

“Conversion”

Acts 15:3

Introduction:

- A. “Conversion.”
 - 1. Means a change of direction — to turn around, about, or toward. (cf. Acts 15:3,19)
 - 2. Describes turning to the Lord (Acts 3:19; 15:3)
 - 3. Describes returning to the Lord (Jas. 5:19,20; Lk. 22:32).
- B. Conversion process involved some fundamental changes:

Discussion:

I. A Change Of *Mind*.

- A. From unbelief to belief.
 - 1. In God, Christ and the gospel (Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; Acts 15:7)
 - 2. Produced by scriptural evidence (John 20:30,31; Rom. 10:8-11,16-17)
- B. From impenitence to repentance.
 - 1. A change of mind (cf. Matt. 21:29) - about serving God or sin. (Cf. Acts 20:21; Lk. 13:3-5)
 - 2. Produced by godly sorrow. (2 Cor. 7:9,10).

II. A Change Of *Position*.

- A. From lost to saved.
 - 1. Were dead in sin without hope, now raised in baptism (Eph. 2:1-12; Rom. 6:3,4)
 - 2. Were children of: disobedience, wrath, Satan — now children of God. (Gal. 3:26,27).
- B. From without to within (cf. 1 Cor. 5:12,13)
 - 1. Were without Christ, now in Christ by baptism (Rom. 6:3)
 - 2. Were in darkness, now in kingdom (church). (Col. 1:12, 13; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13).

III. A Change of *Lifestyle*.

- A. A change of moral and religious lifestyle.
 - 1. From immorality to morality. (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
 - 2. From either no religion or false (or vain) religion to true (or pure) religion. (Matt. 15:9).
- B. A change of emphasis in daily lifestyle.
 - 1. Emphasize relationship to Lord over earthly relations. (Mt. 10:37-39)
 - 2. Emphasize spiritual/eternal over physical/temporal. (Mt. 10:39; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:1; 1 Pet. 3:3,4)

Conclusion:

- A. Neither believing, nor repenting nor baptism alone is conversion- takes all (Acts 11:21; 3:19; 2:38).
- B. Genuine conversion is a change of mind leading to change of position leading to change of ways.
- C. Conversion is necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:3) — why not be converted?