

# How REAL Is Your Conversion?

**FALSE CONVERSION** is more rampant than **EVER BEFORE!** **SELF-SATISFIED** "brethren" seem to abound everywhere. **Self-righteousness, luke-warmness, lethargy and disinterest seem on the increase!** **Real, godly ABHORRENCE OF SIN** seems to be disappearing from among our people! **It's time to WAKE UP! It's time you knew the terrifying end of those so ensnared!**

Jesus said, "Except ye **REPENT**, ye shall all likewise **PERISH**" (Luke 13:3) referring to some who had met **VIOLENT** deaths! The Apostle Peter, inspired of God's Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D., said, "**REPENT**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Later, Peter said, "**REPENT** ye therefore, and be converted, that your **SINS** may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

The Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot be fully understood except by **REPENTANT** persons! Christ said, "**REPENT** ye, and **BELIEVE THE GOSPEL!**" (Mark 1:15.) Only one with a *spiritual* mind, one who has been truly converted, **CHANGED** from his carnal-minded hostility toward God and His laws, **CHANGED** from his phlegmatic, lazy, sleepy *unconcern* into a dynamically **ALIVE, REPENTANT** person, only *such* an one can really **UNDERSTAND** the Bible!

Too many of you brethren today are living in **DELUSION**.

Too many today fail to realize the *deadly seriousness* of life and of death!

Let's come to understand!

## The ENORMITY of SIN!

"All have *sinned*, and come short of the glory of God" the Apostle Paul was inspired to reveal in Romans 3:23. **SIN** is defined in your Bible as the breaking of God's Holy **LAW!** (I John 3:4.) That **LAW** was given in ten major points, and then **MAGNIFIED** by Jesus Christ in His personal teaching, and by his personal *life*. **SIN BREAKS** this Holy, Perfect, Beautiful, Righteous, **WONDERFUL LAW!**

God designed His laws to bring happiness and everything that is really **GOOD** for human beings, everything really *worthwhile*. These laws *regulate* and *govern* happiness, success, physical, mental and spiritual health and well-being!

When these living laws are **BROKEN**, they exact a *fearsome* **PENALTY!**

What a **TRAGEDY**, to see the maimed, twisted, torn bodies of helpless children lying in grotesque, tortured shapes beside the still-spinning wheels of a smashed, overturned automobile! What a *fearsome penalty* for sheer carelessness!

And what a **TRAGEDY**, to see the feeble, twisted, distorted bodies of little beings born without arms or legs, their dwarf-like, gnomish little bodies hopelessly deformed, yet looking—with innocent trust in their eyes—uncomprehendingly at the future terrors and shame of a hideous lifetime—a lifetime of cruelty and shocked stares awaiting them like a black spectre of death!

**WHAT A MONSTROUS PENALTY** to pay for distraught, frustrated parents who **WANTED TO ESCAPE**, and who took some seemingly harmless "tranquilizer" drugs!

What utter depravity. What shameless filth. What depths of folly. What ugly, fetid, foul, sickening, ghastly **PENALTIES** to pay for **SIN!**

And yet, today, people have *forgotten* about sin!

Today, people **JOKE** about sin. They **LAUGH** about sin. They write of it, talk of it, sing of it, as if it were a casual, daily, normal, *unimportant* thing. "If it's a sin, then I'm guilty," croons the modern pimple-faced night-club entertainer singing sensuously into the microphone! Yes—**IF IT'S A SIN**—then I'm guilty! and "**SO WHAT?**" seems to be the attitude.

But God does not **JOKE** about **SIN!**

He is **DEADLY SERIOUS** about it! God says the wages of sin is **DEATH**. But, on the other hand, it is "appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement" (Heb. 9:27).

Each individual is **HUMAN**. He is subject to *death*. That *first death* happens to **ALL MEN**, whether good or bad, righteous or sinful. **THIS** death, the "first death" of which the Bible speaks, which is appointed to **ALL** men, is **NOT** the wages of sin!

