I. Introduction
   A. John the Baptist, as forerunner for Jesus, prepared the way by teaching repentance.
   B. Jesus Himself could not be manifested as Messiah to Israel until the hearts of the people had been prepared by repentance.
      1. Mark 1:15—The first demand actually made by Jesus was to repent.
      2. Luke 13:1–5—Religion (offering sacrifices, etc.) is no substitute for repentance.
      3. Luke 24:46–47—After His resurrection, Jesus ordained that repentance and remission of sins should be preached to all nations.
      4. Acts 2:37–38—On the day of Pentecost, the first demand made by Peter was “Repent, and be baptized.”
      6. Is. 53:6—We all need to repent because we have all turned to our own way. God calls this “iniquity” (rebellion). By repentance, we turn from our own way and submit to God.
      8. Luke 15:11–32—The prodigal son is the perfect pattern of repentance: he made a decision to turn back to his father, and he acted on it.
      9. Lev. 4:1–4—The priest bringing his sin offering typifies true repentance.
         a. Laying his hand on the bullock’s head = “Confession.”
         b. Killing the bullock = “Repentance.”
         c. By repentance you put your own sin to death.
      10. Ps. 139:20–24—David asked God to show him any enemies of God that were within his own heart. Then he took his stand against those enemies of God, and declared that they were also David’s enemies.
         a. This is true repentance. We must do the same.
         b. The devil operates through his “fifth column.” Christians cannot be defeated by attack from without. It is the secret areas of sin and rebellion within our own hearts that provide a “fifth column” for the devil. Only through these can we be defeated.