

The Conversion of the Secretary of the Treasury

Introduction:

- A. Good examples are a powerful influence for good.
 - 1. Denominational people try to encourage others to accept Christ by telling conversion experiences. - e.g., watching local Methodist service on cable TV, called “witnessing”
 - 2. Often famous people are used as examples to follow. - e.g., athletes on getting an education
- B. But which examples shall we follow?
 - 1. Modern stories of conversion experiences are related by uninspired people about events about which we have no way of knowing their true significance.
 - 2. Bible cases of conversion were under the direction of the Holy Spirit both when they occurred and when they were recorded.
- C. Luke’s record of the conversion of the treasurer of the nation of Ethiopia provides an example we can safely follow. - Acts 8:26-39
- D. How was the Ethiopian eunuch converted?
- I. Though he was a very religious man and worshiped God, he needed salvation. - Acts 8:26-27; cf. Matthew 7:21-23
- II. How did God lead the eunuch to conversion?
 - A. He sent the evangelist to him. - Acts 8:26-29
 - 1. Philip was an inspired evangelist. - Acts 8:5-7
 - 2. When the church was first established and the New Testament had not been recorded, the Lord sent inspired men with miraculous confirmation. - Mark 16:15-18; Acts 8:5-8
 - 3. But, with the New Testament written and confirmed, the miraculous work of God through His people has fulfilled its purposes and ceased. - Mark 16:19-20
 - 4. Philip, as an inspired evangelist, was miraculously sent. - Romans 10:13-17
 - 5. But the preaching of the gospel is still God’s means of saving sinners. - 1 Corinthians 1:21
 - B. He gave the Word of God which providentially came to the eunuch. - Acts 8:27-33
 - C. From the Word of God the evangelist preached Jesus. - Acts 8:34-35
 - 1. The prophets pointed to salvation in Christ. - 1 Peter 1:9-11
 - 2. The very passage the eunuch was reading should lead any unbeliever to faith in Christ. - Acts 8:32-33; Isaiah 53:7-8
 - a. silent in affliction - Matthew 27:12-14
 - b. put to death violently - John 19:16,31-34
 - c. died for our transgressions - Isaiah 53:8; Romans 4:25
 - 3. In preaching Jesus, Philip preached baptism. - Acts 8:35-36; cf. 8:12-13; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4

III. How did the eunuch respond to God?

- A. Open Book: He studied God's Word. - Acts 8:27-28 (How strange to see this today. Woman on airplane deduced I was a preacher because I read my Bible. How sad!)
- B. Open Mind: He was humble enough to be taught. - Acts 8:29-34
- C. Open Mouth: He confessed his faith in Christ. - Acts 8:35-37; cf. Romans 10:9-10
 - 1. His confession was of faith in Christ, not of an "experience of grace."
 - 2. His confession of faith was the requirement for his baptism, not the vote of a church.
- D. Obedient: He was baptized into Christ. - Acts 8:38
 - 1. The language obviously demands immersion.
 - 2. A "desert" is a deserted place, i.e., a wilderness, and does not mean there was not enough water for immersion. - cf. Matthew 14:13
 - 3. If this was just "water in a jar" in the chariot, try substituting "water in the jar" for "water" in the context. - cf. Romans 6:3-4

IV. What was the result? - Acts 8:39; cf. 1 Peter 1:3-9

Conclusion:

- A. Why not rejoice in your salvation today?
 - 1. If you have not done what the eunuch did, you need salvation.
 - 2. God has done His part.
 - a. Jesus died for you.
 - b. The word of God has been preached to you.
 - 3. Will you do your part: believe, repent, confess, and be baptized?
- B. See, here is water, what hinders you from being baptized?