

WHO I AM, IN CHRIST

PT 1 THE TRANSFORMED

I. The word converted is found many times in scripture, but the word **CONVERTS** is only found once in scripture:

A. Isa. 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her **converts** with righteousness.

1. **Def Converts:** return to the starting point, go back home, return

a. the word describes someone who turns away from sin, and turns to God, returns to a right relationship with God

2. a number of spiritual influences work together to effect a true conversion and the primary one is hearing God's Word

a. Psa. 19:7 ¶ The **law** of the LORD is perfect, **converting the soul:**..”

(1) **Def Law:** Torah ... referring to the first five books of the Old Testament

(a) How much more do all sixty six books of the bible contain the power and promise to convert the sinner into a saint

B. **Conversion** is the key to **TRUE Christianity:**

1. Jesus said: Matt. 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be **converted**, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

a. Jesus was warning that we must turn away from sin, self centeredness, pride and religious legalism

b. and turn toward God with childlike humility and sincere love ... thus returning to a right relationship with God thru His grace and our faith in Jesus Christ sacrifice for our sins on Calvary's Cross

2. One the initial conversion takes place, the process just begins. In our daily life we must:

a. **Turn away:** from that which is ungodly and turn toward that which pleases God

b. **Turn Away:** from carnality and turn toward spirituality

c. **Turn Away:** from the negative: doubt fear, unbelief, depression and hate and turn towards faith, hope and love 1 Cor 13:13

C. Being converted was a primary message that was preached in the early church by the Apostles:

1. **19** Repent **ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the**

Lord;

a. Note the two fold message preached:

(1) Repent

(2) be converted

(a) People were taught that they should go thru a transformation once they repented and became Born Again

(1) 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.

18 And **all things are of God**, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

(a) "Old things are passed away"

(1) speaking of the old sinful lifestyle

(b) "all things are become new"

(1) Note: "**ALL THINGS**"

(2) every area of our life is to become "new" or godly

C. A Powerful example of conversion is seen in the life of Moses where we discover the **THREE STEPS OF CONVERSION:**

1. Heb. 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Heb. 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Heb. 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Heb. 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

a. VS 24 #1 Moses "**REFUSED**"

(1) "Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter"

(a) This is an example of Moses rejecting the call of the world and accepting the call of God that rested upon his life

b. vs 25 Moses made a choice : "**Choosing**"

(1) Moses choose made a decision to serve God

(a) Josh. 24:15 ¶ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

c. vs 26 Moses: "**ESTEEMED**"

(1) **DEF ESTEEMED**: consider

(a) Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and **counteth the cost**, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Luke 14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

Luke 14:30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

(1) Being Born Again / Saved is one thing

but being converted is another ... it requires commitment on our part

PT 2 NEW CREATION

I. The process of becoming a convert, enables to to become a New Creation:

A. 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.

1. **Def "New Creature"**: original formation

a. When God originally made man, he was without sin & had a relationship with God

(1) But when Adam & Eve rebelled God thru their disobedience, they took on a sinful nature

(2) God then had to slay an animal and cover Adam & Eve with this animal skin:

(a) Gen. 3:21 ¶ Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

(b) Or in other words ... blood was shed to cover not just the physical body of Adam & Eve, but also cover their sin

(c) the slaying of that animal was a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ being slain for the forgiveness of our sins, bringing us back into relationship with God, and making us a "New Creature" in Christ

(1) Heb. 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

B. We need to understand that becoming Born Again is not just based upon religious behavioral modification

1. Being Born Again is an act of a **RE-CREATION**

a. it is not achieved by human effort and our own strength

b. Titus 3:5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

2. Becoming a New Creature in Christ is accomplished thru FAITH:

- a. Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- 3. The Apostle Paul dealt with believers who were still bound by the law and attempted to earn their salvation and righteousness thru works instead of by faith:
 - a. Gal. 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.
- 4. As a New Creature / New Creation we need to understand who e are in Christ:
 - (1) 2 Cor. 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

C. A look at the New Testament Covenant in regards to becoming a New Creature in Christ:

- 1. Ezek. 36:26 **A new heart** also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.
 - 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.
- a. God does not just repair hearts that have been damaged by sin. As a New Creature in Christ we have a new heart ... that has new desires

D. We see an example of a heart that God expects us to have in the life of David and the purpose of having a new heart in the life of David:

- 1. Acts 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.**

- a. Note: It was not the title, or when David became king, that he had a heart change

(1) **“a man after mine own heart”**

- (a) David loved God as a young shepherd
- (b) when he was as young boy that slew Goliath
- (c) when he was hiding and running from King Saul
- (d) as well as when he became king of Israel

(2) The purpose of a New Heart ... becoming a Creature in Christ:

(a) **“which shall fulfill all my will”**

(1) Does that describe our heart?

- (2) That we have been Born Again and converted to the point that we are a New Creature in Christ Jesus
 - (a) that has not only turned from sin and walking in the flesh
 - (b) but also walking by faith, walking in the Spirit and fulfilling the will of God for our life
 - (1) That is a New Creature / New Creation in Christ Jesus
 - (2) that is who we are to be