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Terms for Repentance in the New Testament

Occurrences of μετάνοια and μετανοέω

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Translation note: Biblical quotations and paraphrases in this document have been translated from the German source. They are not presented as verbatim quotations from any particular English Bible translation. Greek forms and numerical data have been preserved.

This overview helps you look up the two Greek terms for repentance. The references follow the existing CHRISTOlogisch list based on Nestle-Aland 28 and are arranged by biblical book.

How to use this list

N denotes the noun μετάνοια; V denotes the verb μετανοέω. Read the full biblical passage and its context before drawing an interpretive conclusion. The list contains brief quotations and paraphrases; it does not replace a Bible translation or a critical Greek text.

The source lists 22 noun occurrences and 34 verb occurrences, a total of 56 occurrences in 52 verses. The count has been taken from the source for this reading edition; this does not claim an independent collation of all textual variants.

Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 3,2 V: Μετανοεῖτε

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near.”

Matthew 3,8 N: τῆς μετανοίας

“Therefore bear fruit worthy of repentance.”

Matthew 3,11 N: εἰς μετάνοιαν

“I baptize you with water for repentance.”

Matthew 4,17 V: Μετανοεῖτε

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near.”

Matthew 11,20 V: οὐ μετενόησαν

The towns did not repent despite the mighty works performed in them.

Matthew 11,21 V: μετενόησαν

“They would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

Matthew 12,41 V: μετενόησαν

“They repented at Jonah's proclamation.”

Statistics for Matthew μετάνοια: 2

μετανοέω: 5

Total: 7

Gospel of Mark

Mark 1,4 N: βάπτισμα μετανοίας

“A baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

Mark 1,15 V: μετανοεῖτε

“Repent and believe the gospel.”

Mark 6,12 V: ἵνα μετανοῶσιν

The disciples preached that people should repent.

Statistics for Mark μετάνοια: 1

μετανοέω: 2

Total: 3

Gospel of Luke

Luke 3,3 N: βάπτισμα μετανοίας

“A baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 3,8 N: τῆς μετανοίας

“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.”

Luke 5,32 N: εἰς μετάνοιαν

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 10,13 V: μετενόησαν

“They would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.”

Luke 11,32 V: μετενόησαν

“They repented at Jonah's proclamation.”

Luke 13,3 V: μετανοῆτε

“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Luke 13,5 V: μετανοῆτε

“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Luke 15,7 This verse contains two occurrences.

V: μετανοοῦντι

“Over one sinner who repents.”

N: μετανοίας

“Ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.”

Luke 15,10 V: μετανοοῦντι

“There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 16,30 V: μετανοήσουσιν

“If someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.”

Luke 17,3 V: μετανοήσῃ

“If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.”

Luke 17,4 V: Μετανοῶ

“I repent.”

In this immediate interpersonal context, the form may also be rendered “I am sorry for it.”

Luke 24,47 N: μετάνοιαν

“That repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name.”

Statistics for Luke μετάνοια: 5

μετανοέω: 9

Total: 14 occurrences in 13 verses

Acts

Acts 2,38 V: Μετανοήσατε

“Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

Acts 3,19 V: μετανοήσατε

“Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped away.”

Acts 5,31 N: μετάνοιαν

God exalted Jesus as Leader and Savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 8,22 V: μετανόησον

“Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours.”

Acts 11,18 N: τὴν μετάνοιαν

“Then God has granted even the Gentiles repentance leading to life.”

Acts 13,24 N: βάπτισμα μετανοίας

Before Jesus appeared, John proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Acts 17,30 V: μετανοεῖν

God now commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 19,4 N: βάπτισμα μετανοίας

“John baptized with a baptism of repentance.”

Acts 20,21 N: εἰς θεὸν μετάνοιαν

Paul testified to Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus.

Acts 26,20 This verse contains two occurrences.

V: μετανοεῖν

Paul proclaimed that people should repent and turn to God.

N: τῆς μετανοίας

They were to do works worthy of repentance.

Statistics for Acts μετάνοια: 6

μετανοέω: 5

Total: 11 occurrences in 10 verses

Romans

Romans 2,4 N: εἰς μετάνοιάν

“Do you not know that God's kindness leads you to repentance?”

