

The Marvelous Change in Conversion

1 Pet 2:9

Introduction:

- A. The gospel of Christ does not merely amend - it completely changes our character.
 - 1. Old things pass away all things become new.
 - 2. Our views, dispositions, and actions are all changed.
 - 3. A change from darkness into marvelous light.
- B. Our text suggests three things about one's conversion by the gospel.

Discussion:

I. One's Pre-Conversion Condition – "Darkness."

- A. Darkness of spiritual ignorance.
 - 1. Of God, His Son, His mercy and His will (cf. Heb. 10:1-3)
 - 2. Of the condemnation of our sins. (John 3:18-21)
- B. Darkness of spiritual slavery.
 - 1. Sold under sin (Rom. 7:14).
 - 2. Slaves to sin and passion (John 8:34; Rom. 6:16-22).
 - 3. Unaware of own slavery (John 8:32-34)
- C. Darkness of hopelessness.
 - 1. Without God and without hope. (Eph. 2:12).
 - 2. All who hope do not have hope – such a thing as false hope.
- D. Darkness of spiritual death.
 - 1. Death while living (Eph. 2:1; 1 Tim. 5:6)
 - 2. Eternally dead (Rom. 6:23; cf. 2 Thess. 1:9; Matt. 25:30)

II. One's Perceptive Change – "Out of Darkness Into...Light."

- A. A change of life as different as day and night (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- B. A change from the power darkness into light/kingdom. (Col. 1:12,13).
- C. A change into "**His** marvelous light." (Cf. 1 John 1:5)
- D. A change effected by the gospel (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4)
 - 1. "Called into light" by the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14)
 - 2. Saved by the gospel (1 Cor 15:1-2)
 - 3. Saved in obedience to gospel (2 Thess. 1:8)

III. One's Post-Conversion Conduct – "Show Forth the Praises of Him."

- A. By using the scriptures to tell others about Him (Acts 18:28).
 - 1. His greatness and power.
 - 2. His love and mercy.
 - 3. His will and commandments.
 - 4. His exceeding great and precious promises.
- B. By displaying his image in our lives – reflecting his light (1 Thess. 5:5; 1 John 1:7; Matt. 5:16)
 - 1. By being obedient as He was obedient. (Heb. 5:8-9)
 - 2. By walking in His steps (1 Pet. 2:21).
 - 3. By holy living (1 Pet. 1:16)

Conclusion:

- A. Let the sinner know what his true condition is – darkness.
- B. Let the sinner know that he can be translated out of darkness.
- C. Let the Christian know how to show forth the praises of Him in word and deed.