

Series: Doctrine of Salvation (4/4/18)

Title: God's Conversion

Text: (2 Cor 5:17)

Inherent: existing in someone or something as a permanent and inseparable element, quality, or attribute;

Perceived Value: Grandma's Things,

Valuable because of Who's it was

Illus: *Not What its worth, its what it will bring.*

Intrinsic: belonging to a thing by its very nature:

Illus: *Gold is valuable no matter where it is or who had it last, it is always valuable because of what it is!*

We all start with only Inherent value:

(John 3:16) (Deut 7:6-8) Value Derived by Choice

Illus: *Hoarder in Ill. To me its junk, to them its valuable.*

One's Man's Treasure is Another Man's Trash!

As Human beings we begin life as God's Enemy.

(Rom 5:10) *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,..*

(Col 1:21) *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works,*

(Eph 2:1-5) *4 BUT GOD!

Inherent - Through no Merit of our Own, Mankind is the object of God's love because of the choice He made to love us. (Rom 5:8)

At Salvation: God Metamorphosises us to a new

Intrinsic:

(2 Cor 5:17) *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

God's Work is Immediate in a new Believer:

(John 1:12) *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God,*

(John 3:5) *Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

The question/curiosity is how are these works known. How do we truly know what God does and has done in the believer?

The believer will know because of the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

(Rom 8:16) *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

(Rom 8:9) *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

It is not only Possible to know, but Expected you will know.

God's Conversion is Intrinsic, Internal, Permanent.

(2 Cor 5:17) *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

A Complete Inner Change of What You Are!

Bible Words for Salvation:

Saved, Converted, Redeemed, Regenerated, Reconciled, Adopted, etc.

Describe differing aspects of God's divine work.
None were meant to be confusing.

In the light of the False Doctrines taught in *Modern Day Christianity* how do you discern genuine conversion? ***We can't assume, must discern.***

(Mat 7:21-23) *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:*

God's Conversion of the believer is an Internal Work.

Modern Christianity is a profession of an external performance of things which "*works of righteousness which we have done*",

How can One truly know Conversion?

Beside the Active Witness of the Holy Spirit,

The only Explanation is A MetaMorphosis Occurs:

(2 Cor 5:17)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, (Converted) ***he is*** (a definite article/positively & Completely) ***a new*** (recently made) ***creature:*** (Creation/Formation) (Gal 6:15) ***old things*** (Original or from the beginning) ***are passed away;*** (Averted, Perish, ***behold, all things are become*** (To Cause to be) ***new.*** (Fresh, Recently Made)

Salvation is Not a Performance:

"Saved" is used so Loosely.

Proof is measured by performance

Carnal people pass for "Saved" people by Doing & Don'ting: *Doing the Do's, Not the Don'ts*

We use the word Relationship:

But today, Relationships are Disposable.

Today's Relationships ~ Folksy Friendships.
Associations, Acquaintance, ~ Defined by benefits.

Rather than the deep internal conversion that comes about as a result of repentance toward God because you ... *loathe yourselves in your own site for your iniquities and for your abominations.* (Ezek 36:31)

I am not talking about *Self Loathing* b/c *I am not pretty, or tall, or smart, or rich.*

This loathing, is caused by God's conviction of our sin, pressed upon us by revelation, followed by faith in Jesus Christ, which is a full trust in His redeeming work.

Anyone Can Know for Sure:

God's conversion is internal.
Completely out of reach of Religion, Human Works.
Impossible for the unconverted to duplicate w/ works.

Scripture insists we can know we have Been Converted:

(1 John 5:13) *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,*

(Rom 8:9) *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

God, Himself gives us the Proof of Conversion:

(Rom 8:16) *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

(1 Jn 4:13) *Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

We use the word Relationship:

But today, Relationships are Disposable.

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See No Need for the Things of God.
His Word, His House, His People.