The first death may be **HASTENED** by sin, or directly *incurred* as a result of **SIN**, such as murder, suicide, terrible "accidents," wars, "natural" calamities and sickness. But *this* death, the **FIRST** death, would happen sooner or later, regardless!

Again, what *is* sin? Sin is the transgression of the **LAW** (I John 3:4). It is the breaking of the **TEN COMMANDMENTS** of God, as magnified by the teachings and life of Christ, and as further explained by example throughout the Bible. **THAT** law-breaking, though it may not always result in immediate **PHYSICAL** death, will incur the **PENALTY** of sin, which is **DEATH—DEATH FOR ALL ETERNITY!** (Matt. 25:46.)

But there are many intermediate penalties for **SIN**—which **MANY OF YOU ARE PAYING NOW!**

## The SERIOUSNESS of Sin

Most modern people are no longer frightened by statistics.

The absolute *proof* cigarette smoking causes cancer, and the awesome statistics of the actual *percentages* of people suffering an agonizing death from it fails to impress most people.

Announcements by the National Safety Council fail to even mildly curtail holiday drunkenness and reckless driving.

Most have become *calloused* to sin. They accept sin—even though they do not *recognize* their way of life as being sin—as being **NORMAL!** Today, more and more of God's people are actually **LIVING IN SIN**—but attempting to **JUSTIFY** it!

As they *continue* in sin, becoming calloused to it, *seared* by it, yet still **THINKING** themselves to be "Christian" they are permitting themselves to become dupes of the Devil—**FILLED WITH SIN**—yet **FILLED WITH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

**SIN IS SERIOUS!**

In ancient Israel, the sins many of God's people commit almost unfeelingly, unthinkingly, would have been punished in *immediate*, **TERRIBLE** justice! A re-

bellious child would have been STONED to death! Fornication, theft, dishonesty, lying, disrespect toward the government—these sins were punished SWIFTLY, TERRIBLY! God wanted his people to learn, once and for all, the deadly SERIOUSNESS of sin!

What *about* it, brethren? Are some of YOU so calloused to your own habits, your own lusts, your own continual personal indulgences that you permit yourself that you fail to see the deadly SERIOUSNESS of sin?

Sin has condemned the human race! It has smashed bodies, wrecked lives, destroyed homes, twisted minds—it has and is sending scores and hundreds and thousands and millions—unless TOTALLY REPENTED OF—straight to a very real HELL!

Have YOU forgotten how to blush? Have YOU forgotten the deadly SERIOUSNESS of sin? Have YOU permitted yourself certain indulgences which you feel are "minor" or are unimportant?

I am absolutely *amazed* at some who call themselves brethren! Recently, a man I know to be *filled* with sins—who constantly has family troubles, is in trouble in the local Church—attends sporadically—IS PLAINLY CARNAL—came to shake hands with me, with a "Christian" greeting—JUST AS IF HE WERE REALLY A BROTHER IN GOD'S OWN CHURCH! The smell of tobacco just simply BEFOULED his clothes! Yet he could grin up at me in his calloused, seared, stupidly-befuddled indifference, and ACT AS IF HIS SINS DIDN'T EXIST!

HOW CAN fornicators and adulterers arise to say they have not sinned? HOW CAN unshaven, uncouth, unclean persons appear before God at His festivals the SAME WAY EVERY YEAR? Are they deaf, dumb and blind?

What is WRONG with so many of us—are we drifting into the Laodicean attitude? Do we have the terrible sin of JOB? Are we so calloused, so indifferent, so lethargic, so self-deluded about our OWN WRETCHEDNESS that God will have to cast us into the fire to be BURNED?

Brethren—it's high time to WAKE UP to the SERIOUSNESS OF SIN!

It's time the UNconverted QUIT KIDDING themselves!!!

### Part and Parcel with Society

The problem with *many*—perhaps YOU—is in *not coming out of the world!*

But herein lies a very subtle principle! You need *desperately* to understand this principle!

