

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.)

What Is Conversion?

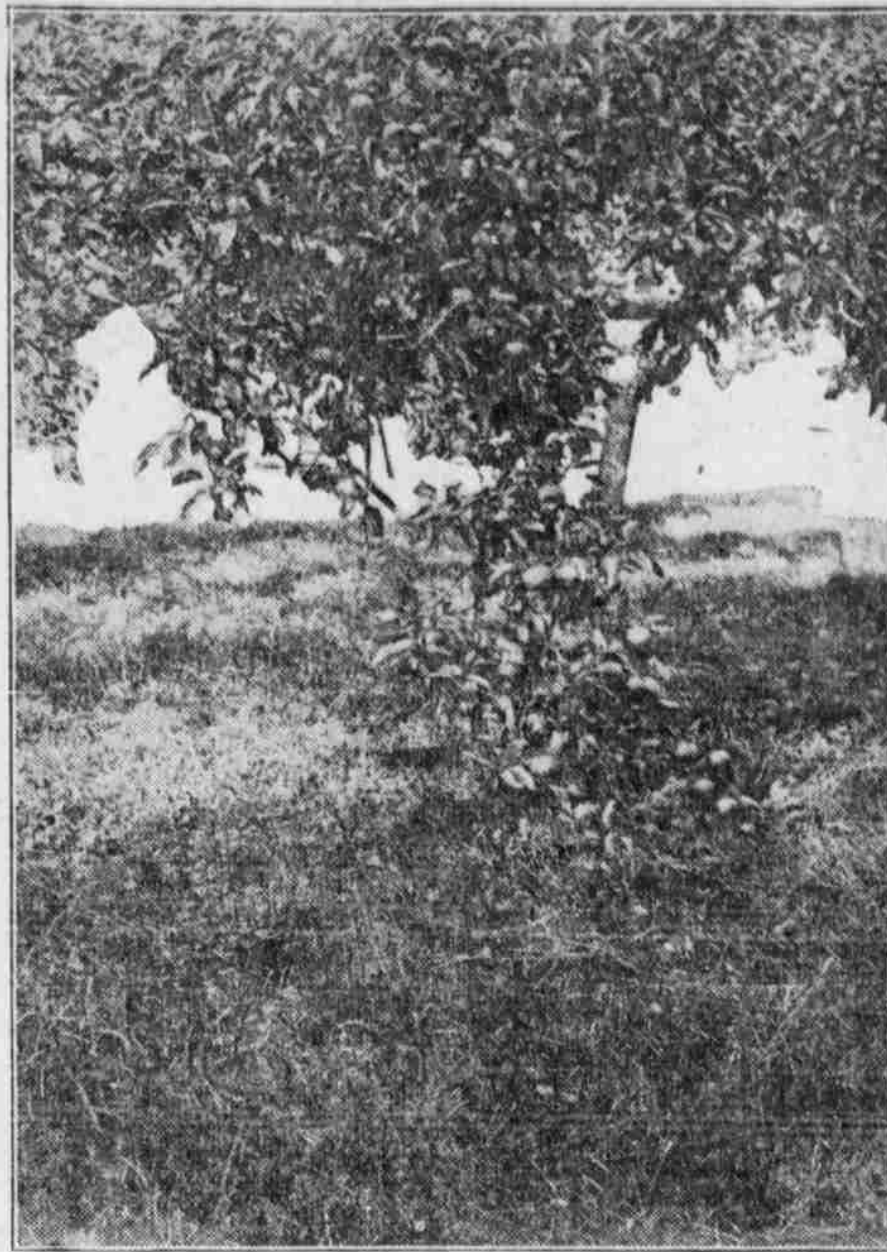
The word convert means to "turn about." As applied to spiritual things, it means a turning of the soul unto God. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." The real essence of sin is this, that the sinner is determined to have his own way. It may not be the worst way 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.

Influences Leading to Conversion.

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."

IMPROVE BY TOP-WORKING FRUIT TREES



Heavy Bearing Tree Ready for Pickers.

In a most interesting and instructive treatise on top grafting fruit trees, Prof. O. B. Whipple, of the Colorado experiment station, says it is becoming more and more apparent that certain localities and soils are peculiarly adapted to growing particular kinds and even varieties of fruit.

Commercial fruit-growing localities are making their reputation by being able to grow their few varieties well. There comes a time then when the grower will have to solve the problem as to what to do with the undesirable varieties. Shall he pull them out or graft them over to better varieties?

It has been proven by long experience that if properly done the grafting over of old trees by top working brings quicker returns than the replanting of young trees. In fact, it is not uncommon to see a fairly good crop on the three-year-old top of a top worked tree.

