



CONVERSION
By
HAROLD HARSTVEDT

HOW WERE THEY TO BE CONVERTED?

TEACHING AND PREACHING THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 28:19-20

19 **Go** and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 **Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

MARK 16:15-16

15 Jesus said to them, **Go** into all the world and **preach the gospel** to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

ACTS 8:35

35 **Philip** opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, **preached Jesus to him**.

HOW ARE THEY CONVERTED?

HE WHO BELIEVES

MARK 16:16

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

JOHN 8:24

24 I said to you that you will die in your sins: for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.

WHAT DID JOHN PREACH?

REPENT

MATTHEW 3:1-2

- 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
- 2 Saying, **Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!

MARK 1:4

- 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and **preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.** (LUKE 3:3)

WHAT DID JESUS PREACH?

REPENT

MATTHEW 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, **Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

MARK 1:14-15

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15 Saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent**, and **believe in the gospel**.

LUKE 13:3

3 Jesus said, **I tell you**, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish**.

WHAT DID PETER PREACH?

REPENT

ACTS 2:38

38 Peter said to them, **Repent**, and **let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

ACTS 3:19

19 **Repent** therefore and **be converted, that your sins may be blotted out**, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

WHY WERE THEY NOT CONVERTED?

ISAIAH 6:9-10

9 He said, Go, and tell **this people**: Keep on hearing, but **do not understand**; keep on seeing, but **do not perceive**.

10 Make **the heart of this people dull**, and **their ears heavy**, and **shut their eyes**; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and **understand with their heart**, and **return and be healed**.

WHY DID JESUS SPEAK IN PARABLES?

MATTHEW 13:13-16

13 I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive;

15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

(MARK 4:11-12)

WHY WERE THEY NOT CONVERTED?

JOHN 12:39-41

38 The word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: Lord, who has believed our report? And **to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

40 **He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,** lest they should see with their eyes, **lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,** so that I should heal them.

41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

WHY WERE THEY NOT CONVERTED?

ACTS 28:25-27

25 When they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,

26 Saying, Go to this people and say: **Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive;**

27 For **the hearts of this people have grown dull.** Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, **lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts** and turn, so that I should heal them.

28 Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!

HOW IS THE SINNER TO BE CONVERTED?

PSALMS 19:7

- 7 **The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;** the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

PSALMS 51:13

- 13 **I will teach transgressors Your ways,** and **sinner shall be converted to You.**



HOW DO YOU RETURN TO THE LORD?

1 SAMUEL 7:3

- 3 Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, If you **return to the LORD with all your hearts**, then **put away the foreign gods** and the Ashtoreths from among you, and **prepare your hearts for the LORD**, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.

1 SAMUEL 15:10-11

- 10 The word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,
- 11 **I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me**, and has not performed My commandments. And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

HOW WAS JOHN TO CONVERT THEM?

LUKE 1:15-17

- 15 He will be great in the sight of the Lord. He shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.
- 16 He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.
- 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

HOW AND WHEN WAS PETER CONVERTED?

LUKE 22:31-34

- 31 The Lord said, **Simon, Simon!** Indeed, **Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.**
- 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail. And **when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.**
- 33 Simon said to Him, Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.
- 34 Jesus said, I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.

HOW WERE THEY TO BE CONVERTED?

ACTS 3:19

19 **Repent** therefore and **be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

ACTS 11:19-21

- 19 Those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, **preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.**
- 20 Some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, **preaching the Lord Jesus.**
- 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and **a great number believed and turned to the Lord.**

HOW WERE THE GENTILES CONVERTED?

ACTS 15:18-20

18 Known to God from eternity are all His works.

19 Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among **the Gentiles who are turning to God,**

20 But that we write to them to **abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.**

HOW AND WHEN WAS PAUL CONVERTED?

ACTS 26:15-17

- 15 I said, Who are You, Lord? He said, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
- 16 Rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to **make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.**
- 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

HOW WERE THE GENTILES TO BE CONVERTED?

ACTS 26:15-20

- 18 **Open their eyes**, in order to **turn them from darkness to light**, and **from the power of Satan to God**, that they may **receive forgiveness of sins** and an inheritance among those who are **sanctified by faith in Me**.
- 19 King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
- 20 **I declared** first to those in Damascus and Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that **they should repent, turn to God**, and **do works befitting repentance**.

HOW WERE THE THESSALONIANS CONVERTED?

1 THESSALONIANS 1:8-10

- 8 From you **the word of the Lord has sounded forth**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. **Your faith toward God has gone out**, so that we do not need to say anything.
- 9 They declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and **how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God**,
- 10 To wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

HOW DO YOU CONVERT A BROTHER IN CHRIST?

JAMES 5:19-20

- 19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, AND someone turns him back,**
- 20 Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**

1 PETER 2:25

- 25 You were like sheep going astray, BUT now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

WHAT IS BACKSLIDING?

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-3

- 1 The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,**
- 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,**
- 3 **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving** by those who believe and know the truth.

HOW DOES ONE KEEP FROM BACKSLIDING?

1 TIMOTHY 4:13-16

- 13 Till I come, **give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.**
- 14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
- 15 **Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them,** that your progress may be evident to all.
- 16 **Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine.** Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

WHAT IS BACKSLIDING?

HEBREWS 3:12-14

- 12 Beware, brethren, **lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;**
- 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," **lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.**
- 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the **beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,**

IS FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLY, BACKSLIDING?

HEBREWS 10:24-26

- 24 Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
- 25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- 26 For **if we sin willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

WHO SHALL BE SAVED?

MATTHEW 24:13

13 **He that endures to the end**, the same shall be saved.

MARK 16:16

16 **He that believes and is baptized** shall be saved. But he that believes not shall be damned.

ACTS 2:21

21 **Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord** shall be saved.

ACTS 2:40

40 With many other words he testified and exhorted, saying, **Save yourselves from this untoward generation.**

HOW WAS THE JAILER SAVED?

ACTS 16:30-33

- 30 The jailer brought them out and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**
- 31 They said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will be saved, you and your household.
- 32 They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.
- 33 The jailer took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. **Immediately he and all his family were baptized.**

HOW ARE MEN SAVED?

1 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

- 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Savior,**
- 4 **Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

JAMES 1:20-21

- 20 The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
- 21 Therefore **lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness,** and **receive with meekness the implanted word,** which is **able to save your souls.**

HOW DOES ONE BACKSLIDE?

JAMES 5:19-20

- 19 Brethren, **if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,**
- 20 Let him know that he who **turns a sinner from the error of his way** will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

WHY DO WE NEED TO BE REMINDED?

JUDE 1:5

- 5 **I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, Afterward destroyed those who did not believe.**

