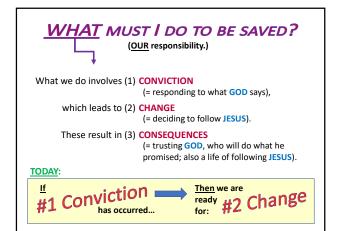
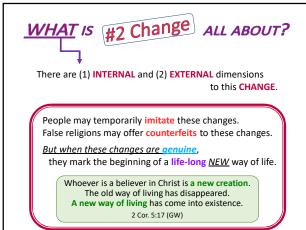


(#81)

Good News - Changes that will occur (Introduction).





### 

## SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THESE CHANGES 1. THE TIMING OF THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHANGES: IT'S NOT ALWAYS A DISTINCT PROGRESSION. LOGICALLY: The internal changes occur BEFORE the external changes can occur. CHRONOLOGICALLY ("TIME-WISE"): Scripture does not always describe them as a distinct step-by-step progression. They often occurred together, as a single act of turning to Jesus. Today, people often make "decisions" they don't understand, and then don't get baptized for weeks, months or even years. All this was unheard of in the apostle's day!

# IN MOST PASSAGES, THE LOGICAL PROGRESSION IS FOLLOWED. Peter replied, "Repent [= internal] and be baptized [= external], ..." Acts 2:38a (NIV) Though there are occasional exceptions. If you confess with your mouth [= external], "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart [= internal] that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart [= internal], resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth [= external], resulting in salvation. Romans 10:9-10 (CSB) As far as time sequence is concerned, we might see the external changes before we are aware of the internal changes. EXAMPLE: Acts 8:26-40 – The first expression of the change taking place was his desire to be baptized.

### 2. SOVEREIGNTY GUARANTEES THAT CHANGES WILL OCCUR. FALSE TEACHERS CANNOT UNDO THIS FACT.

· When God says that certain things are necessary for salvation, people can't do things differently and still get the same results!

> I DON'T THINK "REPENTANCE" IS NECESSARY!

WRONG!

If God says you must obey, to be saved... then you will obey, if you want to be saved!

(As we've seen in the past, this obedience does not detract from what *God* does in our salvation.)

### There have always been people who claimed that certain changes aren't necessary.

IT'S OK TO SIN!

IF YOU WANT. YOU CAN EVEN CLAIM THAT IT ISN'T SIN!

WRONG!

... ungodly men who have turned the grace of our God into a license for evil... Jude 1:4b (NET)



### Yet God's standards remain unchanged.



- God defines sin; we don't. His definition is based on his unchanging holy and righteous nature.
- We cannot expect to: (a) choose to remain living in sin, AND (b) be saved. (We can only choose one of these two options.)

### 3. THOUGH OUR FOCUS HERE IS ON WHAT PEOPLE MUST DO, GOD IS STILL INVOLVED.

• We were spiritually <u>dead</u> in sin, and it took GOD to make us <u>alive</u>.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ... by nature objects of wrath

But because of his great love for us. God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. Enhes 2:1 3h-5 (NIV)

> You were dead... Then God made you alive... Col. 2:13 (NLT)

BECAUSE GOD MADE THESE THINGS POSSIBLE,

• WE choose to repent (etc.)

and ② we give GOD credit for our salvation.

### **God makes REPENTANCE possible!**

God exalted [Jesus]... to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. / ... God has granted the repentance that leads to life even to the Gentiles.

Acts 5:31; 11:18b (NET)

### Our FAITH/TRUST is centered on what GOD does; and God provides the opportunity to trust him!

For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast,

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NET)

[God] had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Acts 14:27 (NET)

### 4. THESE CHANGES ALL INVOLVE A FOCUS ON JESUS/GOD.

• They all center around our response to who Jesus/God is and our relationship to Jesus/God.

Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household.' Acts 16:31b (NET)

everyone who believes in him [= Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:43b (NIV)

... through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified... Acts 13:38b-39a (NIV)

... they should repent and turn to God... Acts 26:20b (NIV)

... and they turned to the Lord. Acts 9:35b (NET)

> telling you to turn ... to the living God, ... Acts 14:15b (NIV)

vou will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' Acts 11:16b (NET)

The world offers <u>many</u> types of changes – some may have value... and some don't.

**★** But NONE of them save us. ★



### SOME HAVE TEMPORARY VALUE:

**EXAMPLE - PHYSICAL EXERCISE.** 

Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next.

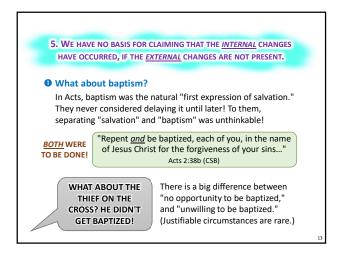
1 Tim. 4:8 (NLT)

### SOME HAVE NO VALUE:

**EXAMPLE - THE PURSUIT OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES** 

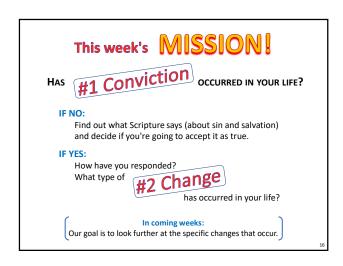
Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Col. 2:23 (NIV)



2 What about the various other changes? These changes were all viewed as the natural "next step" of salvation, after baptism. Separating them from salvation was unthinkable! EXAMPLE: DEEDS (OR "WORKS") - They prove that our faith and repentance are genuine and living. [Paul] preached that they should ... REPENTANCE: prove their repentance by their deeds. Acts 26:20b (NIV) ... faith without works is dead. FAITH/TRUST: James 2:26b (CSB) ★ If God's saving grace is present, there will be evidence! ★ When [Barnabas] arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. Acts 11:23 (NIV)

6. (A REMINDER) SCRIPTURE WON'T MENTION ALL OF THESE THINGS EACH TIME IT DESCRIBES PEOPLE BEING SAVED. Mentioning one or two of them implies the presence of the others. Repent and be baptized, Implied: Faith (internal), each of you, as well as other external Acts 2:38b (CSB) changes. Implied: Repentance ... many believed in the Lord. (internal), as well as various Acts 9:42b (NLT) external changes. We might see only one or two of these interrelated "salvation concepts" in any specific passage. But as we learn what the Bible says, we develop a fuller concept of what is involved in salvation.



### SCRIPTURE Scriptures marked "NLT" - Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. (www.newlungtranslation.com) Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION8. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Bookey. Used by permission of Zonderson. All rights reserved. (www.zondersonbibles.com) Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORDID. Copyright Scod's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Bibler Publishing Group. All rights reserved. Scriptures marked "NET" - Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press. Li-Ott. Publishing Com All rights reserved. Scriptures marked "OSB" - Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federably registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers. PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made) Megaphone - roshellin / COD; https://gopend.part.org/steel/171691/inspastone Purple text divider - pennymerriman / COD; https://gopend.part.org/steel/271691/inspastone

Gray encircling around heading text – Dadasaheb / CC0; http://

Credits

3