

"PERSONAL REFORMATION"

**What is "hate"?**

*Princeton's WordNet Online Dictionary:* the emotion of intense dislike; a feeling of dislike so strong that it demands action.

➤ It can be associated with:

- ❖ Food
- ❖ Places
- ❖ Objects
- ❖ People

*Luke 19:2<sup>NKJV</sup>*

"Now behold, *there* was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich."

*Luke 19:8<sup>NKJV</sup>*

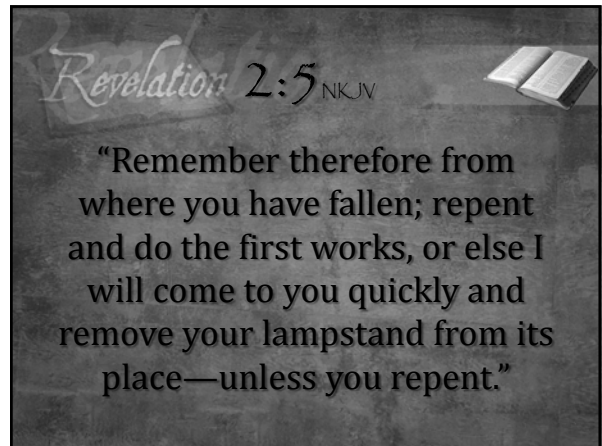
"Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

**What happened to Zacchaeus that day?**

- Was he afraid that Jesus would openly rebuke him for his sin of extorting the people?
- I submit to you that Zacchaeus was moved to repentance by the love of Jesus.
- Zacchaeus had heard the preaching of John the baptist and the seeds of conviction had been growing in his heart.
- When he learned that the Savior was to pass through Jericho those seeds took root and caused Zacchaeus to seek out Jesus at the cost of appearing foolish before the people.
- He felt compelled to respond to the Savior's love.

Zacchaeus' Deeper Lesson

- When we think of this story we always recall that Zacchaeus gave back the money he had defrauded from people.
- But what caused him to make that step?
- Zacchaeus made steps to reform his life because he experienced personal, spiritual revival.
- When Zacchaeus met Jesus he had a "reviving discovery".
- He **remembered** where he had left the Lord and he **repented** of his sins.

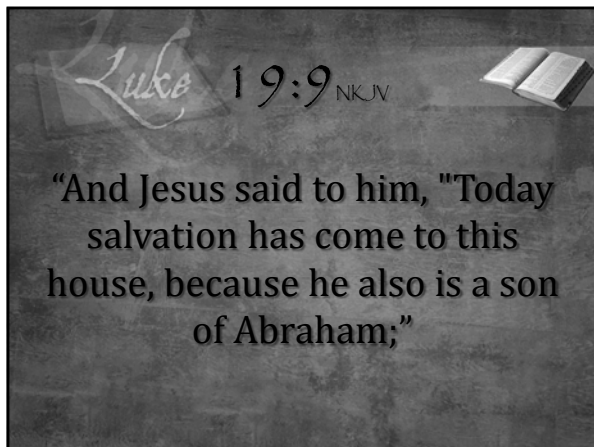


Steps to Revival

1. Remember where we have fallen.
  - You and I have to travel back in our minds and recall when we left the side of God.
  - We have to seek the face of God while He may be found (Isa 55:6).
  - We must realize that cold formalism or legalism is not the same as a relationship with God.
  - A relationship is born out of spending time with someone. This is also true with Christ.
2. Repent of our sins
  - We must confess our sins to God.
  - We must confess our sins to those we have wronged.
  - Once we have repented do not go back to those sins.

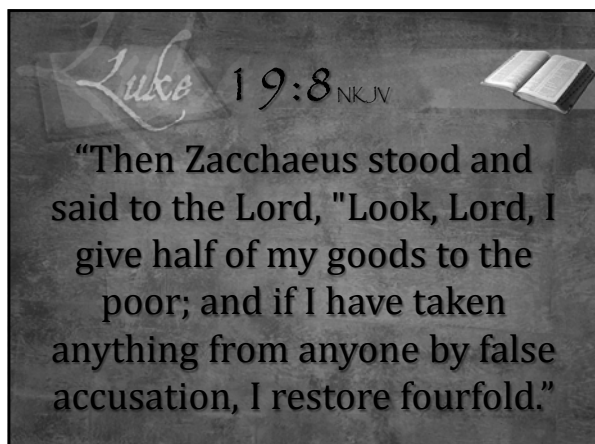
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- When Zacchaeus met Jesus he had a "reviving discovery".
- He **remembered** where he had left the Lord and he **repented** of his sins.
- When Zacchaeus followed Christ's formula he found salvation. Notice Jesus' words.



