

Repent!

Acts 17:30-34

Introduction

What must a city hear when it stands ignorant before our God?

What must a city hear when it boldly and self-determinedly aims toward destruction?

What must a city hear when it gives ear to the Word of God?

Many churches try to give the city a voice – through political statements or feel-good programs.

But often the central message gets lost along the way.

"Jesus loves you!" – yes, that is true.

But the actual message of the gospel goes deeper:

Repent!

In a city where every identity is celebrated and every boundary is blurred, what's needed is not more tolerance, but truth.

Paul shows us in Acts 17:30-34 why **repentance** is necessary.

He gives three reasons:

1. Because God Commands It

"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30)

Paul proclaims a clear truth: the time of ignorance is over. God no longer tolerates ignorance. In the past, people lived in ignorance – they were groping for God.

But with the revelation in Jesus Christ, God has **revealed his truth**. Now every person is responsible to respond to it. God **commands** – not requests – repentance.

Repentance doesn't just mean feeling bad about yourself, but a **conscious turning away from evil** and a **turning toward God**.

Repentance is a change of mind, a change of direction.

It is individual, concrete, and ongoing.

It shows itself in a changed life – in new habits, new goals, a new heart.

Daily, Christians are called to put off sin and become more like Christ.

As Tertullian said:

"I was born to repent."

2. Because God Will Judge You

"Because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed." (Acts 17:31)

The time of waiting is over – **God has set a day of judgment.** It will be a righteous judgment, without excuses, without evasions. Not human standards count, but **God's righteousness.** And the judge is none other than **Jesus Christ** himself:

"And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man." (John 5:27)

God's judgment is perfectly just, yet at the same time full of grace, because he has made the Savior the Judge. Whoever repents today meets the same Christ as Savior. Whoever does not will meet him as Judge.

3. Because God Has Proven Himself

"And of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:31)

The **resurrection of Jesus** is the undeniable proof of God's power, judgment, and grace.

It is not a fairy tale, but a historical event that calls every person to decision.

If Christ had not risen, there would be no hope, no judgment, no justice.

But because he lives, this is certain:

He will return to judge and to save.

The resurrection is the reason for repentance.

It shows: God has acted – now humanity must act.

The Response of the people

When Paul speaks of the resurrection, some **mock**. Others say, "We will hear you again about this." And some **believe** – including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris.

Even in a city like Athens – proud, educated, godless – the gospel found people who repented.

Conclusion

The starting line is clear.

The goal is set.

The judge stands ready.

But many are running in the wrong lanes.

Therefore God calls today as he did then:

Turn around!

Repent!

For God is the Judge, and his righteousness is perfect.

Only those who repent will find life.