

What Is Conversion?

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TEXT—"Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."



Let us consider first some things which are not conversion, but which are often mistaken for it. To improve one's life is not conversion. It is a common opinion that if one will drop all bad habits and cultivate good ones, read the Bible and go to church, he can make himself a Christian in a short time. This is a mistake. The Christian life is not simply an improvement of the old life, but a different kind of a life altogether, namely, a life of obedience to Christ. Suppose you had a sour apple tree which you wished to convert into a sweet apple tree. What would you do? Would you dig about it and prune it and scrape the bark? No, indeed. A hundred years of such improvement would not make the tree bear sweet apples, but the introduction of a graft from a sweet apple tree would do it very quickly. Even so a lifetime spent in improving one's habits does not make one a Christian, but the entrance of Jesus Christ into the heart by the surrender of the will, will do it in a moment. People do not become Christians by improving their life, but by accepting Jesus Christ. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 5:12.)

The word convert means to "turn about." As applied to spiritual things, it means a turning of the soul unto God. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." The real essence of sin is this, that the sinner is determined to have his own way. It may not be the worst way in the world. It may not be an immoral way, or a vicious way, but it is his way and not God's way, which he ought to follow. The only course for the sinner to pursue is to turn about, to abandon his way, and to accept God's way. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him." Conversion, then, is a turning of the soul unto God, a surrender of the will to the divine will, an acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Master.

When the sinner, realizing the folly of further resistance, finally surrenders his will to the Lord Jesus, then occurs a great change. God forgives his sins, and so changes his heart that henceforth he loves God's way better than his own way. "A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you—And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes" (Ezek. 36:26, 27). The sinner no longer has a controversy with God. The great question of life is settled, and henceforth his aim is to know and do the will of God. And though he may fall, and come short of his purpose again and again, yet so long as he recognizes Jesus Christ as his Lord and Master, and honestly strives to obey him, so long is he a converted man.

Not that the man is perfect, but he is on the way to perfection. Not that he can overcome the habits of a life-

time in a moment, but he recognizes a new power in his life, ever the power and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. With his help he can conquer his besetting sins, and build up a Christian character, for he is not only "able to keep you from falling," but able also "to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." (Jude 1:24.)

The Word of God is a very effective agency. It is like a mirror in which the sinner sees himself as he really is. That is why Christ bids us preach the gospel to every creature because there is life in it. "The Word of God is alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." One can hardly read the Bible continuously and not be made to realize that he is a sinner and need a Savior.

On one occasion a man said to me: "From the preaching which I heard in my boyhood I was led to suppose that when one became a Christian, it was necessary for him to go through some extraordinary process called a change of heart, or regeneration. This book which you have loaned me, teaches that what is required is simply a change of purpose. Now will you please tell me which is right and which is wrong?" I replied: "They are both right; you could not change your heart if you should try; you could not make it love what it naturally hated, could you?" "No, I suppose not," he said. "But you could change your purpose, could you not? You could decide henceforth to obey the Lord Jesus?" "Certainly," he replied. "Well," said I, "if you will change your purpose and accept Christ as your Savior, God will change your heart and cause you to love what once you hated, and to hate what once you loved." "Is that all there is to it?" said he. "Certainly," I replied. He lost no time in accepting Christ and God gave him a new heart.

"Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation." If you say, "I want more time to think about it," I answer, "What will you gain by waiting? What have you gained by waiting already? No, friend, what you need is not time but decision. You know that you are a sinner, and that Christ is the only one who can save you. The simple question is, 'Will you accept him as your Savior?' God expects you to do it, commands you to do it, and if it is ever done, you are the one who must do it."

Christian Aspiration.

What a noble and comprehensive aspiration for Christians is embodied in this guiding aim which Ruskin has thus beautifully expressed:—

"I trust in the living God, Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things and creatures visible and invisible. I trust in the kindness of his law and the goodness of his work. I will strive to love and keep his law and see his work while I live. I trust in the nobleness of human nature, in the majesty of its faculties, the fulness of its mercy, and the joy of its love. And I will strive to love my neighbor as myself, and even when I cannot, will act as if I did. I will not kill or hurt any living creature needlessly, nor destroy any beautiful thing, but will strive to save and comfort all gentle-life and guard and perfect all natural beauty on earth. I will strive to raise my own body and soul daily into all the higher powers of duty and happiness, not in rivalry or contention with others, but for the help, delight, and honor of others and for the joy and peace of my own life."

Not by ourselves, but by Christ working in and through us "the hope of glory," can we attain to the perfection we seek and unto which we are called and worship God in "the beauty of holiness."

No man who has any vital force in him ever lies to himself. He may assume a disguise to others, but the first condition of success is that he be true to his own soul, and has looked his own capacities and his own faults fairly in the face.—Froude.

MORE DEADLY THAN OPEN Foe

Insidious Enemy of Mankind and the Church of God is the Professional Hypocrite.

A hypocrite is one who has divorced piety from virtue, whose religion never affects his morals, whose immoralities never affect his religion. He can rob the fatherless and the widow on the way to worship, and sanctify the act by saying his prayers. He steals the robe of Jesus Christ in which to serve the devil, then works the church for all it is worth to consecrate the evil.

Between his allopathic religion and his homeopathic morals there is an unfathomable gulf fixed, and because of this fact, like *Dives in hell*, his prayers are never answered. He wants to be seen of men when they have seen too much of him already. He desires to be looked at, when he is already looked through. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing, and his solicitude for the lambs is because of his personal interest in the wool and mutton. This over-pious, morocco-

Politeness Extraordinary.

In Queen Victoria's time it was the graceful custom, after a "command" performance for her private secretary to send a letter of thanks next morning to the entertainers. The late Sir Henry Ponsonby, upon whom this duty devolved, was the soul of politeness, and never made any nice distinctions as to the recipients of her majesty's gratitude. Accordingly the same form of letter was sent to all alike, and on one occasion the proprietor of a troupe of performing geese,

bound edition of devility loves to dress in lamb's wool and lead the business of the church of God. Office is his Eden, prominence his paradise and in the very nature of things damnation is his destiny.—Ram's Horn.

None Has Monopoly in Prayer.

There is such a thing as a "gift in prayer." Some great souls, dwelling on the high places of Zion, have, from the time of Elijah on, seemed to be able to reach out and sweep the skies with the searchlights of their penetrating faith. But if prayer is a gift, it is not the monopoly of the favored few, for it is that kind of a gift which may itself be had for the asking. "Ask, and it shall be given you," is a precept which applies not only to the fruits of prayer, but also to the power of prayer itself.

He that never changed any of his opinions never corrected any of his mistakes; and he who was never wise enough to find out any mistakes in himself will not be charitable enough to excuse what he reckons mistakes in others.—Whitehead.

Profitable Turkey Hens.

Turkey hens are profitable until five years of age, but it is a good plan to change the gobblers every year. It requires twenty-eight days to hatch a turkey egg, and seven eggs is considered a setting. The nests should be on the ground.

To Study Forestry.

The University of Washington has secured the use of two sections of land on the Snoqualmie national forest in connection with its forestry courses.

No Longer a Stage.

If Shakespeare could revise it he would probably say: "All the world's a moving-picture show."

INCREASES EGG YIELD

Salt in Proper Quantities of Material Benefit to Hens.

Food Prepared for Human Taste With Mineral is Not Injurious or Repellent to Poultry—Result a New York Station.

It is a tradition that salt is craved by, and is beneficial, to all domestic and many wild animals, with the exception of poultry, and that to these it is poison. That in large quantities this is true is an undoubted fact, as has often been tested.

Some years ago the writer was quite horrified upon going to the barnyard one afternoon to find a dozen or more fine hens lying about dead. In looking for the cause of this sudden mortality one of the cow's messes was found to be uneaten, and a close examination showed that the attendant, either through ignorance or carelessness, had dumped upon it a pint of salt—too much to be relished even by bossy—and after the cattle had been turned into the pasture, the chickens, that had free range, discovered the bucket of bran, and ate from it freely, and so rapid was the action of the salt that some hens died but a few feet away. An examination of the crops confirmed the supposition that it was the heavily salted bran that had proved fatal, says a writer in the Farm Progress.

That food salted to the human taste is not, however, injurious or repellent to poultry of nearly all kinds is proved by the avidity with which the latter eat and thrive upon the table scraps, which include, besides bread and meat, all kinds of vegetables and bits of pastry. Close observers contend that chickens, especially, seem to need small quantities of salt in their food, and when given a chance, will prefer this to unseasoned grain.

What the exact effects of the slightly salted ration might be on the general health and productiveness of hens was made the subject of experiment two or three years ago at the New York experiment station.

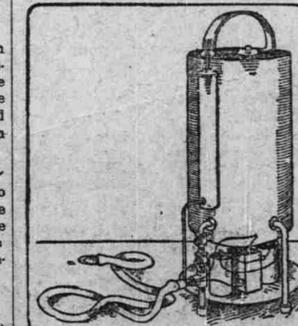
The feeding trial was made upon a dozen mature hens, especially to ascertain the approximate limit of the feeding. For one lot of hens salt was mixed in the food in increasing quantities, day after day, until it was fed at somewhat more than six-hundredths of an ounce per fowl, or about one-half pint per day for 100 hens. More than this produced diarrhoea in some which disappeared when the excess of salt was withdrawn.

