

SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD -

THE OLD MAN AND THE NEW MAN

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Conversion is the process by which a person ceases to be a follower of Satan and becomes a Child of God.
- B. The world is unsaved today, the Church is a decadent institution because its membership is full of people who were never converted. [Billy Graham recently admitted that his campaign actually converted a very few.]
 - 1. There is every indication that this situation will worsen as the children follow in the footsteps of their fathers.

II. THIS CONVERSION PROCESS BEGINS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND ENDS IN OBEDIENCE.

- A. Faith changes the heart.
- B. Repentance changes the life.
- C. Baptism (the new birth) changes the relationship or condition.

John 3:3-5: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'"

"Bring Christ your broken life, so marred by sin
He will create anew, make whole again.
Your empty wasted years he will restore
And your iniquities remember no more."

III. A RADICAL CHANGE TAKES PLACE WHEN A PERSON IS TRULY CONVERTED.

- A. The Apostle Paul constantly spoke of the necessity of this change:
 - 1. To the Church at Rome: (Romans 6:1-18) "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were

baptized into Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?"

2. To the Church at Ephesus: (Eph. 4:22-32) "That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.
3. To the Church at Colossae: (Col. 3:5-10) "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry ... But now you must also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."
4. To the Church at Corinth: (2 Cor. 5:17) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

5. To the Young Preacher Titus: (Titus 2:11-12) "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."
 - (1) What a sharp contrast the Christians at Rome were to be from their Pagan world of Chapter 1.

IV. TRUE CONVERSION WILL EXCHANGE THE OLD MAN FOR THE NEW MAN.

- A. He has a new mind. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ."
 1. Romans 8:5-10: "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."
- B. He has a new area of thought.
 1. Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things."
- C. He has his affections centered on things above.
 1. Col. 3:1-3: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."
- D. He has a new goal set before him.
 1. Philippians 3:13-14: "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

E. He has courage to live and faith to die.

1. Philippians 1:21-23: "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

V. **THIS CONVERSION PROCESS IS PROGRESSIVE AND NOT INSTANTANEOUS:**

A. This is brought about by:

1. Walking with God.

- (a) Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

2. Talking to God.

- (a) The man who is on his knees is unlikely to fall down. How often do we pray?

3. Working for God.

- (a) 1 Cor. 3:9: "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building."

VI. **YOU WILL BECOME DISCOURAGED AND FALL BY THE WAYSIDE IF YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE THAT THE ROAD TO PERFECTION IS PROGRESSIVE.**

A. How many of us haven't said at times: "What's the use, I'm just not progressing?"

1. Sin in our lives has stopped our progress.

Hezekiah Butterworth's The Broken Pinion well illustrates this point.

"Each loss has its compensation:
There is healing for every pain
But the bird with a broken pinion
Never soars so high again."

**(YES, HE CAN BY REACHING FOR THE MASTER'S
HAND)**

B. Let's start over again:

"I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all of our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door
And never be put on again."

C. What God needs today is for man to wholly commit himself,
without reservation.