

August 6, 2023

Signs of Conversion

by George Slover

“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. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.” (Acts 19:19-20)

Strange and marvelous things occurred during Paul’s ministry in Ephesus. For two years he taught in the school of Tyranus, and the word of God spread through all of Asia. Paul did extraordinary miracles including curing those possessed with evil spirits. When Jewish priests attempted to imitate Paul, an evil spirit jumped on the impostors and seized them! This prompted many in Ephesus to honor the name of Jesus and to publicly burn their books of sorcery.

Ephesus was a chief seat of black magic during this time. It was popular to engage in these pretentious “supernatural” acts. Magicians and astrologers swarmed the streets with a profitable trade of charms, divinations, and rules for interpreting dreams. By destroying these books the people publicly acknowledged the sinfulness of such practices.

Accepting Jesus means giving all of our life to him. Paul commends the Thessalonians for such action: For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you,

and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. (I Thessalonians 1:9) The Christian must learn to completely trust in the living God, and not in the useless idols of the world.

Receiving Christ requires giving up all that is hateful to him. How can we say we love Jesus and not shun the devices and deeds that are painful to him? Jesus demands radical surgery: If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (Matthew 5:29) This involves turning our backs upon all that is unholy and impure. Old cherished values are abandoned no matter what the cost!

Those lives who are truly converted will have a profound influence upon the neighborhood. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. (Acts 19:20) This public display got the attention of the people. There is no better way to win others to Christ than by living examples of the gospel’s power. When the world witnesses Christians denying worldly pleasure it can be attractive!

By this marvelous deed the Ephesians removed the temptations that could cause a possible relapse on their lives

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series

- Bulverde church of Christ, Every Thursday June 1 - August 17

Our meeting with Mark Roberts

is scheduled for August 13-16

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

and opened doors for others to receive Christ!

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. He is home from rehab. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Tony Mauck has cancer that has spread.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Margaret Vanaman is home recovering.

Syble Hargrove is in Kingsland Hills Care Center.

Dorothy Steadman is staying with Hank.

Debbie McMurray had a biopsy at MD Anderson and is waiting for a treatment plan.

Danny Dow has an infection in his spine causing paralysis.

Shirley Perkins is hospitalized with heart issues.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

**To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s
upplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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