Demonstrate an Inability to receive the things of God:
(1 Cor 2:14) *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Ether they "Just Don't Get It" It seems of No Effect
Mask It by volunteering to serve during preaching.
(John 3:20-21) *For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*

In Contrast to: 21 *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

The Converted are Drawn to the Word: (1 Pet 2:2-3)
As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Relationships are Disposable because they are Defined by benefits. (Secondary Benefits)

The Unconverted will "Become a Christian", use their performance as "Proof of Salvation" in order to receive the secondary benefit.

To keep their wife happy.

To be a better Dad.

To make up for being deployed for so long.

To make up for being unfaithful.

When those secondary benefits are gone, so are they.

When the Ramifications of the Truth demand an Admission of wrong or demand Too Big of a change, they quit.

Admission they were unscriptural.

Admission they were in an unscriptural church.

Admission their loved one may not be not saved.

Admission their baptism is unscriptural.

Having to face an angry loved one.

The Scripture Tells us the Immediate Works of God at Conversion: Here is a few...

Receives **Power** to Become the Child of God (Jn1:12)

Receives **Jesus Christ:** (1 Jn 5:11-12) (Eph 3:17)

Illus: Buying a Super Bowl Ring

Receives **Full Assurance:** (Heb 10:2)(Jn 10:27)

Illus: An Inner Voice: giving Assurance & Correction

(1 Cor 1:6) *Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:*

(1 Cor 1:8) *Who shall also confirm you unto the end,*

Receives **Joy & Gladness:** (Acts 2:41)(Gal 5:22) Joy

Illus: Woman with the Alabaster Box - Loved Much!

Receives **Awareness of his New Life:** (Rom 6:4)

(Jn 7:38) *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

(1 Jn 5:12) *He that hath the Son hath life;*

Receives **New Peace:**

(Jn 14:27) *Peace I leave w/you, my peace I give un2U*

(Phil 4:7) *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Is Missing, There is a Reason.

Receives **New Nature:**

(2 Pet 1:4) *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,*

(Col 3:10) *And have put on the new man, which is ... after the image of him that created him:*

(2 Cor 3:18) *But we all, ... are changed into the same image from glory to glory,*

If this inward change is Missing, There is a Reason.

Receives **Reverence for Their New Father:**

(Prob 1:7) *Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*

Versus (Rom 3:18) *No fear of God b4 their eyes*

(Jn 8:44) *Ye are of your father the devil.*

(Jn 8:41) *Ye do the deeds of your father the devil.*

(Heb 12:6-8) *Scourgeth every son whom he receiveth*

(Deut 21:11-12) God purges the former identity away.

A New Father and a New Ethnicity

(Gal 3:28) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

A New Father and New Family

(John 13:34-35) (1 John 4:20)

If their identity is not with the Heavenly Father,

There is a Reason.

Receives **The Love of the Truth:**

(1 Pet 2:2) *Desire the milk of the word*

(1 Cor 2:14) *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

There is an Active Quest for the Things of God.

(Rom 7:22) *For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:*

(2 Thess 2:10) *If they receive not the love of the truth.*

There is a reason

Receives **A Desire for a Church to Attend:**

Illus: Sara would beg me to go, even though she had no history of it.

(Heb 10:24-25)

(Acts 17:11) *Received the word with Readiness of mind and searched the scripture daily...*

Receives the **Inner Working of God:**

(Phil 2:13) *God which worketh in you both to will and do of His good pleasure.*

(Eph 2:10) *We are His workmanship created in Christ*

If there is no visible working of God in Conforming us to Christ's Image within, **There is a Reason.**

Receives a **New Inner Resistance Toward Evil:**

(1 Jn 3:9) *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin;*

(Prov 8:13) *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil:*

These and a few more are all the Work and Evidence of True Conversion.

The Absence of these is proof of the Absence of True Conversion of God.

Presence of Some, Absence of Others is evidence of being Carnal.

The Answer:

To the Lost: Repent, Confess, Believe to Salvation.

To the Carnal: Repent, Confess, Walk by Faith.