Trees properly worked over give crops which are sometimes more desirable than trees of the same variety grown from first class nursery stock. Top working, as a means of establishing a weak-growing variety on a stronger root system than its own is now coming into favor. For instance, the Rome Beauty, when on its own roots, is on the best soil an indifferent grower, but when worked on some strong-growing stump it makes a very satisfactory tree.

The practice of grafting is not a mysterious art as many suppose, but is so simple that any careful orchardist can and should do it himself. All common fruit trees can easily be budded or grafted.

The apple and pear may be intergrafted upon each other and this is true of the peach, plum, apricot and almond. However, such wholesale mixing is not good in practice, and the pear and apple never make a good union.

Peach grafts start vigorously upon apricots and plums upon the peach trees. Professor Whipple says he has seen plum trees top-worked to peach trees with perfect unions and the ten-year-old tops bearing excellent crops. Growth in diameter of the tree only takes place in a very small region between the bark and the sap wood. This part of the stem is called the cambium and in this thin layer of tissue the cells are still active while the activity of each succeeding layer on each side grows less and less.

The important point in grafting is to see that the cambium layers of the stock and the cion are matched at some point. When the growth is active we say the bark "peels." Budding is done during this period, not only because the ease with which the bark separates from the wood simplifies the work of inserting the bud, but as the growth is more active the tissues of the bud and the stock are more likely to unite.

It does not pay to graft trees which show poor growth, and it seldom pays to top work any crab. It is also questionable as to whether it pays to top work stone fruits. While good tops may be grown on either peach, apricot or almond, it is doubtful whether these crops will bear much quicker returns than young trees set in the place of the old ones.

There are various methods of graftage, the most common in the west being cleft and curf grafting. These operations are simple and are known to most orchardists.

In cleft grafting, the limb is sawed off squarely, the stub split down about two inches with the grafting chisel and the cleft is wedged open with the wedge on the back of a knife and the cion inserted as a wedge.

The first bud should be left a little below the top of the wedge, cutting the edge of the wedge opposite the

bud a little thinner than the other. The cion is then driven firmly into place with the lower bud to be outside and a little below the top of the cleft.

It is important that the inner bark on the outer edge of the wedge should be brought in contact with the inner bark on the stub. It is between these parts that the union takes place.

Kerf grafting is almost the same as cleft grafting only the stub is prepared by saw cuts instead of splitting. These are made on opposite sides of the stub, and trimmed to thin V-shaped grooves with a saddler's knife, the cion is then trimmed to fit, driven firmly into place and waxed as in cleft grafting.

It is not good practice to remove the whole top of the tree the first year and graft all the stubs. Often this proves too much for the tree and it falls even after the grafts have made a good start. They may linger two or three years and then die.

A better plan is to cut away only enough limbs to set cion for a good top, generally about half of the tree. Working of more stubs results into dense top, or, necessitates their removal later. The remaining limbs may be shortened, but some foliage is needed to protect the stubs and trunk from sun scald as well as to supply nourishment.

Budding is another method of putting a new top on young trees. The buds are generally set from six to twelve inches from the main stem, depending on the formation of the head. Two-year-old trees may be budded the following fall.

As any stem as large as a lead pencil may be budded quite easily.

Buds may be set during the month of July, August and September. Fall budding should generally be given the preference over spring budding. In fall budding the buds are taken from the current year's growth and these may be inserted in the wood of one, two or three year's growth.

Heavier bark makes the insertion of the buds difficult.

Place the bud on the shady side of the stock A T-shaped incision is made in the bark and the corners of the bark below the transverser cut raised to facilitate starting the bud.

The bud is then cut from the bud stick by starting the knife half an inch below the bud, cutting under and about the same distance above. The cut should be deep enough to leave a small shield of wood.

The bud is then shipped into place and well wrapped with raffia or soft wrapping twine, and this wrapping should be cut when the bud has united with the stock, which is usually within ten days or two weeks.

Care must be observed that the wrapping does not cut into the bark as too much pressure interferes with the flow of sap and tends to throw the bud into premature growth.

The buds set in August and September should remain dormant over winter and the following spring, as soon as the buds on the top of the stock begin to push out, the original top of the stock is cut away.

Vegetable Garden.

Farmers and fruit growers who are troubled to make ends meet, will find that every day's work put into the garden to the extent of providing a full supply of choice vegetables for the table, the year round, will improve the appearance of the balance sheet at the end of the year.

Prevent Bursting Heads.

Cabbage heads may be prevented from bursting by giving the stalks a jerk sufficient to break some of the roots and disturb the root system. This retards development.

GOOD ROADS

PAVED STREETS IN 2000 B. C.

Babylon, Carthage and Other Ancient Cities Took Much Interest in Building Good Roads.

