Conversion

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

About three fourths of the people in America claim to be Christians, but many who claim this don’t ______ or ______ like Christians. Today, we’re going to talk about conversion. Nothing in life is more important than a sincere _______ of the Word of God. God has spoken to us so that we can know His will and make the _______ to our attitudes and our behavior that pleases Him and blesses us. God gave His Word for our _______. It teaches us, guides us, protects us, rebukes us, and encourages us. The Bible is our only _______ for eternal life, and we must understand what it says.

Matthew 18:1-4 speaks of an encounter that Jesus had with his disciples. The Bible says: “At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, ‘Who then is __________ in the kingdom of heaven?’ And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, ‘Truly I say to you, unless you are __________ and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then __________ himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’” Conversion is not a childish act, because only the ________ can choose to set aside their fleshly desires and become like children.

The Lord knows our _______. He knows that we need to make conscious _______ in our thinking in order to be the kind of people who can enter heaven. We must turn from what is _______ to what is _______. We must have the humility and the faith of a child, who looks to the Lord rather than _______ on his own ability. Being converted turns our hearts from our fleshly _______ to what God expects. Repentance is deeply involved in conversion. We must have a change of heart that leads to a change of _______.


Occasionally I encounter people who are Christians in _______ only. They claim to be Christian, but you couldn’t tell it from the _____ they think, or talk, or act. They say they’re Christians, but they don’t _______ the way a committed Christian behaves. They rarely pray, rarely go to church, rarely read their Bibles, and rarely talk about Christian beliefs. By listening to their language or watching their behavior, you might not be able to distinguish them from someone who ______ goes to church. Christians in name only are as likely to gamble, or drink alcohol, or watch sexually explicit movies, or use four-letter words as people who say they have no faith at all. In fact, many of these folks have _______ living for the Lord altogether.

If you ask them if they are Christians, they might be offended; but you couldn’t tell it from the way they act or talk. For them Christianity is more inherited than ________, more assumed than embraced. They were told when they were young that their ________ was Christian.
They say they are, but one wonders if they were _______ converted to Jesus.

On other occasions, I’ve encountered folks who were once __________ church members but fell away from the truth of the _________ to follow popular religion, where worship is replaced by entertainment or the inspired gospel is replaced by man-centered doctrines or human traditions. One wonders how someone who was once strong in the faith could leave the _______ of the Scripture for a _____ or forget Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. One wonders how they could follow things that are _______ mentioned in Scripture but were innovations of men and then imagine that they’re acceptable to God. Didn’t Jesus say, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not ______ shall be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit” (Matthew 15:13-14). How can they say they are converted to the Lord Jesus?

Conversion is a life-changing event, a transition from darkness into ________, from the fleshly to the _____, from the deceptions of men to the truth of God in Scripture. Like a child, we choose to trust what God says is true and right, trust how He wants us to live, and determine how we will do whatever He commands. This change of heart is enlightening; it opens our hearts to a ______ and _______ way than the sinful ways of the world. The Lord wanted Paul to preach the gospel to the Gentiles in order “to open their ______ so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me” (Acts 26:18).

To be converted means that you will change what you __________ , change how you will live, and leave _____ to walk in righteousness. God doesn’t save us merely to _______ our sins. He saves us to ______ our hearts so that we can pursue a holy and righteous life! Read Titus 2:11-14. Conversion means that I ______ die to myself, die to my desires, and die to my sin. I can’t ________ to sin and still remain right with the Lord. Paul asked, “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who ____ to sin still _____ in it?” (Romans 6:1-2). We just can’t do that! Becoming a Christian means that I die to sinful ways. I don’t ________ sin; I don’t think sinful thoughts, or at least whenever I’m tempted I don’t stay there; I don’t give in to my sinful feelings; or say sinful words anymore. I’m no longer what I _____ to be. When we’re baptized into Christ, “our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin” (Romans 6:6). Our attitudes and our behavior must change.

Paul concludes, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:12-13). Some people are baptized but ______ to repent, to stop their sins, and to serve the Lord in righteousness, they never get around to that. Again, Paul says, “So then, brethren, we’re under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you’re putting to
death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:12-13). Those who call themselves a
Christian but live sinfully after the desires of the flesh will die spiritually and be ______.

**Read the words of Colossians 3:5-11 that we need to follow.** Oh, that, my friend, is
conversion! It’s a change of heart and life, turning from the ______ way of sin to a ______ and
righteous way that follows in the steps of Jesus.

