CONVERSION

Some time ago, another person was in a conversation with a man on the subject of conversation. I was a bystander. Then this person who was trying to get the other to do something said something that absolutely shocked me. He said, “You are a good person. I haven’t heard of you doing anything bad. You are already close to being a Christian, all you need to do is be baptized.” Since I was not a part of the conversation but an observer I said nothing at the time, but at a later time I took the person aside and tried to “teach him the way of the Lord more perfectly.”

Some observations come to mind:

First, I was glad the man was trying to do something to get people to obey the gospel, although he was lacking in knowledge.

Second, just being baptized is not ALL there is to conversion. The writer of Hebrews said, “for without faith it impossible to be well pleasing to God…” (Heb 11:6 ASV) he further states in the same verse “for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him.”

The idea of conversion is change, Paul calls it a “new life.” (Rom 6:4) To the Corinthians he said, “Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.” (2 Cor 5:17)

I’ve known others who felt as the fellow I mentioned. But unless a person is different after he has been baptized than before, he has not been converted.

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