

Be Converted

(Acts 3:19-21)

Introduction:

1. Peter and John had gone to the temple, and Peter healed a man who was born lame (vs.1-7).
2. The man's reaction provided an audience for Peter and John (vs.8-11).
3. The words we read in vs.19-21 are from the sermon that Peter preached on that occasion.
4. In our lesson we are concentrating on Peter's instruction in vs.19 to "*be converted.*"
5. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

I. THE LORD REQUIRES EVERYONE TO BE CONVERTED

- A. Specifically, the Lord requires:
 1. those who are not Christians to be converted (Acts 3:19)
 2. those who have become unfaithful to be converted (James 5:19-20).
- B. Since the Lord requires everyone to be converted, we must understand what conversion is.
 1. Convert: to turn, to turn to God from sin, a change that we must undergo to be in good standing with God.
 2. Now that we understand that the Lord requires everyone to be converted, let us examine . . .

II. WHY WE NEED TO BE CONVERTED

- A. We need to be converted so our "*sins may be blotted out*" (Acts 3:19; 2:38).
 1. Sin is a widespread problem (Romans 3:23).
 2. Sin has serious consequences, but a special gift is available (Romans 6:23).
- B. We need to be converted to enter the kingdom (Matthew 18:3; John 3:5).
- C. We need to be converted to be ready for the Lord's return (Acts 3:19b-21).
- D. We need to point out that . . .

III. GOD'S WORD PRODUCES CONVERSION

- A. (Psalm 19:7a) "*The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.*"
 1. In order for God's Word to produce conversion, we must hear it in the right way.
 2. (James 1:21) We must "*receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save our souls.*"
- B. When we understand that God's Word produces conversion when it is properly heard, we can know why some people won't be converted.
 1. Isaiah 6:8-10

- a. Isaiah was sent to preach to his people, the Jews.
 - b. God told Isaiah that his people would not be converted.
 - c. They would not be converted because:
 - 1) they would not understand, and they would not perceive
 - 2) they would have a problem with their hearts, ears, and eyes.
 - d. Isaiah's mission was to teach God's Word.
 - e. The Jews would have to hear his teaching in the right way to be converted.
 - f. Unfortunately, they would not hear correctly.
2. These words are quoted several times in the New Testament.
- a. (Matthew 13:14-15) Jesus applied Isaiah's words to those who failed to understand His parables.
 - b. (John 12:37-40) Isaiah's words are applied to the Jews who saw the Lord's miracles but refused to believe on Him.
 - c. (Acts 28:24-27) Isaiah's words are applied to the people in Rome who did not believe Paul's teaching.
- C. God's Word produces conversion.
- 1. However, in order for conversion to take place, we must hear God's Word properly.
 - 2. For the last point of our lesson we need to show that . . .
- IV. CONVERSION IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH JOY
- A. First, God rejoices when a sinner is converted (Luke 15:10).
 - B. Second, sinners who are converted have reason to rejoice (Acts 8:39 - the eunuch "*went on his way rejoicing*").
 - C. Third, the conversion of sinners ought to cause Christians to experience great joy (Acts 15:3 – when Paul and Barnabas declared how Gentiles had been converted, "*they caused great joy unto all the brethren*").
 - D. Fourth, those who truly know the joy of the Lord's salvation will be involved in converting sinners to God (Psalm 51:12-13).

Conclusion:

- 1. Are you in need of conversion today?
- 2. If you are, take the necessary steps so your life can be right with God.