



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.

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Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 6 February 8, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— After that He appeared, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

PM: T.J. Bolen— Outward appearance? 2 Corinthians 10:7-18

MAN'S WISDOM VS. GOD'S POWER

"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

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

The Bulletin
(USPS-994-500)
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Anna Porter** is home now. Pray she be strong enough to meet with us Sunday.
- **Tommy White** is staying with his sister **Gloria** while his trailer is refurbished.
- **Trevia Parks** requests prayers for her brother-in-law **Frank Rikard** who had a stroke.
- **Dorothy Gray** requests prayers for **Donald Brown**, a co-worker, who had a death in his family but can't get to Connecticut because of the bad weather.
- Prayers are requested for **Ronnie Baughcome**, who is beset with cancer and heart surgery. He is the father-in-law of Harvey and Gail's daughter Erin.
- Remember those listed above and: **Grant Parks** and family; **Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

**"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

- **Carolina Men's Fellowship** in Rock Hill, Saturday March 14, make plans to go.
- Lots of stray dishes in the kitchen, please pickup any that are yours.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

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

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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.

Sun AM Sermon— After that He appeared, 1 Corinthians 15:1-19

1. The facts of the Risen Savior.
2. Results of the Risen Savior.
3. Have you let Christ "appear" to you?
4. His final appearance.

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 honorable man, but he was a leper (**2 Ki. 5**). There are many honorable men today, but they are sinners (leprosy was a type of sin). Naaman thought up a plan by which he wanted to be cleansed. Honorable 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

“Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.” - 2 Kings 5:14