

The Conversion of a Bible Reader

Acts 8:26-28

Introduction:

- A. A high government official reading the Bible — how rare!
 - 1. A practicing Jew — over 1,000 miles to worship.
 - 2. Not first Jew in responsible place of another nation (Joseph, Daniel, Esther).
- B. Let us notice three parts of this story:
 - 1. The Scripture that was read.
 - 2. The Application that was made.
 - 3. The Action that was taken.

Discussion:

I. The Scripture Read (vv. 28-33)

- A. The value of Old Testament prophets in establishing faith in Christ (2 Pet. 1:16-21).
- B. The great Old Testament chapter being read by this man (Isaiah 53).

II. The Application Made (vv. 34-35).

- A. Began “at the same Scripture” — explained Isaiah 53.
- B. Likely went on to tell all about Jesus as the Christ.
 - 1. His baptism and temptation.
 - 2. His life and ministry.
 - 3. His suffering and death.
 - 4. His resurrection and ascension
 - 5. His teaching and authority.

III. The Action Taken (vv. 36-39).

- A. A question was asked (v. 36).
 - 1. How did he know of baptism? — Jesus was preached!
 - 2. How did he know baptism was in water? — Jesus was preached!
 - 3. How did he know he needed baptism immediately? — Jesus was preached!
- B. An answer was given (v. 37a).
 - 1. Not “if you have had an experience of grace, you may.”
 - 2. Not “if the church votes you in, you may.”
- C. A confession was made (v. 37b)
 - 1. Not “I believe that God for Christ’s sake has pardoned my sins.”
 - 2. But a simple confession of faith in Christ (cf. Rom. 10:10).
- D. A baptism was administered (vv. 38-39)
 - 1. An immersion in water — both went down into water. (Cf. Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; John 3:23).
 - 2. Water baptism done in obedience to God saves (1 Pet. 3:20-21; Mark 16:15,16).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us read our Bibles.
- B. Let us accept help in our study.
- C. Let us follow where the application leads.