

Be Converted

Introduction:

- A. I asked a class of teenagers if they were saved, and three who had never obeyed the gospel said yes.
 - B. There is probably no other religious subject about which there is more disagreement than conversion.
 - C. But conversion is essential to our salvation. - Matthew 18:1-3
 - D. How can you be converted to Christ?
- I. What is conversion?
- A. "Be converted" means "turn to." - Acts 3:19; 26:20
 - 1. (**Conversion is Cooperation** between God and man; i.e., man must do something in his own conversion.)
 - 2. Lyndon Whitley: "Reconciliation is one hundred per cent of God. We can do nothing to reconcile ourselves. It is an act of God." (Lyndon D. Whitley, Pastor, North Jacksonville Missionary Baptist Church, Sharp-Whitley Debate. March 6, 1981).
 - B. "Conversion" is a general word covering the entire process of the salvation of the sinner. - Acts 15:3 (**Conversion is Comprehensive.**)
 - C. God is involved in one's conversion from first to last. - Acts 3:26 (**Conversion is Celestial**; i.e., there is the divine side of conversion.)
 - D. But in conversion man:
 - 1. exercises free will. - Revelation 22:17; John 5:40 (**Conversion is Not Coercion.**)
 - 2. acts from understanding. - Matthew 13:15-16 (**Conversion is Not Convulsion.**)
- II. What causes conversion?
- A. the word (God's part) - Psalm 19:7; John 6:44-45
 - B. the right attitude (man's part) - Matthew 13:15-16
- III. What must one do to be converted? (man's part) - e.g., getting married
- A. Change of Heart - Acts 16:14
 - 1. This involves faith. - Acts 15:9
 - 2. But there is more than faith to conversion. - Acts 11:21
 - B. Change of Life - Matthew 18:1-4
 - 1. This involves repentance. - Matthew 12:41; Jonah 3:10
 - 2. But there is more than repentance to conversion. - Acts 3:19
 - C. Change of Loyalty - 1 Thessalonians 1:9
 - 1. This involves confession. - Romans 10:10
 - 2. But there is more than confession to conversion. - Ibid
 - D. Change of Relationship - Colossians 1:13
 - 1. This involves baptism. - Romans 6:3
 - 2. When you do this, you have been converted. - cf. Acts 2:38; 3:19

IV. What is the result of conversion?

A. One's sins are forgiven. - Acts 26:18

B. This is God's part. - Mark 2:7

1. Forgiveness is an act of executive pardon which takes place in the mind of God. - e.g., pardon of criminal

2. One's feelings do not prove what takes place in the mind of God. - e.g., prisoner who demanded to be released because he felt like he was pardoned

Conclusion:

A. In order to be married, I had to go through all four of the steps which lead to that relationship.

B. If you desire the blessings in Christ, you must go through all four steps of conversion.

C. Have you been converted? - Acts 3:19