

Giving an Answer (I Peter 3:15) *Salvation (Part 1)*

Answer the following false positions (there are many in just this one quote):

“Jer 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil. (KJV)

Just as it impossible for a person to change the color of his skin, and for a leopard to change his spots; it is impossible for a person to repent from sin before salvation. Therefore, if repentance from sin was required for salvation, no one could ever be saved.

Eph 2:1-7 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Before we were saved, we were dead in our sins and by nature children of wrath. A person who is dead in sin cannot do anything to change his condition, and most certainly cannot repent from sin. Therefore, in order for us to be saved, God had to make us alive together with Christ because only God can give life to a dead person. Our salvation doesn't depend upon us one iota; it is all the result of God's work on our behalf" (<http://home.gwi.net/~maxswan/>).

-
1. Using **Jeremiah 13:23** to teach the impossibility of repentance is a gross abuse of that inspired context (**Jeremiah 13:9-10; 27**). The reason of the punishment upon Judah was that they did not repent (**Jeremiah 8:5-6**). God invites Judah to repent even after His proclamation of Judgment (**Jeremiah 18:5-11**). Did God require something of His people that was impossible? No, He did not (**Nehemiah 1:6-11; 2:17-18; 9:1-3**).
 2. Repentance from sin is required to be saved (**Jeremiah 3:12-14, Ezekiel 14:6, Luke 3:8, Acts 3:19, II Corinthians 7:9-10, and Revelation 2:5**).
 3. Without repentance no one will be saved (**Luke 13:3; 5**).
 4. Those dead in sin can change their condition (**Luke 15:11-32 – NOTE VERSES 17-18; 24; 32**).
 5. While we cannot gain Heaven without the Lord (**Ephesians 2:8-10**), our salvation is certainly in our own hands (**Matthew 19:16-22, Matthew 23:37, Luke 7:29-30, Acts 2:40, Romans 6:17, and Colossians 2:6-8**).