

Conversion: Some Did, But Some Didn't

"What we need is a people converted to the Lord."

Review of Previous Lesson

1.) Need & Importance

We have all turned from God.

Every last one of us has turned away from God.

Rom. 3:12,23 "ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

This is what gets in the way of the life with God that we all should want.

Isa. 59:1,2 "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear.

2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He does not hear."

So all sinners must turn back to God to be saved.

Every prophet taught it.

2 Kings 17:13 "Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah, through all His prophets *and* every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets."

Jesus taught it.

Matt. 18:3 "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Apostles taught it.

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and return [and be converted - KJV], that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord"

2.) Process of Conversion

Hear the Gospel **Rom. 10:17** "So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

Faith **Jn. 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Repentance **Luke 13:3,5** "tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Confession **Rom. 10:13** "for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

Baptism **Jn. 3:5** "Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Salvation **Jn. 3:17** "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."

along with Continuing Obedience **Heb. 5:9** "And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation"

When one completely turns to Christ these things are no longer points to quarrel over, but are accepted on the strength of the word of God. When one have a "saving" faith, the others follow.

Consider the record of the book of Acts. See "[Acts Conversions Chart](#)"

What all need to do is obvious from the scriptures. What do *you* need to do?

I. Some Did Not Convert

Not all will turn to God and live for Him even when it is clearly presented to them that they will otherwise die in their sins and this is the only way to gain their own soul's salvation.

Jn. 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

A. Most of The Jews Of Jesus' Day

Jn. 12:37-40 "But though He had performed so many signs before them, *yet* they were not believing in Him; **38** that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?"

39 For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again,

40 HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM."

They had every proof that could be provided, but they hardened their hearts.

Yes, they all had their reasons, people are the same today

Many do not want to believe.

Many believed but are afraid to act.

Many love their sins too much to change.

Many are blinded by tradition.

B. Jews of Pisidian Antioch

Jews completed rejected Christ and fought against his message even as the Gentiles gladly accepted.

Acts 13:44-48 "And the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of God.

45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and *began* contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

47 For thus the Lord has commanded us, 'I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU SHOULD BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.'"

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed."

Many want their traditions more than the gospel.

C. Felix

Acts 24:24-27 "But some days later, Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul, and heard him *speak* about faith in Christ Jesus.

25 And as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you."

26 At the same time too, he was hoping that money would be given him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often and converse with him.

27 But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned."

Felix delayed. Paul told him all he needed to know. It scared him.

The Judgment coupled with his immoral lifestyle, lack of self control, and no righteousness whatsoever scared him.

Many do not act, but delay.

He never found a "convenient season" was not found to give up sinning and live for Christ, the "proper time" to return Drusilla to the husband he had seduced her from never arrived.

2 Cor. 6:2 “for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU"; behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION”

The acceptable day of salvation is now – it always and must be only now.

Now is the only time that you have, even if it is not always easy or convenient.

But now is always the but proper time.

John 3:16-21 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.

18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God”

Many, like Felix, refuse to accept the light because it will show that their deeds are evil.

Many love their evil deeds more than they love God.

D. Festus and Agrippa

Paul called before the King and the Governor

Acts 26:24-29 “And while *Paul* was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! *Your* great learning is driving you mad."

25 But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth.

26 For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner.

27 King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do."

28 And Agrippa *replied* to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

29 And Paul *said*, "I would to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

Festus - “this is nonsense.” To his Roman mind trained in logic, skepticism of the unknown, and a bias to the rational this was all just too much, Paul had to be crazy.

The wise of this world do not understand.

Many think they are too smart for the gospel.

1 Cor. 1:18-21 “For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

Agrippa - “you really trying to convert me, aren't you? you must be kidding.” OR

“You nearly convinced me” either way – he was still lost.

Many say “you've got to be kidding.”

Many say, “I'd almost do that.” BUT THEY DON'T EVER DO IT!

II. Some Did Convert

A. The Jews at Pentecost

Acts 2:36-41 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

38 And Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."

40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

The turned to God when they discovered they were under condemnation.

Some realize their fate without Christ.

B. Many Priests

Acts 6:7 "And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith."

It must have taken a lot to get them to convert. They were the upholders of Jewish tradition and had to highest place in the society.

They were not only giving up their religion, but also their jobs and social position, but they were staying faithful to God.

Some place truth above everything else.

C. The Bereans

Acts 17:10-12 "And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, *to see* whether these things were so.

12 Many of them therefore believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men."

Those who trusted God and studied with an open mind came to now His Son and be converted.

Today - those that have a desire to know God and will study with their hearts and Bible's open will do the same.

Some examine God's book to know what's right.

III. Some Need To Convert Back Again

A. Some From God To False Doctrines

Gal. 1:6,7 "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

7 which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ."

These had turned from God to another gospel, another religious system, the Law which had been done away with

Gal. 4:8-11 "However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.

9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

Conversions In Acts

	Pentecost Ch. 2	Samaritans Ch. 8	Eunuch Ch. 8	Saul Ch. 9, 22	Cornelius Ch. 10	Lydia Ch.16	Jailor Ch. 16
Heard Rom. 10:17	vss. 14-36, 38-40	vss. 5,6	vss. 32-37		vss. 36-44	vs. 13	vs. 32
Faith Jn. 3:16		vss. 12,13	vs. 36	9:5 22:10		vs. 14	
Repented Luke 13:3,5	vs. 38			9:9 fasted			vs. 33 washed wounds
Confessed Rom. 10:13			vs. 37				
Baptized Jn. 3:5	vs. 38 that day	vss. 12,13	vs. 38 along the road	22:16 why delay?	vs. 48 Peter ordered	vs. 15	vs. 33 same hour
Saved Jn. 3:17	vs. 41 added	vs. 14 recieved word of God	vs. 39 rejoicing	22:16 wash away sins	11:14 saving words	vs. 15 judged faithful	vs. 34 rejoiced greatly