

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 18:1-4.**
- B. Jesus said that unless we are a converted person we shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.
- C. Therefore we must know what the Bible says about conversion.
- D. The book of Acts records how people were converted to X, that is, how they became a Xian. How to become a Christian will be clearly defined in these examples.
- E. Our lesson this morning deals with several examples of people being converted.

I. THE 3,000.

- A. See **Acts 2:14-47.**
- B. This is the first day of Pentecost after the resurrection of X. As Jesus instructed the apostles were all together in Jerusalem to wait for the promise of the Father (the baptism of the HS). When instructed by the Spirit as what to preach Peter got up and gave the Jews gathered the very first gospel sermon.
- C. Peter told the people that Jesus, whom they had slain, was the Christ; the promised Messiah. He also told them what to do to be saved from their sin, and from the sin of crucifying the Lord.
- D. What happened?
 - 1. Peter told the people **to repent of their sins** (2:38).
 - 2. Peter told the people **to be baptized** for the remission (forgiveness) of their sins (2:38).
- E. In this very first example of people being converted, we see those who became Xians repented of their sins before being baptized.

II. THE QUEEN'S TREASURER.

- A. See **Acts 8:35-39.**
- B. A little later on in the early history of the church the book of Acts records a conversion of a eunuch, a man who lived in Ethiopia and was the treasurer to the queen of that country.
- C. This eunuch was a religious man. The story tells of him returning to Ethiopia after worshipping in Jerusalem, and he is reading the OT book of Isaiah.
- D. Philip, not the apostle, but a Xian, joined himself to the chariot where the treasurer was riding. This was to help the treasurer understand what he was reading, for the text says that he was confused about some of the writings of Isaiah.
- E. Philip, began with that very scripture (8:35), and taught the eunuch about Jesus.
- F. What happened?
 - 1. The eunuch **believed in JC** as the Son of God.
 - 2. He **confessed his belief** in the deity and Messiahship of X.
 - 3. He **was baptized.**
- G. In this second example of conversion we see that people who became Xians confessed their faith in Jesus before being baptized.

III. SAUL OF TARSUS.

- A. See **Acts 9:17-18.**
- B. Saul was a great persecutor of the church (Ac. 9:1). Yet, God had a different plan for his life. While with companions, on the road to Damascus, Saul was struck with a great beam of light from heaven. It blinded him, and he heard a voice from the sky giving him instructions.
- C. Saul was obedient to the instructions and went into Damascus where it was told him what he must do.
- D. Ananias, was God's servant, who came and told Saul what to do to be saved.
- E. What happened?
 - 1. Saul **was baptized** and had his sins washed away (Ac. 22:16).

- F. In this example of conversion, Saul, a believer in God was told not to wait or be slow, but to be baptized so that his sins could be washed away.

IV. THE HOUSEHOLD OF CORNELIUS.

- A. See [Acts 10:1-48](#).
- B. Cornelius was the first Gentile to become a Christian. He was a very good man, a pious and giving person. He was also a man of prayer.
- C. The apostle Peter had received a vision from the Lord telling him that it was proper for him as a Jew to enter the household of a Gentile. This opened the way for the gospel to be preached to the Gentiles.
- D. While at first Cornelius wanted to worship Peter, and fell down before Him, Peter would have none of that. Peter preached the truth to Cornelius and those of his household.
- E. What happened?
 - 1. Cornelius **believed the message** that Peter preached (10:43).
 - 2. Cornelius **was willing to repent** of his sins (Ac. 11:18).
 - 3. Cornelius **was baptized** for the remission of his sins.
- F. In this example of conversion, Cornelius, came to a saving faith, and was willing to change his life before he was baptized.

V. THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER.

- A. See [Acts 16:27-34](#).
- B. Paul and Silas had been put in prison for preaching the gospel. About midnight, while the two of them were singing praises, God caused a great earthquake to rock the prison. The force of the tremor opened the locks and doors to the jail.
- C. Once the lights had been restored and it was determined that none of the prisoners had escaped, the terrified Jailer came to Paul and asked the greatest question of all, "What must I do to be saved?"
- D. Paul gave an answer that fits with every other example of conversion found in the NT.
- E. What happened?
 - 1. The jailer **believed in the message** of Jesus Christ.
 - 2. He **was baptized** (and his household) that very night.
- F. In this example of conversion, the jailer did not wait, once he learned what he needed to do to be saved. That very hour of the night, in which he believed, he was baptized.

VI. THE BUSINESSWOMAN, LYDIA.

- A. See [Acts 16:13-15](#).
- B. Our final example is that of a businesswoman named Lydia. She had assembled with other ladies for prayer along the riverside.
- C. Luke and Paul were asked to join the group. Paul realized that Lydia had an open heart to the message and Paul taught her about Jesus.
- D. Upon the reception of the message Lydia and her household were baptized.
- E. What happened?
 - 1. Lydia **had an open heart to the message**.
 - 2. She **was baptized** and was deemed faithful by Paul.

CONCLUSION & INVITATION.

- A. So what have we learned by studying these examples of conversion?
 - 1. Belief (faith) is mentioned as something the converted had.
 - 2. Those who were desiring to be pleasing to the Lord repented of their sins.
 - 3. Those who desire to be baptized confessed their faith in Jesus as Lord.
 - 4. All who were converted were baptized for the remission (forgiveness) of their sins.

- B. Based upon these examples of conversion, and others like them, found in the book of Acts we know that the NT teaches that a person becomes a Xian by:
1. **Hearing the word preached** (Rom. 10:14).
 2. **Having faith** (Heb. 11:6).
 3. **Repenting of past sins** (Lk. 13:3).
 4. **Confessing one's faith** in Jesus as the Son of God (Mt. 10:32).
 5. And **being baptized** (immersed) into water for the forgiveness of sin (Gal. 3:27).
- C. Anyone who is willing to do these things may be converted out of their old life, and put on X and have a new life in Him. Is anyone willing?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.