When or where the first road was built is not known. Herodotus speaks of a great Egyptian road on which King Cheops employed 100,000 men for ten years. According to the historian, this road was built of massive stone blocks ten feet deep, and lined on both sides with temples, mausoleums, porticos and statues. The streets of Babylon are said to have been paved as early as 2000 B. C., and several well surfaced roads radiated to neighboring cities. Carthage, before its fall, was the center of a highly developed road system. The ancient Peruvians had a wonderful system of national roads connecting all the principal parts of their empire.

Bridges were also built by the ancients at a very early date. The Euphrates, at Babylon, was crossed by a stone bridge prior to 2000 B. C., and it is known that the Chinese built bridges as public works as early as 2300 B. C., says the Good Roads Year Book.

The first definite and fully authentic information concerning the systematic construction and maintenance of permanent roads comes to us from the Romans. It is generally understood that the Romans learned the art of road building from the Carthaginians. However, the construction of their great road was as perfect as that of any of their later ones.

The first of the great Roman roads was from Rome to Capua, a distance of 142 Italian miles, and was begun by Appius Claudius, about 312 B. C. It was known as the Appian Way or "Queen of Roads." This road was later extended to Brundisium, a total of 360 miles, and was probably completed by Julius Caesar. About 220 B. C. the Flaminian Way was built. It crossed the Nar river on a stone bridge which had a central span of 150 feet with a rise of 100 feet. When Rome reached the height of her glory, under the reign of Augustus, no less than 20 great military roads radiated from the city. These roads extended to every part of the vast empire, and are estimated to have a total length of 50,000 miles.

The Roman construction was in general extremely massive. The Appian Way is said to have been in good repair 800 years after it was built. On a carefully prepared subgrade were placed four successive courses of layers, the rodus or second course, the nucleus or third course and the pavement or wearing surface. The top and bottom courses consisted in general of large flat stones, while the two intervening courses were built of smaller stones or other suitable material laid in lime mortar. With the fall of the Roman empire the roads were neglected and gradually fell into decay, so that today but little more than a trace remains of these splendid achievements.

LIMIT FOR TIRES AND LOADS

Chairman Diehl of National Roads Board, Favors Highway Convention of State Commissioners.

A meeting of leading state highway commissioners and the manufacturers of horse-drawn wagons and motor-driven trucks, is the suggestion of Chairman George C. Diehl of the A. A. National Good Roads board, to consider legislation governing the width of tires and the weight of loads.

"Many states have enacted laws to regulate the width of tires, but there has not been strict enforcement of these regulations," says Chairman Diehl. "Narrow tires, especially during the wet season, form ruts in improved roads, and in many instances where the roads are weak, break through the surface, causing rapid destruction of the highway."

"One great difficulty in enforcing wide-tire ordinances with horse-drawn vehicles has been that while less traction is required with wide tires, on slippery clay or nilly roads, it is very difficult in wet weather to manage a horse-drawn vehicle with wide tires, owing to its tendency to skid and slide into the ditches."

"Equal, if not greater damage, can be done to the highway with tires of insufficient width on motor trucks. There is no state where wide-tire ordinances are drawn which relate to both horse-drawn and motor-driven vehicles, or where a scientific attempt has been made to prepare such ordinances or where a strict enforcement is had."

"It is also entirely practicable and reasonable that the weight of loads should be limited, as the bridges, which form an integral part of the highway, are not, in a great majority of cases, sufficiently strong to carry weights which are becoming more and more excessive."

Autos in New York.

The total mileage made by automobiles on New York state roads in a year is estimated at 409,000,000 miles.

Means Better Highways.

Use the King road drag after every hard rain. Persistence in the use of this device means better highways.

OLD WEBSTER HOME

Farmhouse Where Statesman Was Born Is Restored.

New Hampshire Building Rehabilitated and Made to Look as it Did in Eighteenth Century—To Celebrate Change August 28.

Philadelphia.—The ancient New Hampshire farmhouse in which Daniel Webster was born has been reset on its old foundations and restored to look as it did in the eighteenth century when Webster was a small boy, and preparations have been made to celebrate its rehabilitation. It is located in the town of Franklin and the celebration will take place August 28, says a Franklin (N. H.) dispatch to the Philadelphia Record.

It is expected that President Wilson will attend and deliver an address.



Birthplace of Daniel Webster.

Samuel W. McCall, former congressman from Massachusetts, who was the principal speaker at the one hundredth anniversary of Webster's graduation from Dartmouth college, will speak. Governor Felker of New Hampshire and governors of other states will attend. There will be an address by a representative of Dartmouth.

When a group of New Hampshire citizens formed the Daniel Webster Birthplace association the legislature appropriated \$1,500 for the work. Other funds were derived from membership fees and donations. The association purchased the old Webster farm of 130 acres for about \$1,800. Only a part of the old house was there and it had to be moved from the original foundations. Nobody seemed to remember just where it had stood, but careful search discovered the stones on which it had rested before. The cellar had been filled in, but on being excavated the plan of the original house stood revealed.

