



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ JUNE 2015 ❖

Convert

CONVERT (action)

To change a person by the power of the Word.

“Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:3

CONVERT (person)

One who has been transformed by the power of the Word.

Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

Romans 16:5

CONVERSION (process)

Conversion is not a mystical process. It follows a logical sequence of events.

Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion.

Acts 15:3

KNOWLEDGE

changed by hearing the Word

BELIEF

changed by believing the Good News

ACTIONS

changed by repentance (turning away from sin)

ALLEGIANCE

changed by dedication (acknowledging Jesus as Lord)

CONDITION

changed by baptism (immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins)

RESULT

A transformation (conversion, change) is the result.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

The Storms of Life

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27

Chapters five, six, and seven in the book of Matthew contain Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount.” Many instructions, lessons, and warnings are mentioned. And there are teachings that cover what one should do, and not do.

When Jesus finished, his hearers noted that His teachings were not something He had been taught by a scribe or Rabbi, but He taught as one who had authority.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were astonished at his teaching: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribe. 7:28-29

WARNING

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.” 7:21

Those who hear and act upon His teachings will be like a house built on the rock that will withstand the storms. Those who hear and do not act upon His teachings will be like a house built on the sand that will not withstand the storms.

Notice the similarities: Both houses are assailed by wind and storms and floods. Both followers and non-followers of Jesus will experience “the storms of life.” Trials, problems, and temptations will come upon those whose house is built on the sand and on the rock. Those “built on the rock” are not immune. Worldly

people have trials. Christians have trials. Worldly people get sick. Christians get sick. Worldly people suffer tragedy. Christians suffer tragedy.

THE LESSON

Yes, life can be hard. Temptations can be strong. Opposition can be great. Persecutions can violent. Rulers can become tyrants. Laws can become unjust. Friends and family may become part of the opposition. Such has happened in the past, and we know not what the future holds.

That’s why it is so important to be built on The Rock: Jesus and His saving power. Remember, it’s the goal that is important. If the goal is reached, the effort was well spent. Be one who says, like Paul the Apostle, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the

upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14.

ADMONITION TO HIS DISCIPLES

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25

**It’s important
to not only hear
Jesus, but to
obey His
teachings. Failing
to obey will be
met with a fall.
A great, tragic,
fall.**



Disciple



Words that should cause alarm and concern.

DISCIPLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Disciples are those who accept the teachings of someone, not only in belief but adhering to the teachings in daily living.

Disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees. *And they said to Him [Jesus], "The disciples of John often fast and offer prayers, the disciples of the Pharisees also do the same, but Yours eat and drink. Luke 5:33*

Disciples of Moses. *They reviled him [the blind man who was healed] and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. John 9:28*

Disciples of Jesus. *As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. John 6:66*

The Twelve Apostles. *Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Matthew 10:1*

Note: Christ's followers are called disciples only in the Gospels and in the book of Acts.

CHRISTIAN

The disciples at Antioch were first called Christians. Acts 11:26

Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." Acts 26:28

But if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. 1 Peter 4:16

"It's not a big deal."

"Don't worry about what it will lead to."

"Trust me!"

"I am a master teacher (or preacher) with years of experience."

"There are many things we do without Scriptural authority."

"Other churches are doing it."

"You are stuck in the past and don't want to change with the times."

"You are guilty of Bible-idolatry (you venerate the book, not the Lord)."

"Your way is not working."

"Look at the growth of churches that are doing it."

"You just don't understand."

"Once you come to know what I know, you'll agree."

"Well-known and respected preachers think it is okay."

"You have to provide what people are looking for in a church."

**SUCCINCTLY
PUT**

It's wise to 'tune in' and not always be 'broadcasting.'

Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.

Proverbs 19:20



Ponder
This

'Dissing'

To speak disrespectfully
or criticize.

DISSING JESUS

Disrespecting His divinity
by saying He was just a good man.

Disrespecting His word
by saying it needs to change with the times.

Disrespecting His teachings on morality
by saying they must allow room for diversity in lifestyles.

Disrespecting His teachings on divorce
by saying one has the right to be happy.

Disrespecting His authority
by saying church teachings and traditions trump the Bible.

Disrespecting His design for the structure of His church
by structuring it with earthly heads and headquarters.

Disrespecting His command for His followers to assemble
by saying it isn't important.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth ... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18,20

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:17

A STERN WARNING

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

Galatians 1:6-8 NIV

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