



## Sermon Discussion Guide<sup>1</sup>

Rev 16:1-11 | Kevin DeYoung

### “The Hard Work of Repentance” Sunday Morning, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1. Can you think of a situation in which you were in danger, but you were unaware of it until sometime later?
2. Kevin said that *judgement* only make sense in light of God’s *holiness*. In other words, if God isn’t holy, then judgement seems cruel and way overboard. Consider the connection between God’s *holiness* and his *judgement*. Do you think part of the reason that we recoil at the idea of God’s judgment is because we don’t give thought to the holiness of God? ...the heinousness of sin? What do you think?
3. Thomas Brooks said that repentance is like “vomit to the soul.” Kevin gave some reasons it is difficult to repent. Consider each briefly:
  - Our sin brings us pleasure (at least initially).
  - We look at sin in a vague, general way. (The ‘nobody’s perfect’ defense.)
  - We neglect the means of grace and thus our conscience is dulled.
  - Our conscience becomes seared, with “scar tissue over our heart.”
  - We are afraid of being taken advantage of (they’re guilty 80%).
  - Life is more comfortable in the shadows.
  - We believe everything to be God’s fault.
4. WCF 15.5 says, “Man ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man’s duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins, particularly.” What makes *specific* repentance more difficult than *general* repentance?
5. Kevin talked about “friendships that go ice cold because of unrepentance.” Can you think of a time that friendship has been restored by repentance?
6. “He [Satan] doesn’t tempt you with the far-off sin, he tempts you with the next sin.” What is the result of gradual neglect of repentance of a particular sin?
7. One reason we don’t come clean to another person is because they did *more* of the wrong than you did. Are there any passages of Scripture that address how we should navigate these situations?
8. It’s a sobering thought to consider the fact that some refuse to repent because they have gotten comfortable in the darkness and in the shadows. How can we cultivate hearts that are quick to repent and live in the light?
9. How is it that, ultimately, our failure to repent is a failure to believe in the kindness and mercy and goodness of God?

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<sup>1</sup> SDGs are put together by Small Groups Ministry to aid group discussion. They are available every week on the [small groups page](#) of the church website. Please send questions or feedback to [calebjohnson@christcovenant.org](mailto:calebjohnson@christcovenant.org).

## Notes

Kevin offered 7 reasons we don't repent:

1. Our sin brings us pleasure (at least initially).
2. We look at sin in a vague, general way. (The 'nobody's perfect' defense.)
3. We neglect the means of grace and thus our conscience is dulled.
4. Our conscience becomes seared, with "scar tissue over our heart."
5. We are afraid of being taken advantage of (they're guilty 80%).
6. Life is more comfortable in the shadows.
7. We believe everything to be God's fault.

### Questions for Kids:

- What do you remember about the sermon Sunday morning?
- What does it mean to repent?
- Is God pleased when we repent of sin? Why?