

1. **“Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape”**

We all shall give account of ourselves to God (2 Cor. 5:10). We are responsible for what we have (Mat. 25:14-30). We are not responsible for what we do not have (ibid.). All blessings come from God (James 1:17). Many fail the test in faith of returning a right portion to God (Mal. 1:6-8; 3:8ff).

2. **“if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time”**

Consider moral and doctrinal issues and election time as well where moral issues and religious freedom are at stake.

3. **“deliverance arise to the Jews from another place”**

God’s work will go forth by His faithful people. If not by YOU, by someone else; but woe unto you, if not by YOU!

4. **“thou and thy father’s house shall be destroyed”**

We must take steps to prevent our own destruction (Mat. 25; Phil. 2:12; Heb. 4:11). Church members who are not faithful will be destroyed (Matt. 25:46).

5. **“who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”**

We are all come to the kingdom to serve God faithfully (Heb. 3:6,14). We are to use the blessings God has given to us for His glory (Prov. 3:9; 1 Cor. 16:2; Phil. 4:17). We should not just meet the minimum, but we should excel – give freely of our time, talents, and money (cp. Mat. 5:41). But who knows whether thou (YOU) O rich man art come to the kingdom (providentially) for such a time as this? The time? A great need for evangelization! Many people are concerned with the direction of this country and so should we all be. Among other evils there are two great evils plaguing this country: abortion and homosexuality. Yet it is so sad that many in the church vote for their pocketbooks rather than for the moral issues. What a great shame and sin it is! Think brethren! Whose side are we on?

6. **“if I perish, I perish”**

Some think they cannot make it unless they forsake the assembling for work. Some think they cannot make it unless they rob God of what is rightfully His. Where is the faith? Give to God as you ought. Do you think God will let you starve (Psa. 37:25)?

If only they had understanding: The lost would beg us for the truth. The rich would beg faithful evangelistic workers for the opportunity to use their money in good sound works. ♥



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

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Evangelism: Converting Self (Part 3)

“...who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Est. 4:14)

by Perry Sexton

I ended last month’s bulletin with the following, but there is so much more I wanted to say about the matter. So I begin this article with the last part of last month’s article (please go back and read part 1 and 2 again):

Art thou come to the kingdom at such a time as this O rich man (cp. Est. 4:14)??? Surely so, but what will you do? Sadly, many choose the way of Judas and rob God and many of the lost the opportunity to hear the saving gospel. It is surely a matter of faith and trust in God. Thanks be to God for those few who have faith. “But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: ... ²¹So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:16-21). That night is coming for us all!

I am truly thankful for every convert to the Lord. I did not add the word “true” before convert as it is not necessary. Often times I do such as in “true church,” which I have done for clarity, but it should not be necessary. It is either the church or it is not! One is either a convert or he is not! Sadly, many want the hope of Heaven but not a changed life, so they get wet and we often count them as brethren.

I am speaking of converts. Those who learn the truth and obey that truth from the heart: “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom. 6:17,18). As long as such people

will maintain that mind set they will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and will change in every area necessary as they learn better (2 Peter 3:18). They are Christians – followers of Christ. They live the Christian life wherever they are and whatever they do. This involves every aspect of life. And yes even in politics! Some make the foolhardy statement that politics and religion do not mix. This is among the most foolish statements ever made. If God and His Word are not guiding you in political decisions you are not a Christian. You are a hypocrite! The same kind of people who make such cover ups are like those who leave religion at home when they go on vacation.

We are all called into the kingdom of God for the same purpose. We are all under the same rule (Phil. 3:16, etc.). No one is called specially to be a preacher, elder, etc. It is the individual's choice as to what capacity in which he desires to serve. But all are to serve God faithfully. All are under the same rule concerning attendance (Heb. 10:25), giving (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8:5,9; 9:6,7; Luke 16:1-5), etc. Let me say again: I am truly thankful for every convert to the Lord. Race does not matter. Nor do looks, health, wealth, etc. What counts and most importantly before the Lord is truly being converted to the Lord (oops, I added truly).

I am thankful for the rich who are converted to the Lord. They give as they ought to. **I am thankful for the poor who are converted to the Lord.** They give as they ought to. But I must say that it has been my experience that it is the “not so rich” who actually give the most and keep the church and good works going in many places. The converted! By much experience I say this. Often times I have observed the poor giving sacrificially to some good work and also in the weekly contribution to the Lord. In the work we are presently doing, some poor people have given us (which goes to the work fund and can be verified by the Greenfield church) six, ten, fifteen dollars or more. While the “rich” according to their cars and houses, etc., gave nothing. Others of what I term as the middleclass have given a few hundred whereas some rich “brethren” have said more or less “Be ye warmed and filled” (cp. James 2:16 ff).

I have spoken often of the Smiths and their conversions and how they, in their **below middleclass status, took their own money,** separate and apart of their regular contribution, and bought material to get started in offering the Bible Correspondence Courses to others. They bought and paid for newspaper ads as well. In process of time they got the church where they were attending involved in that good work. This should be good encouragement to us all and further show

the power of influence – godly influence! Do we see what conversion can do? The Smiths were in their seventies when converted, but look at what great things they did. I could name others who are poor or middleclass but who have given sacrificially and still do, such as the Meadows. Another sister saved and saved to get two hundred dollars in order to buy tracts to pass out. All of this while many rich people are sitting on their ticket to Hell! How sad it is for them.

I have also observed that some “rich” congregations are like some “rich” people – they do not give as they should to good works! They are “Rich” in material blessings from God, but very poor spiritually toward God. One congregation where Sandy and I worked hard in the hot sun and passed out about 2,000 packets of tracts gave nothing to the work fund. They did provide a place for us to park the MH which we greatly appreciated. They gave not a dime toward the \$1,000 or more spent on material for their area. Would you say they are rich toward God? We also found out they have other doctrinal problems as well. Normally this is the case. See Revelation 3:14-22. Many congregations are “rich” but poor toward God.

On the other hand, we have worked for materially poor congregations but who have almost given three times what the material cost for their area. Of course they were allowing for our travel expense and gospel meeting, which funds we did not take for that purpose but gave to the work fund for material, etc. I am speaking of being a Christian. Are we “truly” converted to the Lord? Let us look at Esther 4:13-17 (emp. added) and make some modern day observations.

¹³Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, **Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape** in the king's house, more than all the Jews. ¹⁴**For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?** ¹⁵Then Esther bade *them* return Mordecai *this answer*, ¹⁶Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *is* not according to the law: and **if I perish, I perish.** ¹⁷So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.