

GOD'S RADICAL PEOPLE

Week 2

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.

True Conversion



Read Acts 2:37-41

This is the second in a new series of studies for the autumn entitled God's Radical People from Acts 2:37-47. God wants us to be a Radical People - at right angles to the way of the world, the prevalent 'spirit of the age'. We live in the midst of a broken, hurting and needy world - a

world that, however, is also in rebellion against God because of our inherent sinfulness. God, in his grace and mercy, has done all that is necessary, through Jesus Christ, to make a way of salvation possible for us (Romans 5:6-11). We are, however, 'saved to serve' and God wants to use us to share this 'Good News' with others so that they too may experience this wonderful 'full salvation' (Mark 16:15). Last week we thought about the need to be a people of conviction - being passionate about these things - our commitment to Christ himself and the mission which he has entrusted us with. Sadly, many professing Christians today do not seem to be as 'passionate' as they should. Is one reason for this because they have not been 'truly (or 'fully') converted? In this study (Acts 2:37-41) we explore the vital nature of Repentance from Sin, Faith in Jesus Christ, Believer's Baptism, Being Filled with the Holy Spirit, Active Membership of a Local Church!

Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. The word 'radical' means 'to be at right angles to'. One translation of Romans 12:2 reads: 'Don't let the world squeeze you into its mould'. In what ways do we subliminally absorb the ways of the world?
2. What did Jesus mean when he said: 'Unless you are converted, and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven' (Matthew 18:3)?
3. We are exhorted here (Acts 2:37) to 'repent' i.e. to 'turn away from our old sinful way of life'. Christians tend to think of 'sin' as 'sexual sins' or things like violence, stealing, fraud etc ... but are there more subtle sins we need to turn away from?
4. In true conversion there is a 'turning to' side (as well as a 'turning from' side). What does it mean to truly 'turn to Christ'? Is 'faith' more about 'a new way of life' than 'a moment of belief'?
5. Jesus left us with two binding sacraments: Baptism and Communion (Matthew 28:18,19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Why are both so important? In the light of such scriptures as Mark 16:15 is 'believer's baptism' an 'optional extra' or a 'vital necessity'?
6. The Prophet Zechariah tells us: 'It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord' (Zechariah 4:6). Why is 'being filled with the Holy Spirit' both a promise and a necessity? What does it really mean to 'be continually filled with the Spirit' (Ephesians 5:18)?
7. When we become Christians we automatically become part of the 'Body of Christ' (1 Corinthians 12:27) - the Universal Church. Why is it a total fallacy to think we can be a member of the Universal Church whilst not being an active and committed member of a Local Church?
8. At Pentecost 3,000 people responded to Peter's message and were 'added to the church that day' (Acts 2:41 NLT). Read through the following verses (vs.42-47). What can we learn here about what it means to be an 'active church member'?
9. 'There's a work for Jesus, ready at your hand ... 'tis a work the Master just for you has planned' (Elsie Yale). What 'active part' are you (could you) play in the life of our church?
10. What (if anything) is stopping you from being 'truly (or 'fully' or even 'partly') converted'? What are you going to do about it?