We are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ. We call ourselves Christians ([**Acts 11:26**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%2011:26)) and we hold to the Bible as our one and only Truth. Church of Christ is a biblical description of Christians who work together for the cause of Christ ([**Romans 16:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2016:16)). We are independent assemblies with no organization beyond our own number as described in [**Philippians 1:1**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%201:1). There are Christians across the world working with local congregations of God’s people such as described in [**Revelation 2**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%202)**-3**. Christians are members of Christ’s body, which is also known as His Church ([**Acts 2:47**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%202:47)**,**[**Ephesians 5:23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%205:23)). Our mission is to stand for God’s truth (the gospel) and teach it to all people ([**Matthew 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**,**[**Romans 1:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%201:16)**,**[**1 Timothy 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Ephesians 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Colossians 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

**WHAT CAN I DO FOR JESUS – REPENT!**

**Bible Repentance**: Acknowledging we are in sin and desiring to turn away from our sin and follow God.

**Lexicon:** Change your mind to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life.

Many struggle with the idea of repentance. Some have a very hard time acknowledging and admitting their sins. Admitting you are wrong and being humble that you have sinned against God and others are critical steps in our walk as Christians.

The other major challenge with repentance seems to be truly changing our walk. Changing our direction completely from following what we want and the sin that goes with it to following the Lord and the path that leads to true life (**Matthew 7:13-14**). Jesus puts it this way in **Matthew 3:8** “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance”. Sometimes we have an easier time acknowledging our faults and letting God and others know we want to sincerely please Him, than it is to actually make that transformation in our lives (**Romans 12:1-2**).

**Story of Poncho’s rebellion:** Poncho was a border collie that a family got from a respected breeder. Early on when the family got Poncho for their youngest daughter, he had a tough time adjusting to his new environment. Rather than being in pen he was now on a chain and he had a dog house. One Saturday night there was a storm and he got tangled up with his chain and could not get into his house. So the Dad went out to try to untangle him. While doing this Poncho freaked out and got very mad. He turned his anger on the Dad at one point and bit his hand pretty bad. The Dad finished untangling him but then had a very troubling night. Having a vicious dog with small children around was not something he was going to allow. And on the other hand, Poncho was his daughter’s dog and he knew if the family gave him away her heart would be broken. The Dad talked with his wife about it and gave much time to prayer. The next morning was Sunday, and after the Dad got ready to go the meeting house he went out still not sure of what he needed to do about Poncho. As he walked toward his house he saw Poncho coming toward him. The Dad stopped while Poncho crawled up to him and laid down on his feet. Poncho was repenting for what he had done to the Dad. And in over the 14 years of his life with the family he never again showed this type of behavior toward any member of the family. He not only repented, he brought forth fruits of repentance.

**Some verses on repentance that can help us all.**

**Job 42:1-10**

**Jonah 3:1-10**

**Luke 15:7**

**Luke 24:44-49**

**Acts 3:19 & 26**

**Acts 11:11-18**

**Acts 17:24-31**

**Acts 26:19-20**

**Romans 2:4**

**2 Corinthians 7:9-11**

**2 Peter 3:9**

**Closing**

In **Acts chapter 2:37-38** we see that Peter in response to the question of “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” instructs them to repent and be baptized. We can see that baptism without repentance is useless. Repentance is an important step in becoming a Christian. If you are not a Christian tonight and you want to sincerely repent of your sins and be baptized to wash them all away, we can help you.

For those of us who are Christians, in this life we need to sincerely repent when we sin to maintain a productive life for the Lord and eternal life one day in Heaven. Notice our final passage in **1 John 5:16-17**. The sin not leading to death seems to be the sin that is repented of. The sin leading to death seems to be the sin that is not repented. Let us be quick to repent when we fall short. Let us not let pride get in the way when repentance is needed. Rather let us be clothed with humility and sincerely and truly repent.

Please check the scriptures we have covered tonight. We want to help you in any way we can. Contact us for Bible studies by telephone, e-mail, or simply come to one of our assemblies. For our next live program on November 4, 2019 we hope to study, **“What Can I Do For Jesus – Sacrifice!”** We hope to see you next time on "**Speaking The Truth In Love**".