

Sermon Notes – 07.20.2025 – Conversion – Faith-Repentance-Baptism

Conversion is Essential (KJV “Be converted” / NASB “return”)

Psalms 51:10-13 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. **13** *Then* **I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.**

Acts 28:25-27 And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, **26** saying, 'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, "YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; **27** **FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.**"' (KJV – “...be converted”)

1 Peter 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but **now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.** “ (We tend to fall away and need to return)

The “Putting Off” and “Putting On” of Colossians 3 – This is Conversion – Becoming New!

Colossians 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other**, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. **14** Beyond all these things **put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.** **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Think of Faith Repentance & Baptism as Three Parts of One Thing – Conversion

We will be baptizing believers soon– So Let’s look at Baptism as it fits into “Conversion.”

Day of Pentecost – When the People Believed, They Asked, “What Shall We Do?”

Acts 2:36-39 "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** *Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;* and you will 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 will call to Himself."

Repent & Return (Be Converted)

Acts 3:19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Mark 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved;"

That is, believeth the gospel. "He who credits it to be true, and acts as if it were true." This is the whole of faith. Man is a sinner. He should act on the belief of this truth and repent. There is a God. Man should believe it, and fear and love him, and seek his favor. The Lord Jesus died to save him. To have faith in him is to believe that this is true, and to act accordingly; that is, to trust him, to rely on him, to love him, to feel that we have no merit, and to cast our all upon him.

~ Barnes Notes on the New Testament

Faith, Repentance and Baptism are At the Core of the New Birth / the New Life

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life...

Faith is a Gift from God and God Tells Us to Exercise This Gift to Live in Loving Obedience to Him

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.

So, When Someone Comes to be Baptized – What Should They Believe about Jesus?

There is a God, Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was Born into the World, He Lived a Sinless Life, He Suffered, Shed His Blood and Died on the Cross for Our Sins, Jesus Rose from the Dead, and He Will Return to Judge and to Take the Faithful Ones to Be Where He is Forever.

What Should They Believe About Themselves?

We are Sinners Who Need a Savior, God Loves Us and Gave His Only Son so that Whoever Believes in Him Will Be saved. If We Believe, Our Sins Are Forgiven, Since Our Sins Are Forgiven, We Should Repent and Live for Jesus.

So, Believe, Repent and Be Baptized – If You Have Not Been Baptized in Water Since You Believed – We will Baptize you into Jesus Christ Soon – Just Let Us Know.

If You have "Done All That," Remember – The Change is Never Finished as Long as You Breathe.

There is Always Something Fresh and New to Discover – Some New Grace to Grow In

2 Peter 3:17-18 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.