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4/2/2017

"AND BE CONVERTED" (v19)

(Acts 3:11-21)

INTRODUCTION

"Conversion" - to turn from one course of thinking or action to another.

(Romans 12:2) "Be not conformed to this world, but **be ye transformed** ... "

Word used in other places: (Matt. 18:3) "unless you are converted" (Matt. 13:15-16) "and turn"  
(Acts 15:3) "the conversion of the Gentiles"

Three distinct changes which determine our "conversion" to Christ; to become a Christian:

1. CHANGE OF HEART (produced by faith)

(Romans 10:13-14) "... and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"  
(v17) "So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God."

Preaching the word of God produces faith in God and in His message of salvation.

(Mark 16:15-16) "... preach the gospel ... he who believes will be saved ... "  
(John 20:30-31) "... but these are written, that you might believe... and that believing..."

2. CHANGE OF LIFE (produced by repentance)

(Acts 3:19) "Repent therefore and be converted ... "

(Luke 13:3, v5) "**but unless you repent** you will all likewise perish"  
(Acts 17:30-31) "God ... now commands all men everywhere to **repent** ... "  
"Repent" - involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God by faith.  
(2 Cor. 7:10) "**for godly sorrow produces repentance** leading to salvation"

(1 Thess. 1:7) "you became examples to all" (v8) "your **faith toward God**"  
(v9) "**you turned to God** from idols to serve the living and true God"

3. CHANGE OF RELATIONSHIP (produced by baptism)

The sequence in conversion noted in (Acts 2:36-38) "... now when **they heard this**,  
**they were cut to the heart** ... **repent**, and **be baptized** ... "  
(v40-41) "those who gladly received his word **were baptized** ... added to them ... "  
(v47) "**the Lord added to the church** ... " - that's a change in relationship.

(Gal. 3:26-28) "**sons of God** ... were baptized ... all one in Christ Jesus"

CLOSE - "and be converted" may be illustrated by a couple "getting married."

- 1) Change of heart - believes you're the one, and "Will you marry me?"
- 2) Change of life - a visible change, have eyes for one another only.
- 3) Change of relationship - ceremony, and "I pronounce you husband and wife."