

Lesson 15

GOD'S CALLED-OUT ASSEMBLY THE CHURCH

To Become a Member of the Church I Must Be Converted

CONVERSION involves a *CHANGE OF DIRECTION*.

"To be **converted**" means " *TO TURN, TURN AROUND, CHANGE DIRECTION.*" The word is used of a person who *URNS AROUND* and faces a *DIFFERENT DIRECTION*:

1. Matthew 9:22: "But Jesus _____."
2. Mark 8:33: "But when He (JESUS) had _____"
3. John 21:20: "Then Peter, _____, seeth the disciple."
4. Acts 16:18: "But Paul, being grieved, _____."
5. Revelation 1:10,12: "I was in the Spirit on **the Lord's day** (Sunday, the day the Lord rose again from the dead), and heard behind me a great voice... And I _____ to see the voice."
6. Matthew 24:18: "Neither let him who is in the field _____ to take his clothes." Here is a time when God says, "Don't **turn back**!" When the Antichrist sets up the abomination of desolation (an image of himself) in the Jerusalem temple (see Matthew 24:15; Daniel 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation chapter 13), the Jews living in Judaea are told to F _____ (see Matthew 24:16). Should they take their time (Matthew 24:17)? _____ Once they start running should they **turn back** (Matthew 24:18)? _____ Does Luke 17:31 teach the same thing? _____ When these events take place and the Jews begin to FLEE, which Old Testament person should they remember (Luke 17:32)? _____ Read Genesis 19:17 and 19:26. Should they do what she did? _____ When God tells us to go a certain direction, **don't turn back!** God's way is always best!

MAN'S WAY	GOD'S WAY
<p>Proverbs 14:12 (16:25) "There is a _____ which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of _____."</p> <p>Matthew 7:13 "Wide is the gate, and broad is the _____ that leadeth to _____, and _____ there be which go in thereat."</p>	<p>Isaiah 30:21 "This is the _____, walk ye in it."</p> <p>John 14:6 "I am the _____, the truth and the life."</p> <p>Matthew 7:14 "Strait is the gate and narrow is the _____, which leadeth unto _____, and _____ there be that find it."_</p>

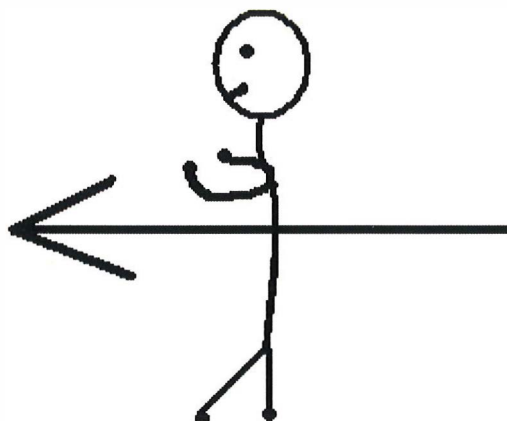
Please MATCH:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ This way seems to be the right way. 2. _____ This way is the right way. 3. _____ This is the popular way. 4. _____ This is the way chosen by only a few. 5. _____ This is the way of death and destruction. 6. _____ This is the way I have chosen for my life. 	<p>A. MAN'S WAY</p> <p>B. GOD'S WAY</p>
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When a person is **converted**, he first must realize he is going the **wrong way** and then he must **turn** to the living God and start going God's way. In Luke 1:16 we learn that many Jewish people would be **converted** under the ministry of John the Baptist: "And many of the children of Israel shall he _____ to the Lord, their God." The prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:9-10) wrote about a people who **refused to change their direction**, but they continued in their sinful ways:

MAN'S WAY

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION



GOD'S WAY

SPIRITUAL HEALING
(Matt.13:15; John 12:40; Acts 28:27)

FORGIVENESS OF SINS
(Mark 4:12)

Is **CONVERSION** really necessary? Do people really need to change their direction? Read Matthew 18:3. Those who do not **turn to God** and **change their direction** will never _____ (Matthew 18:3). In fact, God **commands** men to be converted: "**REPENT** (change your mind), therefore, and _____ (change your direction), that your _____ may be _____" (Acts 3:19; compare Mark 4:12 and Acts 26:18 where the forgiveness of sins is also mentioned in connection with conversion.) In Acts 3 Peter was speaking to Jews who recently had crucified their Messiah-King (see verses 13-14). Certainly these Jews were going in the wrong direction and they were in desperate need of conversion (verse 19).