There were also some sketches that Webster himself had which showed how the old home had looked. Wherever possible the original material was used. Some clapboards from the old barn, nearly as venerable as the house itself, were utilized. In a few cases where new material had to be used wood staves gave it the appearance of age. The restoration of the old fireplace was simplified by the discovery of a pile of chimney bricks in a corner of the cellar—the identical bricks that had formed the old chimney. They were all numbered, as was the custom in those days.

The fireplace is in the combination kitchen and dining room and living room and is one of the two principal rooms of the house. Among the chimney brick were found many other old domestic articles buried, among them the staves and the bottom of the bucket which originally hung in the well. This well, too, has been restored, with its old fashioned sweep.

The birthplace association expects to have a caretaker who will live on the place and have the double duty of working the farm and guarding the old cabin against curio hunters. The site is three miles from the center of Franklin, has no immediate neighbors, and is practically isolated. It is said that when Daniel Webster was born, in 1782, this clearing and house stood farther north than any other in New Hampshire.

The association will try to raise an endowment of \$20,000 to provide for the perpetual care of the old farm.

LENGTHY SLEEP KILLS PAIN

Miss Evans Apparently Cured of Neuralgia After Long Period of Insomnia.

New Orleans, La.—One of the most remarkable cases on record in the Charity hospital was one that developed in Miss Hattie Evans, aged fifty-five. Doctors tried to put her to sleep after she had been awake for days and nights, and when they finally succeeded they could not awaken her for five days and nights.

Several weeks ago she was brought to the hospital suffering from neuralgia. The doctors asked her how she rested.

"I don't sleep at night, much less in the day, and I am not tired or sleepy, either," she replied.

The treatment was changed and she expressed relief. Soon afterward she began to complain of being tired. One night while the nurse was passing through the room she heard the patient snoring. She slept all that night and all the next day. Five nights and days elapsed before she could be awakened. Now she is rid of her neuralgia.

"YOU WIN"

when the appetite is normal and you are able to eat without distress; but how quickly you go "down to defeat" when the "inner man" becomes weak. Play safe, and at the first sign of trouble you had better take

Hostetter's Stomach Bitters

It will help you continue to be a "winner."

DON'T BE HAIRY. Don't be furry. It is easy to get rid of superfluous hair on any part of the body by using Pilschette's Hair Restorer. Removes hair like magic. Best treatment in the land. Full treatment will be sent with directions for using by Parcel Post for 50c. MT. PRINCETON SPECIALTY CO., RUENA VISTA, COLORADO. SERIAL NO. 30255.

Food Strike.

Mrs. Gotham—We never had a hunger strike in this country, I guess. Mrs. Flatbush—Didn't we? Weren't you ever approached at the back door by any of those hungry tramps for food?

Proving It.

"Men are worth much more than women." "No such thing!" "Yes, they are. Husbands are not easy to get always, but brides are just given away."—Baltimore American.

Extremely Modest.

"Rather a modest, retiring fellow in a crowd, isn't he?" "Yes. Pretty modest. Reminds me a whole lot of a governor on a state occasion surrounded by his staff of colonels—in uniform."—St. Louis Republic.

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the

Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* In Use For Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Know Him?

"Why does Noknob wear that uniform?" "He's a scout." "What kind?" "A good old."

Mistake Somewhere.

"What's this jar of cream cheese doing on my desk?"

"I thought that jar belonged on your desk. Gee whiz! I must have spread the sandwiches last night with paste."

Specialist.

"Officer," said the New York citizen, "here's a burglar in my house." "I ain't got nothing to do with burglars," responded the policeman. "I'm on the traffic squad."

Backache Warns You

Backache is one of Nature's warnings of kidney weakness. Kidney disease kills thousands every year.

Don't neglect a bad back. If your back is lame—if it hurts to stoop or lift—if there is irregularity of the secretions—suspect your kidneys. If you suffer headaches, dizziness and are tired, nervous and worn-out, you have further proof.

Use Doan's Kidney Pills, a fine remedy for bad backs and weak kidneys.

A Texas Case

"Every Picture Tells a Story." Mrs. B. E. Benson, Houston, Texas, says: "Two operations failed to relieve my kidney trouble. I had hemorrhages of the kidneys and passed pure blood. The pain and suffering in my back was terrible. I was nothing but skin and bones. When I had given up hope, Doan's Kidney Pills came to my rescue and cured me. Today I am in better health than ever before."

Get Doan's at Any Store. 50c a Box. DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS. FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

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gently but firmly compel a lazy liver to do its duty.

Cures Constipation, Indigestion, Sick Headache, and Distress After Eating. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature

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