

Recap: Over the last 4 weeks we have looked at the heart of the Good

News that Jesus came to bring. We have seen that:-

We were created for a relationship with the Living God.

Choosing to go our own way and living for ourselves has destroyed that relationship.

Jesus came to earth - and by his miracles and words declared himself to be God.

By dying on the cross and raising again – Jesus has take our sin and guilt - paid the price – defeated death and opened the Kingdom of heaven to all who will believe and trust in him.....

Today we are going to look at how you cross over into a living relationship with God. How you claim and receive the work of Jesus into your own life!

Discussion: What do you think holds people back from making life changing decisions in their life?

Introduction

Becoming a Christian is both a joy and a responsibility :- it mean having a new start and entering into a relationship with the creator God. But it is not easy to live as a Christian and there are times when you have to make tough choices in your life.....

But we have the promises that God will never leave us or forsake us and that he will be with us always....

Teaching point 1 : - “ So what is Conversion?”

Conversion is the door by which we enter into a new life and new relationship with God. It is made up of two basic elements.

Firstly - turning our lives away from wrongdoing and selfish living.

Secondly - Turning our lives back to God by putting our whole faith and trust in Jesus. Conversion is the way we respond and receive God’s saving work in Jesus Christ.

What the Bible says:-

Look up and read these passages together – Main teaching is Repent and Believe!

John 3 v 16 – 18, Acts 2 v 27 – 41, Acts 26 v 20, Acts 20 v 20 – 21.

It is a simple fact that we cannot be saved by our own good works.

Ephesians 2 v 8 – 9 say this –

“ For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is a gift from God – NOT BY WORKS – so that no one can boast.”

Conversion is our human response to God’s love and call upon our lives. It involves turning away from sin through repentance and a turning towards Jesus through faith. **Read** Mark 1 v 15

Repentance –

Is at the heart of entering into a new relationship with God. Without repentance people do not enter into a position before where they might be transformed. Repentance is about taking personal responsibility for the wrong things in your life, seeing your sins through the eyes of God. There is then a saying sorry for the wrong things we do and a turning away from sinful lifestyles; to godly living. It is not just a intellectual decision, but a decision of the will and also of the heart.

Saving Faith –

Is that faith by which we understand who Jesus is, what he has done and accept in full trust, both the blessing and the responsibilities of his saving grace. Salvation is found in no-one else but Jesus. **Read** – John 14 v 5 (on the card) This saving faith is about completely giving ourselves over to God and committing our live both to follow him and serve him. Through this expression of faith we are united with Christ both in his death and in

Continued Next Page.....