

Assurance

What Is Repentance?

Review

- **The essence of assurance is in correctly understanding the gospel.**
- **The basis of assurance is the covenant promise of God.**
- **This promise is sure: Christ's death on the cross is a payment for the sins of God's people. Everyone who believes this promise has eternal life.**

Review

- **Faith and repentance are two sides, two perspectives, of the same response to the gospel.**
- **Faith and repentance are both the results of the new birth.**
- **Faith and repentance are concurrent reactions; neither one precedes the other.**

Words for “Repentance” in NT

- *metanoia (n); metanoieo (v) -*
 - **BDAG:** “to change one’s mind; to feel remorse (?); to be converted.”
 - **DBL -** “complete change of attitude and thought concerning sin and righteousness.”

Words for “Repentance” in NT

- *epistrepho* -
 - “*to turn around*”; “*to turn about*”
 - Used both literally and metaphorically in the NT.
 - Acts 3:19 - “Repent (*metanoieo*) therefore, and turn back (*epistrepho*), that your sins may be blotted out.”

Positive Definition of Repentance

- **Repentance is a root change of understanding, affection, and action toward sin; so that what once made sense, was loved, and chosen is now seen as God sees it, is disdained, and rejected.”**

	Faith	Repentance
<i>Mind</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct doctrinal understanding Christ & gospel. - Assent & agreement: “It makes sense”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct doctrinal & Biblical understanding about sin and justice. - Sin no longer makes sense; it is no longer defended or excused.
<i>Heart</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The gospel message is pleasing. - Christ is loved. - There is joy. - Gratitude. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sin that once pleased is tasteless & no longer loved. - Remorse and sorrow
<i>Will</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christ is trusted. - A decision is made for Christ. - Choice: pursue God all my life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sin is rejected. - Decision is made to not pursue sin. - “I want to turn from sin.”

Repentance is *not* mere sorrow



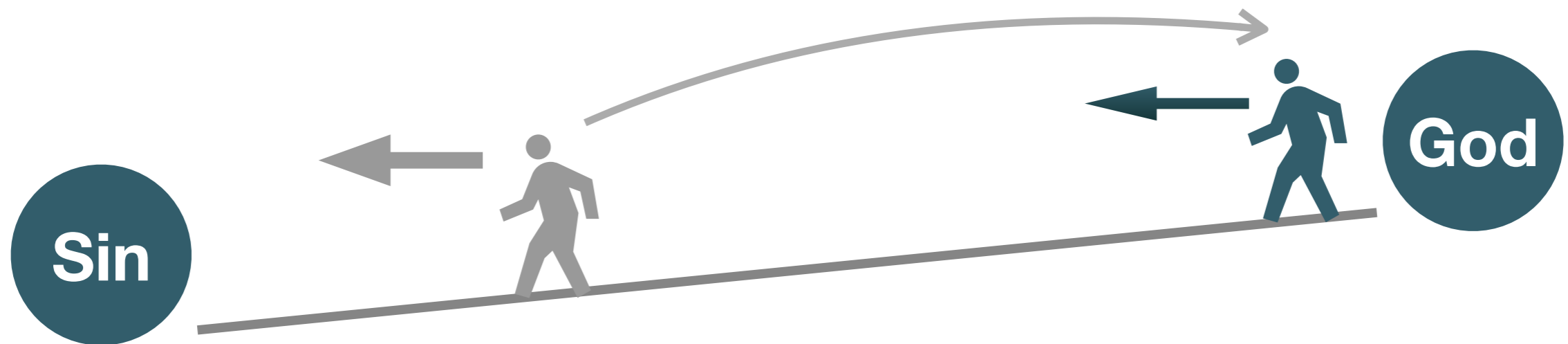
- * **Reaction: sorrow, remorse, tears.**
- * **Motivating factor is the consequences.**
- * **Still directed to sin.**
- * **Eventually, will stop feeling sorrow for this sin. May come to defend it.**

Repentance is *not* moral reformation



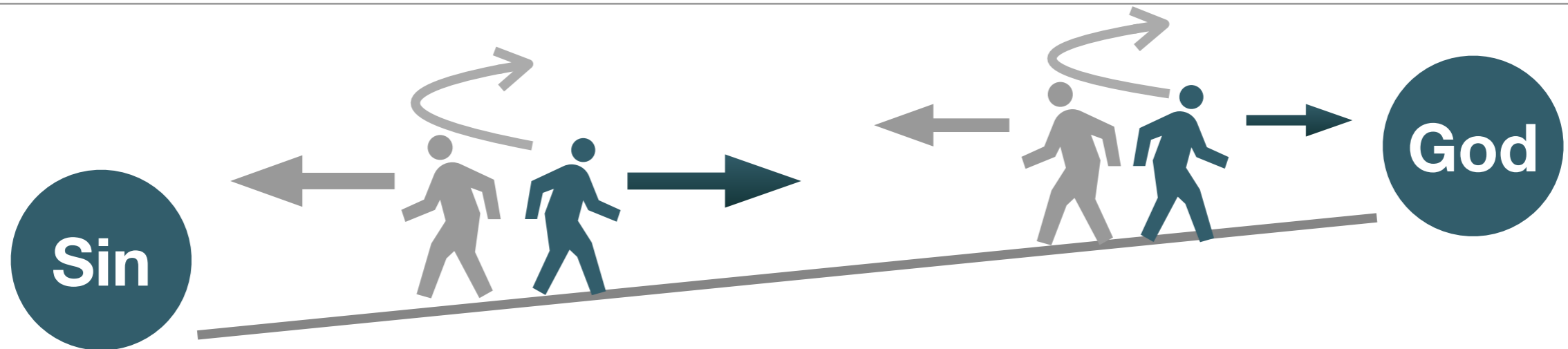
- * **Reaction:** in shock, the man “moves back” from his sin.
- * **He is more “moral” or “religious.”**
- * **His attitude toward sin has not changed. Less “heinous” sins are okay.**
- * **He just keeps a respectable distance from his sin; keeps it hidden, maybe.**
- * **Eventually, he will return to “the big sin.”**

Repentance is *not* instantaneous or perfect



- * **Some are in despair that their moral change isn't perfect and instant.**
- * **Such are usually not repentant about sin, but rather enamored with the appeal of being "righteous."**
- * **Their repentance and understanding of sin are usually quite shallow.**
- * **This is why we should be cautious about the sensational, publicized "celebrity" conversions.**

Repentance *is* a change of mind and direction



- * **Repentance is a change of mind and direction - but is not measured by instant results. The repentance of conversion grows into deeper repentance later.**
- * **Repentance is not dependent on our “closeness” to sin - all need to repent.**

Applications

- **Anyone without a change of heart and mind regarding sin has no basis for assurance.**
- **Don't determine your assurance based on the *perfection* of your repentance.**
- **If you have a change of mind regarding sin - where did that come from?**
- **While regeneration causes faith and repentance, we do not command regeneration. Rather, we *proclaim* the gospel - anyone who repents and believes will be saved.**