

# Conviction and Conversion: The Power of the Gospel

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction: Rom. 1:14-18 - It's not a magic potion.

- A. Acts 2:36-47 - When Peter preached his message on Pentecost in Jerusalem, 3,000 people were convicted and converted.
  - 1. Acts 2:36-37 - Many people heard the word and many were moved by it
  - 2. Acts 2:38-41 - Only 3000 were convicted to the point of conversion
    - a. 1John 2:19 - The difference is that the truly converted continue
  - 3. Acts 2:42-47

## I. PEOPLE CONTINUE BECAUSE THEY HAVE CHARACTER

- A. Acts 1:14 - They prayed from the ascension to Pentecost, 7 days.
  - 1. They had character. "Steadfastly, continuing daily, etc."
  - 2. The majority of members believe in the work of the church and Christians' role in it; but it is the minority who actually participate at the fullest level of which they are capable.
  - 3. Mark 4:17; Luke 8:13 - They have no character
- B. What builds character?
  - 1. Hard work. One of the worst things that parents can do to their children is to deny them the experience of hard work - James 1:25
  - 2. Going forward when you feel like dropping back. You cheat yourself out of developing character every time you give yourself a break when you know you can do it - James 1:12; Heb. 10:39
    - a. It is a form of violating your conscience; it will lead to more and worse violations
  - 3. Trials and testing - James 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-4
  - 4. Imitating good examples - 2Tim. 1:13; Phil. 3:17

## II. PEOPLE CONTINUE BECAUSE THEY ARE CONSECRATED

- A. 2Cor. 5:14-15; Isa. 53:11; Rom. 5:15; Matt. 20:28
  - 1. Some folks stay in the local church out of habit.
  - 2. Some stay because their family and friends are there
  - 3. Some stay because of outside pressure.
- B. Jesus is consecrated as our Savior because He gave Himself to us
  - 1. We are not consecrated to God until we give ourselves to him.
- C. Why are you here?
  - 1. "I want to go to heaven." "I want to be in fellowship with God and His children." "I want to be like my Lord and God."
  - 2. Illustration: kids, teens, and parents at Halloween. Kids want candy; teens want to have fun with their friends; parents sacrifice their time and resources so they the kids and teens can get it. Likewise, Christians want to go to heaven, they want to be with other Christians in worship, and they want to be like their Father and Savior and sacrificially serve others. It is a progression of maturity that comes with a consecrated life.
  - 3. Why are you here today? What kinds of things would end your consecration and commitment? - Phil. 3:7-10