

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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LET NO

Larry R. Ping II

The phrase "let no" appears a handful of times in the New Testament. When the Bible utilizes this phrase, let us understand that is exactly what God means. Consider.

1) Let No Man

Despise Thy Youth. Paul encouraged Timothy and Titus in this way (I Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:15). The word despise, as used in these places, means to "find of little importance" or "to discount." Regrettably, there are those among God's great kingdom who dismiss what a "younger" preacher may say simply by virtue of his age. If trained properly, a "youthful" evangelist will not only study diligently, but will organize and develop his lessons in such a way to be most effective. Recall, Samuel was an incredibly young man when called upon to deliver devastating news to Eli and his house. Yet, "Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him" (I Sam. 3:18). Let us not chase good, young men away by despising

them. Effective, older preachers tend to pass away! Who will take their place if we have chased the younger ones off? Food for thought.

2) Let No Man

Deceive Himself. Paul cautioned about this in I Cor. 3:18. When the Bible warns about deception, it indicates some have already been tricked. Some deceive themselves into thinking they can "sow" without "reaping" (Gal. 6:7-8). Some deceive themselves into believing they can keep poor "company" and not "corrupt" themselves (I Cor. 15:33). Yet others deceive themselves into assuming they can conduct sinful activities without suffering eternal consequences (I Cor. 6:9). Do not be the next!

3) Let No Man Seek

His Own. Paul encouraged his readers to possess this gracious attitude (I Cor. 10:24). The Philippian brethren were taught "Look

not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Php. 2:4). People of God are encouraged to "Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification" (Rom. 15:2).

4) Let No Man

Beguile You Of Your Reward. The apostle advised the Colossian Christians about this in Col. 2:18. The idea of "beguile" is to "defraud." This can easily occur if one allows "enticing words" of men to influence them (Col. 2:4). The church in Rome was warned not to be taken in "by good words and fair speeches" (Rom. 16:17). We are not to be "carried about with divers and strange doctrines" (Heb. 13:9), nor are we to be like "children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Eph. 4:14). Be alert. Do not be beguiled!

CONVERSION REQUIREMENTS

Larry R. Ping II

Conversion of lost souls is necessary for the growth of the Lord's body, universally (Acts 2:47) and locally (Rom. 16:16). Bible conversion is the act of "turning about or turning around," such as is mentioned in Jam. 3:3. Paul mentioned how the Thessalonians "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God" (I Thess. 1:9). These actions of "turning from" and "turning to" are the essence of conversion. Have you given recent thought concerning what is required for Bible conversion to take place? If not, this article will provide a great opportunity to do so. Bible conversion requires...

1) The Law Of The Lord. The Psalmist declared, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul" (Psa. 19:7). Not a single soul in history has been converted without having been taught God's law as to salvation. God's Word must be the only standard used in the conversion process. False

standards such as men (I Cor. 2:5), conscience (Acts 23:1) or the Law of Moses (Col. 2:14) must be left off. Today, men owe their allegiance and obedience to the "law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2), the New Testament, which became effective upon the event of Jesus' death (Heb. 9:16-17).

2) Teaching. David penned "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee" (Psa. 51:13). The teaching and preaching of God's Law is required in the conversion process (Rom. 10:14-17). God's Law requires those to "plant" and "water" it so God can give the "increase" (I Cor. 3:6).

3) An Open Heart. Jesus said "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I

should heal them" (Matt. 13:15). If an individual's heart is closed to the Gospel, conversion cannot occur.

4) Prayer. Jesus told Peter "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Lk. 22:32). Once the seed has been sown and watered, we "pray without ceasing" (I Thess. 5:17) the seed finds lodging in an accessible heart.

5) Repentance. Peter preached "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). For conversion to occur, there must be a will to change on the individual's part. Jesus said "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3,5). Paul taught "all men every where" must repent (Acts 17:30).

Have you been converted? Have you aided in conversion? If not, why not? Now is the time.

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm