

# REPENTING OF RELIGION

*Getting to “Heaven” or Bringing “Heaven” into the lives of People Here Today?*

“Even after the battle at Mantinea, which Thucydides has described, the one who first announced the victory had no other reward for his glad tidings [euangelion- singular] than a piece of meat sent by the magistrates from the public mess” (Plutarch; Agesilaus, p. 33, 1st century, emphasis mine).

“Accordingly, when [Aristodemus] had come near, he stretched out his hand and cried with a loud voice: ‘Hail, King Antigonos, we have conquered Ptolemy in a sea-fight, and now hold Cyprus, with 12,800 soldiers as prisoners of war.’ To this, Antigonos replied: ‘Hail to thee also, by Heaven! but for torturing us in this way, thou shalt undergo punishment; the reward for thy good tidings [euangelion - plural] thou shalt be some time in getting” (Plutarch; Demetrius, p. 17, 1st century, emphasis mine).

“Why, as we are told, the Spartans merely sent meat from the public commons to the man who brought glad tidings [euangelion] of the victory in Mantinea which Thucydides describes! And indeed the compilers of histories are, as it were, reporters of great exploits who are gifted with the faculty of felicitous speech, and achieve success in their writing through the beauty and force of their narration; and to them those who first encountered and recorded the events [εὐαγγέλιον-euangelion] are indebted for a pleasing retelling of them” (Plutarch; Moralia (Glory of Athens), p. 347, 1st century, emphasis mine).

**Matthew 20.25-26**—But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.

“metanoesein kai pistos emoi genesesthai.” - The Life Of Flavius Josephus, (Thackeray 110)

**Matthew 6.10**—Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Matthew 5.5**—Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

People who believe in God are 73% less likely to politically and socially confront injustice in this life.

Revelation 21 & 22

A New Social Order

**Matthew 4.23**—Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news [euangelion] of **the Kingdom**, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

**Luke 4.43**—But he said, “I must proclaim the good news [euangelion] of **the Kingdom** of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.”

**Mark 1.14-15**—After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “**The Kingdom** of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news [euangelion - gospel]!”

**Matthew 10.7-8**—As you go, proclaim this message: “**The Kingdom** of heaven has come near.’ **Heal the sick**, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. freely you have received, freely give.

**Luke 10.9**—**Heal the sick** who are there and tell them, ‘**The Kingdom** of God has come near to you.’

**Luke 9.6**—So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the **good news** [euangelion] and **healing people** everywhere.

## NOT JUST PASSING THROUGH

(Gnosticism [Heaven vs. Here] & The Constantinian Shift [Beliefs vs. Ethics])

**Luke 6.20-26**—Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

**Luke 6.27-36**—But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt. Give to everyone who asks you

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17

All Texts Quoted from the NRSV Unless Otherwise Noted

**John 5.19**—Jesus said to them, “very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the father doing; for whatever the father does, the Son does likewise.

**Acts 17.6-7**—When they could not find them [Paul and Silas], they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here [Thessalonica] also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another King named Jesus.”

**Acts 16.31**—They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

**Acts 9.20**—And immediately he [Paul] began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

**Acts 10. 36**—You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

**Acts 23.11**—That night the lord stood near him and said, “Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome.”

**1 John 4.14**—And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

Postmortem insurance Policy (arguing over the premium) vs. a way to Heal The World.

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and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your father is merciful.

**Matthew 13.31-32**—He told them another parable: “**The Kingdom** of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

**Matthew 28.18-20**—And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . .

**Acts 8.12**—But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of **the Kingdom** of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

**Acts 19.8**—Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about **the Kingdom** of God.

**Acts 20.25**—Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching **the Kingdom** will ever see me again.

**Acts 28.23**—They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about **the Kingdom** of God, and from the law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus.

**Acts 28.30-31**—For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed **the Kingdom** of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

**John 3.16**—For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **heal** the world through him.



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