

Class #2 - The Gospel's Gracious Demands

Heritage Presbyterian Church is a Christian church that believes and preaches the Gospel—the good news about Jesus proclaimed in the Scriptures. What do I need to do when I hear the good news?

"...I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:20-21

I. The Biblical Idea of Conversion

A. The Author of Conversion

1. God is the converter
2. Man is the converted

B. The Basics of Conversion

1. Biblical Texts

- a. **Isaiah 45:21b-22:** *And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*
- b. **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10:** *For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

2. Basic Concept

- a. Source
- b. Timing
- c. Effect

II. The Elements of Conversion

A. Repentance

1. Definition (WSC 87)
 - *Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience*
2. Reasons
3. Requirements
4. Elements
 - a. **Head** (Intellectual, Rom 12:2)
 - b. **Heart** (Emotional, 2 Cor 7:10-11)
 - c. **Hands** (Volitional, Matt 3:8)

B. Faith

1. The Biblical Idea of Faith

2. Definition (WSC 86)
 - *Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.*
3. The Object of Faith
4. Elements of Faith
 - a. **Knowledge** (Rom 10:14)
 - b. **Assent** (Heb 11:1)
 - c. **Trust** (Matt 11:28-30)

III. The Result of Conversion

A. Internal Changes

B. External Changes

1. Putting sin to death (Mortification)
2. Walking in newness of life (vivification)

Don't confuse these new patterns with the restoration.

1. The gospel is what Christ has done for the sinner.
2. The life we live for Christ is our thankfulness for what he has done, and nothing else.

He that has learned to feel his sins, and to trust Christ as a Saviour, has learned the two hardest and greatest lessons in Christianity. He has been in the best of schools. He has been taught by the Holy Ghost.
[J.C. Ryle]