

## Conversion

Before the foundation of the world<sup>1</sup>, God chose, foreknew, a group of people, the elect<sup>2</sup>, to be saved. The Father predestined<sup>3</sup> this same group to be conformed into the image of his Son.<sup>4</sup> Those that he predestined he will regenerate<sup>5</sup> so that they may hear and be saved.<sup>6</sup> At the moment an elect person first has faith in Jesus Christ and repents of their sins through grace from God<sup>7</sup>, they have converted from being an unbeliever to a believer.

Faith is more than just knowledge about Jesus Christ, since even demons believe that God is one.<sup>8</sup> A person can read the gospel or listen to a sermon and learn about Jesus Christ but simply not agree with what is preached.<sup>9</sup> Others may agree with much of scripture and yet not have saving faith in Jesus Christ. For example, when Paul spoke to King Agrippa in Acts 26, Paul knew that King Agrippa believed the prophets. Yet, King Agrippa acknowledged that he was not a Christian. Saving faith thus requires people to know that they are sinners and only through Jesus Christ are they saved.<sup>10</sup>

Repentance is an important part of conversion. When Jesus spoke in Mark 1:15, he told people to repent and believe in the gospel. In Luke 13:1-5, Jesus warned his audience to repent otherwise they will perish just like the other sinners mentioned in the passage. Repenting involves reconsidering sinful actions<sup>11</sup>, forsaking these actions<sup>12</sup>, and then walking in obedience<sup>13</sup> to God's commandments.

Obeying God is required. If one simply turns from one sin, they may end up turning to another sin. For example, a thief may give up stealing just to turn to laziness instead of labouring in honest work.<sup>15</sup> We

---

<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 1:4

<sup>2</sup> See the position paper, "Election."

<sup>3</sup> Romans 8:29

<sup>4</sup> See the position paper, "Predestination."

<sup>5</sup> See the position paper, "Regeneration."

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 4:10-12

<sup>7</sup> Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29; Acts 13:48; 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25

<sup>8</sup> James 2:19

<sup>9</sup> Romans 1:32

<sup>10</sup> Romans 3:20-26

<sup>11</sup> Acts 2:37-38

<sup>12</sup> Isaiah 55:7

<sup>13</sup> John 14:15

<sup>15</sup> Ephesians 4:28

## **Conversion**

are to put off our old, sinful self and put on our new self created after the likeness of God.<sup>16</sup>

The elect are granted this repentance and saving faith for God's glory.

---

<sup>16</sup> Ephesians 4:20-24