

# INVESTIGATION

A man in a dark blue suit and white shirt is holding a white rectangular sign with both hands. He is pointing his index fingers towards the text on the sign. The background is plain white.

What  
is  
Salvation?

(28 - Repentance)

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One point that's always raised by evangelizers, is the need to repent before you can "accept Jesus as your Saviour".

**Is that accurate?**

To understand the need for repentance, we must first understand what 'repent' really means.

To do that, we need to look at the Greek word that the writers of the NT used, not what church doctrine tells us.

The Greek word is *metanoia* (μετάνοια).

It comes from *meta*, meaning 'together with', and *noieō*, meaning 'to perceive with the mind'.

Metanoia describes:

- the awakening of the mind to that which is true;
- a re-alignment of one's reasoning;
- it is a gathering of one's thoughts;
- a co-knowing.

Metanoia has nothing in common with the Latin word *paenitentia*, where the word ‘penance’ stems from.

*Paenitentia* means, ‘payback & punishment inflicted on oneself’.

This change in the meaning of repentance came from Jerome's Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible in 382AD which the Roman Catholic organisation adopted as its standard text.

Then they added the 're' to get even more mileage out of sin consciousness –  
**'re-penance'.**

This became 'repentance' over time.



However, well before the Vulgate Bible, Tertullian wrote around 190AD:

“In Greek, *metanoia* is not a confession of sins but a change of mind.”

But despite this, the 'Latin fathers' began to translate the word as 'do penance' following the Roman Catholic teaching on doing penance in order to win God's favour.

This gross deception led to the perverted doctrine of indulgences, where naive and ignorant people were led to believe that they needed to buy favour from an angry god.

The building of cathedrals, as well as 'church' work, were funded with this guilt money.

The Greek preposition *meta* ('together with'), implies an influencer of our thinking.

This is part of the Good News where we realise the mind of God again.

This happens because the work of the Cross has cancelled The Fall which prevented us from being connected with his mind.

Metanoia, then, suggests a co-knowing with God, who is “the outside influence”.

It’s an intertwining of our thoughts with his.

It also means that I agree with God  
about myself.

Mike Parsons agrees with :

**Investigation**



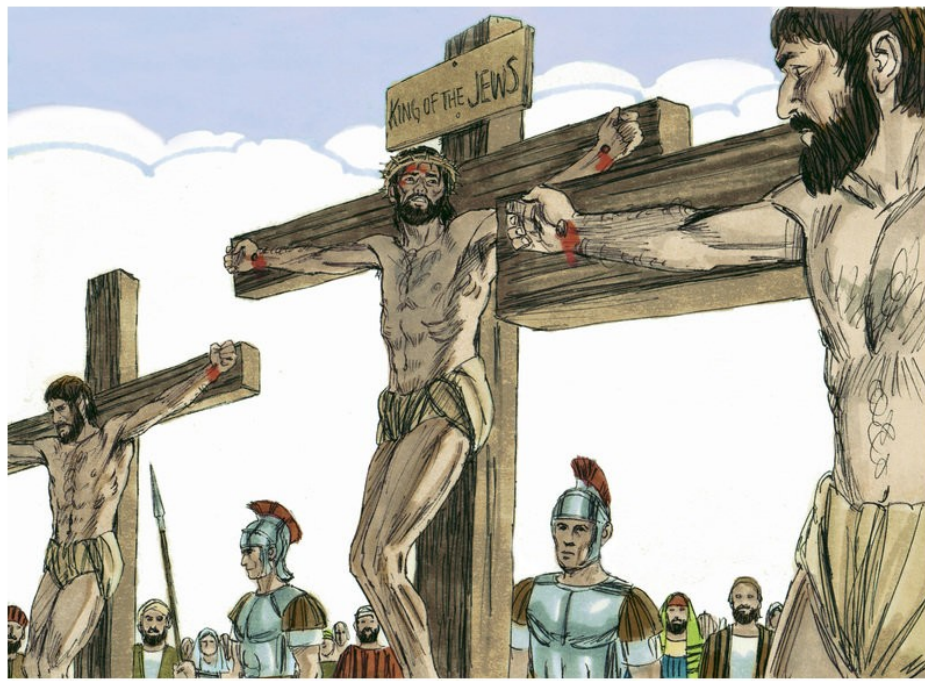
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[www.youtube.com/watch?v=beAn4yASzg8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beAn4yASzg8)

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# **So, how does repentance work in the Kingdom**



The thief on the cross didn't repent of his sins and confess Messiah as his Saviour.

# What did he do?

He just changed his thinking to God's way of understanding reality at that point in time. That was real repentance.

**That's all it took for Jesus to  
confirm his admittance to  
Paradise**

Can you now see what it means to  
repent?

# **What about Hebrew?**

Has 'repentance' changed



Mike Parsons states:

“The Hebrew word for repentance is the word *teshuva*. Its actual meaning is 'to return to who you really are'. Literally, it means 'to destroy the house by fire that you've been living in, turn and go back home'. →

→ So, go back to the original intention God had for you. Don't live in the building of your own making. Don't live your life in a self-created form. Let that be consumed by fire. Not punished, but refined and purified [by fire] so that in reality we're not living in lost identity, but we're returning to true identity as sons of God.”



Mike expanded on that and stated:

“So, it's such an important thing, and probably it's the word I find most people (and most Christians I talk to) use wrongly, because they use it in a prayer setting. "Well, we need to repent". Really what they mean is, "Well, we need to be sorry", or "We need to identify for others who've done something wrong and we need to repent on their behalf". →

→ It's all about focusing on the negative and the behaviour, when in reality, all we need to do is change our mind to agree with God about that situation. Then we'll be returning to the right way of thinking, which is really what it's all about. →

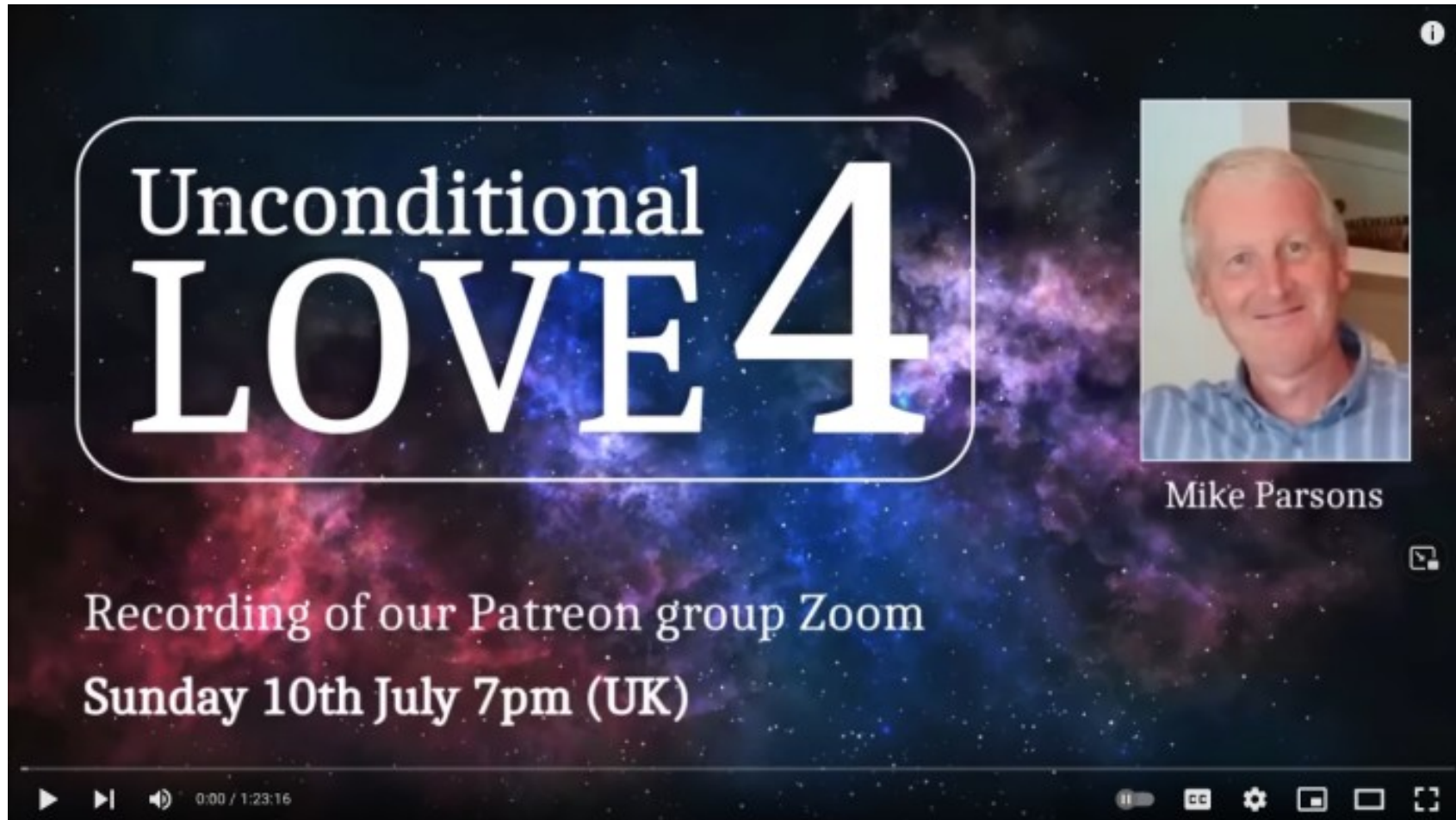
→ So, the truth really is that repentance is coming back to our true identity and that's only found in relationship with God. It's only found with the Father. Anything that requires our penance or change of behaviour to be accepted is a deception, because it's totally works-based, rather than being grace-based.

→

→ We need to come back to the simplicity of grace, so a realization of the truth of who God is (unconditional love) produces the motivation to return. We don't need to change our behaviour to be accepted or acceptable. →

→ So agreeing with God's mind releases the power for transformation and the renewal of our mind and that is that is so powerful.”

Mike has more to say that follows  
on from a proper understanding  
of repentance



**One last point about  
repentance...**



Hebrews states this:

*“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”*

NOTE: “Perfection” there means ‘maturity’

What was the writer really wanting to get across to the readers?

The MIRROR Bible tells us...

“Consequently, as difficult as it may seem, you ought to divorce yourselves from your sentimental attachment to the foreshadowing doctrine of the Messiah, which was designed to carry us like a vessel over the ocean of prophetic dispensation into the completeness of the fulfilled promise. →

→ A mind shift from attempts to impress God by your behaviour, to realizing the faithfulness of God, is fundamental. There is no life left in the old system. It is dead and gone; you have to move on.”

(See: Romans 3:27)

Here's Mike Parsons  
teaching on that:



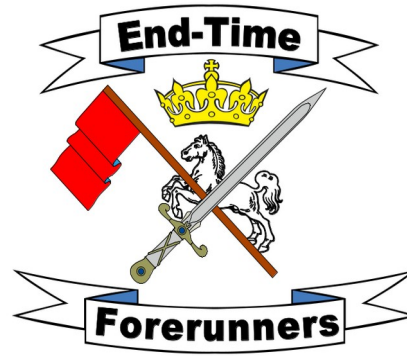
Read more about it from Mike Parsons here:

## 286. Unconditional Love in Action





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L.D. Smart

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