

REPENT, FOR THE END IS NEAR!

Joel 2:1-32

Trembling beneath the sound of the gospel is not "repentance." There are many men who when they hear a faithful gospel sermon, are exceedingly stirred and moved by it. By a certain power which accompanies the Word, God testifies that it is his own Word, and he causes those who hear it involuntarily to tremble. I have seen some men, while the truths of Scripture have been sounded from this pulpit, whose knees have knocked together, whose eyes have flowed with tears as if they had been fountains of water. I have witnessed the deep dejection of their spirit, when—as some of them have told me—they have been shaken until they knew not how to abide the sound of the voice, for it seemed like the terrible trumpet of Sinai thundering only their destruction. Well, my hearers, you may be very much disturbed under the preaching of the gospel, and yet you shall not have that "repentance unto life." You may know what it is to be very seriously and very solemnly affected when you go to God's house, and yet you may be hardened sinners.... You may often have been moved to sincere emotion under God's minister; but, let me tell you, you may be after all a castaway, because you have not repented of your sins, neither have you turned to God.

Charles Spurgeon

- I. **OUR DELAY IN REPENTANCE (1-11):** For something that seems so important to the prophets, we do a good job of putting it off until later.
- II. **THE NATURE OF REPENTANCE (12-17):** The nature of true repentance deserves careful consideration, but we have time to look at only four aspects:

Turning (12)

Rending (13)

Abiding (13)

Trusting (14, 28)

- III. **OUR HOPE IN REPENTANCE (18-32):** God loves for people to repent.

Response (18)

Blessing (19)

Rescue (20)