almost guaranteed that other people will—I sure have. I have cloaked myself with brass and picked up far too many stones. In terms of our idolatry of brass and stone, there seems to be 2 blind spots that we collectively possess across the span of the religion of Christianity.

1. **Blind to What Jesus Has Done and is Doing.** We do not understand that we are Christ's ambassadors who have been committed the word of reconciliation.<sup>4</sup> The ministry that He has chosen to be giving us<sup>5</sup> is the ministry of reconciliation, namely that God was in Christ **now** reconciling the world to Himself,<sup>6</sup> **choosing not to now be counting their trespasses against them.**<sup>7</sup> In fact, He made Him who was knowing no sin,<sup>8</sup> sin on our behalf, so that we might **choose** to become the righteousness of God in Him.<sup>9</sup> The work Christ did was not a past work, but it is a work that continues into our now. Therefore, our sin is not ours to bear, and if God is not now counting our trespasses against us or against others, then why do we?
2. **The Fire is Necessary.** If we want to walk with God, we **MUST** go through the fire, at varying degrees of temperature throughout various times in our lives, and have the dross of our lives, the sin of wrong belief and unbelief and all its associated behaviors, come to the surface so God can expose them and teach us **WHY** we do not need them anymore. There is no way around this journey through the valley of the shadow of death, or said another way, through that narrow pressure filled path that leads to life—the path which so few find.

It is only if we hold firmly to what Jesus has done and is doing (not **now** counting our sins against us), that we will make it through any time that we spend in the fire. The fire will bring forth our sinful behavior, it is the very purpose of the fire, and if we cannot get past our sin and understand what God is doing, we will be buried in shame, guilt, and remorse and once again bow before our idols of brass and stone.

It is though the fire that **Yahweh** pops our bubble of delusion (our belief that we are mostly good and that we can control, on some measure, the outcomes of our lives), He dismantles our pride, He shines His spotlight on our dysfunctions and coping mechanisms, He reveals our helplessness, He shows us the

<sup>4</sup> See **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**.

<sup>5</sup> Rendered in the *aorist middle participle*

<sup>6</sup> Rendered in the *present active participle*

<sup>7</sup> Rendered in the *present middle participle*

<sup>8</sup> Rendered in the *aorist active participle*

<sup>9</sup> Rendered in the *aorist middle subjunctive*

worthlessness of our religion, and He shows us what we really believe about Him and about ourselves. His goal of it all is to convince us, once-and-for-all, that depending upon ourselves (our coping mechanisms, our self-protection, and our wisdom) is inane, foolish, and a complete waste.

This process is very difficult because many of the core beliefs to which we hold (wrong beliefs) were formed at a very early age, as were many of the self-protecting mechanisms we put in place to protect us from harm and trauma (those very same self-protecting mechanisms that ironically work to perpetuate the cycle of harm and trauma). For most, especially those whose childhood was filled with trauma and pain, this all happened when they were very young, and their adult minds do not easily connect with what is happening deep within them.

It is through the fire that we whirl and turn like a mess until all those unseen mechanisms and underlying beliefs about God, about ourselves, about others, about life (many of which we are not even aware), come to the surface and are exposed. This process gives us the opportunity to learn why we should stop trusting self and all that our *flesh* convinces us is true, and instead be willing to start trusting ourselves to **Yahweh** to be for us who He says He is, even though everything we believe and all that we have gone through seems to militate against all that God says He is and what He says we are to Him.

But when this process brings forth the dross and out comes all manner of sin, it should be viewed as an exciting time, and an opportunity for that person to be changed into His image. However, we tend to bring those very same people to the altars of judgment, and instead of loving on them and encouraging them, there we stone them, so-to-speak.

Often our stones are thrown in retaliation because they have deeply hurt our feelings in that they shamed us, they shamed their family, they shamed the church, they shamed the ministry, they shamed Christ, they betrayed us and others, and are no longer to be trusted. Therefore, instead of seeing it all as an opportunity to love them and show them the amazing beauty and mercy of God's process, we shame them and condemn them. This is far too often the occurrence even among those who choose to "come alongside" the fallen brother or sister. Instead of rejoicing that God is doing a work, we dwell on what they have done or are doing.

Therefore, we demote them, fire them, out them, cancel them, separate from them (build our boundaries), or put them under some sort of disciplinary accountability process to make sure they do not fail us in the future. Maybe we wait until they once again prove themselves to be trustworthy and faithful. But when you think about it, it is all self-serving through-and-through, motivated by our pain and our wounds, and not by God's *agape* love.

