

Conversion of Heart and Lifestyle.

Titus 3:1-8.

(I) Conversion of the heart

1. **This is a radical conversion** (3:3-4). Some conversions are subtle and often difficult to detect. Some conversions are dramatic and people can immediately see the drastic difference. But however they may seem externally, the bible says every conversion experience is radical in nature because it is a passage from darkness to light; from being dead to being alive; from sin to holiness. We were once in sin and characterised by v.3; but now we have moved to v.4 – God has come, we are forgiven, free and alive.
2. **How we are not saved** (3:5a). We are not saved by good works or good behaviour. It is very difficult for many to believe and let this sink in to our hearts and minds. But it is true and hugely important if we are to grow and mature in faith.
3. **How we are saved** (3:5b). Paul mentions three things: (A) *By the mercies of God.* Heaven will be a surprising place because we will see a lot of undeserving people, and we will not be able to complain because we will be completely aware that we were also thoroughly undeserving. (B) *By the washing of regeneration.* Eve was formed from the rib taken from Adam’s side. From Jesus’ side flowed blood and water- blood that cleanses us, and water that washes us (“the word that washes us”, cf: John). The blood of Jesus and the Word of the Gospel. (C) *By the renewal of the Holy Spirit.*
4. This salvation was so great because the Trinity was involved in our salvation: the Father’s Mercy, the Son’s blood and word, and the Spirit’s renewal.

(II) Conversion of the Lifestyle

1. **The Two Worlds.** We live in two worlds: the dominant world that imposes its reality upon us through media and culture. And the alternate reality that is available in the Word of God. Just like the prophets in the OT were called to communicate this alternate reality to their contemporaries, we are also called to show the alternate reality available in the Word of God though our lifestyle. Our lifestyle is important because through this, people will be introduced to the alternate reality available in the Word of God.
2. **The Attitudes.** Three attitudes here: (A) Attitude towards authorities and rulers (3:1a). We live in a society where our “ruler and authorities” have largely failed us. It is easy to get bitter and angry and use foul language while talking about them. Many have given in to this temptation. But we can live an alternate reality, i.e., to speak the uncompromising truth in love and civility without becoming bitter and violently angry. (B) Attitude towards good and right behaviour (3:1b). Be ever ready to do what is right and good. In a messed up world, we can expect to be cheated when we try to do good. So be it. Jesus said turn the other cheek. And we can expect to be persecuted when we try to do the right thing. But Jesus said those who are persecuted for righteousness will be greatly rewarded. (C) Attitude towards our neighbour (3:2). How we treat the unbelieving neighbour is important firstly because this will determine our Christian character and fruit, and secondly because this will be a means through which they will be attracted to Christ and receive him.
3. **The Two Trees.** In Matthew 7, Jesus talks about the two ways, the two trees and two building. Paul is not preaching a salvation by works. Paul is simply reminding them that they are rooted to the tree of life, and therefore they need to produce good fruit that will lead to life for everyone. This is excellent and profitable for all people (3:8), including Christians and non-Christians alike.

- Pastor Kedo Peseyie



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD
AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

City Church

SUNDAY SERVICE

- Leader : Athem Longkumer
- Speaker : Pastor Kedo Peseyie
- Ushers : Juree & Tolika Jimo
- Keyboard : Shin-Jung Mijito
- Flower : Rosemary Jamir

Call to Worship Praise & Worship

- Reading : Psalm 15
- Mass Prayer

- Announcement
- Offertory
- Scripture Reading : T. Mhabemo Yanthan
- Hymn No.108 : Just as I Am
- Message
- Hymn No.117 : The Love of God
- Benediction



Information

- There will be all Committee members meeting and prayer after the church service today.
- Sunday school class shall resume from 4th February.

Sunday, January 14th, 2017

Tithes: ₹ 1,09,780 Offering: ₹ 20,170

Mission: 6,000 Nagamese: ₹ 120

Building Fund: ₹ 15,000 Total: ₹ 1,51,070

PSALM 15

LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

The one whose walk is blameless,

who does what is righteous,

who speaks the truth from their heart;

whose tongue utters no slander,

who does no wrong to a neighbor,

and casts no slur on others;

who despises a vile person

but honors those who fear the LORD;

who keeps an oath even when it hurts,

and does not change their mind;

who lends money to the poor without interest;

who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things

will never be shaken.

PRAYER

- Pray for the General Elections in February. Pray that God in His mercy may intervene and save our people. Pray that God will raise righteous and brave leaders to lead the State.
- Pray for the Clean Election Campaign, for NBCC and other church organisation, that God will work through these efforts to bring peace and justice to the people.
- Pray for the Government officials who will be on election duty, for wisdom and protection as they prepare to carry out their duties.

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Notes: