



**Devotional Thoughts :: Death-bed repentance -abbott**

**Death-bed repentance -abbott - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2007/7/7 2:58**

**Death-bed repentance**

(Gorham Abbott, "The Family at Home", 1833)

"They shall look on Him whom they have pierced,  
and shall mourn." Zechariah 12:10

Repentance is the tear of love,  
dropping from the eye of faith,  
when it fixes on Christ crucified.

Repentance begins in the humiliation of the heart, and  
ends in the reformation of the heart and of the life.

Sincere repentance is never too late, but late repentance  
is seldom sincere. The thief on the cross repented, and was  
pardoned in the last hour of his life. We have one such  
instance in scripture--that none might despair; and only  
one--that none might presume.

Still, however, the probability that apparent repentance,  
which comes at a dying hour, will be genuine, is very small.  
The following fact will furnish an affecting illustration of this  
sentiment, and a solemn warning against the too common  
delusion of deferring the work of repentance to a dying bed:

The faithful and laborious clergyman of a very large and  
populous parish had been accustomed, for a long series of  
years, to preserve notes of his visits to the afflicted, with  
remarks on the outcome of their affliction--whether life or  
death, and of the subsequent conduct of those who recovered.  
He stated, that, during forty years, he had visited more than  
two thousand people apparently drawing near to death, and  
who revealed such signs of penitence as would have led him  
to indulge a good hope of their eternal safety--if they had  
died at that moment. When they were restored to life and  
health--he eagerly looked that they should bring forth fruits  
fit for repentance. But alas! of the two thousand, only two  
people manifested an abiding and saving change! The rest,  
when the terrors of eternity ceased to be in immediate  
prospect, forgot their pious impressions and their solemn  
vows--and returned with new avidity to their former worldly  
mindedness and sinful pursuits, "as the dog returns to its  
vomit again, and as the sow that was washed to its  
wallowing in the mire."

Re: Death-bed repentance -abbott, on: 2007/7/7 8:21

Quote:

-----Still, however, the probability that apparent repentance,  
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I was beside a man who was dying and when given the opportunity to minister Christ, he didn't want Jesus, he hated Him. I asked why, and he had no answer. He died a sinner destined to an eternal hell. Even in death people are stubborn to the end, and it's truly the Spirit that draws men unto genuine repentance. He said he was seeing monster like creatures in his room at night, no doubt he was seeing these in the spirit as he was coming in and out of consciousness. Even with all this the fears of what awaited him did not drive him to the LORD. Death bed repentance is only genuine when the Spirit of God is leading them to repent, and we should have a witness in our spirit that they have.