

WESTHILL

STAND

FIRM

1 THESSALONIANS 3:8

Westhill Church of Christ

3400 W. Hwy 22
Corsicana, TX 75110

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westhillchurchofchrist.org

Sunday 9:30a, 10:30a, 6:00p

Tuesday 10:30a

Wednesday 6:30p

Wednesday Benevolence 8:30a

December 3, 2017

Convert to What?

Owen Olbricht

To what or to whom should we convert others? Jesus condemned scribes and Pharisees because their proselytes (converts) were worse

than they were before they were converted to Judaism (Matt. 23:15). They were converting them to be faithful followers of Jewish traditions instead of being servants of God.

“Convert” is translated from *epistrepho*, a word that means “turn.” Peter and Paul stated that people should repent and “turn” (Acts 3:19; 26:20). The wrong basis of conversion can include converting to a doctrinal viewpoint, but they should not be the primary basis for conversion. A conversion to something that is secondary is not wrong in itself, but is wrong if it is the only basis of the conversion and does not lead to what is primary. Secondary attractions may make possible the opportunity to teach something that is primary, but obedience to what is primary must be the basis for a conversion.

Jesus and the early church taught that the primary goal for Jesus’ follower should be to convert people to Jesus. If people are converted to Him as Lord and Christ, then the result should be a willingness to obey Him as Lord (Luke 6:46).

Jesus stated that He has been given all authority in heaven and in earth; therefore, His disciples were to go to all nations to make disciples, followers of Him, after which they were to teach them to observe all Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus expected His followers to persuade people to be His disciples, baptize them and then teach them how to obey Him.

In the first sermon in which forgiveness was preached in Jesus’ name, as Jesus had predicted (Luke 24:46,47), Peter gave an introduction (Acts 2:14-21) and then presented a message about Jesus that ended with the conclusion that Jesus is both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:22-36). Those who were converted to Jesus as Lord and Christ were cut to the heart and wanted to know what to do. Peter told them to repent and to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:37-38). The heart of Peter’s message to the Jewish leaders (Acts 3:12-26) and to Cornelius was Jesus (Acts 10:34-43). Peter’s beginning point in his sermons was Jesus; his message was Jesus, and his conclusion was Jesus.

Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ to them (Acts 8:5). They heard, believed and were baptized (Acts 8:12). Philip began at Isaiah 53, the passage an Ethiopian was reading, and preached Christ to Him. When the Ethiopian learned about Jesus, he requested baptism (Acts 8:30-39).

Paul’s obedience to Jesus, after He appeared to him on the road to Damascus, is testimony that at that moment Paul was fully converted to Jesus (Acts 26:16-19). Having been converted, Paul was three days later baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16). He became dead to self but alive to Jesus after he was baptized (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:3-8). The heart of Paul’s preaching was Jesus and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:1-3). His goal in preaching was to bring every thought of his hearers “into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10).

We can convert people to many good things in Christianity, but the primary conversion must be to Jesus as both Lord and Christ, after which all other thing to which they may be converted will have meaning and value. Converting people to Jesus as the Christ must be the heart, soul and center of our effort. If converting people to Christ is not our goal, we have missed what should be the primary goal of our mission as followers of Jesus.

Give because of Grace
2 Corinthians 8-9

For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

Philippians 1:7

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
Philippians 1:21

Giving Examples

Macedonian Example (2 Cor 8:1-2)

- They were _____ people
- They were _____ stricken people
- They were abundantly _____ people
 - Despite/Because these items: They were _____ people

Christ's Example (2 Cor 8:9)

- He was _____
- He became _____ (for us – GRACE)

What must we do?

1. P _____ for opportunities to give Grace
2. P _____ in our heart to give Grace
3. P _____ ourselves more in giving Grace
4. P _____ more Grace

Imitating our Brother
1 John 3

For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren

Hebrews 2:11

The Question is: Do I Imitate my Brother?

- Reminded of 1 Corinthians 11:1
- **1 John 3:1-3** makes it clear that if we do imitate Him, we can expect certain effects

When we Imitate our Brother

1. We will be _____ to the world (3:1)
2. We will be given a _____ like His (3:2)
3. We will be _____ like Him (3:3)

Imitation Takes:

- P _____ in the Word
- P _____ in Life
- P _____ when it is Hard



<p>Weekly Service @ TriSun</p> <p>Every Sunday @ 8:30 AM</p>	<p>Wed. Night Adult Classes</p> <p>Men's: <i>Lessons from Joseph</i> Ladies': <i>Learning to be "His Princess Warrior"</i></p>	<p>SENIOR'S YOUNG AT HEART</p> <p>MEETS EVERY TUES. @ 10:30AM</p>	<p>Lads 2 Leaders Events</p> <p>Bible Bowl Song Leading Oral Speech & more...</p>
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WesthillWORKS!