Jesus told us not to judge, because no one is righteous, not one. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and no one is in the position to sit in judgment of sin.<sup>10</sup> The terrible but amazing truth is that He alone is good! He alone is righteous! He alone can judge righteously, for **the source matters the source is everything!**

Think about it. If people truly believe that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, then why do we condemn people when they fall, when they sin, when they act according to their nature? On what grounds do we condemn them if God is not condemning them? When are we going to stop substituting ourselves for God and idolizing our wisdom and our judgment and our view of our

<sup>10</sup> See **Matthew 7:1, Romans 3:10-18, 3:23**

righteousness, as if it is something we have earned verses something we are given.

The law we are to live under is the law of faith expressing itself in *agape* love, not a law of works!<sup>11</sup> Thus, true Christianity is not about doing it right and not sinning. That is something out of our control. Jesus alone is the just and justifier of the one who is now having faith in Jesus.<sup>12</sup> We are not entitled to that role.

A person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law, whether that is your law, my law, their law, or the law of God. For what does the scripture say? Abraham believed God and it was credited to Him as righteousness. Likewise, the one who is **NOT now** choosing to live according to the works of the law but is **now** believing in Him that is **now** justifying the ungodly, his faith is **now** being counted as righteousness.<sup>13</sup>

Yet, though these concepts and words are clearly expressed in the **Codex** (though distorted in our translations), we still choose to judge people for their sinful behavior and stone them without regard to what God is doing, why He is doing it, when He is doing it, and that He is doing it. Ironically, with every stone we toss we prove that we are the transgressors of the law, for we are **NOT** now believing that He died for the sins of the world and that He alone is the justifier of people.

In a twist of irony that is so sad, the ones who get judged and stoned are often those whom God deems to be righteous, those who have learned (or who are learning) to stop relying on their own goodness, but only on His.

## Wood

Wood is an emblem of the salvation of humanity: Noah's Ark, the Ark of the Covenant, the Cross, and the Hyssop branch.

This is going to sound like blasphemy because of how we have been conditioned, but God's chosen emblem of salvation, the "wood" has become a source of gross idolatry. Why? Because we fail to understand and accept that what Jesus did on the cross set us free from the law of sin and death. But, as discussed before in the context of communion, we believe we must continually go to the cross to receive redemption, bowing our heads and bending our knee at the foot of the cross in contrition over our sin. We believe that those who failed us and have been exposed in their sin must do the same, but ever more intently and sincerely.

Yet the Spirit commands us to **now** choose to consider ourselves to **now** be dead to sin but **now** being alive to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>14</sup> The wooden cross served its purpose, it did its work, and we are to no longer look at our lives through the lens of sin, failure, shame, and guilt, but through the lens of one who is **now** being alive to God through what Jesus did. Anything less is an idolatrous and blasphemous understanding of what Christ did on the cross: it is a different gospel with a different Christ, and those who teach it are anathema, or cursed.

<sup>11</sup> See **Galatians 5:6**

<sup>12</sup> **Romans 3:26**

<sup>13</sup> See **Romans 3:27-4:5**. Note: "justifier" is rendered in the *present active participle*; "does not work" is rendered in the *present middle participle*; "believes" is rendered in the *present active participle*; "justifies" is rendered in the *present active participle*; "credited" is rendered in the *present passive indicative*.

<sup>14</sup> **Romans 6:11**

## The Idolization of the Cross

We are constantly reminded that we put Christ on the cross. It was our failure, it was our fault, for it was our sin that nailed Him to the wood. Yet, that is not even a subtle lie, it is a big, fat, gross, stinky, disgusting, and terrible lie that binds people in guilt, shame, and some mistaken sense of duty that they now owe Jesus. In fact, this lie is what keeps people so bound to the **work of their hands**.

## It Was His Fault All Along

The truth, as expressed in the **Codex**, is that Jesus deserved to go to the cross and He knew it. It was His **Plan-A** all the time, from before He laid the foundations of the earth.<sup>15</sup>

As the Spirit said in the book of **Hebrews**, it was only fitting that He is the one who suffered.<sup>16</sup> In fact, after His resurrection, Jesus Himself said that it was necessary that the Christ suffer as He did.<sup>17</sup> After all, He is the one who created evil in the first place and set this whole dynamic in motion.<sup>18</sup> Remember, He alone is the Alpha and the Omega, and He alone takes the responsibility.

Yes, **Yahweh** created evil. And that just does not come under the umbrella clause that all things are from Him and nothing has been created that He did not create (which on its own should be enough), but in the book of **Isaiah**, He specifically says, *"I am **Yahweh**, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being (literally "peace") and creating **evil**; I am **Yahweh** who does all theses."*

And forget what your translations say, as most translate "evil" (in the Hebrew "**Ra**") as "calamity". It seems the translators did not have the stomach to tell us the truth. There is an entirely different Hebrew word for "calamity" which is "**ed**". The meaning of the Hebrew "**Ra**" is unambiguous: evil, wicked, or bad. And it was **Adonai** (the ultimate Despot) who allowed, nay directed, one who is evil, whom He created, to freely roam through the garden.

As **Yahweh Sabaoth**, the Lord of Hosts, or the commander of the angelic, **Yahweh** granted the serpent of old permission to come and speak to Eve. If we follow the book of **Job** motif, He might have even been the one to suggest it. *"Have you considered my servant?"*

We have learned that the name **Yahweh Sabaoth** confirms that the serpent could not have done anything that His master **Yahweh Sabaoth** did not approve of beforehand; that is clearly communicated in **Job 1** and **Job 2**. The serpent of old, Satan, was sent out on a mission.

Moreover, **Yahweh** created Eve to be the weaker vessel, spiritually vulnerable.<sup>19</sup> And since all things are from Him and through Him and to Him, **YES, all things**, then so was this choice of Eve to take of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.<sup>20</sup> **Yahweh** knew what she would do when confronted with this temptation, and still He sent in the serpent. In fact, the passage that speaks of it being fitting for Jesus to be the one who suffered on the cross (in effect asserting that it was not fitting for us to be on the cross), it says *"for whom are **all** things and through whom are **all** things"* for *"He works all things according*

<sup>15</sup> **Ephesians 1:3-10**

<sup>16</sup> **Hebrews 2:10-11**

<sup>17</sup> **Luke 24:26**

<sup>18</sup> **Isaiah 45:6-7**

<sup>19</sup> **1 Peter 3:7, 1 Corinthians 11:3-10**

<sup>20</sup> **Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6**

to the counsel of His will.”<sup>21</sup> This was His decision, this was His wisdom, this was His will.

### The Plan of the Father

Our sin did not put Jesus on the cross. The plan of the Father to find a bride for His Son is what put Jesus on the cross. We were conceived in sin, and so we sin because sin is infused into our very nature. In fact, as long as we are in these bodies of flesh, it is impossible for us not to sin. Again, sin is not about what we do, but it is who we are separate and distinct from the New Creation. Every thought, every breath, every movement that does not derive from the divine, from the only one who is good, is sin.

As awful as that sounds, it was all to accomplish **Yahweh's** beautiful purposes in finding a true lover for the Son. This might come as a shocking revelation, but it is only because of this sin that we were able to understand how beautiful and glorious and loving God is, as we came to see the contrast between our ways and His ways. It was because of sin that we even recognized our need for Him. It was because of sin that we came to understand that there is no better option and no better way. It is because of sin that we were able to exercise our right to choose the Son above all else; the choice that makes us His lover. It is because of sin and what Jesus did on the cross, that we could choose to love Him and Him alone with our heart, mind, soul, and strength. It was because of our sin that we come to realize that it is better to live as a son in **unrestrained freedom**, bearing no weight of our sin, than as a slave in the household of God.

### Sin is Just a Tool

Sin is just a means, a device, a necessary tool. And it was necessary to give us the awareness of our need to 1) join the household of God, and 2) choose to become a chosen son of God. And the wooden cross was necessary to now set us free from the power which sin, and death had over our lives, freeing up all mankind from its bondage. Remember, Jesus died not just for the sins of believers, but for the sins of the entire world.<sup>22</sup>

Sin however was never intended to be our permanent master, just something that helped us along the way to find our true love. But since sin produces death, and He came to give us life in abundance, what He did on the cross enables us to **now** choose to consider ourselves to **now** be dead to sin but **now** being alive to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>23</sup> What a glorious truth!

It is time to stop idolizing the cross and be thankful for it. Every time we see the cross, we should not be thinking of “our sin” “our failure” or “our lawlessness” that put Jesus on the cross. Rather, we should be filled with praise and thanksgiving that our God concocted such a marvelous, complex, and mysterious plan so that we might gain the power to exercise our right to choose to become little children of God, to choose to become the righteousness of God in Christ—heirs of the promise who are in love with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

### No idols

At the very end of **1 John**, the Spirit closes the letter with this little phrase: “*Little children, you are commanded to keep yourselves from idols.*”<sup>24</sup> Thus, we are not to be like those who refuse to repent of the **works of our hands**, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of brass,

<sup>21</sup> **Hebrews 2:10; Ephesians 1:11**

<sup>22</sup> **John 3:16**

<sup>23</sup> **See John 10:10**

<sup>24</sup> **1 John 5:21**

and of stone, and of wood, which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk. We are to abandon our idols and stop worshipping demons, and let **Yahweh** be to us all that He says He is.

