

Lesson 22. A New Creature

Key Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1–10; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

In this lesson you will consider two more aspects of salvation: conversion and sanctification. Conversion describes the complete change that takes place when a person repents and turns to God. Sanctification describes the Holy Spirit's cleansing work in his heart.

The conversion of a youth who has been spared from many of sin's entanglements might not seem as dramatic as the conversion of a person who has wasted years of his life in sin. However, conversion always involves a complete inner transformation. A converted man has new motivation for living, a new purpose to serve God rather than self, and a new relationship with God. He loves God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength.

One of the clearest descriptions of conversion

is in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Sanctification begins with the initial cleansing from sin at the time of conversion. It is also an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit as the Christian grows in the faith. The apostle Paul recognized a need to press on in his Christian life, even after years of following the Saviour (Philippians 3:12–14).

Evangelism is important because people are eternally lost until they become new creatures in Christ through conversion. God desires that everyone be saved. Those who are truly born again will be motivated by God's love to tell others about the Saviour.

A. GLEANINGS FROM THE BIBLE

Conversion

Conversion Is a Complete Transformation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Conversion is more than just an outward reformation or an attempt to do better in our own strength. It is a complete inner transformation.

1. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, how many things become new when a person is converted?

all things

Conversion Puts Christ in Control of Our Lives (Galatians 2:20)

Just as we are either dead or alive in a physical sense, so we either have spiritual life or we are spiritually dead. Sinners are spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. Christians choose to give up their old sinful ways by identifying with Christ in His death. They are no longer dead *in* sin but dead *to* sin.

Death to self is about as painful as we make it. If we totally surrender our will to God, we are soon free from the grip of sin. If we struggle and fight to retain part of the old man, we prolong our misery. Once we die to self, the struggle is over until we again let ourselves be tempted by the flesh. As long as we yield fully to Christ, there is no struggle.

2. What part of the Christian is crucified with Christ? his old sinful nature

3. From where does the new inner life come that springs forth when a person is converted? _____

It comes from Christ (through the Holy Spirit) living within the believer's heart.

Lesson 22

Oral Review

1. What indicates that God was not satisfied with Adam's and Eve's makeshift aprons of leaves? [L. 2] **He made them coats of skin.**
2. What wrong conclusion did Job's three friends reach as they considered Job's afflictions? [L. 6] **They concluded that Job had sinned and that God was punishing him.**
3. What consequence would have come upon Ezekiel if he had not given God's warning to the people? [L. 11] **Their blood would have been upon his hands.**

4. Why were the Law and the Old Testament ceremonies incomplete without Christ? [L. 19] **These Old Testament rituals could not save man from sin. They merely pointed forward to the perfect Redeemer.**
5. What makes Christ's blood much more precious than the blood of animals? [L. 20] **Christ is infinitely higher than man, whereas animals are lower than man and therefore unworthy to represent him. Christ won a great victory over Satan; animals were only types.**
6. Why is it impossible for man to be saved without faith? [L. 21] **We must believe in God and in**