Community Outreach

Benevolence Program
Habitat for Humanity
Food for Fitness

Local Missions

Cherokee Children's Home
In Search of the Lord's Way
Southwest School of Preaching
Brown Trail Spanish School of Preaching
The Truth in Love *ttil.tv*
WVBS Online School
school.wvbs.org
La Poynor Prison Ministry
(Steve & Carrie Handley)

Foreign Missions

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore
New Zealand Harvest Missions

Leadership

Elders

Don Ivy - 214.695.5276
Percell Milton - 903.673.1819
Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464
Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

Deacons

Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Micah Haden - 903.673.1177
Michael Jones - 214.803.5984
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
James Olsen - 903.874.8918
Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457
David Shastid - 903.257.6464

Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Ministers

Anthony Warnes - 430.775.0196 (Pulpit)
Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Staff

Jay Mahoney - 903.467.9093 (Office)

Prayer List

Bronny Watson's specialist indicates that his retina hole has enlarged and will need surgery in Dallas on 12/14.

Bobby Barham must reschedule his back surgery due to recent illness.

Sandra McCullough's grandson, Dalton, is having some health problems and needs prayers.

Callie Harwell has been improving since her severe car accident, and she has been able to begin rehab.

Dan & Rita Dominy's son-in-law, Michael Wetzel, needs prayers. He has been in very bad health and was admitted to the hospital in Jonesboro, AR for some tests.

Continue to Remember: Don Bowen, Aline Barrett, Wanda Brown, Wanda Horner, Jan Ross, Sylvia Cockerham, Velma McDouglad, Billie Thomas, Vicki Ivy, James & Sue Welch, Josie Horn family, & John Sehon

Announcements

Eric Olsen & McKenzie Rash are to be married on 12/9.

Special Contribution for the end of the year will be on **Sun., 12/10**. This is the perfect time to give a little extra to help sustain our work in the community and abroad. Please plan accordingly.

The back tables in the auditorium are ready to receive your **Cherokee Children's Home gifts**. All gifts need to be turned in by **Sun., 12/10**. Please remember to label wrapped NEW gift with the child's name and description of gift.

Worship Service Sun., 12/24 will be at normal time in the morning. There will be no pot luck lunch, but we will return for a service at 1pm. There will be no 6pm service.

Worship Service Sun., 12/31 will be normal worship format with morning & evening services. After evening worship you are invited to stay for fellowship & game night.

Winter Youth Retreat in Athens coming up 1/12-1/15. Pick up packets and registration in back of auditorium.

Jim Milam has done an excellent job at recently updating an **online member's photo directory**. By going to the Westhill website and clicking on "directory" you can view an updated directory. Please contact the office if you do not know the password needed to open it.

Young at Heart Seniors Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30am for Bible Study. Everyone is welcome!

Birthdays This Week

December 3 - Otis Perryman

December 4 - Grant Ecord

December 7 - Brenda Sosa

December 8 - Keller Kinkade & Titus Myers

Next Week:

Bible Class *The Life of the Apostle Paul*

AM Sermon *The State of Westhill*

PM Sermon *One Word Study "Redemption"*

Records for November 26, 2017

Bible Class	
AM Worship.....	278
PM Worship.....	173
Wednesday.....	195
Contribution	\$9,991.85

Military: Samantha Armstrong, Clay Bayes, Blake Barrett, Jason Book, Alston Compton, David Dilbeck, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, & Ryan Stewart

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Cory Myers
Opening Prayer	David Baumgartner
Communion Leader	Darwin Thomas
Communion Servers	
David Baumgartner	Joshua Haden
Ken Green	Brian Hand
Mike Wylie	Josh Newman
Luke Baumgartner	Paul Stewart
Eric Olsen	Matt Newman
Larry Rowden	Frizzell Henry
Robby Thomas	
Closing Prayer	Hank Jett
Nursery	Martha Dowdle & Emily Roughton
PM Song Leader	Justin Williams
PM Opening Prayer	James Horn
PM Closing Prayer	Billy Roughton
Wed. Song Leader	Jimmy Horn
Wed. Invitation	Jim Haden
December Contact Elder	Paul Slaughter