

Converted to What?

Acts 8:26-35

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September 3, 2006

Conversion is central to Christianity. Conversion speaks of change in relation to a particular object. There is, therefore, a focus to conversion, an object regarding which the prospective convert must become transfixed. Yet, caution must be exercised; Christian history is a story of misplaced affection. Ironically, the misplaced affection has commonly been toward an object of worth. It is not, therefore, always that the primary object for conversion has no value; the wrong is often in choosing to give ones best to something less than the best.

Conversion Cannot be Primarily Focused on ...

- Works (Lk. 17:7-10).
- The church (Matt. 16:16-18).
- Previous accomplishments (Phil. 3:7-8).

The Overriding Object of Conversion Must be Jesus

- Acts 2:22-38
- On Pentecost, people responded to preaching about Jesus before they:
 - ◆ Knew what to do to be saved.
 - ◆ Knew the identity of the church.
 - ◆ Knew the things peculiar to Christianity.

Therefore ...

- **Jesus** Himself must be our primary focus in outreach, not our response to Jesus (cf. I Cor. 2:2; Phil. 3:7-8; Acts 8:34-35; 5:42; I Cor. 1:23; Gal. 6:14; Acts 13:32-39).
- **Jesus** must be the primary motivation for becoming a Christian or living as a Christian (cf. Jn. 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; II Cor. 5:14-15; I Jn. 5:3; II Jn. 6).
- Jesus, not obedience, must be understood as the only **basis** of our salvation (cf. Gal. 2:21; 3:21; I Cor. 15:12-19).
- **Jesus** must be first in all things (cf. Eph. 1:18-23; Phil. 2:5-11).

Jesus is the “what” of conversion. Conversion to Him insures we serve the will of God from the heart. Apart from Him, we are but hollow, unacceptable shells, mere facades, skeletons. With Him, however, we can do all things (Phil. 4:13)! With Him we fly!