Why? Because without realizing people tended to be very definitely SELF-RIGHTEOUS!

Why? Because without realizing it they are part of the "world" around them!

Notice it! We are a Protestant society. Nearly every one of you have had a "Protestant" background—both here in the United States, and, even though in perhaps a little lesser degree, in England and Australia. What many fail to realize is *what* God really means when He says a Christian must *come out of this world* (Rom. 12:2; I John 2:15).

Many look with the typical disdain of the ignorant and uneducated upon the glittering world of glamour, the "big city life" about which they have heard all their lives as being evil! They SEE the evil of politics, corruption in government, crime and other major world factors.

But what they do NOT see is that the "world" out of which THEY must come is their own *private* little "world"—their own *private* lives, their own *private* religious convictions, their own *private* background!

Could this be you? Regardless as to the nation, or the part of the nation in which you live, could this be you? Could you be so STEEPED in your own background, your own environment, your own family, that you have failed to utterly and completely *come out of* your own private "world"?

This is one of the subtle causes of *false conversion!*

Many are PROUD that they have been a "church goin', Bible believin'" person all their lives! They have perhaps come to a certain portion of *new truth!* Usually, it is because they have come to see the truth of the SAB-BATH! This is the *first* big thing they will begin to see which makes them realize they will have to CHANGE!

But brethren—let's realize it once and for all—*changing the day on which you worship does not change your character!*

Many of these same "church goin', Bible believin'" people have chewed snuff, committed fornication, been involved in demonism, or tried to usurp the office of the ministry, *all their lives!* And, what is most important, they have not fully *repented* of these terrible sins!

Rather than letting the Bible, like the sharp two-edged sword it is, cut every way in their *own* lives and consciences—they have used it as a weapon against others around them!

It is so EASY to deceive ourselves.

The human mind is *deceitful* above all things (Jer. 17:9).

Remember, when God says you must *come out of the world*, He means *whatever* part, segment, portion of the "world" in which *you* have been involved—meaning *the way of things* around YOU!

Most of you brethren in England have had the "Church of England" sort of spirit and background! You brethren in Australia have had the same general background. You people of the South in the United States have had your "Protestant" *Bible belt* background! All of you, regardless as to *where* you live, have lived in your particular portion of Babylon, where the devil is the god, and the demons his angels, and should realize *once and for all* that God commands you to come OUT of whatever was your *part* of this great system He calls Babylon (Rev. 18:4).

What about YOU, brethren? Most of you *have* been baptized. Is your baptism REAL to you?

Have you *really* been begotten with the Holy Spirit of God? Are you a literal child of His?

Or are you pretty proud that you've "always been a truth-seeker"? *Have* you "always been good"? *Have* you always done what you think is basically "right"? *Have* you always been a basically "good person"? Are you fairly well pleased and satisfied with your religious background?

Unless you know what a miserable, four-flushing, lying, cheating, conniving, hard-hearted, selfish, lustful, resentful, rebellious, sinning, negligent, apathetic, God-rejecting, deceived, pleasure-mad, self-righteous, stiff-necked, cast-off, worthless hunk of human JUNK you have been unless you have said, with Job, "I ABHOR MYSELF!"—then YOU ARE NOT NOW, AND HAVE NEVER BEEN IN THE PAST, CONVERTED!

One of the greatest dangers in God's true Church today is a deceived sense of FALSE CONVERSION! It's FAR WORSE to THINK you're converted and NOT REALLY BE SO, than it is to be as carnal as a wild ass and KNOW you need conversion!

The real DANGER is in being self-satisfied—PROUD OF YOUR PAST—thinking YOU are alright!

Brethren, WAKE UP, before it's too late! Think of YOURSELF for a change. SEE if you are REALLY converted! Remember the stern admonition of your God, "EXAMINE YOURSELVES, whether ye be in the faith. PROVE your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is IN you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5.)