

John Emphasizes the Message to Be Believed; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts Do Not. Why?

A book written to unbelievers must emphasize believing the message of life.

John's Gospel emphasizes believing Jesus' promise of everlasting life.

John's Gospel never mentions repentance.

(Revelation does give emphasis to repentance, but is written to believers)

Books written to believers *can* assume that the readers know what the message of life is.

Books written to believers emphasize what the original readers needed to know.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts do emphasize repentance.

Devil's Advocate: Is it Possible that John's Gospel Implies Repentance, though not using the term?
(That is theoretically possible, but we will see that Matthew and Mark disprove this notion)

Answer to the Devil's Advocate: Jesus Did Not Begin His Ministry with a Message of Repentance

Jesus' ministry in John 1-3 (several months of ministry)	JB in Prison Jesus went to Gal (4:1f, 43)	Jesus' ministry (John 4ff)
Jesus' ministry in Matt 3:1-4:11	Matt 4:12 JB in Prison Jesus went to Galilee	Matt 4:17 Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Thus, Jesus gathered His first believing disciples (John 1) w/o a repentance message;
He ministered at the wedding in Cana w/o a repentance message (2:1-12);
He ministered at Passover/Unleavened Bread w/o repentance (2:13-3:21);
He ministered in the Judean wilderness w/o repentance (3:22-36); and
He ministered to the Samaritans in Sychar w/o repentance (4:1-42).
(*Repentance was not part of message to Samaria per Matt 10:5 in context)

John the Baptist repentance (Matt 3:2/Mark 1:4), so Jesus did not need to.
When John was imprisoned, Jesus began preaching repentance (Matt 4:12, 17/Mark 1:14f)

To Whom Did Jesus and John the Baptist Preach Repentance?

Why Did Those People Need to Repent?

1. From the Gospels: The Kingdom is at hand
2. From the Land Covenant: Deuteronomy 30
3. From Acts: Acts 3:19ff
4. _____ will receive the Millennial Kingdom, when _____

SUMMARY

John's Gospel tells Unbelievers how to Receive Everlasting Life

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts Give Emphasis to how Israel Will Receive its Kingdom

How Did Christendom Mix Repentance into the Message of Life?

CONCLUSION