

## **“WE SPECIALIZE IN CONVERSIONS”**

The sign on the building read, “We Specialize In Conversions.” In smaller letters beneath it were the words, “Conversion Kits Available.” This was not a church but an automobile repair and “conversion” shop. They can take a stock vehicle and change it so that it looks nothing like it did when it came off the assembly line at the factory. They can change the shape, lower the roof, put different wheels on it, darken the windows, lower the rear suspension, put a racing engine and transmission in it, racing stripes on it, etc. It is a popular thing to do with the “fast” and “sporty” crowd.

The church crowd has a different take on the word “conversion.” What does it mean? It means “to turn; to change from one form to another, one course to another; to transform; to change one’s mind; to turn back; to turn around; to return.” The word “repentance” has a similar meaning: “A change of mind with a corresponding change in direction.” Repentance is involved in conversion.

Now comes the question: “Return to where, to what and why?” Answer: (1) Way back at “the factory” man was created a holy being like His Creator; (2) In the persons of Adam and Eve the human race became contaminated by sin when our original parents committed the original sin; (3) God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay off our sin liability at the cross; (4) At conversion we take our place at the foot of the cross having been made aware of our status as a sinner by God’s Spirit; (5) Repenting of our sinnerhood, we open our lives to Jesus Christ, accepting Him as our Savior; (6) At that moment God’s Spirit gives us a new start – the new birth – we’ve been “born again”! The Bible meaning of “conversion” has taken place. God has put a new “engine” in us, His Holy Spirit, imparting to us His new nature. Now we have power to go with God!

This conversion experience does not end there. All of our lives we will be continuously converting to living as Christ lived, loving what He loves, learning about God Who specializes in converting sinners into saints. This process imparts a change of our minds into thinking like God thinks as we get His mind-set from His Word; it involves a change of our wills by willing what God wills as revealed in His Conversion Manual, the Bible; it includes a change in our affections because we love what God loves. This does not happen with one visit to God’s Conversion Shop but is a lifelong-long process. That’s why the Bible says, “But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (II Peter 3:18)

Jesus said, “I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3) Becoming “as little children” means starting over. As you look back on your life would you like to get a new start? Remember, God specializes in conversions. “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.” (Acts 3:19) And then get into God’s Conversion Kit, the Bible every day. It will keep changing, challenging and charming you as you travel the highways of life, with or without racing stripes!

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