Statistics for Romans μετάνοια: 1

μετανοέω: 0

Total: 1

Second Corinthians

2 Corinthians 7,9 N: εἰς μετάνοιαν

“You were grieved into repentance.”

2 Corinthians 7,10 N: μετάνοιαν εἰς σωτηρίαν

“Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted.”

2 Corinthians 12,21 V: μὴ μετανοησάντων

Paul fears that he may have to mourn over those who sinned previously and have not repented.

Statistics for 2 Corinthians μετάνοια: 2

μετανοέω: 1

Total: 3

Second Timothy

2 Timothy 2,25 N: μετάνοιαν

The Lord's servant is to correct opponents with gentleness, in the hope that God may grant them repentance leading to knowledge of the truth.

Statistics for 2 Timothy μετάνοια: 1

μετανοέω: 0

Total: 1

Hebrews

Hebrews 6,1 N: μετανοίας

“Repentance from dead works and faith in God.”

Hebrews 6,6 N: εἰς μετάνοιαν

It is impossible to renew the apostates described here to repentance again.

Hebrews 12,17 N: μετανοίας τόπον

Esau found no room for repentance, although he sought the blessing with tears.

In context, the expression can also be understood as “no room for a change of mind.” Whether the change of mind refers to Esau or Isaac is disputed.

Statistics for Hebrews μετάνοια: 3

μετανοέω: 0

Total: 3

Second Peter

2 Peter 3,9 N: εἰς μετάνοιαν

God does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

Statistics for 2 Peter μετάνοια: 1

μετανοέω: 0

Total: 1

Revelation

Revelation 2,5 This verse contains two occurrences.

V: μετανόησον

“Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent.”

V: μετανοήσῃς

“But if not, I will come to you.”

This means: if the church does not repent.

Revelation 2,16 V: μετανόησον

“Therefore repent.”

Revelation 2,21 This verse contains two occurrences.

V: μετανοήσῃ

Christ gave the woman time to repent.

V: μετανοῆσαι

Yet she did not want to repent of her sexual immorality.

Revelation 2,22 V: μετανοήσωσιν

Those who commit adultery with her face great tribulation unless they repent of their deeds.

Revelation 3,3 V: μετανόησον

“Hold fast and repent.”

Revelation 3,19 V: μετανόησον

“Therefore be zealous and repent.”

Revelation 9,20 V: οὐ μετενόησαν

The rest of humanity did not repent of the works of their hands.

Revelation 9,21 V: οὐ μετενόησαν

They did not repent of their murders, sorceries, sexual immorality or thefts.

Revelation 16,9 V: οὐ μετενόησαν

They did not repent so as to give God glory.

Revelation 16,11 V: οὐ μετενόησαν

They did not repent of their deeds.

Statistics for Revelation μετάνοια: 0

μετανοέω: 12

Total: 12 occurrences in 10 verses

Overall statistics

Book	Noun	Verb	Total
Matthew	2	5	7
Mark	1	2	3
Luke	5	9	14
Acts	6	5	11
Romans	1	0	1
2 Corinthians	2	1	3
2 Timothy	1	0	1
Hebrews	3	0	3
2 Peter	1	0	1
Revelation	0	12	12
Total	22	34	56

Not in the main text of Nestle-Aland

Two well-known passages contain an additional reference to repentance in the Byzantine textual tradition and the Textus Receptus, but not in the main text of Nestle-Aland 28.

Matthew 9,13 The Textus Receptus reads, in paraphrase:

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

In Nestle-Aland, the statement ends after “sinners.” The words εἰς μετάνοιαν, “to repentance,” are not in the main text.

Mark 2,17 Here too the Textus Receptus reads, in paraphrase:

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

The words εἰς μετάνοιαν are absent from the main text of Nestle-Aland.

Conclusion

According to Nestle-Aland 28, μετάνοια and μετανοέω occur a total of 56 times in the New Testament.

The noun μετάνοια occurs 22 times and the verb μετανοέω 34 times. These occurrences are distributed across ten New Testament books and 52 different verses.

Source: CHRISTOlogisch, All occurrences of μετάνοια and μετανοέω in Nestle-Aland 28. Original post: www.patreon.com/christologisch/posts/alle-vorkommen-163771113