

Learning from the Ephesians

* Their Conversion *

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:7-14

◆ **Key Verse -13** "trusted after they heard"

1. There are many people who wonder "What do I need to do to become a Christian?"
 - A. There are so many "theories" that people simply become confused as to what they must do.
 - 1) What is the best advice? **GO TO THE BIBLE!**
 - 2) Any answer that you want to find in the realm of religion can be found in the Bible - that is our only true source.
 - B. Find out what God says; Find out what people did in Bible times (the New Testament times).
 - 1) If you and I do the very same thing, then God will be pleased with us.
2. In this morning's lesson we want to look at what the Ephesians were **before** they became Christians and what they did to **become** Christians.
 - A. Using the Bible as our guide, we can learn from the Ephesians what they were and what they became. They were "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

What the Ephesians Were Before Their Conversion

1. A study of the Ephesians from the book of Ephesians and the appropriate chapters in Acts, will tell us what kind of individuals these people were before they were converted to Christ.
 - A. In the book of Acts we can read about the “Disciples of John” - Not of Christ; “Exorcists, Magicians” (Acts 19:11-19)
Acts 19:1-7
 - B. In Ephesians we can learn much more about these people before their conversion to Christ.
 - 1) “Once in darkness” (Ephesians 5:8)
Ephesians 2:1-3
 - 2) Were “dead in trespasses and sins” (no life)
 - 3) “Walked according to the course of this world” (pleasures of life over godliness)
 - 4) “Conducted themselves in the lusts of the flesh” (fornication, adultery)
 - 5) “Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (doing)
 - 6) “Were by nature children of wrath” (their custom or practice)
Ephesians 2:11-12
 - 7) “Were without Christ”
 - 8) “Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel” (considered as dogs by the Jews)

- 9) “Strangers of the covenants of promise”
(homeless, no spiritual homeland)
- 10) “Having no hope and without God in the world”
- Ephesians 2:13**
- 11) “Were once far off”
- Ephesians 4:14**
- 12) “Carried about with every wind of doctrine”; “trickery of men” (how does this happen? – By not being grounded! The Bible MUST be our guide)
- Ephesians 4:17-20**
- 13) “Futility of mind”; “Understanding darkened”; “Ignorant”; “Works of the flesh”

What the Ephesians Did to Become Christians

1. They first “HEARD” the Word of Truth - the gospel plan of salvation.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 20:26-27 "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

2. They “BELIEVED” the message of God!

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, **having believed**, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Acts 20:21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and **faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Ephesians 2:8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

3. They “REPENTED” (Acts 20:21)

Acts 20:21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance **toward** God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 19:18-19 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and **burned them in the sight of all**. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

4. They “CONFESSED” Christ as Lord.

Acts 19:17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and **the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified**.

- A. The entire epistle of Ephesians is a “confession of Christ’s Lordship.”**

5. They were “BAPTIZED” in the name of Christ.

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Conclusion

1. The truths and examples of the 1st century are God’s instructions - not man’s instructions and they are just as applicable and binding today.
2. We MUST do the same things that the Ephesians did to be saved, or we will be left doing the things in which they did before they became Christians and that is to “walk in darkness.”
3. God’s way is the correct way, the only way that leads to heaven.
4. Don’t listen to any man or woman who tells you different.
5. Believe and obey God’s way TODAY!
6. Won’t you do as the Ephesians did and become a Christian?
 - A. Receive all the forgiveness of all your past sins and be ready to go into heaven!