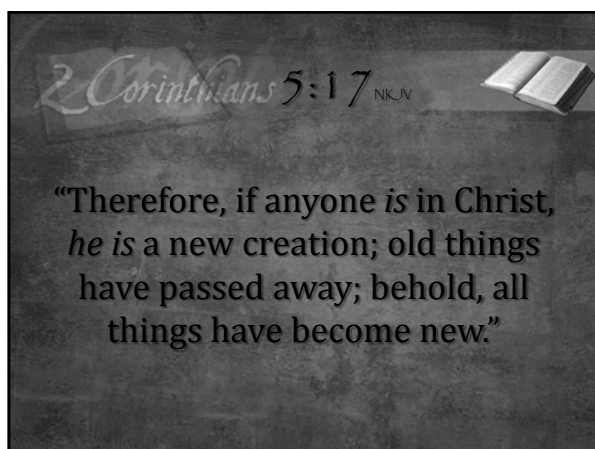
Peas in a Pod

- It is important to note what followed on the heels of Zacchaeus' personal revival.
- Once he **remembered** and **repented** he also reformed his ways.



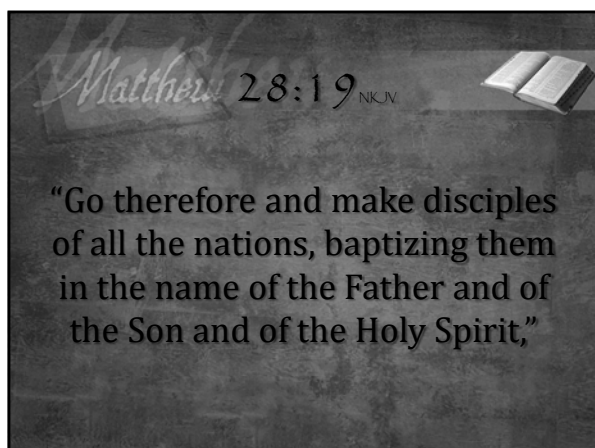
#### Peas in a Pod

- It is important to note what followed on the heels of Zacchaeus’ personal revival.
- Once he **remembered** and **repented** he also reformed his ways.
- True revival will always be followed by reformation. Revival and Reformation are the proverbial peas in a pod.
- Zacchaeus reformed his ways as it related to his tax collecting practices. It could be said that he was a new man.
- Notice Paul’s teaching on this topic in 2 Corinthians 5.



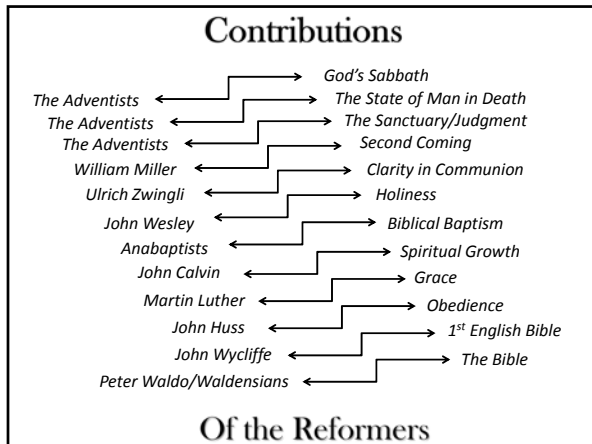
#### Our Need of Reformation

- What do we need to reform? Is this not God’s church? Do we not have the last message of hope to take to the world?
- Our need for reform lies in how we view soul winning and discipleship.
- Our church is very good as systematically bringing people to a decision for baptism, but we do poorly at teaching those that we baptize to then win souls for Christ.
- So my goal is to see us become what Christ called us to be in Matthew 28.



#### Our Need of Reformation

- Friends, Jesus has called us to be producers of disciples.
- But before we can produce disciples we must first be disciples.
- You and I must experience a personal revival to the extent that we fall in love with Jesus all over again.
- When we fall in love with Him we cannot help but tell the world around us about Him.
- Over and over again the Scriptures testify that when Jesus healed people they went forth praising God and sharing their testimony.
- Can we do any less? Have not we been healed from sin?



- ### Whose Job is it to Win Souls?
- The pastor?
    - ❖ Yes!
  - The elders?
    - ❖ Yes!
  - The personal ministries leader?
    - ❖ Yes!
  - The church board?
    - ❖ Yes!
  - Every believer?
    - ❖ Yes!

