

MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. DO NOT CONFUSE GENUINE CONVERSION WITH COUNTERFEIT CONVERSION

- Genuine conversion involves mind, emotions, and the will
- The repentant person knows his lost condition, and has a broken heart, and turns
- The believing person rests upon Jesus alone
- An emotional 'walk to the front' is not conversion
- Believing the right things is not conversion
- Fitting in with Christian behaviour patterns is not conversion

2. DO NOT MIX UP REPENTANCE WITH 'PENANCE'

The Roman Catholic Church has a doctrine of 'penance'

The notion is that the sinner can pay for his own sin, and thus secure favour with God

- Repentance recognises that the sinner is justly condemned, and without any escape, except that provided in the Gospel
- It goes hand-in-hand with faith, and rests for its acceptance with God entirely upon the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ

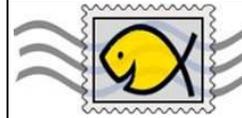
3. DO NOT THINK THAT REPENTANCE AND FAITH PRECEDE REGENERATION

It is widely taught that if you repent and believe, THEN you will be 'born again' (regenerated)

This is plainly contradicted by God's Word (as we have seen in this and the two previous studies)

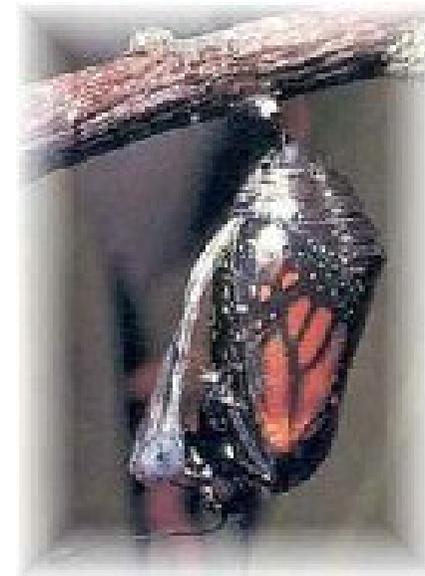
- We must at all costs preserve the truth that salvation is a gift of God's free grace
- It is not faith in itself that saves – not even faith in Jesus Christ. Don't have faith in 'faith'.

It is JESUS CHRIST who saves – THROUGH faith!



**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES
TEACH AND THIS WE
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

CONVERSION



**"THE TIME IS FULFILLED, AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND;
REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL." (MARK 1:15)**

CONVERSION

Acts 3:1-4:4

We have studied regeneration, and now we come to conversion.

- Regeneration is the giving of a new nature, while conversion is the first act of the new nature – the new nature asserting itself
- Regeneration is an act of God alone, while conversion is also an act of the sinner. It is the first thing a renewed sinner does

☞ CONVERSION CONSISTS OF BOTH REPENTANCE AND FAITH

These two are always found together, and are never separated (See: Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21)

Also consider the following pairs of references: Acts 3:19/4:4, 10:43/11:18, 17:30/17:34, 26:18/26:20)

...CONVERSION IS A GIFT OF GOD

See what is said about...

- Repentance: Acts 5:31, 11:18; 2 Tim 2:25
- Faith: Rom 10:17; 1 Cor 12:3; Eph 2

Therefore, salvation really is the gift of God's free grace!

1. What enables a person to repent? (Acts 5:30-31)

...CONVERSION IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION

- Jesus said so! (Matt 18:3)
- Only those who have faith have life (John 3:16-18; Heb 10:39; 1 Peter 1:5)
- Without repentance, we perish! (Luke 13:3,5, 24:47; Acts 3:19, 5:31, 17:30-31)

REPENTANCE IS...

- Not mere confession of sin or remorse (Prov 28:13; Matt 27:3-5; Heb 12:17)
- Something done. It is turning (Acts 3:19, 26:20)
- The turning is from sin to God (Acts 14:15; 26:18)

FAITH IS...

- Knowing certain facts (Rom 3:19-28; 1 Cor 15:1-5)
- Believing them to be true (Acts 17:2-4, 18:4,19)

AND RESTING UPON THEM SO THAT:

- All other attempts at salvation are abandoned (Phil 3:3-8)
- All confidence in good works is forsaken (Titus 3:5; Eph 2:9)
- The person believing the facts puts his trust in a person – the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 15:11, 16:31, John 1:12, 3:16, 4:42; Gal 2:20; 2 Tim 1:12)

2. What is the connection between repenting and believing in Mark 1:15?