### ***See, Hear, Walk***

The Spirit makes the point that our idols are so ridiculous and worthless that they do not **now** see and cannot even be made to **now** hear, or **now** walk (rendered in the *present* tense). In other words, when it comes to what we need in our now, these idols have nothing to offer us. In contrast, **Yahweh** is the **I AM**, and He will be our **I AM**, if we want Him to be and let Him be. His desire is that we let Him be our everything in our now.

### ***Talk?***

Did you notice what was missing from this list: see, hear, walk? Our idols, whatever they may be, cannot be made to see, hear, or walk, but they can be made to **talk**. This was an extremely specific exclusion that is not excluded in other parts of the **Codex** that speaks of idolatry. This is an exclusion that on-the-one-hand speaks of a now experience, and on-the-the-hand, a foreshadowing of what is to come. Remember, with the Spirit, everything is intentional.

### **Our Now Experience**

By now we should know that behind our idols are the demons we worship, and boy do they talk. They seem to always be talking. Think about those voices in your head: you're a failure; you're a sinner; you're unlovable; you're not worth it; you've been abandoned by God and by others; you're past will follow you into the future, you will never escape your sin; you should just quit; you're the problem; others are the problem and you're the victim, and so on, and so on, and so on.

In each area of our life that has NOT been conquered **by grace through faith**, the voices do not stop; they ring out endlessly and they torment us. In fact, in a parable, Jesus once referred to the spirits as torturers (or literally in the Greek, "the tormentors").<sup>25</sup> And that is sure what it feels like when we are bludgeoned with the enemies' flaming arrows of lies. The only way to silence them and to find protection, is to be willing to let Jesus take over territory in our soul (and that requires the fire, that requires crucifixion, that requires us to walk that very difficult pathway of trouble that leads to life).

### **A Foreshadow of What's to Come**

One of the big **End Times** dramas that will occur is that the False Prophet (the Beast's sidekick) tells the people who are **now** making their abode in this world (yes, even in the day-and-age of John through today—it's in the *present* tense), that they are to make an image of the Beast. And it was given to the False Prophet to give breathe to the image so that it would cause the image of the Beast to speak, to **talk**.<sup>26</sup>

This supernatural event will likely seal the deal for many who might have been on the fence as to whether the Beast is the Christ, the Messiah for whom they have been waiting. And seduced by this deception of the image given the ability to talk, they will become followers of the Beast. More on that when we get to **Revelation 13**.

<sup>25</sup> **Matthew 18:35**

<sup>26</sup> **Revelation 13:15**



## The Inevitability of Idolatry

Despite the pain, the intense suffering, and the slaughter of millions, people still hold tightly to everything and anything that is not **Yahweh**. This foolishness will sadly continue, and those who worship will become as blind and useless as their idols.

### *Psalm 115:3-8*

But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, **the work of man's hands**. They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but they cannot feel; they have feet, but they cannot walk; they cannot make a sound with their throat. Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them.

What a powerful statement. Those who make idols will become like them as their sensitivity to life becomes dulled by the darkness of idolatry. Spiritually, they become deaf, blind, mute, and crippled, unable to truly help anyone.

And yet, this is the condition of Christianity today. Our western culture that once embraced **Yahweh** and His principles for life are turning to paganism at a speed that is unthinkable. Since the 60's, the western nations have progressively chosen not just to abandon God, but to vilify Him, and to do whatever it takes to keep Him out of our lives.

There was a time when people looked to Christianity to be their guide, their rule, and their hope, but over time the religion of Christianity has proven to be empty, powerless, hypocritical, and filled with little more than judgment and condemnation (brass and stone), coupled with a freaky obsession with sin. In that regard, the people of this world figured that their idols of fun and freedom are far better than the ones they served in Christianity. And that is a big part of what is leading to the great Apostasy.

## Murders, Sorceries, Immorality & Thefts

### *Revelation 9:21*

... and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Regardless of the intense invasion of the demonic into our natural lives, these people will still hold to the same demonic spirits that have provided them “what” their whole lives—nothing! But for some dark and twisted reason they will not let go. And in accordance with the falsities and lies of these demonic beings, these people also do not repent of their self-serving immoral and predatory behavior: their murders, sorceries, sexual immorality, and their thefts.

