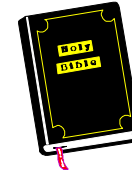


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



"every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master." Luke 6:40b

THE RIGHT KIND OF CONVERSION

The word "convert" simply means to change, to turn. The word is so translated in the American Standard Version. When persons are converted they are changed. They must be changed, and the Bible leaves no doubt as to where this change takes place. The Holy Spirit says, "**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new**" (2 Cor. 5:17).

We may be converted from one sect to another sect. We may turn from our drunkenness to a sober life, and we may quit our swearing. But this is not enough if our change does not bring us into Christ. You will find that in the first century the change was always the same. Those men and women, whether Jew or Gentile, were translated into the kingdom or church.

In all of those conversions much of modern procedure was lacking. Note this: None was given the choice as to which church he should join. That choice belongs to the Lord and He adds to His church (**Acts 2:47**). So your conversion or change was not right somewhere if you were left with the choice that belongs to the Lord.

Those converts were not told to "pray the sinners' prayer." Prayer has its place and purpose, but its place and purpose is not in the salvation of the alien sinner. Cornelius was a prayerful man and a good man, but he was told to send for Peter and he would tell him words that would save his soul (**Acts 11:14**).

Paul was praying for three days and nights, but he, too, had to hear words to save his soul (**Acts 22:16**). These people were not converted by signing a card, praying, or raising their hands. Instead, they obeyed from the heart the form of teaching that was delivered to them (**Rom. 6:17-18**).

You may have been converted — made a change — but was it the right change? Did you do the will of the Father in heaven? Jesus said, "**Except ye be converted and become as a little child**" (**Matt. 18:3**). I have met people who were converted. I do not doubt that. But they were not converted the right way. When I was a little child, my father knew everything. I wondered how anyone could be so foolish as to belong to a different church than my father's. I never thought of questioning what he taught on any subject. That's the way one who becomes as a little child in his conversion views God's commands.

- Continued on page 3

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 37, NUMBER 6 February 6, 2011

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

THE HOLY SPIRIT

PM: Ed Kelleher

CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE TOGETHER IN LOVE

COME JOIN US THIS
NEW YEAR!

CAROLINA MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP
Rock Hill Sat 3/12

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." - 1 Corinthians 2:4,5

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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West Columbia SC 29169

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

EVANGELIST

BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Margaret Herring, Jean Godley, Amy Wintermute, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Tommy White** was out sick last Sunday with a virus and had to have a shot to relieve pain in his leg, but is doing better now.
- **Dawn Gamble** has broken a bone in her foot, which is very painful. They're hoping to avoid surgery and for Dawn to be able to go back to work soon.
- Remember **Dale Smith, Faye Parks'** brother, who is having hard times, and that he be receptive to the Gospel.

**"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord." - Psalms 31:24**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday Luncheon today**, with an informal congregational meeting afterwards and then the men's business meeting at 1:30 pm. Please plan on attending the luncheon so we all can discuss the work of the church here, that we will grow and prosper.
- The **Twin City** church had 93 in attendance for their 6th annual singing, the last Sunday in January. West Columbia was well represented also. It was an encouraging time for all.
- **Bible Study!** 10 am Saturdays at **Trevia Parks'** home, informal, informative, useful!
- **BIBLE BOWL 2011**—BOOK OF **MATTHEW**—Sign up sheets in the foyer for youth and adult teams. The Bible Bowl Machine has been setup for practice.
- **Building Cleanup** availability is going fast, we're signed up through April. Signup quickly to reserve your spot in making the building spotless! ☺
- **Carolina Men's Fellowship** in Rock Hill Sat 3/12/11 9am-3pm. Details in foyer.

**“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love,
being of one accord, of one mind.” - Philippians 2:2**

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

PSALM 100

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

THE RIGHT KIND OF CONVERSION—(Continued from page 1)

But many "converted" people today do not accept what God says about baptism, repentance, the Lord's Supper, nor do they think He was right to leave instrumental music out of New Testament worship. Now, if you are one of those, can't you see that you have never been properly converted? Remember, it was Jesus who said we must become as little children.

I sometimes disagree with my father now. I'm not exactly a little child any more. As much as I love and respect him, I do not think my father is infallible any more. But with God, the passing of years only confirms my belief that God is always right and man is always wrong, sinfully wrong, when he disagrees with God.

Let me be fair with you, my friend. If your conversion does not measure up to the divine standard, if it is not like those recorded in the book of Acts, I believe, and sincerely so, that it was wrong. I do not like for you to quarrel with my Father about anything. I do not like to hear you say that God's way is wrong about anything. You will not be able to contradict Him when we all stand before His judgment bar, so why not submit to Him now?

There are those who teach that once a man is converted, he cannot be lost. Conversion does not destroy man's power of choice. There are many scriptures showing this teaching to be sinfully wrong. But here is a verse that, with those who believe the word of God, settles it forever: **"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (Jas. 5:19-20).**

- J.C. (John Carlos) Bailey, 1905-2001, Gospel Preacher, missionary to India

Naaman — A Man Who "Thought"

Naaman was an honourable man, but he was a leper (**2 Ki. 5**). There are many honourable men today, but they are sinners (leprosy was a type of sin). Naaman thought up a plan by which he wanted to be cleansed. Honourable men of today have thought up plans by which they want to be forgiven of sin. So, instead of approaching Elisha in humility, willing to have the matter attended to as God would have it, Naaman wanted to be cleansed by his own plan.

This is like denominations today. Instead of opening the Bible to see what God says about being saved, they make their own plans for justification. They promote the old idea of "salvation by faith only" (*Methodist Discipline*, Article 9) but when they are told they must pass through the water to be justified (**Mark 16:16**), like Naaman, they become angry.

Naaman planned that Elisha should come out and make a big show of cleansing him (**2 Ki. 5:11**) but when the prophet didn't do so, Naaman got mad and said, **"Behold, I thought..."** Elisha sent his servant to instruct Naaman to dip seven times in Jordan. Naaman was told to take the water route, but like many today he was not at first willing to do what God commanded. Jesus said, **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16).** Do you believe that?

- W. Claytus Anderson, Gospel preacher

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011