The test was made at the unproductive time of the year, but an unexpected and gratifying result was that double the number of eggs were laid by the hens fed on rather over-salted food than by any other dozen fowls fed on unseasoned grain and other rations.

DEVICE FOR KILLING PESTS

California Man Hits Upon Apparatus for Extermination of Rodents While in Their Nests.

An entirely new device for killing rodents seems to have been hit upon by a California man, in that it is used on the pests in their nests. A large tank contains a chemical which is forced out through a flexible tube by means of an air pump. With the tube extending into the hole, the push button on top of the cylinder is pressed,



Rodent Exterminator.

says the Popular Electricity. This completes the circuit of the battery and coil, placed underneath the cylinder, causing a spark to occur at the nozzle tip exploding the mixture as it passes out of the tube and forming a gas designed to kill the rodents.

Selecting Male Hog.

In selecting a male hog, good bone is a very desirable thing to look for. A heavy boned hog weighs better than a light boned one, and its costs no more to raise him. Breeding weight in the form of bone is cheaper than feeding corn to put on fat. A good boned hog is also less liable to "go down" when finished.

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SPRAYS TO DESTROY WEEDS

Application of Destroyer Should Be Made on Hot Days—Exercise Care in Handling Poisons.

(By JULIUS ERDMAN, Colorado Agricultural College.)

It is a rather tedious process, and hard on tools to remove weeds or grass from walks by hoeing or cutting them out between the stones, but there are a number of chemicals or sprays which can be used with good success.

1. Salt. Take one pound of salt to one gallon of water, boil and apply while still hot, or dry salt may be used and then watered in; but this will color the walk more or less and is not quite so effective.
2. Crude carbolic acid, one-half ounce of the liquid to one gallon of water will also destroy ants.
3. Sulphuric acid, four-fifths ounce of the acid to one gallon of water. Best applied with a wooden pail.
4. Take one pound of powdered arsenic to three gallons of cold wa-



Cockle Bur.

ter, boil and stir well. Then add seven gallons of cold water with two pounds of sal soda.

5. Lime and sulphur, ten gallons of water, twenty pounds of quicklime and two pounds of flour of sulphur are boiled in an iron vessel. After settling, the clear part is dipped off and used when needed.

There are also a number of commercial weed killers in the market which can be bought at seed stores. Applications of weed destroyers should best be made on a hot day, or right after a rain, with a watering pot (sprinkler), and one good application is usually sufficient for the season. As the most of them contain poison, either arsenic or acids, great care should be exercised in handling them.

DON'TS FOR HORSE OWNERS

Among Other Things Animals Should Not Be Fed Too Much Corn During Hot Weather Season.

(By H. P. HOSKINS, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.)

- Don't overload your horses.
- Don't feed too much corn in hot weather.
- Don't make any sudden change in the feed.
- Don't keep your horses in poorly ventilated stables.
- Don't feed grain to warm horses.
- Give them hay first.
- Don't allow the harness, especially the collar, to chafe.
- Don't expect your horses to relish their feed, unless the mangers are clean.
- Don't give large amounts of water at one time. Small amounts frequently are much better.
- Don't give your horses patent medicine that you know nothing about, especially cold remedies.
- Don't keep a horse going after it begins to show signs of exhaustion. You will save him by resting a bit.
- Don't allow your horses to drink a large amount of water on coming in to the stable very warm. Allow them to cool off a bit first.
- Don't allow young horses to wear a set of shoes more than a month. Have them removed, the hoofs leveled and the shoes reset if they are worth it.

DIP FOR SCABIES IN CATTLE

Secretary of Agriculture Amends Order by Permitting a Stronger Solution of Tobacco.

The secretary of agriculture has amended Order 143, effective August 15, 1913, relating to dips for scabies in cattle by permitting the use of the tobacco dip prepared from tobacco and suitable tobacco products, provided it contains not less than seven hundredths of one per cent of nicotine. Heretofore, the requirements have been that the tobacco dip should contain not less than five hundredths of one per cent of nicotine and two per cent flowers of sulphur. The tobacco dip of the new strength need not contain the sulphur. The regulation remains unchanged regarding the lime and sulphur dip, which may be used as directed in the order.

Increased Forest Sales.

In an increase in timber sales this year and in a decrease in receipts from timber trespass as compared with last year, national forest officers see a growing use of the forests and respect for the federal forest policy.

To Kill Forest Insects.

A Russian scientist claims to have discovered an inoculation for use against forest insects.



THE OLD, OLD GAME.

At nine p. m. they were seated at opposite ends of the couch. At 9:30 they were slightly nearer to each other. At ten o'clock they were only three feet apart. At 10:30 there was scarcely any perceptible space between them.