Throughout the book of Acts we have examples of people who were **converted**:

1. Acts 9:35: "And all that dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they _____ to the Lord."
2. Acts 11:21: "And the hand of the Lord was with them; and a great number _____, and _____ unto the Lord."
3. Acts 15:3: "They passed through Phoenicia and Samaria declaring the _____ of the Gentiles." Many Gentiles **changed their direction** and **turned** to Christ!
4. Acts 15:19: "That we trouble not them, who from among the Gentiles are _____ to God."
5. Acts 26:20: "That they should _____ (**change their thinking**) and , _____ (**change their direction**)."

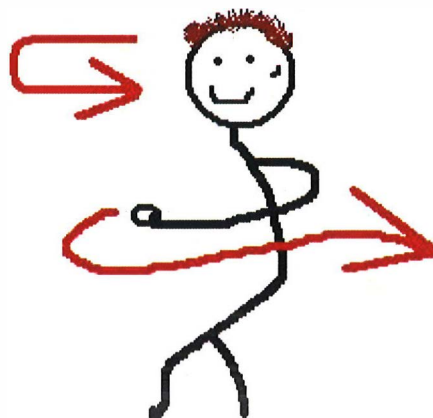
In 2 Corinthians 3:15 we learn that the Jews even today have a veil upon their hearts so they cannot understand the books of Moses when they are read. But verse 16 says that when their heart shall _____ to the Lord, then the veil shall be taken away. So before we can **understand** the Word of God, we first must **turn** to the God of the Word.

CONVERSION involves two things: **1) TURNING FROM** and **2) TURNING UNTO**

When a person changes his direction, he must turn away **FROM** the way he was going, and he must turn **UNTO** a new direction. Now let's see this in the following verses:

Acts 14:15

TURN FROM



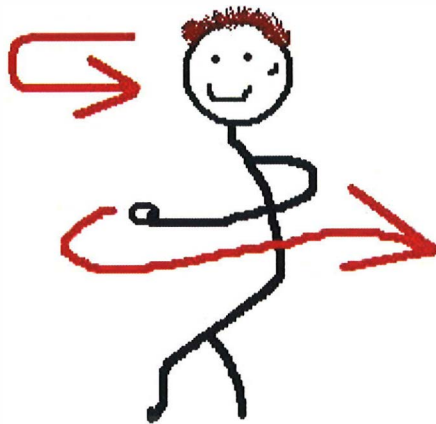
TURN UNTO

What were these "vanities" that they needed to turn from (see Acts 14:11-12)?

Acts 26:18

TURN FROM

TURN FROM THE
POWER OF



TURN UNTO

TURN UNTO THE POWER
OF

1 Thess. 1:9

TURN FROM



TURN TO

1 Peter 2:25

TURNED FROM GOING
ASTRAY AS LOST
SHEEP
(see Isaiah 53:6)



TURNED UNTO _____

Note: The word "**bishop**" means "**overseer**, one who watches over and protects someone, even as a Shepherd watches over his sheep."

Sometimes it is possible for a person to **turn** in the **wrong direction** (see Galatians 4:9; Acts 7:39 and 2 Peter 2:21-22).

Sometimes it is even necessary for a **believer** to change his direction! Peter is a good example of this. Read the Lord's words in Luke 22:31-32. Did Peter fall and fail and start going in the **wrong direction**? (Read Luke 22:54-60.) _____ But Peter **changed his direction**, and 53 days later he boldly preached Christ before thousands of Jews on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2)!

**DENIED
CHRIST
BEFORE
MEN**

(Luke 22:54-60)



**CONFESSED CHRIST
BEFORE
THOUSANDS OF
MEN**

(Acts 2:36)

PETER

Read James 5:19-20. The expression "BRETHREN" in verse 19 refers to (circle the correct answer):

- a. the unsaved
- b. brothers and sisters in Christ (BELIEVERS)
- c. the Gentiles

If a Christian brother should err from the truth (go the wrong way), then he needs to **be converted** (go the right way). This means that you need to tell him he is going the **wrong way** so that he might **change his direction**. By doing this you might save his soul from _____ (verse 20). Sometimes when believers are going the wrong way, God brings them to an early death (see 1 Corinthians. 11:30 and Acts 5:1-10). **Don't play games with the Living God!** When you are **thinking** the wrong way, **REPENT!** When you are **going** the wrong way, **BE CONVERTED!** See Acts 3:19 and Acts 26:20 (both of these verses speak of repentance **and** conversion).



1. How many people are good enough to go to heaven (Romans 3:10,12)?

2. Who is the only Person who is really good (Matthew 19:17)? _____
3. True or False:
_____ To be saved, we must try to be good (Acts 16:31).
_____ The reason we need to be saved is because we are not good (Romans 3:23).
4. Is God about to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)? _____ Is God willing to save you (1 Timothy 2:4)? _____
5. What must a person do to be saved (John 3:16; Acts 16:31)? _____