### **Murder**

Murder will become a common thing. People will be so self-centered and focused on surviving that



they will probably just take out anyone who appears to be a threat. Furthermore, governments will be in such complete disarray that their ability to curb the violence will be extremely limited. Their power will be broken, and it will be mad chaos. Even today, we see this level of violence increasing in our cities. It is alarming how quickly things have turned to seemingly random acts of brutality, aggression, and cruelty.

### ***Sorceries***

The word translated as “**sorceries**” comes from the Greek word “*pharmakeus*” from where we get our word pharmacy. To say this in another way: they would not repent of their drug use. Down through history, people have used drugs to connect themselves to the spirit world. As such, drug use is a part of many pagan forms of worship, for instance with sects of Hindus and Buddhists, and certain Native American tribes, and even in the blend of these pagan systems that we see throughout western societies that are attempting to be enlightened. With that said, the Spirit seems to be indicating that drug use does not have to be connected to a form of worship to cause a person to be connected to the demonic. Apparently, these 2-things are innately interconnected: drug use and the demonic.

And it should be clear that this connection is not dependent upon whether the drug is classified in our respective communities as legal or illegal, prescription based or not. The connection is there.

Now, the **Codex** does not clarify which “drugs” or pharmaceuticals fall into this category. Therefore, it is advisable that each person seek out the opinion of the Holy Spirit, and not the opinion of man, and seek out what He has to say. Man can justify anything, but we are promised that the Spirit will lead us in all truth if we seek Him and if we let Him.<sup>27</sup> With that said, if drugs have any of us in the bondage of addiction, or if they are used in any way to connect us to the spiritual realm, then there is a good chance that our use of drugs is intertwined with the demonic.

Yet, sadly, those who have chosen to now be abiding in this world will not repent of their sorceries, for they cannot receive the Spirit of truth.<sup>28</sup>

### ***Sexual Immorality***

Then there is **sexual immorality**. They will not repent of their sexual immorality, in the Greek “*porneia*” (where we obviously get our word, “pornography”). Traditionally, “*porneia*” encompassed all forms of “unauthorized” sexual activity, meaning sexual activity outside of the covenant of marriage. This intimates that during the **End Times** (as it is already in these last days) marriage will no longer be honored or recognized as holy; rather it will be a free for all when it comes to sexuality. People will be trying to survive and probably seek to take comfort sexually in anyone they can find; and, in so doing, they will abandon all notions of purity and righteousness. And for those in the household of God, they will likely find all sorts of different ways to justify their sexual immorality to themselves.

### ***Thefts***

And finally, they will not repent of their **thefts**. Clearly there will be so much destruction that there will be plenty which an immoral person can take from those who are weak. Their consciences will be dull, and they will have no barometer for right and wrong; it will all be about survival. There will be no respecting personal property or emotional and relational boundaries; rather, it will be a riotous grab for all anyone

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<sup>27</sup> **John 16:13**

<sup>28</sup> **John 14:17**

can get from another (whether the taking is of tangible items or elements of our heart and soul).

The moral of this dynamic can be found in **Proverbs**: *“Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him.”*<sup>29</sup> They will be pounded over-and-over with tragedy and death, but their foolishness will not depart from them, and they will not repent of these things.

## Repent

Now when God says **repent**, He does not mean it in the sort of way that the word is generally understood in the religion of Christianity where we feel bad, shameful, after we have performed an adequate amount of penance, we tell God that we are sorry and will not do it again. That is just foolishness. To repent means to have a fundamental change of beliefs such that this change plays out in our emotions, our thoughts, and our behaviors. Accordingly, we find ourselves doing the opposite of what we were doing before.

This sort of change however is not a result of striving and trying so very hard not to sin and not to do it wrong. Rather, this change will be a natural expression of our changed beliefs—our willingness to bet our lives on the name of **Yahweh** and all that He says is true about Himself and all that He says is true about those who love Him. True repentance is a co-joined work of the Spirit of God and our **willingness** to humble ourselves before **Yahweh**, like a little child, embracing what He says we need in this life.

Repentance is always about what we believe because our beliefs alter our emotions, which alters our thoughts, which alters our behavior.

For example, if we believe we are not safe and God is not going to keep us safe, then we will continually turn to our idolatry to find protection. Thus, repentance would be to let the Word of God transform what we think about our God, what we feel about our God, and ultimately what we believe about our God whereby we become fully convinced that we belong to Him, and that He takes care of His possessions.

But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent**.

## Trumpet Number 6 Revisited

Given that according to the **Code** the number 6 is the number of mankind, it should not surprise us that this sixth trumpet resulted in the slaying of one third of mankind and the hardening of the hearts of so many others who refuse to repent.

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<sup>29</sup> **Proverbs 27:22**