## # 17-152-4 GOD'S ALCHEMY

2:10 The word Alchemy could be confusing in the context of God, for it was a false science, during the middle ages, that attempted to turn base elements into gold, by magical power. However the choice of the term for this teaching is related to a more generic definition from modern dictionaries. The process of transmuting a common substance, usually of little value, into something of great worth. The Lord certainly takes ordinary lives and transforms them into great assets in the Kingdom, however, not by magic but by the power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit.

8:20 Matthew 4:12-17 The context for Jesus' first sermon

10:40: Matthew 4:17 The first sermon of Jesus - in one sentence. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near".

14:40 The kingdom is where the will and purpose of God is carried out in the hearts of men.

16:20 Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Jesus began his ministry in a way very unlike the popular ways of many modern churches and preachers. They want to focus on the glories and benefits of praising Jesus, but not on Sin and Repentance. Jesus starts right off with the hard message first.

22:20 1 Thessalonians 1:9 "....They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God".

Repentance of course means turning around, but it is more involved. It is giving something up, then, coming into something new, not just jumping into something new.

23:00 1 Samuel 7:3 ...Samuel said to the house of Israel, If you are returning to the Lord with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods.....

Giving up a misguided behavior and replacing it with a righteous path. FROM  $\rightarrow$  TO.

24:20 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 There is a place for Godly sorrow, for it brings repentance and restoration.

28:40 Acts 26:20 .....I preached that they should repent and turn to God. Proving their repentance by their deeds.

True repentance is manifested in practical works of righteousness.

29:00 A lesson in hearing the Lord and repenting – A story of St. Paul's church and the governing body (Vestry) and how they had to hear the Lord afresh and change their way.

<u>Matt. 4:12</u> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. <u>13</u> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <u>14</u> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

Matt.	15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,	
	the way to the sea, along the Jordan,	
	Galilee of the Gentiles—	
16	he people living in darkness	
	have seen a great light;	
	on those living in the land of the shadow of death	
	a light has dawned."	

Matt. 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

<u>1Th. 1:9</u> for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

<u>1Sam. 7:3</u> And Samuel said to the whole house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

<u>2Cor. 7:8</u> Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— <u>9</u> yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. <u>10</u> Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. <u>11</u> See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

Acts 26:20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.