

# Mistakes About Conversion part2 (student version)

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Joseph Alleine's An Alarm to the Unconverted OR A Sure Guide to Heaven

## Chapter 1. MISTAKES ABOUT CONVERSION [pages 19-25]

### P5 Conversion does not lie in moral righteousness [page 21]

In response to the declaration that everyone needs to repent some people say something like, "I'm a good person..."

**Matthew 5:18-20    Philippians 3:4-7    Luke 18:9-12**

"You must have something more than this to show, or else, however you may justify yourself, God will condemn you."

Not condemn Morality...But not rest in it

Piety includes morality    Christianity includes humanity    Grace includes reason

"...but we must not divide the tables."

10 Commandments (Exodus 20)

Commandment	verse(s)
1) You shall have no other gods before me.	3
2) You shall not make for yourself an idol...	4-6
3) You shall not take the LORD's Name in vain...	7
4) Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy...	8-11
5) Honor your Father and Mother...	12
6) You shall not murder.	13
7) You shall not commit adultery.	14
8) You shall not steal.	15
9) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	16
10) You shall not covet... anything that belongs to your neighbor.	17

Notice to divide the tables means to split the 10 commandments.

To separate the Godward Commandments from the 'Manward' Commandments.

God's Moral Law, the same Law written on Adam's heart, the same Law that, though distorted from sin, is still in Man as part of the Image of God.

Jesus identifies the two parts

### **Matthew 22:34-40**

To follow Commandments 5-10 is to be moral. No question... but it neglects 1-4 and so violates the entire law.

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**P2 Conversion does not consist in an external conformity to the rules of piety**

Piety is devoutness in religion.

**2 Timothy 3:1-9    Luke 18:10-14    Mark 6:18-20    Isaiah 1:10-11**

"They must have more to plead for themselves."    **1 Corinthians 13:3**

**P3 Conversion is not the mere chaining up of corruption by education, human laws, or the force of affliction**

The word 'Ignorant' rather than the word 'Evil' is sometimes heard.

A Christian says in response to some evil deed done by wicked people, "they're just ignorant."

How can education make someone righteous?

Christian parents may see this:

They raise their children, making mistakes, some serious, giving them a Christian influence. Yet when the children are grown they will have nothing to do with Christ. However, their behavior is conditioned usually from what they learned at home. They may be OK as people but their righteousness is as filthy rags.

"It is too common and easy to mistake education for grace; but if it were enough, who a better man than Jehoshaphat?"

**2 Kings 12:2            2 Kings 12:7**

**P4 Conversion does not consist in illumination or conviction or in a superficial change or partial reformation**

An apostate may be enlightened **Heb 6:4**

Felix may tremble under conviction **Acts 24:25**

Herod may do many things **Mark 6:20**

“It is one thing to have sin alarmed only by convictions, and to have it crucified by converting grace.”

Troubled conscience/conviction doesn't equal conversion

Cain

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P1 Sanctified verse Civilized

“...the almost of Christianity...”

P2 “You may take a crude mass of lead...”

P3 Summary Begins

“Hear then, O sinners, hear as you would live.”

**Proverbs 11:7** When a wicked man dies, *his* expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes.

A Willful deception

“And had you not better...let go of your false and self-deluded hopes...and find yourself in hell before you are aware?”

**Conversion is not the taking upon us the profession of Christianity**

**Conversion is not putting on the badge of Christ in baptism**

**Conversion does not lie in moral righteousness**

**Conversion does not consist in an external conformity to the rules of piety**

**Conversion is not the mere chaining up of corruption by education, human laws, or the force of affliction**

**Conversion does not consist in illumination or conviction or in a superficial change or partial reformation**

Note: Morality, charity, Piety, ...

Can Make a better society but not a Saved people.

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P2 "But if these persons come short of conversion, what shall I say about the profane person?"

See the Marks of The Unconverted

The Unclean, The Covetous, Drunkards, Liars, Swearers, Railers and Backbiters, Thieves, Extortioners, All that do ordinarily live in profane neglect of God's worship, Frequent lovers of Vain Company, Scoffers at [True] Religion

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Alleine's Comments

**Proverbs 1:22-23** "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge? <sup>23</sup> "Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you

**Proverbs 9:6** "Forsake *your* folly and live, And proceed in the way of understanding."

**Titus 2:11-12** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

**James 4:7-8** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**Isaiah 1:15-20** "So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. <sup>16</sup> "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup> Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow. <sup>18</sup> "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. <sup>19</sup> "If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; <sup>20</sup> "But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword." Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

"But if you will go on, you must die."

COMMENTS

### **"Mistakes About Conversion"                      Review**

Identify the mistakes, if any, made regarding these individuals and the possible response(s)...

There is no one single nor right answer.

1) Ned found that his wild ways as a youth could not be sustained as he grew older. As he has gotten older he thought it important to go to church since his parents took him when he was young. So, he is now attending a church.

2) Jed was baptized as a child. He doesn't cuss...much. He doesn't steal. He doesn't do those things that offend the people around him (he at least tries not to be offensive.) He prays when he wants God to do something for him. He gives to charity since that reflects the "Heart of The Gospel." He attends church on Easter and Christmas. Some Christians make him nauseated at times because they're always judging others. He feels condemned by one of his coworkers, a Bible-Thumping Christian, by just being around her.

3) Fred said the sinner's prayer many times since he was 8 years old and has been baptized twice. He tells everyone that he is a Christian. He tells others that they need to go to church. He feels bad when he argues with his family. He feels that he needs to do something to make his life better. He likes to say the sinners prayer often, especially when he feels bad about himself.

4) Ted thinks that his parents' church is boring. So, when he moved out of the house he found one where everybody is friendly, smiling, happy, and he always hears how God

approves of him and wants what's best for him. The worship, he says, "rocks!" He likes the messages because the stories are really interesting and make him feel good emotionally. And, there isn't too much Bible. According to Ted, "there must be balance so that people come back." He's very happy where he is.

5) Zed was in a relationship until he felt guilty and broke it off. They were not married. He feels bad when he does something his grandma told him was wrong. She did so back when he was a little boy and when she would speak to him of the Bible many years ago.

6) Ed works long hours and has attended church sporadically since he was invited by someone to go to church. He felt that something was missing in his life and so he went to the church. He doesn't attend the church when he is too tired or when something else comes up.

7) Red has issues. He was baptized as a child but hates "organized religion." He reads portions of his Bible, the usual ones, as it describes how someone is to live a moral life. He tries to follow the 10 commandments. He does fine with most of them. He thinks he is moral and others would say so too, "...if they really knew me."

8) Mr. Dread says "Jesus Christ" frequently throughout the day, especially when something goes wrong. This phrase is often accompanied by other words that can't be written here. He lies because it helps him get what he wants. He teaches his children to "find" things if they want them from other people as long as they won't get caught. His children have learned to appreciate the "5 finger discount" taken at many stores. Mr. Dread regularly threatens his neighbors if they complain about anything coming from his household. He was invited by a relative to go to church and nearly choked on the thought. "Such a waste of time...bunch of hypocrites anyway...I don't need a god or a religion. I can solve my own problems."