

## **What is involved in a conversion to Christ?**

The word “conversion” means “to turn about, turn towards.” The question above specifies a conversion “to Christ.” A true conversion to Christ, then, entails a turning to Him while turning away from something. The Book of God provides several examples of true conversion to Christ.

Philip was an evangelist. The apostles, through the Holy Spirit, bestowed on him special power to do his work (Acts 6:6; 8:5-7, 14-18). While He was preaching the gospel of Christ in Samaria, an angel of the Lord commanded his saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This was a deserted stretch of highway.

When he arrived, he saw a man sitting in a chariot reading scripture (Acts 8:27-28). The man was Ethiopian, “a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury.” He had been to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way home. The eunuch was an unusual man in that he held a high position and yet maintained his devotion to the true and living God.

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot’” (8:29). Philip obeyed and began a conversation with the man about what he was reading. The eunuch was reading a prophecy of Isaiah about the Christ (chapter 53 in our Bibles). “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him” (8:35).

People today have different ideas as to what constitutes preaching Jesus. Philip’s mind, however, was not tainted by centuries of religious confusion and doctrinal division. In fact, the only idea Philip had was to speak the words given to him by the Holy Spirit. Whatever Philip preached, we can be certain that what he presented was in perfect harmony with the teaching Jesus gave the apostles. In view of that, what did Philip teach the eunuch?

- 1) Isaiah’s prophecy concerned Jesus of Nazareth.** (Isa 53)
- 2) Jesus is the Christ, Savior of the world and Son of God.** (John 3:16; 4:42; 20:30-31)
- 3) Salvation for the soul is in no other name but His.** (Acts 4:12)
- 4) Mankind is lost in sin apart from the gospel of Christ.** (1 Cor 15:1-4; Rom 1:16)

“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized’” (8:36).

- 5) In preaching Jesus, Philip did not exclude the need of water baptism.**

After the eunuch’s confession of faith in the person and power of Jesus “both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” The result being the eunuch “went on his way rejoicing” (8:39).

His new found joy came from knowing that he was in good standing with God. His sins were forgiven, he had hope of eternal life, and no longer was it necessary for him to make the long trip to Jerusalem to worship God. He could now worship in spirit and truth in his own country and from his own home (John 4:21-24).

We call this an example of conversion, but the real proof comes later. Did the eunuch continue to follow the steps of Christ? We don't have that information, but we do know that he turned his life in the direction of Jesus Christ. In doing so, he naturally turned away from a world of lust and pride, i.e., a world lost in sin.

People who continue an immoral lifestyle after responding to the gospel are not truly converted to Jesus Christ. They may have confessed their faith in Him and been baptized before a large congregation, but if a pure life does not follow they are not converted. They live without hope of God's greatest offer to man -- eternal life (Titus 1:2; 2:11-14).

How does your life compare to the way God's wants you to live? Are you careful to measure your conduct by His word or have you appointed yourself the Director of your life? Following the example of the Eunuch will initially put you on a path to an eternal home with God. What you do after that is up to you. Be sure, however, that the Judge of all the earth is watching you closely.

Study your Bible and search the Truth. A free Bible correspondence course is available to you upon request. Thanks for reading!

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