The young man spoke. "Has your father gone to bed?" he asked. "Yes, Tom." "Has your mother gone to bed?" "Yes, Tom." "Do you think your little brother is under the couch?" "No, Tom." The young man heaved a sigh of relief. "It's your move," he said.

Reparation.

John Butts, Sr.—I want to leave my property to my two sons. One-tenth to my youngest son, John Butts, and nine-tenths to my eldest son, Royal Chesterfield Chauncey De Peyster Butts.

Family Lawyer—H'm! Do you think that's quite fair?

John Butts, Sr.—Yes. I want to make some kind of reparation to Royal for allowing his mother to give him such a damfool name.—Puck.

In Colonial Days.

The Settler's Wife—Why should we go any further into the wilderness? Why not build our cabin here where there are eight or ten families already?

The Settler—Gadzooks! What wouldst thou? A couple of hundred years from now there would be folks around here blowing that our family isn't the oldest in the place.—Puck.

Beautiful Names.

"We must have a beautiful name for the baby," said the fond mother. "Something that sounds like poetry and is not at all commonplace." "Well," replied the fond father, "I'm doing my best to help you make a selection. Here's a list of the names of all the apartment houses in town."

FASHION'S WHIM.



He—These high collars you women are wearing are like financial stock. She—How so?

He—Subject to rises and falls. Good for Anything. My friends, a great deal might be did To help the teething. If we could but teach a kid Deep breathing.

It's Coming.

"There's a lucky young fellow. He's never known a bit of trouble in all his life." "Well, he soon will. He's going to marry my daughter."

Threatened Men.

"Do you think a man whose life has been threatened should be permitted to carry a gun?" "No. It would spoil the appearance of the game to see the umpire standing around with a six-shooter in his pocket."

Out of Sympathy.

"What happened to the clock in the labor hall?" "Oh, it wouldn't strike any more, so the boys pitched it out and got a new one."

Vocation.

"Hello, old chap; still doing newspaper work?" "Yep; on the Daily Black-Mall." "On the regular staff?" "Nope; on space yet—what you might call a penny-maligner, you know."—Life.

His Idea.

Bacon—I see electricity generated in Sweden is delivered in Copenhagen. Egbert—This parcel post system is really wonderful.

Adjusting Records.

Mrs. Wombat called me in to see her new graphophone. She's all puffed up about it. "How do you know she's puffed up?" "Well, she was putting on airs."

Putting it Off.

"He's a mean man." "How so?" "When his little girl begs for an ice cream sundae, he asks her if she wouldn't rather have a gold watch when she's nineteen."

HAS ITS OWN REWARD.



De Quiz—What do you think of the modern game of football, doctor? Doctor—I think, sir, that the punishment fits the crime.

Classy Sort.

Still waters may run deep. But in high life we find That swagger people keep The carbonated kind.

Efficiency Expert.

"James," said the efficiency expert, annoyed by the cheerful habit which his chauffeur had of whistling while at his work, "you should remember that the greatest fortunes nowadays are made from the by-products of waste. Hereafter when you whistle, whistle in the tires and save me the expense of a pump."—Harper's Weekly.

She Caught Him.

The young girl confronted him with flashing eyes. "What did you mean," she demanded, "by kissing me as I lay asleep in the hammock this morning?" "But," protested the youth, "I only took one." "You did not, I counted at least seven before I awoke."—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Brute!

"Do you believe that money has germs on it?" "It may have." "What in the world shall we do?" "Don't worry; it would take a mighty active germ to hop from the money to you during the short time that you keep what I give you."

Too True!

"I can't understand why you wish to lavish your affection on a dog. Why don't you adopt a child?" "Oh, I should be afraid to become fond of a child. If it should die one couldn't have it stuffed and put in a corner of the library, you know."—Fun.

Good Reason.

"I hear that the savings bank closed its doors yesterday." "Good heavens! What was the trouble?" "No trouble at all. It happened to be closing time for the day."

Costly Travel.

"There is one success which has been steady about all attempts from the start at aviation." "What is that?" "It has always made the money fly."

Cabbage.

Bragg (of Connecticut)—How did you find those cigars, colonel? Wagge—Delicious, old man. We had them for dinner last evening, boiled with corned beef.—Truth.

A STAR.



The City Man—How did you enjoy the opera last night? The Countryman—Fine. The feller that hollered "Op'ry books! Books of th' op'ry" had a great voice.

Not Too Simple.

The simple life would suit my bent. I'd seek the forest path If I knew just where I could rest. A cavern with a bath.

In South America.

"Come, let us prepare our slate. We must have Senator Paprika for some office on the ticket. He is indispensable." "Why is he indispensable?" inquired the American consul. "He owns the only machine gun we have."