

Conversions In Acts

The Corinthian's Conversion

(Ac 18:1-8)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the different "Conversions In Acts."
 - a. Last week we looked at "The Athenians Conversion."
 - i. **Ac 17:34** "But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them."¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at "The Corinthian's Conversion."
 - i. **Ac 18:8** "Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized."
3. As we have throughout this series of lessons we will examine four questions.
 - a. What led to the conversions?
 - b. What was said to the non-Christians?
 - c. What was the mentality of the new converts?
 - d. How can knowing this help us help others?
4. With these in mind let us study our lesson for today.

I. What Led To The Conversions?

- A. Paul leaves Athens
 1. This is the first time on this missionary journey where Paul has not be run out and yet he leaves earlier than expect.
 - i. Remember he was waiting in Athens for Timothy & Silas.
 2. We can only speculate as to why he left so soon.
 - i. It most likely was due to the continued stubbornness of the Athenians (not the brethren).
- B. Paul goes to Corinth
 1. We are not told whether he went by land or sea both were possible.
 - i. Corinth is about 40 miles West of Athens.
 - ii. It is found in modern day Greece.
 2. Corinth is completely different than Athens.
 - i. "Athens was a small university town; Corinth was one of the commercial centers of the world." (Truth For Today Commentary on Acts 14-28 by Roper, David pg. 134)
 - ii. "Athenians were intrigued with intellect; Corinthians were fascinated with the flesh." (Ibid)
 - iii. "Athenians claimed to search for truth; Corinthians unashamedly pursued pleasure." (Ibid)

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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C. Paul in Corinth

1. He found Aquila & Priscilla there in Corinth.
 - i. It is unknown if Aquila & Priscilla are Christians at this time.
 - a. I am not sure and there are very good arguments for and against such.
 - b. My thoughts are that they most likely were Christians and could very well be the reason the church was established in Rome.
 - ii. They were from Pontus but had lived in Rome before they were kicked out by Claudius.
 - a. Claudius is the only Roman Emperor to be mentioned twice in the Bible.
 1. **Ac 11:28** “And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).”
2. He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath trying to persuade Jew & Greeks.
 - i. This was Paul’s customary way of preaching Jesus.
3. Many of the Jews became upset with Paul.
 - i. It says they “opposed and reviled him.”
 - ii. Paul shook off his garments and said he would no longer go to the Jews but the gentiles.
 - a. It would seem to be that he was talking only about the Jews there in Corinth.
 1. **Ac 18:19** “And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.”
4. Both Jew & Gentile became Christians.
 - i. Crispus the ruler of the synagogue and his family obeyed.
 - ii. Many Corinthians believed and were baptized.

D. Thus...

1. What led to the conversions...was there anything that got the conversions going...yes it was Paul reasoning/preaching to them the Word.

II. What Was Said To The Non-Christians?

- A. We are not made privy to all that Paul taught however we are told a few things
 1. First Paul was preaching the “word.”
 - i. This can only be the Word of God.
 - a. **II Ti 3:16-17** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
 2. Second Paul was preaching that Christ was Jesus.
 - i. Here we find Paul pointing out again and proving that Jesus was the Christ from the Word ie Old Testament in this case.
 - a. **Ac 5:42**

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3. Third we know that Paul preached the gospel God's plan of salvation.
 - i. We know this because it says they believed and were baptized.
 - a. As noted throughout this series these are two of the five steps needed to become a child of God in Christ.
 - ii. **I Co 15:1-4**

B. Thus...

1. What was said to the non-Christians...was there any specific doctrine mentioned...yes they were taught the Word, that Jesus was the Christ, and the God's plan of salvation.

III. What Was The Mentality Of The New Converts?

A. Here again we find ourselves left without a response

1. We are not given information regarding how the new Christians responded to their new found freedom from sin.

B. Like before we can be assured that it was like unto those before them

1. We have seen the converts devote themselves to the apostles teaching.
2. We have seen the converts devote themselves to fellowship with one another.
3. We have seen the converts devote themselves to bold prayers.
4. We have seen the converts devote themselves to hospitality.
5. We have seen the converts devote themselves to rejoicing.
6. We have seen the converts devote themselves to worshiping the one true God.

C. Thus...

1. What was the mentality of the new converts...was there anything surprising after their conversion in their attitude or actions...no doubt as we just saw most if not all of these would have been their response we are just not made party to such information once again.

IV. How Can Knowing This Help Us Help Others?

A. Knowing these things helps us help others by understanding that every walk of life needs to hear the gospel whether political leaders or the vilest of people

1. When we consider the vilest people here in America we think of those that are in prison or desire to be in prison.
 - i. This makes since as they were convicted of crimes.
 - a. Many having committed crimes to hideous to mention from the pulpit.
2. However these were the type of people that Paul converted while in Corinth.
 - i. **I Co 6:9-11** "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

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- ii. **I Ti 1:8-9, 11** “Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers... 11 in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.”
3. I am thankful for this congregations dedication to the prison ministry and ask that we not ever lose sight of such a great work as this.
- B. Knowing these things helps us help others by understanding that we must preach Jesus as the Christ
 1. We can only preach/teach Jesus as the Christ through the Word.
 - i. We must not be shy about going to proving Jesus is the Christ by using the Old Testament.
 - ii. There are over 300 prophecies that can be used to prove Jesus is the Christ. Here are a few for your notes.
 - a. Psalm 22 is full of undeniable facts foretelling hundreds of years before the actual event what Jesus would later say and would go through.
 1. **Ps 22:1** **Mt 27:46**
 2. **Ps 22:8** **Mt 27:43**
 3. **Ps 22:18** **Mt 27:35**
 - b. Isaiah 53 portrays what the Messiah would go through and why He would go through it placing details along the way that are clearly seen in Jesus.
 1. **Is 53:9** **Mt 27:57-60**
 2. We must teach/preach Jesus as the Christ.
 - C. Knowing these things helps us help others by understanding that people’s reaction to becoming a child of God is important
 1. Though everyone is different and everyone has a different background everyone’s reaction should be very similar.
 - i. If those we study with are not ecstatic about becoming a Christian then we need to reevaluate what we are teaching them.
 - ii. If those we study with are not willing to get to work for Christ right after becoming a Christian we need to reevaluate what we are teaching them.
 2. Brethren babes in Christ should have basic same mentality!!!

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren let us use the things we have learned and apply them to our life.
 - a. Let us make them apart of our most basic and fundamental mentality.
2. Question: Are you willing to take these things and use them this week?
 - a. If so my you will see the gospel spread and souls saved.
 - b. If not you won’t.

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**