Even a ______ spoken in private matters is important. We may think we’ve spoken or acted
in secret, but secrets don't always ______ secret. God always sees, hears, and knows. Proverbs
15:3 says, “The eyes of the L ORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.” The
wicked person discounts God, ignores God, and assumes “God has forgotten; He’s hidden His
_______; He’ll never see it” (Psalm 10:2-11). But God does see and hear. Words also matter,
because they ______ our inner person. The Lord Jesus said, “The mouth speaks out of that
which fills the heart” (Matthew 12:34). Christians should speak words that edify and ______.
“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is ______ for
edification according to the need of the moment, so that it’ll give grace to those who hear”
(Ephesians 4:29).

This world is darkened, callous, ignorant, sensual, impure, and greedy. **Read Paul’s
explanation in Ephesians 4:17-24.** Oh, what a terrible situation. God certainly wants
something ______ for us! What Jesus teaches is better than what the ______ offers. The
Lord Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that he who hears My word, and believes Him who
sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life”
(John 5:24). Jesus expects his converts to ______ His Word and believe God sent Him to be
Savior, if they want eternal life.

Don’t say, “I believe in Jesus,” if you’re not __________ to believe what He says. Jesus
call Jesus “Lord” and yet never be willing to do His will is ________. God distinguishes
between a man who claims to believe and a man who actually ______ out what he believes.
First John 2:4-6 explains: “The one who says, ‘I’ve come to know Him,’ (that is, I’m a
Christian) and doesn’t keep His commandments, that person is a ______, and the truth is not in
him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the _____ of God has truly been perfected. By this
we know that we’re in him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the
same manner as He walked.” We ______ our faith and our love for Jesus by keeping His
commandments and abiding in His Word. Claiming to love Jesus while ignoring his Word is
merely a delusion. Oh, my friend be real; be genuine.

We must recognize and treat Jesus as our ______ as well as our Savior. Only then do we
have the kind of faith to be saved. Be doers of the Word and not merely hearers who delude
themselves. James said that in humility we’re to “receive the word that’s implanted, which is
able to ______ your souls” (James 1:21). The faith that ______ the Lord is first humble,
realizing that God is God, who knows all, sees all, and is wiser than we are. Let’s love and trust Him enough to _______ and to do all that He commands. Considering what Jesus did for us, that’s the _______ that we can do.

Faith leads a person to _______ the Lord in every respect. If I believe in the Lord, I will love and trust Him. That means I want to be saved and live with Him _______. If I believe in Jesus, I’ll _______ that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God and my Lord. If I call Him Lord, I’ll change my _______ and I’ll change my _______. I’ll repent of every sin. I’ll stop my rebellion and I’ll honor Him by being obedient.

If I believe in Jesus, I’ll be _______ in water for the forgiveness of my sins (Acts 2:38). I’ll be _______ of water and the Spirit in baptism to enter into His kingdom (John 3:5). I will be baptized to have my sins _______ away (Acts 22:16). I want to be _______ with Him in baptism so that I can rise to _______ in newness of life (Romans 6:3-7). With humility I’ll do what the Lord says without trying to _______ that I can be saved a different way. I’ll trust Him to the point that whatever He says, I’ll do.

When we’re converted to Christ, we’ll think like Jesus thinks, love like Jesus loves, act like Jesus acts, and obey like Jesus obeyed. We’ll ______ pleasing the world and ______ pleasing God. Jesus said, “for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him” (John 8:29). When we’re converted, we’ll _________ what people teach with what the Bible says. There are a multitude of religious _________ in our world. Conversion to Christ means I’ll stop listening to the human doctrines and start _______ everything by the Word. First Thessalonians 5:21-22 says, “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; and abstain from every form of evil.” We must _________ religious teaching and it’s practices to see if those things come from God or from man.

The Bible says, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but _______ the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). Don’t believe everything that you _______ some preachers say. Be like the noble Bereans. “Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures _______ to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

When we become servants of Christ, we cannot _______ every idea that comes along. We must _________ what we hear with a Scripture! If it doesn’t agree with Scripture, don’t follow it. True disciples _______ in the words of Christ (John 8:31). We want everyone to be a _____ disciple. So believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and out of love repent of your sins, confess Jesus, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Conversion doesn’t end with a change of heart; it also changes the relationship with God. When you’re baptized you become a child of God! The Lord adds you to His church! God unites you with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection so that you can walk in newness of life. Oh, my friend won’t you be converted today?